

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

FEBRUARY 2015

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



GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE

RECTOR'S NOTES

REGISTER OF MEMBERS

Any person who wants to officially belong to our parish needs to become a member of our General Vestry. Membership gives you the right to annually vote for a Church Warden, a Glebe Warden, and twelve other members of our Select Vestry, which is the management committee of the parish. Moreover, you would also have the right to stand for election or appointment to various roles and committees.

In order to avail of these rights, you must firstly sign a registration form, and then make a regular contribution to parish funds; such a financial contribution must be made in a way that can be recorded against your name, by using Free Will Offering envelopes, or making an arrangement with your bank.

The list of members of the General Vestry is amended once a year; new parishioners who have filled in the registration form are added to the list; and some names are removed from the list, including those who have died and those who have not made a financial contribution in the previous year.

The current list will soon be posted on one of the notice boards at the back of the church, and in the foyer of the Halls. Please check to see if your name is listed. If it is not, and you would like to become a member of the parish, then speak to me or a Church Warden in the coming weeks. The process is very simple and straightforward. The closing date for adding new names will be Saturday 21st February.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The General Vestry normally only meets once a year, at what is known as the Easter Vestry, because its meeting must be held either slightly before or slightly after the date of Easter. In addition to electing our officers and

representatives for the forthcoming year, it gives the members the opportunity to express their opinion on matters affecting the parish. Last year we had a discussion on how we worship in St Peter's, whereas this year our focus will be on how parishioners can apply the teachings of Jesus in our everyday lives.

Usually the Easter Vestry meeting is held on a weekday evening, which unfortunately results in only a relatively small number of parishioners in attendance. Therefore in order to encourage more people to come along, this year – as an experiment – the meeting will immediately follow our Sunday morning worship at 11am. The service will be shorter than usual, and we will have the meeting in the church. The Select Vestry has determined that the best date for this will be Palm Sunday, which is the 29th March. Please pencil that date into your diary and do your best to attend.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

We often use the word “parishioner” to describe someone who is affiliated somehow to St Peter's. Technically speaking, anyone who lives within the parish boundaries is a parishioner, as are people who live outside the boundaries but who travel in for worship. So it's quite a vague term, which identifies a person as having an affiliation with the church building or its surrounding area, but which expresses very little about the person's faith or religious practices. A better word would be “disciple”. A disciple is a student, who learns from someone else, and puts their learning into practical effect in their everyday life. Christian disciples are therefore people who study the words and actions of Jesus Christ, and try to put what they learn into practice.

Being a disciple is therefore very different from being a parishioner. For whereas it is possible to be a parishioner without ever setting foot in St Peter's, being a disciple requires effort: we must read the Bible, we must pray, we must worship regularly, we must examine our conscience, and we must allow ourselves to be changed bit by bit, day by day, into people whose attitude and actions please God.

Until Easter 2016 we will be focussing on how we as a Christian community can become better disciples of Jesus. Over the course of this year we will be experimenting with different ways of enabling parishioners to come to grips with discipleship. I don't think it will be difficult for anyone, but (I hope) it will be challenging, interesting, and even life-changing.

I intend to hold three sessions of an introductory course that every member of our regular congregation will be strongly encouraged to participate in. These three sessions will be held over the course of the year, at varying times suitable to all people. During these sessions we will learn about basic Christian beliefs, what it means to be an Anglican, and how the Church of Ireland works.

I also hope to form some "House Groups". These are groups of around eight people that will meet once a month in the home of a willing parishioner (or alternate between various people's houses depending on the wishes of the group's members). There are two very simple purposes: to give people the chance to get to know each other better beyond Sunday mornings, and to serve as a support group where people can share their thoughts on matters affecting their own Christian journey. Initially I will steer these groups, but the intention is that over time the groups will meet without me and develop a life of their own.

In terms of our worship, there will be a training session for anyone who would like to learn how to write and lead the Prayers of the People during Holy Communion, or the Occasional Prayers during Morning Prayer. This is a particularly important ministry, and so anyone who feels called to do this will be given ongoing guidance and advice. Let me know if this is something that would interest you.

CLEANING THE CHURCH AND HALLS

An idea has been put forward by the Fabric Committee that as many parishioners as possible should gather at St Peter's perhaps once a month for a major clean-up of both the church and the halls. As with anything else, many hands make light work. This suggestion would mean that instead of a few people coming in each week to clean a particular

section of the church, there would be a much larger group who would clean the entire place in one fell swoop. You could be asked to dust the seats, or to mop the chancel floor, or to clean the windows (ground-level of course!) or to brush the Minor Hall, or to clean the kitchen, etc. With such large buildings that are so often used, there is a plethora of things to be done.

Note that this is just a suggestion at this stage. If you are a Holy Duster then please let me know your views on this idea, as we wouldn't want to prevent people who want to help from doing so. Similarly, if you are not currently a Holy Duster, but would be interested in lending a hand, then let me know.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need people with good **DIY** skills to come along once a month to help with odd-jobs around the church and halls. This could include hanging pictures on the wall, or clearing out the crypt, or fixing a broken chair, or changing a lightbulb, etc. It is likely that this group will meet during a weekday afternoon. If you are interested in this then please give your name to me or one of our Glebe Wardens: Victor Davis or Jim Wilson.

As mentioned earlier, we need people to come down to St Peter's to help **clean**. This might be a once-a-month job, or we might continue with the current rota system each week. Either way, if you would like to help keep our buildings clean and tidy, then speak to me.

We also need people who are **green-fingered** to come down to look after our grounds. Currently this duty is ably fulfilled primarily by Noel and Annette Beattie, but they are always keen to let others have a go, so whether it is tending the flowerbeds, or cutting the grass, or clearing litter from the carpark, please do speak to Noel if you wish to help.

The **Beaver Scouts** reformed last Autumn after a hiatus of many years. Although we have no shortage of children keen to be involved, we do unfortunately have a shortage of adults who can supervise and lead the group. The District Officers are currently in charge, but they are just a

stop-gap measure until members of our own parish community step forward to take the reins. No prior experience with the Scouts is necessary, and full training and ongoing support will be given. The Scouts meet from 6.30pm for one hour on Tuesday evenings in our Halls. Leaders would generally need to be there from 6pm till 8pm. If you would like to help, then speak to me and I will put you in touch with the Officers, or alternatively simply turn up on a Tuesday evening, witness what happens, and see what you think.

The world is becoming increasingly bureaucratic, and the management of the parish is no different! We really need anyone with knowledge of **finances** to come forward. We have a Finance & Administration Committee that meets once a month, usually on the first Monday evening at 7.30pm for an hour. If you currently or previously have worked in the financial sector, in any administrative capacity, then please speak to me about joining this committee, as your input (no matter how simple it might seem to you) would certainly be highly valued!

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Please note that there will no services of Choral Evensong in February, although they will resume as normal in March. Instead, at 6.30pm on Sunday 1st February there will be a special service called "Advent to Candlemas" which will be similar to a service of Lessons and Carols.

Candlemas (also known as the Presentation of Christ) is the day when the children and their parents process with little candles at the beginning of the 11am service. This day brings to an end the three related seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, during which we have celebrated Jesus as the light of the world.

It is a peculiarity of the Church's calendar that we have barely finished celebrating the birth of Christ when we begin to reflect upon his death! So towards the end of the month, the penitential season of Lent will begin, commencing with Ash Wednesday on 18th February. In addition to our celebration of Holy Communion at 10.30am that day, there will be a special Ash Wednesday service at 7.30pm.

CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAY 1st FEBRUARY The Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)

9am Holy Communion Traditional Luke 2: 22 - 40
11am Holy Communion Modern Luke 2: 22 - 40
6.30pm Advent to Candlemas Traditional Romans 12: 1 - 5

"This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed."

WEDNESDAY 4th FEBRUARY Mid-Week Service

10.30am Holy Communion Modern Mark 6: 1 - 6

"Prophets are not without honour, except in their hometown..."

SUNDAY 8th FEBRUARY The Second Sunday before Lent

9am Holy Communion Modern John 1: 1 - 14
11am Morning Prayer Modern John 1: 1 - 14

"The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory..."

WEDNESDAY 11th FEBRUARY Mid-Week Service

10.30am Holy Communion Modern Mark 7: 14 - 23

"There is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

SUNDAY 15th FEBRUARY The Sunday before Lent

9am Holy Communion Modern Mark 2: 23 - 3: 6
11am Family Service Modern Mark 2: 23 - 3: 6

"The Sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the Sabbath."

WEDNESDAY 18th FEBRUARY Ash Wednesday

10.30am Holy Communion Modern Matthew 6: 1—6, 16—21
7.30pm Ash Wednesday Service Modern Luke 15: 11 - 32

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them..."

SUNDAY 22nd FEBRUARY The First Sunday in Lent

9am Holy Communion Modern Mark 1: 9 - 15
11am Morning Prayer Modern Mark 1: 9 - 15

"Jesus was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan..."

WEDNESDAY 25th FEBRUARY Mid-Week Service

10.30am Holy Communion Modern Luke 11: 29 - 32

"The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it..."

ADVENT TO CANDLEMAS

**A special service
Sunday 1st February at 6.30pm**

The seasons of Christmas and Epiphany together last for forty days, and end with the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple, also known as Candlemas. This year we are marking the festival with a special service "Advent to Candlemas" on Sunday 1st February.

At Candlemas, the church remembers the infant Christ being

presented in the Temple in Jerusalem to the old man Simeon who rejoices that, before he dies, he has seen this child, who will be 'a light to the nations'. But this feast of Candlemas, celebrated by the lighting and extinguishing of candles (hence its name), is a bittersweet feast, for the old man also warns the child's mother of the pain and suffering she is to face because of her Son. So Candlemas looks backwards to the birth of the child and the joy of Christmas, but also forwards to the suffering and death on the cross.



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

**Sunday 8th February
during coffee time after
the 11am service**

Traidcraft is founded on Christian principles. It seeks to live out the Christian faith through its mission to fight poverty through trade. Since 1979 it has been working for trade justice for growers and producers in the poorest countries around the world. Traidcraft is a pioneer of the fair trade movement in the UK where it jointly founded the Fairtrade Foundation. One way you can support fair trade is by visiting our Traidcraft stall on the second Sunday of each month.

LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH...

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 1st March | The Second Sunday in Lent |
| 9am Holy Communion | 11am Holy Communion 6.30pm Choral Evensong |
| Wednesday 4th March | Mid-Week Service |
| 10.30am Holy Communion | |
| Sunday 8th March | The Third Sunday in Lent |
| 9am Holy Communion | 11am Morning Prayer |
| Wednesday 11th March | Mid-Week Service |
| 10.30am Holy Communion | |
| Sunday 15th March | Mothering Sunday/St Patrick's Day (transferred) |
| 9am Holy Communion | 11am Holy Communion 6.30pm Choral Evensong |
| Wednesday 18th March | Mid-Week Service |
| 10.30am Holy Communion | |
| Thursday 19th March | St Joseph of Nazareth |
| 7.30pm Holy Communion | |
| Sunday 22nd March | The Fifth Sunday in Lent |
| 9am Holy Communion | 11am Morning Prayer |
| Wednesday 25th March | The Annunciation of our Lord |
| 10.30am Holy Communion | |
| Sunday 29th March | Palm Sunday |
| 9am Holy Communion | 11am Service of the Word |
| Monday 30th March | Fig Monday |
| 7.30pm Compline | |
| Tuesday 31st March | Holy Tuesday |
| 7.30pm Evening Prayer | |

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 |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1st February | Florence Maguire | Sandra Hutchman | The Rector |
| 8th February | Daphne McClements | Ashlee McCune | The Rector |
| 15th February | Jim Wilson | Forde Patterson | The Rector |
| 22nd February | Caroline O'Kane | Anne Roberts | The Rector |

PARISH REGISTER

Christian Burial

"At rest in the Lord."

Marion Ward

1st October 1928—11th January 2015

Marion Ward was a life-long member of St Peter's, having lived in the local area for most of her 86 years. A very kindly and considerate lady, she was also quiet and reserved. She frequently attended the early morning celebration of Holy Communion, primarily because the quiet and reflective nature of that service suited her temperament. Most of her adult life was spent working as a tracer at Harland & Wolff. Having never married, she moved out of her large family home and into smaller accommodation in Vernon Court, close to the Shore Road, following her retirement. In addition to worshipping in St Peter's, she also attended weekly meetings in a local Gospel Hall. Towards the end of last year, Marion's health began to deteriorate to the point where she found physical exercise, even walking, very difficult on her breathing. She was in and out of hospital on several occasions, but always maintained a positive and stoic attitude. Sadly an operation in January to try to resolve her condition proved to be too much for her to endure in her weakened state, and she passed away on Sunday 11th January. Her funeral was held at Mulhollands Funeral Home in Carrickfergus on Friday 16th, close to her surviving brother Harry's home, and her body was laid to rest in Carnmoney Cemetery. We offer our sincere condolences to Harry and the rest of the family, and we give thanks for her life and faith.

AFTER CHURCH REFRESHMENT

Thank you to members of PhysioPilates who will provide light refreshments after the 11am service on 8th February.



VANCE NOTICE ADVANCE NOTICE ADVANCE NOTICE ADVANCE NOTICE

Fashion Show

Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm

in the Parish Hall

proceeds to the

*Northern Ireland Hospice for the new build of Somerton House
and to church funds*

Ladies' Guild

On Tuesday 10th February at 2.30pm we will meet for our Ladies' Guild Award Day. Peggy Weir and Daphne McClements will tell us about the awards recently bestowed on them. We will also have the chance to hear about other awards won by our members. This could be a bonny baby award or a prize for the winner of the slow bicycle race at a school sport's day. All awards will be celebrated. There may well be one or two surprises as well. Looking forward to seeing you there.



Anne Stewart, Hon Sec, tel 9096 6597

Sunday 8th February at 11am
Invited Preacher: The Archdeacon of Belfast,
The Ven George Davison
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Sunday 15th February at 11am  
Family Service



*LOVE is in the air...*



CONGRATULATIONS TO  
OUR RECTOR AND LAURA  
who got engaged on New Year's Eve.  
Wonderful news for us all and we  
wish them every happiness.

# February Diary

| Sunday                                                                                                                           | Monday                                                              | Tuesday                                                                 | Wednesday                                                                                                                              | Thursday                                                                                                                                  | Friday                                                                                                  | Saturday                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br><b>9am</b> Holy Communion<br><b>11am</b> Holy Communion & Sunday School<br><b>6.30pm</b> Advent to Candlemas Service | <b>2</b><br><b>7.30pm</b> Finance Committee<br><b>8pm</b> Badminton | <b>3</b><br><b>6.30pm</b> Beaver Scouts                                 | <b>4</b><br><b>10.30am</b> Holy Communion and refreshments<br><b>2pm</b> Bridge<br><b>6.30pm</b> PhysioPilates<br><b>7.30pm</b> Choir  | <b>5</b><br><b>10am</b> Little Cherubs<br><b>6pm</b> Rainbows<br><b>7pm</b> Brownies<br><b>7.30pm</b> Theology Group<br><b>8pm</b> Guides | <b>6</b><br><b>10.30am</b> PhysioPilates<br><b>4.30pm</b> Speech and Drama                              | <b>7</b><br><b>9am</b> Aurora Dance Classes  |
| <b>8</b><br><b>9am</b> Holy Communion<br><b>11am</b> Morning Prayer & Sunday School (tea/coffee)                                 | <b>9</b><br><b>7.30pm</b> Select Vestry<br><b>8pm</b> Badminton     | <b>10</b><br><b>2.30pm</b> Ladies' Guild<br><b>6.30pm</b> Beaver Scouts | <b>11</b><br><b>10.30am</b> Holy Communion and refreshments<br><b>2pm</b> Bridge<br><b>6.30pm</b> PhysioPilates<br><b>7.30pm</b> Choir | <b>12</b><br><b>10am</b> Little Cherubs<br><b>6pm</b> Rainbows<br><b>7pm</b> Brownies<br><b>7.30pm</b> Bible Study<br><b>8pm</b> Guides   | <b>13</b><br><b>10.30am</b> PhysioPilates<br><b>11.30</b> Bible Study<br><b>4.30pm</b> Speech and Drama | <b>14</b><br><b>9am</b> Aurora Dance Classes |

|                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                 |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                         |                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>15</b><br><b>9am</b> Holy Communion<br><b>11am</b> Holy Communion & Sunday School                                | <b>16</b><br><b>8pm</b> Badminton                                                                               | <b>17</b><br><b>6.30pm</b> Beaver Scouts<br><b>8pm</b> Compassionate Friends | <b>18</b><br><b>10.30am</b> Holy Communion and refreshments<br><b>11.30am</b> Fabric Committee<br><b>2pm</b> Bridge<br><b>6.30pm</b> PhysioPilates<br><b>7.30pm</b> Choir | <b>19</b><br><b>10am</b> Little Cherubs<br><b>6pm</b> Rainbows<br><b>7pm</b> Brownies<br><b>7.45pm</b> Historical Society<br><b>8pm</b> Guides | <b>20</b><br><b>10.30am</b> PhysioPilates<br><b>11.30</b> Bible Study<br><b>4.30pm</b> Speech and Drama | <b>21</b><br><b>9am</b> Aurora Dance Classes |
| <b>22</b><br><b>9am</b> Holy Communion<br><b>11am</b> Morning Prayer & Sunday School<br><b>12noon</b> Select Vestry | <b>23</b><br><i><b>Deadline for material to be with Anne for March Parish Notes</b></i><br><b>8pm</b> Badminton | <b>24</b><br><b>6.30pm</b> Beaver Scouts                                     | <b>25</b><br><b>10.30am</b> Holy Communion and refreshments<br><b>2pm</b> Bridge<br><b>6.30pm</b> PhysioPilates<br><b>7.30pm</b> Choir                                    | <b>26</b><br><b>10am</b> Little Cherubs<br><b>6pm</b> Rainbows<br><b>7pm</b> Brownies<br><b>7.30pm</b> Bible Study<br><b>8pm</b> Guides        | <b>27</b><br><b>10.30am</b> PhysioPilates<br><b>4.30pm</b> Speech and Drama                             | <b>28</b><br><b>9am</b> Aurora Dance Classes |

## ORGANISATIONS - TIMETABLE

### **Sunday**

11am—12noon: Sunday School

### **Monday**

8.00pm—11.00pm: Badminton Club

### **Tuesday**

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

6.30pm—7.30pm Beaver Scouts

8pm—10pm: Compassionate Friends (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in month)

7.30pm Theology Group (1<sup>st</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 (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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  
9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
AT 7.30PM IN THE  
MINOR HALL**

### **Holy Dusters Cleaning Rota**

|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| 2nd February—7th February   | Group 8 |
| 9th February—14th February  | Group 1 |
| 16th February—21st February | Group 2 |
| 23rd February—28th February | Group 3 |

## FEBRUARY FLOWER LIST

8TH ROSEMARY HINDS IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER  
15TH THE CROMIE FAMILY  
22ND THE HALL FAMILY



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](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.

### NORTH BELFAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thursday 19th February  
7.45pm, Minor Hall

**Speaker:**

The Rector

**Topic:**

Norman castles

*Light refreshments after*

*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 March 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 February. Thank you.*