

RECTOR'S NOTES

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is at the heart of the Church's ministries, and this finds expression any time a member of the Church shares the love of God with another person by listening to them, advising them as necessary, and/or helping them in practical ways during times of need. All of us are therefore involved in pastoral ministries, whether or not we would recognise it or label it as such.

As an ordained minister, I have a particular set of pastoral duties, which mainly derive from my authority as a priest to pronounce absolution and blessing, and from my academic training to apply theological ideas to everyday life. This is why clergy are duty-bound to visit those people who are "dangerously sick" (according to the Canons of the Church of Ireland). This is not because I can provide medical care, for I am certainly not trained to be a doctor or nurse. Rather, my duty is to share with them – through Scripture, prayer, the sacraments, and Christian counsel – that God is with them in their suffering, whether physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual.

I can provide a listening ear, offer advice on arranging professional counselling, read an appropriate passage from Scripture, pray for your spiritual and physical healing, anoint you with oil, and/or lay hands upon you, hear your confession and pronounce absolution, say a blessing for you, celebrate Holy Communion with you, and in very extreme cases, prepare you spiritually for death.

Could I please encourage you therefore to contact me in confidence if you wish to avail of these specific forms of pastoral care, whether at home, in hospital, in St Peter's, at the Rectory, or any other suitable location.

Over the coming years, we will consider how best to address the spiritual pastoral needs of our parishioners, and in this respect I will be encouraging and authorising the ministries of Lay People as visitors, who will visit and offer prayers for parishioners. If you think that you might be called to this ministry, then please speak with me.

GENERAL VESTRY

Our annual meeting of the General Vestry was convened on Sunday 22nd March, immediately following a shortened form of Morning Prayer. The core purpose of that meeting was to hear reports about the activities and finances of the parish, and to appoint/elect parishioners to various offices and committees for the forthcoming Thank you to all who attended and participated in the meeting. It can be quite laborious, but it is very important. The Constitution of the Church of Ireland was written a long time ago, when fewer people were expected to participate in the management of the Church. For example, one hundred years ago, when the number of worshippers in St Peter's was much greater than today, only 37 of them were entitled to vote for – or be elected to – the Select Vestry. As a consequence it was often the same few people electing the same few people each year. Nowadays we are striving for greater democracy and accountability, and consequently the annual meeting has become longer and more involved! That is the price we pay for enabling and encouraging all of our members to exercise their rights and responsibilities. I would particularly like to thank those parishioners who kindly provided a much-needed cup of tea/coffee at the end of the meeting, and those who helped to count the votes.

My own report, of which I gave an abridged version to the General Vestry, is contained in the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for 2014. If you do not already have a copy, then please collect one from the back of the church, or else speak to Anne in the Parish Office. In a nutshell, my report states that there are

encouraging signs of growth in our parish, both in terms of the number of people worshipping, and our income from Free Will Offerings. However, there is still a long way to go. If we continue at the same rate as we have done in the last couple of years, it will take us nine years to double our congregation and become financial sustainable. But take note: we are eating into our financial reserves, and they will be exhausted within the next five years. This means that we need to take urgent action in order to make sure that we speed up our rate of growth. Firstly, every parishioner needs to give serious consideration to their financial contribution to the parish. Secondly, we need to be actively involved in encouraging our friends, family and colleagues to come to church. Thirdly, we need to remember our purpose is to share the Good News that God – through Jesus – can make lives better. If we take these three things seriously, then we will certainly see growth in this parish.

ELECTION RESULTS

The following parishioners were appointed/elected at the annual meeting to serve until next Easter:

Rector's Churchwarden Daphne McClements

People's Churchwarden Ian McManus
Rector's Glebewarden Victor Davis
People's Glebewarden Quintin Mulligan

Supplemental Nominators Peter Coiley, Daphne McClements,

Ashlee McCune

(to serve until Easter 2017)

Rector's Sidespersons

Tom Campbell, Ashlee McCune
People's Sidespersons

Sandra Hutchman, Hilary Shields
Select Vestry Representatives

Adrian Hall, Brian Callaghan,

Ashlee McCune, David Cromie, Noel Beattie, Paula Poulton, Peter Coiley, Rosemary Johnston, Sandra Davison, Sandra Hutchman,

Tom Campbell, Tony Swan

Honorary Secretary Rosemary Johnston Honorary Treasurer Ashlee McCune

Finance Committee David Cromie, Victor Davis, Adrian Hall

(Rosemary Johnston and Ashlee McCune

are ex-officio members)

Fabric Committee Noel Beattie, Daphne McClements,

Sandra Hutchman

(Victor Davis and Quintin Mulligan

are ex-officio members)

May I thank everyone who put their name forward for election. Even if unelected this year, it is great to see people willing to use their skills for the benefit of the Church. I would hope that more people, particularly parishioners in their twenties, thirties, and forties, would consider nominating themselves next year.

Several individuals have stepped down from the Select Vestry, and I would like to thank them on behalf of us all, for their work over the last year: Margie Crawford, David Nairn, Hilary Shields, Philip Williamson, and Jim Wilson. Nature, however, abhors a vacuum, and in their place other parishioners have stepped forward: Brian Callaghan, Tom Campbell, Ashlee McCune, Adrian Hall, and Quintin Mulligan.

CHARITIES ALLOCATIONS

All parishes give a proportion of their income to charities and mission organisations both local and abroad. You might wonder why we are giving money away when we are struggling to make ends meet. There are some very simple arguments in favour of doing so. Firstly, as with any income, we have a Biblical obligation to give a proportion of it to those in need. Secondly, the Free Will Offerings given by parishioners are not just intended to pay our bills, but rather to fund the Church's work; there are many things that the worldwide Church does that we as a parish cannot do ourselves, and so we support financially those members of the Church who can do

those things. Thirdly, we believe that God will bless us generously if we adopt a similarly generous attitude with our own resources; there are numerous examples of parishes who adopt a selfish, inward-looking approach, and who have diminished as a consequence.

In order to make our allocations more democratic, individual members of the Select Vestry each suggested a number of charities, from which 13 were put to the General Vestry, and the registered members voted for three Christian charities and three secular charities to support financially this year. That vote has resulted in the following charities being supported, each of which will receive £500.

Alzheimer's Research UK seeks to prevent, treat, and cure dementia.

Child Aid aims to transform the lives of neglected children in Belarus, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine.

The **Church of Ireland's Ministry of Healing** offers both counselling and prayers for healing of body, mind, and spirit.

The **Mission to Seafarers** is a worldwide Anglican ministry to people who live and work at sea.

Sightsavers works in 30 countries to prevent unnecessary loss of vision, and to support people who are blind.

Water Aid works to provide clean water and sanitation for people around the world, primarily Africa and India.

Over the course of this year, I will invite representatives of some of these organisations to come to St Peter's to receive their cheque and perhaps to give a brief outline of how our money will help them to help others.

ONLINE MEDIA

This is just a little reminder that we have a website stpeters.connor.anglican.org and a facebook page facebook.com/stpeterbelfast which contain a wealth of information about our parish! If you regularly use the internet, then please take a look at both of these websites.

CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL

Holy Week this year straddles the end of March and the beginning of April. In addition to our regular mid-week celebration of Holy Communion on Wednesday of that week, we will have an evening service at 7.30pm from Monday to Friday. Our main events will be Choral Eucharist on Maundy Thursday, and Tenebrae on Good Friday. The service of Tenebrae this year will focus on the events of Christ's passion and death, as recounted in John's Gospel. Could I encourage all parishioners to aim to come along to at least two of the five evening services during the week.

Our Sunday School Superintendent, Paula Poulton, and our Families' Worker, Frank Dillon, are organising events for children during Holy Week. These will take place during the morning of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. You will find further information about this elsewhere in these Parish Notes. Please support this new venture!

Owing to Easter, the new Family Service in the Halls will not be held during April, so please put in your diary that the next one will be on 10^{th} May. However, there will be a regular Family Service in the church on 26^{th} April, at which we will invite the girls and their families from the Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides. During that service we will commemorate St Mark the evangelist, and there will be a baptism.

CHURCH SERVICES

30th MARCH **MONDAY** FIG MONDAY Compline 7.30pm traditional

31st MARCH **TUESDAY HOLY TUESDAY** 7.30pm **Evening Prayer** modern

WEDNESDAY 1st APRIL **SPY WEDNESDAY**

10.30am **Holy Communion** modern 7.30pm **Late Evening Office** modern

2nd APRIL **MAUNDY THURSDAY THURSDAY**

Holy Communion traditional 7.30pm

3rd APRIL **FRIDAY GOOD FRIDAY**

10.30am Children's Service modern modern 7.30pm Tenebrae

5th APRIL **SUNDAY EASTER DAY Holy Communion** 9am traditional 11am **Holy Communion** modern

WEDNESDAY 8th APRIL **MID-WEEK SERVICE**

Holy Communion 10.30am modern

12th APRIL SUNDAY THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

9am **Holy Communion** modern 11am **Morning Prayer** modern

WEDNESDAY 15th APRIL **MID-WEEK SERVICE**

Holy Communion 10.30am modern

19th APRIL **SUNDAY** THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Holy Communion 9am modern 11am **Holy Communion** modern 6.30pm **Choral Evensong** traditional

WEDNESDAY 22nd APRIL **MID-WEEK SERVICE**

10.30am **Holy Communion** modern

26th APRIL **SUNDAY ST MARK** modern **Holy Communion** 9am Family Service modern

11am

WEDNESDAY 29th APRIL MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 3rd MAY THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9am Holy Communion traditional 11am Holy Communion modern 6.30pm Choral Evensong traditional

WEDNESDAY 6th MAY MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 10th MAY ROGATION SUNDAY

9am Holy Communion *modern* 11am Morning Prayer *modern* 11am Family Service (Halls)*modern*

WEDNESDAY 13th MAY MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

THURSDAY 14th MAY THE ASCENSION DAY

7.30pm Holy Communion *traditional*

FRIDAY 15th MAY ST MATTHIAS

11am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 17th MAY THE SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION

9am Holy Communion *modern* 11am Holy Communion *modern* 6.30pm Choral Evensong *traditional*

WEDNESDAY 20th MAY MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 24th MAY THE DAY OF PENTECOST

9am Holy Communion *modern* 11am Holy Communion *modern*

6.30pm Rural Deanery Service in St Ninnian's

WEDNESDAY 27th MAY MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 31st MAY TRINITY SUNDAY

9am Holy Communion *modern* 11am Holy Communion *modern*

A word from our Children and Family Worker ...

I have been here for a couple of months now, and I am so glad that the congregation has welcomed me in as they have; I feel part of the church family, and this is great. My role here as Children and Family Worker has been getting off to a good start. There will be a number of programs introduced in 2015 to help facilitate family worship both inside and outside the church, such as the new monthly Family Service in the Halls. It is my vision for the church that it would be a place for parents to worship together with their children, and for them to grow as disciples together at home. I hope for the congregation to grow in numbers with new families joining us, and for St Peter's to be a thriving Christian community on the Antrim Road.

Activity days in Holy Week:

There will be two days during Holy Week when we will be running events for your children to come to, but also that you parents are very welcome at! On Maundy Thursday (2nd April) we will have an Easter-themed activity day, with crafts, games, music, etc, for the whole family to enjoy. On Good Friday (3rd April) we will invite the children into the church where they will be learning about the stages of the Cross; we will have an Easter Egg hunt to finish things off. Both days start at 10.30am and will finish around 12.30pm. We would love to see you there!

Frank Dillon

AFTER CHURCH REFRESHMENT

Thank you to the Girl Guides who will provide light refreshments after the 11am service on 26th April.





Stall open on Sunday 26th April during coffee time after the 11am service

Congratulations to ...

... members of our Bridge Club, Annette & Noel Beattie, on their recent spectacular win in The Hammer Cup at Merville Bridge Club!

... Tom Campbell on recently becoming an Alderman of Newtownabbey Borough Council.

North Belfast Rural Deanery Pentecost United Service Sunday 24th May at 6.30 pm in St Ninian's Parish Church, Whitewell Road Refreshments in church hall after the service

Ladies' Guild

On Tuesday 14th April at 2.30pm our guest speakers will be representing the charity Engage With Age. This is a community development partnership of organisations whose aim is to maximise the participation of older people in local communities to reduce isolation and loneliness and to promote health and wellbeing. I would really like you to join us.

If you need a lift, don't be shy, there are plenty of people with cars passing close to you on their way, so please just contact me on the number below.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Anne Stewart, Hon Sec, tel 9096 6597

Collection Plate

This does not apply to those who place cheques in numbered FWO envelopes. We are very grateful for any donations received. However, if you are in the habit of placing a loose cheque on the collection plate, we would be grateful if you could please put it in an envelope marked FWO and your name on the outside. This is to ensure that the counters record it against your name and that Gift Aid (where appropriate) can be claimed. Thank you for your anticipated co-operation.

Noel Beattie

April Diar	iary					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday Thursday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Spy Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 7.30pm Late Evening Office	2 Maundy Thursday 10.30 Easter activity morning 7.30pm Holy Communion 8.30pm Choir Practice	3 Good Friday 10.30 Children's Service and Easter Egg hunt 7.30pm Tenebrae	4 Holy Saturday
5 Easter Day 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	6 8pm Badminton		8 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 6.30pm PhysioPilates	6	10 10.30am PhysioPilates	11

12 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer	7.30pm Select Vestry 8pm Badminton	14 2.30pm Ladies' Guild 6.30pm Beaver Scouts	15 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	16 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.45pm Historical Society 8pm Guides	17 10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30 Bible Study 4.30pm Speech and Drama	18 9am Aurora Dance Classes
19 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion 6.30pm Choral Evensong	20 Deadline for material to be with Anne for May Parish Notes 8pm Badminton	2.1 6.30pm Beaver Scouts 8pm Compassionate Friends	10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 11.30am Fabric Committee 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	23 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Bible Study 8pm Guides	24 10.30am PhysioPilates 4.30pm Speech and Drama	25 9am Aurora Dance Classes
St Mark's Day 9am Holy Communion 11am Family Service (tea/ coffee)	26 St Mark's Day Spm Badminton 9am Holy Communion 11am Family Service (tea/ coffee)	28 6.30pm Beaver Scouts	10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	30 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 8pm Guides		

ORGANISATIONS - TIMETABLE

Sunday

11am—12noon: Sunday School

Monday

8.00pm—11.00pm: Badminton Club

Tuesday

2.30pm—4.30pm: Ladies' Guild (2nd Tuesday in month)

6.30pm—7.30pm Beaver Scouts

8pm—10pm: Compassionate Friends (3rd Tuesday in month)

Wednesday

2pm—4pm: Bridge Club 6.30pm—7.45pm: PhysioPilates

7.30pm—9pm: Choir

Thursday

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

6pm—7pm: Rainbow Guides

7pm—8pm: Brownies

7.30pm Bible Study (2nd and 4th Thursday in month) 7.45pm Historical Society (3rd Thursday in month)

8pm—9.30pm: Guides

Friday

10.30am—11.45am: PhysioPilates

11.30am Bible Study (2nd and 3rd Friday in month)

4.30pm—7.30pm Speech and Drama

Saturday

9am—12noon: Aurora Dance Class Saturday School

For more information about term times etc please contact appropriate personnel listed on back page or the Parish Office.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SELECT VESTRY

WILL BE ON MONDAY 13TH APRIL AT 7.30PM IN THE MINOR HALL

Holy Dusters Cleaning Rota

30th March—4th April Group 8
6th April—11th April Group 1
13th April—18th April Group 2
20th April—25th April Group 3
27th April—2nd May Group 4

APRIL FLOWER LIST

5TH EASTER DAY

12TH HEATHER AND TONY SWAN IN MEMORY OF

HEATHER'S PARENTS

26TH JOAN WALKER

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



PARISHIONER CONTACT DETAILS

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

NORTH BELFAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thursday 16th April 7.45pm, Minor Hall

Speaker:

Billy McCullough

Topic:

Observing Belfast

Everyone welcome

PASTORAL CARE

If you would like to arrange for the Rector to visit you at home, whether to share your anxieties in confidence, or for spiritual advice, or for prayer, or for Holy Communion, then please contact him on his landline (90 777 053) or on his mobile (07563 531 082). This is an essential part of his ministry and he will be pleased to visit you and help in whatever way he can.

If you or a loved one is seriously ill, particularly if you are admitted to hospital, then please inform the Rector. He often visits the hospitals but has no way of knowing who has been admitted unless you tell him. If you are visited by a hospital chaplain and they ask if you would like your Rector to visit, please say "yes" and he will gladly come to see you.

Please send material for the May issue of Parish Notes to:
Anne Cromie, Parish Office, St Peter's Church,
Fortwilliam Drive, Belfast BT15 4EB
or email: stpeterandstjames@outlook.com
by Monday 20th April. Thank you.