



THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

MAY 2016

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

The Ascension of our Lord

GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE

RECTOR'S NOTES

SERMON SUMMARIES

On **Easter Day** (27th March) we considered what “resurrection” means. What actually happened to Jesus’ body in the tomb on the third day? The dead, decaying body was gone, and a new body was formed. This new body could walk, talk, and eat just like Jesus’ earthly body, and it also had holes in the hands and feet where Jesus had been pierced by nails on the cross. But this new body was different, in that it had a supernatural dimension to it: Jesus could appear and disappear, and sometimes he was not immediately recognisable. This new, resurrected body was therefore related to the old body, but nevertheless it was something new and different. This resurrection is not what happened when Jesus brought others back to life, such as Lazarus or Jairus’ daughter. What happened to them is properly called “re-animation”. Their dead bodies were brought back to life, to continue as they had been before they died. But this is not what happened to Jesus. At the Resurrection, the old was transformed into something new and wonderful by the power of God. This kind of resurrection is what each of us is being drawn towards by God’s grace. For all who trust in Jesus, this resurrection will happen in the next world, but it can also spill over into this life, when we open our hearts to God, so that he can begin the process of transforming our corrupt and sinful nature into something new and wonderful.

On the **Second Sunday of Easter** (3rd April) I explained that when we go through very difficult times, it is natural that we

should sometimes question our faith. Why would God allow this to happen? Why does God not seem to be doing anything to help? How can I go on believing in a God who lets me suffer? When faced with such questions, and when struggling with doubts, a typically well-intentioned response is "It's OK to doubt". This is often said in order to pacify someone who is wrestling with their faith, but I have found it to be counterproductive. When we tell a person that it is "OK to doubt" we are essentially telling them it is alright to believe that there might not be a God, and even if there is, he might not be interested in their suffering. Such notions are spiritually extremely harmful, and offer a person an easy method at a difficult time to lose all belief and trust in God. Surely that is not the purpose of the Church! As Christians, our first priority is to offer reassurance, rather than pandering to doubt. Whilst this must be done sensitively, our message to those who are struggling with their faith needs to be as bold and clear as the message of Jesus to doubting Thomas: "Do not doubt, but believe!"

HOLY WEEK REFLECTIONS

During the evenings of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week, I shared with you some thoughts on various books that I had been reading on the subject of discipleship ...

"OPEN TO THE SPIRIT"

The first book is called "Open to the Spirit: Anglicans and the Experience of Renewal", edited by Colin Craston. Within this book, there is chapter called "Renewal as seen from within a Traditional Catholic Spirituality" by H.M.D. Westin.

Westin writes about how in the modern times discipleship has given way to faithlessness. He attributes this to our lives having become increasingly busy and more reliant upon technology. As a result, prayer, Bible reading, silence, and meditation have been lost from the daily routine of most people.

The problem seems to be that although we live in a world in which we can readily access information and use technology in a way that our ancestors could only dream of, rarely are we using our newfound power and abilities in order to deepen our Christian faith. Instead, we use these things to be entertained or to do work, or to pursue our personal interests.

We have the ability to watch nearly any television programme on our mobile phones at any time in any place. We have the ability to access documents and data on any subject written over hundreds of years and from all four corners of the earth. We can communicate with friends and strangers both near and far, instantaneously at the touch of a button. And yet, even the most regular Churchgoer will say: "I don't have time to read the Bible, or even if I did, I wouldn't know where to start, and I wouldn't understand it". Therefore, technology, instead of being a tool to help us draw closer to God, has become a means of ignoring him.

In his writings, Westin says that humanity has forgotten the purpose of life. He says that for a Christian, the purpose of life must be "to know God, to love him, and to enjoy him forever." And he reminds us of the teaching of St Augustine, who said that "God created us for himself, and so our hearts are restless until they rest in him. Without God we will never find the real

meaning and purpose of life.”

What Westin is telling us here, is that Christianity cannot become just another of our many and varied activities or interests in life. Our faith cannot simply be a hobby. Our Christianity cannot be merely a quirky part of our personality. Rather, God must be the focal point of our existence. Our entire life—our attitude, our actions, our lifestyle, our ambitions—must be shaped by our desire to get to know God better, and to allow him to transform us into the people he wants us to be.

For Westin, this is what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. It is not enough to say “I am a member of Church” or “I am baptised”. He writes “Members of the Body of Christ are called upon to believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and to know him personally. It is only in and through Jesus Christ that we find meaning and purpose.”

If we therefore neglect deepening our knowledge of Jesus, and if we avoid learning his teachings, and if we refuse to behave in the way of life that he has laid down for us, then we may belong to the Church, but we will not belong to God, and that must surely be our chief aim.

Westin reminds us that the Catechism, which children were once taught, gives sound advice for all who want to take their discipleship seriously. It challenges us to think about the following: How often do we worship God? How often do we pray in private? How often do we read the Bible in private? In what ways do we bring the teaching and example of Christ into everyday life? In what ways do we share our Christian beliefs

with other people? In what ways are we involved in the work of the Church and in our local community? Do we take seriously the need to support financially the Church both at home and abroad?

In all these things, Christianity is a difficult path to follow. And it is a path that we cannot walk half-heartedly or absent-mindedly. And so Westin reminds us that “the Christian faith must be practised in its totality, even the part of it we do not like. If we are going to be true disciples of Jesus, we must be ready to make a life-long, and life-changing commitment.

“MAKING MEN WHOLE”

The second book I want to share with you is called “Making Men Whole” by J.B. Phillips.

Phillips begins by telling us that if we have not yet matured in our spirituality, then we will have a very limited understanding of God, which really barely scratches the surface of God’s true nature.

I suppose that the most extreme form of spiritual immaturity is atheism, as we cannot limit God in our minds more than if we outright reject his very existence. But for those who do believe that God is real, too often is he thought about in a vague and abstract way, as a mythological figure, as a character like Santa Claus or the Tooth Fairy. People have this image of God in their mind of a bearded man sitting in the clouds. Even when we think of God in less silly terms than those, there is still a tendency to think of God as distant and unknowable. And yet, in this book, Phillips suggests that it is not difficult to really get to know God. All we need to do is open our eyes to recognise

God's fingerprints in his creation, and from perceiving how God is at work in the world around us, we can come to an understanding of his nature.

Phillips writes: "If we are foolish, we cling with desperate loyalty to the limited conception of God that we have at present, but if we are wise ... we allow every true experience of life, every touch or sight of goodness, truth and beauty, to open fresh windows upon the illimitable magnificence of God."

When we come to that understanding, of how relentlessly wonderful and powerful God is, we will be all the more amazed and humbled that he wants to use *us* as his instruments to change the world. How much more easily could God change the world without us, and yet in his divine wisdom, he has the patience and the determination to make the world better, by transforming one person at a time.

Phillips writes: "Unhappily in our day, the Christian religion is all too often reduced to a performance to please an external God, while to the early Christians it was plainly the invasion of their lives by a new quality of life—nothing less than the life of God Himself". What he is saying there, is that Christianity is not about trying by our own efforts to be better people. Rather it is about allowing Christ to make us better by his own efforts at work within us.

This is what it means in our Holy Communion service when we pray "that he may dwell in us, and we in him." Christianity is not just about living for Christ; it is about allowing Christ to be alive in and through us. To put it another way, if we are really disciples of Jesus, then day by day, slowly but surely, the

personality, attitude, and actions of Jesus will become more evident in us, not because we try to emulate him, but because his own Holy Spirit is transforming us bit by bit.

Phillips writes this: “We are slow to believe this, and we tend to play it down, as though it is somehow presumptuous on our part to believe that the very nature of God is in us. We may, and we should, feel unworthy of such high honour, but the whole glory and beauty of the Gospel is that it is God’s free gift ...”. This free gift is the transformative power of God at work within us, changing us into better people who exemplify love, peace, and joy in our lives. Where these virtues are evident in our behaviour, then they are an outward sign of the Holy Spirit within us. But where these virtues are absent from our behaviour, then we have—whether temporarily or permanently—limited and inhibited the transformative power of God at work within us, in order to remain slaves to our own desires and our own needs and our own ambitions.

If we truly want to be Christian disciples, we must learn to recognise when our actions and attitude flows from our own human nature, and when they flow from the Holy Spirit. And if we want to allow God to make the world a better place, we must let him start with us. We need to allow God to work his amazing wonders through us, and recognise that as disciples of Jesus, we are not just God’s children, but also God’s instruments for change in the world.

“LIVING BEFORE YOU DIE”

The third book I want to share with you is called “Living Before You Die”, by Fred Brown, who was an officer in the Salvation Army for many years. The closing chapter is called “Life is

Resurrection”, and it’s this particular chapter that I want to discuss.

Before I begin, I have to say that I was quite hesitant to use this book, because Fred Brown holds some views that I think are either dubious, or simply downright heretical. But, as in all things, there is a nugget of truth, and for that reason I think it will be helpful for us to hear his thoughts, even if it serves only as a springboard for us to disagree with them, and then come to our own more-orthodox conclusions.

Brown’s opening idea, at the start of this chapter, is that it is possible to live what he calls “a resurrection life”, without actually believing in the physical resurrection of Jesus from the dead. In other words, is it enough for us live the way Christ taught us to, or do we have to also believe orthodox Christian doctrine and ideas? Do we need to believe in miracles, and demons, and the supernatural?

Personally, I do believe in such things, and I would heartily encourage you to do likewise. But thinking about what Fred Brown is saying, it is his position that what we believe happened 2000 years ago, particularly regarding the Resurrection, is less important than our active experience of being changed by God in our own lives today.

Brown acknowledges that his position is somewhat unorthodox, but what he is challenging us to consider is whether or not it is possible to live a life transformed by God, without knowing about the events that happened in a garden tomb on the third day following Christ’s crucifixion. He’s asking us: Is it possible for us to live a resurrected life today as a

follower of Jesus, without actually believing that Jesus resurrected miraculously as recorded in Scripture? In other words, is God's transformative work in the world today limited only to those people who accept, believe, and understand the Resurrection story in the Gospels?

That's a really interesting idea to wrestle with, because it challenges us to consider what happens to people who have—through no fault of their own—not heard the Christian message, or who simply cannot comprehend it. Do we need to know about the Resurrection event in order to benefit from it? Can Christ draw us closer to himself, even if we don't believe in miracles? Or is head knowledge necessary for salvation and sanctification? These are great theological questions.

I should point out that, whilst reading Brown's work, I found myself getting a bit bothered by the heresies in it, notwithstanding that he considered himself to be a Christian, and he did believe in the Risen Christ. He was simply arguing that his personal belief in the power of Christ to transform his life, was not dependent upon what he believed about the Resurrection event.

To Brown, what is important about 2000 years ago, was that Jesus was teaching and expressing love for people. And this love inspired newness of life in the lives of the people who encountered him. Love, therefore, is at the heart of Brown's Christian faith, rather than knowledge. And it's this love which helps us to understand what "resurrection" means. To Fred Brown it means bringing new life out of spiritual death. When we are spiritually alive, because we are sharing in God's love, then we are experiencing true resurrection.

So when we forgive others, or when we are reconciled with people we have fallen out with, or when we find new ways to do good for others, or when we make people feel better about themselves—these sorts of expressions of love, bring new life both to ourselves and the people around us. They enable us to experience resurrection. Brown is saying that this resurrection experience, is more important than merely saying that we believe something happened 2000 years ago.

Now, I don't want to labour the point, but again I feel compelled to say that I disagree with some of what this author has written. I do believe in the bodily resurrection of our Lord Jesus. And as the Rector of this parish, I am both obliged and honoured to affirm for you the words of our Creed: "On the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures".

But I do think that Brown is correct in that we are called to live an actively resurrected life, rather than simply contenting ourselves that we'll be alright so long as we believe something. There is truth in this which is clearly supported by Holy Scripture. For example, in the Letter of St James in the Bible, James criticises those who claim that believing in God is enough to be saved. He reminds them that even demons believe in God, but that will hardly save them. So "Head knowledge" is one thing, but how we live, and how we express our faith in practical ways, that's no less important.

Having read a little flavour of what Fred Brown believed, what I want you to mull over is this question: What is more relevant to us as followers of Jesus: to believe in certain ideas, or to put love into practice?

SERVICES IN MAY

There are quite a number of important liturgical dates during May. We have **Rogation Sunday** on Sunday 1st May, during which we will ask God to bless the crop for this year's harvest. The joint celebration of **St Philip and St Jude** will be held during the evening of Monday 2nd May. The **Ascension Day**, which is always a Thursday, falls this year on 5th May. **Pentecost**, when we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the first Christians, is on Sunday 15th May. **Trinity Sunday**, when we try to get our heads around how God is three-in-one, is on 22nd May. Lastly, we celebrate the **Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary** on Tuesday 31st May.

Our monthly **Family Service** will be held in the Halls on Sunday 8th May. We all gather in the church before the service, and then the children and their parents are invited to go the Halls during the introduction.

As **Ascension Day** is particularly important in the Christian Calendar, we will have a choir that evening. Please make every effort to join us, as this is another of those days which all Christians should celebrate, but sadly only a few come to church.

In addition to our own regular services on the morning of **Pentecost** (Sunday 15th May), there will be a joint service for all the Anglican churches in the north Belfast and Newtownabbey areas, to be held at 6pm in Mossley Parish Church. Please note that we will not have our own service of Choral Evensong in St Peter's that evening.

**North Belfast Rural Deanery
Joint Service for all Anglican Churches
in the North Belfast and Newtownabbey areas
Sunday 15th May
at 6pm
Mossley Parish Church, Manse Road
Refreshments in church hall
after the service**

LESSON READERS

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

Date	First Reading	Second Reading	Third Reading
1st May	Colin Bell	Sandra Hutchman	The Rector
8th May	Peter Coiley	Forde Patterson	The Rector
15th May	Eleanor Henderson	Anne Roberts	The Rector
22nd May	Daphne McClements	Tom Campbell	The Rector
29th May	Marie Burrowes	Dora Hanna	The Rector


GIVE BLOOD
Save Lives

Thursday 5th May
Cavehill Methodist
Church Hall
Cavehill Road
2-4pm
5.15-8pm

Further information—ring 0500 534 666

CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	1st MAY Holy Communion Holy Communion Choral Evensong	ROGATION SUNDAY <i>traditional</i> <i>modern</i> <i>traditional</i>
MONDAY 7.30pm	2nd MAY Holy Communion	ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES <i>traditional</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	4th MAY Holy Communion	MID-WEEK SERVICE <i>modern</i>
THURSDAY 7.30pm	5th MAY Holy Communion	ASCENSION DAY <i>traditional</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am 11am	8th MAY Holy Communion Morning Prayer Family Service	SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION <i>modern</i> <i>modern (Church)</i> <i>modern (Halls)</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	11th MAY Holy Communion	MID-WEEK SERVICE <i>modern</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am 6pm	15th MAY Holy Communion Holy Communion Joint Service	PENTECOST <i>modern</i> <i>modern</i> <i>Mossley Parish Church</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	18th MAY Holy Communion	MID-WEEK SERVICE <i>modern</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am	22nd MAY Holy Communion Holy Communion	TRINITY SUNDAY <i>modern</i> <i>traditional</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	25th MAY Holy Communion	MID-WEEK SERVICE <i>modern</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am	29th MAY Holy Communion Morning Prayer	THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>modern</i> <i>modern</i>

TUESDAY 7.30pm	31st MAY Holy Communion	THE VISITATION OF MARY <i>traditional</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	1st JUNE Holy Communion	MID-WEEK SERVICE <i>modern</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	5th JUNE Holy Communion Holy Communion Choral Evensong	THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>traditional</i> <i>modern</i> <i>traditional</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	8th JUNE Holy Communion	MID-WEEK SERVICE <i>modern</i>
THURSDAY 7.30pm	9th JUNE Holy Communion	ST COLUMBA <i>traditional</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am	12th JUNE Holy Communion Morning Prayer	THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>modern</i> <i>modern</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	15th JUNE Holy Communion	MID-WEEK SERVICE <i>modern</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am	19th JUNE Holy Communion Holy Communion	THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>modern</i> <i>modern</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	22nd JUNE Holy Communion	MID-WEEK SERVICE <i>modern</i>
FRIDAY 11am	24th JUNE Holy Communion	BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST <i>modern</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	26th JUNE Holy Communion Holy Communion Festal Celebration	ST PETER (transferred) <i>modern</i> <i>modern</i> <i>traditional</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	29th JUNE Holy Communion	MID-WEEK SERVICE (St Peter's Day) <i>modern</i>

Advent Reflections

Each Wednesday evening during Advent we had a service of Compline in the North Aisle of St Peter's, during which some of our parishioners spoke to us about their Christian faith. Here is Frank Dillon's Advent Reflection. Frank is our Families' and Children's Worker.

What are the challenges and what are the joys of following Jesus?

Being a follower of Jesus is the most privileged and exciting journey that I have ever been on; I started on this journey about three years ago and it has led me to where I am now. I have met some amazing people and experienced incredible things in this short time. When looking back at my life before and through the journey that has brought me here, I can really see where God has guided me and helped me in situations where I would have crumbled on my own.



Being a follower of Jesus is not easy: there are sacrifices that need to be made and things that need to be done that may not appeal to us. I left my last job because I felt that God was leading me to Christian ministry, leaving me in a scary position financially. This was not an easy time, however, again God was able to pull me through that to where I am now.

God has used people to bless me and to get me out of situations where I couldn't alone. During my internship year at Willowfield, I

had no money, and still had to pay off £500 for the internship. But right before the payment was due, an anonymous person paid it all off for me, leaving me in a position to focus on the year without worry.

Faith is difficult at times, but being the only Christian in my family makes this an even harder task as I sometimes have to go against what my parents believe whilst living in a way that honours God.

I have changed from when I was younger: I care more for other people and want to be able to bless them; I am less self-centered and money-driven. God makes changes to us when we start following him; he almost sculpts us over time into better people.

Following Jesus is a journey, and with that there are ups and downs; there are times where I can be close to God and times where I find it difficult to engage with God's word or in prayer.

Many of my friends and family will poke fun at, or completely reject, what I believe, but a personal relationship with God gives me all I need. He provides me with friends and mentors who support me; he provides me with food and good health, and also my fiancée to love and support me through everything.

Having this job and being able to work with young people has been a dream. I am so blessed to have it, and to be able to serve God and others in this way. For me, following Jesus makes me want to love and serve others, provides me with new passions and new opportunities, and gives me a personal saviour and guide for the rest of my life.

We need to remember that we are in a spiritual battle, but we must realise that Jesus has already won this for us on the cross.

Ladies' Guild

On Tuesday 12th April we held a very successful Church Treasure Hunt. Those who took part agreed that it was a wonderful opportunity to have a good look at parts of the church not normally viewed on Sunday mornings. Many interesting facts were amassed. Thank you to all the ladies who helped with the tea, the sale and the display of archive and linens for viewing.

We had a tie for first place - Marie Burrowes; Adrian Hall and team; Joyce Sterling. Congratulations to Joyce whose name was 'pulled from the hat' and is our worthy winner. Well done Joyce!

On Tuesday 10th May we are having an outing to the Tudor Cinema in Comber. This is a small independently-owned cinema in which we will have our own private viewing of Brooklyn (based on the book by Colm Toibin).

The film was released in 2015 and tells the story of a young woman who emigrated from Ireland to New York in the 1950s. It is a "beautiful period drama both sharply observed and gently nostalgic". Featuring stars such as Julie Walters and Jim Broadbent it has been highly recommended.

The cost of our outing is £15 per person to include the bus, the film and light refreshments. Even if you are not a member of the Ladies' Guild you are very welcome to come with us. If you would like to go but haven't put your name down please contact me by no later than 1st May to check availability. The bus will leave from St Peter's at 1.30pm and should return no later than 5pm. Looking forward to seeing you.



Anne Stewart
9096 6597

Christian Aid Week

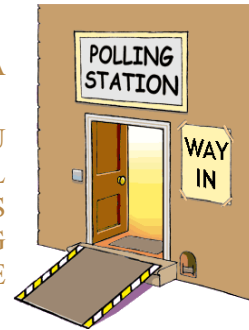


Bread and Cheese picnics will be available on Sunday 15th May. This will mark the start of Christian Aid week. Why not leave your usual Sunday roast in the freezer and have a picnic instead? Weather permitting you could even have your Sunday lunch in the garden! All profits go to Christian Aid.

NOTICE

OUR PARISH HALLS ARE TO BE USED AS A POLLING STATION ON THURSDAY 5TH MAY.

UNLESS YOU ARE GOING THERE TO VOTE, YOU ARE ASKED TO STAY AWAY FROM THE HALL THAT DAY FOR ANY NORMAL BUSINESS PURPOSES. HOWEVER, PLEASE DO COME ALONG TO THE ASCENSION DAY SERVICE IN THE CHURCH AT 7.30PM.



AFTER CHURCH REFRESHMENT

Light refreshments will be served by the Bridge Club after the 11am service on Sunday 8th May and by Dora Hanna and friends on Sunday 22nd May.



BADMINTON CLUB

The Badminton Club is now closed for the summer months and will re-open on Monday 12th September at 8pm. If you would like to join please contact Harold Jacobs, tel 9077 9945.

NORTH BELFAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM

Thursday 19th May
7.45pm in the Minor Hall
Speaker: David Hume
Topic: The Somme
Everyone welcome

Parish Notes in colour!

There are full colour versions of Parish Notes on our website.
Visit
www.stpeters.connor.anglican.org
and click on "News".

May Diary						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Rogation Sunday 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion and Sunday School 6.30pm Choral Evensong 7.20pm Membership Course	2 <i>St Philip and St Jude</i> 7.30pm Holy Communion 8pm Finance Committee	3 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs	4 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	5 Ascension Day 7.30pm Holy Communion <i>(Church Halls being used as a Polling Station)</i>	6 10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Bible Study	7
8 Sunday after the Ascension 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer and Family Service (tea/coffee) Traidcraft Stall open	9 7.30pm Select Vestry	10 10.30am Crafty Goodness 1.30pm Ladies' Guild Outing 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs	11 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	12 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Bible Study 8pm Guides	13 10.30am PhysioPilates 4.30pm Speech and Drama	14

15 Pentecost 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion and Sunday School 6pm Joint Service in Mossley PC	16	17 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 8pm Compassionate Friends	18 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	19 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.45pm Historical Society 8pm Guides	20 10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Bible Study 4.30pm Speech and Drama	21
22 Trinity Sunday 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion & Sunday School (tea/coffee)	23 <i>Deadline for material to be with Anne for the June Parish Notes</i>	24 10.30 Crafty Goodness 1pm Events Committee 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs	25 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 11.30am Fabric Committee 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	26 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Bible Study 8pm Guides	27 10.30am PhysioPilates 4.30pm Speech and Drama	28
29 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer & Sunday School	30	31 <i>The Visitation of Mary</i> 10.30 Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Holy Communion				

ORGANISATIONS - TIMETABLE

Sunday

11am—12noon: Sunday School

Monday

8pm—11pm: Badminton Club

Tuesday

10.30am—12.30pm: Crafty Goodness

2.30pm—4.30pm: Ladies' Guild (2nd Tuesday in month)

6pm—7pm: Beaver Scouts

7pm—8pm: Cub Scouts

8pm—10pm: TCFNI Support for bereaved parents (3rd Tues in month)

Wednesday

2pm—4pm: Bridge Club

6.30pm—7.45pm: PhysioPilates

7.30pm—9pm: Choir

Thursday

10am—11.30am: 'Little Cherubs' Parent and Toddler Group

6pm—7pm: Rainbows

7pm—8pm: Brownies

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

7.45pm: Historical Society (3rd Thursday in month)

8pm—9.30pm: Guides

Friday

10.30am—11.45am: PhysioPilates

11.30am: Bible Study (1st and 3rd Friday in month)

4.30pm—7.30pm: Speech and Drama

For more information on these organisations (including term dates) please contact the appropriate personnel listed on the back page or the Parish Office.

PARISHIONER CONTACT DETAILS

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

TRAIDCRAFT

Fighting poverty through trade



Stall open on
Sunday
8th May
during coffee time
after the
11am service

MAY FLOWER LIST

1ST JILL BRADLEY IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER
1^{5TH} THE NOBLETT FAMILY
2^{2ND} THE DAVISON FAMILY
2^{9TH} JOAN LAWTHOR AND FAMILY IN MEMORY OF BOBBY

Thank you to all who give of their time and effort
in beautifying the church with flowers.



PASTORAL CARE

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

If the Rector is unavailable, there will be contact details for other clergy on the answer machine.

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

THE NEXT MEETING OF
THE SELECT VESTRY
WILL BE ON
MONDAY 9TH MAY
AT 7.30PM
IN THE MINOR HALL

Holy Dusters Cleaning Rota

2nd May—7th May	Group 1
9th May—14th May	Group 2
16th May—21st May	Group 3
23rd May—28th May	Group 4
30th May—4th June	Group 5

*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 23rd May. Thank you.*