

RECTOR'S NOTES

SERVICES IN JUNE

The first Sunday in June is **Pentecost**, also known as Whitsunday, when we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the early Church. As has become the custom, there is a joint service with our local Anglican parishes on Pentecost evening. This year the service will be at St Katharine's, commencing at 6.30pm. As St Katharine's is our closest neighbour and also our daughter church, I encourage St Peter's parishioners to attend.

Trinity Sunday is the 11th June, which marks the beginning of Ordinary Time, during which the liturgical colour is green. This long season in the Church's calendar lasts many months, right up until Advent.

There will be a celebration of Holy Communion at 11am on Friday 9th June for **St Columba**, and a traditional celebration of Holy Communion at 7.30pm on Monday 12th June for **St Barnabas**. We will not be commemorating St Mary Magdalene this year, as her feast day falls on a Saturday—such is the luck of the draw for certain saints!

St Peter's Day is the 29th June each year, but we will celebrate the life and witness of St Peter the day before on Wednesday 28th. For practical purposes we celebrate the founding of our parish on the Sunday beforehand. We call this Petertide Sunday, and it falls on Sunday 25th June. In

addition to two celebrations of Holy Communion in the morning, we will have our Festal Evensong at 6.30pm. Our guest preacher in the evening this year is the Rev'd Canon Mark Niblock (pictured), who is currently the Dean's Vicar in



St Anne's Cathedral. I try to choose preachers for this occasion who have a connection (no matter how tenuous) with St Peter's. In Mark's case, he was formerly the Bishop's Curate in Rathcoole Parish, which has some

stained glass windows from the Chapel of the Resurrection, from which St Peter's also received many beautiful items of furniture which are used in one of our side chapels.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OPEN CHURCH

For many centuries, churches remained open throughout the day to provide a quiet space for prayer and reflection, and to allow tourists to enjoy their beauty. But with increasing vandalism, thefts, and insurance premiums, most churches are now closed between services of worship. However, a building such as St Peter's, with its wonderful architecture and unique furnishings, located so close to the tourist attractions of Belfast Castle, Cavehill, and the Zoo, really ought to be open. Several parishioners have suggested that we aim to open the church for a couple of hours on

weekdays during July and August, whenever possible, perhaps from 12noon until 2pm. I completely agree with this idea, but it will require two volunteers each day to stay in the building for those two hours. During those hours, you could simply relax and have a cup of tea, or you might decide to do a bit of light cleaning around the church, or you could greet visitors and answer any questions they might have. Really, all you need to do is be a presence on site. This is a venture worth trying, particularly as this summer is predicted to be fairly warm, which might result in more footfall past the church. On some days a small crowd of tourists might venture in, whilst on other days nobody might appear. I am going to put a sheet at the back of the church with spaces for each weekday, and if you would like to help on any day, then please sign up as often as you like.

PARISH ELECTION RESULTS





Following our General Vestry meeting, I am pleased to announce that Daphne McClements and Sandra Hutchman (both pictured) were re-appointed as our **Churchwardens**. They will be assisted by our

four **Sidespersons**: Dora Hanna, Brian Johnson, Ian McManus, and Hilary Shields. Victor Davis and Quintin Mulligan, last year's **Glebewardens**, were also re-appointed for the forthcoming year.

The Select Vestry, which is the management committee of the parish, consists of myself, the two Churchwardens, the two Glebewardens, and the following twelve representatives: Noel Beattie, Tom Campbell, Peter Coiley, Margi Crawford, David Cromie, Brian Davison, Brian Johnson, Rosemary Johnston, Ashlee McCune, Karl O'Connor, Anne Roberts, and Tony Swan. The first item of business of the new Select Vestry was to appoint an Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, with Gareth Larmour Ashlee McCune being re-appointed, respectively. membership of the subcommittees of the Select Vestry has also changed slightly. Our Events & Organisation Committee consists of the two Churchwardens, and Annette Beattie, Heather Swan, Dora Hanna, and myself. The Fabric & Furnishings Committee consists of the two Glebewardens, Colin Bell, Daphne McClements, Tony Swan, The Finance & Administration Committee and myself. consists of the Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and David Cromie, Victor Davis, and myself.

Once every three years, we elect representatives to attend the **Diocesan Synod**. They are Gareth Larmour, Anne Roberts, and Jim Tweedie. Their Supplementals Daphne McClements, and Ashlee McCune. Again, once every three years we elect Parochial Nominators, who will represent the parish in the event that the parish needs a new rector. They are Marie Burrowes, David Cromie, Victor Davis, and Barbara Greenlees. Their Supplementals are Sandra Hutchman, Rosemary Johnston, Ashlee McCune, and Jim Tweedie.

SERMON SUMMARIES

On **Rogation Sunday** (Sunday 21st May) I told you that ever since I could remember, I have always had some sense of the presence of God. I described it as being like knowing that someone you love and trust is in the same room as you, but quiet and out of sight. Not every Christian has this sense of the presence of God, but that does not make them any less Christian than those who do. All it means is that they have not been given a particular gift of the Holy Spirit, called the Gift of Faith. This gift enables its recipients to have an assurance of God's presence, and it should be used—as all spiritual gifts should—for the benefit of others; in this case, for the benefit of those who might be doubting, or whose faith is wavering. In such circumstances, it is important to have someone who is able to say with conviction that God is real, that his promises are true, and that his Spirit is with us. The Gift of Faith is just one of many gifts, which range from prophecy and discernment, through to exhortation and teaching, to helping and mercy, with many others. These gifts are given to individual Christians, so that when everyone uses their gifts together for the common good, the Church will grow. After the service, I handed out a questionnaire that can help you to determine what your particular spiritual gifts might be. Given the specific nature of the questions, and because of general scepticism about the Holy Spirit, not every parishioner will want to complete the questionnaire, but for those who do, and who are willing to discern how God is calling them to be of service in his Church, it is a very useful tool. If you completed the questionnaire but have not yet returned it to me, please do as soon as possible. Or if you would like to take one, there are copies at the back of the church.

On the **Sunday after the Ascension** (Sunday 28th May) we remembered those innocent victims, including many children, of the recent terrorist attacks in Manchester and in I considered how, regardless of the particular motivation for such attacks, the source of all such violence comes from the same dark, evil place. It is a place that exists inside each of us, and yet although most of us will not unleash such violence upon others as was experienced in those attacks, from the same place come the anger, bitterness, and resentment that all of us can be guilty of sometimes. But whether or not we as individuals choose to restrain that darkness within us, or to unleash it, the mere existence of that darkness is the reason why Christ came into the world. Because if we need a saviour, then evidently we need something to be saved from. And that "something" is the darkness that I'm talking about. Christ came into the world to expose that darkness that exists to some degree in each one of us, and to shine his light into us, in order to dispel that darkness. So, through his teaching, he showed us how not to succumb to the temptations of becoming angry and bitter and resentful and vengeful. By his non-resistance to mockery, torture, execution, he showed us that we cannot fight fire with fire. And by his resurrection and his ascension, he showed that physical death in this world cannot contain or suppress the power of God. In other words, Christ showed humanity how to live in the light, and how to avoid the darkness. But until Christ has final victory over that darkness, evil things—whether trivial things that we wouldn't consider to be "evil", or major atrocities such as happened in Manchester—they will continue to be committed by human beings, and we will be affected by them, whether as perpetrators, or intended victims, or innocent bystanders. That's why St Peter writes "do not be

surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you." And then the words that should be familiar to anyone who enjoys the traditional service of Compline: "Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour." We have to be constantly aware of the propensity that each of us has towards evil, and we have to recognise the hold—like an addiction—that it can have over some people. And we need to pray that God will strengthen our resolve never to become so consumed by that darkness that we ourselves become perpetrators of evil. And whilst none of us—I hope—would ever involve ourselves in terrorism, evil can express itself in so many more subtle ways, when we are angry, bitter, or resentful. We need protection from this darkness. This is why our Lord Jesus prayed, "Holy Father, protect them ..." as we heard in our Gospel reading today, and it's why in the Lord's Prayer he taught us to pray "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." These should not be words that we say by rote, without thinking. We must take them seriously, and be genuine in our prayer that God would protect us from the effects of evil in the world, and from becoming ourselves a perpetrator of evil.

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.

June	First Reading	Second Reading	Third Reading	Intercessor
4th	Hilary Shields	Ashlee McCune	The Rector	Alan McCracken
11th	Philip Williamson	Sandra Hutchman	The Rector	Marie Burrowes
18th	Daphne McClements	Forde Patterson	The Rector	Ashlee McCune
25th	Colin Bell	Anne Roberts	The Rector	David Cromie

Christian Aid 2017

The total raised by the parish this year is £1,695, which was made up as follows:-

Door to door collection £842 "A Bag for a Life" £743 Other donations £110

This is almost £400 more than last year—largely due to Anne and Ernie Stewart's very original and thought-provoking idea of "A Bag for a Life"! A big thank-you to Anne and Ernie for this project, which—in Anne's own words—reminded us all that "what we are in life is often down to luck!" Judging from the success of their project most of us do realize how lucky we are in our part of the world. A big thank you again to our faithful band of collectors. Collecting often seems like a thankless job, but as you can see from the total, it is worthwhile in the end. Once again, thanks to all who helped in any way, and well done!



PARISH REGISTER

Holy Matrimony

Signifying unto us the mystical union that is between Christ and his Church.

David Farnbank and Sara Shields,

East Lancashire Road, Swinton, Manchester on 28th April 2017

Koly Baptism

"Born again of water and the Holy Spirit ..."

Darcey Susan Mary Logan

daughter of Jonathan Logan and Stephanie Kill,

West Circular Road

on 28th May 2017

CHURCH SERVICES IN JUNE

WHITSUNTIDE

SUNDAY4th **JUNE**THE DAY OF PENTECOST
9am
Holy Communion
traditional, said, Resurrection

11am Holy Communion *modern, sung, Nave*

6.30pm Rural Deanery Joint Evening Service in St Katharine's Church

WEDNESDAY 7th JUNE MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern, said, Resurrection*

FRIDAY 9th JUNE ST COLUMBA

11am Holy Communion *modern, said, Resurrection*

ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 11th JUNE TRINITY SUNDAY

9am Holy Communion *modern, said, Resurrection*11am Morning Prayer *modern, sung, Nave*6.30pm Compline *traditional, said, St James*

MONDAY 12th JUNE ST BARNABAS (transferred)

7.30pm Holy Communion *traditional, said, Chancel*

WEDNESDAY14th JUNEMID-WEEK SERVICE10.30amHoly Communionmodern, said, Resurrection

SUNDAY 18th JUNE THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9am Holy Communion *modern, said, Resurrection*11am Holy Communion *modern, sung, Nave*6.30pm Evening Prayer *modern, said, St James*

WEDNESDAY 21st JUNE MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern, said, Resurrection*

SUNDAY 25th JUNE PETERTIDE SUNDAY

9am Holy Communion modern, said, Resurrection 11am Holy Communion modern, sung, Nave 6.30pm Festal Evensong traditional, sung, Nave

WEDNESDAY 28th JUNE ST PETER (transferred)

10.30am Holy Communion *modern, said, Resurrection*

CHURCH SERVICES IN JULY

SUNDAY 2nd JULY THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9am Holy Communion traditional, said, Resurrection

11am Holy Communion *modern, sung, Nave*

MONDAY 3rd JULY ST THOMAS

7.30pm Holy Communion *traditional, said, Chancel*

WEDNESDAY 5th JULY MID-WEEK SERVICE
10.30am Holy Communion modern, said, Resurrection

SUNDAY 9th JULY THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9am Holy Communion *modern, said, Resurrection*11am Morning Prayer *modern, sung, Nave*

WEDNESDAY 12th JULY MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern, said, Resurrection*

SUNDAY 16th **JULY THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY** 9am Holy Communion *modern, said, Resurrection*

11am Holy Communion *modern, sung, Nave*

WEDNESDAY 19th JULY MID-WEEK SERVICE
10.30am Holy Communion modern, said, Resurrection

SUNDAY 23rd JULY ST JAMES (transferred)
9am Holy Communion modern, said, Resurrection

11am Holy Communion traditional, sung, Nave

WEDNESDAY 26th JULY MID-WEEK SERVICE
10.30am Holy Communion modern, said, Resurrection

SUNDAY 30th JULY THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9am Holy Communion *modern, said, Resurrection*11am Morning Prayer *modern, sung, Nave*

June Diar	ary					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday Thursday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				10am Little Cherubs 2.30pm Parish Prayers 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies	2 10.30am PhysioPilates 4.30pm Speech and Drama	4
The Day of Pentecost 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion and Sunday School 6.30pm Rural Deanery Joint Service in	7.30pm Finance Committee	10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs	10.30am Holy 10am Little Communion and Cherubs refreshments 6pm Rainbows 11.30am Mission 7pm Brownies Committee 7.30pm Bible 5tudy 6.30pm 8pm Guides PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Bible Study 8pm Guides	St Columba 10.30am PhysioPilates 11am Holy Communion 4.30pm Speech and Drama	70
St Katharine's Church						

17 le es es	24 es	S S
16 10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Bible Study 3.30pm Pilates (beginners) 4.30pm Pilates (intermediate) 8pm Priory Singers Concert	10.30am 10.30am PhysioPilates 3.30pm Pilates (beginners) 4.30pm Pilates (intermediate)	3.30pm Pilates (beginners) 4.30pm Pilates (intermediate)
15 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.45pm Historical Society 8pm Guides	10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Bible Study 8pm Guides	29
14 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm Pilates 7.30pm Choir	10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 11.30 Fabric Ctte 2pm Bridge 6.30pm Pilates 7.30pm Choir	St Peter (transferred) 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm Pilates 7.30pm Choir
13 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs	20 10.30 Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs	27 10.30 Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs
St Barnabas (transferred) 7.30pm Holy Communion 8pm Select Vestry	19 Deadline for material to be with Anne for July/August Parish Notes	26
Trinity Sunday 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer & Sunday School (tea/coffee) Traidcraft stall 6.30pm Compline	9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion and Sunday School 6.30pm Evening	Petertide 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion & Sunday School (tea/coffee) 6.30pm Festal

Each year our members vote to support six charities. This year our second chosen charity is the RNLI.

The RNLI—the charity that saves lives at sea

A backward glance

On 28 February 1823, Sir William Hillary made an impassioned appeal to the nation, calling for a service dedicated to saving lives at sea. But Hillary's noble idea fell on deaf ears—the Admiralty refused to help. Sir William Hillary's vision for a service dedicated to saving lives at sea became a reality at a public meeting in Bishopsgate's trendy London Tavern on 4 March 1824. King George IV graciously granted the Royal prefix to the Institution's name, making it the Royal National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck. On 5 October 1854, the Institution—the RNLI—as it is known today. Since then they have saved over 140,000 lives at sea.

The RNLI philosophy remains the same as it was when it was founded in 1824: to provide their lifesaving service using volunteers wherever possible, with voluntary donations supplying the funds needed to do so.

As a charity, they depend on people like you to help them meet the cost of saving lives at sea. Volunteer lifeboat crew members give their time for free, but they need training, well-maintained equipment, lifeboats and shore facilities. Your support means their crews can save lives quickly, safely and effectively. Lives at sea are saved by providing a 24-hour lifeboat search and rescue service, seasonal lifeguards, water safety education and initiatives, and flood rescue response. Every day of every year, people of all backgrounds get into danger in the water. It's a problem that they are here to tackle. They are here to explain the risks, share safety knowledge, and rescue people whose lives are in danger. They are here to work with others to make the water a safer place for everyone and to prevent tragedies on and offshore. And with your support, they always will be.

Our lifeboat fleet

The RNLI relies on the safest, most reliable lifeboats and modern stations from which to launch from. There are over 350 lifeboats in the RNLI fleet based at stations around the UK and Ireland. Between them.

RNLI lifeboats cover 19,000 miles of coastline and some busy inland stretches of water. They also have over 100 lifeboats in their relief fleet, ready to temporarily replace station lifeboats whenever they require regular or emergency maintenance. RNLI lifeboats are divided into two categories: all-weather lifeboats and inshore lifeboats. The different lifeboat classes within these categories means they can reach people in all kinds of situations and locations.

The type of lifeboat a station has depends on geographical features, the kind of rescues the station is involved in and the cover provided by neighbouring lifeboat stations. All-weather lifeboats (ALBs) are capable of high speed and can be operated safely in all weather conditions. They are inherently self-righting after a capsize and fitted with navigation, location and communication equipment. Inshore lifeboats (ILBs) usually operate closer to shore, in shallower water, near cliffs, rocks and even in caves. There are also have inshore rescue hovercraft for areas that are inaccessible to conventional RNLI lifeboats such as mud flats and river estuaries. When lives are on the line, speed counts. That's why they want the entire RNLI all-weather lifeboat fleet to be capable of 25 knots by 2019. It cost over £177.3M to run our lifesaving service in 2016.

In 2015 our £168.1M running costs were divided up into:

- Lifeboats, property and equipment 45%
- Lifeboat service 20%
- Legacies and donations 17%
- Lifeguard rescue 11%
- Safety, education and awareness 6%
- International 1%.



If you would like to support the parish's charitable giving to the RNLI, then we encourage you to give cash, or write a cheque payable to "The Parish of St Peter and St James, Belfast", and bring it to church or to the parish office in an envelope marked "RNLI".

You may also make a donation directly to the charity by cheque, text, or over the phone:

Cheques made payable to Royal National Lifeboat Institution may be sent to RNLI, West Quay Road, Poole, BH15 1HZ;

Donations by Text—Text RNLI 70300 to donate £5;

Donations by phone may be made to 0300 300 9990.

Peter Gray

Quiz Sheet—WinnersFirst Prize

Liz McClintock

Liz has kindly donated her £10 prize to the parish defibrillator fund.

Second Prize

Anne and Derek Noblett

Anne and Derek have also kindly donated their £5 prize to parish charities. Thank you to Annette Beattie who organised this fund-raiser and to all who participated by purchasing quiz sheets. £136 was raised.

PARISH DEFIBRILLATOR

Please don't forget we are collecting any bits of gold you may have lying around—broken necklaces, single earrings, etc—anything you no longer want. The money raised will be used to buy a defibrillator for the parish. We've already raised over £900 through this scheme with just a relatively small amount of gold so please keep looking!





Children in Crossfire have just opened recruitment to take part in their Celtic Mountain Challenge 1st-3rd September 2017. This exciting challenge allows you to climb 4 of the island's most scenic peaks in just 48 hours, all while fundraising for Children in Crossfire to help them change the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable children. To find out more please contact Connor on 07775439227 or email him at connor.malone@childrenincrossfire.org".

JUNE FLOWER LIST

11TH ANNA MCALPINE

18th The Hennessy family in memory of

CONOR JAMES

25TH THE HALDANE FAMILY

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. 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

29th May—3rd June-----Group 1
5th June—10th June -----Group 2
12th June—17th June-----Group 3
19th June—24th June-----Group 4
26th June—1st July-------Group 5

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 25th June 2017 at 6.30pm

FESTAL CHORAL EVENSONG

RECEPTION AFTERWARDS

Guest Preacher:

The Rev'd Mark Niblock, Dean's Vicar, St Anne's Cathedral

Everyone welcome

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

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 (1st Thursday in month)

6pm—7pm: Rainbows 7pm—8pm: Brownies

7.30pm—9pm: Bible Study (2nd & 4th Thursday in month) 7.45pm—9.30pm: Historical Society (3rd Thursday in month)

8pm—9.30pm: Guides

Friday

10.30am—11.45am: PhysioPilates

11.30am—12.30pm: Bible Study (1st and 3rd Friday in month)
3.30pm—4.30pm: Physiotherapy led Mat Pilates (beginners)
4.30pm—5.30pm: Physiotherapy led Mat Pilates (intermediate)

4.30pm—7.30pm: Speech and Drama

For more information on the parish 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.

AFTER CHURCH REFRESHMENT

Light refreshments will be served after the 11am service on Sunday 11th June by the 'Holy Dusters' and on Sunday 25th June by the '9 o'clockers'.



THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SELECT VESTRY WILL BE ON MONDAY 12TH JUNE AT 8PM IN THE MINOR HALL



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

Parish Notes in colour!

There are full colour versions of Parish Notes on our website.

Visit

www.stpeters.connor.anglican.org and click on "Parish Notes".

The Priory Singers

Friday 16th June at 8pm

St Peter's Church

All welcome

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 Monday 19th June. Thank you.