THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES BELFAST



PARISH NOTES



APRIL 2014

Rector:

The Rev'd Brian Lacey
St Peter's Rectory, 17 Waterloo Park South, Belfast, BT15 5HX
Tel 9077 7053



CELEBRATE! Easter Day 20th April

RECTOR'S NOTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our annual meeting, known as the Easter Vestry, will be convened at 7.30pm on Monday 28th April. This is an opportunity for the registered members of the parish to come together to review the past year and to look forward into the future. Most importantly, we will elect the new Select Vestry to serve as the management committee of the parish for the forthcoming year. Unfortunately, many people shy away from attending this meeting for fear of being roped into something! But I urge you to come along: if you are registered as a member then you are perfectly entitled to help shape the future direction of this parish. All registered members will receive a Voting Card in the post. Please bring this with you on the evening. If you are unable to attend, please let me know so that your apology can be recorded. Even if you are not registered, please feel free to come along to the meeting, but bear in mind that you will not be entitled to participate in the appointment of the Select Vestry.

We will begin at 7.30pm sharp with a short celebration of Holy Communion (commemorating St Mark, whose feast day it is), following which there will be brief reports given by myself and the Honorary Treasurer on the state of the parish. You will then have the opportunity to raise any issues, concerns or suggestions. After this we will ask for names of twelve individuals who would like to serve on the Select Vestry. If there are (hopefully) more than twelve names nominated, then a secret ballot will be held. Quite often most of the previous year's Select Vestry members are re-appointed. However, it is always good to have new faces, new skills and new ideas. So if you would like to consider joining the Select Vestry, speak to me over the coming weeks and I will give you more information about it, and advise you about the process of appointment. The Select Vestry meets on the second Monday evening of each month, at 7.30pm, and deals with matters relating to the oversight of our finances, the maintenance of our buildings, and the management of our staff and volunteers.

BIBLE STUDY

Since our first meeting in February, one of our members, Mr Jim Hanna, very sadly passed away. He was a very informed, thoughtful and articulate parishioner, and his absence from the group will be keenly felt. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Dora.

We met on 13th March, reading through James 1: 9 to 2: 4. In these passages James deals with a variety of issues which are related, but which are also important separately. We began by discussing what James meant by "Rich Christians must be glad when God brings them down". We considered whether God thinks that material wealth is in itself wrong, or if he objects to a greedy attitude which desires material wealth. We then moved on to discuss the differences between "being tempted" and "being tested". Thinking about the sermon preached on Sunday 9th March, we reflected that whereas Satan tempts us in order to make us succumb to our desires and do evil, God tests us in order to help us overcome our desires and do good. Next we took heed of James' warning that we should be "slow to speak, and slow to become angry", recognising that our own human anger is often expressed in a sinful way. This led us to deliberate the importance of actively seeking to love God and love our neighbour as ourselves, even in difficult times, in order that we may "look closely into the perfect law that sets people free ... and put it into practice." We then pondered James' explanation of the nature of true religion: "Take care of orphans and widows in their suffering, and keep oneself from being corrupted by the world." We compared this statement with the words of the Old Testament prophets, particularly Isaiah. Finally, at the beginning of the second chapter, we reflected upon whether or not we treat people differently based on their outward appearance. James admonishes us for doing so, writing "You are guilty of creating distinctions among yourselves and of making judgements based on evil motives".

THEOLOGY GROUP

Most sensible people would find an excuse to avoid discussing weighty theological matters, but fortunately (for me) eleven parishioners braved the cold, wet weather one Thursday evening in March in order to attend the first evening of our new Theology Group. Although there is some overlap between the membership of this group and the twice-monthly Bible Study group, they are quite distinct entities. Whereas the Bible Study works through passages of Scripture, discerning their meaning, and applying them to our lives, the purpose of the Theology Group is to learn about, and respond to, the teachings of the Church on issues such as "How can Jesus be both God and man?", or "What actually happened on the Cross that achieved our salvation?".

For our first meeting our theme was "How was the Bible formed?". We began by considering the context in which Holy Scripture initially came to be written down: the Middle East around three thousand years ago. This was a time of political and religious flux, in which the Israelites began to draw together the various stories that had been passed down by word of mouth, in order to articulate their identity: Who were they as a people? Where did they come from? What bound them together?

In seeking to answer these questions, two individuals (or perhaps two groups) began to collect, write down, and edit the oral stories. The first to do so is known as the Yahwist, who was writing in the south of the country around 950 BC. The second is known as the Elohist, who wrote in the north of the country around 850 BC. Each set of writings contained its own unique stories, but they also share similar stories that are expressed slightly differently. They also present God in different ways, with the Yahwist writing stories about God acting in a very human way (for example, God walking in the Garden of Eden), whereas the Elohist writes about God in a more abstract way, communicating with humans through angels, visions and dreams. At some point these two sets of stories were combined and from them was formed the bulk of what we know as the Books of Genesis and Exodus.

From about 750 BC the writings of some of the Prophets began to be written down by their followers. Out of many such writings, only those prophecies which stood the test of time were treasured and passed on from one generation to the next. These initially include the prophets Hosea, Amos, Isaiah and Jeremiah, through whom God spoke to declare his anger at the people's rebellious nature, their worship of false gods, and their interest in rituals rather than social action.

Around 600 BC, King Josiah was informed that during repairs to the Temple in Jerusalem, old scrolls were discovered, which laid down the covenant relationship between God and the Israelites. Whether those scrolls had really been lost and then rediscovered, or if they had been simply written at the time, is open to debate. However, this document is essentially the Book of Deuteronomy. Judging by the style of writing and language used, whoever wrote that book probably also wrote Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings.

Around 550 BC, many Jews, particularly their leaders, were living in captivity in the Babylonian Empire. It was here that the exiled priests began to record the religious rituals and temple regulations. These writings form the basis of the Book of Leviticus, the Book of Numbers, and the latter half of the Book of Exodus which deals with purity laws.

It was also during this time that the Book of Psalms began to take shape (consider: "By the Rivers of Babylon, we sat down and wept...") although certainly there would have been many of these hymns written at the time of King David and throughout the subsequent five hundred years.

So by 500 BC much of what we consider to be the Old Testament had been written. But it didn't end there. Various authors continued to write about the history and faith of the Jews, and some of these documents can be found in the Apocrypha in some versions of the Bible.

Skipping forward a few hundred years to the time of the early Church, letters began to be written by the Apostles to individuals or communities in order to instruct them in the faith. Many of these letters were written by St Paul (writing between around $50 \, AD - 66 \, AD$). Others were written by St James and St Jude (the half-brothers of Jesus), and St Peter and St John (who were Jesus' closest friends).

In order to proclaim the Good News, stories about Jesus' life were written down. Different authors, with different (although often overlapping) sources of information, with different audiences in mind, wrote down these stories in what we know as the Gospels. Although others were written, only those Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were considered by the early Church to be authoritative.

So by 100 AD all of the books in the New Testament had been written, although it was not until about 400 AD that the Church officially ratified the list of books that form our Bible.

The formation of our Bible was therefore quite a lengthy and complicated process, involving different people, at different times, in different places, with different styles, and different reasons.

In the next session of the Theology Group, we will examine God's role in the formation of the Bible. We will discuss what it means for the Bible to be inspired, and we will consider the idea of Biblical Inerrancy. We will also think about where the Bible gets its authority, and how various denominations and individual theologians have understood the role of the Bible in a believer's life. The group will meet on Thursday 3rd April at 7.30pm in the Minor Hall. All parishioners are very welcome.

NEW PARISHIONERS

I am very pleased to say that we have new regular members coming to our services of worship in St Peter's. Whether as individuals or as family units, we welcome them wholeheartedly into our midst, and pray that they will experience and share in the friendship and faith which underpins our little Christian community. We welcome:

Mr Albert George, Mrs Ashlee McCune and Daniel, Roman and Henry. Mr Karl O'Connor, Ms Maria Dobbin and Isabella and Rowan.

Miss Barbara Smyth

Mr Ryan Delaney

Mr Jim Tweedie, Mrs Ruth Tweedie and Mr Neil Tweedie.

Mrs Peggy Weir MBE

LESSON READERS FOR APRIL

The following parishioners are on the rota to read at the 11am Sunday services. If you are unable to read on your appointed Sunday, please swap with another reader and inform the Rector's Secretary.

6th April Anne Roberts Ezekiel 37: 1-14

13th April Peter Coiley Isaiah 50: 4-9a and Matthew 21: 1-11

20th April Tom Campbell Acts 10: 34-43

27th April **Marie Burrowes** Acts 2: 14a, 22-32 *and* John 20: 19-31

Annual Easter Vestry Meeting Monday 28th April 2014 at 7.30pm in the church hall

All registered vestry members are entitled and encouraged to attend.

Please see below a list of Registered Vestry Members:

Max Abbott Mrs Hilary Adams Mrs Annette Beattie Noel Beattie* Colin Bell Mrs Moya Bell Mrs Rene Bell Rov Bell Mrs Mary Bentham Mrs Jill Bradley Norman Bradley Miss Marie Burrowes Brian Callaghan Tom Campbell Mrs Vivien Clarke William Clarke Peter Coiley Mrs Emma-Louise Crawford Brian Johnston Mrs Margi Crawford Mrs Anne Cromie

David Cromie* Miss Rebecca Cromie Samuel Cromie Mrs Thelma Cross Mrs Dorothy Cruttenden Victor Davis* Brian Davison Miss Hannah Davison Mrs Sandra Davison Mrs Elizabeth Frazer George Frazer Mrs Joan Gallagher Peter Gallagher Mrs Maureen Ginn William Ginn Mrs Frances Gooding Derek Graham

Mrs Lovelle Graham

Mrs Barbara Greenlees

Peter Grav

Michael Greenlees Mrs Florence Green Mrs Valerie Guest Miss Oonagh Haldane Adrian Hall Mrs Kathryn Hennessy Miss Elisabeth Henry Mrs Rosemary Hinds Wes Holmes* Mrs Joyce Hunter Samuel Hunter Mrs Sandra Hutchman* Mrs Maureen Irwin Harold Jacobs Mrs Louie Jamison **Basil Jeffers** Mrs Eileen Jeffers Mrs Rosemary Johnston*

Miss Jane Keyes James Knowles Mrs Janice Knowles Mrs Joan Lawther Miss Margaret Macbeth* Miss Margaret Magill William Marshall Ivor Millar Mrs Lila Millar Mrs Ann Mitchell Harold Mitchell Mrs Edith Morrow Mrs Margaret Mulligan Quintin Mulligan Mrs Pamela McCamley Mrs Dorothy McCausland Miss Daphne McClements* John McCreary

Stanley McDowell* Mrs Margaret McKenna Black

Ian McManus* James McMaster David Nairn* Mrs Anne Noblet Derek Noblett Dr Caroline O'Kane Mrs Meta O'Neill Forde Patterson Miss Karen Patterson Mrs Margaret Patterson Mrs Paula Poulton Mrs Anne Roberts

Mrs Enid Saunderson Ian Scott Mrs Eileen Sharpe Ms Norleen Sharpe Mrs Hilary Shields* Miss Barbara Smyth Colin Stark

Miss Jenny Stark Mrs Vivien Stark Mrs Joyce Sterling Mrs Anne Stewart Ernest Stewart* Anthony Swan Mrs Heather Swan Bond Syms

Mrs Jacqueline Thompson Brian Tweedie Mrs Heather Tweedie James Tweedie Mrs Ruth Tweedie Mrs Joan Walker Mrs Margaret Weir Philip Williamson* James Wilson* Mrs Olive Wright Mrs Norma Young

* Select Vestry Member

Parish Calendar Caption Competition

Mrs Beryl McDowell

The theme for **April** is 'A caption which tells us what the eagle is thinking!' To make your entry simply write your caption on a piece of paper and give it to a churchwarden or email it to the parish office.

Remember to include your name!

Entries should be with us by the last day of the month. There will be a small prize awarded each month. Good luck!!

CHURCH SERVICES

Any services marked with an asterisk (*) are traditional services derived from the Book of Common Prayer (1662). All other services are in modern language.

SUNDAY 6th APRIL The Fifth Sunday in Lent

9am	Holy Communion*	Hebrews 9: 11-15	John 8: 46-59a
11am	Holy Communion	Ezekiel 37: 1-14	John 11: 1-45
6.30pm	Choral Evensong*	Lamentations 3: 19-33	Matthew 20: 17-34

"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live. And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

The Gospel passage at the 11am service recounts the death and raising to life of Lazarus. Here we see many sides and facets of Jesus' personality: his compassion, his awareness of his mission, his power over death.

WEDNESDAY 9th APRIL Mid-week Service

10.30am Holy Communion Daniel 3: 14-28 John 8: 31-42

SUNDAY 13th APRIL Palm Sunday

9am Holy Communion Philippians 2: 5-11 Matthew 21: 1-11 11am Morning Prayer Isaiah 50: 4-9a Matthew 21: 1-11

"Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey..."

This morning we will commemorate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where he was acclaimed by the people as their king. But then we will remember how quickly and callously the mob turned against Christ.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. Throughout the week there will be evening services at 7.30pm in addition to the usual celebration of Holy Communion on Wednesday morning. There will be a variety of types of Anglican services in order to make each evening different. It would be wonderful if all parishioners could attend every service, but if that is not possible, please come as often as you are able.

MONDAY 14th APRIL Fig Monday 7.30pm Compline* John 12: 1-11

TUESDAY 15th APRIL Holy Tuesday

7.30pm Evening Prayer Isaiah 49: 1-7 John 12: 20-36

WEDNESDAY 16th APRIL Spy Wednesday

10.30am Holy communion Hebrews 9: 16-28 Luke 22: 54-71

7.30pm Late Evening Office John 13: 21-32

THURSDAY 17th APRIL Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Holy Communion* 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26 John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

FRIDAY 18th APRIL Good Friday

7.30pm Tenebrae

SUNDAY 20th APRIL Easter Day

9am Holy Communion Colossians 3: 1-14 John 20: 1-18 11am Holy Communion Acts 10: 34-43 John 20: 1-18

"Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord!'

On this day we will celebrate Jesus' victory over death, as we remember the empty tomb and the appearance of the Risen Christ to Mary Magdalene.

Easter Day is one of the three most important days in the Church's year, alongside Pentecost and Christmas Day. Unfortunately the holiday weekend often means that people are absent from Church, despite being one of the days when we should most make the effort to attend. If you are away on holiday, please do your best to worship in a local church!

WEDNESDAY 23rd APRIL Mid-week Service

10.30am Holy Communion Acts 3: 1-10 Luke 24: 13-35

SUNDAY 27th APRIL The Second Sunday of Easter

 9am
 Holy Communion
 1 Peter 1: 3-9
 John 20: 19-31

 11am
 Morning Prayer
 Acts 2: 14a, 22-32
 John 20: 19-31

"Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Following the resurrection of Jesus he appeared several times to his disciples. This morning we will remember his conversation with Thomas, who famously had doubted that Christ had truly risen from the dead.

WEDNESDAY 30th APRIL St Philip and St James (transferred)

10.30am Holy Communion Ephesians 1: 3-10 John 14: 1-14



PARISH REGISTER



Christian Burial

James Hanna Carnmoney Cemetery on 28th February 2014

Jim was the eldest child in a family of five brother and four sisters. He loved drawing, and as a youth would usually carry a sketchbook and pencils wherever he went. He enjoyed nature, and was fond of rambling in the Mournes. Jim was only 19 when his father died, and so he had to put his education on hold and instead go out to work in order to help provide for his family. However, he undertook evening classes and was successful in both his work and education, becoming PR to the Chairman of Shorts, and obtaining a Masters degree. Jim met Dora when they were both 27, living in different flats within the same building. They married six years ago. Jim was a very knowledgeable man, with a keen interest in theological matters. He had attended discipleship groups within the parish in the past, and had recently joined the Bible Study. He had a deep faith, and his informed questioning gave strength to his Christian convictions. Jim was admitted to hospital following a stroke and passed away just under a week later on Wednesday 26th February, with Dora at his side. His funeral service was held in St Peter's on Friday 28th February. Our parish family will certainly miss Jim, and we offer our sincere sympathy and prayers to Dora, his siblings, and his wider circle of family and friends.

Ladies' Guild

On Tuesday 8th April at 2.30pm our guest speaker will be from the Royal National Institute of Blind People. Please come along to hear what I'm sure will be a very informative and interesting talk.

Anne Stewart Hon Sec

PRIORY SINGERS

Organ—Phillip Elliott
Friday 11th April 8pm in the church

A Sequence for Lent and Passiontide

including music by

Allegri, Lotti, Sanders, Chilcott, Tavener

IN MEMORIAM

Eunice Howell

I am grateful for this opportunity, through St Peter's magazine, to pay tribute to the late Eunice Howell who was our next-door neighbour in Chichester Avenue for over thirty years, until she moved to Abbeyfield; we remained good friends, we visited her and until her health deteriorated she would have a chat on the phone or come occasionally for lunch with us and to have a look at how her lovely garden was faring in other hands; Eunice was a dedicated and gifted gardener and passed on valuable tips to my late sister Jean who was new to it. Those who knew Eunice know how private and independent she was by nature, but never distant. We had a very happy relationship with her, many laughs, and missed her greatly when she moved. Her passing was sad but I want to acknowledge the affection we had for her. I know it was Eunice's expressed wish that there would be no fuss, no tributes at her funeral so I hope she forgives me this little transgression. I just want to express sentiments shared with me by my late mother and sisters, that Eunice was a good neighbour and a valued friend. May she rest in peace.

Bernadette Keenan, 26 Chichester Avenue

Harold Thomas Jackson

We were very sorry to hear of the recent death of Harold Jackson. Harold was a life-long and very loyal parishioner. He served for many years on our Select Vestry and took an interest in all aspects of parish life. Even after he left North Belfast he continued to support his beloved St Peter's both financially and by his presence whenever possible. Harold died on 26th February and his funeral service was held on 3rd March in Garvaghy Parish Church. We thank God for his life and witness and extend our sympathy to his brother Sidney and to the wider family circle. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



Every second Sunday of the month during coffee time after the 11am service.

COFFEE IN CHURCH

Thank you to members of the Indoor Bowling Club who will provide refreshments after the 11am service on 13th April.



April Diary	iary					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		7.30pm Bowling Club AGM	10.30am Holy Communion 2pm Bridge 6.30pm Physio- Pilates 8pm Choir Prac-	10am Little Cherubs 11am Ladies' Badminton 6pm Rainbows 6.45pm Brownies 7.30pm Theology Group 8pm Guides	4 10.30am Physio- Pilates	3
6 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion & Sunday School 6.30pm Choral Evensong	8pm Badminton	2.30pm Ladies' Guild	10.30am Holy Communion 2pm Bridge 6.30pm Physio- Pilates 8pm Choir Prac- tice	10am Little Cherubs 11am Ladies' Badminton 2.30pm Bible Study 6pm Rainbows 6.45pm Brownies 7.45pm Historical Society 8pm Guides	10.30am Physio-Pilates 8pm Concert - Priory Singers	12

61		26	
18	Good Friday 7.30pm Tene- brae	25 10.30am Physio- Pilates	
17	Maundy Thursday 11am Ladies' Badminton 7.30pm Holy Communion	24 11am Ladies' Badminton	
91	Spy Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion 2pm Bridge 6.30pm Physio- Pilates 7.30pm Late Evening Office 8pm Choir Practice	10.30am Holy Communion 2pm Bridge 6.30pm Physio- Pilates	10.30am Holy Communion and light lunch 2pm Bridge 6.30pm Physio-Pilates 8pm Choir Practice
15	Holy Tuesday 7.30pm Evening Prayer 8pm Compassionate Friends	22	29
14	Fig Monday 7.30pm Compline 8pm Select Vestry 8pm Badminton	21	7.30pm Annual Easter Vestry Meeting 8pm Badminton
13	Palm Sunday 9am Holy Com- munion 11am Morning Prayer & Sunday School (tea/coffee)	Easter Day 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion & Sunday School	Low Sunday 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer & Sunday School

For more information on **ORGANISATIONS - TIMETABLE**

Sunday please contact appropriate

11am-12noon: **Sunday School**

Monday

8.00pm-11.00pm: **Badminton Club**

Tuesday

Ladies' Guild (2nd Tues in month) 2.30pm-4.30pm:

Indoor Bowling Club 7.15pm-10.30pm:

Compassionate Friends (3rd Tues in month) 8pm-10pm:

Wednesday

2pm-4pm: **Bridge Club** 6.30pm-7.45pm: PhysioPilates

8pm-10pm: Choir

Thursday

10am-11.30am: Little Cherubs Baby and Toddler Group

11am-1pm: Ladies' Badminton Club

6pm-7pm: **Rainbow Guides**

6.45pm-8pm: **Brownies** 8pm-9pm: Guides

Bible Study (2nd and 4th Thurs in month) 7.30pm Theology Group (1st Thurs in month) 7.30pm Historical Society (3rd Thurs in month) 7.45pm

Friday

10.30am-11.45am: **PhysioPilates**

PARISHIONER CONTACT DETAILS

For speed of communication and to keep our records up to date please send your email address to Anne at stpeters@connor.anglican.org. Also please don't forget to let us know if you move house, change your telephone number or change your email address. Thank you.

Our Church Family ... Please let us know about any happy events exciting news happening within our parish family—good news is always worth sharing!

Holy Dusters Cleaning Rota

Easter holiday dates etc

personnel listed on back page.

31st March—5th April	Group 7
7th April—12th April	Group 8
14th April—19th April	Group 1
21st April—26th April	Group 2
28th April—3rd May	Group 3

APRIL FLOWER LIST

13TH HEATHER AND TONY SWAN IN MEMORY OF

HEATHER'S PARENTS

20th Easter Day 27th Joan Walker

Thank you to all who contribute their time and effort to putting flowers in church.



EASTER DAY 20th April

If you can help to decorate the church for Easter please get in touch with Sandra Davison, our 'flower lady'. You can catch her after church on Sundays or ring her on telephone number 9443 9230.

NORTH BELFAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thursday 10th April
7.45pm
Minor Hall
Speaker:

Lorraine Robinson **Topic:** Buildings at risk
in Belfast
Everyone welcome

PASTORAL CARE

If you require any form of pastoral care please contact the Rector (tel 9077 7053). If there is no reply please leave a message. However, if the matter is urgent please do not hesitate to contact the Rector on his mobile phone (tel 07563 531082).

We hope you'll not end up <u>in hospital</u>, but if you do, <u>please do let the Rector know</u>. He makes regular visits to all our local hospitals and is always keen to know if a parishioner has been admitted. Also, please don't forget to let us know when you have been discharged.

Parishioners who are housebound or otherwise unable to attend church may receive Holy Communion at home.

Please send material for the May issue of Parish Notes to:

Anne Cromie, Parish Office, 17 Waterloo Park South, Belfast BT15 5HX

or email: stpeters@connor.anglican.org

by Wednesday 23rd April. Thank you.