

**THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST**

PARISH NOTES

DECEMBER 2015/JANUARY 2016

Rector: The Rev'd Brian Lacey
St Peter's Rectory, 17 Waterloo Park South, Belfast, BT15 5HX



**Please don't forget to put
St Peter's on your
Christmas Present List.
Christmas —
a time to give thanks for
the greatest gift of all.**

GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE

RECTOR'S NOTES

Christmas Gift to the Parish

Every parish in the Church of Ireland relies upon the generosity of its members in order to cover their expenses. In St Peter & St James, we need to raise nearly £10,000 each month to cover our operating costs, which primarily goes towards salaries, maintenance and repairs, utility bills, and general expenses. As you are probably aware, our income from the members of our congregation does not currently cover our expenditure. Alongside these Parish Notes, you should have received a letter of receipt from Mr Noel Beattie, our Free Will Offering Secretary, thanking you for your recorded donation to parish funds this year. Could I please urge you to consider increasing your offering? Even a few pounds extra per week will make a substantial difference. We want St Peter's to become an active and vibrant parish, but we must increase our income in order to achieve this. If you have not received a letter from Noel because you have not made a recorded donation to the parish, then please contact either of us (our details are on the back cover) so that we can arrange for you to receive envelopes or to set up a standing order.

Moreover, the Select Vestry has decided that—as is the case in many other parishes—we will ask parishioners twice a year to make a special contribution to parish funds, in addition to their regular contribution. We are not asking for anyone to give begrudgingly more than they can afford, but we are asking that every parishioner would give generously and gladly towards the upkeep and development of our Christian community. For our first such special collection, we have

included an envelope along with these Parish Notes, marked "Special Collection—Christmas 2015". Filling in your details on the envelope may enable us to claim Gift Aid on your donation as well. We will be very pleased to receive any donation, but if every household could give between £20 to £50 then we would be well on our way to covering our expenses. This is particularly necessary at this time as essential repairs are needed to the fabric and electrics in St Peter's. Please consider this to be your Christmas gift to the parish. Thank you.

Services in December and January

Throughout the season of Advent, we will have four short services each Wednesday evening at 7.30pm. To make life more interesting for us, I have invited a different parishioner each Wednesday to give a very short personal talk on a theme relating to Advent. I cannot stress enough how important it is to enable lay members of our Christian community to express their story and their beliefs in this way. You frequently hear what I have to say, but as I have told you many times in the past, your own Christian journey of faith is as valid as my own, and often more interesting! Please encourage our Christian brothers and sisters by worshipping with us and hearing what they have to say.

There will be no separate Family Service in the Halls during December, as we will have our Christingle Service on the second Sunday (13th December). Whilst the adults and older children worship in the church, the younger ones and the Sunday School leaders will be preparing our Christingles, which they will bring into us following the sermon. We will then sing our Christingle hymn and the children will lead our Christingle prayers.

Christmas Day (25th December) falls on a Friday this year, resulting in a busy week in terms of worship. On the previous Sunday (20th December) we will have our two regular morning services of Holy Communion. Note, however, that there will be no evening service that day. Instead, we will have our traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight on Monday evening (21st December) followed by mulled wine and shortbread. There are no services in the church on the Tuesday (22nd December), but I will be visiting the housebound on this and adjacent days to give them Christmas Communion. On Wednesday (23rd December) we will have our usual mid-week celebration of Holy Communion in the morning, and then our Advent service of Compline that evening. On the Thursday (24th December) we will have our Children's Christmas Eve Service in the afternoon, followed later that night by our traditional service of Midnight Communion (at 11pm). On the Friday (25th December) we will have our Christmas Day celebration of Holy Communion at 10.30am. There are no services on the Saturday, but services as normal on the Sunday (27th December) both of which will be led by The Very Rev'd Brian Moller.

The Holy Days that we will be celebrating in the coming two months are: Christmas Eve (Thursday 24th December), Christmas Day (Friday 25th December), St John the Evangelist (Sunday 27th December), the Epiphany (Wednesday 6th January), and the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Sunday 31st January).

At 11am on Sunday 31st January we will have a special service during which we will renew the vows made at our Baptisms. All children who have been baptised in St Peter's in the last twelve years will be invited back, along with their parents, godparents and their wider family.

During November, I announced that Mr David Cromie, is training for the role of Parish Reader. A person who exercises this particular ministry is permitted to lead or assist during worship, but they may not perform the functions of an ordained priest (such as the absolution, celebrating Holy Communion, or the blessing) nor may they preach. Within St Peter's, therefore, the role is generally limited to leading the congregation during Morning Prayer or Choral Evensong. So, over the coming months you will see David regularly sitting at the Prayer Desk opposite me, helping in various ways. Please be patient and supportive, bearing in mind that confidence grows with experience, and experience takes time.

Home Communion for Christmas

If, through prolonged illness or immobility, you are unable to come to St Peter's in Advent or Christmas, then please contact me as soon as possible so that we can arrange a short service of Holy Communion in your own home, on a suitable day between Monday 14th December and Wednesday 23rd December.

Holidays

As usual, I will be taking two weeks' holiday after Christmas. Consequently we will not be celebrating St Stephen's Day (Saturday 26th December), the Holy Innocents (Monday 28th December), the Naming and Circumcision of Jesus (Friday 1st January). Please also note that there will be no mid-week service on Wednesday 30th December. However, I will be briefly back on duty to celebrate Holy Communion on the Epiphany (Wednesday 6th January). Throughout the two

weeks, I will still be available at the Rectory for serious pastoral emergencies. If I am away, there will be emergency contact numbers listed on the answer machine.

Funeral Arrangements

Over the last year, quite a few parishioners have asked me to assist them in forward planning for their own funeral arrangements. This is necessarily quite a morbid topic of discussion, but increasingly people want to do this primarily to avoid their next of kin having to make off-the-cuff decisions during a time of shock and grief, and also to ensure that their funeral happens as they would want or expect. If you would like to do this yourself, I have some straightforward forms for you to fill in, which will enable me (or whoever the officiating minister is at the time) to know what you want to happen. As the forms explain, not everything is permissible within a Church of Ireland funeral, but if your wishes are appropriate, then efforts will be made to fulfil them. If you would like a copy of these forms, then please contact me.

Sermon Summaries

On **All Saint's Day** (1st November) we heard about the raising to life of Lazarus, who had been dead for four days until Jesus came to his tomb. At Jesus' command, the dead man rose back to life. I acknowledged that many people, even regular churchgoers, have difficulties with such miracles, and consequently they dismiss them as being fictional. However, I suggested that if God is so powerful that he can bring into existence our own vast and complex physical world, as well as an entire spiritual realm, then why should so little a thing as raising the dead to life pose a problem for him? And if we accept that God is the creator and sustainer of existence, why

would we place limitations on his abilities, simply because we consider them to be implausible? Although God uses his powers in ways that we often do not understand, and perhaps often he does not use them when we would want him to, it is very important for us not to downplay the power of God. He is sovereign over all things, in all places, and at all times. Therefore, although he will not always do what we want, we must always recognise and honour his power, and celebrate that nothing is impossible for him.

On **Remembrance Sunday** (8th November) we thought about how we respond when we are hurt or offended. I explained that in such situations, we can respond in one of three ways: we can do nothing and move on with no ill-feelings, or we can forgive, or we can seek revenge. This last option is the most prevalent amongst us, as we tend to want to get back at someone who has offended us by either actively hurting them in return, or by passively ignoring them. I explained that such a desire for revenge is damaging not only to those whom we want to hurt, but also to ourselves. We can allow the anger and bitterness and hatred that motivated someone to hurt us, to infect us, and make us angry, bitter, and hateful in response. The better option is forgiveness. This can often be the most courageous choice. It is not about suggesting that the offender's bad actions are acceptable or can be overlooked, but it is about not allowing their bad behaviour to make you a bad person in response. Forgiveness is therefore as much about the healing of our own internal wounds, as it is about being merciful to others who have hurt us.

The **Second Sunday before Advent** (15th November) came just a couple of days after the terrorist attacks in Paris. I preached that such terrible atrocities, not only in Paris but across the globe, are a stark reminder that we live in a very broken

world. Time and time again, we humans turn on each other, we hurt each other, and we even kill each other, motivated by anger, bitterness, revenge, and all other negative emotions. Sadly, we have been doing this since the first humans walked the earth. The clear message of the Bible is that as a consequence of our broken and corrupt nature (our sinfulness) God will heal our brokenness and save us from our corruption. More specifically, the ancient prophets declared that God would send someone to personify and usher in this healing and salvation. Within Judaism that person is called the “Messiah” (or the “Christ” in the Greek language). Over the years many people have claimed that title for themselves, or they have had it attributed to them by others. Yet others still have claimed to be the solution to the world’s problems: politicians, religious leaders, economists, philosophers, military commanders, etc. They might not have been associated with the title “Christ”, but nevertheless they understood themselves to be the saviour of the world. Jesus warned his disciples not to be fooled and led astray by such people. Jesus, and Jesus alone, is the true Christ. He alone is the healer and saviour of the world.

On **Christ the King Sunday** (22nd November) we reflected upon Pontius Pilate’s question to our Lord Jesus, when he asked, “What is truth?”. No response from Jesus is given in John’s Gospel, so instead we need to look back over the rest of Gospel to see how the word “truth” has been used previously. Most notably: Jesus is described as being “full of grace and truth”; Jesus explains that “the truth will set you free”; Jesus tells his disciples to worship God “in spirit and in truth”; Jesus prays that his disciples would be “sanctified in the truth”; and Jesus described himself as “the way, the truth, and the life”. In all these verses, Jesus is using the word

“truth” as a shorthand way of saying “the truth about who God is; the truth about what God wants; and the truth about how God does what he does”. Jesus is inviting us to know the truth about God, so that we are able to enter into a loving relationship with him, based on the reality (the truth) of God’s nature and will. Moreover, Jesus describes himself as being the perfect expression and representation of God; he not only reveals the truth about God, he is in fact the living embodiment of that truth. So if we want to understand who God is, what God wants, and how God does what he does, then we need look no further than Jesus. This, then, is the answer to Pontius Pilate’s question to Jesus: “What is truth?”. Jesus himself is the truth.

Overcoming the Powers of Darkness

We are now into the penitential season of Advent, which lasts for about four weeks. During this season, Christians should give weighty consideration to the sinfulness within ourselves and in the world around us. We must always be on guard against allowing ungodliness to fester and grow within us as individuals and as a Christian community. Let me offer you some ways in which we can do this.

Just as I believe in God, and in the existence of spiritual beings which serve him, I also acknowledge the existence of spiritual beings which seek to act against him. We call these entities “the powers of darkness”, or “the enemy”, or simply “evil”. For various reasons, many churchgoers avoid discussion of such evil beings, perhaps because they are scared of them, or because they don’t want other people to laugh at them for believing in such things, or because they don’t think they are

real. However, from my own experience, and from listening to people whose opinions I deeply respect, and from reading around the issue, I believe wholeheartedly that we need to take seriously the existence of these dark forces, and moreover, we need to withstand and overcome them in Christ's name.

The most simple thing we can do is to be aware of how the enemy wants to attack us. They will use very simple and yet very effective tactics. See if you can recognise them within our parish, and within your own life.

Firstly, the enemy wants to focus our attention away from our godly purpose. As members of the Church, our main purpose is to bring glory to God by loving Him and by loving our neighbour as ourselves. And yet increasingly we are being bogged down by bureaucracy, box-ticking, form-filling, buildings maintenance, appeals for money, and so forth. These things are intended to make the Church a more effective organisation, but if we allow them to become the primary focus of what we do, then we have lost our way. The powers of darkness rejoice every time we lose sight of who God has called us to be, and what God has called us to do.

Secondly, the enemy wants to wear us down with fatigue and apathy. As the Church relies heavily on its members to volunteer their time and effort, it becomes very easy for leading members of a congregation to find themselves involved in many different aspects of parish life all at once. Naturally, if left unchecked, this can lead to burn-out. And if the leading lay members of a parish are all exhausted and fed-up with the Church, then the enemy has got exactly what it wants.

Thirdly, and most damaging of all, the enemy wants to destroy relationships. We recognise that in any organisation with a large number of people, there will be some people we get on with better than others, but as long as everyone is civil and kind towards each other, then there is no problem. But unless we are pro-active in maintaining a loving environment, then the darkness will come between us. It will escalate minor disagreements into full-scale conflicts. It will use rumours and gossip to generate paranoia and distrust. It will influence us to take offence at the slightest provocation, to perpetuate anger and hurt, and to refuse mercy and forgiveness. Once these things take hold, they lead to deep divisions, and ultimately disaster. The enemy is winning whenever we are broken off from those people whom God has called us to love.

Even if you do not believe in the existence of evil spirits, I implore you to recognise the situations that I have just outlined. Particularly, we should consider how we as individuals have contributed to such problems: Have we forgotten what the Church is for, and what our God-given purpose is within it? Have we become so busy that our work for God has become more of a chore than a delight? Have we caused, or allowed, our relationships to turn sour?

There is a simple solution to each of these problems, and in making an effort to resolve them, we proclaim Christ's victory over the powers of darkness. Firstly, come regularly to Church, be involved in its activities, but always for the primary purpose of deepening your love for God, for your family, for your friends, and for strangers. Secondly, if you are feeling unduly burdened by your involvement in the Church, then please don't suffer in silence; speak to me, and we will examine how our congregation can better share the

responsibilities of the ministries and management of the parish. Thirdly, if you have negative feelings about a member of our parish, now is the time to resolve the problem. If they have done something to offend you, through their actions or inactions, then go to them calmly and seek reconciliation rather than revenge. And if the problem stems from your own dislike of that person, remember that none of us is perfect, and that despite our imperfections God has commanded us to be kind to each other, even to the people who hate us.

As a Christian community, therefore, it is the responsibility of every parishioner to ensure that we are focussed on God, that we all share fairly in the workload of parish activities, and that we make a concerted effort to resolve interpersonal disputes. By doing so in Christ's name, we will have shut the gates of St Peter's in the face of the powers of darkness.

LESSON READERS

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 contact the Warden of Readers, Forde Patterson, tel 93 365 900.

Date	First Reading	Second Reading	Third Reading
6th December	Eleanor Henderson	Ashlee McCune	The Rector
13th December	Daphne McClements	Forde Patterson	The Rector
20th December	Jim Wilson	Anne Roberts	The Rector
27th December	Caroline O'Kane	Daphne McClements	Dean Moller
3rd January	Hilary Shields	Dora Hanna	Tony Hall
10th January	Philip Williamson	Wes Holmes	The Rector
17th January	Colin Bell	Sandra Hutchman	The Rector
24th January	Peter Coiley	Ashlee McCune	The Rector
31st January	Eleanor Henderson	Forde Patterson	The Rector

Ladies' Guild

December Meeting

On Tuesday 8th December at 2.30pm our guest speaker will be Mrs Barbara Long from Blonging Creations. Barbara was a missionary midwife in Zambia for many years. She will bring with her some of the lovely jewellery and scarves that she sells to raise money for medicine in the hospital where she worked. To enjoy an opportunity to do some Christmas shopping please bring only cash or cheques. We will also have some Christmas goodies to enjoy. Looking forward to seeing you and a very happy Christmas to all my ladies!

January Meeting

On Tuesday 12th January at 2.30pm I am delighted to say that we will be once again travelling with Noel Beattie and his beautiful assistant Annette. Noel is always highly entertaining and I am very much looking forward to seeing his slides and hearing of his experiences. If you have yet to 'travel with Noel' please hop on board and join us on what promises to be a very interesting trip. If you would like to attend either or both of these meetings but don't have transport please contact me or one of our members and we will be happy to arrange a lift for you.

Anne Stewart, Hon Sec (tel: 9096 6597)

Do you know about EASYFUNDRAISING?

If you shop online, you can use easyfundraising to raise funds for our parish.

Over 2,700 well known retailers (including Amazon, John Lewis, eBay and Tesco) will donate a small percentage of what you spend online to our parish to say thank you for shopping with them.

Let's say you wanted to buy a book from Amazon. Instead of going to www.amazon.co.uk directly, you first go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk. From the easyfundraising website, click through to Amazon to make your purchase. This tells Amazon you came from easyfundraising. The price of the book is exactly the same.

It costs you absolutely nothing, and it can generate a lot of income for us.

Just visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpjbelbelfast and follow the simple steps to sign up.

Ashlee McCune, Hon Treasurer

CHURCH SERVICES

WEDNESDAY	2nd DECEMBER	MID-WEEK SERVICE
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
7.30pm	Compline	<i>traditional</i>
SUNDAY	6th DECEMBER	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
11am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
6.30pm	Choral Evensong	<i>traditional</i>
WEDNESDAY	9th DECEMBER	MID-WEEK SERVICE
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
7.30pm	Compline	<i>traditional</i>
SUNDAY	13th DECEMBER	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
11am	Christingle Service	<i>modern</i>
WEDNESDAY	16th DECEMBER	MID-WEEK SERVICE
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
7.30pm	Compline	<i>traditional</i>
SUNDAY	20th DECEMBER	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
11am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
MONDAY	21st DECEMBER	MID-WEEK SERVICE
7.30pm	Nine Lessons & Carols by candlelight <i>mulled wine and shortbread after</i>	<i>traditional</i>
WEDNESDAY	23rd DECEMBER	MID-WEEK SERVICE
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
7.30pm	Compline	<i>traditional</i>
THURSDAY	24th DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS EVE
3pm	Nativity Service	<i>modern</i>
11pm	Holy Communion	<i>traditional</i>
FRIDAY	25th DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS DAY
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>

SUNDAY	27th DECEMBER	ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
9am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
11am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
SUNDAY	3rd JANUARY	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
9am	Holy Communion	<i>traditional</i>
11am	Morning Prayer	<i>modern</i>
WEDNESDAY	6th JANUARY	THE EPIPHANY
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
SUNDAY	10th JANUARY	THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
9am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
11am	Morning Prayer	<i>modern</i>
WEDNESDAY	13th JANUARY	MID-WEEK SERVICE
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
SUNDAY	17th JANUARY	THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
9am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
11am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
6.30pm	Choral Evensong	<i>traditional</i>
WEDNESDAY	20th JANUARY	MID-WEEK SERVICE
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
SUNDAY	24th JANUARY	THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
9am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
11am	Morning Prayer	<i>modern</i>
WEDNESDAY	27th JANUARY	MID-WEEK SERVICE
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
SUNDAY	31st JANUARY	THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST
9am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
11am	Baptismal Service	<i>modern</i>



PARISH REGISTER

Holy Baptism

"Born again of water and the Holy Spirit ..."

Ashton James Carlisle McMullan, Fairymow Park
son of Ryan Carlisle and Emma McMullan on 15th November 2015



December Diary						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs	2 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Compline 8pm Choir	3 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 8pm Guides	4 10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Bible Study	5
6 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion & Sunday School 6.30pm Choral Evensong	7 7.30pm Finance Committee 8pm Badminton	8 10am Decoration of church for Christmas 10.30 Crafty Goodness 2.30pm Ladies' Guild 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs	9 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Compline 8pm Choir	10 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7pm Membership Course 8pm Bible Study 8pm Guides	11 10.30am PhysioPilates 8pm Cavehill Community Choir Concert	12

13 9am Holy Communion 11am Christingle Service & Sunday School (tea/coffee)	14 7.30pm Select Vestry 8pm Badminton	15 9am-1pm Carol Service rehearsal 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 8pm BRA Carol Service	16 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Compline 8pm Choir	17 10am Little Cherubs 7.45pm Historical Society	18 10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Bible Study	19
20 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion & Sunday School	21 7.30pm Christmas Carol Service by candlelight followed by mulled wine and shortbread	22 10.30 Crafty Goodness	23 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 7.30pm Compline	24 Christmas Eve 3pm Nativity Service 11pm Holy Communion	25 Christmas Day 10.30am Holy Communion	26
27 St John the Evangelist 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	28	29	30	31		

January Diary						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer & Sunday School	4 8pm Badminton	5 10.30 Crafty Goodness	6 <i>The Epiphany of our Lord</i> 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	7 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 8pm Guides	8 10.30am PhysioPilates 4.30pm Speech and Drama	9
10 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer & Sunday School (tea/coffee)	11 7.30pm Select Vestry 8pm Badminton	12 2.30pm Ladies' Guild 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs	13 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	14 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Bible Study 8pm Guides	15 10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Bible Study 4.30pm Speech and Drama	16

17 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion & Sunday School 6.30pm Choral Evensong	18 8pm Badminton	19 10.30 Crafty Goodness 1pm Events Committee 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 8pm Compassionate Friends	20 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 11.30am Fabric Committee 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	21 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.45pm Historical Society 8pm Guides	22 10.30am PhysioPilates 4.30pm Speech and Drama	23
24 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer & Sunday School (tea/coffee)	25 8pm Badminton <i>Deadline for material to be with Anne for February Parish Notes</i>	26 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs	27 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	28 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Bible Study 8pm Guides	29 10.30am PhysioPilates 4.30pm Speech and Drama	30
31 9am Holy Communion 11am Baptismal Service & Sunday School					1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2

AFTER CHURCH REFRESHMENT and TRADCRAFT STALL

There will be light refreshments after the 11am service on the following Sundays:

13th December (Little Cherubs)

10th January (Select Vestry)

24th January (congregation).

If you would like to help with this in future please let the Rector know.

Also, the Traidcraft Stall will be open for business on 13th December and 10th January.



FAMILY MINISTRY

Planning for Christmas

This year will be my first Christmas at St Peter's and I am very excited about it. There are a couple of events that I would like to highlight. There will be a Christingle Service on Sunday 13th December at 11am that we would love you to attend and also a Nativity Service on Christmas Eve at 3pm which proved to be a big hit last year.

Homework club

Homework Club will not meet over the Advent and Christmas period to allow time to be focused elsewhere at this busy end of the year. Thank you to those who attended over this term and for your support so far!

Pastoral visits

During Advent I will be planning to meet with all our families for a catch up and to discuss what we can do in the New Year to benefit your children and the children's ministry in the Church. I would be grateful if you would contact me regarding this on 07803 763888 if I have not already arranged a visit with you.

Thank you.

Frank Dillon

NORTH BELFAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thursday 17th December

7.45pm in the Minor Hall

Speaker: Noel Beattie

Topic: France and other places

Thursday 21st January

7.45pm in the Minor Hall

Speaker: Norman Weatherall

Topic: Old Stores in Belfast

Everyone welcome

St Peter's and St James' Library

Our parish is one of the few that I know in any tradition in Belfast that has a library in the body of the church itself. You're encouraged to browse the wide range of material we have by the south door covering a range of issues and themes: Devotional; Biographical; Poetical; Church History; Church Politics; Theism versus Atheism; Theological classics; Bible analysis etc. Give it a go!

Wes Holmes



FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Thank you to everyone who presented flowers in 2015

The Flower List for 2016 is now open for bookings and we would ask that all existing contributors contact the Parish Office (90 776 706) to confirm their usual Sunday for the coming year. Of course, as there are always some Sundays left available we

appeal to new people to come forward and donate flowers, perhaps to mark a particular occasion or anniversary for them. It may be a wedding anniversary, the birth of a child or grandchild, to remember the death of a family member, or indeed as an act of thanksgiving for some notable blessing. All such donors will be acknowledged on the church notice board and in the Parish Notes.

We deeply appreciate all who contribute flowers Sunday by Sunday and also all those who devote so much time and energy in arranging them and looking after them mid-week.

DECEMBER FLOWER LIST

6TH BARBARA JACOBS IN MEMORY OF HER PARENTS
20TH THE CHOIR

JANUARY FLOWER LIST

3RD THE REID FAMILY IN MEMORY OF THEIR PARENTS
10TH ETTA MCCLEERY
17TH THE GREENFIELD FAMILY IN MEMORY OF THEIR FATHER

Special request to flower arrangers

For safety reasons the altar in the sanctuary has been moved back a few inches closer to the wall. This means that the space behind is very limited for the Rector. Because of this he has asked that in future the arrangements of flowers should be much smaller and must not overhang the little shelf. This will give him as much room as possible and avoid accidents. Thank you for your anticipated co-operation.

CONCERT

The Social Team has invited Cavehill Community Choir to give a concert in St Peter's on Friday 11th December. This will be an evening of music on the lighter side and should appeal to everyone. To make it a success please make a note of the date now and ask your friends and relations to do likewise. Tickets are £10 (in aid of church funds) and are available from members of the Social Team. There will be a complimentary wine reception after the concert.



ORGANISATIONS - TIMETABLE

Sunday

11am—12noon: Sunday School

Monday

8.00pm—11.00pm: Badminton Club

Tuesday

10.30am—12.30pm: Crafty Goodness (every other Tuesday)

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

6pm—7pm: Beaver Scouts

7pm—8pm: Cub Scouts

8pm—10pm: TCFNI Support for bereaved parents (3rd Tues in month)

Wednesday

2pm—4pm: Bridge Club

6.30pm—7.45pm: PhysioPilates

7.30pm—9pm: Choir

Thursday

10am—11.30am: 'Little Cherubs' Parent and Toddler Group

6pm—7pm: Rainbows

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 (1st and 3rd Friday in month)

4.30pm—7.30pm: Speech and Drama

For more information on these organisations (including holiday dates) please contact the appropriate personnel listed on the back page or the Parish Office.

PASTORAL CARE

If you would like to arrange for the Rector to visit you at home, whether to share your anxieties in confidence, for spiritual advice, for prayer, or for Holy Communion, then please contact him on his landline, telephone 90 777 053, or on his mobile, telephone 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 the Rector is unavailable, there will be contact details for other clergy on the answer machine.

If you or a loved one is seriously ill, particularly if you are admitted to hospital, please inform the Rector. He often visits the hospitals but has no way of knowing who has been admitted unless he is informed. 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.

Holy Dusters Cleaning Rota

30th Nov—5th Dec	Group 3
7th—12th December	Group 4
14th—19th December	Group 5
21st—26th December	Group 6
28th Dec—2nd Jan	Group 7
4th—9th January	Group 8
11th—16th January	Group 1
18th—23rd January	Group 2
25th—30th January	Group 3

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.

Parish Notes in colour!

Don't forget that every month there is a full colour version of Parish Notes on our parish website.

Visit www.stpeters.connor.anglican.org and click on “News”.

Please send material for the February 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 25th January. Thank you.