

RECTOR'S NOTES

CHURCHWARDENS AND SIDESPERSONS

Since Easter you should have noticed some different faces welcoming and assisting the congregation during the 11am services. Each year we appoint or elect two Churchwardens and their four deputies, who are called Sidespersons. Constitutionally their role is "to ensure that, during the time of Diving Service, peace and order are maintained in the church, the church porch and churchyard, and to prevent any disturbance which may hinder the officiating member of the clergy or the congregation." However, long gone are the days when they would use their wands to hit unruly people in the pews! Nowadays they greet people who come to church, hand out Books of Common Prayer and Hymnals, oversee the collection, turn on the heating and lighting, and generally assist the clergy during services.

I served for two years as People's Churchwarden in St Thomas' on the Lisburn Road in south Belfast, and I recall for the first few months feeling totally overwhelmed by the practicalities of it. Observing from the pews, the role looks quite undemanding, but I remember worrying that if I stood in the wrong place, or looked the wrong way, or moved at the wrong time, then the whole world would come to an end. That is the natural reaction of someone who wants to do a job well, especially given that such a role is a real honour.

Here in St Peter's, Daphne McClements was re-appointed as one of the two Churchwardens, but she has now been joined by Ian McManus. Ian has served as Churchwarden in the past, but not for some time, and as I've made some changes to what happens during services, it will naturally take a few weeks to remember (or learn) what needs to be done. Of the four Sidespersons, Sandra Hutchman and Hilary Shields carried out these duties last year, so they should know what they are doing, but Ashlee McCune and Tom Campbell are coming fresh to the role, and for them it will take some time to settle into way of things. So please be patient with them, pray for them, and whenever possible help Daphne, Ian, Sandra, Hilary, Tom, and Ashlee.

HOLY WEEK

Despite an increasing dearth of Holy Week services in many Church of Ireland parishes, I was very pleased to see a good attendance at each of our own weekday services at such an important time of year. The week culminated with Tenebrae on Good Friday evening, which retold the passion story from St John's Gospel. During the week I felt something of the horror and darkness of the last few days of Jesus' earthly life, and was brought sufficiently spiritually low in order to fully appreciate and celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Day! I hope that the parishioners who came to worship in St Peter's during Holy Week experienced those same feelings of sadness and elation.

On Maundy Thursday and Good Friday there were children's activities organised by Frank our Family Worker, and Paula our Sunday School Superintendent. There were teaching, games and crafts on Thursday, and we thought about "stages of the Cross" on the Friday. From these occasions, and others recently, and I am confident that God is blessing us through our children's ministry. So please keep praying that the children would grow in faith, and pray that we as a parish would have everything we need in order to help their spiritual development.

CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY

We will have our Family Service in the Halls on the second Sunday of the month, which will be led by Frank. As it is Rogation Sunday, the theme will be planting seeds. Please come along and join your children or grandchildren for this service. Whilst they are in the Halls, there will be a service of Morning Prayer in the main church.

There are quite a few special days this month. In addition to Rogation Sunday on the 10th, we celebrate the Ascension on Thursday 14th, then St Matthias on Friday 15th, then Pentecost on Sunday 24th and Trinity Sunday on the 31st. Please do your best to come along to these services. I particularly urge you to worship on Pentecost: alongside Christmas Day and Easter Day, this is one of the three most important days in the Christian calendar.

During the evening of Pentecost there will be a joint service in St Ninian's (on the Whitewell Road, Newtownabbey). That church is due to close at the end of the summer, so it is fitting that parishes from the North Belfast Rural Deaney should come together on this occasion to let God be praised within its walls before closure. There will be a short series of talks given on how God has empowered ordinary people to do extraordinary things, and choirs from the area will work together to lead worship. The Rural Dean in his lack of wisdom has even asked me to preach, but don't let that be a reason to stay away! It should be a lovely and inspiring evening, so please make a special effort to be there.

DAMAGE TO HALL CHAIRS

In recent months at least ten of the red chairs in the halls have been damaged. In some instances there are small holes in the covering of the seats, and in others much of the covering and the underlying foam have been removed. Undoubtedly these acts of vandalism are

being carried out by children (either purposefully or accidently). However, the responsibility for any damage to our property rests with the adults supervising them. Given the significant number of chairs damaged, we will have to take action against any organisation which permits this vandalism to occur. Could I therefore urge all leaders to keep a watchful eye on children using the seats, and to immediately report the beginnings of any damage that they notice: it would be better to fix a small hole for free, than to have to pay for unreported significant damage. In the first instance, please speak with Anne Cromie in the Parish Office, or if she is unavailable, contact either me or one of the Glebewardens—Victor Davis or Quintin Mulligan.

CHRISTIAN AID

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev'd Justin Welby, has sent a letter to all Anglican clergy in Britain and Ireland, reminding us that Christian Aid Week will take place in the second week of May. Let me quote at length from what he has written:

"This year, Christian Aid Week confronts one of the greatest injustices of all times: discrimination against women. The statistics are shocking and Christian Aid's partners around the world are clear that it needs urgent attention. Half of the world's population are women and yet they comprise the majority of those living in poverty today. Despite the fact that women do the majority of the world's agricultural work, less than 20% of landholders globally are women. Around the world, women are paid less than men—in most countries, women earn on average only 60-75% of men's wages. At every level, from household to the global stage, women are poorer, disadvantaged, more vulnerable. Around the Anglican Communion, churches are responding to God's call to end oppression and suffering by working to lift women out of poverty and situations of abuse and

injustice... Please join us to pray, act and give for our global neighbours this Christian Aid Week—for a world that looks more like God's kingdom."

I urge you to take heed of the Archbishop's challenge to us, and to help in whatever financial and practical ways you can, in order to help eradicate poverty throughout the world.

TRAINING FOR HALL USERS

Throughout this year we will commence annual training for the leaders of organisations who use our halls. This training will focus primarily on health & safety (including fire safety), and child protection. In the coming weeks and months the leaders will receive an invitation to this training. If this applies to you please do your best to attend. Please note that in some instances attendance is a contractual obligation! Of course we recognise that people are busy, so we will keep the training as short as possible, but we also recognise that this is vitally important for the wellbeing of all people who use our halls.

ROOF REPAIR FUND

At the end of last year, the government announced that it would give a one-off grant to help with urgent roof repairs to listed places of worship. With the closing date on 31st January, we had very little time to apply, so Victor Davis (glebewarden) and I approached Chris McCollum (surveyor) with a view to preparing all necessary information. He told us to apply for £16,000 to repair the roof over the South Aisle (to the right of the building if you are sitting in the church looking towards the front). The floor in that area becomes quite wet whenever the rain is heavy and the wind is blowing in a certain direction.

I am pleased to say that our application has been successful, and that the government will pay most of the funding that we requested. We will now work with Chris McCollum to move this project forward, which will probably mean the removal of the South Aisle roof during the summer months. At this stage I do not know how much of a disruption this will cause us, but hopefully this will be kept to a minimum.

The government has set up a dedicated website at **www.lpowroof.org.uk** for further information about this grant scheme.

CHURCH'S MINISTRY OF HEALING

When we give money to support the Church, we do so in order to help support the mission, ministries, and worship, of the whole Church, rather than simply paying the bills of this parish. Of course most of our Free Will Offerings will cover our own parochial expenses, but it is entirely right and proper that we should support external organisations which fulfil the mission of the Church on our To that end, the Select Vestry nominated thirteen charities, of which the General Vestry voted to financially support six this year. The first of those six charities to receive a cheque of £500 is the Church's Ministry of Healing. The Rev'd Dr Pat Mollen joined us for Holy Communion on 19th April, and explained that much of our gift will go towards helping pay the cost of new premises in East Belfast, from where they offer counselling, training, and more simply a place for quiet spiritual reflection. Their work is vitally important in an increasingly secular world which seeks to denigrate Christian healing and spiritualty. Their website cmh-themount.org/wp has more information about their various ministries; I urge you to have a look, and even to go up to their new premises and see how they can help you work through the difficulties that we all face in our Christian life.

CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAY 3rd MAY THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9am Holy Communion traditional 11am Holy Communion modern 6.30pm Choral Evensong traditional

WEDNESDAY 6th MAY MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 10th MAY ROGATION SUNDAY

9am Holy Communion modern 11am Morning Prayer modern 11am Family Service (Halls) modern

WEDNESDAY 13th MAY MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

THURSDAY 14th MAY THE ASCENSION DAY

7.30pm Holy Communion *traditional*

FRIDAY 15th MAY ST MATTHIAS

11am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 17th MAY THE SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION

9am Holy Communion modern 11am Holy Communion modern 6.30pm Choral Evensong traditional

WEDNESDAY 20th MAY MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 24th MAY THE DAY OF PENTECOST

9am Holy Communion modern 11am Holy Communion modern 6.30pm Rural Deanery Service in St Ninian's

WEDNESDAY 27th MAY MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 31st MAY TRINITY SUNDAY

9am Holy Communion *modern* 11am Holy Communion *modern* MONDAY 1st JUNE THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

7.30pm Holy Communion *traditional*

WEDNESDAY 3rd JUNE MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 7th JUNE THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9am Holy Communion traditional 11am Holy Communion modern 6.30pm Choral Evensong traditional

TUESDAY 9th JUNE ST COLUMBA
7.30pm Holy Communion traditional

WEDNESDAY 10th JUNE MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

THURSDAY 11th JUNE ST BARNABAS 7.30pm Holy Communion traditional

SUNDAY 14th JUNE THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9am Holy Communion modern 11am Morning Prayer modern 11am Family Service (Halls) modern

WEDNESDAY 17th JUNE MID-WEEK SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 21st JUNE THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

WEDNESDAY 24th JUNE THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

10.30am Holy Communion *modern*

SUNDAY 28th JUNE ST PETER (transferred)

9am Holy Communion modern 11am Holy Communion modern 6.30pm Choral Evensong traditional

May Dia	iary					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday Thursday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Trinity Sunday 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion and Sunday School					1.0.30am PhysioPilates 4.30pm Speech and Drama	2 9am Aurora Dance Classes
9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion and Sunday School 6.30pm Choral	4 7.30pm Finance Committee 8pm Badminton	5 6.30pm Beaver Scouts	6 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	7 POLLING DAY	10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30 Bible Study 4.30pm Speech and Drama	9 9am Aurora Dance Classes

Rogation Sunday 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer/Family Service (tea/	7.30pm Select Vestry 8pm Badminton	12 10.30am Craft Group 1.30pm Ladies' Guild 6.30pm Beaver Scouts	13 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	14 Ascension Day 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Holy Communion 8pm Bible Study 8pm Guides	St Matthias 10.30am PhysioPilates 11am Holy Communion 11.30 Bible Study 4.30pm Speech	16 9am Aurora Dance Classes
9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion and Sunday School 6.30pm Choral Evensong	18 8pm Badminton	6.30pm Beaver Scouts 8pm Compassionate Friends	10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 11.30am Fabric Committee 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.45pm Historical Society 8pm Guides	22 10.30am PhysioPilates 4.30pm Speech and Drama	23 9am Aurora Dance Classes
Pentecost 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion and Sunday School 6.30pm Service in St Ninian's	25 Deadline for material to be with Anne for June Parish Notes Spm Badminton	26 10.30am Craft Group 6.30pm Beaver Scouts	10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownie Cake Sale 7.30pm Bible Study 8pm Guides	10.30am PhysioPilates 4.30pm Speech and Drama	30 9am Aurora Dance Classes

FASHION NIGHT AT ST PETER'S

Thank you to the many people who supported the Hospice Fashion Show on 28th March. After expenses, a grand total of £1,422.40 was raised and this has been divided between Church Funds and the Northern Ireland Hospice New Build Fund for the Somerton Road site.

Local traders and friends of the Parish were very generous in donating items for the ballot and this was much appreciated too.

All in all it was a very successful and most enjoyable evening, so thank you again to all involved, not forgetting our models.



We hope to hold another event in the Autumn so watch out for details in further issues of Parish Notes. Also, we are always very keen to hear of your ideas for social events—all suggestions will be welcome.

Annette, Daphne, Dora, Sandra D and Sandra H (Members of St Peter's Social Committee)

Ladies' Guild

On Tuesday 12th May we will be visiting the Ulster Museum. We will have a gallery-based session to learn about some of the artwork on display. Afterwards we will enjoy tea/coffee and scones in the Yellow Door coffee shop.

The price for the visit will be £10 per person to include bus and refreshments.

(Please note that there is easy access and lifts to all areas in the museum and the bus will drop us close to the main door)

I will need final numbers by no later than Sunday 3rd May.

We will meet at church at 1.30pm and should be back by about 4.30pm.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Anne Stewart tel 9096 6597

FWO ENVELOPE No 71

The person who placed envelope No 0071 containing £12.50 on the plate on Easter Sunday is requested to contact Noel Beattie (tel 90 778 428) (email: noel_innisfayle@msn.com) as soon as possible please. There has been a recent upgrade of the FWO computer records and for some unknown reason this number is not registering on the system.

Many thanks. Noel Beattie



BREAD AND CHEESE PICNICS

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 10TH MAY and then please give generously, go home, relax and enjoy your lunch. No preparation and no dishes—the perfect Sunday lunch!!!

HALL CHAIRS

Recently chairs have been found inappropriately stored behind the electric roller door in the main hall. This makes access to upstairs impossible creating an unnecessary nuisance. Chairs should be stored in no more than stacks of 3 around the perimeter of the hall and keeping doorways clear. Your cooperation in this is requested.

Crafty Goodness

Starting on Tuesday, 28th April 2015 10.30am to 12.30pm

We are hoping to start a fortnightly craft group for anyone and everyone to come along and try out, improve or just enjoy various crafts. The range is limitless as long as we have at least one person who can teach/help the rest of the group. Currently, we definitely have crochet, knitting, basic needlework and embroidery, and macramé. Any other skills welcomed.

Hopefully, as well as improving our skills or learning something new, we can produce items which can be sold for church funds. There will be a small charge at each session, to cover the cost of the hall, which will depend on numbers.

For any other information please contact Paula Poulton on telephone 028 9074 2197 or 07795 264848 or email paulapoulton@aol.com.

Looking forward to seeing you and please bring along any friends or relatives.

North Belfast Rural Deanery
Pentecost United Service
Sunday 24th May
at 6.30 pm
in St Ninian's Parish Church,
Whitewell Road

Preacher: The Rev'd Brian Lacey
Refreshments in church hall
after the service

NOTICE

OUR PARISH HALLS ARE TO BE USED AS A POLLING STATION ON THURSDAY 7TH 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.



FLOWER VASES

If you have any vases you no longer require our 'flower lady', Sandra Davison, would be pleased to have them for use in church.



St Peter's Rainbows, Brownies & Guides invite you to a CAKE SALE & COFFEE EVENING

Thursday 14th May at 7pm
in the church hall
Admission £1 includes tea/coffee

refreshments * cake stall * chocolate fountain * and lots more!

Lost your joie de vivre?

Try **PhysioPilates** for fun. You will be fitter, stronger and more flexible with better balance—at a level adapted to suit you. See you next Wednesday at 6.30pm or Friday at 10.30am. Ah go on, you know you want to.

Talk to me at church or phone me on my new number: 95149564.

Sandra Hutchman

AFTER CHURCH REFRESHMENT

Thank you to the members of our Bible Study groups who will provide light refreshments after the 11am service on 10th May.





Stall open on Sunday 10th May during coffee time after the 11am service



Ascension Day

The Feast of the Ascension commemorates the bodily ascension of Jesus into heaven. It is universally celebrated throughout the Christian church and ranks in importance with the Passion, Easter, and Pentecost (also celebrated this month). following account is found in the Acts of the Apostles: the apostles asked Jesus, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven?

Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Ascension Day is traditionally celebrated on a Thursday, the fortieth day of Easter (Acts 1: 3: After his suffering Jesus presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God). This year Ascension Day is on Thursday 14th May. Holy Communion will be celebrated at 7.30pm.

ORGANISATIONS - TIMETABLE

Sunday

11am—12noon: Sunday School

Monday

8.00pm—11.00pm: Badminton Club

Tuesday

10.30am—12.30pm Craft Group (alternate Tuesdays)
2.30pm—4.30pm: Ladies' Guild (2nd Tuesday in month)

6.30pm—7.30pm Beaver 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' Baby and Toddler Group

6pm—7pm: Rainbow Guides

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 (2nd and 3rd Friday in month)

4.30pm—7.30pm Speech and Drama

Saturday

9am—12noon: Aurora Dance Class Saturday School

For more information about term times etc please contact appropriate personnel listed on back page or the Parish Office.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SELECT VESTRY

WILL BE ON
MONDAY
11TH MAY
AT 7.30PM IN THE
MINOR HALL

Holy Dusters Cleaning Rota

27th April—2nd May Group 4
4th May—9th May Group 5
11th May—16th May Group 6
18th May—23rd May Group 7
25th May—30th May Group 8

MAY FLOWER LIST

3RD JILL BRADLEY IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER

17th The Noblett Family 24th The Davison Family

31ST JOAN LAWTHER AND FAMILY IN MEMORY OF BOBBY

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

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.

NORTH BELFAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM

Thursday 21st May 7.45pm, Minor Hall

Speaker:

Alfred Montgomery

Topic:

A WWII Jeep returns to Normandy

Everyone welcome

PASTORAL CARE

If you would like to arrange for the Rector to visit you at home, whether to share your anxieties in confidence, or for spiritual advice, or for prayer, or for Holy Communion, then please contact him on his landline (90 777 053) or on his mobile (07563 531 082). This is an essential part of his ministry and he will be pleased to visit you and help in whatever way he can.

If you or a loved one is seriously ill, particularly if admitted to hospital, please inform the Rector. He often visits the hospitals, but has no way of knowing who has been admitted unless is told. If you are visited by a hospital chaplain and are asked if you would like your Rector to visit, please say "yes" and he will gladly come to see you.

Please send material for the June 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 25th May. Thank you.

Afraid, alone, in pain

Be the answer to Loko's prayer this Christian Aid Week



Loko's choice in life is simple: 'If I can't collect firewood, my children will die.'

Four times a week, in a remote corner of Ethiopia, Loko makes a back-breaking eight-hour trip to gather wood. It's a task she dreads, but she steels herself to do it because if she doesn't her children will starve.

She prays to God as she walks. 'I ask him to change my life and lead us out of this,' she says.

Just £5 could give Loko a loan to start her own business buying and selling tea and coffee, freeing her from her desperate task and allowing her to spend more time caring for her family. This Christian Aid Week, you can help transform lives.

From 10th-16th May, churches the length and breadth of Britain and Ireland will come together to pray, campaign and raise money to improve the lives of people like Loko.

Every year, 100,000 volunteers demonstrate God's love for the poor by organising fund raising events and taking part in house-to-house collections for Christian Aid. This fantastic witness is a chance to take the mission of the church into our community.



Find out how you can play your part by speaking with Jill Bradley—telephone: 90 842 998 or email: jill.bradley1@btopenworld.com

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