




THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES  
BELFAST

# PARISH NOTES

DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017

*We wish you a  
Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year*

**GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE**



IN ADDITION TO OUR REGULAR  
SERVICES, YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE  
PARTICULAR NOTE OF THESE ...

SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 11am  
Christingle Service

SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 11am  
Little Christmas

MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 7.30pm  
Nine Lessons & Carols  
followed by shortbread and mulled wine

SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
CHRISTMAS EVE 3pm  
Nativity Service

SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
CHRISTMAS EVE 11pm  
Holy Communion

SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
CHRISTMAS DAY 11am  
Holy Communion

## **RECTOR'S NOTES**

### **CHRISTMAS COMMUNION AT HOME**

During the two weeks before Christmas, it is customary to visit parishioners who, through illness or infirmity, will be unable to worship in St Peter's. Such a visit includes a short, informal celebration of Holy Communion. If you would like me to call with you at home, then please contact me directly on 90 777 053 in early December. Likewise, if anyone is taken into hospital during that time, I will be pleased to visit and share communion there as well. Please do keep me informed.

### **PRAYER GROUP**

In October a small group of us prayed for every member of our congregation by name. We also prayed for those parishioners and non-parishioners for whom prayers were requested. We will do this at 2.30pm on the first Thursday of each month from now on. The next such prayer meeting will therefore be on Thursday 1st December. If you would like to join the monthly prayer group, then please contact me. Alternatively, if you would like to request a specific prayer to be made on your behalf when we come to your name in the list, or if you would like us to pray for a loved one, then please contact either me (brianlacey@hotmail.co.uk or 90777053) or our Lay Minister for Prayer, Mrs Rosemary Johnston (90840534).

### **BIBLE STUDY GROUPS**

The **morning group** will meet from 11.30am until 1pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December (but *not* on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December) and will continue to read the letters of Saint John. The **evening group** will meet from 7.30pm until 9pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December (but *not* on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December) and will read the Book of Proverbs. Tea and coffee is served at both groups. You might even see a mince pie! Both groups normally meet in the Clergy Vestry, which is beside the font on the left side of the church, accessed through the main entrance to the building. You are very welcome to join either group.

### **INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH**

The focus of our thinking this year has been evangelism, which means sharing the Good News. In future years, we will look at how we can share that Good News in words and actions with friends, family, neighbours and strangers. But as a small step, this year we have focussed on trying to draw people into our community in St Peter's. Yes, this is more about calling people into us, rather than us going out to them, but this process has to start somewhere and move at God's pace, and this is as good a way as any to get the ball rolling. Hopefully you should have noticed the large banner outside the church with the Sunday service times on it. We are also looking at other forms of publicity, such as leaflets, that might encourage our neighbours to call in and worship with us. Of course, the most effective way to grow our

congregation is for each of us to invite someone to come along with us to a service. This time of year gives us the perfect opportunity to encourage others to come along and experience the rich beauty of Anglican worship. Please mention our forthcoming services to anyone you know, and encourage them to join us.

### **EVENING SERVICES**

Since the beginning of last month, we have recommenced the practice of having an evening service every Sunday at 6.30pm. On the first and third Sundays of each month, the choir will be present to lead the singing in Choral Evensong, Sung Compline, or Holy Communion. On the second, fourth, and fifth Sundays, we will have a said service in one of the side chapels. This could be Evening Prayer, Compline, Late Evening Office, or Holy Communion. The type of service is listed, as always, in these Parish Notes in the "Church Services" section. I have been very heartened to see a decent turn-out for these evening services in November, which included a few new faces. (Please note that there will not be such a service on either Sunday 25th December or Sunday 1st January because of the Christmas Holidays.)



## **CHURCH OF IRELAND CENSUS**

On each Sunday in November, in every Church of Ireland parish across the island of Ireland, every member of the congregation had to complete a short survey, the results of which will give an overview of what sort of person (male/female/young/old) is most likely to worship in an Anglican church. As simple as the survey is, it is nevertheless a cumbersome exercise, which I fear caused more disruption than it was worth, particularly on Remembrance Sunday. But it is now complete, and won't be repeated for another five years. I am pleased to say that we had a good attendance at our services in St Peter's throughout the month, and this should bode well for us when the census data is examined.

## **SERMON SUMMARIES**

On the **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Advent** (23<sup>rd</sup> October) I told you about a story that circulates in the Church in various guises, concerning a missionary in a foreign land, whose home was about to be attacked, and yet the attackers withdrew because they had seen (although the missionary had not seen) warriors with swords defending the house and its occupants. The story goes on to say that this event is a real life example of guardian angels, literally guarding the godly folk who were under attack. Whether or not such a story ever did happen in real life, the Bible contains similar stories of miraculous intervention when a saint was in trouble. If you look up at one of the chancel windows in St Peter's,

you will see one example of this: when St Peter was rescued from prison by an angel. Such stories naturally encourage us to call upon God's help in times of trouble. And it is right that we should do so. But the Bible also contains plenty of stories of occasions when there was no divine intervention, and harm did in fact befall God's people. The most perfect example is of course the torture and execution of our Lord Jesus. But there are many others, particularly the Apostles, who suffered for their faith. It was in such a moment of suffering, as St Paul was about to face his own execution, that he wrote to Timothy, saying "The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack." We might think that Paul hoped that God would intervene to prevent his impending death, but his letter suggests that he was resigned to his fate: "I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith." The evil that Paul wants God to protect him from cannot, therefore, be physical harm. Rather, perhaps he means spiritual protection. He wants and expects God to protect him from the doubt and despair that could easily overcome anyone undergoing times of great stress. When we find ourselves in trouble, yes we can ask God for physical protection, but more than that, we should ask God for the strength to hold fast to our faith, so that we might believe, trust, and obey him, despite the many difficulties of life.

On **All Saints' Sunday** (30<sup>th</sup> October) I shared with you the accounts of four individuals who claimed to have momentarily died, before being resuscitated through medical intervention. Two of them had very bad

experiences. They said that there was darkness, sadness, and a sense of vulnerability. The other two had very positive experiences. They said that they were aware of a warm light, and a feeling of love and blissfulness. Those two types of experience fit very neatly within our concept of heaven and hell. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus repeatedly warns that every person will have one of those two experiences in the afterlife, and he divides humanity into those who will experience heaven and those who will experience hell. He talks about the wheat and the chaff, the sheep and the goats, the children of God and the children of the devil. If we want to be included amongst those who will have joy in the world to come, then Jesus' message is simple: believe in him, trust in his promises, and obey the way of life that he has laid down for us.

On the **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent** (6<sup>th</sup> November) we heard St Paul talking about "the son of lawlessness". I suggested that whoever he might have been referring to, the purpose of this person would be to lead people away from the truth about God. Most worryingly, if we read other passages in the Bible about this anti-Christ figure, we see that there is a suggestion that this person could come in the guise of a Christian leader. Many people will be led astray by their charismatic preaching and teaching. How then do we know who is pointing us on the path towards God, and who might take us down a different route? The answer must surely be, that any teaching which purports to be Christian, and yet which encourages us to hate other people, or harm them, or

cause divisions and distress, such teaching cannot come from the Holy Spirit who offers us peace, joy, and love. Therefore we need to measure a person's teaching against this yardstick, in order to make sure we don't succumb to evil ideas wrapped up in Christian packaging.

### **STUDENT READER**

Even though I only left the Church of Ireland Theological Institute (CITI) six years ago, it feels like a lifetime ago! So it has been very nice for me to have a current student training with us, if even for a short time. Such a connection is a reminder to us that there is a whole Church of Ireland out there beyond the confines of the building and boundaries of St Peter & St James. Our student, Emma Carson, has been with us for just two months, although that time seems to have flown by. During that time she has been involved in various ways in our services, primarily at 11am on Sundays. This culminated in her leading and preaching on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November. If it was a nerve-wrecking experience for her, it certainly didn't show, and I have every confidence that Emma will do well in her future ministry.

It has been lovely to have her amongst us, and I ask you please to pray for her as she continues her theological studies in Dublin. You can read Emma's own short summary of her placement with us elsewhere in these Parish Notes.

## SERVICES IN DECEMBER

The beginning of the month of December immerses us in the penitential season of Advent, when we think about not just the impending celebration of the birth of Jesus, but also his second coming in the future to judge the world.

On the **Wednesdays in Advent** we will have an evening service of Compline at 7.30pm. Last year, four parishioners each gave a short talk at one of those four services, reflecting on the general theme of what being a Christian means to them. They were David Cromie, Frank Dillon, Ashlee McCune, and Rosemary Johnston. Their reflections have been printed in the Parish Notes in subsequent months. All were very different, reflecting their personalities, interests, and backgrounds, and each was very interesting. This year I have asked Daphne McClements, Karl O'Connor, Adele Watt, and Alan McCracken to share their thoughts with us. Please join us for Advent Compline on Wednesday evenings, and to hear what our brothers and sisters have to say about their faith.

At 11am on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December we will have our **Christingle Service**. At the beginning of the service the children go into the Minor Hall where they prepare the Christingles. After 30 minutes, they return to share these out to everyone in the church. We learn about their symbolism, we sing a Christingle hymn, and the children lead us in prayer.

At 11am on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December we have our **Little Christmas** celebration. This is a service of carols and readings, led for us by the children and their parents. Frank Dillon, our Families Worker, will teach us about the meaning of Christmas.

At 7.30pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December we have our traditional service of **Nine Lessons & Carols**. Maybe it's the candlelight, or the readings being read from the King James Version of the Bible, or the beautiful singing by our Choir, or the mulled wine afterwards, but you don't get much more Christmassy than this service. It's always lovely to see friends and family of parishioners, and also people who live close to the church, coming in to join us on this lovely occasion.

At 3pm on Christmas Eve we will have our children's service, during which they will act out the **nativity story**. This is not a formal service; rather, it is an opportunity for the children to have some fun and to immerse themselves in the events surrounding the birth of Jesus.

At 11pm on **Christmas Eve** is our traditional service of Midnight Communion. There is something very appropriate to remembering the circumstances of Jesus' birth, as we gather together in a cold, dark church on a cold, dark night! Please do come along, and remember to wrap up warm!

At 11am on **Christmas Day**, we will have a shorter service of Holy Communion with Christmas Carols. This

service shouldn't last any longer than 40 minutes, so there'll be no rush to get home to stop the turkey from overcooking! And the service begins 30 minutes later than previous years, so there's plenty of time to open presents beforehand! Year after year the attendance at church on Christmas Day declines more and more. We all have a million valid reasons why we can't make it to church—children playing with presents, the need to prepare the dinner, too tired after the Christmas shopping rush, too cold to leave our warm homes ... all this celebration is going on, and yet we ignore the one we are actually meant to be celebrating!

## PARISH REGISTER

### *Holy Matrimony*

*Signifying unto us the mystical union that is  
between Christ and his Church.*

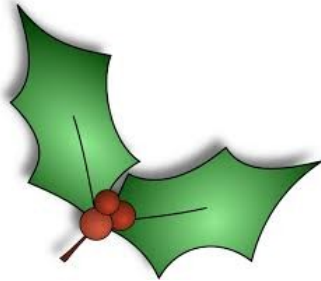
Christopher William Evans, The Brackens, Newtownabbey  
& Judith Sarah Louise Spence, Ardkeen Avenue, Bangor  
on 29th October 2016

### *Holy Baptism*

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

William George Patrick Watt  
son of Graeme and Adele Watt, Carncoole Park  
on 20th November 2016.

A CONCERT OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC  
IN THE CHURCH WITH  
**CAVEHILL**  
**COMMUNITY CHOIR**  
FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER  
AT 8PM



WINE AND NIBBLES  
BALLOT

TICKETS £10

AVAILABLE FROM:

ANNETTE BEATTIE—TEL 90 778 428

## FLOWERS IN CHURCH

*Thank you to everyone who presented flowers in 2016*

The Flower List for 2017 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.

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## CHURCH SERVICES

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### SUNDAY

9am  
11am  
6.30pm

### 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

Holy Communion  
Holy Communion  
Holy Communion

### THE 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*traditional, said, Resurrection*  
*modern, sung, Nave*  
*traditional, sung, Nave*

### WEDNESDAY

10.30am  
7.30pm

### 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

Holy Communion  
Compline

### MID-WEEK SERVICE

*modern, said, Resurrection*  
*traditional, said, St James*

### SUNDAY

9am  
11am  
6.30pm

### 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

Holy Communion  
Christingle Service  
Evening Prayer

### THE 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*modern, said, Resurrection*  
*modern, sung, Nave*  
*modern, said, St James*

### WEDNESDAY

10.30am  
7.30pm

### 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

Holy Communion  
Compline

### MID-WEEK SERVICE

*modern, said, Resurrection*  
*traditional, said, St James*

### SUNDAY

9am  
11am  
6.30pm

### 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

Holy Communion  
Little Christmas  
Late Evening Office

### THE 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*modern, said, Resurrection*  
*modern, sung, Nave*  
*modern, said, Nave*

### MONDAY

7.30pm

### 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

Nine Lessons & Carols

### WEEKDAY SERVICE

*traditional, sung, Nave*

### WEDNESDAY

10.30am  
7.30pm

### 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER

Holy Communion  
Compline

### MID-WEEK SERVICE

*modern, said, Resurrection*  
*traditional, said, St James*

### SATURDAY

3pm  
11pm

### 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

Nativity Service  
Holy Communion

### CHRISTMAS EVE

*modern, sung, Nave*  
*traditional, sung, Nave*

### SUNDAY

11am

### 25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

Holy Communion

### CHRISTMAS DAY

*modern, sung, Nave*

<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>30<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK SERVICE</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am	<b>1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY</b> Holy Communion Holy Communion	<b>THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS</b> <i>traditional, said, Resurrection</i> <i>modern, sung, Nave</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK SERVICE</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY</b> Holy Communion Morning Prayer Late Evening Office	<b>THE 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i> <i>modern, sung, Nave</i> <i>modern, said, St James</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK SERVICE</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY</b> Holy Communion Holy Communion Choral Evensong	<b>THE 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i> <i>modern, sung, Nave</i> <i>traditional, sung, Nave</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK SERVICE</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY</b> Holy Communion Morning Prayer Compline	<b>THE 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i> <i>modern, sung, Nave</i> <i>traditional, said, St James</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am 7.30pm	<b>25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY</b> Holy Communion Compline	<b>CONVERSION OF ST PAUL</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i> <i>traditional, said, St James</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY</b> Holy Communion Baptism Renewal Holy Communion	<b>THE 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i> <i>modern, sung, Nave</i> <i>modern, sung, Resurrection</i>

# December Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> <b>10am</b> Little Cherubs <b>2.30pm</b> Parish Prayers <b>6pm</b> Rainbows <b>7pm</b> Brownies <b>8pm</b> Guides	<b>2</b> <b>10.30am</b> PhysioPilates <b>11.30am</b> Bible Study <b>4.30pm</b> Speech and Drama	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>9am</b> Holy Communion <b>11am</b> Holy Communion and Sunday School <b>2pm</b> Speech and Drama Christmas Plays <b>6.30pm</b> Holy Communion	<b>5</b> <b>7.30pm</b> Finance Committee <b>8pm</b> Badminton	<b>6</b> <b>10.30am</b> Crafty Goodness <b>6pm</b> Beavers <b>7pm</b> Cubs	<b>7</b> <b>10.30am</b> Holy Communion and refreshments <b>11.30am</b> Mission Committee <b>2pm</b> Bridge <b>6.30pm</b> PhysioPilates <b>7.30pm</b> Compline <b>8pm</b> Choir	<b>8</b> <b>10am</b> Little Cherubs <b>10am</b> Christmas decoration of church <b>6pm</b> Rainbows <b>7pm</b> Brownies <b>7.30pm</b> Bible Study <b>8pm</b> Guides	<b>9</b> <b>10.30am</b> PhysioPilates <b>8pm</b> Concert given by Cavehill Community Choir	<b>10</b>

<b>11</b> 9am Holy Communion 11am Christingle Service and Sunday School (tea/coffee and Traidcraft after) 3pm Scouts' Christingle Service 6.30pm Evening Prayer	<b>12</b> 7.30pm Select Vestry 8pm Badminton	<b>13</b> 10.30am Crafty Goodness 2.30pm Ladies' Guild 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs	<b>14</b> 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 7.30pm Compline 8pm Choir	<b>15</b> 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.45pm Historical Society 8pm Guides	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9am Holy Communion 11am Little Christmas 6.30pm Late Evening Office	<b>19</b> 8pm Badminton	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 7.30pm Compline 8pm Choir	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i>
<b>25</b> <i>Christmas Day</i> 11am Holy Communion	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

# January Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>9am</b> Holy Communion <b>11am</b> Holy Communion	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>6pm</b> Beavers <b>7pm</b> Cubs	<b>4</b> <b>10.30am</b> Holy Communion and refreshments <b>6.30pm</b> PhysioPilates <b>7.30pm</b> Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>10.30am</b> PhysioPilates	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>9am</b> Holy Communion <b>11am</b> Morning Prayer and Sunday School (tea/coffee and Traidcraft after) <b>6.30pm</b> Late Evening Office	<b>9</b> <b>7.30pm</b> Select Vestry <b>8pm</b> Badminton	<b>10</b> <b>10.30am</b> Crafty Goodness <b>2.30pm</b> Ladies' Guild <b>6pm</b> Beavers <b>7pm</b> Cubs	<b>11</b> <b>10.30am</b> Holy Communion and refreshments <b>2pm</b> Bridge <b>6.30pm</b> PhysioPilates <b>7.30pm</b> Choir	<b>12</b> <b>10am</b> Little Cherubs <b>6pm</b> Rainbows <b>7pm</b> Brownies <b>8pm</b> Guides	<b>13</b> <b>10.30am</b> PhysioPilates <b>4.30pm</b> Speech and Drama	<b>14</b>

<b>15</b> 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion and Sunday School 6.30pm Choral Evensong	<b>16</b> 8pm Badminton	<b>17</b> 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs	<b>18</b> 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 11.30am Fabric Committee 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	<b>19</b> 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.45pm Historical Society and Drama 8pm Guides	<b>20</b> 10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Bible Study 4.30pm Speech and Drama	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer and Sunday School (tea/coffee and Traidcraft after) 6.30pm Compline	<b>23</b> <i>Deadline for material to be with Anne for February Parish Notes</i> 8pm Badminton	<b>24</b> 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs	<b>25</b> <i>Conversion of Saint Paul</i> 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	<b>26</b> 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Bible Study 8pm Guides	<b>27</b> 10.30am PhysioPilates 4.30pm Speech and Drama	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9am Holy Communion 11am Baptism Renewal and Sunday School 6.30pm Holy Communion	<b>30</b> 8pm Badminton	<b>31</b> 10.30am Crafty Goodness 1pm Events Committee 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs				

## *Pre-loved Event*

*Maternity, baby and children items  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 10am – 12 noon*

*Entry fee £1 and children free*

*Want to turn all those pre-loved family items such as toys, clothes and equipment into cash but online selling too much hassle? Then join us for our first St Peter's Preloved Family event. Sell those quality items and YOU get to keep 100% of your takings. Only £10 to hire a stall (stalls will be booked on a first come first served basis).*

*Are you a craft maker/business owner who designs products or services for parents and children? This is a fantastic opportunity to secure a captive audience. Only £20 to hire a business stall.*

*After shopping relax with a coffee as there will be lots of opportunities to win wonderful prizes!!!*

*Please contact Kathrine Martin on 07769 777775 for further details.*



*My name is Emma Ewings and I am a community fundraiser for a charity called AWARE. AWARE is the only charity in Northern Ireland that supports people with depression and bi-polar disorder. As the issues of poor mental health are affecting more and more families, the need for our support groups is growing. I am trying to set up local fundraising groups around Belfast to help fund more of our support groups and so I am looking for volunteers to help with this. For more information please contact me at 028 9035 7820 or [emma@aware-ni.org](mailto:emma@aware-ni.org). Thank you.*

## **FAMILY MINISTRY**

### **Messy Church**

This advent, on Saturday 3rd December at 2pm, we will be having messy church for families in the halls. This will be an opportunity for all our families to come together, and to invite others to join us, to do craft, teaching, music and more, ending in a meal together. We do this to encourage families to worship together in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and to provide opportunities for new families that may have never experienced church, so please do invite your friends along.

We need helpers for this to happen. Anyone who is willing to help with craft, food, or in any other practical way can contact me using the contact details below. It is important that, as a church family, we get together at events like these, so please come along.

### **Church life**

There have been many subtle changes concerning families in church. Children now stay in church a little longer before leaving for Sunday School to get an experience of our traditional worship. This is important for them as they mature and it gives our children a sense of inclusion.

Our family prayer activity sheets are now available weekly. These are sheets that parents can take home and use to further expand on what the children have learned in church. They contain prayers and small activities for the family to do together. It is very important that church does not just become isolated to Sunday, and that families feel comfortable talking to their children about God and praying with them at home. These sheets are designed to help facilitate conversation and provide short example prayers to use for meal times and bed times.

### **Christmas Eve**

Christmas is fast-approaching and I for one am very excited. We plan to hold our family service on Christmas Eve in which the children will act out the nativity story. This will be great for families to come together before the big day to celebrate with us.

### **Pastoral Care**

As part of my role at St Peter's, I also provide pastoral care for families through visits and other means. Please feel free to contact me to arrange a time for a visit—I will be more than happy to come to see you.

*Frank Dillon*

*Families' and Children's Worker*

*tel 07803 763888 or email [mrdillon00@gmail.com](mailto:mrdillon00@gmail.com)*

## Student Reader's Reflection

In September I began my studies at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute (CITI) in Dublin. Previous to that I had been a primary school teacher. It has been very strange and exciting going from being the teacher to being the student!



Our first year studies at CITI are wide and varied and, as part of these studies, we have two parish placements – one during the Autumn semester and another during the Summer semester. Our first placement is a chance to begin integrating our classroom learning and the practical experience of ministry. All our placements are key to our ministerial formation. The 'on-the-job' training we receive during these placements is invaluable!

During my eight weeks in St Peter's, I have had numerous ministry experiences. I enjoyed leading Morning Prayer, offering the intercessions and reading the Gospel. I have also been able to assist in administering the Chalice at Holy Communion and been able to receive the Offering. I particularly enjoyed witnessing the Baptism of baby Dylan and assisting with the Baptism of baby Will. On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November I had the chance to preach during the service of Morning Prayer. It was very exciting to be able to speak on the Kingship of Christ and I very much enjoyed delivering my sermon.

I have enjoyed my placement at St Peter's immensely. Your warm welcome has made me feel very much at home. It has been a wonderful experience of parish life and I thank you all for your kindness and hospitality.

*Emma Carson, Student Reader (1<sup>st</sup> Year CITI)*

## Ladies' Guild

### December meeting

On Tuesday 13th December at 2.30pm we will begin our festive celebrations with a titter or two when we will be joined by a guest speaker from The Sunshine Project who will treat us to some Laughter Therapy. I'm told that this will be a very relaxing and fun way to spend a Tuesday afternoon and should warm us up nicely for our Christmas tea and goodies.

### January meeting

Oh Crumbs is the title for our meeting on Tuesday 10th January at 2.30 pm (or maybe that should be tooth hurty!) when we will be discussing (and very possibly eating) all things biscuity! Do you know the history of the biscuit as we know it today? Could you guess which biscuit is our most favourite and which tasty nibble makes the very best dunker? You are about to find out. There may be experiments, there may be prizes and there will absolutely, definitely be much sampling! Can you afford to miss this?

Our meetings are open to everyone. If you would like to attend but don't have transport please contact me or speak to one of our members after church and we will be happy to arrange a lift for you.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Anne Stewart, Hon Sec (tel: 9096 6597)

## 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 90 364 183.

<b>Dec</b>	<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Third Reading</b>	<b>Intercessor</b>
4th	Philip Williamson	Sandra Hutchman	The Rector	Karl O'Connor
11th	Colin Bell	Ashlee McCune	The Rector	Children
18th	Parent	Parent	The Rector	Children
25th	Alan McCracken	Anne Roberts	The Rector	David Cromie
<b>Jan</b>	<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Third Reading</b>	<b>Intercessor</b>
1st	Eleanor Henderson	Tom Campbell	Brian Moller	Brian Moller
8th	Marie Burrowes	Alan McCracken	Brian Moller	Brian Moller
15th	Daphne McClements	Dora Hanna	The Rector	Daphne McClements
22nd	Caroline O'Kane	Wes Holmes	The Rector	Sandra Hutchman
29th	Hilary Shields	Sandra Hutchman	The Rector	Alan McCracken

**NORTH BELFAST  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Thursday 15th December**

**7.45pm in the Minor Hall**

Continuing our round the world  
tour with Noel Beattie.  
Come and see where he is  
taking us next!  
Everyone welcome

**Parish Notes in colour!**



There are full colour versions of  
Parish Notes on our website.

Visit

[www.stpeters.connor.anglican.org](http://www.stpeters.connor.anglican.org)  
and click on "Parish Notes".

**AFTER CHURCH REFRESHMENT**

*Light refreshments will be served after the 11am  
services on 11th December, 8th January and 22nd  
January.*



**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](mailto: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.

**Holy Dusters Cleaning Rota**

28th Nov—3rd Dec ----- Group 7  
5th Dec—10th Dec ----- Group 8  
12th Dec—17th Dec ----- Group 1  
19th Dec—24th Dec ----- Group 2  
26th Dec—31st Dec ----- Group 3  
2nd Jan—7th Jan ----- Group 4  
9th Jan—14th Jan ----- Group 5  
16th Jan—21st Jan ----- Group 6  
23rd Jan—28th Jan ----- Group 7  
30th Jan—4th Feb ----- Group 8

**DECEMBER FLOWER LIST**

4TH BARBARA JACOBS IN MEMORY OF HER PARENTS  
18TH THE PARISH CHOIR

**JANUARY FLOWER LIST**

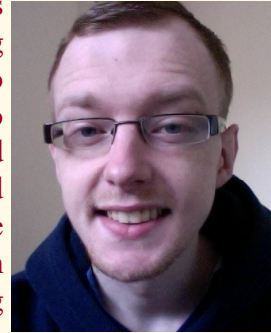
1ST THE REID FAMILY IN MEMORY OF THEIR PARENTS  
15TH THE GREENFIELD FAMILY IN MEMORY OF THEIR FATHER

Thank you to all who give of their time and effort  
in beautifying the church with flowers.



## SELECT VESTRY BULLETIN

As we approach Christmas, much work is underway around the church to ensure everything flows smoothly, and all our events and services go well. The Mission Committee is working hard to promote and advertise our Christmas services, and the Select Vestry gives them their wholehearted support in undertaking this important work. Aside from the major repair work done around the church and halls in recent months, smaller work is ongoing here and there with the electrics and furnishings.



And, as you may have noticed, a water boiler (kindly provided by the Ladies Guild) has been installed in the kitchen, and will no doubt provide much relief to everyone who works so hard at parish events.

We are also beginning our second special collection of the year to coincide with Advent and Christmas. The generosity shown at our previous special collection in June helped us in meeting our bills. While we recognise it can be a difficult time of the year financially, we would ask all parishioners to give generously and as they are able in order to ensure our administration continues to proceed smoothly.

Parishioners may also be interested to know that the Rector and myself recently sent a letter to Rabbi David Singer at the Synagogue on the Somerton Road expressing our solidarity with the Jewish community after a recent spate of anti-Semitic attacks. I've no doubt this is a sentiment shared by our parishioners, and indeed, the people of North Belfast. It is important that we as a Christian community – particularly at this time of year – reach out to the weakest and most vulnerable.

On behalf of the Select Vestry I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. *Gareth Larmour, Hon Sec to Select Vestry*

## THANK YOU    THANK YOU    THANK YOU

I wish to thank all of you who supported the NI Hospice by contributing to the Big Coffee Break held after PhysioPilates on Friday 21st October. We raised the fantastic sum of £465. Didn't we do well?  
Thanks a million. *Sandra Hutchman*

Many thanks to all who attended and generously contributed to the recent coffee morning held in aid of Cancer Fund for Children. Together we raised £453.75!  
*Serena and Alyssia McAnee*

## ORGANISATIONS - TIMETABLE

### Sunday

11am—12noon: Sunday School

### Monday

8pm—11pm: Badminton Club

### Tuesday

10.30am—12.30pm: Crafty Goodness

2.30pm—4.30pm: Ladies' Guild (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in month)

6pm—7pm: Beaver Scouts

7pm—8pm: Cub Scouts

### Wednesday

2pm—4pm: Bridge Club

6.30pm—7.45pm: PhysioPilates

7.30pm—9pm: Choir

### Thursday

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

2.30pm—3.30pm: Parish Prayers (1st Thursday in month)

6pm—7pm: Rainbows

7pm—8pm: Brownies

7.30pm: Bible Study (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in month)

7.45pm: Historical Society (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in month)

8pm—9.30pm: Guides

### Friday

10.30am—11.45am: PhysioPilates

11.30am: Bible Study (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in month)

4.30pm—7.30pm: Speech and Drama

*For more information on these organisations (including term 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 90 777 053. 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.

THE NEXT MEETINGS OF  
THE SELECT VESTRY  
WILL BE ON  
MONDAY 12TH DECEMBER  
(in the Rectory)  
AND  
MONDAY 9TH JANUARY  
(in the Minor Hall)  
AT 7.30PM



**TRAIDCRAFT**  
Fighting poverty through trade

Stall open on  
Sunday 11th December and  
Sunday 8th January  
during coffee time after  
the 11am service

*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](mailto:stpeterandstjames@outlook.com)  
by Monday 23rd January. Thank you.*