

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES  
BELFAST

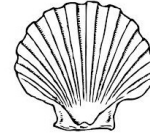


## PARISH NOTES

JULY/AUGUST 2014

**Rector:**

The Rev'd Brian Lacey  
St Peter's Rectory, 17 Waterloo Park South, Belfast, BT15 5HX  
Tel 9077 7053



**GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE**

**Saint James the Apostle**



**Sunday 27th July  
Holy Communion 11am**

## CHURCH SERVICES

*Any services marked with an asterisk (\*) are traditional services derived from the Book of Common Prayer (1662). All other services are in modern language.*

**WEDNESDAY 2nd July**      **Mid-Week Service**  
 10.30am Holy Communion      Amos 5: 14~24      Matthew 8: 28-34

**THURSDAY 3rd July**      **St Thomas**  
 7.30pm Holy Communion\*      Ephesians 2: 19-22      John 20: 24-29

**SUNDAY 6th July**      **The Third Sunday after Trinity**  
 9am Holy Communion\*      1 Peter 5: 5-14      Luke 15: 1-10  
 11am Holy Communion      Genesis 24: 34-68      Matthew 11: 16~30

*Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."*

**WEDNESDAY 9th JULY**      **Mid-Week Service**  
 10.30am Holy communion      Hosea 10: 1~12      Matthew 10: 1-7

**SUNDAY 13th July**      **Sea Sunday**  
 9am Holy Communion      Jonah 1: 1~2: 10      Luke 8: 22-25  
 11am Morning Prayer      Jonah 1: 1~2: 10      Acts 27: 27-44

*Such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god.*

**WEDNESDAY 16th JULY**      **Mid-Week Service**  
 10.30am Holy communion      Exodus 3: 1~12      Matthew 11: 25-27

**SUNDAY 20th JULY**      **The Fifth Sunday after Trinity**  
 9am Holy Communion      Romans 8: 12-25      Matthew 13: 24~43  
 11am Holy Communion      Genesis 28: 10-19a      Matthew 13: 24~43

*Jesus said, "Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."*

**TUESDAY 22nd JULY**      **St Mary Magdalene**  
 7.30pm Holy Communion\*      2 Corinthians 5: 14-17      John 20: 1~18

**WEDNESDAY 23rd JULY**      **Mid-Week Service**  
 10.30am Holy Communion      Jeremiah 1: 1~10      Matthew 13: 1-9

**SUNDAY 27th JULY**      **St James the Apostle (transferred)**  
 9am Holy Communion      Acts 11: 27—12: 2      Matthew 20: 20-28  
 11am Holy Communion      Acts 11: 27—12: 2      Matthew 20: 20-28

*Jesus said, "Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave."*

**WEDNESDAY 30th JUNE**      **Mid-Week Service**  
 10.30am Holy Communion      Jeremiah 15: 10~21      Matthew 13: 44-46

**SUNDAY 3rd AUGUST****The Seventh Sunday after Trinity**

9am Holy Communion\*

Romans 6: 19-23

Mark 8: 1-9

11am Holy Communion

Genesis 32: 22-31

Matthew 14: 13-21

*Jesus said to his disciples, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."*

**WEDNESDAY 6th AUGUST****The Transfiguration of our Lord**

10.30am Holy Communion

2 Peter 1: 16-19

Luke 9: 28-36

**SUNDAY 10th AUGUST****The Eighth Sunday after Trinity**

9am Holy Communion

Romans 10: 5-15

Matthew 14: 22-33

11am Morning Prayer

Genesis 37: 1~28

Matthew 14: 22-33

*Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught Peter, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"*

**WEDNESDAY 13th AUGUST****Mid-Week Service**

10.30am Holy Communion

Ezekiel 9: 1~22

Matthew 18: 15-20

**SUNDAY 17th AUGUST****The Ninth Sunday after Trinity**

9am Holy Communion

Romans 11: 1~32

Matthew 15: 21-28

11am Holy Communion

Genesis 45: 1-15

Matthew 15: 21-28

*The woman said to Jesus, "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table".*

**WEDNESDAY 20th AUGUST****Mid-Week Service**

10.30am Holy Communion

Ezekiel 34: 1-11

Matthew 20: 1-16

**SUNDAY 24th AUGUST****St Bartholomew**

9am Holy Communion

Acts 5: 12-16

Luke 22: 24-30

11am Holy Communion

Acts 5: 12-16

Luke 22: 24-30

*Jesus said, "The greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves."*

*Our former Curate, The Very Rev'd Brian Moller will join us at the main morning service to preach concerning the life of St Bartholomew. As well as ministering in this parish, Dean Moller was also the Rector of St Bartholomew's parish in Stranmillis.*

**WEDNESDAY 27th AUGUST****Mid-Week Service**

10.30am Holy Communion

2 Thessalonians 3: 6~18

Matthew 23: 27-32

**SUNDAY 31st AUGUST****The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**

9am Holy Communion

Romans 12: 9-21

Matthew 16: 21-28

11am Healing Service

Exodus 3: 1-15

Matthew 16: 21-28

*The Director of the Church's Ministry of Healing, The Rev'd Dr Pat Mollan, will join us at the main morning service to preach on the theme of healing. The ministry of laying on of hands and anointing with oil will be offered during this service.*

## **RECTOR'S NOTES**

### **PARISH OFFICE**

You might have noticed some building work in the basement of the Parish Halls in recent weeks. The purpose of this work is to convert an area of the basement into our new Parish Office, and has been funded using residual money from the sale of land a few years ago. The suite of rooms includes a working office, a kitchen, a storage area, and a toilet. The primary function of these rooms is to provide a place of work during weekday mornings/afternoons for our Parish Secretary, Mrs Anne Cromie. Additionally there will be a second desk for myself and the other officers of the parish for use from time to time, and there will be space for some small group meetings.

My own office will remain in the Rectory, and you should contact me directly using the existing telephone number and email address with any enquiries relating to pastoral ministry, services of worship, arrangements for baptisms, funerals and weddings, and any matters to be dealt with by the Select Vestry or its sub-committees. If I'm not immediately available and you want to leave me a message then please leave one on the Rectory answer machine or for more urgent matters ring my mobile number.

Please note that there will be a new telephone number and a new email address to contact Anne regarding monthly rotas, the Parish Notes, orders of service, posters, leaflets, church supplies, hall bookings, the parish database and any administrative enquiries. More information about these new contact details will be printed on the weekly orders of service during the summer, and thereafter in the Parish Notes.

Depending on the speed of work, it is hoped that the new Basement Office will be operational no later than the beginning of September. During the transition phase over the summer please be patient with us if you contact me and I ask you to speak to Anne directly concerning administration, or if you contact Anne and she asks you to ring me instead concerning matters to do with ministry.

### **SUMMER SERVICES**

Our normal pattern of services at 11am is Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of each month, and Morning Prayer on the second and fourth Sundays. This changes slightly whenever a Holy Day falls on the second or fourth Sundays, as it is preferable in some cases to celebrate Holy Communion as the central act of worship of the parish community. Such a change from Morning Prayer to Holy Communion will occur twice over the summer: St James' Day on the 27<sup>th</sup> July, and St Bartholomew's Day on 24<sup>th</sup> August.

In addition to St James' Day and St Bartholomew's Day, we will also celebrate three other Holy Days during July and August. We will commemorate: St Thomas at 7:30pm on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, St Mary Magdalene at 7:30pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, and the Transfiguration of our Lord at 10:30am on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July.

On 13th July we will mark "Sea Sunday" which will give us an opportunity to remember and pray for those who live and work at sea, and the Mission to Seafarers which supports them.

On Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August we will have a Service of Wholeness and Healing. All of us are in need of God's healing in our lives, whether physically, mentally, spiritually, or in our relationships. During the service we will hear from the Rev'd Pat Mollen, who is the Director of the Church's Ministry of Healing. The laying on of hands, anointing, or simply a prayer, will be offered to anyone who wishes this form of ministry.

### **CHOIR SUMMER BREAK**

July and August provide our Choir with a well-deserved time to relax! They have been really excellent throughout this year, and add a flavour of choral spirituality to our worship which is the envy of many parish churches. On behalf of our regular congregation, I want to thank our Choir Master and the Choristers for their beautiful ministry of music. Although we will not have them to lead our singing over the next two months, we will still continue to sing hymns and other parts of the services as appropriate. No doubt you will hear some strange notes coming from me all by myself at the front, but that just adds to the fun of the summertime!

### **SUMMER CRÈCHE**

After chatting to a few parents recently I learnt that some families stay away from church over the summer because there is no Sunday School. Without this to engage the children, these parents feared that their children might become disruptive during the service without something to engage them. To counter this, I wish to set up a basic crèche facility for parents during July and August. Each week we will have two volunteers supervising any children in the Minor Hall. During this time there will be colouring pages available and various activities. Naturally this is not obligatory, and you are welcome to keep your child with you throughout the service. Whether or not you avail of this crèche, I urge all families to keep coming to church during July and August. If you would like to add your name to the list of parishioners willing to supervise the children in the crèche during the summer months, then please let me know as soon as possible.

### **EUCCHARISTIC ASSISTANTS**

In recent months both Ernie Stewart and Stanley McDowell have decided to stand down from the role of administering the chalice during Holy Communion. I genuinely thank these two gentlemen for their many years of service in this capacity. This role of Eucharistic Assistant is an important one and so it is vital that their successors are individuals who are well-known to the congregation, widely respected in the parish community, and who are regular communicants. To that end, I am pleased to report that I have nominated David Cromie and Marie Burrowes, and Bishop Alan has kindly authorised their appointment for the forthcoming year. David is a member of our Select Vestry, and serves the wider church as our Diocesan Accountant. Marie also serves as one of our team of Sacristans, with responsibility for preparing for Holy Communion. Please give them your full support!

### **METHODIST COVENANT**

In 2002 the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland declared that “we believe that God is calling our two churches to a fuller relationship in which we commit ourselves to share a common life and mission, and to grow together so that unity may be visibly realized.”

This Covenant relationship has, in some places, led to closer cooperation between neighbouring Anglican and Methodist congregations, whilst in many places not much has changed! Certainly there is much scope here in north Belfast for shared worship and activities between us and our fellow Christians in Cavehill Methodist Church.

One very important step towards great cooperation between our two churches came at the recent meeting of our General Synod, which is the governing body of the Church of Ireland. The Synod has authorised the “full interchangeability” of ministers between our denominations. What this means in practice for us is that I could lead a service and preach in Cavehill Methodist Church, and likewise the Rev’d Tom Clarke could come and lead a service and preach in St Peter’s.

It’s not quite clear where this Covenant will take our two churches, although the hope is that eventually there will be some form of “visible unity”. At this stage we can only speculate on whether that means that the Methodists will be absorbed back into the Church of Ireland, or that we co-exist whilst sharing a central bureaucracy, or that an entirely new form of Church will emerge. Evidently this will be decided by the extent to which members of the two churches at ground level are willing and able to cooperate. So please pray that God would inspire us to share our resources and find some way of working together with our Methodist friends in north Belfast.

#### **GROWTH STRATEGY: WORSHIP**

Last month I mentioned that I had formed a Worship Committee to advise me on how we could make our Sunday services more engaging and meaningful. The Committee consists of three sub-groups, each consisting of three or four people. At this stage we are focussing on the liturgy of Morning Prayer. Based on discussions held with these groups, a number of recommendations have been made. As you will see, none of them is overly dramatic!

1. We should indicate the bar-lines in the Psalms if we are using printed orders of services instead of the Prayer Books, to make it easier for the congregation to sing them.
2. Although we like chanting the Psalm, we also like saying it occasionally (not more than once a month). We should try

different ways of saying it, such as reciting it together rather than alternating between the Rector and congregation.

3. We should consider where the sermon comes during a service of Morning Prayer. It can either come after the second canticle and before the Creed, where it will tie in directly with the Bible readings. Alternatively it can come towards the end, where it ties together everything in the service, including the prayers.
4. In order for the congregation and Choir to see and hear what is happening, the children could be invited up the steps into the Chancel for their talk before going to Sunday School, and the wireless microphone could be used to broadcast what they are saying.
5. We should pray the Litany in Morning Prayer at least three times a year, perhaps in Lent, September, and Advent. If we use them too often then they will lose their impact.
6. There should be a concluding sentence to indicate to the congregation that the Occasional Prayers in Morning Prayer have come to an end, such as "We pray all of this to God our Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."
7. There should be occasional explanations of the meaning and purpose of various parts of the liturgy, such as the confession, in order to enable the congregation to fully understand what is happening.
8. We should allow for a short time of silence after the Bible readings for the congregation to reflect on their meaning.
9. The congregation should be encouraged to say their responses more loudly and in unison.
10. We should continue to urge the congregation to be silent for a few minutes after the Choir have entered the church, in order to give everyone time for reflection and preparation before the service begins.

During the summer the members of the Committee will consider our services of Holy Communion. Please feel free to contact me directly about your own views on our worship. The whole purpose of experimenting with our worship this year is to see what works and what



does not. Obviously in a large group of people no one will get everything entirely their own way, but it is always useful to hear what individual parishioners think and to try to find some consensus.

### **BIBLE STUDY**

Our Bible Study group met on 22<sup>nd</sup> May and again on 10<sup>th</sup> June. During these two sessions we completed our study of 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and also Jude.

We picked up where we left off at the beginning of May, at the third chapter of John's First Letter (1 John). In this chapter John unequivocally condemns sinning. He writes: *"Everyone who lives in union with Christ does not continue to sin; but whoever continues to sin has never seen him or known him."* (3:6). This certainly caused plenty of consternation amongst us, as we recognise our sinfulness everyday. Does this mean that we are not Christians?! We have to take this in the context of what John had said in previous chapters, that *"If we say that we have not sinned, we make a liar out of God."* (1:9). However, John is very adamant that Christians should seek to do good at all times. He writes: *"Here is the clear difference between God's children and the Devil's children: those who do not do what is right or do not love others are not God's children."* (3:10). This love is not an emotional love. Rather, it is a practical one. The word we would be better to use is "charity". He writes: *"Our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action."* (3:18).

Reading through the next section of his letter, we remember that John is not writing generally. He has a specific reason for writing, and that is to speak against the false teachings of people who had belonged to his community but who had left it over matters of faith. John urges his readers to see that he, and not they, are the ones who truly understand the Gospel: *"Those false prophets speak about matters of the world... But we belong to God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever does not belong to God does not listen to us."* (4:6).

We then read that beautiful sentence often used at the beginning of weddings: *"God is love, and those who live in love live in union with God, and God lives in union with them."* (4:16).

The closing chapter of John's First Letter is very difficult to understand. He talks about three "witnesses": Water, Blood, and Spirit. These, we read, testify to the eternal life which God has given us. There are various explanations to what this means, but interestingly even the Bible reference books claimed to be somewhat confounded by what John meant!

John's Second Letter (2 John) picks up on the two central ideas of his First Letter: that we should love one another, and that we should be wary of false teachings.

John's Third Letter (3 John) is extremely short, and is written to a church leader called Gaius. John condemns a man called Diotrephes who seems to have rejected John's understanding of the Gospel, and who has tried to force John's colleagues out of the local church. On the other hand, John is very pleased with a man called Demetrius. Perhaps it was Demetrius whom Diotrephes was trying to get rid of.

We completed our Bible study before the summer break, by reading the short Letter of Jude. This man was the brother of James (who wrote the Letter of James) and also he was our Lord Jesus' half-brother, being the son of Mary and Joseph. As with his brother James, Jude makes no mention of his biological relationship with Jesus, preferring to identify himself simply as a *"servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James."* (v1).

Similarly to John, Jude denounces people who have come into the Christian community and tried to distort the message of the Apostles. Jude explains that his particular annoyance was with people who *"distort the message about the grace of our God in order to excuse their immoral ways, and who reject Jesus Christ."* (v4). His concern is that they are becoming drunk and rowdy during worship: *"With their shameless carousing they are like dirty spots in your fellowship meals"* (v12).

It would seem, however, that their drinking was only one part of the problem. Jude also condemns their attitude: *"These people are always grumbling and blaming others; they follow their own evil desires; they brag about themselves and flatter others in order to get their own ways"* (v16).

Jude concludes by offering some advice on how to deal with people that we don't get on with: *"Show mercy mixed with fear, but hate their very*

*clothes, stained by their sinful lusts” (v23). Perhaps he means “hate the sin but love the sinner”.*

This group will meet again in September. I would like to start a second group which would meet once a fortnight during a weekday afternoon. If you would like to be part of this new group then please let me know.

### **THEOLOGY GROUP**

The Theology Group provides an opportunity for us to learn and discuss ideas and themes that might be too wide-ranging for a Bible study. In the June meeting of the Theology Group we looked at the broad sweep of the history of Israel as presented in the Old Testament, from the migration of Abram from Mesopotamia to Canaan; following a famine his grandchildren moved to Egypt where there was food. After a few hundred years these people, owing to the threat they posed to the Egyptians, were enslaved. Following the calling of Moses, the Ten Plagues, and the Exodus, the Israelites travelled through the Sinai Peninsula, where they were given the Commandments. After forty years they moved into Canaan and began to take over the land from the native inhabitants. For a few hundred years the tribes lived in their own areas, fighting against both the local and foreigners. Without only tribal elders to lead them, they turned to a succession of Judges to lead them in war and settle disputes. By 1000 years before Jesus, the people began clamouring for a proper king, and so Saul was anointed King of the northern tribes. His reign was marked with nearly constant fighting with Philistines. We read that Saul disobeyed an instruction from God given through the prophet Samuel, and consequently God chose someone else to lead his people. When Saul died in battle, David became king. To this day he is still considered to be the finest king in Israelite history, although he was far from perfect. Both he and his son Solomon ruled over a united kingdom consisting of the Israelite tribes. During Solomon’s reign, the Temple in Jerusalem was built. When he died the country was divided into Israel in the north, and Judah in the south. Within a few hundred years both of these countries had been invaded by foreign empires. Israel was conquered by the Assyrians, and never recovered. Many of the inhabitants were removed from the area, and those who remained intermarried with non-Israelites. Judah was

conquered by the Babylonians, but although they were also sent into exile, many were permitted to return home and rebuild Jerusalem, about five hundred years before Jesus' birth. These invasions and their aftermath had been foretold by the Prophets, who had warned that God would bring disaster on the people if they did not remain faithful to him. In addition to the Assyrians and the Babylonians, the children of Israel were also conquered by the Greeks and then the Romans. As we know, it was during the latter period that Jesus was born. In 70 AD the Jews revolted against the Romans, and in response the Temple was destroyed, fulfilling Jesus' prophecy: "You see this Temple... not one stone shall be left sitting on another."

The Theology Group will begin again in October, meeting on the first Thursday evening of each month in the Minor Hall. All parishioners are welcome to attend.



**PARISH REGISTER**  
*Christian Burial*  
*"At rest in the Lord."*  
**James Arthur Davison**  
Oldpark Road  
Roselawn Crematorium on 30th May 2014







**PARISH WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE**

Do you know we have a website? There is a wealth of information on it all about our parish and even includes a colour edition of these notes!! Please do visit the site and see what you and the big wide world can find out about us on the internet—[www.stpeters.connor.anglican.org](http://www.stpeters.connor.anglican.org).

If you use Facebook, then please go to [www.facebook.com/stpeterbelfast](http://www.facebook.com/stpeterbelfast) and "like" our parish page. This is updated weekly with information about our services and activities. Feel free to use the site as an online notice board. You may post information or photos relating to events in the church or local community which you think parishioners would be interested in.















*Our Little Cherubs Group invites you to a*

# *Fashion and Beauty Evening*

*Friday 26th September at 7.30pm  
in the church hall*



CAMEO

Fashion by  
Cameo Lifestyle Boutique,  
Ballyclare

Beauty by  
Molton Brown and Estée Lauder



Light refreshments

*In aid of Church Funds and the Children's Hospice*

Tickets £10 available from  
Norleen Sharpe—tel 9077 6131  
Eleanor Henderson—tel 9346 2444  
Parish Office—tel 9077 7053

### Holy Dusters Cleaning Rota

30th June—5th July .....	Group 4	4th August—9th August .....	Group 2
7th July—12th July .....	Group 6	11th August—16th August....	Group 3
14th July—19th July .....	Group 7	18th August—23rd August....	Group 4
21st July—26th July .....	Group 8	25th August—30th August....	Group 6
28th July—2nd August.....	Group 1	<b><i>Group 5 is vacant. It would be great if someone would take it on!</i></b>	

### LESSON READERS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

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 swap with another reader and inform the Rector's Secretary.

6th July	<b>Hilary Shields</b>	Genesis 24: 34-68
13th July	<b>Peggy Magill</b>	Jonah 1: 1—2: 10 and Acts 27: 27-44
20th July	<b>Caroline O'Kane</b>	Genesis 28: 10-19a
27th July	<b>Barbara Greenlees</b>	Acts 11: 27—12: 2
3rd August	<b>Anne Stewart</b>	Genesis 32: 22—31
10th August	<b>Noel Beattie</b>	Genesis 37: 1-28 and Matthew 14: 22-33
17th August	<b>John McCreary</b>	Genesis 45: 1-15
24th August	<b>Forde Patterson</b>	Acts 5: 12-16
31st August	<b>Florence Maguire</b>	Exodus 3: 1-15

### PARISH CALENDAR CAPTION COMPETITION

The theme for **July** is 'A line from a psalm which reflects the July picture'.

The theme for **August** is a question, not a caption. Who is this communion table dedicated to? The first correct entry drawn will be the winner.

To make your entry simply write your caption on a piece of paper and give it to a churchwarden or email it to the parish office.

Remember to include your name!

Entries should be with us by the last day of the month. There will be a small prize awarded each month. Good luck!!



### JULY FLOWER LIST

6TH THE HALL FAMILY IN MEMORY OF THEIR FATHER  
13TH MARGI CRAWFORD IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND

### AUGUST FLOWER LIST

10TH SANDRA HUTCHMAN IN MEMORY OF HER PARENTS  
24TH ANNETTE BEATTIE

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



Would the person who left 'Smarties Appeal' money on the plate in May please let Noel Beattie know who you are—just for our records and so as we can claim Gift Aid! Thank you.



**THURSDAY 10th JULY**

**2pm—4pm**

**5.15pm—8pm**

**Cavehill Methodist  
Church Hall  
Cavehill Road**

### PASTORAL CARE

If you require any form of pastoral care please contact the Rector (tel 9077 7053). If there is no reply please leave a message. However, if the matter is urgent please do not hesitate to contact the Rector on his mobile phone (tel 07563 531082).

We hope you'll not end up in hospital, but if you do, please do let the Rector know. He makes regular visits to all our local hospitals and is always keen to know if a parishioner has been admitted. Also, please don't forget to let us know when you have been discharged.

Parishioners who are housebound or otherwise unable to attend church may receive Holy Communion at home.

*Please send material for the September issue of Parish Notes to:  
Anne Cromie, Parish Office, 17 Waterloo Park South, Belfast BT15 5HX  
or email: [stpeters@connor.anglican.org](mailto:stpeters@connor.anglican.org)  
by Wednesday 20th August. Thank you.*