

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES  
BELFAST

# PARISH NOTES

SEPTEMBER 2015

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

*Give thanks in all circumstances  
for this is the will of God . . .*



## Harvest Thanksgiving

### Sunday 27th September at 11am

service followed by a light lunch

*What are you thankful for?*

## GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE

## RECTOR'S NOTES

### PASTORAL VISITS

The notices on our service sheets now convey a reminder to contact me regarding arranging a pastoral visit. If you haven't already done so, please pick up the phone (90 777 053) or send me an email ([brianlacey@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brianlacey@hotmail.co.uk)), as it is vitally important that I see every one of you. These visits go beyond the merely social "More tea, vicar?" conversations that we can so easily slip into, and instead my intention is to have a proper discussion about the Christian faith. To do so, I need to ask questions about your understanding of God and Christianity. But, and I must stress this, it is not a test! The purpose is to enable me, as your Rector, to determine what the spiritual state of this parish is, and then to take remedial action to build up the kingdom of God here amongst us. Please welcome this endeavour; as I've pointed out before, to have a conversation with a clergyman without discussing your spiritual health is no different to having a conversation with a doctor and never mentioning your physical health. But I am leaving the initiative with you, for whilst I will repeatedly encourage all of you to arrange a visit from me, the responsibility lies with you to do so.

Such a visit is of course different from a visit in the case of ill-health, which is intended to bring comfort from prayer and the Scriptures, rather than discussing your faith (unless, as is sometimes the case, such a conversation would be helpful under the circumstances). As always, if you or a loved one could benefit from such a visit, please contact me.

### CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Once upon a time, a parish could determine how many regular worshippers it had based on who attended every Sunday, whereas we now count the number who come at least once a month. Sadly,

in our increasingly secular world, the frequency of church attendance – even by staunch churchgoers - has greatly reduced. We need to improve this situation. At my last reckoning, I counted 110 regular worshippers, many of whom come to St Peter's once every few weeks. Wouldn't it be fantastic if the whole bunch of us were together every single Sunday?! Let's make it a priority to be together weekly to worship God, to learn more about him, and to pray to him.

Of course, if you genuinely are busy at 11am on Sunday mornings, then we also have our service of Holy Communion at 10.30am every Wednesday, and we have Holy Communion at 9am every Sunday, and for most of the year we have Choral Evensong fortnightly at 6.30pm on Sundays. We also have saints' days throughout the year which are celebrated on weekdays as announced. So there is no shortage of church services in St Peter's to attend! We just need to work on our motivation, and remember that our Lord Jesus deserves to be our priority.

### **YEAR OF DISCIPLESHIP**

Until Easter 2016 our primary focus as a parish will be on developing our personal and corporate discipleship. This means that we will be learning more about how Jesus wants us to live, and we will be seeking new ways of deepening our relationship with God. To do this, there are quite a few ideas that we need to put into practice over the coming months. As with all things, my ideas are worth nothing without your support and encouragement. So please play your own part in building up St Peter's by involving yourself in these various projects.

At Easter I informed you that each year I will run a short **Membership Course** (three one-hour sessions) for new members of our congregation. The course will examine the history and traditions of the Church of Ireland, provide an overview of the Bible

and Christian theology, and summarise the teachings and actions of Jesus, and consider how to put these into practice ourselves. I would of course encourage all existing members of our congregation to undertake this course, in order that all of our members have a common level of understanding. The three sessions of this course will be run at several times over the coming months in order that everyone can pick a time that suits their own schedule. I will be asking you to register for each session, so please do make a point of signing up for them.

We currently have two **Bible Study Groups**: one on a Thursday evening, and another on Friday morning, both of which meet fortnightly. Such groups work best with around six people, as it means everyone has an opportunity to contribute their opinion. I would like to form more groups, and in particular I would like a group just for men, and another group for young adults (aged 20 – 40). Several parishioners have expressed concerns that such Bible studies might be very formal or too academic for them, whereas in truth they are quite relaxed and informative, and we are free to critique and question the meaning of the passages we study.

There is a Ladies' Guild in St Peter's which has been going strong for many years. However, attempts at a similar **Men's Society** has proven to be more difficult to sustain for various reasons. Most recently the men from our parish had joined with men from the local Methodist church, and together we had breakfast once a month following which we listened to an invited speaker. Unfortunately unless a few men rise to the challenge of organising the group, nothing will happen. There are a number of fundraising projects that a men's society could organise, such as monthly car boot sales, which could provide a focus for the group. But we do need two or three people to turn ideas into reality. Speak to me if you think you would like to be involved in developing this group.

Regularly communicating with God – telling him our hopes and dreams, our fears and sorrows, and learning how to hear to him speaking to us – is vitally important in the life of any follower of Jesus. I want us explore new ways of praying, both as individuals and as a community, and this will be partly discussed in our new Membership Course. Moreover, I intend to form a **Prayer Team**. Initially this will consist of perhaps six people, one of whom will be designated as the contact person for parishioners who wish the parish to offer prayers for themselves or someone else. The contact person will pray privately for the person, and then they will contact the next person in the Prayer Team, who will then pray privately for the person, and then they will contact another person in the Prayer Team who will do the same, and so on until the last person contacts the leader of the Prayer Team to tell them that the prayers have been passed down through all members. This is essentially a prayer chain, and it has proven to be very welcome and effective in other parishes. The leader of the Prayer Team would also inform me of the request for prayer, and I will add their name to the list for prayers on Wednesday mornings.

It always surprises me when parishioners say that they do not know other parishioners, despite sitting close to them every Sunday in church for many years. To counter this, many parishes have developed **House Groups**, to which six or seven people in a geographical area meet in one person's house each month (either the same house each time, or rotating between different houses). There would be a topic to discuss (perhaps a Bible study, or some other form of discipleship course) and an opportunity to get to know each other a little better. I would like to set up four initial House Groups in the coming months: a group of parishioners from the Jordanstown/Carrickfergus area, another in the Glengormley area, another for parishioners living on the North Circular Road side of the Antrim Road, and another group for those living opposite on the Lansdowne Road side.

### **SOUTH PORCH BOOK STALL**

There is a shelf at the back of the church on which there is a small library of books available for loan, overseen by Wes Holmes. Please do use this library, as there are some excellent theology books that you might find enlightening!

Quite separately from the lending library, I would like to encourage you to bring down any books which we can then sell from the south porch in the church. We can take any books, on any subject, so long as they are in good condition and might be of interest to other parishioners. We will use an honesty box, so people can buy some books and make a voluntary donation for them by popping some coins (or notes) in the tin. All money raised will go towards parish funds.

### **CHURCH SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER**

September is always an awkward month, as we shift up a gear from the leisurely summer into the busy season of the Church running up to Christmas. To ease ourselves gently into our normal pattern of worship, the **Choir** will resume their duties on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September, but our services of Choral Evensong will not recommence until Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September. Now would be a great time to speak to me or to Robert, our Choirmaster, if you feel God calling you to join the Choir.

We are celebrating two holy days in September: the birth of the **Blessed Virgin Mary** on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>, and **St Matthew** on Monday 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be a service of Holy Communion (traditional language) at 7.30pm on both of those dates. Please note that, because I will be away, there will be no celebration on the feast day of St Michael and all Angels, which falls on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September.

For our young families, our monthly **Family Service** will resume in



the Halls on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September. It has been great to witness Frank, our Families Worker, growing in confidence amongst us over the past six months, so please continue to support him as he leads this child-friendly form of worship by bringing your children and grandchildren, and by encouraging your friends and neighbours to do the same. As always, we all sit together in the Church at the beginning of the service. Would parents also note that the Sunday School will resume from the following Sunday, 20th September.

Our **Harvest Thanksgiving** this year will be celebrated on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September at the 11am service. Harvest services are traditionally held on the Sunday following the full moon at the end of September, which is known as the Harvest Moon. This year, however, the Harvest Moon occurs on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>, and so our service will be held on that precise date. Preparations for the service (including bringing flowers, fruit, and vegetables to the church) will take place on the morning of Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September from 10am. As usual there will be a collection of food (tins, tea, coffee, etc) which will be donated to the Welcome Centre for homeless people in the city. See note below.

## HARVEST DECORATION

This year our Harvest Thanksgiving will be held on Sunday 27th September. As always, we need volunteers, both men and women, to help with the decoration of the church. We hope that as many people as possible will come along on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 10am to lend a hand. (Children please come



along at 11am to do your own decorating with our Sunday School teachers).

We also need gifts of flowers, fruit, vegetables and groceries which will then be donated as stated in the Rector's Notes.

Don't just read this—please come along and help!

## CHURCH SERVICES

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>MID-WEEK SERVICE</b>
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
9am	Holy Communion	<i>traditional</i>
11am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>THE BIRTH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>
7.30pm	Holy Communion	<i>traditional</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>MID-WEEK SERVICE</b>
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
9am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
11am	Morning Prayer	<i>modern</i>
11am	Family Service (Halls)	<i>modern</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>MID-WEEK SERVICE</b>
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
9am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
11am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
6.30pm	Choral Evensong	<i>traditional</i>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>ST MATTHEW</b>
7.30pm	Holy Communion	<i>traditional</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>MID-WEEK SERVICE</b>
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>HARVEST THANKSGIVING</b>
9am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
11am	Morning Prayer	<i>modern</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>MID-WEEK SERVICE</b>
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER</b>	<b>THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
9am	Holy Communion	<i>traditional</i>
11am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
6.30pm	Choral Evensong	<i>traditional</i>



<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER</b>	<b>MID-WEEK SERVICE</b>
10:30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER</b>	<b>ST PHILIP THE DEACON</b>
9am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
11am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
11am	Family Service (Halls)	<i>modern</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER</b>	<b>MID-WEEK SERVICE</b>
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER</b>	<b>ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST</b>
9am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
11am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
6.30pm	Choral Evensong	<i>traditional</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER</b>	<b>MID-WEEK SERVICE</b>
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER</b>	<b>ST JAMES, THE BROTHER OF OUR LORD</b>
11am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER</b>	<b>BIBLE SUNDAY</b>
9am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>
11am	Morning Prayer	<i>modern</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER</b>	<b>ST SIMON &amp; ST JUDE</b>
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>modern</i>

### 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
6th September	Hilary Shields	Anne Roberts	The Rector
13th September	Philip Williamson	Tom Campbell	The Rector
20th September	Colin Bell	Dora Hanna	The Rector
27th September	Peter Coiley	Wes Holmes	The Rector

# September Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 6.45pm Cavehill Crochet Club	<b>2</b> 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 7.30pm Hall Users' Training Session	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 11.30am Bible Study	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	<b>7</b> 7.30pm Finance Committee 8pm Badminton	<b>8</b> <i>The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 6.45pm Cavehill Crochet Club 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Holy Communion	<b>9</b> 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge	<b>10</b> 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Bible Study 8pm Guides	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>

<b>13</b> 9am Holy Communion 11am Family Service (tea/ coffee after)	<b>14</b> 7.30pm Select Vestry 8pm Badminton	<b>15</b> 12noon Rural Deanery Meeting 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 8pm Compassionate Friends	<b>16</b> 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	<b>17</b> 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.45 North Belfast Historical Society 8pm Guides	<b>18</b> 10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Bible Study	<b>19</b> 9am Aurora Dance Classes 6.30pm Back to School Movie Night (time to be confirmed)
<b>20</b> 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion 6.30pm Choral Evensong	<b>21</b> <i>St Matthew Deadline for material to be with Anne for October Parish Notes</i> 7.30pm Holy Communion 8pm Badminton	<b>22</b> 10.30am Crafty Goodness 1pm Events and Organisations Committee 6pm Beavers 6.45pm Cavehill Crochet Club 7pm Cubs	<b>23</b> 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 11.30am Fabric Committee 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	<b>24</b> 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Bible Study 8pm Guides	<b>25</b> 10.30am PhysioPilates 4.30pm Speech and Drama	<b>26</b> 9am Aurora Dance Classes 10am Decoration of church for Harvest 11am Sunday School Harvest decorating
<b>27</b> <i>Harvest Thanksgiving</i> 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer (light lunch after)	<b>28</b> 11am Hazelwood College Harvest Thanksgiving 8pm Badminton	<b>29</b> 6pm Beavers 6.45pm Cavehill Crochet Club 7pm Cubs	<b>30</b> 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir			

## Back to School Movie Night and Homework Club

We are very excited as children go back to school and the summer holidays come to an end to welcome them to our church programmes. The family and children's ministry will be kicking off this term with a couple of exciting events.

First, we are having a Back to School Movie Night which will be held in the Church halls on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September. This will be open to all the families in the community and we



would love to see you there. More details about it will follow, so keep an eye on our Facebook page: "St Peter's Family and Children".

We are also excited about our Homework Club which we hope to have running by the end of September. This is something that we believe is key in the development of our children and so would love you to get



involved with it.

Whether you wish to volunteer, or donate towards this project, we would be more than happy to hear from you.

We are relying on volunteers to help with this

project, so if you know anyone who would like to help, or if you wish to volunteer yourself, please contact Frank on 07803 763888 or email: [mrdillon00@gmail.com](mailto:mrdillon00@gmail.com).

*Frank Dillon*

## PHYSIOPILATES

My PhysioPilates classes will recommence on:  
Wednesday 16th September at 6.30pm and  
Friday 18th September at 10.30am.

Fees remain the same as before:

£70 for a term of 12 classes or

£7 for each individual session.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Sandra Hutchman (tel 95 140 564)

## Parish Notes

Do you know that every month there is a full colour version of Parish Notes on our parish website? Visit [www.stpeters.connor.anglican.org](http://www.stpeters.connor.anglican.org) and click on "News".

## AFTER CHURCH REFRESHMENT

*Thank you to the members of our Charities' Action group who will provide light refreshments after the 11am service on Sunday 13th September.*



## PATRONAL FESTIVAL

On Sunday 28th June we celebrated St Peter's Day at services at 9am, 11am & 6.30pm. At our Festal Choral Evensong not only did we celebrate our Patronal Festival but also the 80th birthday of our invited preacher, former curate and good friend, The Very Rev'd Brian Moller. After the service we sang Happy Birthday and enjoyed a slice of cake which was expertly decorated by Lee Kennedy, our Brownie leader, with the crossed keys symbol for St Peter.

*Thank you to Vivien Stark for the photo.*



## ORGANISATIONS - TIMETABLE

### Sunday

11am—12noon: Sunday School

### Monday

8.00pm—11.00pm: Badminton Club

### Tuesday

10.30am—12.30pm: Crafty Goodness (alternate Tuesdays)

2.30pm—4.30pm: Ladies' Guild (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in month)

6pm—7pm: Beaver Scouts

6.45pm—8.45pm: Cavehill Crochet Club (except 3rd Tuesday in month)

7pm—8pm: Cub Scouts

8pm—10pm: TCFNI Support for bereaved parents (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in month)

7.45pm: Historical Society (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in month)

8pm—9.30pm: Guides

### Friday

10.30am—11.45am: PhysioPilates

11.30am: Bible Study (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in month)

4.30pm—7.30pm: Speech and Drama

### Saturday

9am—12noon: Aurora Dance Classes

*For more information about start back dates for the new season please contact appropriate personnel listed on back page or the Parish Office.*

THE NEXT MEETING OF  
THE SELECT VESTRY  
WILL BE ON  
MONDAY  
14TH SEPTEMBER  
AT 7.30PM  
IN THE MINOR HALL

### Holy Dusters Cleaning Rota

31st Aug—5th Sept	Group 6
7th Sept—12th Sept	Group 7
14th Sept—19th Sept	Group 8
21st Sept—26th Sept	Group 1
28th Sept—3rd Oct	Group 2

## SEPTEMBER FLOWER LIST

6TH DOROTHY MCCAUSLAND  
20TH JOAN WALKER  
27TH HARVEST THANKSGIVING

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](mailto: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 13th September  
during coffee time after  
the 11am service

### 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 his landline, telephone 90 777 053, or on his mobile, telephone 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 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.

*Please send material for the October issue of Parish Notes to:  
Anne Cromie, Parish Office, St Peter's Church,  
Fortwilliam Drive, Belfast BT15 4EB  
or email: [stpeterandstjames@outlook.com](mailto:stpeterandstjames@outlook.com)  
by Monday 21st September. Thank you.*