



RECTOR'S NOTES

SERVICES IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Can you believe it's nearly Christmas already?! December brings with it the special, and much anticipated, Advent and Christmas services and I am very grateful to Noel Beattie and his team of helpers who will decorate the church. It is a cold and dark time of year, but please do wrap up warm and venture away from your radiators to continue the praise of God in St Peter's! In addition to our regular services, here are some others to take note of:

- * The 3rd December is the First Sunday of Advent, and so that evening we will have our **Advent Carol Service** at 6.30pm.
- * The first three Thursdays in December, which are the 7th, 14th, and 21st, each have traditional services of Advent Compline at 7.30pm. As usual, members of our congregation will give a short talk about their faith.
- * On the 10th December we will have our **Christingle Service** at 11am, during which the children prepare Christingles for the congregation.
- * On Monday 18th December is the traditional service of **Nine Lessons & Carols**, beginning at 7.30pm.
- * Christmas Eve, 24th December, falls on a Sunday this year, which results in some changes to our normal routine. Instead of a **Nativity Service** during the afternoon of Christmas Eve, this will be absorbed into our regular morning service at 11am on Sunday 24th December. The Sunday evening service that day will also be moved to 11pm, when we will have our traditional **Midnight Communion**.

- * Christmas Day, 25th December, is a Monday, and as usual when it falls on a weekday we will celebrate it with **Christmas Carols & Communion** at 10.30am.
- * Our usual mid-week service at 10.30am on Wednesday 27th December will commemorate **St John the Evangelist.**
- * In January, the **Baptism of our Lord** is celebrated on Sunday 7th January at both morning services.
- * On Thursday 25th January we will commemorate the **Conversion of St Paul**, with a traditional celebration of Holy Communion at 7.30pm.
- * The **Presentation of Christ in the Temple** is officially the 2nd February, but it can be transferred to the Sunday between the 28th January and 3rd February, which means that we will celebrate it on Sunday 28th January. At the 11am service that day, we will renew our baptismal vows, and the parents of anyone baptised in the last 12 years will receive a blessing

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION AT HOME

During the two weeks leading up to Christmas Day, I celebrate Holy Communion in the homes of parishioners who cannot otherwise make it to church for our Christmas services. I have a list of parishioners who have—during my time as Rector—requested such a home visit.



If I have shared Holy Communion with you at home in recent years, then you will still be on my list, and you don't need to do anything—I'll just turn up on your doorstep one day. If you

haven't received Holy Communion at home in the last four years, but would like to, then simply pick up the phone and call me at 90777053, or ask a friend to do so, and we can arrange a time and date that suits you. Please let me know by Friday 10th December. I would be delighted to come to see you at this time of year.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

The annual meeting of the Leadership Team met on Sunday 19th November. This meeting involves any parishioner who is a parochial office-bearer or committee member. The following attended the meeting: Adele Watt, Anne Cromie, Barbara Greenlees, Brian Davison, Colin Bell, Daphne McClements, David Cromie, Dora Hanna, Gareth Larmour, Heather Swan, Margi Crawford, Marie Burrowes, Nathan Ervine, Rosemary Johnston, Sandra Davison, Sandra Hutchman, Thelma Cross, Tom Campbell, and Tony Swan.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and develop ideas regarding the mission and ministries of the Church. Each year we have a different theme; our focus this year is on social outreach, and specifically what we can do as Christians to engage with our local community. The Leadership Team discussed: (1) Why should the Church help people who don't belong to the Church? (3) How important should community projects be with in the life of our parish? (4) Should Christians do community projects in order to provide an opportunity for evangelism, or are the projects themselves acts of evangelism? (5) Why might a congregation not want to do community outreach? (6) How did Jesus love people? (7) In what ways could any congregation help the people in their neighbourhood? (8) What could the congregation of St Peter's do to help people in our community?

Some great ideas were suggested in response to the last question, which will be furthered by the Mission & Ministries Committee which I convene every month, consisting of Ashlee McCune, Cheryl Hurson, Dora Hanna, Margi Crawford, Quintin Mulligan, and Rosemary Johnston. I will keep you informed of how we plan to turn ideas into reality.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

I would like to thank all who took part in our Act of Remembrance this year. Several parishioners have mentioned to me how meaningful and dignified the service was, and so I want to express our gratitude to our wreath layers, Mark Sterling and Heather Tweedie; to Jim Tweedie, our flag bearer; to David Cromie and Hilary Shields who read the lessons; to Sandra Davison who led our prayers; to Robert Thompson our Choirmaster and to the Choir; and to Dora Hanna and again Hilary Shields who deputised for the Churchwardens. I am also thankful to Tony Swan who laid the wreath at the early morning service, also to Stanley McDowell for procuring the wreaths and poppies, and to Valerie Guest and Rosemary Hinds for the beautiful flowers. Remembrance Sunday is a very important day in the parish calendar, and as always St Peter's marks the occasion with great reverence.

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Our Halloween Jazz social event was a great success—it was lots of fun, and it raised money for the parish and our chosen charities! The parish is indebted to all who helped set-up the halls, make the food, and assist on the night: Noel & Annette Beattie, David & Anne Cromie, Anne Fitzpatrick, Dora Hanna, John Hill, Sandra Hutchman, Daphne McClements, Heather & Tony Swan. And of course we are grateful to parishioners and friends of the parish who came along to enjoy the Martello Jazz Band.

There are two fundraising events in December which we would ask you to support. On Friday 1st December the **Cavehill Community Choir** will put on their Christmas Concert in St Peter's. There is an entrance fee of £10, with tickets available from Churchwardens, from the Parish Office and at the door on

the night. Then on Saturday 9th December is our **Christmas Fayre** in the halls. The entrance fee is £3 for an adult, and £2 for a child, which includes tea and cakes, children's activities, and a visit to Santa and Mrs Claus. And of course there will also be a wide selection of stalls to peruse and buy from.



ADULT CONFIRMATION

Nathan Ervine, our Children's Worker, has been preparing our teenagers for Confirmation by the Bishop at the beginning of



February. But some adults have also expressed an interested in being confirmed. If you were baptised as a child but have never had the opportunity to make the baptismal promises for yourself, then please

consider it. Anyone wishing to be confirmed will need to come to four information evenings (entirely separate from the teenagers' group), when we learn about the theology and practicalities of the Christian faith. Details about these four evenings will be printed in the weekly notices sheets, but speak to me if you would like to discuss if being confirmed would be the right next step on your journey of faith. The service of Confirmation will be at 11am on Sunday 4th February 2018.

PATERNITY LEAVE



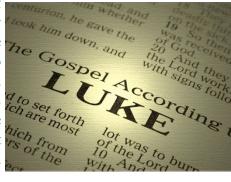
Many of you will know that the nursery in the Rectory is being readied again in expectation of another resident in January. Laura is due to give birth towards the end of the month, but babies are fickle and he/she might appear sooner or later. Unfortunately this means that it's very difficult to plan when I'll be off on paternity leave.

Although I will make preparations to cover my absence, some might need to be arranged at the last minute, and this might necessitate changes to our services or mid-week activities. As far as possible, changes will be publicised in our weekly Notices Sheets and on our Facebook page.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Parish Fellowship will meet at 7.30pm on Thursdays 7th and 14th December. We will then take a break for about a month, and resume on Thursday 25th January. During the last few months we have explored the history and liturgy of Holy Communion 1, we

have explored the nature of prayer, we have discussed how to read the Bible, and we have studied the Gospel according to St Luke. If you don't mind braving the cold and dark at this time of year, please do come along and join us—it's a great opportunity to grow in faith, and get to know each other.



SERMON SUMMARIES

On **All Saints' Sunday** (Sunday 1st November), we considered what makes a person a "saint"? It might be easier to first ask, "What does the word 'saint' mean?" The English word "saint" comes from the Latin word "sanctus", which means "holy". And "holy" means "set apart for God's purposes". So when we describe someone as a saint, we are saying that on one level they are a godly rather than a worldly person, but moreover, that God has used that person for his purposes—to change the world, to transform people's lives, to build God's kingdom on earth.

Within Anglicanism, we tend only to use the title "Saint" only for individuals in the first few centuries AD, whose lives and witness helped to form and shape the Church. So very famous Christians such as St Peter, St James, St Paul, or St Patrick and St Columba, as well as some others whom you might not have heard of unless you happened to go to a church dedicated to them, such as St Ignatius or St Clement. When we describe the Apostle Peter as "Saint Peter" we are simply recognising that he played a pivotal role in the origins and development of the Christian faith. F or that reason, Anglicans don't tend to award the title in modern times, in the same way that the Roman Catholic Church does. Their understanding of "saints" is different, because when someone dies, after having lived a godly life, if a certain number of miracles can be attributed to the dead person's heavenly intervention, then that person can be canonised as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church. Roman Catholics therefore believe that the saints are godly people who are still at work in heaven on our behalf, wherefore Protestants use the term "saint" largely as a title of honour. What is common between the two, is a sense that not everyone is described as a saint. It is an exclusive club, of which the vast majority of Christians will not become members. That, unfortunately, is a problem. And it's the reason why Reformed Protestants tend to avoid describing anyone as a saint. Because – technically speaking – all Christians are saints.

Any person who believes that Jesus is the Son of the Trinitarian God, and who trusts in Jesus' promises of salvation, and who is in a lifelong process of sanctification through obedience to the Holy Spirit—such a person is a saint. They are saints because they are different from the world. They are not pursuing their own selfish interests. They are not holding onto grudges. They are not indifferent to the needs of others. Those are the ways of the world. And so Christians, following the teachings of Christ, and assisted by the Holy Spirit, stand apart from those worldly notions, and instead they focus on pleasing God and helping others. It doesn't mean that they are perfect. Rather it means that they recognise that they aren't perfect, but they are willing day by day to change and grow. Any person, who commits themselves to a Christian way of life, with the personal sacrifices that such a life entails, is a saint.

There is a problem therefore when we describe particular individuals as saints. Because it implies that they have reached a level of holiness, that the rest of us could never achieve. So we need to undo that sort of thinking. Being a saint is not a reward for exemplary service. Rather, it's a description of our relationship with God. If you believe in God, and you trust in his promises, and you obey him, then *you* are a saint. And you share that description with Simon Peter, and with Paul or Tarsus, and with Patrick the first Bishop of Ireland. It's their relationship



with God, and their willingness allow their entire lives to be shaped and transformed and used for the purposes of God. which make them saints.

So let's recognise our own saintliness, not to revel in our own glory, but to challenge us to live up to the standards set by the generations of Christian men and women who dedicated themselves to proclaiming the glory of God.

On the **Second Sunday before Advent** (Sunday 19th November) we learnt about the Parable of the Talents. It is a story about a man who gives money to his servants. In the Bible the word used for money is a "talent", which was a lot of money in those days. In fact, academics reckon that it would have taken a farm labourer 20 years to earn one talent. So, in the story, the man gives out quite a lot of money to each of his servants. To one servant he gives five talents (which would have been a huge sum of money), to another he gave two talents, and to another just one talent (which is still a lot). The servant who received that one talent, went a dug a hole in the ground, and buried his coin. Whereas the other two servants traded theirs, and doubled their money. When the man returned home, he praised the two servants who had made a profit. But he was angry with the servant who gave him back the one coin which he had been given. The man took away the servant's single coin, and gave it to the servant who had received five coins and had made five more. And the servant who was left with no coins was, as the reading says, "thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

As parables go, it certainly seems very focussed on accumulating wealth. But in fact it has absolutely nothing to do with money. The key to unlocking the meaning of this parable, is to understand that the valuable coin represents not money, but rather God's love. Each coin is a physical symbol of God's compassion, his mercy, and his forgiveness. The man in the parable represents God, and his servants represent us. So the story is about God giving each of us his compassion, his mercy, and his forgiveness. And seeing what we do in response.

Do we take God's love and share it with others? By being compassionate when others are suffering? By being slow to judge others? By being willing to forgive when others have hurt us? When we do these things, then—according to the parable—we are taking the love of God, which is represented by a coin, and we are multiplying it. We are sharing it with other people, and increasing the amount of love. Or do we take God's love, and hide it away? Do we take God's forgiveness for ourselves, but we don't then forgive the people who have hurt us? Do we receive with gladness God's compassion for us, but we then don't care for the needs of others? If we behave like that, then—according to the parable—we are taking the love of God, and burying in the ground. We have it stored away for ourselves for when we need it, but nobody else is going to benefit from it.

Take note of what happened to servant who did just that—his one coin was taken from him, and given to the servant who had lots of coins. The meaning is that God will not be gracious to people who won't be gracious to others. As an example of this, during Holy Communion, the Sharing of the Peace is introduced with the words "If you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others,



neither will your Father forgive your sins." In other words, if you won't show love to others, then you won't receive it from God. He will take from you the forgiveness that he offers you, because you won't forgive other people.

But on the contrary, God will be exceedingly gracious to

those who share his love the most. Indeed, listen to what the man says to his profitable servants in the parable: "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things." The more able

you are to share God's love, the more God will call upon to share that love. The kinder you become, the more opportunities God will give you to be kind. The more generous you become, the more opportunities God will give you to be generous. The more you show God that you can take his love and share it with others, the more God will entrust that love to you.

So, if God is good to you, be good to others. If God forgives you, forgive others. If God helps you, help others. Because in God's eyes, one good turn deserves another.

SELECT VESTRY BULLETIN

In October, the Halloween Jazz Night raised £1,019. On behalf of the Select Vestry, I would like to thank all the parishioners who worked so hard in making this night a great success. In addition to the money raised for the parish and the charities which we are supporting this year, events like this help to foster and sustain friendships amongst the members of our congregation. On the back of this success, the Select Vestry continues to examine further fundraising possibilities. If anyone has any ideas for fundraising events or activities, please suggest them to the Rector or a member of the Events & Organisations Committee.

Each week parishioners give their Free Will Offering towards parish funds, which ensures that all essential functions are carried out. However, some parishioners have offered to contribute towards items which would help preserve or improve our beautiful church building. To that end, the Select Vestry has drawn up a wish list of suggested items. If anyone is interested in finding out more, then they should speak to the Rector who would be more than happy to provide further information.

Parishioners, especially those with a connection to St James' Church, might be interested to know that the Select Vestry is seeking to sell the former Church and Halls, and has received permission from the Diocesan Council to do so. Now, we just need to sort out the legalities of such a sale, while also finding potential buyers. Although the church is now closed, Christian worship continues as both the Coptic Orthodox Church, and the Indian Orthodox Church, hire the use of rooms in the halls

Gareth Larmour. Hon Sec to Select Vestry

CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER

SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	3 rd DECEMBER Holy Communion Holy Communion Advent Carols	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT traditional, said, Resurrection, purple modern, sung, Nave, purple modern, sung, Nave, purple
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	6 th DECEMBER Holy Communion	MID-WEEK modern, said, Resurrection, purple
THURSDAY 7.30pm	7th DECEMBER Compline	ADVENT traditional, said, St James, purple
SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	10 th DECEMBER Holy Communion Christingle Service Evening Prayer	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT modern, said, Resurrection, purple modern, sung, Nave, purple modern, said, St James, purple
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	13 th DECEMBER Holy Communion	MID-WEEK modern, said, Resurrection, purple
THURSDAY 7.30pm	14 th DECEMBER Compline	ADVENT traditional, said, St James, purple
SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	17 th DECEMBER Holy Communion Holy Communion Evening Prayer	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT modern, said, Resurrection, purple modern, sung, Nave, purple modern, said, St James, purple
9am 11am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	modern, said, Resurrection, purple modern, sung, Nave, purple
9am 11am 6.30pm MONDAY	Holy Communion Holy Communion Evening Prayer 18 th DECEMBER	modern, said, Resurrection, purple modern, sung, Nave, purple modern, said, St James, purple THE MONDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS
9am 11am 6.30pm MONDAY 7.30pm WEDNESDAY	Holy Communion Holy Communion Evening Prayer 18 th DECEMBER Nine Lessons and Carols 20 th DECEMBER	modern, said, Resurrection, purple modern, sung, Nave, purple modern, said, St James, purple THE MONDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS traditional, sung, Nave, purple MID-WEEK
9am 11am 6.30pm MONDAY 7.30pm WEDNESDAY 10.30am THURSDAY	Holy Communion Holy Communion Evening Prayer 18 th DECEMBER Nine Lessons and Carols 20 th DECEMBER Holy Communion 21 st DECEMBER	modern, said, Resurrection, purple modern, sung, Nave, purple modern, said, St James, purple THE MONDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS traditional, sung, Nave, purple MID-WEEK modern, said, Resurrection, purple ADVENT

WEDNESDAY27th DECEMBERSAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST10.30amMorning Prayermodern, said, Resurrection, whiteSUNDAY31st DECEMBERTHE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS9amHoly Communionmodern, said, Resurrection, white11amMorning Prayermodern, sung, Nave, white

CHURCH SERVICES IN JANUARY

WEDNESDAY 10.30am	3rd JANUARY Morning Prayer	MID-WEEK modern, said, Resurrection, white
SUNDAY 9am 11am	7th JANUARY Holy Communion Holy Communion	THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY traditional, said, Resurrection, white modern, sung, Nave, white
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	10 th JANUARY Holy Communion	MID-WEEK modern, said, Resurrection, white
SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	14 th JANUARY Holy Communion Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY modern, said, Resurrection, white modern, sung, Nave, white modern, said, St James, white
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	17 th JANUARY Holy Communion	MID-WEEK modern, said, Resurrection, white
SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	21 st JANUARY Holy Communion Holy Communion Compline	THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY modern, said, Resurrection, white modern, sung, Nave, white traditional, sung, Nave, white
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	24 th JANUARY Holy Communion	MID-WEEK modern, said, Chancel, white
THURSDAY 7.30pm	25 th JANUARY Holy Communion	THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL traditional, said, Resurrection, white
SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	28 th JANUARY Holy Communion Baptismal Renewal Late Evening Office	THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST modern, said, Resurrection, white modern, sung, Nave, white modern, said, St James, white
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	31 st JANUARY Holy Communion	MID-WEEK modern, said, Resurrection, white

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Decem	December Diary	>				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday Thursday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer No evening service					10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Bible Study 3.30pm LivePilates (beginners) 5.30pm LivePilates (intermediate) 8pm Cavehill Community Choir	2
4 Advent 1 9 am Holy Communion 11 am Holy Communion & Sunday School 6.30 pm Advent Carol Service 6.30 pm Confirmation Class	4 7.30pm Finance Committee 8pm Badminton	5 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal	6 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	10am Little Cherubs 10.30am 7.30pm Advent Parish Fellowship Committe 8pm Guides (beginner 5.30pm L (intermed 7pm Sale	8 10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Mission Committee 3.30pm LivePilates (beginners) 5.30pm LivePilates (intermediate) 7pm Sale set-up	9 10.30am Christmas Fayre

77 8	8pm Badminton	10.30am Crafty 10.30am Crafty Goodness 2.30pm Ladies' Guild 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs	10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	1030am Little Cherubs 10.30am 10.30am Advent PhysioPile Parish Fellowship Study 3.30pm L (beginner 5.30pm L (intermed	10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Bible Study 3.30pm LivePilates (beginners) 5.30pm LivePilates (intermediate)	P. C.
7.30pm Christmas Carol Service—Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight followed by mulled wine and shortbread 8pm Badminton		19 10.30 Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers	10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 7.30pm Choir	7.30pm Advent Service 7.45pm Historical Society	22	23
25 Christmas Day 10.30am Holy Communion	N	56	27 St John the Evangelist 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments	28	29	30

January	Diary					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday Thursday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 6.30pm PhysioPilates	4	10.30am PhysioPilates 3.30pm LivePilates (beginners) 5.30pm LivePilates (intermediate)	o
7 The Baptism of our Lord 9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion & Sunday School	8 7.30pm Select Vestry 8pm Badminton	9 10.30am Crafty Goodness 2.30pm Ladies' Guild 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs	10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	11 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 8pm Guides	10.30am PhysioPilates 3.30pm LivePilates (beginners) 4pm Speech and Drama 5.30pm LivePilates (intermediate)	13

	15 8pm Badminton	16.30am Crafty	17 10.30am Holy	18 10am Little Cherubs	19 10.30am	20
Communion Traid Morning School (tea/coffee) Traidcraft stall 6.30pm Evening		6pm Beavers 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal	confination and zpm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	opin Kalinbows 7pm Brownies 7.45pm Historical Society 8pm Guides	3.30pm LivePilates (beginners) 4pm Speech and Drama 5.30pm LivePilates (intermediate)	
9am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion & Sunday School 6.30pm Compline	Deadline for material to be with Anne for February Parish Notes 8pm Badminton	10.30 Crafty Goodness 1pm Events Committee 6pm Beavers 7:30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal	10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	25 The Conversion of St Paul 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Holy Communion 8pm Parish Fellowship 8pm Guides	10.30am PhysioPilates 3.30pm LivePilates (beginners) Apm Speech and Drama 5.30pm LivePilates (intermediate)	27
The Presentation of Spm Christ in the Temple 9am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer (tea/coffee) 11pm Holy Communion 6.30pm Late Evening Office	8pm Badminton	30 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal	10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 11.30am Fabric Committee 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir			





Ladies' Guild December and January Meetings

On Tuesday 12th December we will be treated to a festive afternoon in the lovely surroundings of Marlagh Lodge, Ballymena—the home of our organist Robert Thompson. The cost for the afternoon will be £12. The bus will leave the church car park at 2pm and should return to church by no later than 5pm. If you would like to go with us but haven't given me your name please contact me by no later than 3rd December. On Tuesday 9th January we will be taken on a beautifully illustrated slide tour entitled 'Behind the Wall'. Our travel guide for the afternoon will be Noel Beattie ably 'prompted' by his beautiful assistant Annette. If you would like to come with us please hop along at 2.30pm. Refreshments will be provided along the way.

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.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at these events but in the meantime I would like to take this opportunity to wish all my ladies a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Anne Stewart (Hon Sec) tel 9096 6597

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.

Dec	First Reading	Second Reading	Intercessor
3rd	Caroline O'Kane	Forde Patterson	Noel Beattie
10th	Hilary Shields	Anne Stewart	Ashlee McCune
17th	Philip Williamson	Marie Burrowes	Colin Bell
24th	Children	Children	Children
31st	Daphne McClements	Tom Campbell	David Cromie
Jan			
7th	Colin Bell	Dora Hanna	Forde Patterson
14th	Peter Coiley	Wes Holmes	Marie Burrowes
21st	Heather Tweedie	Sandra Hutchman	Dora Hanna
28th	Eleanor Henderson	Ashlee McCune	Sandra Davison

Hallowe'en Jazz



Those who weren't present at this event missed a wonderful evening. The music, from the Martello Jazz Band, was lively, the food was very tasty and the atmosphere really happy.

A big thank you goes to Sandra H, Daphne, Dora, Rosemary J, Heather S and Annette for organising this event and for making the stews and apple tarts and also to others who supplied additional puds.

Also thanks to Heather and Tony Swan, John and Anne Fitzpatrick who helped out before, during and after the event and to the Rector and David Cromie for organising the quiz. While the event was run primarily as a social occasion, thanks to your generosity it raised £1,019 for the parish and other charities which we are supporting this year.

If you would like to see how many threw themselves into the hallowe'en scene, (just like the scary bunch pictured above!) there are plenty of photos at the back of the church.

Thank you one and all for a memorable evening.

Noel Beattie

BADMINTON CLUB

St Peter's Badminton Club meets on Monday evenings at 8pm in the main hall. If one of your New Year's resolutions is to take some more exercise, why not come along? New members are always very welcome.

Harold Jacobs

NORTH BELFAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER 7.30pm for 7.45pm McCOLLUM MINOR HALL

Speaker: Noel Beattie **Subject**: Travels in China *Everyone is welcome.*

Annette and Noel Beattie have travelled extensively throughout China and are going to share their experiences and wonderful sightings with us. Having returned to China after 25 years they found a country that has changed beyond recognition.

Come along and share a bit of Christmas with us and hear about their travels, the changes they found and to see their wonderful photographs.

THURSDAY 18TH JANUARY 7.30_{PM} for 7.45_{PM} McCOLLUM MINOR HALL

Speaker: Martin McDowell
Subject: Using DNA to research family tree

Everyone is welcome.

Martin McDowell is the Education Officer for the North of Ireland Family History Society. We will hear how we can use our DNA test to research family history as well as a particular ancestor and much more ... Do come along, bring a friend and/or family member and learn about the latest technology.

Margi Crawford

AFTER CHURCH REFRESHMENT

Light refreshments will be served after the 11am service on:

Sunday 10th December by Little Cherubs
Sunday 24th December by the Events Committee

Sunday 14th January by the Select Vestry Sunday 28th January by Crafty Goodness.

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".

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.

DECEMBER FLOWER LIST

3RD BARBARA JACOBS IN MEMORY OF HER PARENTS
17TH THE PARISH CHOIR

JANUARY FLOWER LIST

7TH THE REID 21ST THE GREE

The Reid family in memory of their parents
The Greenfield family in memory of their family
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.

POPPY APPEAL

This year parishioners donated £68.28 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Stanley McDowell

Holy Dusters Cleaning Rota

HOSTESS TROLLEY

Our hostess trolley has died of old age and has been taken to the municipal recycling depot. Anyone who is currently in possession of such an item in good working order and has no further use for it, is asked if they would be prepared to donate it to St Peter's. Please contact me, Noel Beattie (9077 8428) and I will



arrange to have it collected, if required. Many thanks.

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.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Thank you to everyone who presented flowers in 2017

The Flower List for 2018 is now open for bookings and we would ask that all existing contributors contact the Parish Office (90 776 706) to confirm their usual Sunday for the coming year. Of course, as there are always some Sundays left available we appeal to new people to come forward and donate flowers, perhaps to mark a particular occasion or anniversary for them. It may be a wedding anniversary, the birth of a child or grandchild, to remember the death of a family member, or indeed as an act of thanksgiving for some notable blessing. All such donors will be acknowledged on the church notice board and in the Parish Notes.

We deeply appreciate all who contribute flowers Sunday by Sunday and also all those who devote so much time and energy in arranging them and looking after them mid-week.



Stall open on Sundays 10th December and 14th January during coffee time after the 11am service THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SELECT VESTRY WILL BE ON MONDAY 8TH JANUARY AT 7.30PM IN THE MINOR HALL

Please send material for the February issue of Parish Notes to:
Anne Cromie, Parish Office, St Peter's Church,
Fortwilliam Drive, Belfast BT15 4EB
or email: stpeterandstjames@outlook.com
by Mondow 22nd January. Thank you

SAINT PETER'S PARISH CHURCH

ANTRIM ROAD, BELFAST (NEXT TO LANSDOWNE HOTEL)

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

CAVEHILL COMMUNITY CHOIR

FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2017 8PM



WINE AND NIBBLES

TEA AND COFFEE

BALLOT

TEL 9077 8428 FOR TICKETS £10