



All Saints' Eglantine

Parish LIFE

Issue 4 • Autumn / Winter • 2023

Ordination of Rev. Martin Steele

At St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Diocese of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross

New Altar and the Dedication of Gifts

Archbishop Robin Eames

All Saints' Eglantine
Parish
LIFE



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ALL SERVICE DATES AND EVENTS WILL BE POSTED ONLINE

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THE RECTOR'S DAY OFF IS A MONDAY



Something that strikes me about many churches is that on the noticeboard outside we see the words 'All welcome'. Realistically though, I wonder what kind of welcome people receive when they walk through the doors? Are they welcome as long as they meet certain standards? Are they welcome as long as they fit in with the rest?

Before I was ordained I visited many churches where I felt that the sign outside did not always reflect the mood inside.

There is no doubt about it – All Saints' is a welcoming church, and this is something that we are noted for. Of course that is due to the good work of our churchwardens and YOU as well.

At this year's Easter General Vestry I commented on the number of new members we now have as part of our parish family. I am delighted to see the parish grow, and that is why hospitality and welcome play such a vital role in the

life of the church. In the past we would have heard terms like 'blow-ins' and 'strangers' to describe people who were new to a parish. I remind anyone who uses such terms that there are no 'strangers' or 'blow-ins' in the family of Christ. Whether you have been in the parish for sixty years or six weeks you are an equal member of this Parish family.

To be hospitable is to welcome a person with open arms, with an open heart, and with an open door; it is an openness to care for and love others, putting their needs before our own to ensure, at the very least, that they feel welcome in our midst. Fulfilling the Bible's command to be hospitable in the church is a responsibility of every Christian.

The motivation for Christians to be hospitable is to remember that we are the recipients of God's hospitality.

We were once strangers, wanderers, orphans, and aliens, but by the grace of God, we



were made alive together with Christ. Thus, Christian hospitality is a reflection of the gospel.

To sum up, I quote the words of a beautiful hymn by Marty Haugen – All are welcome:

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.

Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger:

all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Rev. Jason ■

Safeguarding Trust

Parishioners should be aware that it is the policy of the Church of Ireland to set standards for the welfare of all children in the church with a view to protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm within the parish. To comply with this policy, a panel is in place to inform parishioners of what action to take if they wish to report any matter relating to Safeguarding Trust. The Parish Panel, which is a sub-committee of the Select Vestry, is a designated contact point to receive concerns of a child protection nature from a worker, parent or parishioner or a child who wishes to report abuse, in confidence, and if necessary to contact one of the statutory child protection agencies.

Adults involved with children in the parish will be vetted by Access NI and in the near future will be advised of their responsibilities regarding Safeguarding Trust. Children should also be made aware that if they are affected by any of the above they should know what to do and in this regard parents' awareness of the policy is vital. The Rector and the Select Vestry are fully committed to the Safeguarding Trust policy.



The Safeguarding Trust panel members and their contact details are:

The Rev Jason Kernohan: 92662634
Mrs Ann Rosa: 078 0175 5712
Mr Nicholas Fenton: 92638697

Memories of Eglantine Parish

My very first connection with Eglantine Parish was my christening in the autumn of 1936. I am not suggesting that I remember anything about it, but I understand I was transported to the event by pony and trap. During the service the ponies would be stabled up at Eglantine House.

Within 4 years, Britain would go to war with Germany and a major airfield would be constructed within the Parish. Local farms and houses were taken through compulsory purchase orders and the local shop on the Halftown Road (Palmers) was also taken.

Soldiers from Great Britain and the Commonwealth were deployed to the area. I remember making a connection with a soldier on sentry duty from the West Indies! A truly memorable experience for a small boy from Lisburn.

My father had a 4-acre field close to our farmhouse which was taken to construct a Communications Centre. Several of the displaced families held auctions to dispose of the chattel. I remember going to these auctions with my father and purchasing chicken houses in which we housed ducks, geese and turkeys. It must have been a very difficult time for the families who had to find new homes and move away from the Parish.

One Sunday my sister Elsie and I were cycling down the Eglantine Road to attend Church. We were near the railway bridge when we found ourselves confronted by dozens of Army



vehicles. One of the jeeps came in contact with the rear wheel of my tricycle throwing me into the ditch! At least we got a ride home in an army jeep and the following day a visit from an Army Major to ensure I was okay.

We discovered that the soldier who was driving the jeep did not have a driving licence!

I have many other memories of the war years at Eglantine.

A distant relative of my mother was posted to the area. He was in the Royal Engineers and was involved in the construction of the runways. He visited our home and asked my mother if he and a few friends could visit each week to take a bath as they had no washing facilities. My mother would make food for them, and she also fed other soldiers who stayed in our outhouses.

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One of these 'friends' who visited went on to marry my elder sister Edna in 1946 after they reconnected in Birmingham where Edna was working as a nurse. What a small world!

Newport School

This was a Church School, owned by the Church of Ireland but leased to the Education Board. It also doubled as our Church Hall. I started school aged 6 years. There were 3 teachers – the principal was Mr Victor Boyd who was also the Eglantine Organist and the Secretary of the Select Vestry. The other teachers were Miss Beattie and a Miss Waddle. My memories of Newport were largely pleasant. I remember we collected old newspapers for the war effort. A small number of pupils became 'Field Marshalls' for collecting the largest amount of paper.



The Old School House

The Field Marshalls travelled by train from Newport Halt on one occasion accompanied by Mr Boyd. We were taken to the Carlton Restaurant where we were served a lovely meal and a dessert of 'banana and ice-cream' neither of which were part of our daily diet in wartime! One event when I was still in the Infant Class in Newport was rather traumatic. An older boy had been caught playing truant, or 'mitching' as it was known. The door of the classroom partition was thrust open by Mr Boyd and the unfortunate boy was dragged by the back of the neck, in full view of every pupil, and given 6 of the best on each hand. I had to be comforted by the teacher. I will never forget his screams and to this day the memory remains with me.

War Casualties

During the war years there were many plane crashes, usually while coming in to land after a

mission, some of which lead to fatalities. Quite often the planes landed in fields growing crops leading to the destruction of the crop for which the farmers were subsequently paid compensation. On one occasion a plane crashed and landed across the Halftown Road. The late Jim McQuaid and I were walking to school and found our path blocked. I remember a policeman carrying us underneath the wreckage. He let us gather some glass and other debris which we brought into school, and which were proudly displayed on the teacher's desk. Whilst we experienced a number of fatalities most of the deceased were repatriated home. However, some very young airmen whose homes were a long way away are buried in our parish graveyard. I have a vague recollection of attending the funeral of one of these servicemen with my father when I was a very young boy.

Select Vestry

Shortly after my 21st birthday we had a visit from Canon A D Mitchell who advised me that I had now reached an age when I could become a member of the Select Vestry. This would continue a family tradition which included my grandfather, father and uncle. My sister Elsie also went on to become a member of the Select Vestry. As a young man I found the other Select Vestry members were

at least 2 decades older than I was, and I did not feel I had much to contribute at the time. Around this time (circa 1957) the Church was in severe financial difficulty, and I remember we faced a serious issue of concern. Canon Mitchell was due to retire, and it was deemed that the rectory was virtually uninhabitable with many leaks in the roof and downstairs several of the floors having completely rotted. Shortly before the Mitchells left, Mrs Mitchell made a quantity of jam, and we were told that it had been devoured by the rats overnight.

I, along with a number of other gentlemen, worked on the rectory for several weeks, removing and replacing rotting floorboards, painting etc. On one occasion I was lifting rotting floorboards in a pantry and throwing them out through a window to be burned when a very large rat appeared, ran up the board and jumped out the window. I then heard shouting and the late John Farr appeared at the window saying that he had just seen a rat 'as large as a Pomeranian dog'.

Unfortunately our repairs were inadequate and a short time later the decision was taken to sell the old rectory and build a modern bungalow near the Church.

One morning I got a telephone call from the Sexton telling me that he had dug a grave the previous day for an imminent funeral. He discovered that a badger had fallen into the grave



Above: Harold and his late wife Gwen

overnight and was trapped. He sought my assistance to secure the release of the badger. I drove a tractor and trailer with some planks of wood up to the graveyard and placed the planks at an angle in the grave. After a considerable amount of encouragement, the badger ran up the plank and made its escape.

Married life to the present day

My late wife Gwen had been an organist in Dromore Cathedral from the tender age of 14 years. Following her introduction to Eglantine, with the encouragement of the Revd Fred Baillie, Gwen became involved in the musical activities within the Church, singing in the choir. She also developed a girls' youth organisation.

As the years progressed Gwen remained a dedicated member of the choir and ultimately assumed the role of Church organist, a role she held for several decades until ill-health intervened.

Upon reflecting on my memories of Eglantine Parish for this article, I remember many funny times, some wonderful characters and many happy memories (unfortunately too numerous to mention). Eglantine Church has always been a significant part of my life, perhaps less so now as an octogenarian, but I do remain deeply committed to the parish. I enjoy attending the Holy Communion Service most Wednesdays and deeply appreciate the Rector's endeavours to keep me fully informed and up to date on the life of the parish. ■

The Ordination of



We are here to support you with our prayers and with our love. It is a day of rejoicing and celebration.

We thank God for you, and we thank God that you have heard his call.



Above: Rev. Martin Steele, Dean's Vicar of St Fin Barre's



Above: Rev. Martin Steele and Dean Nigel Dunne with parishioners from All Saints' pictured after Rev Martin's first Eucharist.

Rev Martin Steele



Some parishioners from All Saints' Eglantine travelled down to Cork on Monday 25th September for Rev Martin's ordination to the priesthood. We received a wonderful welcome from Bishop Paul Colton, Dean Nigel Dunne, and the people of St Fin Barre's.

In his opening remarks Bishop Paul extended a warm welcome to all those who had travelled great distances to be there, and the greatest welcome was extended to Martin. Bishop Paul continued, "We are here to support you with our prayers and with our love. It is a day of rejoicing and celebration. We thank God for you, and we thank God that you have heard his call."

As part of his sermon, the Most Rev Richard Clarke said, "Martin begins a priestly ministry today.

He is given authority for this - the authority of the Church, but primarily the authority of God. An authority of love, of involvement, and of service. But in seeking to fulfil God's ministry through us, we are still called to be authentic.

Authentically what God has made us - real people rather than a parody of priesthood. Just as God the Holy Trinity must not be a cardboard cut-out figure in our mind, neither must the priest be a stylised stereotype of what we imagine clergy are meant to be like. God deserves better from us. So Martin, people can only believe you and trust you when they know you as you are."

As Bishop Paul said, it was a very emotional service and especially for Martin, for his family and for all of us from Eglantine.

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We are exceptionally proud of Martin and thankful to God for his ministry among us in Eglantine. Of course we are also very proud that he is one of ours! As we were leaving the Cathedral on Monday evening a lady said that Eglantine's loss was St Fin Barre's gain - Just as the Diocese of Connor's loss is most definitely the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross' gain.

We stayed until Tuesday and felt honoured to be there for Martin's first Eucharist in the Cathedral.

Fr Martin, our prayers go with you, and to paraphrase Bishop Clarke - always be yourself. ■



Above: Rev Martin Steele with Bishop Paul Colton.



Above: The Most Rev. Richard Clarke, Rev Martin and Bishop Paul Colton.



Above: Rev Jason Kernohan of All Saints' Eglantine at Rev Martin Steele's ordination.



Above: Rev Martin with Bishop Paul Colton, the Most Rev. Richard Clarke, a former Archbishop of Armagh, Dean Nigel Dunne and Chaplains.

Reflections of the Reina del Pacifico

My parents relaxed in the green wooden summer house on our lawn at Rhanbouy quietly having a drink before dinner. A typical 1920's structure of tongue and grooved panels, it provided a peaceful retreat from their busy household. From the swing seat inside, a panoramic view of Belfast lough, in the distance Divis Mountain and Cavehill, their familiar shape guarding the city.

The outlook remains in my childhood memory, a vista of summer sunsets, bare feet, the sound of small waves on the beach washing over shingle. The shipping lane was always busy with passenger and cargo boats. Gently swaying back and forth, my parents exchanged their day's news whilst watching the ever-changing view of the sea.

On this particular evening in September 1947, the weather was changing and becoming more autumnal. Twilight was beginning to flow down the Lough, the air was cool. A keen sailor, my father recognised almost every vessel entering and leaving Belfast harbour.

Through his binoculars he identified the ship as one built by Harland and Wolff in 1931, he knew the Pacific Steam Navigation Company owned it. She was the largest and fastest motor liner of her time. She became famous in 1937, as the former Labour Prime Minister Ramsay McDonald died aboard, following a game of deck quoits, whilst on a cruise to South America. The ship had been requisitioned during the Second World War as a troop transporter by the British Government. It was widely known that she was in Harland and Wolf for a refit

after her wartime service. Now she was embarking on sea trials before commencing life as a cruise ship. Belfast was thrilled to watch her departure and proud of her strong link to the city. My father, as was his habit, tuned the small polished wooden wireless in the kitchen to hear the evening news. The familiar and comforting voice of Alvar Lidell began reading the headlines.

“Crankcase explosion on board the Reina del Pacifico kills twenty four men and seriously injures twenty two. The accident occurred approximately seven miles north east of Copeland Island shortly before 5pm today 11th September.”

As further news leaked out that night, it was reported that the liner had crossed to the Clyde for speed trials which had been successfully carried out earlier in the day. During the return voyage to Belfast, speed was increased, all four engines exploded with little warning, ripping the heart out of the ship.

The following morning my parents watched from their lawn as the great vessel was brought back to the Victoria Wharf. Dockers stood bareheaded as the liner was nosed up the river by tugs. My father murmured,

“Look at that beautiful ship and inside what carnage.”

Tugs and the Donaghadee lifeboat carrying a small medical team were rushed to the scene. They found fires breaking out and bodies everywhere; twenty-eight people died either instantly or from their injuries. A young doctor worked all night in the darkness of the devastated engine room wading knee deep in oil and other wreckage while trying to free those who were trapped under twisted steel and debris. The main hospitals in Belfast were put on emergency alert to take survivors, the first of whom did not arrive until 4 am the following day.

Anxious relatives made the rounds of the hospitals and city mortuary. One young woman, 6 months pregnant with her first child, failed to locate her husband. He was later identified in the City Hospital where he had lain on a trolley for eight hours, doctors concentrating on those who looked as if they might survive. He was still alive, appallingly burnt on his back, hands and face.

He was treated in Belfast for four months before being transferred to the burns unit of the Victoria hospital in East



Grinstead. There he remained as a patient under the care of the pioneering plastic surgeon, Archibald McIndoe for two and a half years, undergoing sixty-four reconstructive operations.

Sir Archibald McIndoe was the father of plastic surgery, renowned around the world. His techniques went on to inspire modern plastic surgery.

During the Second World War many pilots from the Battle of Britain sustained terrible burns, they became guinea pigs for this new medicine, plastic surgery.

Most R.A.F. aircrew who survived fiery crashes had pioneering reconstructive surgery and formed a social club, named “The Guinea Pig Club.”

Sir Archibald McIndoe healed their physical scars and emotional well being too. East Grinstead became remembered as “the town that didn't stare.” Patients could enjoy drinks

at the Whitehall restaurant which became the unofficial social club, to enable them to talk about what happened.

Its former members gathered annually until 2007. In 2021 only three were left.

Three months after the terrible accident on the Reina del Pacifico, the young man's wife gave birth to a son on 9th December 1947. She called him Joseph, after his father. He did not meet his father for many months. His wife and their baby son travelled frequently to East Grinstead from Northern Ireland over the following two years.

Twenty-five years later their son qualified as a doctor. His father having died of a coronary six years earlier.

He is now my husband. When he first met my mother he told her about his father's near fatal accident. She remembered with clarity watching the stricken ship

returning to Belfast dock laden with many dead and horrifically burnt young men. Unbelievably those injured in the explosion were docked a half day's pay.

On 27th April 1958 the Reina del Pacifico reached Liverpool at the end of her final passenger voyage. John Cashmore Ltd. at Newport, Wales scrapped her on 11th May 1958. Her bell is preserved in the Williamson Art Gallery and Museum, Birkenhead. ■



The Consecration of All Saints' and Various Select Vestry Minutes

The Belfast Newsletter of July 1875 gives a wonderful account of the opening service and consecration of All Saints' on 15th July 1875.

It says ...'The new church of All Saints' which has been erected by members of the Mulholland family, in memory of the late Mr. S. K. Mulholland and his son, at Eglantine, some three miles from here (Lisburn), was consecrated for Divine Worship this morning by the Lord Bishop of Down and Connor and Dromore.

The church is a very neat structure, consisting of nave, apsidal, and chancel, and is built of stone, in the early English style of what is known as the Transitional period.

The nave is divided from the side aisle by an arcade of four arches, with clustered columns, some of which have foliated capitals varying in design.

The chancel is divided from the nave by a lofty chancel arch, clustered and banded piers, and elaborated carved capitals.

The furniture and fittings of the church are of the most perfect character; the benches are open, constructed of pitch pine varnished, and have a novel arrangement of flooring, for convenience in kneeling.

The Altar, as well as the other furniture of the chancel is of massive oak, made by Mr. Joseph Diggs, Dublin. The font, the gift of a lady is appropriately placed at the entrance; it stands



Lord Bishop of Down and Connor and Dromore, The Rt Rev Robert Bent Knox

on a group of clustered marble columns of different colours and has an oak iron-bound cover of elaborate design, the work of Messrs. Riddell & Co., Belfast. The carving throughout the church was entrusted to Messrs. Sharp & Good of Dublin, and they have ably discharged the duty.

The roofs of both nave and chancel are of open timber, differing in form. It is yet in contemplation to erect a tower, belfry, and spire.

At present a peal of bells has been very advantageously elevated in a good position.

The cost of the building which is seated to accommodate 200 persons is roughly estimated at about £3000. All the seats, it should be stated are free.

The work altogether is of the most substantial character, and very creditable to Messrs. Lowry & Son, Great George's Street, Belfast, who have had the building of the church from plans prepared by the eminent ecclesiastical architect, Thomas Drew, Esq., R.H.A.

Divine service commenced at half-past eleven o'clock, a very large congregation being

present. The Bishop having been met at the west door by the clergy, the registrar, J.M. Higginson, Esq., read the petition from the Rector of Lisburn, the churchwardens, and the incumbent-elect (Rev. S. Campbell), praying his lordship to consecrate the building.

The consecration service was then read by the Bishop, the other parts of the service being read by Rev. Mr. Campbell and Rev. W.D. Pouden. The Rev. H. Stobart read the First Lesson, and the Rev. E. Lyle read the Second Lesson. The other clergymen present were – The Venerable the Archdeacon of Down, the Rev. William Macllwaine, D.D.; The Rev. Maurice Knox McKay, Rev. N.F Smyth, Rev. Mr. Gordon (Annahilt), Rev. S. M. Moore, Rev. H. Moore, Rev. C.B. Knox, Rev. H. Hodson, Rev. Mr. Scott

(Drumbo), Rev. T.A. Vesey, Rev. Robert Lindsay, Rev. H.W. Stewart, Rev. Jonathan Seaver, Rev. Mr. Meighan and Rev. F. Graham. The sermon was preached by The Lord Bishop of Derry, who took for his text Revelation xxi., 5 "And He that sat upon the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.'

'A collection was taken up at the conclusion of the sermon in aid of the poorer parishes of the diocese generally. The Ven. Archdeacon Gibbs then read the deed of consecration and The Lord Bishop of Down and Connor formally set the church apart for the celebration of Divine worship.

The Lord Bishop of Derry again preached in the evening to a very large congregation.'

After reading this article from almost 150 years ago, I couldn't help but think how fortunate we are to have such a wonderful legacy, thanks to the Mulholland Family and their generosity of spirit. They have left us with such a beautiful place of worship – a place where generations of the faithful have found a spiritual home.

In the next edition of ParishLIFE we will be looking at the Mulholland family, their contribution to this parish, and their role in the spinning industry. ■



“They are not ours now, they are God’s...”

These were the words of Archbishop Robin Eames during his address at the consecration of the new altar and the dedication of gifts on Sunday 30th July.

Lord Eames reminded the congregation that such gifts were a very appropriate way of remembering faithfulness in past parishioners, and that the gifts would be used for generations to come.

None of us will forget that beautiful phrase he used, ‘they are not our ours now, they are his.’

The altar was consecrated and dedicated in memory of the late Heather and David Kingan, and the acolyte torches and cruet set were dedicated in memory of the late Jim and Molly McQuaid.

The service was in the context of a sung Eucharist, with the beautiful anthem, ‘There’s a wideness in God’s Mercy’.



Above: Archbishop Robin Eames and Rev. Jason Kernohan.



Above: Altar Servers, Rector, Archbishop Robin Eames, Rev. Martin Steele and members of the Kingan and McQuaid families.



Above: The Kingan and McQuaid families with Rev. Jason Kernohan and Archbishop Robin Eames at the consecration of the New Altar and Dedication of Gifts.

Contributions to the Parish

I would like to thank everyone who contributes financially to the parish, either by way of standing order or freewill offering envelopes.

At this moment in time over 80% of parishioners are now contributing via standing order. I encourage anyone who is still using envelopes to consider taking out a standing order. If you would like a standing order form please speak to one of the churchwardens or contact me. This is

easy to set up and you are completely in control of your financial giving. For those of you who contribute via freewill offering envelopes I would ask that envelopes are no longer posted through the Rectory post box due to security reasons. Initially this was an option during lockdown but since I am out of the Rectory for a large part of the day the post box is not the most secure option. If you are not attending church then please give the envelopes to someone who is attending.

Finally, we no longer print a statement of parishioners contributions at the end of the year, and this is because of regulations around GDPR. However, if you contribute using envelopes and would like to know the amount you have given, then please contact Mark Napier on 073 4182 5328. I thank you all once again for your generosity.

Rev Jason. ■

HARVEST APPEAL



In October our harvest appeal, organised by Maureen Campbell, supported the work of the Lisburn Foodbank.

We had an incredible response from parishioners, and we wish to thank everyone for their generosity.

Pebbles Campbell from the foodbank team in Lisburn sent an email saying,

"I wanted to drop you an email to say a BIG thank you for the continued support from Eglantine Parish Church again this Harvest time. We were blown away by the donations gathered at your Harvest appeal! This was the biggest donation amount which we received this week so far and weighed an amazing total of 301.4KG."

Not counting all the other foodstuffs, we collected 220 tins alone!

None of this is possible without the support and generosity of parishioners.

Well done Eglantine!



PARISH QUIZ NIGHT



On Friday 6th October the parish held a quiz night with Radio Ulster's Jimmy Hughes and his wife Elizabeth. A beautiful supper was provided, and a great night was had by all. £927.50 was raised for parish funds. Well done to the Hanna family for their victory!
Maureen Campbell.



In September following a service of thanksgiving and lunch for Air Ambulance NI we raised £1,423. We would like to thank Alison and David Leckey for their help in organising this event and for representing Air Ambulance. We must also thank the team who provided such a beautiful lunch.

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Forthcoming Dates for your Diary

Sunday 12th November – Remembrance Sunday

11.30am – Service of Remembrance (please note change of time)

Saturday 25th November – Winter Fayre

10am-2pm in Parish Hall (please see poster)

Tuesday 5th December – Candlelit Concert by Bello Duo

7.30pm in Church (admission free)

Sunday 17th December – The Third Sunday in Advent

11am – Parish Eucharist

6pm – Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve

11am – Sunday School Nativity

9pm – The Nativity of Our Lord – The First Eucharist of Christmas

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day

10am – Family Eucharist

Sunday 31st December – The First Sunday of Christmas

11am – Parish Eucharist

6pm – NO EVENING SERVICE



BELLO DUO

Candlelit Concert

Tuesday 5th December At 7.30pm

in Church

(admission Free)

Bello Duo are a young singing couple from Northern Ireland, who began as singing waiters and went on to become TV talent show finalists. After two successful albums, they perform in theatres across the UK and Ireland.



WINTER FAYRE

All Saints' Eglantine

Saturday 25th Nov 2023

10am – 2pm

Art & Craft Stalls • MU Stall

Flower Stalls • Teas

Clothes and much more

SANTA'S GROTTTO

ADMISSION £3

Reg Charity NIC 101582

