

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

JUNE 2016

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

Parish Lunch

Sunday 19th June

GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE



RECTOR'S NOTES

SERVICES IN JUNE

There are three **Holy Days** in June: We celebrate St Columba at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th June, then the Birth of John the Baptist at 11am on Friday 24th June, and then St Peter at 10.30am on Wednesday 29th June.

As St Peter is one of our parish's two patron saints, we will celebrate more fully his life and witness on the Sunday nearest St Peter's Day. This Sunday is traditionally known as **Petertide**, and this year it falls on 26th June. In addition to Holy Communion at both services in the morning, there will be a special service of Choral Evensong at 6.30pm on that day. Our guest preacher in the evening is the Venerable Stephen McBride, Archdeacon of Dalriada, Vicar of Antrim, and a former Rector of St Peter's (1990—1995).

There is no Family Service in the Halls during June, July, or August. But on the 19th June we will have a shortened form of Morning Prayer at 11am, during which gifts for the **Sunday School** children will be distributed. The children will remain in the church throughout most of the service.

We will have **Evening services** at 6.30pm on Sunday 5th June, and on Sunday 26th June, but please note that there will be no such service on the third Sunday, 19th June.

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

I am very grateful to the members of our Leadership Team who met together last month in order to share their thoughts on how we can grow our congregation over the coming year. I was delighted with how many people attended the meeting, and I was even more delighted to see them taking ownership of our need to take action

to draw more people into the Christian community in St Peter's. I have prepared a report of the discussion and conclusions of that meeting, which will soon be made available to you, and then, towards the end of the summer, we will begin to implement their recommendations.

PETERTIDE COLLECTION

Last year the Select Vestry organised our first special collection for parish funds, with the intention that we would do this twice a year from now on, in addition to our regular Free Will Offering. Hopefully it was not a cumbersome financial burden on anyone, as it greatly helped us to achieve our aim of balancing our income and expenditure. The time has now come for our first special collection of this year.

During this month and the next, you will see repair work happening in and around our building; it is a reminder that we have bills to be paid, and all of us as members need to share in those costs. Alongside these Parish Notes you will find a collection envelope, for each of us to give as we are able. The Select Vestry suggestion is that each household donate perhaps £20 to £40. As an expectant father I am extremely aware that money is tight, but nevertheless I believe that God will bless our generosity.

FIRE EVACUATION DRILL

We are required to carry out an evacuation drill in order to make sure that we can all get out of the church and halls safely in the event that a fire breaks out during worship. As much as I wanted to set off the alarms without warning and cause a sense of panic to see what might happen, the Select Vestry has wisely informed me that the purpose is not to scare people, but rather simply to ensure that everyone can leave safely. Therefore, at the end of a service in the coming months, we will ask everyone to leave the premises

immediately, and to make their way to our fire assembly points: one is located in the front garden close to the road beside the entrance to the Lansdowne Hotel, whilst the other is located at the far end of the car park opposite the main entrance to the Halls. I will work with the Churchwardens and Sidespersons in the next few weeks in order to review our evacuation plan. As much as this might be a nuisance for all of us, it could save lives in the long run.

SELECT VESTRY LUNCH

This year the Select Vestry will be having an informal buffet lunch together in the Halls following the 11am service on Sunday 19th June, and they kindly invite the members of our congregation to join them. This is an opportunity for us to spend some social time together, strengthening existing friendships, and forming new ones. There is no cost for this lunch as we want to encourage as many as possible to join us, although anyone who wishes to do so may make a voluntary donation on the day. Please write your name on the sheet at the back of the church so we have a rough idea of the number of people attending.

ROTA OF INTERCESSORS

You should not have failed to notice that on most Sundays at 11am I call forward a member of our congregation to lead our prayers of intercession. Often, I ask certain individuals a few days in advance to lead the prayers, but I am now preparing a rota of Intercessors a few months in advance. If you would like your name added to the list then please let me know, and you will be asked to lead the prayers perhaps once every few months.

BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE TEAM

The Fabric & Furnishings Committee is compiling a list of names of members of our congregation who would be willing to lend a hand

when it comes to taking care of our premises. Naturally, the Holy Dusters already take turns to clean various sections of the inside of the church, and Noel and Annette Beattie kindly tend our garden, but we would also like to organise occasions during the summer months when a team of us go and clean/tidy/mend bits of the church that might get overlooked in the normal routine. Please write your name down on the sheet at the back of the church if you are interested.

SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING TEAM

Throughout the year we have several social events, which raise money for parish funds, and which also help us to get to know each other better. Behind the scenes of such events, there are people who set up tables and chairs, who put up posters, who help with catering, who clean up afterwards, and who generally assist in various ways necessary. If you would like to offer to help at such events, then please write your name down on the sheet at the back of the church. There is no expectation that you will be able to help at every event; we simply want to know who might be willing to lend a hand if they are available.

PILGRIMAGE 2017

The Rector of Stormont, the Rev'd Canon David Humphries, leads a pilgrimage to the Holy Land each year, spending around six days in Jerusalem, and five days in Galilee. The experience is profoundly memorable for religious, historical, archaeological, and social reasons. David has led the pilgrimage for many years, and he has tailored it to include all the main Biblical sites that you would want to see in Israel, from both the Old and New Testaments. There's even a boat cruise on the Sea of Galilee (see photograph over). Much more than a holiday, it is an experience that will bring the Biblical stories to life, and will give you first hand insight into the locations and events that you have read about since childhood. The

cost includes travel, accommodation, food, and the entrance fees into various religious sites. The pilgrimage takes place around this time of year, so we can imagine that the next one will be sometime in late April, May, or early June in 2017. If you are interested in finding out more information about this (with no obligation), then please let me know and we can ask David to come and speak to us about it.



ROOF REPAIR

In January 2015 we applied for a government grant in order to make much needed repairs to the roof over the South Aisle (on the right hand side of the building when you enter through the main doors). During the subsequent time, we have been working with our Surveyor, Chris McCollum, to iron out the practicalities of the repair work, and we have successfully sought and been given an increased grant from the government to cover the costs. All in all, including VAT, the government should give us a grant of around £26,000. We have also received generous support from the Marshal Beresford

Fund. The remainder of the costs will need to be paid for by ourselves, but hopefully this will be minimal. God willing, we will see the work commence this month. We will need to close off the South Aisle during this time, but this should not affect our worship or activities.

FIRE ALARM

A fire originating in the organ chamber of Dunmurry Parish Church at the beginning of this year caused extensive damage to its chancel. Much worse damage would have occurred if it had not been for the Rector's cat drawing his attention to it in the middle of the night. As a consequence, many parishes are now looking at fire prevention and detection. In St Peter's we have made the decision to install smoke detectors in the church building, which will feed into the same system that we currently use in the Halls. Sensors will be placed in the organ chamber, the clergy vestry, and in several places in the main body of the church. This will necessitate a week's work for the installation of the alarms. As with the roof repairs, this should not affect our worship or activities, although you might see scaffolding or equipment in the premises on one or two Sundays in the coming weeks.

SERMON SUMMARIES

On the **Fifth Sunday of Easter** (1st May) we considered how we humans tend to use visual clues in order to convey information to other people about organisations that we are involved in, or which we support. Most obviously a sports fan may wear the official jersey or colours of their favourite team. But children also wear clothes that identify their school, and many people wear uniforms of various descriptions that identify their workplace. These things help us to see who is a fellow member of our own social group (such as a school uniform) or they help us to recognise if someone has the authority to help us (such as in a shop). Many Christians also use

visual clues to identify themselves: some wear necklaces or chains with a little cross on them, whilst others have bumper stickers with a fish on it, and of course clergy can often be identified by the clerical collar. But Jesus made it clear that the primary identifier that someone is a Christian are not these outwards symbols, but the love that they have for other people. Active, practical, considerate, helpful, charitable love: this is how a Christian should be recognised.

On the **Sunday after the Ascension** (8th May) we had very recently voted in our Assembly elections. A week earlier, the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland had issued advice to its members encouraging them to vote for candidates who upheld the moral stance of that church. In light of that advice, many people on social media were complaining that politics and religion should be kept entirely separate, and therefore the Christian Church should not get involved. However, we considered how the Church and State have been linked together for nearly two thousand years, and how both have affected each other, often for the better. If it were not for the Church, there would not have been the political will to develop education, health care, and social services in this country. Likewise, the push for the equality of women in the political sphere naturally impacted upon the Church, and led to a similar push for women's equality in Christian ministry. Christians should therefore not be bashful about allowing their beliefs to shape and drive their political aspirations. Rather, we should be seeking to transform our community for the better, based on the Christian values which ensure that every person is treated with respect, fairness, tolerance, compassion, and mercy.

On **Pentecost** (15th May) we thought about one of the fundamental differences between Christianity and the other Abrahamic religions of Judaism and Islam. In those two religions, their religious texts contain commandments written down long ago, which adherents are required to obey. Although many people think that Christianity is the same, it is in fact very different. The difference is the Holy

Spirit. This is God's own Spirit at work within the heart and mind of every believer, giving them insight into how we should behave as God's children. So whereas the other religions impose outward laws upon their believers, the Holy Spirit writes God's laws in our hearts, giving us the discernment and strength to live as he would want us to.

On **Trinity Sunday** (22nd May) we heard about several examples of individuals whose two halves of their brain were disconnected for medical reasons. These individuals can develop split-brain phenomenon, in which the left-side and right-side of their brain both process and react to information in different ways, and this can lead to the different halves of their bodies acting in different ways, with regard for what the other half is doing. We thought about even if the two halves of a brain act independently of each other, there is still only one mind and one person. Humans are essentially two-in-one, when it comes to our brains. In the same way, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit can each act seemingly separately from each other, and yet they are still one God. Indeed, it would be more correct for us to say *He* is one God. When we pray to the Father, we are praying to God. When we read about Jesus in the Gospels, we are reading about God. When we feel empowered by the Holy Spirit, it is God working within us. There is only one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

LESSON READERS

The following parishioners are on the rota to read at the 11am Sunday services. If you are unable to read on your appointed Sunday, please contact the Warden of Readers, Forde Patterson, tel 93 365 900.

Date	First Reading	Second Reading	Third Reading
5th June	Caroline O'Kane	Wes Holmes	The Rector
12th June	Hilary Shields	Sandra Hutchman	Rev'd Will Murphy
19th June	Philip Williamson	Ashlee McCune	The Rector
26th June	Colin Bell	Forde Patterson	The Rector

CHURCH SERVICES

WEDNESDAY 10.30am	1st JUNE Holy Communion	MID-WEEK SERVICE <i>modern</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	5th JUNE Holy Communion Holy Communion Choral Evensong	THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>traditional</i> <i>modern</i> <i>traditional</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	8th JUNE Holy Communion	MID-WEEK SERVICE <i>modern</i>
THURSDAY 7.30pm	9th JUNE Holy Communion	ST COLUMBA <i>traditional</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am	12th JUNE Holy Communion Holy Communion	THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>modern</i> <i>modern</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	15th JUNE Holy Communion	MID-WEEK SERVICE <i>modern</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am	19th JUNE Holy Communion Morning Prayer	THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>modern</i> <i>modern</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	22nd JUNE Holy Communion	MID-WEEK SERVICE <i>modern</i>
FRIDAY 11am	24th JUNE Holy Communion	BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST <i>modern</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	26th JUNE Holy Communion Holy Communion Festal Celebration	PETERTIDE <i>modern</i> <i>modern</i> <i>traditional</i>

WEDNESDAY 10.30am	29th JUNE Holy Communion	MID-WEEK SERVICE (St Peter's Day) <i>modern</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am	3rd JULY Holy Communion Holy Communion	ST THOMAS <i>traditional</i> <i>traditional</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	6th JUNE Holy Communion	MID-WEEK SERVICE <i>modern</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am	10th JULY Holy Communion Morning Prayer	SEA SUNDAY <i>modern</i> <i>modern</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	13th JULY Holy Communion	MID-WEEK SERVICE <i>modern</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am	17th JULY Holy Communion Holy Communion	THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>modern</i> <i>modern</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	20th JULY Holy Communion	MID-WEEK SERVICE <i>modern</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am	24th JULY Holy Communion Holy Communion	ST JAMES THE APOSTLE <i>modern</i> <i>modern</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	27th JULY Holy Communion	MID-WEEK SERVICE <i>modern</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am	31st JULY Holy Communion Morning Prayer	THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>modern</i> <i>modern</i>

June Diary						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	2 10am Little Cherubs 7pm Parents' meeting for Rainbows, Brownies and Guides	3 10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Bible Study 4.30pm Speech and Drama	4
5 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion and Sunday School 6.30pm Choral Evensong	6 8pm Finance Committee	7 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs	8 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	9 St Columba's Day 10am Little Cherubs 7.30pm Holy Communion 8pm Bible Study	10 10.30am PhysioPilates 4.30pm Speech and Drama	11

12 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion and Sunday School	13 7.30pm Select Vestry	14 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs	15 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	16	17 10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Bible Study	18
19 Sunday School Day 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer followed by Parish Lunch	20	21 10.30 Crafty Goodness 8pm Compassionate Friends	22 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 11.30am Fabric Committee 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	23 <i>(Church Halls being used as a Polling Station)</i> 7.30pm Bible Study	24 Birth of St John the Baptist 10.30am PhysioPilates 11am Holy Communion	25
26 Petertide 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion 6.30pm Festal Choral Evensong	27	28 10.30 Crafty Goodness 1pm Events Committee	29 St Peter's Day 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates	30	1 Deadline for material to be with Anne for the July/August Parish Notes	

OLD RECTOR'S NOTES FROM 70 YEARS AGO

*(Written by the then Rector,
the Rev'd Chancellor R.S. Breene,
for the May—June 1946 issue)*



N.B. Covenant Scheme.

The Churchwardens and Select Vestry are most anxious that all subscribing parishioners who can do so will avail themselves of the Covenant Scheme in connection with the payment of Income Tax. A wider response to this suggestion would do much to secure our financial position. Ask Mr Griffin for information. We would here stress the fact that we

are mainly dependent, in the matter of paying our way, on the voluntary offerings, in collections and subscriptions, of worshippers in our Church. Are you a subscriber to the Church Expenses Fund? If you are, is your subscription really what it ought to be?

Public Worship. Attention is directed to our early morning services for young people and their friends on the first Sunday of the month. We should be very glad to see parents, and other elders, more regularly in Church with their families. No amount of precept can make up for defective practice. We appeal to all fathers and mothers to take this matter into the most serious and prayerful consideration. Their responsibility is very great. Their opportunities for building up the life and worship of the Church are unique.

St Peter's-tide. All offerings over the week-end will go to our Parochial Hall Fund. Much renovation will be needed after the wear and tear of the war years, and we hope that it may be possible to do something to extend the accommodation provided. Please give very generously. Costs are high and £100 does not go very far these days.

General Vestry. The following appointments were made at the Annual Meeting of Registered Vestrymen, or at the first meeting of the new Select Vestry – Rector's Warden, Major R.E. McClure, MBE, CA; People's Warden, Major D. O'R F. Haldane; Select Vestry, Miss Berwick, Professor F. Lloyd-Dodd, MBE, MA, DSC, Messrs G.W. Griffin, T.F. McGhee, J.A. Noblett, A.S. Megaw MA, R.R. Reid, R.H.R. Fry, Councillor J.H. Norritt, G.H. Dunlop, BCOMM, W.H. Dunlop and H. McManus; Hon. Treasurer, Mr T.F. McGhee; Assistant Hon. Treasurer, Mr G.W. Griffin; Hon. Secretary, Mr R.R. Reid. We are very glad to have two of our young returned service men for our wardens. Major McClure was Rector's Warden when the war broke out. We thank our retiring wardens for faithful and devoted service during their periods of office.

Week-day Services. Parishioners and friends please note that there is a celebration of the Holy Communion with Intercession, every Wednesday morning, in St Peter's at 11am. Help to keep the flag of the Faith flying. Please join us when you possibly can.

Sunday Schools. The question of whether to have a Sports Day or an Excursion this year is under consideration. There are difficulties either way. An announcement will be made as soon as possible.

Parish Debt. The Hon. Treasurer reported at the Easter General Vestry that the parish debt had at last been entirely liquidated, and that the accounts for the year 1945 had been closed with a credit balance. We all thank God from our hearts for the removal of the burden. We look forward with confidence to the future.

The Select Vestry invites you to our
Parish Lunch

Sunday 19th June following the 11am service

Please write your name on the sheet at the back of the church or ring the Parish Office to give us some idea of numbers wishing to attend.

BOOKS

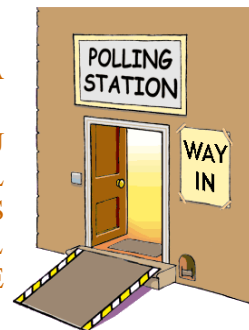
You may be aware that we have been selling books in the foyer of the hall. This has proved quite lucrative having sold quite a number to people who use our halls week by week. If you have any books which you no longer need we would love to have them. Please, however, no magazines, or 'technical' books. Just bring them to church or leave them in the hall foyer at any time. Maybe you need some holiday reading, so why not call down and browse? We are asking for a **minimum donation of 50p** per book, just drop your payment into the honesty collecting box.

Noel Beattie

NOTICE

OUR PARISH HALLS ARE TO BE USED AGAIN AS A POLLING STATION ON THURSDAY 23RD JUNE.

UNLESS YOU ARE GOING THERE TO VOTE, YOU ARE ASKED TO STAY AWAY FROM THE HALL THAT DAY FOR ANY NORMAL BUSINESS PURPOSES. HOWEVER, YOU ARE STILL WELCOME TO COME ALONG TO THE BIBLE STUDY IN THE CLERGY VESTRY AT 7.30PM.



THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES
ST PETER'S CHURCH, ANTRIM ROAD, BELFAST

The Rector and Select Vestry invite you to celebrate

The Feast of Saint Peter

Sunday 26th June 2016 at 6.30pm

FESTAL CHORAL EVENSONG

RECEPTION AFTERWARDS

Guest Preacher:

The Venerable Stephen McBride—former Rector of this parish

Everyone welcome

.....
: In addition to the invitation printed above, there is also a :
: loose copy within these Parish Notes—don't let it go to :
: waste—please pass it on to a friend. More invitations may :
: be obtained from the Parish Office and there are also some :
: extras lying on the table at the back of the church—help :
: yourself! Let's celebrate! :
:
:

MISSING CHAIR BASE

When the members of our craft group had finished refurbishing the hall chairs they discovered that they were one base short. The Church and hall were searched but it could not be located. We know some people took one home from time to time to unpick the staples but we think we have asked all of those concerned. If you know the whereabouts of this missing item perhaps you would get in touch with Paula Poulton.

Many thanks.

Noel Beattie

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.

TRAIDCRAFT

Fighting poverty through trade



Stall open
on
Sunday
12th June

JUNE FLOWER LIST

- 5TH WALKER FAMILY IN MEMORY OF ANNIE
 12TH JOAN LAWTHORP AND FAMILY IN MEMORY OF BOBBY
 19TH DAPHNE MCCLEMENTS FOR JANE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY
 26TH THE HALDANE FAMILY

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.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF
 THE SELECT VESTRY
 WILL BE ON
 MONDAY 13TH JUNE
 AT 7.30PM
 IN THE MINOR HALL**

Holy Dusters Cleaning Rota

30th May—4th June	Group 5
6th June—11th June	Group 6
13th June—18th June	Group 7
20th June—25th June	Group 8
27th June—2nd July	Group 1

*Please send material for the July/August issue of Parish Notes to:
 Anne Cromie, Parish Office, St Peter's Church,
 Fortwilliam Drive, Belfast BT15 4EB
 or email: stpeterandstjames@outlook.com
 by Friday 1st July. Thank you.*