

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

NOVEMBER 2017

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

Lest we forget

Remembrance Sunday
12th November

GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE

RECTOR'S NOTES

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

There are three Holy Days this month. We will celebrate **All Saints** and **All Souls** on the same day, on Sunday 5th November. In the morning there will Holy Communion at both 9am and 11am for All Saints, and in the evening there will be an opportunity to remember before God our deceased loved ones at our All Souls' Service. On Sunday 26th November we will celebrate the **Kingship of Christ**. Please note that the 11am will be a Family Service. Then at 7.30pm on Thursday 30th November there will be a traditional celebration of Holy Communion for **St Andrew's Day**.

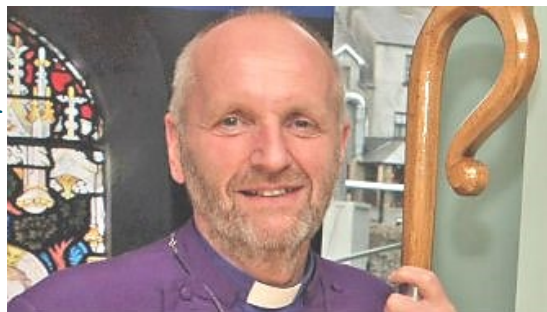
Although not a Holy Day, an important day in the parish calendar each year is **Remembrance Sunday**, which this year falls on Sunday 12th November. There will be an Act of Remembrance at both morning services that day.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP

It doesn't matter if you're old or young, if you're a committed Christian or an interested learner, if you've lots to learn or lots to teach, everyone is welcome at Parish Fellowship. We meet at 7.30pm every Thursday (except the third Thursday of the month when the Historical Society meets). We begin with a short act of worship in the church, before moving to the halls for tea/coffee, and then from 8pm until 9pm we have an informal discussion on either Christian beliefs or practices, or on a passage of Scripture. Parish Fellowship is very relaxed, and it provides an amiable opportunity to get to learn more about God, our fellow parishioners, and maybe even ourselves. Come along and join us!

CONFIRMATION

Bishop Alan will be joining us at 11am on Sunday 5th February 2018 for the first set of Confirmations in the parish in quite a few years. Confirmation is an opportunity for Christians to publicly



declare for themselves the beliefs that their godparents made at their baptism. If you were baptised but not confirmed, and you would like to be, then please speak to me as soon as possible. We already have some teenagers and some adults interested, but it would be wonderful if more parishioners used this rare event in our parish to take the next step on their journey of faith.

SHOEBOX APPEAL



Many of the shoe boxes taken by parishioners from the back of the church, have been returned over the last few weeks, filled and wrapped. If you haven't yet returned your shoe box to St Peter's, please do so before

2pm on Wednesday 1st November. If the church isn't open, then you can leave your shoe box in the Parish Office or at the rectory.

These shoe boxes will join many thousands of others from across the UK, and will go towards people in living in need in parts of eastern Europe and Asia. This is such a straightforward and worthwhile project; many thanks to all who have taken part.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

The annual meeting of the leading members of our parish will be held on Sunday 19th November 2017 from 3.30pm until 5pm in the Main Hall. Parishioners who hold leadership roles within the worship, ministries, and management of the parish will be invited to attend. The theme for this year is “Engaging with our community”. We will be exploring different ways in which the Church could have a positive impact upon the people who live and work within the parish.

WISH LIST

With money being tight, our Select Vestry naturally needs to prioritise expenditure on necessities, meaning that there are many things that we would like to buy for St Peter's but unfortunately can't. However, from time to time parishioners do offer to buy something special for the parish in memory of a loved one, or as a thank offering. To that end, the Select Vestry has prepared a list of items that you might like to make a financial contribution towards. The list contains items which range in price from £13 to £130,000 for the refurbishment of the basement as a third hall. That's a lot of money, but it is a *wish* list, after all! None of the items are essential, but they would certainly be appreciated, and they would make a lasting impact on the parish. If you would like a copy of the list, then please contact me privately.

SERMON SUMMARIES



On the 16th Sunday after Trinity (*Sunday 1st October*), we learnt about the reformation doctrine of “**Justification through Christ Alone**” (or in Latin, “Solo Christo”).

I recently read a newspaper article written by an atheist, in which he was encouraging other people who don’t believe in God, to go to church. His reason? It’s because they are often very beautiful buildings in which there is—and I quote—“an hour or so of theatre, for free, with the noble aim of uplifting our spirits, and providing gentle moral encouragement.” In other words, going to church provides a nice place, with nice people, and a nice atmosphere, and a nice message to take home. And so although the author of the article said that he considered the congregation to be “ignorant” for believing in God, he concluded by saying that churches deserve nothing but praise. Praise, it seems, for being a nice, easy, gentle, inexpensive pastime on a Sunday morning. It makes me wonder how many people all around the world, go to church for the wrong reasons. How many people go because it’s a pleasant thing to do? Or because they want to meet up with their friends? Or because other members of their family go, and they don’t want to be left at home alone? Or because they were raised to go to church, and it’s become a habit? Or because they feel a sense of duty, or that it’s expected of them?

None of those reasons is a good reason to go to church, because they overlook the nature of what the Church is, and the purpose of Church services. The Church is all the people whose lives are being transformed by Jesus. It is all people, regardless of religious denomination, who believe that Jesus is the Son of God, who

trust in Jesus' promise of everlasting life, and who are obedient to his teaching on how we should behave. That's what the Church is. The *purpose* of a Church service, then, is to provide an opportunity for members of the Church (that is, people who believe, trust, and obey Jesus) to meet together to praise God, to learn more about him, to reflect on where we're going wrong in life, and to unlock God's strength to start making the right decisions, so that our attitude and our behaviour becomes increasingly like the attitude and behaviour of Jesus. Therefore in all things relating to the Church, Jesus is at the centre of all that we are, and all that we do. This is because Jesus—in his own words—is the only way to God the Father. He is the source of true religion and spirituality. For, without the teachings of Jesus, we wouldn't properly understand what God expects of us. And without Jesus' death and resurrection, there would be no eternal life for us. And without Jesus' ascension, there would have been no outpouring of the Holy Spirit, to unlock the power of God within us.

In short, there is no healing and there is no salvation for any human being, except through Jesus Christ. There is no other way of connecting with God, than through Jesus. There is no other way of being made right with God, than through Jesus. There is no other way of becoming who we are truly created to be, than through Jesus.

The centrality of Jesus Christ, and our complete dependence upon him, and upon no other person, and no other means, for our salvation, is what Protestant Reformers espoused in the belief of "salvation by Christ alone". Without sticking rigidly to this Reformed belief, we will fall into the error of believing either that our relationship with God is fine just as it is, or that we can make our relationship right with God through our own means, for example, by trying to live a good life. But these are grave errors. For without Christ we aren't right with God, and without Christ, we never will be. Because, only Jesus died on the Cross for us. Only Jesus took on his shoulders the sins of the world. Only

Jesus could overcome death, and open the Kingdom of Heaven to all who believe.

So let's remember, if you ever wonder why the Church exists, or why we come to church, or how we can have a relationship with God, the answer is Jesus. Only Jesus. If he is not the centre of our Christian faith, then we don't have faith.

On the 17th Sunday after Trinity (*Sunday 8th October*) we learnt about the reformed doctrine of **“Justification by Faith Alone”** (or in Latin, “Sola Fide”).

St Paul wrote that we are saved “by faith, not works”. That word “works” can mean two things in a religious sense. It can either mean generally, good deeds—acts of



kindness and charitableness; but more specifically it refers to religious practices, such as the Jews being circumcised and not eating certain foods. St Paul meant, that in order for us to be made right with God (which is known as “justification”) we simply had to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and to trust that through the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, he—Christ alone—had the power to cleanse us of our sins and to grant us eternal life. In short, all we have to do to be saved, is to believe and trust that Jesus Christ has saved us. This truth is expressed in possibly the most well-known and oft-quoted Bible verse of all time: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whosoever believes in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.” So, in accordance with that, St Paul was correct when he said we are saved “by faith, not works.”

Of course, Christians still need to do good. Jesus commanded us to love one another, and to care for people in need. And Jesus gave us certain religious practices that he explicitly told his followers to do, namely baptism and holy communion. So there should be good deeds and religious rituals in a Christian's life, as an expression of their belief and trust in Jesus Christ.

The problem was that over the 1500 years following the time of Jesus and St Paul, the Church began to view good works as being not something that was a consequence *of* our salvation, but rather as something necessary *for* salvation. In other words, quite contrary to what Jesus and St Paul had said, the Church began to teach people that you could be made right with God by being baptised and receiving regular communion. But because people often sinned after their baptism, they had to made right again with God by confessing their sins to a priest, and receiving absolution. But often that absolution came with a cost. The price might be to pray certain words, such as the Hail Mary, with greater sins requiring greater, longer repetition of the prayer. Or the price might be to perform a good deed, almost the equivalent of our modern day community service. Or the price might have a monetary value, which inevitably would be paid to the Church, or perhaps more likely into the deep pockets of the priest. One such priest wrote, "Every time a coin in the coffer's ring, a soul from purgatory springs". He was talking about the practice of Indulgences, which was essentially a scam, designed to fool sinners out of their money, by assuring them of quicker entry into heaven in exchange for their cash.

These sort of things suggested to the people, that we can work our way into heaven, or even that we can buy our way into heaven. The Reformers, such as Martin Luther, recognised that such money given to a priest for the forgiveness of sins, achieved nothing—other than making the priest wealthy. They saw that the traditions and the teachings of the Church were taking advantage of people who were desperate for salvation, and rather than filling the kingdom of heaven with believers, they were simply amassing a fortune for themselves.

So the Reformers cut through the traditions and the teachings of the Church, and they asked the simple question: "What does it say in the Bible about salvation?". The answer, summed up by St Paul, is that we are saved "by faith, not works". For Protestants therefore, salvation, justification, being made right with God, was

not about doing something, but rather it was upon believing and trusting in Jesus.

In fact, Martin Luther was so keen to get rid of any notion that we can be saved by works, that he suggested the removal of some books in the Bible which could be misinterpreted as suggesting that doing good can get us into heaven. Namely, the letters of James and Jude, the letter to the Hebrews, and the book of Revelation. The letter of James, for example, talks about how “faith without works is dead”. This might suggest that works are necessary for a true faith. But a wrong interpretation of this would imply that you need to do certain things in addition to believing and trusting in Jesus, in order to be saved. A correct interpretation is to understand that good works are a consequence of being saved.

To be made right with God, therefore, from a Protestant Reformed viewpoint, means simply believing and trusting that Jesus has saved us. Christ alone has made salvation possible for us. Faith alone is the means by which we receive that salvation.

On the 18th Sunday after Trinity (*Sunday 15th October*) we learnt about the reformation doctrine of **“Justification by Grace Alone”** (or in Latin, “Sola Gratia”).



Imagine someone that you love did something almost unforgiveable. Maybe they betrayed your trust. Maybe they hurt you mentally, emotionally, or even physically. Whatever it is, their actions have caused a serious rift between you and them, to the point that you can no longer be around them. Imagine they have done something really awful to you. Now let's say that even though you are completely horrified and hurt by the other person's behaviour, you decide that you will extend the hand of friendship

to them. You make the first move, and you go them, and you tell them: “I am prepared to entirely forgive and forget what you have done, and to let the two of start again.” That generosity of mercy for someone who doesn’t in any way deserve your forgiveness, is called “grace”. Grace is mercy for those who don’t deserve it.

In the Church when we talk about “grace” we mean that God is being kind towards us, even though we don’t deserve it because we have not been kind towards him. Each time we break God’s commandments—and even every time we simply think about breaking the commandments—we hurt God. We hurt him when we forget about him. We hurt him when we are more interested in pleasing ourselves rather than pleasing him. We hurt him when we could do something good for somebody, but we choose not to. And we hurt him when lie, or cheat, or kill, or steal, or behave rudely. And yet despite the hurt that we cause him, God is merciful to us. He is merciful to us even though we don’t deserve his mercy. What we really deserve is punishment for our sins. But despite that, God is gracious, and he offers us forgiveness and the opportunity of a new start.

So the first thing that we need to take note of is that none of us deserves to be forgiven by God. None of us has done anything that obliges God to forgive us. And yet God chooses, of his own free will, and despite our sins, to offer us his mercy. Even though our sins have caused a rift, a gulf, and chasm between him and us, and even though we should rightly be punished, God wants us to be made right with him. So the second thing that we need to take note of, is that God *chooses* to offer us salvation. These two things together form the doctrine of “salvation by grace alone”: none of us deserves to be saved, and yet God chooses to offer us salvation.

Parish Notes on-line

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

PARISH REGISTER

Christian Burial

"At rest in the Lord."

Michael Lewis

Antrim Road

Cremation at Roselawn
on 25th September 2017

Holy Baptism

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

Jessica McMaster

daughter of Michelle McMaster

Downview Gardens

on 1st October 2017

Holy Matrimony

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

Donal Anthony Crossen and Jenna Louise Macbeth

Ashgrove Road, Newtownabbey

on 14th October 2017

Desmond Paul Gibson and Janice Higgins

Ben Eden Avenue

on 21st October 2017

CHAIRS

Thank you very much to Thelma Cross, Dora Hanna and Annette Beattie
for re-upholstering seven more worn out chairs in the hall and also to
Anne Noblett for providing them with refreshments!

Noel Beattie

CHURCH SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY 10.30am	1st NOVEMBER Holy Communion	ALL SAINTS' DAY <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	5th NOVEMBER Holy Communion Holy Communion All Souls' Service	ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY <i>traditional, said, Resurrection</i> <i>modern, sung, Nave</i> <i>modern, sung, Nave</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	8th NOVEMBER Holy Communion	MID-WEEK <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	12th NOVEMBER Holy Communion Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i> <i>modern, sung, Nave</i> <i>modern, said, St James</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	15th NOVEMBER Holy Communion	MID-WEEK <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	19th NOVEMBER Holy Communion Holy Communion Compline	SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i> <i>modern, sung, Nave</i> <i>traditional, sung, Nave</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	22nd NOVEMBER Holy Communion	MID-WEEK <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	26th NOVEMBER Holy Communion Family Service Late Evening Office	THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i> <i>modern, sung, Nave</i> <i>modern, said, St James</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	29th NOVEMBER Holy Communion	MID-WEEK <i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
THURSDAY 7.30pm	30th NOVEMBER Holy Communion	ST ANDREW <i>traditional, said, Chancel</i>

CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER

SUNDAY	3rd DECEMBER	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9am	Holy Communion	<i>traditional, said, Resurrection</i>
11am	Holy Communion	<i>modern, sung, Nave</i>
6.30pm	Advent Carols	<i>modern, sung, Nave</i>
WEDNESDAY	6th DECEMBER	MID-WEEK
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
THURSDAY	7th DECEMBER	ADVENT
7.30pm	Compline	<i>traditional, said, St James</i>
SUNDAY	10th DECEMBER	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9am	Holy Communion	<i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
11am	Christingle Service	<i>modern, sung, Nave</i>
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	<i>modern, said, St James</i>
WEDNESDAY	13th DECEMBER	MID-WEEK
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
THURSDAY	14th DECEMBER	ADVENT
7.30pm	Compline	<i>traditional, said, St James</i>
SUNDAY	17th DECEMBER	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9am	Holy Communion	<i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
11am	Holy Communion	<i>modern, sung, Nave</i>
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	<i>modern, said, St James</i>
MONDAY	18th DECEMBER	THE MONDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS
7.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	<i>traditional, sung, Nave</i>
WEDNESDAY	20th DECEMBER	MID-WEEK
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
THURSDAY	21st DECEMBER	ADVENT
7.30pm	Compline	<i>traditional, said, St James</i>
SUNDAY	24th DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS EVE
9am	Holy Communion	<i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
11am	Family Service	<i>modern, sung, Nave</i>
11pm	Holy Communion	<i>traditional, sung, Nave</i>
MONDAY	25th DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS DAY
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern, sung, Nave</i>
WEDNESDAY	27th DECEMBER	SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
SUNDAY	31st DECEMBER	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
9am	Holy Communion	<i>modern, said, Resurrection</i>
11am	Morning Prayer	<i>modern, sung, Nave</i>

November Diary						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>All Saints' Day</i> 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	2 7.30pm Parish Fellowship	3 10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Bible Study 3.30pm Pilates (beginners) 5.30pm Pilates (intermediate)	4
5 <i>All Saints' Sunday</i> 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion & Sunday School 6.30pm All Souls' Service 6.30pm Confirmation Class	6 7.30pm Finance Committee 8pm Badminton	7 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal	8 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir Committee	9 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Parish Fellowship 8pm Guides	10 10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Mission Committee 3.30pm Pilates (beginners) 5.30pm Pilates (intermediate) 4pm Speech and Drama	11

12 Remembrance 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer & Sunday School (tea/coffee) Traidcraft stall 6.30pm Evening Prayer 6.30pm Confirmation Class	13 7.30pm Select Vestry 8pm Badminton	14 10.30am Crafty Goodness 2.30pm Ladies' Guild 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal	15 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	16 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.45pm Historical Society 8pm Guides	17 10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Bible Study 3.30pm Pilates (beginners) 5.30pm Pilates (intermediate) 4pm Speech and Drama	18
19 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion & Sunday School 3.30pm Leadership Team AGM 6.30pm Compline 6.30pm Confirmation Class	20 Deadline for material to be with Anne for December/January Parish Notes 8pm Badminton	21 10.30 Crafty Goodness 1pm Events Committee 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal	22 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	23 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Parish Fellowship 8pm Guides	24 10.30am PhysioPilates 3.30pm Pilates (beginners) 5.30pm Pilates (intermediate) 4pm Speech and Drama	25
26 Christ the King 9am Holy Communion 11am Family Service (tea/coffee) 6.30pm Late Evening Office 6.30pm Confirmation Class	27 8pm Badminton	28 10.30 Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal	29 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 11.30 Fabric Committee 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	30 St Andrew 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Holy Communion 8pm Parish Fellowship 8pm Guides		



Confirmation Classes will begin on Sunday 5th November 6.30-7.45pm, running each Sunday evening for 6 weeks. As part of the Confirmation class we will be looking at the Youth Alpha course. Each evening we will begin with some snacks followed by a time of Bible study and discussion. We will also look at different topics, for example, "Who is Jesus?", "Why did Jesus die?", "How and why do we pray?", etc. If you or your teenager would like to be part of the classes, please contact the Families' Worker, Nathan Ervine, or the Rector as soon as possible.

Ladies' Guild

Tuesday 14th November at 2.30pm

On Tuesday 14th November at 2.30pm we will be joined by Sandra Hutchman and Dora Hanna who will tell us a little about their recent visit to the Holy Land. As always there will be a cup of tea to follow and plenty of opportunity for a chat.

Our meetings are open to everyone. If you would like to attend but don't have transport please contact me or speak to one of our members after church and we will be happy to arrange a lift for you.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Anne Stewart (Hon Sec) tel 9096 6597



AED
Emergency
defibrillator

Together we could save a life. It could be yours.

Please don't forget we are collecting any bits of gold you may have lying around—broken necklaces, single earrings, etc—anything you no longer want. The money raised will be used to buy a defibrillator for the parish.

LESSON READERS AND INTERCESSORS

The following parishioners are on the rota to read at the 11am Sunday services. If you are unable to read on your appointed Sunday, please contact the Warden of Readers, Forde Patterson, tel 90 364 183.

Nov	First Reading	Second Reading	Intercessor
5th	Peter Coiley	Dora Hanna	Daphne McClements
12th	David Cromie	Wes Holmes	Sandra Davison
19th	Eleanor Henderson	Sandra Hutchman	Dora Hanna
26th	Marie Burrowes	Ashlee McCune	Quintin Mulligan

‘Big Coffee Break’

I really appreciated your support for The Big Coffee Break I hosted for the Adult Hospice on 20th October. We raised a very commendable £360.

Thank you very much.

Sandra Hutchman



AFTER CHURCH REFRESHMENT

Light refreshments will be served after the 11am service on Sunday 12th November by members of the Ladies' Guild and on Sunday 26th November by our Sacristans.



Each year our members vote to support six charities. This year our sixth chosen charity is the Church of Ireland Orphans and Children Society.

CHURCH OF IRELAND ORPHANS AND CHILDREN SOCIETY FOR THE COUNTIES OF ANTRIM AND DOWN (COIOCS)

Charitable Purposes

The principal objectives of the charity are to support Church of Ireland orphans and other children in need, in the counties of Antrim and Down, by utilising a mixture of direct grant aid and support of parochial and diocesan projects specifically designed to assist such children.

All the functions of the charity relate to the advancement of religion, education, and the social and economic well-being of Church of Ireland children and young people in the area defined.

Origins

COIOCS is the modern form of the former Protestant Orphan Society (POS) for the Counties of Antrim and Down and, as such, its roots stretch back to the formation of the latter in 1866. From 1866 to June 2016, the charity has directly assisted 14,402 children and indirectly helped many thousands more.

The POS was one of a number of charities established in the mid nineteenth century as churches and other charitable bodies reacted to the aftermath of the potato famine and the emergence of an industrial economy, both of which had massive impacts on rural and urban societies. Interestingly the Church of Ireland established its major children's charities on a county rather than a diocesan basis, probably to match the existing, secular, county-based structures for assisting the poor, such as work houses etc. The society was also called upon to assist in a significant manner following the flight of many poor protestant families from the Irish Republic during and after the War of Independence and the Irish Civil War.

A New Era

As the twenty first century dawned, the board decided to overhaul the structure and update the purposes of the society as social welfare reforms had impacted its ability to operate. The name was changed to COIOCS and the grant-making capacity expanded to help fund projects. These projects were designed to help the church in filling in some gaps in state-administered social and educational provision, dealing in particular with urban poverty, lack of resources in rural areas, educational under-achievement in urban protestant schools, the rising immigrant population etc. COIOCS was registered with the Charities Commission Northern Ireland in 2016.

Where does the charity get its money from and how is it spent?

In the accounts for the year ended 30th June 2016, the latest figures available, the charity had an income of £212,522, of which £198,891 or 93% came from endowment income and only £9,280 or 4.3% from parish subscriptions. Total

charitable expenditure amounted to £340,424, including administrative and legal costs, meaning there was an operational shortfall of £127,902. This shortfall is partly due to the need to support a growing number of urgent priorities and projects and also to an unusually low level of application in the previous year. As you might imagine, this is a common situation for grant-issuing bodies and the board will seek to balance out income and expenditure in the medium term. The large-scale dependence on endowment income is both a benefit (regular income) and a dis-benefit (market instability), but is not unusual in charities of this nature and vintage.

Of the charitable resources directed to children and projects in 2015/16, £39,270 was paid to orphans or their carers, £6,260 to non-orphan children and families in need, £3,300 as grants to bereaved families (normally paid within one or two days – sometimes even hours – of the death of a parent) and £249,995 in project grants. Wherever possible, charity deals through local clergy in giving direct support to orphans and other children in need. Not only does the charity benefit by having a local “vetting” procedure, but the local parish also benefits by being able to help directly in bereavement or other crisis situations with practical as well as spiritual help – this is one of the features of the charity which makes it unique.

The grant-aid to projects has allowed the local dioceses of Connor and Down & Dromore to enhance and up-scale their Children’s activities, most of which are directed to assisting parishes in these areas. In parishes, which get most of the grant funding, a great variety of activities have been supported: after-schools activities; the provision of computer-learning centres; Loan parent schemes; Summer schemes and camps; Youth clubs and other activities designed not only to help the individual young persons, but to get them off the streets and away from anti-social activities; special provisions to assist in times of political uncertainty and threat in certain “frontline” parishes; bringing specialist help to individuals and families in particular need; helping migrant families integrate; teaching basic home-management skills etc.

In all these multifarious activities, the aim of the charity is to fulfil its stated principal activities and to help Church of Ireland children and young people advance in their lives and fulfil their potential, something unchanged since 1866.

Donate by cheque or cash through your parish

If you would like to support the parish’s charitable giving to the Orphans and Childrens Society, then we encourage you to give cash, or write a cheque payable to “The Parish of St Peter and St James, Belfast” and bring it to church or to the parish office in an envelope marked “Church of Ireland Orphans and Children’s Appeal”.

Donate by cheque directly to COIOCS

Cheques made payable to “Church of Ireland Orphans and Childrens Society” may be sent to “Church of Ireland House, 61–67 Donegall Street, Belfast, BT1 2QH.

Peter Gray

Free Will Offering Envelopes

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9: 6-7

We will soon be preparing the Free Will Offering (FWO) envelopes for next year. Those who wish to continue using this method to subscribe need not take any action as the 2018 envelopes will be automatically given to you in early December.

If, however, you wish to change to a different method (eg banker's standing order or other electronic means) please advise Noel Beattie (tel: 90 778 428 or email: noel_innisfayle@msn.com). Please do this as soon as you can and before the third week of November if at all possible.

If you are a new parishioner and would like to use FWO envelopes please contact Noel Beattie as above.

Thank you.



Christmas Fayre
Saturday 9th December
10.30am—12 noon

Adults £3 includes tea/coffee and cakes
Children £2 includes visit to Santa and
entry to children's activity room

NOVEMBER FLOWER LIST

5TH THE BELL FAMILY
12TH VALERIE GUEST IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND JAMES
19TH HEATHER AND TONY SWAN IN MEMORY OF TONY'S PARENTS
26TH JOAN WALKER

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



PARISHIONER CONTACT DETAILS

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

Holy Dusters Cleaning Rota

30th Oct—4th Nov ----- Group 7
6th Nov—11th Nov ----- Group 8
13th Nov—18th Nov ----- Group 1
20th Nov—25th Nov ----- Group 2
27th Nov—2nd Dec ----- Group 3

NORTH BELFAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THURSDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

7.30PM FOR 7.45PM

McCOLLUM MINOR HALL

Speaker: Myrtle Hill

Subject: The Suffrage Movement in Ulster

Everyone is welcome.

Men and women from all walks of life were involved in the suffrage movement.

In the early 1900s there were several suffrage associations established from Belfast, ranging from Irish Women's Suffrage Society to Men's Political Union.

Come along and hear how the times and life have changed for all of us—past, present and future—as a result of the movement.

Bring along your family, friends and neighbours.

We certainly look forward to seeing you on the 16th November.

Margi Crawford

ORGANISATIONS/HALL TIMETABLE

Sunday

11am—12noon: Sunday School

Monday

8pm—11pm: Badminton Club

Tuesday

10.30am—12.30pm: Crafty Goodness

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

6pm—7pm: Beaver Scouts

7pm—8pm: Cub Scouts

Wednesday

2pm—4pm: Bridge Club

6.30pm—7.45pm: PhysioPilates

7.30pm—9pm: Choir

Thursday

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

6pm—7pm: Rainbows

7pm—8pm: Brownies

7.30pm—9pm: Parish Fellowship (every Thurs except 3rd in month)

7.45pm—9.30pm: Historical Society (3rd Thursday in month)

8pm—9.30pm: Guides

Friday

10.30am—11.45am: PhysioPilates

11.30am—12.30pm: Bible Study (1st and 3rd Friday in month)

3.30pm—4.30pm: Physiotherapy led Mat Pilates (beginners)

5.30pm—6.30pm: Physiotherapy led Mat Pilates (intermediate)

4pm—8pm: Speech and Drama

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

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.



A date for your diary!

Cavehill Community Choir Concert—Friday 1st December at 8pm—
tickets available from Annette Beattie.

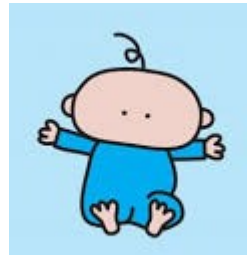
Our Parish Family ...

Please let us know about any happy events and/or exciting news happening within our parish family. Good news is always worth sharing!

It's a boy!

Congratulations to
Nathan and Grace Ervine
on the birth of their son

Jacob



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Stall open on
Sunday 12th November
during coffee time after
the 11am service

THE NEXT MEETING OF
THE SELECT VESTRY
WILL BE ON
MONDAY 13TH NOVEMBER
AT 7.30PM
IN THE MINOR HALL

*Please send material for the December/January 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 20th November. Thank you.*