THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

APRIL 2018

Rector: The Rev'd Brian Lacey

St Peter's Rectory, 17 Waterloo Park South, Belfast, BT15 5HX

Celebrate Easter

GOD. LOVING. PEOPLE

RECTOR'S NOTES

SERVICES IN APRIL

The beginning of April very neatly also marks the beginning of the season of **Easter**, when the focus of our worship will be the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus, and the earth-shattering consequences which that event must have for our lives today. Sadly, the spiritual momentum of Holy Week can nowadays come to a grinding halt at Easter, with many people more likely to spend Easter Day on holidays than in church, and with serving clergy taking their own break on the following Sunday. For both these reasons, Easter Day can feel like the end of something, rather than the beginning. But I would encourage you to make a special effort to celebrate the Resurrection as often as possible during the seven Sundays of Easter, and on Easter Day itself in particular. For those of you who come to the 6.30pm Sunday services, please note that there will be no evening service on Easter Day.

On Sunday 15th April, our 11am service will be a shorter-thanusual Service of the Word, with a focus on the Christian mission of the Church. Immediately following that service on **Mission Sunday**, we will begin our annual Easter Vestry meeting, at which we will appoint/elect our Churchwardens, Glebewardens, Sidespersons, and Select Vestry for the next twelve months. Members of the congregation are welcome to remain in the church for the meeting, but only registered members of the parish may participate in the elections and in the vote to choose six charities to support. See the next page for more information about the meeting. Other than Easter Day, which is a principle holy day, there is only one other festival in the church calendar in April, which is **St Mark's Day** on the 25th. As that day is a Wednesday, we will commemorate the life and Christian witness of St Mark during our regular mid-week 10.30am service that morning.

EASTER VESTRY MEETING

Our annual Easter Vestry meeting will be held on Sunday 15th April in St Peter's, immediately following a shortened service of worship at 11am. This meeting has four purposes:

- To receive the financial accounts for 2017, as presented by the Honorary Secretary on behalf of the outgoing Select Vestry;
- To elect a Churchwarden, a Glebewarden, two Sidespersons, and twelve Members of the Select Vestry, each of whom will serve until Easter 2019;
- To elect a Supplemental Member of the Diocesan Synod, who will serve until Easter 2020;
- To vote for six charities which we will support financially until Easter 2019.

Contrary to popular belief, attending the Easter Vestry does not automatically mean that you will be given a job! All nominations must be accepted by those who have been nominated, and people can and do say "no" from time to time. On the other hand, if you would like to become more involved in the work of the parish, then please do contact me and I will explain the various positions that need to be elected.

In particular, we need individuals to serve on our Select Vestry who have knowledge or experience of: the law, human resources, administration, insurance, health & safety, DIY, liaison with tradespersons, finance, fire safety, grant applications, fundraising, volunteer management, grounds-keeping, electrical work, plumbing, carpentry, or project management.

We also need a healthy mix of young and old, men and women, and old-hands and newcomers on the Select Vestry. So please don't be shy about seeking nomination to any of the positions up for election. It's always great to see people wanting to be of service! Of course, if you feel for any reason that you don't want to put your own name forward, then think about other parishioners that you know, and nominate them instead!

There are many ways to be involved in the parish, beyond the positions to be elected in April, so please do talk to me if you would like to explore how we can best utilise your unique skills in the Church.

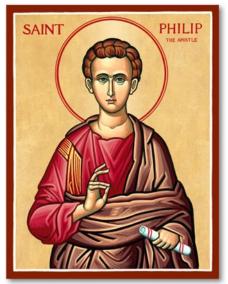
PARISH GOVERNANCE

For the last few years the parish has been governed by the Select Vestry and several sub-committees, each with particular responsibility for Finance & Administation, Fabric & Furnishings, Events & Organisations, St James, or Safeguarding Trust. With many meetings convened each month, the bureaucracy of the parish has become increasingly cumbersome and indecisive. In addition to this, so much of our thoughts and efforts have been focussed on the "business" of the parish, which has become an end in itself, rather than a means to an end, which is to maintain and develop Christian worship, mission, and ministries. Therefore, in consultation with the Parish Officers and Select Vestry, I have decided to abolish the sub-committees (except the Safeguarding Trust Panel) and to streamline the work of the Select Vestry. Moreover, I will convene a monthly Parish Meeting to discuss and develop our spiritual and social activities, and thereby

counterbalance the Select Vestry, which will continue its management of our finances and resources. I will also work more closely with the Parish Officers on a one-to-one basis each month, in order to ensure that we have the necessary information to make effective decisions, and that those decisions are implemented. My prayerful hope is that simpler is better, and that this reduction in committee work will give me more time to focus on pastoral matters. Let's see how this pans out over the course of the year. The first Parish Meeting will be held in May. I'll let you know the exact time and date closer to the time. If you are interested in the spiritual side of the Church's activities, then you will be very welcome to come along and share your thoughts with me.

SERMON SUMMARY

On the **Fifth Sunday in Lent** (18th March 2018) we considered how most of us will be able to recognise what it feels like to fear the unknown. I was terrified the first time I got up to read a Bible passage in St Thomas' on the Lisburn Road, and I can vividly remember my left leg involuntarily shaking as I stood at the lectern. I also clearly recall the first time I preached. It was in St Martin's church, which used to be on the Newtownards Road, but is now closed. (Hopefully not as a consequence of my sermon). That would have been almost exactly ten years ago, and I remember feeling nervous and under pressure and unsure of myself. It was the same with the first wedding I officiated at, and the first funeral that I conducted, and the first time I sang the solo versicles during Choral Matins. The worst was the first time I led a School Assembly, because like wild animals, if children smell fear they'll rip you to shreds. In all these things, I was faced with the fear of the unknown. I was filled with doubts and uncertainty. We see those same fears, doubts, and uncertainties in the Gospels



in the story of the Greeks who ask St Philip to introduce them to Jesus. (John 12: 20 – 33). In that passage, we see those fears at work quite obviously in our Lord Jesus, when he says, "Now my soul is troubled—and what should I say? Father save me from this hour?" Here Jesus is expressing his own angst at what is about to happen to him, in terms of his arrest, trial, torture, and death.

But we also see uncertainty much more subtly earlier in the

passage. And it's St Philip who seems to have a little bit of hesitation. What's interesting is that Philip did not just take the Greeks to see Jesus when asked to do so. Instead, he went to St Andrew, and then together they went and spoke to Jesus. Why? Why did Philip involve Andrew in the situation? Why was he hesitant or reluctant to take these Greeks to Jesus himself?

Well, reading through the four Gospels, neither Andrew nor Philip are mentioned in leading roles amongst the disciples (that honour was bestowed upon Peter, James, and John). And yet the Greeks approached Philip as a contact person to enable them to speak to Jesus. Unless they chose him at random, it is plausible that they chose Philip because, out of all the disciples, Philip had a Greek name. Any Philips should know that the name comes from the two Greek words "philos" and "hippos" which mean "lover of horses" - or a "horse-lover" as we might say about someone who has a particular affection for that animal. More than that, we are told in the passage that Philip was from Bethsaida in Galilee, a town in the northwest coast of the Sea of Galilee, in an area very close to (maybe even within) a region known as the Decapolis (another Greek word meaning "ten cities"), which was culturally

more Greek than Middle-Eastern. So these Greeks in the Gospel passage encounter Jesus' disciples, they discover one with a Greek name, who comes from a Greek area, and perhaps they presume that Philip is therefore the ideal person to introduce them to Jesus. He speaks their language, he knows their customs, and for all we know—perhaps he even recognised these men. He was the perfect man to take them to meet Jesus. And yet, he didn't feel he could do that on his own. So he went to his friend Andrew, and only then – together – was he brave enough to approach Jesus.

So two examples of fear having the potential to hold us back from our Christian duties are expressed in the Gospel passage. But also two examples of how to overcome those fears. The first, as expressed by Jesus when he had his own concerns, was to remember his God-given purpose. He had to sacrifice himself for the sins of the world. And regardless of the suffering to come, he had to complete his mission. And then in Philip, we see another way of facing our fears: he asked for the support of his friend, and he shared the burden of responsibility, and they overcame their anxieties together.

These are the two things that we must remember whenever we are challenged with taking on a new role within the Church, or when we seek to implement our Christian faith more fully within our everyday lives. We may feel that it is a daunting prospect; we might think that we are not worthy or that we are incapable. We might fear the unknown, and be afraid of how others will react to us. But with that challenge comes comfort from the two examples in the Gospel passage: Firstly, we don't need to do anything alone. We are a team. And we must encourage and support each other in our vocations and ministries. And secondly. We must remember who has given us these roles. They do not come from me as Rector (although I may well officially recognise them) nor should they come from us as individuals based on what we want to do. Rather they come from God himself. If he—as the most powerful and all-knowing being in existence—has called us to do something, we must trust him that it is the right thing to do.

CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL

SUNDAY 11am

1st APRIL **Holy Communion Choral Eucharist**

EASTER DAY traditional, Resurrection, white modern, Nave, white

WEDNESDAY 10.30am

4th APRIL **Morning Prayer**

MID-WEEK modern, Resurrection, white

SUNDAY 9am 11am

6.30pm

8th APRIL **Holy Communion Choral Matins Evening Prayer**

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER modern, Resurrection, white modern, Nave, white modern, St James, white

WEDNESDAY 10.30am

11th APRIL **Holy Communion**

MID-WEEK modern, Resurrection, white

SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm

15th APRIL **Holy Communion** Mission Service (choral) modern, Nave, white **Choral Eucharist**

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER modern, Resurrection, white traditional, Nave, white

WEDNESDAY 10.30am

18th APRIL **Holy Communion**

MID-WEEK modern, Resurrection, white

SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm

22nd APRIL **Holy Communion Choral Matins** Compline

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER modern, Resurrection, white modern, Nave, white traditional, St James, white

WEDNESDAY 10.30am

25th APRIL **Holy Communion**

ST MARK modern, Resurrection, white

SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm

29th APRIL **Holy Communion** Healing Service (choral) modern, Nave, white **Late Evening Office**

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER modern, Resurrection, white modern, St James, white

CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY

WEDNESDAY

10.30am

2nd MAY

Holy Communion

MID-WEEK

modern, Resurrection, white

SUNDAY

9am 11am

6.30pm

6th MAY

Holy Communion Choral Eucharist Choral Evensong **ROGATION SUNDAY**

traditional, Resurrection, white modern, Nave, white

traditional, Nave, white

WEDNESDAY

10.30am

9th MAY

Holy Communion

MID-WEEK

modern, Resurrection, white

THURSDAY

7.30pm

10th MAY

Choral Eucharist

ASCENSION DAY

traditional, Nave, white

SUNDAY

9am 11am 6.30pm 13th MAY

Holy Communion Choral Matins Evening Prayer **SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY**

modern, Resurrection, white modern, Nave, white modern, St James, white

WEDNESDAY

10.30am

16th MAY

Holy Communion

MID-WEEK

modern, Resurrection, white

SUNDAY

9am 11am 6.30pm 20th MAY

Holy Communion Choral Eucharist Choral Compline **WHIT SUNDAY**

modern, Resurrection, red modern, Nave, red traditional, Nave, red

WEDNESDAY

10.30am

23rd MAY

Holy Communion

MID-WEEK

modern, Resurrection, green

SUNDAY

9am 11am 6.30pm 27th MAY

Holy Communion Choral Matins Late Evening Office TRINITY SUNDAY

modern, Resurrection, green modern, Nave, green modern, St James, green

WEDNESDAY

10.30am Ho

30th MAY

Holy Communion

MID-WEEK

modern, Resurrection, green

THURSDAY

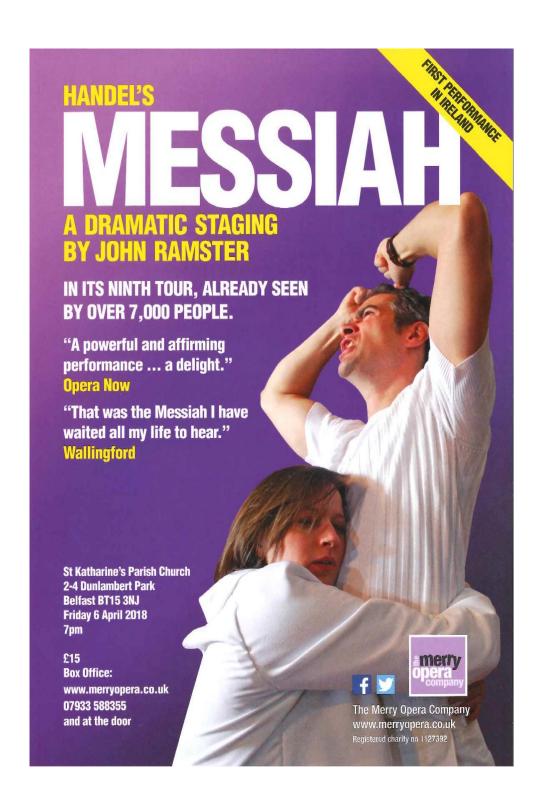
7.30pm

31st MAY

Holy Communion

VISITATION OF MARY

traditional, Nave, white



Holy Week & Easter Day

SERVICES OF WORSHIP

in St Peter's



PALM SUNDAY (25th March)

9am Holy Communion

11am Choral Matins

6.30pm Late Evening Office

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

FIG MONDAY (26th March)

7.30pm Evening Prayer

Jesus said, "She bought this ointment so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

HOLY TUESDAY (27th March)

7.30pm Evening Prayer - traditional language

Jesus said, "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

SPY WEDNESDAY (28th March)

10.30am Holy Communion7.30pm Late Evening Office

When Jesus had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do."

MAUNDY THURSDAY (29th March)

7.30pm Choral Eucharist – traditional language

Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

GOOD FRIDAY (30th March)

7.30pm Choral Tenebrae

During this service, the events leading up to the Crucifixion will be retold, according to St John's Gospel. With appropriate music, and times of silence, the lights will slowly be turned off until the church is in darkness, commemorating the death of Christ.

HOLY SATURDAY (31st March)

No Services

EASTER DAY (1st April)

9am Holy Communion - traditional language

11am Choral Eucharist *No Evening Service at 6.30pm*

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. Holy Week is a special time of year in the Church's calendar, when we commemorate the events leading up to the betrayal, arrest, denial, trial, mocking, torture, and death of our Lord Jesus. These events help us to understand and appreciate the depths of Christ's suffering, and the extent to which he was willing to go in order to save us.

We have three services on **Palm Sunday**: Holy Communion at 9am, Choral Matins at 11am, and then the Late Evening Office at 6.30pm. Throughout the remainder of Holy Week we have services every evening at 7.30pm, in addition to our regular midweek service at 10.30am on Wednesday morning. We have Evening Prayer on **Fig Monday** and **Holy Tuesday**, the Late Evening Office on **Spy Wednesday**, and a celebration of Holy Communion on **Maundy Thursday**. On **Good Friday** we have a service of Tenebrae, which combines Bible readings, music, and silence, in ever increasing darkness, to evoke a sense of Christ's final hours until his death.

Easter Day, alongside Christmas Day and Pentecost, is one of the great festivals of the Church. We have only two services, both of which are Holy Communion, at 9am (traditional language) and 11am (modern language and choral). It is the day on which we celebrate the triumph and victory of our Lord Jesus over the powers of darkness that had done everything that they could to defeat him during Holy Week.

I therefore encourage you to join us in St Peter's throughout Holy Week and on Easter Day, in order to praise Jesus for his death-defying and life-transforming love.

Yours in Christ,

Brian

St Peter's Bridge Club



A Bridge Evening

on Saturday 21st April 2018 at 7.15 pm in St Peter's Parish Hall

Tickets:

£10.00 per person



(including supper)

Contact:

Annette Beattie 02890778428



Florrie Greer 02890776812

Proceeds in aid of:

NI Children's Hospice & Alzheimer's Research UK

April Dia	ary					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday Thursday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Day 9am Holy Communion 11am Choral Eucharist & Sunday School	2	8	4 10.30am Morning Prayer and refreshments 6.30pm PhysioPilates	5	<i>6</i> 10.30am PhysioPilates	7
9am Holy Communion 11am Choral Matins & Sunday School (tea/coffee) Traidcraft stall 6.30pm Evening Prayer	9 8pm Badminton	10 10.30am Crafty Goodness 2.30pm Ladies' Guild 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory	11 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	12 10am Little Cherubs 10.30am 6pm Rainbows PhysioPila 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Parish Fellowship inc Late Evening Office 8pm Guides and Senior Guides	13 10.30am PhysioPilates 4pm Speech and Drama	14

21	28	
20 10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Bible Study 4pm Speech and Drama	27 10.30am PhysioPilates 4pm Speech and Drama	
19 10am Little Cherubs 10.30am 6pm Rainbows PhysioPill 7.45pm Historical Study Society 8pm Guides and Senior Guides	10am Little Cherubs 10.30am 6pm Rainbows 10.30am PhysioPil 7.30pm Parish Fellowship inc Late Evening Office 8pm Guides and Senior Guides	
18 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	25 Saint Mark 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	
17 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal	24 10.30 Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal	
8pm Badminton	23 Deadline for material to be with Anne for May Parish Notes Spm Badminton	30 8pm Badminton
Mission Sunday 9am Holy Communion 11am Mission Service (choral) & Sunday School 12noon Annual Easter Vestry 1pm Select Vestry 6.30pm Choral	9am Holy Communion 11am Choral Matins & Sunday School (tea/coffee) 6.30pm Compline	9am Holy Communion 11am Healing Service (choral) & Sunday School 6.30pm Late Evening Office



DECORATION OF THE CHURCH FOR EASTER

31st March at 10am

We need volunteers to help decorate the church for Easter on Saturday morning, 31st March. If you can help please get in touch with Sandra Davison—you can catch her at church or ring her on tel 9443 9230. Alternatively just turn up on the morning! Thank you.





"At rest in the Lord."

George Fisher Patterson Frazer
Ballysillan Road
Cremation at Roselawn
on 8th March 2018
Interment at Drumbo Parish
on 20th March 2018

John Cruttenden Lansdowne Park Cremation at Roselawn on 22nd March 2018





Ladies' Guild Tuesday 10th April at 2.30pm

On Tuesday 10th April at 2.30pm our topic will be 'Things My Mother Taught Me'. This will be an opportunity for our ladies to think about and share their memories of a mother or a mother figure who played a significant role in their formative years.

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, Sandra Hutchman, tel 95 149 564.

April	First Reading	Second Reading	Intercessor
1st	Hilary Shields	Anne Stewart	Noel Beattie
8th	Philip Williamson	Marie Burrowes	Dora Hanna
15th	Daphne McClements	Tom Campbell	Marie Burrowes
22nd	Forde Patterson	Dora Hanna	Quintin Mulligan
29th	Peter Coiley	Wes Holmes	David Cromie

AFTER CHURCH REFRESHMENT

Light refreshments will be served after the 11am service on Sunday 8th April by the Guides and on Sunday 22nd April by the Sunday School.



A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

The Chapel of the Resurrection, Innisfayle Park, was built in the late 1860s and consecrated in 1869. It was a family church for the third Marquis of Donegall. It was designed (probably by John Lanyon, son of Charles) by the firm of Lanyon & Lynn. Following the death of the third marquis in 1883, the Donegall estate passed to his daughter Harriet who by this time was Countess of Shaftesbury. Regular use of the Chapel was abandoned in 1915 and in 1934, it was given by the Shaftesburys to Belfast City Council but critically there was no endowment to ensure its upkeep. In 1938 it was transferred to the Church of Ireland and became part of our parish. However, it became surplus to our requirements, principally because of the changing demography in the area, and regular Sunday services stopped in 1965. The Chapel was deconsecrated in 1986.



APRIL FLOWER LIST

1ST EASTER DAY

22ND HEATHER AND TONY SWAN

IN MEMORY OF HEATHER'S PARENTS

29TH JOAN WALKER

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



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".

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER DAY

Please give the leaflet you have received with these Parish Notes to a friend or neighbour. More leaflets, if required, are available from the Parish Office. Thank you.

NORTH BELFAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THURSDAY 19TH APRIL

7.30PM FOR 7.45PM

McCOLLUM MINOR HALL

Speaker: Roger Dixon

Subject: Francis Joseph Bigger

Everyone is welcome

Francis Joseph Bigger was born, grew up and lived in Belfast. He is well known for his services not only to archeology but to local history too and acquired a lifelong interest in 'all things Irish'.

Historian Roger Dixon has extensively studied and written about Francis J Bigger.

Do come along, everyone is welcome—we look forward to seeing you on the 19th April.

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)

4pm—8pm: Speech and Drama

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

PASTORAL CARE

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

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

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

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

2nd April—7th April ----- Group 5 9th April—14th April ---- Group 6 16th April—21st April ---- Group 7 23rd April—28th April---- Group 8 30th April—5th May ----- Group 1



Stall open on Sunday 8th April during coffee time after the 11am service THE NEXT MEETING OF
THE SELECT VESTRY
WILL BE ON
SUNDAY 15TH APRIL
AT APPROX 1PM
IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING THE
ANNUAL EASTER VESTRY

Please send material for the May issue of Parish Notes to:
Anne Cromie, Parish Office, St Peter's Church,
Fortwilliam Drive, Belfast BT15 4EB
or email: stpeterandstjames@outlook.com
by Monday 23rd April. Thank you.