

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

FEBRUARY 2018

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



CONFIRMATION

Sunday 4th February

GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE

RECTOR'S NOTES

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

On Sunday 4th February, the Bishop will be with us for the **Confirmation** of some of our adults and teenagers. Whilst I have prepared the adults, the younger ones regularly met with our Families' Worker, Nathan Ervine, who used Youth Alpha to guide discussions about the theory and practice of the Christian faith. The purpose of Confirmation is to publicly declare that we believe the Christian faith into which we were baptised, more often than not as children. During the service, the Bishop will lay his hands upon each confirmand's head, and pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In the same way, when the Bishop was confirmed, another Bishop placed his hands on the Bishop's head. Likewise, that other Bishop had another Bishop lay his hands upon his head at his own confirmation. And so that ritual goes back two thousand years, right back to the very first disciples that we read about in the Gospels. This creates an unbroken line between us and our Lord Jesus, with one generation laying hands upon the next, and then the next, right down to our present day. There is both symbolism and empowerment in this ritual, which connects us with Christ. Please do come along as normal to the 11am service on Sunday 4th February, in order both to support our brothers and sisters in their confirmation, and to make the Bishop feel very welcome in St Peter's.

At the 6.30pm service on Sunday 4th February, we will have our annual festival of readings and carols which mark the journey from **Advent to Candlemas**. This is an important marker in our Church calendar, as we move away from Christmas and begin to prepare ourselves for Easter.

With memories of Advent and Christmas still fresh in our minds, it's hard to believe that Lent is suddenly upon us. **Ash Wednesday** marks the beginning of that penitential season, and this year it falls on 14th February, which is also Valentine's Day! As usual we will have our midweek celebration of Holy Communion at 10.30am, and then the Penitential Service for Ash Wednesday at 7.30pm.

CONTACTING ME

If you need to speak to me, then please ring the Rectory on 9077 7053. I'm not generally based in the Parish Office, so please only ring the office if you need to speak to our Parish Secretary. If I am out and about, then the number for my work mobile is 07928 067 020 (please note that this is a new number). My work mobile generally lives in my car, and I use it only when I'm not close to the Rectory. It's also turned off when I'm not on duty. For that reason, I will not usually read text messages sent to my phone until some time after they've been sent, so please avoid sending me urgent messages to my mobile. It is always better to ring the landline and to leave a message if needs be. Alternatively, I regularly check my emails throughout the day, so if you need to get in touch then that's always a good way of doing so.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Despite the ice and snow at the beginning of December, there was still a respectable turn-out at our Christmas Fayre. As with all things, the Fayre is a team effort, and we are very grateful to everyone who helped with the planning and the practicalities of the event. I want to thank Annette Beattie in particular for coordinating the Fayre. In total, £1,512 was raised for parish funds, from which we will be supporting our six chosen charities.

Two important services in December were very well attended, but so completely different: the first was our traditional festival of Nine Lessons & Carols, in which our Choir once again proved their excellence. The second was our Nativity Service on Christmas Eve, at which the story of our Lord's birth was narrated, and the smaller children acted out the parts. It wasn't as polished as a Broadway play, but it was good fun for the children, and heart-warming for the adults! Many thanks to all who were involved in either of those services.

PATERNITY LEAVE

At the time of writing these Notes, we had the first indications that the birth of the second Rectory baby was imminent! From the moment that Laura goes into labour (which could already have happened by the time you are reading this) then I will be off on Paternity Leave for two weeks. If I am able (or allowed!) then I will still try to be present at the 11am Sunday services, particularly for Confirmation. However, I will not be available for other services or pastoral ministry during that fortnight, and therefore other clergy will be asked to step in for me if needs be. Naturally, I would prefer to pastor to our congregation's spiritual needs myself, but I do hope you will understand that on occasions like this my family must be my first priority. Please ring the Rectory landline as normal on 9077 7053 and the answer machine will tell you who to contact. Let me also say that Laura and I greatly appreciate all the expressions of well-wishes that we have received from you in the last few months.

INFECTION CONTROL

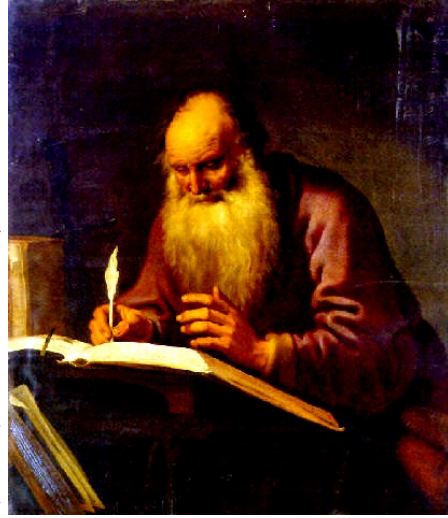
You will hopefully have recognised over the years how important it is to me to greet you and shake your hands when you enter and

exit St Peter's for worship. Unfortunately, as much as it grates on me to do so, we have needed to avoid the shaking of hands in recent weeks because of very serious illnesses that have stricken members of our congregation. So many people, myself included, have been bedridden, or even hospitalised, as a result of various gastric bugs or chest/throat infections over the last two months. The newspapers inform us that such bugs are at their worst for seven years, and that our health service is under even greater pressure than usual. So please accept my sincere apology if I appear rude by insisting on not shaking hands for a few more weeks, but given the choice I would rather offend you than infect you! By the same token, I have not invited the congregation to shake hands during The Peace, and I have encouraged communicants to dip their bread into the wine, rather than sipping from the cup (although you are free to drink the wine as normal, if you prefer). You might also be pleased to know that I have made sure to wash my hands and use antibacterial gel prior to breaking and distributing the bread! Towards the end of the month we will re-assess the threat of infection. When you see me welcome you once again with an outstretched hand, you'll know the threat has subsided!

SERMON SUMMARIES

On the **Third Sunday of Epiphany** (*21st January 2018*), we thought about how the newly converted Christians in the Greek city of Corinth, had asked St Paul whether or not they could do anything they want. Their reasoning was that because we are saved by Christ's death on the Cross, and not through anything that we do, then that must mean that our actions are irrelevant. Surely we can get away with any type of illegal or immoral or irreligious behaviour, because our salvation depends only upon Jesus and not ourselves? To the Corinthians, this Christianity must have seemed like the perfect religion: do anything you

want, and you will still receive eternal life at the end of it. Unfortunately for them, St Paul puts an end to their hopes of a carefree life. He told them that all things were permissible, but not everything was beneficial. Therefore, whilst they could in theory do whatever they wanted, real Christianity would bring about a change in them. No longer would they be slaves to satisfying their own bodily



urges and fleshly desires, and instead they would begin to seek fulfilment in doing God's work: by being kind and considerate and caring towards one another. So the Corinthians had been set free, by Christ's death on the Cross, but it was freedom from the desire to sin, rather than freedom to commit sin.

This is an example of the process of *change* which happens to a person when they become a Christian. And that's what I want us to focus on the fact that we must be prepared to change, if we wish to follow Christ. You see, if you momentarily strip away all the supernatural and theological parts of Christianity, then we are left with a code of conduct, which will determine our behaviour. We have been over that code of conduct many times, but it's always worth repeating: we must be compassionate to other people's suffering; we must help others who have practical needs; we must welcome and value everyone, even those who are different from us; we must encourage people; we must rebuke people if it would help them to grow spiritually; and we must be prepared to make personal sacrifices, which includes not just our time, effort, and money, but also being willing to forgive someone when they have wronged us. This list of behaviours is a summary of our Lord Jesus' own

code of conduct, and anyone who wants to be his disciple (which is what a Christian is) must be prepared to change in order to emulate him. This is why, during the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent, there is so much emphasis put on examining our lives. And if you are a regular at Holy Communion during those times of year, you will undoubtedly have noticed that we really hammer home the message about reflecting on how your life needs to change. But of course, God wants us to examine our conscience and our lifestyle all throughout the year. He wants us to look at our behaviour, and compare it to how Jesus would behave. Would Jesus do the things that we have done? Would Jesus say the things that we have said? Would Jesus think what we have thought? The purpose of such self-examination is not to make us feel guilty, but rather to help us understand how we need to change, and to motivate us to do so.

Being a Christian is therefore so much more than going to church, or being involved in religious activities. It is a new beginning, through which our Lord Jesus calls a person to a way of life, modelled on his own character and behaviour. And for those people who truly respond to the call of Jesus to follow him, change is inevitable. Who we are, what we do, and what we believe—all of this will change for those who respond to the call of Jesus to follow him. So ask yourself, how much have you changed? And how much more are you willing to change, as you walk with Christ?

On **Christmas Eve** (*Sunday 24th December*) we reflected on how Christmas can often be a very difficult time for many people. In a stark contrast to the festive fun which pervades that time of year, there are often hidden troubles that many people face: it might be severe financial difficulties as we buy into the materialistic culture of the modern world which equates happiness with possessions. Or perhaps it's relationship

problems, with couples pondering at the end of the year whether or not it's worth struggling on together for another twelve months. Or maybe we are coping with illness, which seems so prevalent in December with its never ending stomach bugs and chest infections. Or perhaps it's bereavement, as we come to terms with an empty chair at the dinner table on Christmas Day. Or maybe it's loneliness, for those who find themselves isolated and forgotten, whilst the rest of the world seems to be gathering together without them. That time of year—for many reasons—can be so difficult. Under such stress our faith can be put to the test. And there will surely be moments when we cry out to God, saying “Where are you, when I need you?”. And very often, such a cry is seemingly met with silence.

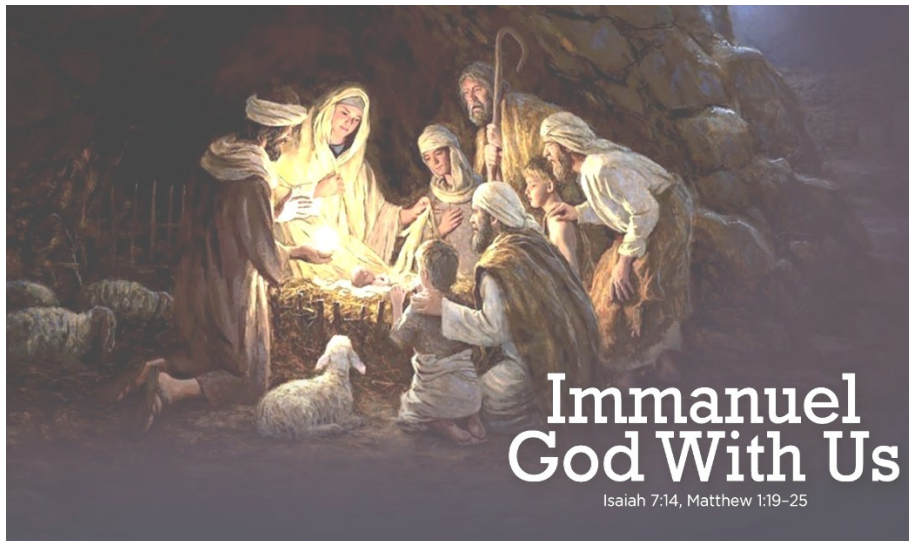
If we have a positive outlook on life, we might think that God will answer in his own way and in his own time. But it can be very difficult to be positive when our world is falling apart, and more likely we might think that God does not care for us, or we might question—what sort of God would abandon us like this, or even—is there a God at all? Such a response to God's silence is natural. And it is his silence—even in response to our most heartfelt gut wrenching prayers—that undermines the faith of so many people. Because the expectation is that God—surely—should help when we cry out to him. He should make life better for us in response to prayer. He should fix us, and the world around us. When money is in short supply, he should miraculously provide for our needs. When relationships break down, he should get involved and force people to see sense. When we are sick, he should heal us—just as we read about so often in the Gospels. When life is tough for us, he should step in and take away all our problems. That's what we believe, and you will find plenty of verses in the Bible which support this idea that God wants us to call upon him for help during times of trouble, and moreover that he will indeed help us. And yet when we cry to him, in those moments of deep despair, doesn't it seem so often that our cries have fallen upon deaf ears?

But let me assure you, that God is listening. The problem, therefore, is not that he cannot hear, but rather that we expect a quick fix and a miracle cure. Now, maybe sometimes that does happen—in fact I'm sure it occasionally does. But for the most part, God deals with our problems in a different way. And we can see how God works if we look at how he dealt with the problems of the Jews two thousand years ago. You see, in the distant past, the ancient Jews had a never-ending series of problems in their lives. As a nation they weren't particularly successful. After the glory days of King David and King Solomon, the Jews spent most of the next thousand years (until the time of Jesus) under the control of the Assyrians, then the Babylonians, then the Persians, then the Greeks, and then the Romans. They were an insignificant group of people who just happened to live at the precise location where Europe, Africa, and Asia join together. And having been trampled on for so long, having had their freedoms stripped from them, and having been used and abused by their foreign enemies, they cried out to God for help. Those prayers did not stop their suffering as they might have wanted. But in response to their prayers, the prophets declared that God himself would one day come to earth as a Messiah (a Christ) who would establish a new kingdom for the Jews, even greater than the days of David and Solomon. The Jewish expectation was therefore that God would send a new King David, a mighty warrior, who would free the Jews from their foreign oppressors, and who would then turn the tables, and establish Jerusalem as the centre of the world.

But that's not what happened, because God does not work the way we expect him to. For instead of a mighty warrior, this long-awaited Messiah appeared as a vulnerable little baby—born not in splendid majesty, but in abject poverty. A Messiah conceived in spurious circumstances, outside wedlock, for which his mother Mary could have been outcast from society, and perhaps even killed. A Messiah subjected to danger from the moment of his birth, as Herod's soldiers sought to wipe out the threat that this

baby posed to the King's power. A Messiah who was raised to be a carpenter, not a soldier. None of this fitted with the expectations of the Jews. For they had problems and they expected God to fix them. But God did something different. He didn't fix their problems in the way they wanted. Rather, he came down from heaven and experienced their problems on earth for himself.

The Incarnation of Christ therefore teaches us that God did not come into the world to take away our suffering and to make our lives pain-free, but rather that he came to share in our suffering, and to walk alongside us, knowing first-hand the pain of being human. It's as if Jesus is saying to us: I won't take away your pain, but I will make it my own, and we can share it. We can carry your pain together. Because I know how you feel. I know how it feels to be lost, and alone, and vulnerable. I know how it feels to cry out "Why have you forsaken me?" and to be met with silence. In difficult times, therefore, we need to readjust our expectations of what God will do in answer to our prayer. For if he will not take away our pain, then we must take the message of the Incarnation to heart for comfort, that—just as the Angel Gabriel announced—God is with us. Now, and always, until the very end.



PARISH REGISTER

Christian Burial

"At rest in the Lord."

San McManus

Downview Park West

Cremation at Roselawn

on 20th January 2018

Holy Baptism

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

Jessica Elizabeth Rowan

daughter of Gavin and Christine Rowan

Hartley Hall Park, Greenisland

on 21st January 2018

Gareth James Larmour

(adult)

Sunninghill Park

on 21st January 2018

Nicholas Hugh Hutchinson

son of Barry and Caroline Hutchinson

Dunlambert Avenue

on 28th January 2018

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".

CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

SUNDAY

9am

11am

6.30pm

4th FEBRUARY

Holy Communion

Confirmation

Advent to Candlemas

SECOND BEFORE LENT/CANDLEMAS

traditional, said, Resurrection, green

modern, sung, Nave, red

modern, sung, Nave, green

WEDNESDAY

10.30am

7th FEBRUARY

Holy Communion

MID-WEEK

modern, said, Resurrection, green

SUNDAY

9am

11am

6.30pm

11th FEBRUARY

Holy Communion

Morning Prayer

Evening Prayer

THE SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

modern, said, Resurrection, green

modern, sung, Nave, green

modern, said, St James, green

WEDNESDAY

10.30am

7.30pm

14th FEBRUARY

Holy Communion

Penitential Service

ASH WEDNESDAY

modern, said, Resurrection, purple

modern, sung, St James, purple

SUNDAY

9am

11am

6.30pm

18th FEBRUARY

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

modern, said, Resurrection, purple

modern, sung, Nave, purple

traditional, sung, Nave, purple

WEDNESDAY

10.30am

21st FEBRUARY

Holy Communion

MID-WEEK

modern, said, Resurrection, purple

THURSDAY

7.30pm

22nd FEBRUARY

Late Evening Office

PARISH FELLOWSHIP

modern, said, St James, purple

SUNDAY

9am

11am

6.30pm

25th FEBRUARY

Holy Communion

Morning Prayer

Compline

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

modern, said, Resurrection, purple

modern, sung, Nave, purple

traditional, said, St James, purple

WEDNESDAY

10.30am

28th FEBRUARY

Holy Communion

MID-WEEK

modern, said, Resurrection, purple

CHURCH SERVICES IN MARCH

THURSDAY

7.30pm

SUNDAY

9am

11am

6.30pm

WEDNESDAY

10.30am

THURSDAY

7.30pm

SUNDAY

9am

11am

6.30pm

WEDNESDAY

10.30am

SUNDAY

9am

11am

6.30pm

WEDNESDAY

10.30am

THURSDAY

7.30pm

SUNDAY

9am

11am

6.30pm

MONDAY

7.30pm

TUESDAY

7.30pm

WEDNESDAY

10.30am

7.30pm

THURSDAY

7.30pm

FRIDAY

7.30pm

1st MARCH

Compline

4th MARCH

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

Choral Evensong

7th MARCH

Holy Communion

8th MARCH

Late Evening Office

11th MARCH

Holy Communion

Morning Prayer

Evening Prayer

14th MARCH

Holy Communion

18th MARCH

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

Compline

21st MARCH

Holy Communion

22nd MARCH

Late Evening Office

25th MARCH

Holy Communion

Morning Prayer

Late Evening Office

26th MARCH

Evening Prayer

27th MARCH

Evening Prayer

28th MARCH

Holy Communion

Late Evening Office

29th MARCH

Holy Communion

30th MARCH

Tenebrae

PARISH FELLOWSHIP

traditional, said, St James, purple

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

traditional, said, Resurrection, purple

modern, sung, Nave, purple

traditional, sung, Nave, purple

MID-WEEK

modern, said, Resurrection, purple

PARISH FELLOWSHIP

modern, said, St James, purple

LENT FOUR/MOTHERING SUNDAY

modern, said, Resurrection, purple

modern, sung, Nave, purple

modern, said, St James, purple

ST PATRICK (transferred)

modern, said, Resurrection, purple

ST JOSEPH OF NAZARETH (transferred)

modern, said, Resurrection, white

modern, sung, Nave, white

traditional, sung, Nave, white

MID-WEEK

modern, said, Resurrection, red

PARISH FELLOWSHIP

modern, said, St James, red

PALM SUNDAY

modern, said, Resurrection, red

modern, sung, Nave, red

modern, said, St James, red

FIG MONDAY

modern, said, St James, red

HOLY TUESDAY

traditional, said, St James, red

SPY WEDNESDAY

modern, said, Resurrection, red

modern, said, St James, red

MAUNDY THURSDAY

traditional, sung, Nave, white

GOOD FRIDAY

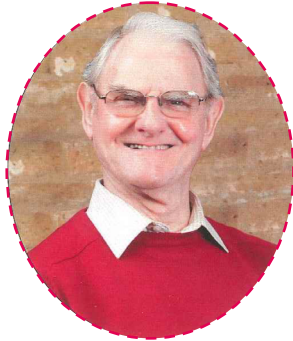
modern, sung, Nave, no colour

February Diary						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 8pm Guides and Senior Guides	2 10.30am PhysioPilates 4pm Speech and Drama)	3
4 9am Holy Communion 11am Confirmation & Holy Communion & Sunday School 6.30pm Advent to Candlemas service	5 8pm Badminton	6 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal	7 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	8 10am Little Cherubs 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 8pm Guides and Senior Guides	9 10.30am PhysioPilates 4pm Speech and Drama	10

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

A Tribute To Ian McManus

written by his children, John, Brenda, and Andrew (abridged)



Our father was a loving, quiet and kind man. To us, his key qualities were dependability, selflessness and the value he placed on education. He was born in Larne in 1936, had a twin brother Greg and two sisters, Nancy and Jean. His father was the last of a long line of blacksmiths in Larne, operating from a forge in Main Street. In that era, horses were still very much a core part of the farming community and the farrier was key to keeping the horses able to work. Dad developed a love of riding and all things horse-related, something that has carried down many branches of the family.

From an early age, our father learned the value of hard work and how all members of the family needed to pull together for the common good. As a young man, Dad became interested in engineering. In those days, entrance to university was not an option, so an apprenticeship was the key way to get into the profession. This required him to leave home at a young age and go to Birkenhead technical college, and he was successfully apprenticed to an oil company as a third class engineer on a tanker. He travelled to many parts of the world, but he worked hard, learnt quickly and progressed through the ranks to earn his ticket as Chief Engineer in the Merchant Navy. Unlike many young men of the time, Dad had a car and was able to travel up to Belfast from Larne. Having grown up in a family of Irish dancers, during one period of leave, he went to a dance in the Floral Hall at Bellevue. On that occasion, he first saw our Mum. He was a shy and retiring type, so he must have known that Wilma was the one for him as he plucked up the courage to approach her. After a short courtship, they were married and went on honeymoon to Malta. Dad then joined his ship and Mum returned home to Northern Ireland. He was devoted to our Mum. Given her failing health over the last years of her life, he selflessly committed himself to her needs. Since her death in 2009 he often talked about how much he missed her – they were simply devoted to each other. We are glad that they are back together again.

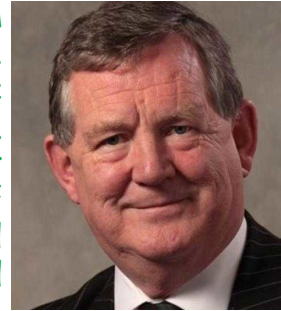
Back to the 1960's: after a few years of marriage we children started arriving, and our Mum suggested that Dad find a land-based role. He found work as an engineer inspector for an insurance company, a job that he stayed in until he retired. He didn't have many hobbies when we were growing up but he did enjoy Country & Western music, and we were subjected to Jim Reeves, Dolly Parton and many more whilst we were on long car journeys. He also enjoyed reading, particularly Dick Francis novels which combined his love of reading with his love of horses. He retired in 2001, and embraced more hobbies, including Bowls here at St Peters (Yorkie Night was always looked forward to). He also became more involved in the church, and regularly attended the historical society, the Wednesday Club and tea dances.

We feel blessed that Dad lived a long and happy life, and that he was fit and active right up until the end.

Ladies' Guild

Tuesday 13th February at 2.30pm

On Tuesday 13th February at 2.30pm our speaker will be Dr Joe McKee. Dr McKee produced and presented music programmes for the BBC for many years. He was Director of music at Methodist College in Belfast and then Head of Music for the Belfast Education and Library Board. In 2006 he was awarded the OBE for services to music.



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

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.

February	First Reading	Second Reading	Intercessor
4th	Sandra Hutchman	David Cromie	Daphne McClements
11th	Hilary Shields	Anne Stewart	Ashlee McCune
18th	Philip Williamson	Marie Burrowes	Sandra Davison
25th	Daphne McClements	Tom Campbell	Sandra Hutchman

AFTER CHURCH REFRESHMENT

Light refreshments will be served after the 11am service on Sunday 11th February by the PhysioPilates group and on Sunday 25th February by our lesson readers.



Advent Reflections

Each Wednesday evening during Advent we had a service of Compline in St James' Chapel, in St Peter's, during which, as in previous years, some of our parishioners spoke to us about their Christian faith. Here is Quintin Mulligan's Advent Reflection:

I was born and raised in St Peter's, and have always believed in God, but my faith was amplified after the events about which I am going to tell you now.

Against all the odds I was saved from a road traffic accident in 1962. The church Youth Guild, headed by Trevor Wicklow, was doing a "This is your life" programme about the scout master, David Mahood. So we went to the house of David's former headmaster of Inst, who lived in Kilkeel, to carry out an interview. On the way back, the car was involved in an accident, in which I was projected through the roof and hit a telephone pole, which rendered me unconscious for two weeks.

The doctors in the Royal gave my parents very little hope of my recovering, but miraculously I did make a reasonable recovery. The Rev'd Brian Moller, who was the Curate of St Peter's at the time, came every day to see me.

Then, in 1964, part of my work was to move all the time clocks back an hour from British Summer Time, and one of my jobs was at the Maternity Hospital in Templemore Avenue. Upstairs, whilst working at a clock I could hear new-born babies crying and yelling—unknown to me, one of those babies would one day become my stepdaughter and of course my future wife was nursing her. Later on, the following year, I met her mother, who had just gained the job of telephonist in Supermac and subsequently I got to know her. One day I rang her—and then called her every night after that! The next week I was working in H&W in the engine works, and the engineer I reported to asked me if I had met any girls. I said I had, but he teased, "I bet you didn't even get her name!". I told him I had, and her name was Evelyn Moneypenny. He said, "Moneypenny? Does she come from the Cregagh Road?" I said, "yes". He said, "I know her. She's a widow. Her husband and I played football together in the Church's League, but he died a couple of years ago, when Evelyn was 23".

So eventually Evelyn and I got engaged, and enjoyed a very successful marriage with the two kids. To this day, I am firmly convinced that God saved me from that accident in order to help this girl with two children.

Evelyn was Church of Ireland as well, and she taught me the essence of Christianity. She taught me how to do things to please God, such as being totally honest and obeying the Ten Commandments.

As I look back over my life, I am thankful to God for leading me to where I am in life, and for protecting me. He has given me insight into what I have to do towards my fellow man, but particularly towards my own children. He is leading me all the time and I have discovered that love conquers everything.

Nowadays, I obey the daily guidance I receive from above. God's love now controls me, as through him I've received strength, comfort and pleasure which are very special blessings especially during bereavement. So the bottom line is (if I may use that term) "God's love is boundless" and the more you express love to others, the much more love you'll get from God.

FWO ENVELOPES

In order to help the weekly counters (those who open and record the amounts contained in the FWO envelopes), can I ask for your assistance in having you write, in the box provided, the amount of cash or cheque which you insert into your allotted FWO envelope.

You will appreciate that this is a time consuming exercise which they perform week by week with much diligence. Your assistance in this matter will make their job so much easier.

Many thanks for your co-operation. *Noel Beattie, FWO and Gift Aid convenor*

Our Parish Family ...

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



to Pippa Knowles, one of our recent confirmands, on achieving a gold award from the Irish Christian Endeavour National Award Scheme. Along with two others, they are the first have successfully completed gold standard in Ireland since the Scheme was introduced some years ago. Well done Pippa!

Laphroaig 10 year single malt Scotch whisky



Last December a parishioner left a bottle of Laphroaig whisky to be balloted at the Christmas Fayre. With the bad weather affecting attendance that day we didn't have anyone to ballot this item and, anyway, with so few present it might not have generated much response. The Select Vestry has now decided that, instead of balloting it, we should offer it for auction by sealed bid. Someone in the trade estimates that the retail price is around £39. If you would like to bid for this magnificent whisky, please forward your bid in an sealed envelope to the Parish Office, or leave with the Churchwardens on any Sunday, by the last day of February 2018. Please mark your envelope SEALED BID. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Churchwardens, the Parish Secretary and the Rector.

Please place your name, address and telephone number inside the envelope and your bid amount. If successful it will be delivered to you. Needless to say, we have to place a minimum figure for bids below which we cannot accept. The proceeds will go to this year's Christmas Fayre.

If you, or someone you'd like to treat, appreciates a good whisky, go on—give it a try—you never know you might get a knock at the door!

FEBRUARY FLOWER LIST

4TH ROSEMARY HINDS IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER
25TH THE HALL FAMILY IN MEMORY OF THEIR MOTHER

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



CHRISTMAS AT ST PETER'S

Our thanks go to those LADIES (yes ladies) and Gents who volunteered their time to come down early in December and position the Christmas trees, candles and the crib in the church, and then returned in early January, on an atrocious morning, to cart it all back to the basement.

Your assistance is very much appreciated. A number of parishioners and visitors to the church commented on how well the church looked over the festive season especially at our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, and at the midnight Eucharist.

Can I depend on you next December to do it all again?! It will come around quicker than you think! It really is 'many hands make' you know the rest!

Noel Beattie

NORTH BELFAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THURSDAY 15TH FEBRUARY

7.30PM FOR 7.45PM

McCOLLUM MINOR HALL

Speaker: Gerry Ward

Subject: Trolleybuses in Belfast

Everyone is welcome.

Between 1938 and 1968 Belfast Corporation operated the largest fleet of trolleybuses in the British Isles outside of London.

Gerry Ward is a member of the Irish Heritage and is a keen transport enthusiast.

Gerry's illustrated talk will explore the introduction, expansion and demise of the Belfast trolleybus system.

Bring along your family, friends and neighbours and share your experiences of these times ...

We certainly look forward to seeing you on the 15th February.

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 and Senior 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)

4pm—8pm: Speech and Drama

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

*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.

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

29th Jan—3rd Feb-----Group 4
5th Feb—10th Feb-----Group 5
12th Feb—17th Feb -----Group 6
19th Feb—24th Feb -----Group 7
26th Feb—3rd Mar-----Group 8



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

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

THE NEXT MEETING OF
THE SELECT VESTRY
WILL BE ON
MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY
AT 7.30PM
IN THE MINOR HALL

*Please send material for the March 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 19th February. Thank you.*