

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST



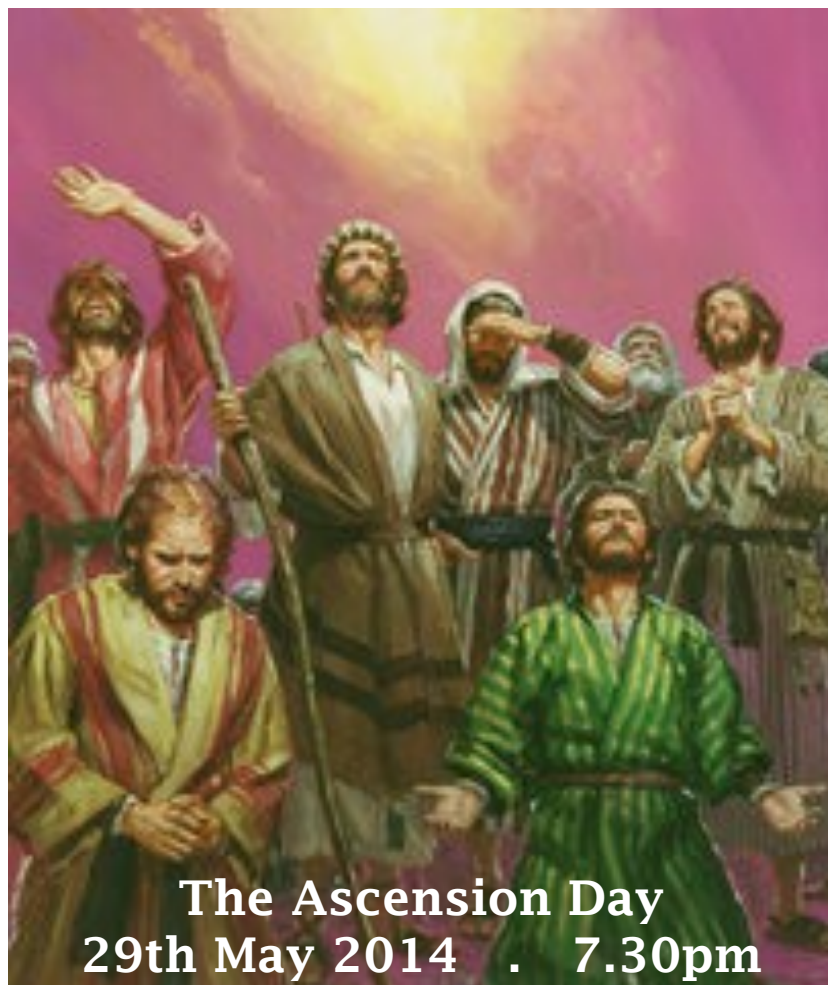
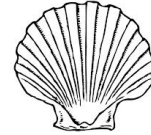
PARISH NOTES

MAY 2014

Rector:

The Rev'd Brian Lacey

St Peter's Rectory, 17 Waterloo Park South, Belfast, BT15 5HX
Tel 9077 7053



The Ascension Day
29th May 2014 . 7.30pm

GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE

RECTOR'S NOTES

PARISH OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

On 28th April we had our Easter Vestry meeting, at which our officers and representatives for the forthcoming year were elected/appointed.

Sandra Hutchman and Daphne McClements will serve as our Church Wardens, with responsibility for ensuring that the Church is open for worship, and for maintaining order during our services. Four Sidespersons will assist and deputise the Church Wardens primarily at the 11am Sunday services: Peter Coiley, Derek Graham, Forde Patterson and Hilary Shields.

Victor Davis and Jim Wilson will serve as our Glebe Wardens. Essentially a “glebe” is property owned by the Church. They are therefore responsible for overseeing the maintenance of our buildings.

The following twelve representatives were elected, who alongside myself, the Church Wardens and the Glebe Wardens, will form the Select Vestry: Noel Beattie, Peter Coiley, Margi Crawford, David Cromie, Rosemary Johnston, Margaret Macbeth, Stanley McDowell, Ian McManus, David Nairn, Hilary Shields, Tony Swan and Philip Williamson. We sincerely appreciate the work over the past year of two members of last year's Select Vestry who decided not to stand for re-nomination this year: Wes Holmes and Ernie Stewart.

Every three years the General Vestry must also elect Parochial Nominators and Diocesan Synodspersons. The four Parochial Nominators are responsible for interviewing and selecting a new Rector if the need should arise. They are David Cromie, Barbara Greenlees, Sandra Hutchman and Philip Williamson.

We are permitted to send three Representatives to the Diocesan Synod, of whom one must be aged 35 or under. We have elected Wes Holmes and Jim Tweedie (who is currently an Honorary Secretary of the Diocesan Synod).

Immediately following the meeting of the General Vestry, the new Select Vestry met to appoint an Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, who shall continue to be Rosemary Johnston and David Nairn, respectively.

THEOLOGY GROUP

In our first session in March we learnt about how the Bible was written: how different authors for different reasons wrote Scripture over the course of a thousand years, and how these were edited and re-edited and compiled by others. In April, our second session focussed on God's role in the writing, editing, compilation and translation of Scripture. We considered how various individuals and churches have understood the nature and meaning of "Divine Inspiration". On one hand, the author Dan Brown wrote "The Bible is the product of man... not of God." On the other hand, theologian Wayne Grudem wrote that the Bible is "God's own words." Between these two extremes, Karl Barth wrote that Scripture is "the Word of God... but this does not mean that it is not also a very human book."

The group then discussed:

- 1 Where does the Bible derive its authority from?
- 2 Do we need to accept everything in the Bible, or can we pick and choose what to accept?
- 3 Does the Bible tell a coherent story about God's saving power in the world?
- 4 Are there any disagreements and contradictions between the various books of the Bible?
- 5 If a common belief held by Christians is not found written in the Bible, then should that belief be rejected?
- 6 Is it possible to question and critique the composition and content of the Bible without undermining it?
- 7 Did the human authors of the Bible believe that what they were writing was inspired by God?
- 8 Is there any difference between saying that the Bible is "truthful" and that it is "factually correct"?

During the third session of the Theology Group we discussed the spiritual impact of scripture in our lives. Parishioners shared their favourite bible passages and talked about how they were affected by them. We also examined how scripture reveals to us God's plan for the salvation of the world.

BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study group met on 27th March and 10th April. Over the two sessions, we continued reading through the Letter of James, from chapter 2:5 until 4:17.

We began by reminding ourselves of James' condemnation of the rich, who would "pass away like the flower of a wild plant" (1:10b). Now James writes "God chose the poor people of this world to be rich in faith" (2:5b). James evidently had a deep-seated problem with rich people; in the context of the time, perhaps he was referring particularly to rich people who accrued their wealth by ill-gotten means, and those who did not use their wealth to help others who were in need. James is also very concerned not only that poor people be helped in practical ways, but also that they be shown the same respect as the wealthy. His instruction is that we should "Speak and act as people who will be judged by the law that sets us free." What he means is that we behave in a loving way towards all people. James clearly believed that such love should have a practical expression, rather than being mere words. He wrote, "Suppose there are brothers or sisters who need clothes and don't have enough to eat. What good is there in you saying to them, 'God bless you! Keep warm and eat well!' – if you don't give them the necessities of life?" (2:16) The Christian faith therefore must be more than believing in God, and trusting in Jesus. We must also obey God's commandment to help people, otherwise "what good is it for you to say that you have faith if your actions do not prove it?" (2:14).

In the third chapter, James urges us to consider the danger of "the tongue". He is of course referring to what we say: "Words of thanksgiving and cursing pour out from the same mouth" (3:10). He

then suggests that our words express our thinking: “A salty spring cannot produce sweet water” (3:12). As Christians, therefore, we must speak only as Christ would. But we must also go beyond mere words. James tells us that we must be “peaceful, gentle, and friendly; full of compassion... free from prejudice and hypocrisy” (3:17).

Naturally this is not easy to achieve, as even James admits: “The Spirit that God placed in us is filled with fierce desires” (4:5). He suggests that we must quell these desires, which cause us to want what we do not have. James considers this to be a worldly attitude, and urges us to “resist the devil... and come near to God” (4:7).

James then tells us not to criticize other Christians. He tells us that if we do so, then we are judging each other, and yet God is the only one who has the authority to judge for he has given us his commandments.

Towards the end of the fourth chapter, James then asks us to consider how fleeting our life is: “You are like a puff of smoke, which appears for a moment and then disappears” (4:14b). Knowing this, he considers it to be a form of boasting for us to make plans for tomorrow without saying “If the Lord is willing, we will live and do this or that” (4:15).

At our next Bible Study we will complete the Letter of James and start studying John’s three letters.

ASCENSION DAY

Thursday 29th May at 7.30pm

On Ascension Day we will celebrate Holy Communion at 7.30pm

On Ascension Day we commemorate the bodily ascension of Jesus into heaven. It is traditionally celebrated on a Thursday—the fortieth day of Easter. The feast is universally celebrated, ranking with the feasts of the Passion, of Easter and Pentecost.

Annual Reports

are available at the back of 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 4th MAY

The Third Sunday of Easter

9am	Holy Communion*	1 Peter 2: 19-25	John 10: 11-16
11am	Holy Communion	Isaiah 43: 1-12	Luke 24: 13-35
6.30pm	Choral Evensong*	1 Corinthians 3: 10-17	John 2: 13-22

“Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.”

The gospel reading at 11am tells the story of two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus and their encounter with a stranger who explains to them how the Old Testament gives an overview of God’s plan for the salvation of the world through Christ. They then discover that the stranger is no other than the risen Jesus Christ himself! During the service Rowan O’Connor will be baptised, and we will consider how Jesus walks with us on our own paths through life.

WEDNESDAY 7th MAY

Mid-week Service

10.30am	Holy Communion	Acts 8: 1b-8	John 6: 35-40
---------	----------------	--------------	---------------

SUNDAY 11th MAY

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

9am	Holy Communion	1 Peter 2: 19-25	John 10: 1-10
11am	Morning Prayer	Nehemiah 9: 6-15	John 10: 1-10

“Jesus said, ‘I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly’.”

Continuing our exploration of the meaning of Jesus’ mission and ministry, today we will consider Jesus’ description of himself as “the gate for the sheep”. During the 11am service Ethan Coiley will be baptised. We will consider how some people over the years have sought to lead us away from Jesus, and the necessity for us to come to God only through him.

WEDNESDAY 14th MAY

Saint Matthias

10.30am	Holy communion	Acts 1: 15-26	John 15: 9-17
---------	----------------	---------------	---------------

SUNDAY 18th MAY**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

9am	Holy Communion	1 Peter 2: 2-10	John 14: 1-14
11am	Holy Communion	Deuteronomy 6: 20-25	John 14: 1-14
6.30pm	Choral Evensong*	Zechariah 4: 1-10	Luke 2: 25-38

“Jesus said, ‘Whoever has seen me has seen the Father’.”

The gospel passage in the morning services challenges us to consider the relationship between God the Father and God the Son. We will therefore think about how Jesus understood his own identity within the concept of the Trinity.

WEDNESDAY 21st MAY**Mid-week Service**

10.30am	Holy Communion	Acts 15: 1-6	John 15: 1-8
---------	----------------	--------------	--------------

SUNDAY 25th MAY**Rogation Sunday**

9am	Holy Communion	1 Peter 3: 1-22	John 14: 15-21
11am	Morning Prayer	Isaiah 41: 17-20	John 14: 15-21

“Jesus said, ‘I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever’.”

In the previous week we discussed the relationship between God the Father and God the Son. This week we will examine their relationship with God the Holy Spirit.

WEDNESDAY 28th MAY**Mid-week Service**

10.30am	Holy Communion	Acts 17: 15—18: 8	John 16: 12-15
---------	----------------	-------------------	----------------

THURSDAY 29th MAY**The Ascension Day**

7.30pm	Holy Communion*	Acts 1: 1-11	Mark 16: 14-20
--------	-----------------	--------------	----------------

LESSON READERS FOR MAY

The following parishioners are on the rota to read at the 11am Sunday services. If you are unable to read on your appointed Sunday, please swap with another reader and inform the Rector’s Secretary.

4th May	Karl O’Connor	Isaiah 43: 1-12
11th May	Peter Coiley	Nehemiah 9: 6-15 and John 10: 1-10
18th May	Dora Hanna	Deuteronomy 6: 20-25
25th May	Wes Holmes	Isaiah 41: 17-20 and John 14: 15-21

PARISH SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Patronal Festival Parish Outing

Sunday 29th June

Open bus trip around our city

12.30pm *Light lunch in the parish hall after morning worship
celebrating St Peter's Day*

2pm *Titanic open deck bus trip lasting 1½-2 hours
(18 miles around the city)*

Tickets *£10 (family ticket £25) available from members of
the Social Committee or from the Parish Office*

Another event for your diary ...
... a family evening

**HARVEST MOON
HOEDOWN
Saturday
8th November**



More details to follow

Ladies' Guild

Unfortunately our speaker for May is ill and therefore will be unable to attend. Instead I thought it would be nice if all the girls could get together for an end of term party.

Please join me on Tuesday 13th May at 2.30pm. You may like to wear a pretty party dress and nice white ankle socks but most importantly you must make sure you have a nice clean hankie in your sleeve!

Looking forward to seeing you there.

*Anne Stewart, Hon Sec
tel 9096 6597*



Many Happy Returns

Guess who has got her bus pass?
Only our Girl Guide leader,
Lorraine Gillespie.



Before Easter, Lorraine's girls, plus Lee Kennedy from Brownies, and other leaders had a surprise birthday party for her, presenting her with a tent cake (!) and many balloons etc.

Lorraine has been taking the Guides in St Peter's for 39 years this month, so she certainly deserves a big THANK YOU from all of us for her dedication and worthwhile work and this is a good time to do that.

We would also like to take this opportunity to make a plea for more leaders. We really do need help as we have a list of girls waiting to join not only our Guides, but our Brownies and Rainbows as well. This is, of course, excellent news and testament to the terrific job being done by our existing leaders but it is disappointing that we are not able to cater for all those girls who want to join. Please consider seriously if you could give our leaders a hand. Thank you.



Heather Swan

May Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10am Little Cherubs 11am Ladies' Badminton 6pm Rainbows 6.45pm Brownies 7.30pm Theology Group 8pm Guides	2 10.30am PhysioPilates	3
4 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion & Sunday School 6.30pm Choral Evensong	5	6	7 10.30am Holy Communion and light lunch 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 8pm Choir	8 10am Little Cherubs 11am Ladies' Badminton 6pm Rainbows 6.45pm Brownies 7.30pm Bible Study 8pm Guides	9 10.30am PhysioPilates	10

11 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer & Sunday School (tea/coffee) <i>Bread & cheese picnics for sale</i>	12 7.30pm Select Vestry	13 2.30pm Ladies' Guild	14 10.30am Holy Communion and light lunch 11.30am Fabric Committee 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 8pm Choir	15 10am Little Cherubs 11am Ladies' Badminton 6pm Rainbows 6.45pm Brownies 8pm Guides 7.45pm Hist Soc	16 10.30am PhysioPilates	17
18 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion & Sunday School 6.30pm Choral Evensong	19	20 8pm Compassionate Friends	21 10.30am Holy Communion and light lunch 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 8pm Choir	22 Church halls being used as a Polling Station 7.30pm Bible Study	23 10.30am PhysioPilates	24
25 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer & Sunday School	26	27	28 10.30am Holy Communion and light lunch 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 8pm Choir	29 <i>Ascension Day</i> 10am Little Cherubs 11am Ladies' Badminton 6pm Rainbows 6.45pm Brownies 7.30pm Holy Communion 8pm Guides	30 10.30am PhysioPilates	31

PARISH REGISTER

Christian Burial

Elizabeth "Terry" Mann

ex Shandarragh Park

Roselawn Crematorium on 28th March 2014

Beth Murray

Downview Park West

Roselawn Crematorium on 17th April 2014

**Christian Aid Week 2014: give people a future without fear.
War tears lives apart. You can help put them back together.**



For a growing number of people across the world, the horror of war is part of daily life.

The good news is that individuals, communities and churches can make a real difference. Last year, a magnificent 20,000 churches across the country helped raise £12m for Christian Aid Week. Thanks to your efforts, many more people can look forward to a future free from poverty. To find out how you can help during this year's Christian Aid Week please contact our Christian Aid parish representative—Jill Bradley—on tel no 9084 2998.

As always on Christian Aid Sunday, Bread and Cheese Picnics will be available at the back of the church for you to buy and take home. This annual fund raising effort for Christian Aid raises considerable sums so please don't forget your purse/wallet on SUNDAY 11TH MAY and then please give generously, go home, relax and enjoy your lunch. No preparation and no dishes—the perfect Sunday lunch!!!

OBITUARY—BETH MURRAY

Although not a regular church attender, Beth was certainly involved in the community at St Peter's through her membership of the Indoor Bowling Club, the Ladies' Badminton Club, and the PhysioPilates group. All who knew her found her to be warm, kind, and fun. At the beginning of this year she was admitted to hospital, and was re-admitted on several occasions. Most recently she was under the care of the NI Hospice, located at Whiteabbey. Within the last month her health deteriorated rapidly, and finally she passed away on Sunday 13th April. Despite not overtly expressing a faith, she did find comfort in prayer and in the words of Scripture during pastoral visits. Her funeral service was held entirely at Roselawn Crematorium on Thursday 17th April. We remember her husband Wilson, her daughter Louise, and the wider family in their grief.

IN MEMORIAM

Kathleen Moller

Kathleen "Kay" Moller was known to many in St Peter's as the wife of former Curate Assistant, the Rev'd Brian Moller and the mother of one of our temporary organists in recent months, Julian Moller. She unexpectedly took ill in February, and following a diagnosis, deteriorated rapidly, passing away on 15th March. Her funeral service was held in Bangor Abbey, and was well attended by friends representing many parishes with which Kay had a connection. During the eulogy St Peter's was mentioned frequently; although it has been fifty years since Brian and Kay lived in the parish, it evidently played an important part in her life, and particularly in the early years of her marriage to Brian. The connection with the parish continued throughout the years, and Kay was with us, even recently, for various services.

We express our deepest sympathy to her husband Brian, and her sons Jeremy and Julian.



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 Ladies' Badminton Club who will provide refreshments after the 11am service on 11th May.



PARISH CALENDAR CAPTION COMPETITION

The theme for **May** is 'A verse from your favourite Eucharist hymn'.

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!!



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 about term times etc 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

28th April—3rd May	Group 3
5th May—10th May	Group 4
12th May—17th May	Group 5
19th May—24th May	Group 6
26th May—31st May	Group 7

MAY FLOWER LIST

4TH JILL BRADLEY IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER
18TH THE NOBLETT FAMILY
25TH ANONYMOUS

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

NOTICE

OUR PARISH HALLS ARE TO BE USED AS A POLLING STATION ON THURSDAY 22ND MAY. UNLESS YOU ARE GOING THERE TO VOTE, YOU ARE ASKED TO STAY AWAY FROM THE HALL AND THE CHURCH THAT DAY FOR ANY NORMAL BUSINESS PURPOSES, eg, FLOWER ARRANGING, CLEANING etc. THANK YOU.



NORTH BELFAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM

Thursday 15th May

7.45pm

Minor Hall

Speaker:

John Gray

Topic: History of Linen

Hall Library

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