

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES  
BELFAST

# PARISH NOTES

FEBRUARY 2017

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



# CANDLEMAS

GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE

## **RECTOR'S NOTES**

### **DECEMBER SERVICES**

I want to thank all those who decorated the church for our Advent and Christmas services. The trees, lights, and candles all helped create a festive atmosphere, and served as a visual reminder that it is a special time of year. It's hard for me to believe, that this was my fourth Christmas in St Peter's, and I would have to say that it has been my most enjoyable so far.

During the season of Advent in 2013 there was an average of 108 people in St Peter's each Sunday (at all services: 9am, 11am, and 6.30pm). This number rose to 129 in both 2014 and 2015. I am delighted to say that this number increased to 154 in 2016. There are various factors that can be attributed to this growth: the friendliness of our congregation; our traditional, choral style of Anglican worship; the banners and leaflets which publicised our services. But the most important factor was God himself inspiring people to meet together to encounter him through the word and sacraments. The more we focus on loving God and loving our neighbour as ourselves, the more we will see God at work amongst us, bringing growth not only in our individual lives, but also to our Christian community in St Peter's.

### **VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES**

During January I preached a sermon which inadvertently has caused quite a few parishioners to ask how they could volunteer in the Church. I say "inadvertently" because the theme of my sermon was simply to encourage you all to recognise that we all have God-given vocations in our every day lives. But if that motivates anyone to look at how they can be more involved in

the parish then I certainly welcome that. Here's a list of some of the things that you might want to consider. But as I said in the sermon which inspired me to write the list, each of you will have your own God-given gifts which can and should be used to build up God's Kingdom. If you have a particular talent or interest which is not listed below, but which you think would be of benefit to the Church, then definitely let me know!

- **Children**—We are very fortunate to have an excellent Sunday School Superintendent. Paula Poulton would love to hear from you if you would like to get involved in children's ministry, whether as a Sunday School leader, or at special events for children at Easter or Christmas. We would also like to run a regular crèche for toddlers who are too young for Sunday School, but who are too unsettled to sit throughout a church service. Perhaps you would like to help run such a crèche on a rota basis? The Scouts and Guides also need adult leaders to help them on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, respectively. And on Thursday mornings the Little Cherubs need able bodies to help set up and clear away the toys. If you can help with any of these things, contact their leaders as listed on the back of these Parish Notes.
- **Cleaning**—St Peter's is a beautiful church, and like any other building the floors need to be brushed and mopped, the wood needs cleaned and polished, and the dust and cobwebs need cleaned away. We call the cleaning volunteers "Holy Dusters". We need parishioners to sign up to help clean even once a month for an hour at a time. Please speak to Anne Cromie in the Parish Office if you'd like to add your name to the list.
- **Committees**—As a democratic organisation, the authority to manage and develop our resources is vested in elected committees. In addition to the Select Vestry, which is the

primary management committee, we also have a Finance & Administration Committee, a Fabric & Furnishings Committee, and an Events & Organisations Committee. We elect new members to each of these committees around Easter each year. If you'd like to know more about them, then speak to me in the coming weeks.

- **Events**—Whether we want to socialise or fundraise, we always need parishioners to organise special events throughout the year. If you have any ideas that will help our parish community integrate more, and even better if we can generate some funds from it, then let me know and our Events Committee will consider it. With their approval, you can then form a little team of parishioners and organise the event.
- **Gardening**—Noel and Annette Beattie are tireless in keeping our grounds neat and tidy, but it's a big job, and the more people who volunteer to help, the less work any individual will be required to do. Whether it's cutting the grass, or removing leaves, or tending flower beds, speak to Noel or Annette if you think you can help.
- **Music**—We are always looking for new members to join our excellent Choir, and Robert Thompson the Organist will always be pleased to have a chat with anyone considering doing so. In addition, we need parishioners who are musical to let us know if they can use their talents to add to our worship, either playing the piano or a flute or any other instrument. If you have something to offer, then please speak to me or Robert.
- **Office**—Anne Cromie's mum Rosemary Hinds regularly helps her in the Parish Office, and we are of course very grateful to her for folding and stapling our service booklets. Occasionally we might need more people to help out, so if you'd like to lend a hand then please let Anne know.

- **Photographs**—They say a picture tells a thousand words, and we really need more photos of our activities in order to publicise what we do in St Peter's. If you're handy with a camera, then we'd appreciate photos of our special services of worship, and also the various social and fundraising events that we have. Let me know if this is something you could do.
- **Prayer**—If you think that prayer is important and effective, then speak to me or Rosemary Johnston. We need parishioners to join a telephone prayer chain, and/or to join us for monthly prayer meetings in the church.
- **Readings/Prayers/Introductions**—Forde Patterson produces a rota of readers for our 11am Sunday service, with each person assigned to read either an Old Testament or Epistle reading. In addition, I choose parishioners either to introduce the service or to lead the prayers. If you are confident speaking in public, and would like to help to lead worship in this way, then please speak to me.
- **Refreshments**—We like to have tea/coffee after our 11am services on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, providing the congregation with an opportunity to mingle and get to know each other. If you would like to volunteer to serve the tea/coffee, perhaps once every few months, then please speak to Daphne McClements or Sandra Hutchman, our two Churchwardens.
- **Visits**—Whether someone is bereaved, or ill, or depressed, or lonely, a visit from someone who cares can often bring just a little ray of God's light into their darkness. This year I want to develop a pastoral visiting team, which will assist me in going to homes, nursing/residential homes, and hospitals to see how people are, and then to read a passage of Scripture, and then pray for them. Let me know if you sense any inkling that this is something which God is calling you to explore. Naturally, full training and ongoing support will be given to you in this very important ministry.

### **EASTER VESTRY MEETING**

The annual meeting to elect our Parish Officers and Committees will be held immediately following a shorter-than-usual service on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. This meeting is officially called the Easter Vestry. In addition to the elections, we will also vote for the six charities that we will support during the forthcoming year, and we will receive the financial accounts for last year. Any parishioner is entitled to attend this meeting, but only Registered Members are entitled to participate, meaning that only they may speak, vote, or be elected. The theme of the 11am service will be the mission of the Church, and this therefore will provide a theological basis to the Easter Vestry which follows. Please put the date in your diary, and make sure to exercise your rights as members of the parish.

### **REGISTER OF MEMBERS**

Each year we update our list of Registered Members at a special Review Meeting of the Select Vestry held in February. Membership of the parish is open to any adult (aged 18+) who has made a recorded financial contribution to parish funds, and who has filled in and returned an application form. At the Review Meeting, names are removed from the list if they have requested their name to be removed, or if they have died, or if they have not subscribed to parish funds in the previous year. The names of new Members are then added. It is important to keep the list up-to-date because only the people listed will have the right to vote at the Easter Vestry meeting, and be elected to serve as officers or on our various committees. The list is printed on the notice boards at the back of St Peter's, so please check to see if your name is on it. If it is not, and you would like your name added, then please speak to me or to one of the Churchwardens, and we will provide you with the appropriate

form. The closing date for applications will be midday on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

### **BEQUEATHING MONEY TO THE PARISH**

I rarely mention money, but supporting the Church financially is the duty of all Christians, and it is right that every member of the parish should be encouraged to give as much and as often as they are able. In addition to regular Free Will Offerings, one important source of income comes from bequests made in parishioners' wills. Although any solicitor can be approached to organise this, Campbell Stafford Solicitors have kindly offered to waive the fee for any parishioner who wishes to prepare or alter their will, if they agree to include a donation to parish funds. If you would like to avail of this in the coming months, then contact Tom Campbell or Michael Stafford by emailing [info@campbellstafford.com](mailto:info@campbellstafford.com) or phoning 9024 9174. You may of course visit their office in person at Quaygate, 19-21 Station Street, Belfast, BT3 9DA.

### **FAMILIES' & CHILDREN'S WORKER**

I'm pleased to announce that the Select Vestry has agreed to extend our Children's Worker's contract for another year. Frank Dillon joined us in early 2015 on a part-time basis, using money from the St James' Endowment Fund. He has assisted with the Sunday School, special children's events, the Scouts, the Little Cherubs, and he has had a care for the pastoral and spiritual needs of our young families. In addition to his work with us, he is a full-time student at Belfast Bible College. Over the course of this year, his studies will come to an end, and he will begin to look for full-time work. This means that although he is welcome to stay with us until February 2018, we might find ourselves sadly saying goodbye to him around the summer or autumn of this year.

### HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Some of you have expressed an interest in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. As explained previously, a wonderful trip to Israel is organised every year by the Rev'd Canon David Humphries. He's going this year from 29<sup>th</sup> May until 8<sup>th</sup> June. Although I am desperate to get back, parenting commitments make it very unlikely! There may still be places available on David's pilgrimage, although if you would like to go, I would suggest contacting him as soon as possible. He is the Rector of Kilbride Parish, and he can be reached by emailing [wdhumphries@hotmail.com](mailto:wdhumphries@hotmail.com) or by telephoning 9334 0225.

As the pilgrimage is organised every year, you might want to hold off until 2018. David usually organises a lunch in September for anyone who wants to learn more about what happened in the previous trip, and ask questions about the next one. So perhaps that would be the ideal opportunity to speak with him and register your interest. He also travels around various parishes giving talks about his trips, and if he thinks that there is sufficient interest amongst the St Peter's congregation then I can certainly invite him to speak to us.

### SERMON SUMMARIES

On the **Second Sunday of Advent** (4<sup>th</sup> November 2016) we read from St Paul's Letter to the Romans: "May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant to you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify God." This seems like quite an innocuous statement, but understood in context it is clear that Paul is offering advice to factions within the Church who disagreed with each other over who is saved, and how to be saved. Like most of the congregations around the Mediterranean, the Church in Rome consisted of both Jews who



had come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, and also Gentiles, who had never been interested in Judaism, but who also believed that Jesus was their Saviour. The problem in the early Church, was that these two groups of Christians seemed to be quite unfriendly to each other. The Jewish Christians thought that they were the real Christians. Wasn't Christianity, after all, a sect of Judaism? On the other hand, the Gentile Christians thought that they were the real Christians. Hadn't Jesus come to take on his shoulders the sins of the whole world? Surely, they thought, there was no point in being Jewish anymore. So the Gentile Christians and the Jewish Christians disagreed over who was saved, and how to be saved. And so, in that context, St Paul writes: "May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant to you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify God." He is telling them to stop judging and criticising each other, stop deciding for yourselves who is saved, and how to be saved, and simply accept each other in love. That should be our attitude today as well. We need to get over ourselves, if we think that we can point the finger at others, particularly at our Christian brothers and sisters in other denominations, and question their salvation. Who are we to know whether or not God's light has replaced the darkness in someone's soul, simply because they subscribe to a different denomination than we do, because they hold slightly different theological beliefs, because they worship differently from us? We must stop thinking that other people will be saved only if they do it our way. And let me tell you why. Salvation is not our gift to give or to deny, to manage or control. Salvation is a gift from God, through Jesus Christ. And we as his Church have one job, and it is not to fight internally about who is or who isn't saved. Our job is purely and simply to point everyone towards the One who does the saving, who offers the salvation, who brings the transformation, who replaces the darkness with the light.

On the **Second Sunday after the Epiphany** (15<sup>th</sup> January 2017) I explained to you that when I had come into church that morning, someone had opened the doors, and turned on the heating and lighting. Someone else had been in during the week to clean, and someone else had arranged the flowers. Another person had prepared the service sheets, and another person had assigned others to read the Bible and lead the prayers. Someone else had set up for Holy Communion. And someone else had made the tea and coffee. I could go on, but this should suffice to show that we aim to include as many people as possible in the practicalities of our worship in St Peter's. This is because although my name is on the sign outside the church, everything that we do is very much a team effort. As members of the body of Christ, each and every one of us has a role to play in his Church. Now, our God-given role—our vocation—goes far beyond what we do on a Sunday morning. In our everyday lives, God has called us to many different vocations, but which all have a common purpose: to make the world a better place, in his name and for his glory. So, whether we are doctors, nurses, teachers, care assistants, charity administrators, good neighbours, godly parents, ordained ministers, or anything else which in some way helps to share God's love in words or actions, then that is our vocation. We should be as bold in recognising and articulating that as St Paul was when he described himself as "called to be an Apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God", or as the Prophet Isaiah was when he said, "The Lord called me before I was born. While I was in my mother's womb he named me." We all have a God-given vocation. We need to discern it, and fulfil it, and play our part in God's team.

On the **Third Sunday after the Epiphany** (22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017) we considered how—from a very young age—we humans tend to put other people into two camps: the people we trust, and the people

we don't. This differentiation carries on into our adulthood, and it is perhaps one of the underlying reasons as to why we tend to have an "us" versus "them" mentality. We see this attitude all the time in Northern Ireland, with the constant battle between the orange and the green. But it happens also within the Church, in which rather than seeing other Christians as simply our brothers and sisters, we divide and subdivide ourselves into groups depending on how we worship, what we believe, what building we worship in, how we want the Church to be governed, and many other issues. In our Epistle reading, St Paul writes that he saw this instinctive divisiveness at work in the Church in Corinth, with at least four different cliques forming. His response was this: "I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose." St Paul is telling them that what mattered was not who they stood with, but rather what they stood for. That should be our intention as well: to stop dividing over every disagreement, and instead focus on what unites us and binds us together.

### **SERVICES IN FEBRUARY**

February has a very welcome air of normality in between the many special services surrounding Christmas and Easter. There are only two Holy Days, and both occur at the beginning of the month. We celebrate St Brigid at our regular 10.30am Holy Communion on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February, and then we celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (otherwise known as Candlemas) on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February. On the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> we will have the third of our three annual services of music and Bible readings: the Advent to Candlemas Procession. The other two are of course our Advent Carol Service and the Nine Lessons & Carols.

# CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

## THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY</b> Holy Communion	<b>ST BRIGID</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY</b> Holy Communion Holy Communion Advent to Candlemas	<b>CANDLEMAS</b> <i>traditional, said, Resurrection</i> <i>modern, sung, Nave</i> <i>modern, sung, Nave</i>

## ORDINARY TIME

<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK SERVICE</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY</b> Holy Communion Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	<b>THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i> <i>modern, sung, Nave</i> <i>modern, said, St James</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK SERVICE</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY</b> Holy Communion Holy Communion Compline	<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i> <i>modern, sung, Nave</i> <i>traditional, sung, Nave</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK SERVICE</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY</b> Holy Communion Morning Prayer Late Evening Office	<b>THE SUNDAY BEFORE LENT</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i> <i>modern, sung, Nave</i> <i>modern, said, St James</i>

# CHURCH SERVICES IN MARCH

## THE SEASON OF LENT

<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>1<sup>st</sup> MARCH</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK SERVICE</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>5<sup>th</sup> MARCH</b> Holy Communion Holy Communion Choral Evensong	<b>THE 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT</b> <i>traditional, said, Resurrection</i> <i>modern, sung, Nave</i> <i>traditional, sung, nave</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>8<sup>th</sup> MARCH</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK SERVICE</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>12<sup>th</sup> MARCH</b> Holy Communion Morning Prayer Compline	<b>THE 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i> <i>modern, sung, Nave</i> <i>modern, said, St James</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>15<sup>th</sup> MARCH</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK SERVICE</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>19<sup>th</sup> MARCH</b> Holy Communion Holy Communion Choral Evensong	<b>ST PATRICK</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i> <i>modern, sung, Nave</i> <i>traditional, sung, Nave</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH</b> Holy Communion	<b>ST JOSEPH OF NAZARETH</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>26<sup>th</sup> MARCH</b> Holy Communion Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	<b>MOTHERING SUNDAY/THE ANNUNCIATION</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i> <i>modern, sung, Nave</i> <i>modern, said, St James</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10:30am	<b>29<sup>th</sup> MARCH</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK SERVICE</b> <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>

# February Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>5</b> <b>Candlemas</b> <b>9am</b> Holy Communion <b>11am</b> Holy Communion and Sunday School <b>6.30pm</b> Advent to Candlemas Procession	<b>6</b> <b>7.30pm</b> Finance Committee <b>8pm</b> Badminton	<b>7</b> <b>10.30am</b> Crafty Goodness <b>6pm</b> Beavers <b>7pm</b> Cubs	<b>1</b> <b>St Brigid</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> Choir	<b>2</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>3</b> <b>10.30am</b> PhysioPilates <b>11.30am</b> Bible Study <b>4.30pm</b> Speech and Drama <b>8pm</b> Sale set-up	<b>4</b> <b>10am</b> Sale of pre-loved maternity, baby and children items
<b>5</b> <b>Candlemas</b> <b>9am</b> Holy Communion <b>11am</b> Holy Communion and Sunday School <b>6.30pm</b> Advent to Candlemas Procession	<b>6</b> <b>7.30pm</b> Finance Committee <b>8pm</b> Badminton	<b>7</b> <b>10.30am</b> Crafty Goodness <b>6pm</b> Beavers <b>7pm</b> Cubs	<b>8</b> <b>10.30am</b> Holy Communion and refreshments <b>2pm</b> Bridge <b>6.30pm</b> PhysioPilates <b>8pm</b> Choir	<b>9</b> <b>10am</b> Little Cherubs <b>6pm</b> Rainbows <b>7pm</b> Brownies <b>7.30pm</b> Bible Study <b>8pm</b> Guides	<b>10</b> <b>10.30am</b> PhysioPilates <b>4.30pm</b> Speech and Drama	<b>11</b>

<b>12</b> 9am Holy Communion <b>11am</b> Morning Prayer and Sunday School (tea/coffee) Traidcraft stall <b>6.30pm</b> Evening Prayer	<b>13</b> 7.30pm Select Vestry <b>8pm</b> Badminton	<b>14</b> 10.30am Crafty Goodness <b>2.30pm</b> Ladies' Guild <b>6pm</b> Beavers <b>7pm</b> Cubs	<b>15</b> 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments <b>11.30am</b> Fabric Committee <b>2pm</b> Bridge <b>6.30pm</b> PhysioPilates <b>7.30pm</b> Choir	<b>16</b> 10am Little Cherubs <b>6pm</b> Rainbows <b>7pm</b> Brownies <b>7.45pm</b> Historical Society <b>8pm</b> Guides	<b>17</b> 10.30am PhysioPilates <b>11.30am</b> Bible Study	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9am Holy Communion <b>11am</b> Holy Communion and Sunday School <b>6.30pm</b> Compline	<b>20</b> <i>Deadline for material to be with Anne for March Parish Notes</i> <b>8pm</b> Badminton	<b>21</b> 10.30 Crafty Goodness <b>6pm</b> Beavers <b>7pm</b> Cubs	<b>22</b> 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments <b>2pm</b> Bridge <b>6.30pm</b> PhysioPilates <b>7.30pm</b> Choir	<b>23</b> 10am Little Cherubs <b>6pm</b> Rainbows <b>7pm</b> Brownies <b>7.30pm</b> Bible Study <b>8pm</b> Guides	<b>24</b> 10.30am PhysioPilates <b>4.30pm</b> Speech and Drama	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9am Holy Communion <b>11am</b> Morning Prayer and Sunday School (tea/coffee) <b>6.30pm</b> Late Evening Office	<b>27</b> <b>8pm</b> Badminton	<b>28</b> 10.30 Crafty Goodness <b>1pm</b> Events Committee <b>6pm</b> Beavers <b>7pm</b> Cubs				



# Sale



*of pre-loved maternity, baby  
and children items*

**Saturday 4th February 10am—12noon  
in the church hall**

**Entry fee £1 and children free**

Want to turn all those preloved family items such as toys, clothes and equipment into cash? 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).

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



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



## **Ladies' Guild—Hear Ye : Hear Ye : Hear Ye**

If you use a hearing aid or think that your hearing may not be as good as it should be, the next meeting of the Ladies' Guild will be of interest to you. (YES—EVEN MEN!)

At our meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm our guest speakers will be representatives from Action on Hearing Loss NI. This is an open meeting and **everyone** is invited. We might even give you a cup of tea!

Action on Hearing Loss NI is a charity which has expertise in providing support for people with hearing loss and tinnitus.

Action for Hearing Loss NI:-

- Provides day-to-day care for people who are deaf and have additional needs.
- Supplies communication services and training.
- Offers practical advice to help people protect and enhance their hearing.
- Campaigns to change public policy around hearing loss issues and supports research into an eventual cure for hearing loss and tinnitus.

At our meeting we will hear (no pun intended!) a little about the services on offer from Action on Hearing Loss, helpful products and equipment that is available and also some of the causes of hearing loss. Very importantly the speaker will give general advice, and for those with NHS hearing aids, will provide basic hearing aid maintenance and support (re-tubing of hearing aids, supply of new batteries, cleaning and home maintenance advice) and can offer hands on support and maintenance. The speakers can advise those with privately purchased hearing aids but cannot offer maintenance.

A basic hearing check can also be carried out (not to be mistaken for a hearing test at the hospital) which can be helpful in identifying hearing loss. There will be leaflets on topics such as communication, tinnitus, what to expect when you get a hearing aid, the support available and much more.

It will be very much up to you to ask the questions you need answered, so why not take advantage of this great opportunity? Remember everyone is welcome to this meeting which is suitable for anyone with existing hearing difficulties, anyone who is concerned about their hearing in the future or anyone who has a friend or relative with hearing problems.

If you would like to attend but don't have transport please contact me or one of our members and we will be happy to arrange transport for you.

*Anne Stewart, Hon Sec (tel: 9096 6597)*

## **Advent Reflections**

**Each Wednesday evening during Advent we had a service of Compline in the North Aisle of St Peter's, during which, like last year, some of our parishioners spoke to us about their Christian faith. Here is Daphne McClement's Advent Reflection:**

***I love my church, I need my church  
but does my church need me?***

I was brought up in a very strict Presbyterian family. My paternal grandfather was precentor in Sinclair Seamen's and then when he moved his business to the Limestone Road joined Duncairn Presbyterian becoming Clerk of Session.

I started my Christian life at Sunday School in Rosemary Presbyterian Church then was persuaded to join the family church in Duncairn and eventually became a communicant member under the direction of Rev'd Kenneth Harvey. He certainly became my mentor and when he left to become minister of McCracken Memorial church, I strayed. Indeed I was in the wilderness for many years.

Although my father wasn't a church goer he was probably the most Christian man I ever met. He read his Bible eagerly and could quote from it expertly—in fact the few weeks before he died it was by his bedside.

When I moved to England I never went to church until one Sunday morning I had this urge to go, so I went to the parish church in Richmond, Surrey (where I lived). During the prayers the rector prayed for the soldiers and people of Northern Ireland. On leaving I thanked him for his prayers and he admitted he hadn't prayed for us before but now would do so. I came to live in a village in Great Dunmow and again one Sunday I happened to be in the UK and had the urge to attend church. My airline got a contract to have an aircraft in Israel and twelve cabin staff were chosen. We had to be especially trained and couldn't go sick or fly any other routes for three months. What a wonderful experience and every weekend that we didn't fly our driver took us to all the biblical places. So my coming back to religion started again.

On coming back to Northern Ireland I returned to attending church. I had always admired St Peter's so I rang my mother and told her I wanted to go and she was very keen to accompany me.

Canon Harris certainly formed my new Christian faith. This urge to become a follower of Jesus Christ was so important to me and as I became more involved in the life of St Peter's the stronger became my faith—now at times I do doubt, but always I come back stronger.

The need for Christ in my life is very important and at times I can feel the strength of his presence when I'm down and his strong arms circling me and bringing me back.

Maybe he was with me when I saw terminally ill patients in the NI Hospice—many remarked that they could feel a warmth when I held their hand.

Now I'm going to be involved in the Welcome Centre for the Red Cross dealing with Syrian refugees. So in a way my church does need me but not as much as I need God!

## BOOKS

Are you still reading those novels you received at Christmas or have you finished them? Do you know that the Parish can make a tidy income from the sale of books you no longer need? If you have books surplus to requirements and would like to free up space in your bookcase, we would love to have them. Bring them to church any Sunday or leave them with Anne in the office. But please, no books on electrophysics or magazines!!

Nothing much on television, why not visit the entrance to the hall and buy a book? We suggest a minimum donation of 50p per book—just whatever you consider appropriate. There is a collection box beside the books. Many thanks.

*Noel Beattie*

## LESSON READERS AND INTERCESSORS

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.

Feb	First Reading	Second Reading	Third Reading	Intercessor
5th	Philip Williamson	Ashlee McCune	The Rector	Karl O'Connor
12th	Colin Bell	Forde Patterson	The Rector	Marie Burrowes
19th	Peter Coiley	Anne Roberts	The Rector	Noel Beattie
26th	Alan McCracken	Tom Campbell	The Rector	David Cromie

## Cavehill Community Choir Concert

This event, organised by parishioners and held in early December, turned out to be a great success and show-cased our church. Even some who lived locally had never been inside our hallowed walls—one even mentioned he didn't realise how beautiful it would be. As well as serving as a community event it also generated (after expenses) £1,204 for church funds.

We would like to thank Heather and Tony Swan, Anne Fitzpatrick, Joan and John Hill and Noel Beattie for helping out and making the event such a success.

*Annette, Daphne, Dora and Sandra H*

## 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](http://www.amazon.co.uk) directly, you first go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://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/stpjbelfast](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpjbelfast) and follow the simple steps to sign up.

*Ashlee McCune, Hon Treasurer*

## NORTH BELFAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thursday 16th February  
7.45pm in the Minor Hall

Speaker: Matthew Warwick  
Topic: Listen to the tunes of  
world famous Lambeg drums.  
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 "News".

## FEBRUARY FLOWER LIST

5TH ROSEMARY HINDS IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER  
19TH DAVID AND ANNE CROMIE IN CELEBRATION!  
26TH THE HALL FAMILY IN MEMORY OF THEIR MOTHER

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



### 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

30th Jan—4th Feb ----- Group 8  
6th Feb—11th Feb----- Group 1  
13th Feb—18th Feb ----- Group 2  
20th Feb—25th Feb ----- Group 3  
27th Feb—4th March ----- Group 4

### AFTER CHURCH REFRESHMENT

*Light refreshments will be served after the 11am service on Sunday 12th February and Sunday 26th February.*



### Christmas at St Peter's

A big thank you to Colin Bell, Brian Callaghan, Wes Holmes, Brian Johnston, Ian McManus, Quintin Mulligan, Heather and Tony Swan, Glenn Tweedie and Jim Tweedie who came down on 8th December to bring Christmas to St Peter's and on 8th January to take it all back to the basement. Your assistance was much appreciated and you will be pleased to know that your efforts were favourably commented upon by many parishioners and visitors alike. You did a great job. Also, thank you to those who came to church early on the evenings of the Carol Service and the Midnight Communion to light lots of candles creating a beautiful ambience. Thank you very much.

*Noel Beattie*

### Don't throw it out!

*While we are still on the subject of Christmas, if you have any unwanted artificial Christmas trees, tree decorations or working tree lights, we would love to have them. Please bring them to church any Sunday or leave with Anne in the Parish Office as convenient.*

## 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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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 MEETING OF  
THE SELECT VESTRY  
WILL BE ON  
MONDAY  
13TH FEBRUARY  
AT 7.30PM  
IN THE MINOR HALL



**TRAIDCRAFT**  
Fighting poverty through trade

Stall open on  
Sunday 12th February  
during coffee time after  
the 11am service

*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 20th February. Thank you.*