



Hollywood Parish Profile



Parish Office

71 Church Road, Holywood, BT18 9BX
Open 9.00am-1.00pm Monday-Friday
info@holywoodparishchurch.co.uk
028 9042 3622

Parish Staff Team

From Autumn 2025



Clergy

Rev'd Canon Gareth Harron Vicar
gareth@holywoodparishchurch.co.uk
07711 885317



Rev'd Canon Raymond Fox
028 9042 3622

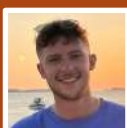


Curate Assistant - Vacancy



Vicar's Secretary

Pauline Clarke
info@holywoodparishchurch.co.uk
028 9042 3622



Children's, Family and Youth

Lorcan Speier Parish Youth Worker
lorcanpespeier@gmail.com
07413 183448



Children's and Family Worker - Vacancy



Music and Worship

Edwin Gray Organist and Choir Director
edwinjgray@gmail.com
07796 170075



Simon Burrowes Contemporary Worship Coordinator
simonburrowes11@gmail.com
07832 769099



Hollywood Parish

The Parish is located in the diocese of Down under the Bishop of Down and Dromore.

Information about the diocese can be found on our website at www.downanddromore.org

The following is just a snap-shot of the parish.
Please feel free to contact the incumbent if you have any questions.

You are very welcome to visit the parish on Sundays or at any time.

Staffing (see inside front cover)

Incumbent

Gareth Harron arrived in the parish at the end of 2015, having served as rector of Magheralin Parish, and before that curacies in Dromore Cathedral and Willowfield Parish, Belfast.

The Curate Assistant, Cosmin Pascu is moving to Banbridge Parish at the end of September 2025.

There is also a Diocesan Lay Reader and a large and growing team of Parish Readers.

The following staff roles are part-time:

- Vicar's Secretary
- Children's and Family Worker (to be vacant Autumn 2025)
- Parish Youth Worker
- Organist and Choir Director
- Contemporary Worship Coordinator

The parish has used a number of models of Intern and placement ministries.

A number of other roles are fulfilled by contracted workers (e.g. janitorial support) and a large group of committed volunteers.

Parochial buildings

St Philip and St James' church dates from 1844. It was extended 25 years later and has a capacity of around 430. The church building is fully equipped with everything you would expect in terms of audio-visual specification for contemporary worship.

Over the last decade, parts of the ceiling, exterior stone work and organ have been replaced. There have been structural repairs to the spire, as well as the installation of new stained glass and carpeting.

The Parish Centre, originally the parish school, was refurbished and extended in 1999. Parish and other organisations and groups meet here throughout the week.

Facilities include an attractive welcome area, furnished with sofas, tables, chairs and TV equipment, a large Parish office, staff office, small kitchen, vicar's office, main hall, a large meeting room, a committee room, a large fully equipped kitchen, toilets and multiple stores.

The parish owns the old school house across the road from the church. It is currently leased to a community organisation which lets it to community groups, Scouts etc.



Number of families and age profile

There are around 700 families claiming a connection with the church.
This equates to c2000 individuals.

The General Vestry list has around 250 names.

Sunday Church attendance is 300-350 people (250-300 in the 'summer months')

For an outline of the regular Sunday service structure see below.

All age groups are represented - but we recognise and prioritise the need to engage with children and young people.





Parish Organisations

Mothers' Union

Church of Ireland Men's Society

Bowls

Close Knit - Craft group

Lunches for Senior Citizens

Zarephath - ministry to those in times of pastoral need.

Devoted (Occasional Women's Ministry)

Social Group for Men

Regular Alpha Courses

Bellringers

Parish Fellowship

Fellowship Groups



Current provision for Children

Pre-School Praise	Parents and Toddler Group
Sunday Groups	Sunday School Programme
School Gate Ministry	Reaching out to parents between school pick-up times
Giggle Box	Regular outreach event with worship, games, crafts etc.
Choristers	
Breakout	Summer outreach to children+families
Street Puppets	Outreach and Drug Awareness
Equipping for Life	A large number of volunteers help with Literacy programmes in Belfast schools

Current programme for Young People

Greenhouse	A Friday night group mostly
Roots	Midweek discipleship for teens.
Confirmation Classes	Every other year but sometimes annually
TLG	Early intervention in association with a local secondary school

The Sunday 7.00pm evening service seeks to engage young people.

The parish also has strong connections with the Scout and Guiding movements and a significant number of parishioners volunteer with these organisations.

The parish regularly sends young people on organised trips to events like Summer Madness, Diocesan Camps and the Diocese of Down and Dromore's Saturday montly programmes as well as international trips with groups like Exodus.



Church life – what else do we do?

Our parish motto expresses our commitment to be a “down to earth” church- accessible and open to those who are seeking - but also reflecting a Christlike ministry.

Our aim is to minister and serve “holystically”- well this is *Hollywood*!

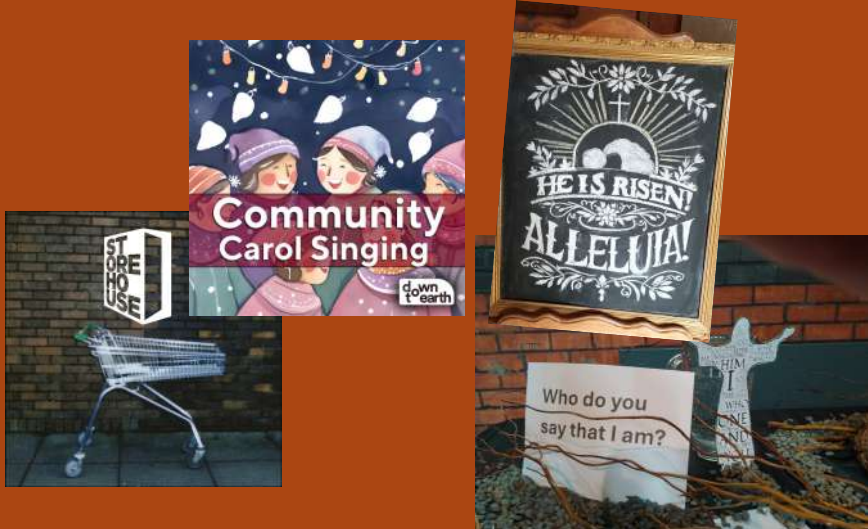
Our current call is to be LESS to one another- that is, to Listen, Encourage, Support and Serve one another.

Prayer is a key feature of our Church life.

Prayer ministry is an area of particular growth and encouragement as we enter the autumn of 2025.

Opportunities are provided for corporate prayer and worship every day of year! Prayer meetings take place on Monday evening and prayer meetings and fellowship groups meeting in homes are well supported.

Annual parish weekends away are well supported.



LESS=More
Listen- Encourage-Support-Serve

Sunday services

In our 5 Sunday services, we aim to appeal to a broad spectrum of tastes and preferences in worship styles:-

8.00am Holy Communion	Short, spoken service of word and sacrament
9.45am Morning Worship	A relaxed service with contemporary music
11.30am Morning Prayer	More traditional service with robed choir, chanted psalm, anthems
5.30pm	Evening Prayer, Holy Communion or Compline On a 5 th Sunday this service takes the form of prayers for healing.
7.00pm	Evening Worship- informal service with Communion once a month Third Sunday evening rotates in other local parish churches

Morning Prayer takes place Monday-Saturday at 7.30am

There is a mid-week communion service on Wednesday mornings at 10.30am.

The main morning services are live streamed to Facebook live and to YouTube.

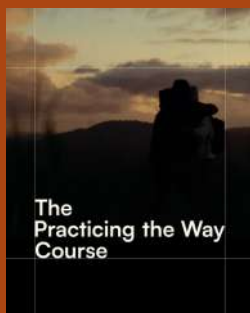


Discipleship

Members are encouraged to join one of our fellowship groups which meet weekly, fortnightly or monthly in parishioners' homes.

Fellowship Groups provide prayer and pastoral support for their members and many meaningful friendships are developed.

Bible study is central to our parish life- with a focus on how to apply the Bible to everyday life.



Fellowship Groups

Build bonds that matter
Lift each other in prayer
Eat, laugh and relax together
Share life's joys and trials
Strengthen faith by Bible Study

Scan here for more details

**St Philip and St James
Holywood Parish Church**
holywoodparishchurch.co.uk

Magazine and Weekly Newsletters

The parish magazine can be accessed in print as well as through social media and by searching for online Holywood Parish.





World Mission

The Parish supports many world-mission and development projects but focuses on the following:

- Development work and education in the slums of Delhi in association with Asha India
- Diocese of Maridi, South Sudan in association with CMS Ireland

There are also active links with International Justice Mission, Christian Aid, Tear Fund, CMJ Ireland, SAMS Ireland etc.

The parish pledges at least 10% of its income to mission giving.



More about Holywood

Census figures show that the town of Holywood has a population of approximately 12,000.

Surveys often declare Holywood to be the most attractive place to live in Northern Ireland. These things are wholly arbitrary, need to be taken with a pinch of salt and they do not necessarily correlate with spiritual health.

The town is home to many businesses, galleries, eating establishments etc.

If you like coffee shops and restaurants, you will not be disappointed!



The town has a library, a number of gyms, golf course, a railway station and bus routes with regular service to Belfast and Bangor.

The parish has good links with all the other local churches and clergy from Holywood Parish meet regularly with clergy and leaders from the other denominations. Joint services, outreach and community events take place regularly.



Schools

Hollywood has a full range of schools:

There are 6 primary schools within easy reach:

Hollywood Primary School	Controlled
St Patrick's Primary School	Maintained
Glenraiga Primary School	Integrated
Sullivan Preparatory Department	Private/Independent
Rockport Preparatory Department	Private/Independent
Hollywood Steiner School	Private/Independent

There are also secondary schools:

Priory Integrated College

Sullivan Upper School

Rockport

Many children from the town also attend schools all across Belfast.

Hollywood Parish connects with these schools through assemblies and hosting special annual services.



Hospitals and Health Centres

Hollywood has a number of doctors' practices.

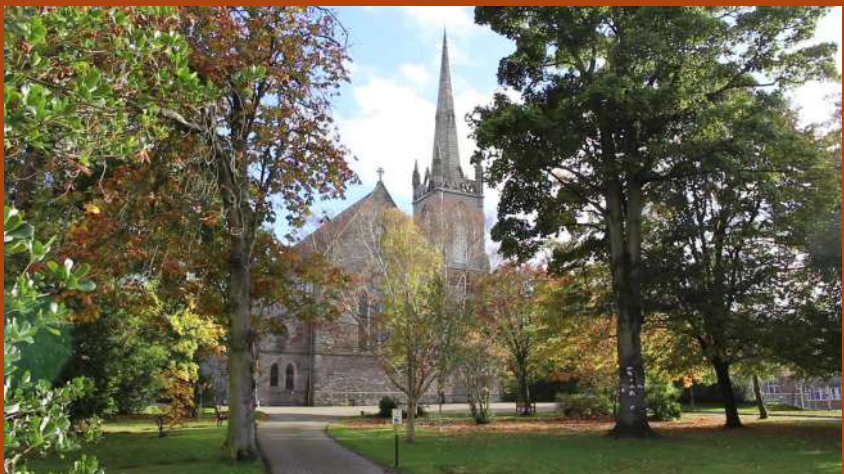
The Ulster Hospital, Dundonald, is 10-15 minutes away.

Accommodation

The parish has two curatages, one currently let to a private tenant.

The curatage in current clergy use (right) is located at 51 Princess Gardens, BT18 0PN off Croft Road.

It is a well-appointed, comfortable, medium-sized family home.



 St Philip and St James
Holywood Parish Church