

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST



PARISH NOTES

MARCH 2014



Rector:

The Rev'd Brian Lacey

St Peter's Rectory, 17 Waterloo Park South, Belfast, BT15 5HX

Tel 9077 7053

GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE



RECTOR'S NOTES

ORGANIST

Once again I express my gratitude to Prof Desmond Hunter, Julian Moller, and Col Frank Hewitt, for presiding at the organ during the last few months. I am very pleased to say that the organist vacancy has now come to an end, as during February our parish worship entered into a new and exciting phase when we welcomed Robert Thompson as our Organist and Choir Master. Many of you will know Robert as he has already served in St Peter's twice before! He rejoins our parish community here after many happy years as Organist in St Molua's (Stormont). I am personally delighted by his appointment, as he has the experience, talent, and enthusiasm to rejuvenate the choral aspects of our worship in St Peter's. Please pray for Robert, that his ministry would be a blessing upon all of us, and that he would be supported and encouraged in the years to come.

BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study group met for the first time on Thursday 13th February in the Rectory. With tea and cake served (not by me!) the twelve of us began working our way through the Letter of James, reaching only verse eight of the first chapter by the end of the hour! We considered who James was – the half-brother of our Lord Jesus, and yet he does not indicate this in his letter, perhaps as an example of humility, preferring to refer to himself as simply "a servant of God". James begins his letter by imploring Christians to endure (or be patient, according to the Authorised Version) whenever we are facing difficult times. The group considered how difficult this is for us in practice! James then tells Christians to ask God for the gift of wisdom; we discussed what "wisdom" means: being inspired/experienced to make the right decisions. James

goes on to tell us to “believe and not doubt at all” whenever we pray; from this we discussed the nature of doubt in the Christian life, drawing on the story of Doubting Thomas. The group will meet again on: 13th March, 27th March, 10th April, 8th May, 22nd May and 26th June.

This group is at the maximum size for such a Bible Study, as any more people would inhibit personal discussion. However, if any parishioners would like to form a second group, perhaps at a different time of day, then please speak to me.

VOLUNTEERS DURING WORSHIP

During 2014 the focus of our nascent Growth Strategy will be on our existing worship. I say “existing” because at a later date we will begin to think about how we can expand the variety of worship that we offer to the local community, but for the time being we will look to make our current services as good as they can be. As part of this, we need to consider the various roles that exist within our worship, and reach out to more people in order to encourage them to become involved in our services beyond simply being a member of the congregation. There are quite a number of roles available, which I’ve listed below with a brief explanation of their purpose. Perhaps over the coming years you would consider taking on one of the roles!

The **Choir** leads the singing at our 11am services, wearing a Cassock and Surplice. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 8pm until around 9.30pm. They process in front of the clergy before and after services. We are blessed with a very talented and dedicated Choir in St Peter’s, and its ministry is a vital one for our parish worship. If you enjoy singing, then now is the time to join, as we have a new Organist, Robert Thompson. Please speak to him if you are interested, as I’m sure he would be delighted to hear from you.

The **Church Wardens** are constitutionally responsible for maintaining peace and order during services of worship. They ensure that the Church is open for worship, and oversee the heating, lighting and sound system. They count the number of people present. They organise the collection of the offering, present it to the clergy, and record the loose plate collection and the number of FWO envelopes. They process in front of the clergy at the beginning and end of services. They ensure that members of the congregation have everything they need to worship, such as a Prayer Book and a Hymnal. In addition to these duties, the Church Wardens also serve on the Select Vestry. Daphne McClements and Sandra Hutchman are our current Church Wardens, so please chat with them about their duties to see if it is something you would like to consider doing in the future.

The **Crucifers** carry the Cross in front of the Choir during processions. Noel Beattie is currently our only Crucifer, so I would like two more for when he is unavailable, both of whom will be provided with a Cassock and Surplice as worn by the Choir.

The **Eucharistic Assistants** help the clergy prepare the Holy Table at the 11am service during the Offertory Hymn, and are licensed by the Bishop to administer the chalice. Stanley McDowell is our Senior Eucharistic Assistant, so we need two more parishioners to deputise for him. They would need to learn the words recited to each person receiving the wine during the administration. As Holy Communion is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of each month, anyone taking on this role would need to be in Church on those days.

The **Readers** read the Bible Lesson(s) at services, except the Gospel during Communion, which is read by the clergy. This is a particularly important ministry, as the Bible readings determine everything else in our worship.

The **Sacristans** perform the duties of the Church Wardens for the service at 9am on Sundays, and set up the Communion Table for the next service at 11am if it is Holy Communion. They ensure that someone is appointed to read the first Lesson at the 9am service, and generally assist the clergy as required. Marie Burrows, Heather and Tony Swan, and Margie Crawford currently fulfil these roles, although we would of course appreciate the help of others during times when the Sacristans are unavailable. This role would naturally necessitate being at the Church for the 9am service!

The **Sunday School Teachers** supervise the children during Sunday School each week, under the direction of our Sunday School Leader, Paula Poulton, who is assisted by Thelma Cross and Janice Knowles. In order to be able to provide a Sunday School/Creche facility throughout the year for any children who wish to avail of it, we need to develop a list of around ten parishioners each of whom would be willing to help perhaps three times per year. No preparatory work would be necessary, only the ability and willingness to engage with the children and to ensure that they are safe and content.

In addition to those existing roles, I intend to initiate a few additional roles in order to involve more people:

The **Acolytes** will carry candles during processions during “high church” services, particularly the first Sunday of the month. There are special albs to be worn, although this might be changed in the future to the same robes worn by the Choir. I would appreciate four people volunteering for this role, who would need to be regular at Church on the first and fourth Sundays of each month.

The **Family Welcomers** will ensure that families entering the Church for worship are greeted and informed regarding Sunday School and Creche provisions. It would be good if we could have

five pairs of Welcomers, each consisting of a parent and child, who would work on a rota basis.

The **Intercessors** will lead the prayers during the “Prayers of the People” at Communion, and the “Occasional Prayers” at Morning Prayer. Initially the Intercessors will read prayers that I will write, but after some in-house training, they will be encouraged to write their own. I have already begun to ask parishioners to lead the prayers at the 9am service, and shortly will do the same at the Mid-Week Communion. It will not be until the summer that this will happen at our 11am service, but in the meantime please do let me know if this is something that would be interested in doing.

The **Sidespersons** will deputise for the Church Wardens during their absence at the 11am service. They will also assist them as may be directed, including helping to collect the offering, counting the number of people present, and generally assisting the clergy as required. I am looking for four people (two men and two women) to take on this role for a year.

LESSON READERS FOR MARCH

The following parishioners are on the rota to read the first Lesson 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.

2nd March	Moya Bell	Exodus 24: 12-18
9th March	Barbara Greenlees	Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7 <i>and</i> Matthew 4: 1-11
16th March	Philip Williamson	Deuteronomy 32: 1-9
23rd March	Jim Wilson	Exodus 17: 1-7 <i>and</i> John 4: 5-42
30th March	Paula Poulton	2 Corinthians 1: 3-7 <i>and</i> Luke 2: 33-35

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Finance Committee	Monday 3rd March in the Rectory at 7.30pm
Select Vestry	Monday 10 th March in the Rectory at 7.30pm
Fabric Committee	Wednesday 19th March in the Clergy Vestry at 11.30am

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 7th March

2.30pm

This year our local event
will be held in

Rosemary Presbyterian Church.

I would be delighted if you could
attend and everyone is welcome.

If you would like to sing in the choir
please speak to me for further details.

Anne Stewart

WWDP Parish Representative



World Day
of Prayer



LADIES' GUILD

On Tuesday 11th March at 2.30pm we will be 'Meeting our Rector'.



What does he like for breakfast? Why is he so besotted with cats? What was he like as a little boy? So many questions—so little time. We would be very pleased if you could join us. You might make some interesting discoveries.
Looking forward to seeing you there.

Anne Stewart, Hon Sec

Date for your diary ...

PRIORY SINGERS

directed by Robert Thompson

A Sequence for Lent and Passiontide

Friday 11th April 8pm in the church



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.*

SUNDAY 2nd MARCH

Transfiguration Sunday

9am	Holy Communion*	2 Peter 1: 16-21	Matthew 17: 1-9
11am	Holy Communion	Exodus 24: 12-18	Matthew 17: 1-9
6.30pm	Choral Evensong*	2 Kings 2: 1-12	Matthew 17: 9-23

“And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.”

The gospel passage today recounts the supernatural experience of Jesus’ closest friends on the mountain top, as they saw him for the first time in his heavenly glory. We will consider if there are times in our lives when we too can understand the true nature of who Jesus is.

WEDNESDAY 5th MARCH

Ash Wednesday

10.30am	Holy Communion	2 Cor 5: 20b—6: 10	Luke 15: 11-32
7.30pm	Lent Service	Isaiah 1: 10-18	Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the penitential season of Lent. In addition to the usual celebration of Holy Communion in the morning, there will be a special evening service which I hope most parishioners will attend in order to prepare themselves spiritually for Lent.

SUNDAY 9th MARCH

The First Sunday in Lent

9am	Holy Communion	Romans 5: 12-19	Matthew 4: 1-11
11am	Morning Prayer	Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7	Matthew 4: 1-11

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.”

Today we will consider the various ways in which we are tempted to act in our own self-interest, and how we can withstand such temptation.

WEDNESDAY 12th MARCH

Mid-Week Service

10.30am	Holy Communion	Jonah 3: 1-10	Luke 11: 29-32
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SUNDAY 16th MARCH St Patrick (transferred)

9am	Holy Communion	2 Corinthians 4: 1-12	John 4: 31-38
11am	Holy Communion	Deuteronomy 32: 1-9	John 4: 31-38
6.30pm	Choral Eucharist*	2 Corinthians 4: 1-12	Luke 6: 20-31

"I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour"

Of course St Patrick's Day is on the 17th March! But in order to ensure that more parishioners have the opportunity to reflect upon this important Saint's life, we will transfer the celebration to this Sunday.

WEDNESDAY 19th MARCH St Joseph of Nazareth

10.30am	Holy Communion	Romans 4: 13-18	Matthew 1: 18-25
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SUNDAY 23rd MARCH The Third Sunday in Lent

9am	Holy Communion	Romans 5: 1-11	John 4: 5-42
11am	Morning Prayer	Exodus 17: 1-7	John 4: 5-42

"You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews."

The gospel reading today is the account of Jesus speaking with the Samaritan woman at the well. We will consider the rich variety of meaning in the passage: the nature of Jesus' ministry, the extent of his mission, and the relevance of Samaritan and Jewish worship in the context of true faith.

TUESDAY 25th MARCH The Annunciation of our Lord

7.30pm	Holy Communion*	Hebrews 10: 4-10	Luke 1: 26-38
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WEDNESDAY 26th MARCH Mid-Week Service

10.30am	Holy Communion	Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9	Matthew 5: 17-19
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SUNDAY 30th MARCH Mothering Sunday

9am	Holy Communion	Colossians 3: 12-17	John 19: 25-27
11am	Family Service	2 Corinthians 1: 3-7	Luke 2: 33-35

The main morning service will be specifically tailored to the younger members of our congregation. We will explore the various meanings of Mothering Sunday, with a special emphasis this year on the meaning of "Mother Church".



St. Patrick's Day

will be celebrated on
Sunday 16th March
Holy Communion
at 9am and 11am
Choral Eucharist
at 6.30pm.



Mothering Sunday



Family Service
11am 30th March

THE CHOIR

We are delighted to welcome Barbara Greenlees into the stalls once again and we wish her every blessing and happiness in this act of service.

On a sad note, we very much regret the passing of Eunice Howell who sang with us for many years and who also acted as our librarian. Eunice, you will be remembered in our singing and the heavenly choir will be enriched by yours.

PARISH CALENDAR CAPTION COMPETITION

This month please think of a caption which is **funny** and which suits the **March** picture.

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!!





TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Every second Sunday
of the month
during coffee time after
the 11am service.

COFFEE IN CHURCH

Thank you to members of the Badminton Club who will provide refreshments after the 11am service on 9th March.



LITTLE CHERUBS—MUMS AND TOTS GROUP

Volunteers wanted! Would you be free for a while on Thursday mornings to give a hand at the **Mums and Tots** group? Even half an hour to put some toys away at the end or to set them up beforehand at about 9.30am would be a great help. The group meets between 10am and 11.30am every week and there are lots of little jobs available—if you think you could help out please ring Norleen—tel 9077 6131—she will be delighted to hear from you.

Social Committee Events for 2014

March 28—Bridge Drive Evening—fund-raiser for the Parish

Kindly organised by Mrs Florie Greer. If you are interested in this evening please contact Florie on tel 9077 6812.

June 29—Titanic Bus Tour—a family afternoon

This event will follow a Parish Lunch to celebrate St Peter's Day. Numbers for the ride will be restricted to 66 passengers; pickup will be from outside St Peter's. This will be an event suitable for all the family.

Oct/Nov—Harvest Moon Hoedown—a family evening

Watch this space (date to be confirmed) - it promises to be a fun evening! More details to follow later in the year.

These events are principally for the enjoyment of parishioners although the Bridge Drive is also a fund-raiser. We try to ensure there is something suitable for all, if you have any ideas for future events, or indeed if you would like to organise something please contact a member of the Social Committee, we would love to hear your ideas.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Sandra Davison, Annette Beattie, Anne Stewart, Sandra Hutchman
Social Committee*

March Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion & Sunday School 6.30pm Choral Evensong	3 7.30pm Finance Committee 8pm Badminton	4 7.15pm Indoor Bowls	5 <i>Ash</i> Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion and light lunch 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Lent Service 8pm Choir Practice	6 10am Little Cherubs 11am Ladies' Badminton 6pm Rainbows 6.45pm Brownies 7.30pm Theology Group 8pm Guides	7 10.30am PhysioPilates	8
9 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer & Sunday School (tea/coffee)	10 7pm Compassionate Friends (volunteers night) 7.30pm Select Vestry 8pm Badminton	11 2.30pm Ladies' Guild 7.15pm Indoor Bowls	12 10.30am Holy Communion and light lunch 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 8pm Choir Practice	13 10am Little Cherubs 11am Ladies' Badminton 6pm Rainbows 6.45pm Brownies 7.30pm Bible Study 8pm Guides	14 10.30am PhysioPilates	15

16 St Patrick (transferred) 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion & Sunday School 6.30pm Choral Eucharist	17 8pm Badminton	18 7.15pm Indoor Bowls 8pm Compassionate Friends	19 10.30am Holy Communion and light lunch 11.30am Fabric Committee 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 8pm Choir Practice	20 10am Little Cherubs 11am Ladies' Badminton 6pm Rainbows 6.45pm Brownies 8pm Guides 7.45pm Historical Society	21 10.30am PhysioPilates	22
23 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer & Sunday School	24 8pm Badminton	25 The Annunciation of our Lord 7.15pm Indoor Bowls 7.30pm Holy Communion	26 10.30am Holy Communion and light lunch 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 8pm Choir Practice	27 10am Little Cherubs 11am Ladies' Badminton 6pm Rainbows 6.45pm Brownies 7.30pm Bible Study 8pm Guides	28 10.30am PhysioPilates 7.30pm Bridge Drive	29
30 Mothering Sunday 9am Holy Communion 11am Family Service	31 8pm Badminton					

ORGANISATIONS - TIMETABLE

Sunday

11am–12noon: Sunday School

Monday

8.00pm–11.00pm: Badminton Club

Tuesday

2.30pm–4.30pm: Ladies' Guild (2nd Tues in month)

7.15pm–10.30pm: Indoor Bowling Club

8pm–10pm: Compassionate Friends (3rd Tues in month)

Wednesday

2pm–4pm: Bridge Club

6.30pm–7.45pm: PhysioPilates

8pm–10pm: Choir

Thursday

10am–11.30am: Little Cherubs Baby and Toddler Group

11am–1pm: Ladies' Badminton Club

6pm–7pm: Rainbow Guides

6.45pm–8pm: Brownies

8pm–9pm: Guides

7.30pm Bible Study (2nd and 4th Thurs in month)

7.30pm Theology Group (1st Thurs in month)

7.45pm Historical Society (3rd Thurs in month)

Friday

10.30am–11.45am: PhysioPilates

*For more information please
contact appropriate personnel
listed on back page.*

PARISHIONER CONTACT DETAILS

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

**Our Church Family ...
Please let us know
about any happy events
or exciting news
happening within our
parish family—good
news is always worth
sharing!**

Holy Dusters Cleaning Rota

24th February—1st March	Group 2
3rd March—8th March	Group 3
10th March—15th March	Group 4
17th March—22nd March	Group 5
24th March—29th March	Group 6

MARCH FLOWER LIST

2ND CHRIS AND MARY BENTHAM
9TH ROSEMARY HINDS IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND
16TH IAN MCMANUS IN MEMORY OF HIS WIFE
23RD MARIE BURROWES IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER

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

PARISH REGISTER

"At rest in the Lord."

Sarah Filor

Lansdowne Care Home

Died 31st January 2014

Robert Hutchings

Duncairn Gardens

Died 6th February 2014

Roselawn Crematorium on 11th February 2014

Eunice Howell

Parkdean Nursing Home

Died 14th February 2014

Roselawn Crematorium on 19th February 2014

NORTH BELFAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thursday 20th March
7.45pm, Minor Hall

Speaker:

Edward McCamley

Topic: Belfast:

Emigration and

Immigration

Everyone welcome

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 April issue of Parish Notes to:
Anne Cromie, Parish Office, 17 Waterloo Park South, Belfast BT15 5HX
or email: stpeters@connor.anglican.org
by Wednesday 19th March. Thank you.*