THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

JULY/AUGUST 2016

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

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

15TH - 19TH AUGUST



GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE

RECTOR'S NOTES

CLERGY PHOTOS

There have been eight rectors of St Peter's: H.R. Brett (1900), R.S. Breene (1926), W.E. Harris (1963), S.R. McBride (1990), C.J. McCollum (1996), A.T.W. Dorrian (2009), and C.B. Lacey (2013). There have been eleven rectors of St James': G.A. Chadwick (1871), J. Bristow (1873), T.G.G. Collins (1910), P.W.N. Shirley (1920), E.S. Barber (1941), J.H. Freeman (1945), G.F. Craig (1951), J.O. Rolston (1966), C.J. McCollum (1997), A.T.W. Dorrian (2009), and C.B. Lacey (2013).

Although Canon McCollum was instituted separately as Rector of St Peter's (1996) and of St James' (1997), the two parishes were united during his incumbency. This means that I am the 8th Rector of St Peter's, the 11th Rector of St James, and the 3rd Rector of the united parish. Recognising that I am only the latest in a long line of clergy is very important, as it serves as a reminder that my own ministry is a continuation of their own, and one day I will pass on the baton to someone else. This is both humbling and motivating, as it challenges me to maintain what they worked so hard to achieve, and to make sure that my successor inherits a stable and growing congregation. Although it sounds as if I'm announcing my resignation, please don't cheer or grieve, I don't intend to move on just yet. I mention all of this because I have recently hung photos of the incumbents of both St Peter's and St James' on the walls of the Clergy Vestry. These photos are a visual reminder of the many clergymen who devoted themselves to the proclamation of the Good News on the Antrim Road over the last 145 years. Sadly, only four of the 15 rectors are still alive, but by giving them pride-of-place in the Clergy Vestry, we ensure that we will remember them.



MISSION & MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

Over the last three years I have focussed on developing the management of our resources, and this has resulted in the formation of three subcommittees of the Select Vestry, which deal with finance and administration, fabric and furnishings, and events and organisations. These monthly committee meetings ensure that the decision-making process is open, transparent, and responsive to the needs of our congregation. From my own perspective, they enable me to understand what is happening in the parish, and to coordinate the various strands of management.

However, the purpose of the Christian Church is not to manage buildings and money. Our simple (albeit often difficult) purpose is to carry on the mission and ministries of Jesus as he himself would do if he were with us physically today. We must discern what Jesus would be doing, where he would be going, what he would be saying to people in varying circumstances of joy and pain, and then we as his Church must do what he would do. This wonderful responsibility belongs not only to the ordained clergy, but to our entire community of faithful people.

Therefore, in order to drive forward the mission and ministries of the Christian Church in this parish, I am forming a new committee which will steer the development and enactment of the Church's work seeking new members, and strengthening the faith of current members. The minutes of this new committee will be shared with the Select Vestry, who will be called upon to resource any practical expressions of Christian ministries. This Mission & Ministries Committee will meet at 11.30am on the first Wednesday of the month.

As the concerns of this committee are primarily spiritual, its members will be appointed annually by me, rather than through election. Several parishioners have expressed an interest in being involved this year: Dora Hanna, Rosemary Johnston, Ashlee McCune, Quintin Mulligan, and Paula Poulton. There is (literally) space for one more person, so if you are interested then by all means do let me know. The composition of the committee will change slightly each year, so I'd also like to hear from you if you would like to join next Easter rather than straight away.

SELECT VESTRY LUNCH

Following the 11am service on Sunday 19th June, the Select Vestry hosted a lunch for members of our congregation. Seventy parishioners enjoyed a buffet lunch, and there was a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. During the lunch, two presentations were made. The first presentation was to Anne Cromie, for passing the milestone of 20 years as a member of staff. Anne was originally hired as Canon McCollum's Secretary, working from an office in

the rectory, but in the last couple of years this has developed into the role of Parish Secretary, working from an office in the Halls. The second presentation was to Rosemary Johnston, who recently retired from the position of Honorary Secretary to the Select Vestry after about fifteen years.



PATERNITY LEAVE

God willing, the Rectory should have a new resident in the coming weeks, and for a change it's not another animal! Laura and I have both been very encouraged by the kindness and support of many parishioners in recent months as we prepare ourselves for parenthood. After the birth, I will be taking two weeks' paternity leave, and perhaps an additional week or two of holidays. During that time, arrangements will be made for emergency pastoral care. I have already booked various clergymen to officiate at services, as it would be very difficult to do so at the last minute, particularly at the height of the summer,

when many retired clerics are already booked to cover clergy holidays. As nobody can guarantee when the baby will arrive, I have had to book clergy for the weeks before and after the due date. If the child is anything like me, then he/she will decide to be born at the most awkward moment, and with very little warning! Please keep Laura, me, and the baby in your prayers in the coming weeks.

SANCTUARY PRAYER DESK

One fortunate consequence of the closure of church buildings. is that their can find furnishings a new home somewhere else, and allow a different congregation to appreciate their beauty. As you know, we have accumulated quite a few artefacts from both the Chapel of the Resurrection and St James' Parish Church. Sadly, some of those objects were stored in the crypt or in the rectory garage, and were falling into a state of disrepair. However, we have managed to clean them up, and restore them to their former glory. One such item is the prayer desk from the Chapel of the Resurrection. From this prayer desk, clergy from all over the city would have led prayers Sunday after Sunday for many years.



One such clergyman was the Very Rev'd Brian Moller, who during his time as Curate in St Peter's, would have led services in the Chapel. It is very fitting, then, that Brian kindly and expertly mended a broken piece of the prayer desk, which now stands proudly in our Sanctuary, beside the Communion Table. We are very appreciate of Brian's handiwork.

SERMON SUMMARIES

On the First Sunday after Trinity (Sunday 29th May), we reflected on how so many people turn away from Christianity because of crises, illness, and death. At these terribly difficult moments in life, we want God to rescue us and make things better. So often. however, the miraculous interventions that we yearn for simply don't happen. When they don't, then through anger or disappointment, some people turn their backs on God. explained that I do personally believe that God can still intervene miraculously in our lives today, but this certainly does not always happen – at least not in the specific way that we would want. What is freely available, however, is God's peace. spiritual healing, that in many ways is more important than any physical healing we might want. In fact, God's spiritual peace in our hearts and minds, enables us to draw upon his strength and wisdom and patience even in the midst of the difficulties of life.

On the Second Sunday after Trinity (Sunday 5th June) I explained that people have different expectations of what makes a good sermon. Some will want to be comforted, whilst others will want to be challenged. Some will want to be informed, whilst others want to be entertained. Sometimes it is possible for a preacher to achieve all of these within the same sermon, but that can be quite difficult when restricted to ten minutes! However, the real purpose of a sermon is not to amuse the congregation, or to be a history lesson, or to give a quaint little message that is quickly forgotten. Rather, the purpose of the sermon is to proclaim Jesus of Nazareth as Lord of all parts of our lives, and to affirm this using the Holy Scriptures. On this point, St Paul wrote, "When I came to you, my friends, to preach God's secret truth, I did not use big words and great learning. For while I was with you, I made up my mind to forget everything except Jesus Christ and especially his death on the cross." This is therefore what a Christian congregation should expect from their preacher: to hear Jesus Christ proclaimed.

On Petertide (Sunday 26th June) I mentioned how I had once locked myself out of the rectory, and after unsuccessful attempts at kicking in doors or breaking windows, I realised how precious a small metal key is. In our Gospel reading, we learnt that St Peter was given "the keys to the kingdom of heaven." This does not mean, however, that St Peter stands at the pearly gates, deciding who gets into heaven and who doesn't. On the basis that the phrase "the kingdom of heaven" is better translated as "the kingship of heaven", it refers to an obedient relationship to God, rather than a geographical location. Therefore, St Peter was given access to a relationship with God. The key that gave him access was his recognition that Jesus of Nazareth is "the Messiah - the Son of the Living God." Just as Jesus had told his disciples that he is "the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through [him]" so too with the keys to the kingdom of heaven, Jesus tells us unequivocally that if we want to be in a living, loving relationship with God, then Jesus alone is the person we must turn to.

CHOIR

Our Choristers take a well-deserved break during July and August, although many of them continue to sing from the pews. Our worship benefits greatly from their musical talents, and we should all be very appreciative of them. In addition to services at 11am on Sundays, they sing fortnightly at our 6.30pm Sunday services, and they meet together once a week on Wednesday evenings to rehearse. On behalf of the congregation, I want to thank the choir for their dedication throughout the year. The choir will return to duty on the first Sunday in September, and on the second Sunday there will be a short act of dedication for them. If you would like to join the choir, then please speak to me or to the Choirmaster, Robert Thompson, as we are always on the look-out for new members.

PETERTIDE CELEBRATIONS

We commemorated our parish church's dedication on Sunday 26th June. At the 11am service we used a relatively new form of Holy Communion, designed to be used when children are present. Leading up to the Institution Narrative ("This is my body... This is my blood...") the congregation is asked a series of questions, for which the set responses reflect our basic theology.



At 6.30pm we went as traditional as we could manage. Basing our order of service on the original dedication service 116 years ago, the prayers, readings, and some sung elements of the service accurately reflected the experience of the congregation present at the opening of St Peter's in 1900. Sadly the original preacher was not available, but we were very fortunate to be joined by a former rector of St Peter's, the Venerable Stephen McBride. St Peter's was Stephen's first incumbency, and he ministered in the parish

from 1990 until 1995, before moving to Antrim. He has remained there since then, becoming concurrently the Archdeacon of Connor. In his address, Stephen spoke about the importance of old and beautiful places of worship for Christians, but also the need to look beyond our traditions in order to make sure that the Church is always relevant to each new generation. Stephen was joined by Helen, his wife, and Alex, his son. A wine and cheese reception was held in the Halls afterwards, during which Stephen, Helen, and Alex were able to catch up with old friends.



CHURCH SERVICES IN JULY AND AUGUST

The Choir will return to the Chancel for one service only during the summer: for the commemoration of **St James the Apostle**, who is of course our second patron saint. Whether or not you ever worshipped in St James when it was a place of Anglican worship, it would be good for us all to make the effort to worship together on Sunday 24th July, as a fitting tribute not only to the Apostle, but also to the parish named after him.

There are no family services during the summer, nor are there any evening services. The 9am and 11am Sunday services, and the 10.30am Wednesday services, continue as usual.

There are quite a few **Holy Days** in July: **St Thomas** on Sunday 3rd July; **Mary Magdalene** on Friday 22nd July; **St James the Apostle** on Sunday 24th July (transferred from the Monday); **St Bartholomew** on Wednesday 24th August. Our convention in St Peter's is that if the Holy Day is a Sunday, then there will be a celebration of Holy Communion at both 9am and 11am. If the Holy Day is a Wednesday then the celebration takes place at the regular mid-week service time of 10.30am. If the Holy Day is a Friday then there is a celebration at 11am. If the Holy Day is a Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday, then there is a celebration at 7.30pm. If the Holy Day falls on a Saturday, then usually we will not commemorate that particular saint, or we might transfer it to another day. Any celebrations of Holy Communion in the morning are usually Form Two (modern), whereas any celebrations in the evening are usually Form One (traditional).

LESSON READERS

The following parishioners are on the rota to read at the 11am Sunday services. If you are unable to read on your appointed Sunday, please contact the Warden of Readers, Forde Patterson, tel 90 364 183.

July	First Reading	Second Reading	Third Reading	Intercessor
3rd	Peter Coiley	Anne Roberts	The Rector	David Cromie
10th	Daphne McClements	Karl O'Connor	The Rector	Karl O'Connor
17th	Eleanor Henderson	Dora Hanna	The Rector	Quintin Mulligan
24th	Marie Burrowes	Wes Holmes	The Rector	Anne Roberts
31st	Caroline O'Kane	Sandra Hutchman	Dean Moller	Rosemary Johnston
Aug				
7th	Hilary Shields	Ashlee McCune	Canon Lloyd	Marie Burrowes
14th	Philip Williamson	Forde Patterson	Dr Elsdon	David Cromie
21st	Colin Bell	Anne Roberts	The Rector	Sandra Hutchman
28th	Peter Coiley	Tom Campbell	The Rector	Karl O'Connor

CHURCH SERVICES

ST THOMAS

SUNDAY 3rd JULY

9am Holy Communion traditional 11am Holy Communion traditional

WEDNESDAY 6th JUNE MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 10th JULY SEA SUNDAY

9am Holy Communion *modern* 11am Morning Prayer *modern*

WEDNESDAY 13th JULY MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 17th JULY THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9am Holy Communion *modern* 11am Holy Communion *modern*

WEDNESDAY 20th JULY MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

FRIDAY 22nd JULY ST MARY MAGDALENE

11am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 24th JULY ST JAMES THE APOSTLE (transferred)

9am Holy Communion *modern* 11am Holy Communion *modern*

WEDNESDAY 27th JULY MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 31st JULY THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9am Holy Communion *modern* 11am Morning Prayer *modern* WEDNESDAY 3rd AUGUST MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 7th AUGUST THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9am Holy Communion *traditional* 11am Holy Communion *modern*

WEDNESDAY 10th AUGUST MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 14th AUGUST THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9am Holy Communion *modern* 11am Morning Prayer *modern*

WEDNESDAY 17th AUGUST MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 21st AUGUST THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9am Holy Communion *modern* 11am Holy Communion *modern*

WEDNESDAY 24th AUGUST ST BARTHOLOMEW

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 28th AUGUST THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9am Holy Communion *modern* 11am Morning Prayer *modern*

WEDNESDAY 31st AUGUST MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

A look ahead to September ...

SUNDAY 4th SEPTEMBER THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9am Holy Communion *traditional* 11am Holy Communion *modern*

WEDNESDAY 7th SEPTEMBER MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

THURSDAY 8th SEPTEMBER THE BIRTH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

7.30pm Holy Communion *traditional*

SUNDAY 11th SEPTEMBER THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9am Holy Communion *modern* 11am Morning Prayer *modern*

WEDNESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER HARVEST THANKSGIVING

9am Holy Communion *modern* 11am Holy Communion *modern*

WEDNESDAY 21st SEPTEMBER ST MATTHEW

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER BIBLE SUNDAY

9am Holy Communion *modern* 11am Morning Prayer *modern*

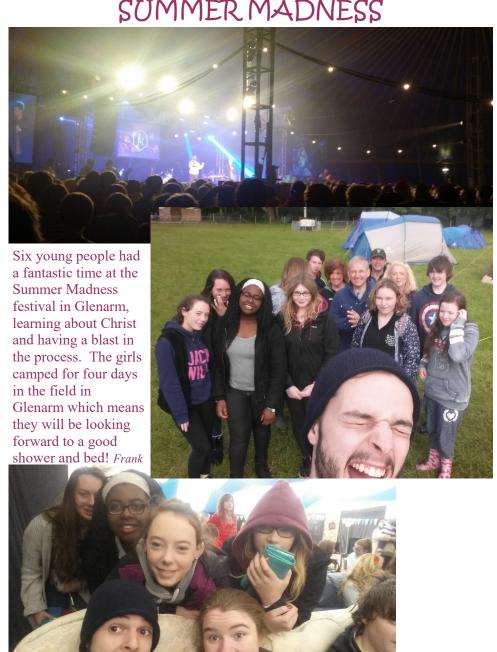
WEDNESDAY 28th SEPTEMBER MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

THURSDAY 29th SEPTEMBER ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

7.30pm Holy Communion *traditional*

Young people from St Peter's attend SUMMER MADNESS



July Diary Sunday Moi	I 「Y Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday Thursday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 St Thomas 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	4 10am-12.30pm Speech and Drama Summer Scheme	10am-12.30pm Speech and Drama Summer Scheme 10.30am Crafty Goodness	10am-12.30pm Speech and Drama Summer Scheme 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 11.30am Mission	7 10am-12.30pm Speech and Drama Summer Scheme	8 10am-12.30pm Speech and Drama Summer Scheme	9
10 Sea Sunday 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer	11	12 10.30am Crafty Goodness	13 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments	14	15	16

17 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	18	19 10.30am Crafty Goodness 8pm Compassionate Friends	10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 11.30am Fabric Committee	21	22 St Mary Magdalene 11am Holy Communion	23
24 St James the Apostle (transferred) 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy	25	26 10.30am Crafty Goodness 1pm Events Committee	27 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments	28	29	30
31 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning						

August Diary	Diary					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday Thursday		Friday	Saturday
	1	2 10.30am Crafty Goodness	3 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 11.30am Mission Committee	4	ц	9
7 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	∞	9 10.30am Crafty Goodness	10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments	11	12	13
14 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer	15 6.30-8pm Holiday Bible Club	16 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6.30-8pm Holiday Bible Club 8pm Compassionate Friends	17 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 6.30-8pm Holiday Bible Club	18 6.30-8pm Holiday Bible Club	19 6.30-8pm Holiday Bible Club	20

21 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	22	23 10.30am Crafty Goodness	St Bartholomew 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 11.30am Fabric Committee	25	26	27
28 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer	29	30 10.30am Crafty Goodness 1pm Events Committee	31 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge			

Family Night HARVEST JAZZ

Saturday 17th September 7pm

Back by popular demand—The Martello Jazz Band
Please make a note of this event in your diaries now and plan to come along on 17th September. Whilst this event is open to all, we would especially encourage you to bring along your children, hence the early start time. If you would like to bring along friends and relatives please feel free to do so. If you intend to be present, please add your name, as soon as possible, to the sheet at the back of the church. This will give us a guide to numbers for catering purposes. There will be a ballot on the evening and if you would like to donate items please give them to the Church Wardens. Tickets £12 (family ticket £25) include a hot supper, dessert and a glass of wine/soft drink.

Hope to see you there.

Social Team





This year the door-to-door collection raised £929.36.

The bread and cheese picnics raised £270.80 and other donations came to £100, making a grand total of £1300.16.

Many thanks to all collectors once again. Thanks also to Anne and Ernie for preparing the bread and cheese picnics. The total was slightly down from last year but this is still a very creditable total.

Well done everyone!

Jill Bradley

I would like to say a big thank you for the beautiful flowers and gifts which I received following my retirement as Honorary Secretary to the Select Vestry. It was so kind and truly overwhelming, leaving me lost for words. I am very grateful to Gareth Lamour, who has replaced me (as Hon Sec) thus allowing me to step down. Over



the years I have also been grateful to others on the vestry who have helped me, especially the Rector who put up with my mistakes and also Victor Davis, who was so helpful regarding difficult financial matters when my brain and memory failed me.

I now face a new challenge as part of a team involved in the Ministry of Prayer and I would ask for your prayers in this important new development.

Rosemary Johnston

I too was taken quite by surprise when I was called forward at the Parish Lunch to receive a presentation to mark 20 years of working in the Parish Office. And what a lovely surprise! Beautiful flowers and a very generous token for a great restaurant in town were given to me and I am most grateful. I can honestly say that in all the years I've worked here in the office I've never once not looked forward to coming to work. My 'bosses' have been so good to me (as have parishioners) and I have respected all of them in different ways and so it has been easy to be a 'servant of the system'. There have been some difficult times of course (namely the two vacancies) but with so many around to advise and support it all worked out very well in the end.

When the idea of having a secretary in the parish was first mooted I think some people were taken aback, but nowadays there is hardly a parish anywhere without some sort of secretarial support. In the first instance I said I would help out for a few months in order to simply get an office set up—when the contracts were being renewed earlier this year I was quite shocked to realise I'd been here for nearly 20 years!! In any case, it was very nice to mark this little milestone and I thank you again for doing so in such a kind and thoughtful way.

Anne Cromie

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 (2nd Tuesday in month)

6pm—7pm: Beaver Scouts 7pm—8pm: Cub Scouts

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

Wednesday

2pm—4pm: Bridge Club 6.30pm—7.45pm: PhysioPilates

7.30pm—9pm: Choir

Thursday

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

6pm—7pm: Rainbows 7pm—8pm: Brownies

7.30pm: Bible Study (2nd and 4th Thursday in month) 7.45pm: Historical Society (3rd Thursday in month)

8pm—9.30pm: Guides

Friday

10.30am—11.45am: PhysioPilates

11.30am: Bible Study (1st and 3rd Friday in month)

4.30pm—7.30pm: Speech and Drama

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

PARISHIONER CONTACT DETAILS

For speed of communication and to keep our records up to date please send your email address to Anne at stpeterandstjames@outlook.com. Also please don't forget to let us know if you move house, change your telephone number or change your email address. Thank you.

HALL USERS

Please let me know on what date your organisation is resuming for the Autumn season by emailing: stpeterandstjames@outlook.com or by ringing: 9077 6706 by 19th August.

9077 6706 <u>by 19th August</u> Thank you.

Anne Cromie

JULY/AUGUST FLOWER LIST

3RD JULY THE HALL FAMILY IN MEMORY OF THEIR FATHER
7TH AUGUST SANDRA HUTCHMAN IN MEMORY OF HER PARENTS
21ST AUGUST ANNETTE BEATTIE

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



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.

F	Holy Dusters	Cleaning Rota	
27th June—2nd July	Group 1	1st Aug—6th Aug	Group 6
4th July—9th July	Group 2	8th Aug—13th Aug	Group 7
11th July—16th July	Group 3	15th Aug—20th Aug	Group 8
18th July—23rd July	Group 4	22nd Aug—27th Aug	Group 1
25th July—30th July	Group 5	29th Aug—3rd Sept	Group 2

Please send material for the September issue of Parish Notes to:
Anne Cromie, Parish Office, St Peter's Church,
Fortwilliam Drive, Belfast BT15 4EB
or email: stpeterandstjames@outlook.com
by Monday 22nd August. Thank you.