



THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES  
BELFAST

# PARISH NOTES

MAY 2018

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

**Ascension Day**

**Thursday 10th May**

**Choral Eucharist 7.30pm**

**GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE**

## RECTOR'S NOTES

### SERVICES IN MAY

On **Rogation Sunday** (6<sup>th</sup> May) we will pray for a good harvest later in the year. (Even though it seems so far away at the moment, you might want to take note that the date of our Harvest Thanksgiving this year will be Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September. In case you're wondering, we celebrate it on the Sunday of, or following, the Full Moon closest to the Autumn Equinox!).

On **Ascension Day** (Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May) there will be a traditional celebration of Holy Communion at 7.30pm, with choir. This day marks the ascension of the Risen Christ into heaven.

On **Whit Sunday** (20<sup>th</sup> May)—also known as **Pentecost**—we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the early Church and consequently it is often described as the Church's birthday. Maybe it's the time of year, but very often attendance drops on this important day in the Christian calendar. Let's buck that trend, please! Note that there will not be an evening service in St Peter's on that date, as there will be a joint service held in Jordanstown Parish Church instead.

On **Trinity Sunday** (27<sup>th</sup> May) we try to get our heads around the mystery of how God is three-in-one, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May, there will be a traditional celebration of Holy Communion at 7.30pm, for the **Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, during which we commemorate the visit by Mary to her cousin Elizabeth, who was the mother of John the Baptist.

All of our forthcoming services are printed elsewhere in these Parish Notes, with information for the Acolytes concerning the liturgical colour for the day, and where the congregation is to sit. If you tend to read the list, you might have recently noticed some services being described as “Choral Eucharist” instead of “Holy Communion”, or “Choral Matins” instead of “Morning Prayer”. These are simply traditional ways of naming services if there is a robed choir present, regardless of whether the service is in modern or traditional language. Therefore the only changes are to the names of the services rather than to the contents of the services themselves. These naming conventions are important within a traditional parish church such as St Peter’s, as we seek to keep alive the historic practices of Anglican liturgy.

### SPECIAL COLLECTION



Elsewhere in these Parish Notes, Robert Thompson (Organist & Choir Master) has written about repairs needed for the organ in order to make it safe, and also to make it more straightforward to maintain in the years to come. Please read Robert’s article for the details. All I need to do here is to point out that such things cost money! It’s hard to put a precise figure on it, but we are probably talking the guts of £15,000. The Select Vestry will of course look into all avenues of funding, but the starting point is

our own pockets. Therefore please give generously, as much as you are able, using the Special Collection envelopes which you will have received inside these Parish Notes. Spare envelopes are available at the back of the church. Please return them to any service of worship in St Peter's, and place them either on the collection plate, or in the collection box. It's vital that we maintain our traditional worship, and the organ is central to this. Thank you for your generosity.

### **RURAL DEANERY PRAYERS**

Our parish is one of twelve Church of Ireland parishes in the North Belfast and Newtownabbey area, which together form The North Belfast Rural Deanery. Geographically it extends from St Paul's on the Shore Road, right round to Greenisland. In addition to monthly meetings of the clergy from the Rural Deanery, we also have an annual joint service on the evening of Pentecost. This year we have decided to do a little bit more, by having 24/7 prayer on the week leading up to Pentecost. During that week, members of all parishes will be asked to pray for a particular congregation on a rota basis. Some parishes are also organising prayer rooms, open to the public, for use during their time slots. The times for St Peter's will be:

3pm—6pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May

3am—6am, and again from 3pm—6pm on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May

3pm—6pm pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

During the three afternoon slots, St Peter's will be open for members of our own and neighbouring parishes to come along and pray. Naturally the general public will be very welcome to venture in as well. There will be a number of prayer stations around the church, in order to help focus the minds of those participating. You are free to come and go as you please, and you can simply pray quietly in the pews, or else go round the various

prayer stations at your own pace. I do need some volunteers to supervise the building, so please let me know if you can help on any of those three days.

During other time slots, I would ask you to take some time at home to pray for the other parishes. Each parish has prepared a list of prayer requests, and I will provide these for you closer to the time. This is a wonderful venture, originated by the Rev'd Paul Lyons from Greenisland parish, and it's something we should do our best to make a success of.

On the theme of the Rural Deanery, the Rev'd David Lockhart, who has served as Rural Dean throughout my time as Rector here, has resigned from the parish of Cloughfern, and has been appointed to the parish of Larne, Inver, and Raloo. He will take up his new post in the coming months. David has been a kind and supportive Rural Dean, who chaired our Select Vestry meetings during the long vacancy between the departure of the Rev'd Adrian Dorrian and my institution. Please remember David and his family in your prayers as they commence this next phase in their lives.



### **PARISH MEETING**

As I explained in the previous Parish Notes, it is my intention to balance the temporal (business) matters of the parish with spiritual matters, by convening a monthly meeting to discuss our Christian mission, ministries, and worship. Although inevitably this will appeal more to some parishioners than to others, I want all members of our congregation to know that they are welcome to come along and share their thoughts, either every month or just when they're able to attend. These meetings will have practical consequences, as I will use them as a sounding board for changes

to our worship and Christian activities. If you feel strongly about such matters, then please do attend these meetings and help to steer this parish into the future. The first Parish Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May in the Minor Hall, finishing no later than 9pm. I would hope that no less than twelve parishioners would be there so as to ensure that a range of views are heard. Let me know if you are interested in attending, but you are very welcome simply to turn up on the night.

### **EASTER VESTRY MEETING**

Our annual Easter Vestry meeting was held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April in St Peter's, immediately following a shortened service of worship at 11am. During the meeting, Ashlee McCune (Honorary Treasurer) presented an overview of the parish finances for 2017. As expressed at the meeting by both David Cromie and myself, the Select Vestry has been delighted with the dedication and expertise which Ashlee has brought to the role of Treasurer in the last couple of years, particularly at a time of profound and complex changes to how parishes (and charities in general) are governed. We are all indebted to Ashlee for the time and effort which she gives to the parish voluntarily, and I encourage you please to express your gratitude to her in person, as embarrassed as I'm sure she would be to hear it.

There were also quite a few appointments and elections for various roles for the forthcoming year:

<i>Rector's Churchwarden</i>	Daphne McClements
<i>People's Churchwarden</i>	Paul Gibson
<i>Rector's Glebewarden</i>	Victor Davis
<i>People's Glebewarden</i>	Quintin Mulligan
<i>Diocesan Synod Supplementalist</i>	Samuel Cromie
<i>Rector's Sidespersons</i>	Sandra Hutchman and Brian Johnson

*People's Sidespersons*

Dora Hanna and Hilary Shields

*Select Vestry Representatives*

Noel Beattie, Colin Bell,  
Margi Crawford, David Cromie,  
Brian Davison, Sandra Hutchman,  
Brian Johnson, Rosemary Johnston,  
Gareth Larmour, Quintin Mulligan,  
Dr Karl O'Connor and Tony Swan.

There are always small changes in the composition of our Select Vestry from year to year, which means that we keep the collective expertise of the members, whilst still enabling some new people to come on board. We were sad to see Peter Coiley and Alderman Tom Campbell not seek re-election this year, but conversely we are delighted to welcome Paul Gibson and Colin Bell in their stead. Although Sandra Hutchman did not seek re-election as People's Churchwarden, she was elected to the Select Vestry, and agreed to my appointing her as a Rector's Sidesperson. Sandra has been a Churchwarden for four of the five years which I have been in the parish, and she has performed her duties with diligence, enthusiasm, and no shortage of style! As a Sidesperson you will still occasionally see her performing Churchwarden duties, but I want to pay tribute to her for her excellent work on your behalf.

### **CHARITABLE DONATIONS**

The Select Vestry has set a fundraising target of approximately £5,500 for the forthcoming year, in order to help other charities transform people's lives for the better, both at home and abroad. At our Easter Vestry meeting, we voted to support Alzheimer's Research UK, Friends of the City Hospital Cancer Centre, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Christian Aid, Connor Diocese Ordination Fund, and the Jeel-Al-Amal Boy's Orphanage in Palestine. Naturally, parishioners who feel passionately about other charities are very welcome to fundraise for them, and everything will go towards reaching our target.



Already we have raised £1,282 from a Bridge Drive organised by the St Peter's Bridge Club on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April. That money will be divided equally between Alzheimer's Research UK and the NI Children's Hospice. Many thanks to Florrie Greer, the Convenor of the Bridge Club, and to all who helped at the event, and of course to all who donated to the two charities.

### SERMON SUMMARIES



On Fig Monday in Holy Week (26th March) we learnt about a follower of Jesus doing for him what he will later teach the other disciples to do at the Last Supper. The person is a woman named Mary, who alongside Martha were friends of Jesus, and were the sisters of Lazarus whom Jesus had brought back to life. Now if you recall the incident recorded in the Gospels in which Jesus visits their home on a different occasion, you might know that Martha ran about the house getting things ready and making dinner, whilst Mary simply sat at Jesus' feet and listened to him.



At that time, Martha was scolded by Jesus because she complained that her sister Mary was sitting doing nothing whilst she had to do all the hard work. Jesus responded by telling Martha that what Mary was doing—by simply being with him and enjoying his company, and learning from him—was more important than anything else. The gospel reading for Fig Monday is similar to that incident, because again Mary is shouted at for doing what other people considered to be wrong, and Jesus rebukes them and praises Mary. In this case, she's being accused not of laziness, but of wastefulness. We read that she pours out very expensive perfume, and cleans Jesus' feet with it. She is voluntarily doing what Jesus will later tell his own disciples to do, but because she's using this ointment rather than water, she is going well above and beyond what would be expected. And then, more than that, she dries his feet not with a towel, but with her own hair. Now, if you read St Mark's version of events in the First Gospel, a line is added in which Jesus says "She is doing something beautiful for me". St John leaves that out from the Fourth Gospel which we looked at on Fig Monday, but even without it being said explicitly, it is clear that Mary is acting out of a deep sense of devotion and love for Jesus. Her behaviour is well above what a guest would have expected from their host, and it is not only a practical act of making her guest (Jesus) feel welcome and at ease, it is also a very intimate and costly act, designed to show that there is nothing belonging to Mary (her possessions and even herself) that she is not prepared to use gladly for Jesus. In both stories about Mary being rebuked for her actions, we learn three things:

*First*, that doing nothing WITH Jesus is more important than being busy WITHOUT Jesus.

*Second*, that our devotions to Jesus must be heartfelt and enthusiastic, rather than perfunctory and miserly.

*Third*, that we're not to let other people's negativity hold us back from being completely devoted to our Lord.

On the **Tuesday in Holy Week** (27th March) we read how Jesus said, “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit.” If you were a fly on the wall in the Rectory, one of the phrases you would hear my wife often say to me, is “You’re not a single student anymore!” Usually it’s said when I have failed to live up to her expectations of a perfect husband. Now that doesn’t really bother me, because I generally only half-listen to what she says, but the point that she is trying to make is that how I behave at this stage in my life (as a husband and father, and indeed as an ordained minister) needs to be different from how I behaved before I had those responsibilities. In other words, I need to “grow up”. And that involves not only taking on new roles and duties and attitudes in life, but also letting go of old ones that are no longer appropriate for who I have become. Or to use an expression coined by St Paul, I need to put those things to death. Here’s what Paul wrote in his letter to the Colossians: “Put to death ... whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry ... . You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image



of its Creator.” There are other examples in Paul’s letters where he alludes to the same idea. Perhaps most famously, in his first Letter to the Corinthians, he wrote: “When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.” In both of these passages, Paul is saying it’s time to grow up. Stop behaving as you did before Christ entered your heart, and instead embrace a new way of life based on Christ’s own behaviour and attitude.

Now this idea is what Jesus himself is talking about in the Gospel passage we read on Holy Tuesday when he says “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

What he is saying is that if we want to grow, then we must change, and that change necessarily involves putting an end to our former way of life. And if we keep holding on to our old habits, our old lifestyle, our own attitudes, then we will just stay the same, and the Christlike change which we so desperately need, will never come.

But as usual Jesus does not just talk the talk, he also walks the walk, and his comments on how a grain of wheat needs to die in order to bear much fruit, also have personal significance for him. He too must be prepared to let go to one way of life, if he is to embrace something new, something better. That better way of life for him, is his Resurrected life, in which his divinity is expressed more fully, and through which he pours out the Holy Spirit on all believers. But in order to achieve the new life, his old life had to die. And this is not the laying aside of attitudes or actions as we might do when we seek a new life, rather this, for Jesus, was a painful, torturous death, in which he physically died upon the Cross. So he himself is “the grain of wheat” which must fall into the earth and die, so that through death, it may bear much fruit—that is the Holy Spirit at work amongst his many followers, carrying on his mission and ministries all over the world and throughout all generations.



**On Spy Wednesday in Holy Week (28th March)**

we considered how if you've been to a service of Holy Communion in St Peter's, in Lent or Advent, you will undoubtedly have noticed that instead of the Prayer of Humble Access ("We do not presume to come to this your table, Merciful Lord"), I have read an Exhortation which reminds us of the need to take Holy Communion

seriously, and to ensure that we are right with God and with other people, before we eat the bread and drink from the cup. There are three such Exhortations printed in the old language service of Holy Communion in our Prayer Book, each with a similar message, but used for different purposes. The first Exhortation was to be used to give advance notice that there would be Holy Communion at some date in the near future—this was evidently written when Holy Communion was celebrated less frequently than it is today. The second Exhortation was to be used to encourage members of the congregation to attend church for Holy Communion if they were reluctant for any reason to come forward to receive Communion. And the third Exhortation was to be read on at least three occasions during the year, to remind the congregation of the nature and purpose of Holy Communion.

Of those three Exhortations, I have updated two of them for use in our modern language services; we use what is technically the Third Exhortation throughout Advent and the first four weeks of Lent, and then we use a modern summary of the First

Exhortation during the last two weeks of Lent, known as Passiontide. Let me draw your attention to two similar sentences from those Exhortations: “Although it will do us good if we receive the Holy Sacrament with a sorrowful heart and deep faith, equally it will do us harm if we receive the Holy Sacrament carelessly or thoughtlessly. And likewise from the other Exhortation: “For those who receive this holy Sacrament with a right heart, it is a great gift from God. But for those who receive with a wrong heart, it is a great danger.” In both of these sentences, the message is the same: Receiving Holy Communion can be either spiritually beneficial or spiritual dangerous for us, depending on the state of our relationship with God.

Now, you might question “How can be it spiritually dangerous?” but the best starting point is to ask “How can Holy Communion be spiritually beneficial?” In the Church of Ireland we believe that although the bread and wine do not physically become the body and blood of Christ (which is what Roman Catholicism believes and is called Transubstantiation), nevertheless we believe that there is more to it than simply a re-enactment of the Last Supper. When we receive the bread and wine, we are not just acting out a memorial of what Jesus did 2000 years ago, rather we are encountering the Risen Jesus, with the physical bread and wine entering our stomachs, representing the spiritual body and blood of Christ entering our hearts and minds. So, in Holy Communion, eating the bread and drinking wine are outward signs of a spiritual encounter between our soul and God. Through the Holy Communion his Holy Spirit interacts and influences us, reminding us of our sins, and assuring us of forgiveness, and enabling us to grow as God’s children. That is the “good” that Holy Communion can do for those who receive it with “a right heart”.

Now let’s think about what it means to receive Holy Communion with a “wrong heart”. If Holy Communion is a spiritual doorway, through which we can encounter God, it is also an opportunity for an encounter with less benevolent beings than

God. And by that I mean what you might refer to as “the devil” or more generally the powers of darkness. These beings also want to interact and influence us, and if we receive Holy Communion with a lot of negative feelings in our heart, such as anger, selfishness, bitterness, resentment, hatred, or even a lack of faith in God, with no desire to be rid of these thoughts or feelings, then we are opening a door to all evil beings who want to amplify and multiply such things within us.

So we need to remember that we are not just eating a piece of bread, we are receiving something spiritually alongside it. Something spiritually good for those who receive it with a right heart, and something spiritually evil for those who receive it with a wrong heart. We see this in Spy Wednesday’s Gospel passage, during the Last Supper. Look to what it says: “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.”

When you receive Holy Communion you receive it from me or another minister, but here is Judas Iscariot receiving it from Christ himself in person. What has more potential for good than that? But despite that, we read that Satan entered into Judas. Why? - because Judas was already plotting to betray Jesus. Now we can only guess at the reasons for it, and over the years many people have come up with various ideas, most notably that Judas was angry or disappointed that Jesus was not the sort of Messiah that he had expected him to be. But regardless of his exact motivation, Judas is spiritually in a bad condition. And so when he is given the bread by Jesus, in what should be an expression of love and friendship, it is received with bitterness and anger, and it is in that context that Satan enters into him.

Therefore, receiving Holy Communion is not something to take lightly. Someone is knocking on the door to your heart, and as you receive the bread and wine, you are opening that door. Make sure that it is God on the other side.



## **The Organ in St Peter's**

You may not be aware that the organ has been causing significant and increasing concern to the Choir and the Select Vestry for some considerable time—and even more so to your Organist! Various parts have been, in effect, shutting down and complicated electrical matters have led to smoke being emitted and hence we have a significant fire risk which must be attended to.

The last significant work that was done to the organ in St Peter's was a major project, completed in 2006, which turned the two manual pipe organ into what we call a “hybrid” organ. In a hybrid organ some digital stops are added to the existing pipe organ stops to make the instrument more versatile. In our case a very large number of stops were added turning the organ into a four manual instrument and the entire management system of the organ is also digital.

A number of organ builders have been approached and the Select Vestry has decided that the best one to deal with this project is called Renatus Organs. In addition to vital repairs and safety work, Renatus Organs will undertake some redesign work to the organ console to make the instrument easier to maintain into the future; they will tidy up all the internal wiring making it safe for future years; they will add new, attractive and easier to read stop names to the drawstops; they will refurbish the pedalboard and complete the panelling round the lower part of the console. This last job was not undertaken in 2006 and I will be really delighted with this part of the work because I won't have to endure the icy blast that comes round my legs from the organ chamber, which is always several degrees colder than the church, during services. All of this work will be much less expensive to conclude if dealt with as a single large contract.

The organ and our musical tradition are central to our worship in St Peter's and I know the Rector is mentioning a special appeal elsewhere in this magazine. This is quite an expensive project and the Select Vestry and I would really appreciate your support in making it all happen, an envelope is enclosed with these Parish Notes which you may use to make a donation. We hope to have the instrument back in full working order and at its most splendid in time for the St Peter's Day services towards the end of June.

*Robert Thompson*

## CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY

<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> MAY</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK</b> <i>modern, Resurrection, white</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>6<sup>th</sup> MAY</b> Holy Communion Choral Eucharist Evening Prayer	<b>ROGATION SUNDAY</b> <i>traditional, Resurrection, white</i> <i>modern, Nave, white</i> <i>traditional, St James, white</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>9<sup>th</sup> MAY</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK</b> <i>modern, Resurrection, white</i>
<b>THURSDAY</b> 7.30pm	<b>10<sup>th</sup> MAY</b> Choral Eucharist	<b>ASCENSION DAY</b> <i>traditional, Nave, white</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>13<sup>th</sup> MAY</b> Holy Communion Choral Matins Evening Prayer	<b>SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY</b> <i>modern, Resurrection, white</i> <i>modern, Nave, white</i> <i>modern, St James, white</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>16<sup>th</sup> MAY</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK</b> <i>modern, Resurrection, white</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>20<sup>th</sup> MAY</b> Holy Communion Choral Eucharist Joint Rural Deanery Service in St Patrick's Jordanstown	<b>WHIT SUNDAY</b> <i>modern, Resurrection, red</i> <i>modern, Nave, red</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> MAY</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK</b> <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>27<sup>th</sup> MAY</b> Holy Communion Choral Matins Late Evening Office	<b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b> <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i> <i>modern, Nave, green</i> <i>modern, St James, green</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>30<sup>th</sup> MAY</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK</b> <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>
<b>THURSDAY</b> 7.30pm	<b>31<sup>st</sup> MAY</b> Holy Communion	<b>VISITATION OF MARY</b> <i>traditional, Nave, white</i>

## CHURCH SERVICES IN JUNE

<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE</b> Holy Communion Choral Eucharist Choral Evensong	<b>THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b> <i>traditional, Resurrection, green</i> <i>modern, Nave, green</i> <i>traditional, Nave, green</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>6<sup>th</sup> JUNE</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK</b> <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>
<b>THURSDAY</b> 7.30pm	<b>7<sup>th</sup> JUNE</b> Holy Communion	<b>ST COLUMBA</b> (transferred) <i>traditional, Chancel, white</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>10<sup>th</sup> JUNE</b> Holy Communion Choral Matins Evening Prayer	<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b> <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i> <i>modern, Nave, green</i> <i>modern, St James, green</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>13<sup>th</sup> JUNE</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK</b> <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>17<sup>th</sup> JUNE</b> Holy Communion Choral Eucharist Choral Eucharist	<b>THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b> <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i> <i>modern, Nave, green</i> <i>traditional, Nave, green</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>20<sup>th</sup> JUNE</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK</b> <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9am 11am 6.30pm	<b>24<sup>th</sup> JUNE</b> Holy Communion Festal Matins Compline	<b>PETERTIDE SUNDAY</b> <i>modern, Resurrection, red</i> <i>traditional, Nave, red</i> <i>traditional, St James, red</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>27<sup>th</sup> JUNE</b> Holy Communion	<b>MID-WEEK</b> <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>
<b>FRIDAY</b> 10.30am	<b>29<sup>th</sup> JUNE</b> Holy Communion	<b>ST PETER</b> <i>modern, Chancel, red</i>

# May Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> <b>10.30am</b> Crafty Goodness <b>6pm</b> Beavers <b>7pm</b> Cubs <b>7.30pm</b> Priory Singers' Rehearsal	<b>2</b> <b>10.30am</b> Holy Communion and refreshments <b>2pm</b> Bridge <b>6.30pm</b> PhysioPilates <b>7.30pm</b> Choir	<b>3</b> <b>10am</b> Little Cherubs <b>6pm</b> Rainbows <b>7pm</b> Brownies <b>7.30pm</b> Parish Fellowship inc Late Evening Office <b>8pm</b> Guides and Senior Guides	<b>4</b> <b>10.30am</b> PhysioPilates <b>11.30am</b> Bible Study <b>4pm</b> Speech and Drama	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <b>Rogation Sunday</b> <b>9am</b> Holy Communion <b>11am</b> Choral Eucharist & Sunday School <b>6.30pm</b> Evening Prayer	<b>7</b> <b>7.30pm</b> Parish Meeting	<b>8</b> <b>10.30am</b> Crafty Goodness <b>2.30pm</b> Ladies' Guild <b>6pm</b> Beavers <b>7pm</b> Cubs <b>7.30pm</b> Priory Singers' Rehearsal	<b>9</b> <b>10.30am</b> Holy Communion and refreshments <b>2pm</b> Bridge <b>6.30pm</b> PhysioPilates <b>7.30pm</b> Choir	<b>10</b> <b>The Ascension Day</b> <b>10am</b> Little Cherubs <b>6pm</b> Rainbows <b>7pm</b> Brownies <b>7.30pm</b> Choral Eucharist <b>8pm</b> Guides and Senior Guides	<b>11</b> <b>10.30am</b> PhysioPilates <b>4pm</b> Speech and Drama	<b>12</b>

<b>13</b> <b>Sunday after The Ascension</b> <b>9am</b> Holy Communion <b>11am</b> Choral Matins & Sunday School (tea/coffee) Traidcraft stall <b>6.30pm</b> Evening Prayer	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>10.30am</b> Crafty Goodness <b>6pm</b> Beavers <b>7pm</b> Cubs <b>7.30pm</b> Priory Singers' Rehearsal	<b>16</b> <b>10.30am</b> Holy Communion and refreshments <b>2pm</b> Bridge <b>6.30pm</b> PhysioPilates <b>7.30pm</b> Choir	<b>17</b> <b>10am</b> Little Cherubs <b>6pm</b> Rainbows <b>7pm</b> Brownies <b>7.45pm</b> Historical Society <b>8pm</b> Guides and Senior Guides	<b>18</b> <b>10.30am</b> PhysioPilates <b>11.30am</b> Bible Study <b>4pm</b> Speech and Drama	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>Whit Sunday</b> <b>9am</b> Holy Communion <b>11am</b> Choral Eucharist & Sunday School <b>6.30pm</b> Joint Rural Deanery Service in St Patrick's, Jordanstown	<b>21</b> <i>Deadline for material to be with Anne for June Parish Notes</i> <b>7.30pm</b> Select Vestry	<b>22</b> <b>10.30</b> Crafty Goodness <b>6pm</b> Beavers <b>7pm</b> Cubs <b>7.30pm</b> Priory Singers' Rehearsal	<b>23</b> <b>10.30am</b> Holy Communion and refreshments <b>2pm</b> Bridge <b>6.30pm</b> PhysioPilates <b>7.30pm</b> Choir	<b>24</b> <b>10am</b> Little Cherubs <b>6pm</b> Rainbows <b>7pm</b> Brownies <b>7.30pm</b> Parish Fellowship inc Late Evening Office <b>8pm</b> Guides and Senior Guides	<b>25</b> <b>10.30am</b> PhysioPilates <b>4pm</b> Speech and Drama	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>Trinity Sunday</b> <b>9am</b> Holy Communion <b>11am</b> Choral Matins & Sunday School (tea/coffee) <b>6.30pm</b> Late Evening Office	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>10.30</b> Crafty Goodness <b>6pm</b> Beavers <b>7pm</b> Cubs <b>7.30pm</b> Priory Singers' Rehearsal	<b>30</b> <b>10.30am</b> Holy Communion and refreshments <b>2pm</b> Bridge <b>6.30pm</b> PhysioPilates <b>7.30pm</b> Choir	<b>31</b> <b>10am</b> Little Cherubs <b>6pm</b> Rainbows <b>7pm</b> Brownies <b>7.30pm</b> Parish Fellowship inc Late Evening Office <b>8pm</b> Guides and Senior Guides		

# The Water Walk

Question: *What do you call water that's healthy for you?*

Answer: *Well water.*

Did you know? *There are two reasons not to drink toilet water.*

What Are They? *Number one and number two.*

If you were to read the data regarding Christian Aid week 2018 you would see that it is mainly about storm damage and how we can help people like Marcelin to overcome the difficulties caused by 'Hurricane Matthew'. Environmental disasters, in general, create a myriad of problems, not least water shortages and contamination.

To prepare for Christian Aid week this year I would like to give you a few 'watery facts'.

Today globally:

- 1 in 9 people lacks access to safe water.
- 1 in 3 people lacks access to a toilet.
- More people have a mobile phone than a toilet.
- Women and girls spend up to 6 hours every day collecting water.
- The average distance that women in Africa and Asia walk to collect water is 3.7 miles. That is 19,500 steps, every day, just to get water. (The very water that is making them sick).
- Every 90 seconds a child dies from a water-related disease. (You can work out for yourselves how many children will die in the time it takes us to enjoy a normal Sunday morning service. You will find the answer on the next page.)
- \$260bn is lost globally each year due to lack of basic water and sanitation.
- More people die from unsafe water than from all forms of violence, including war.

In many countries it is the lack of water that locks women into a cycle of poverty.



**This would be a good time to read again the silly little jokes at the start of this piece. Are they a little more poignant now?**

Although not solely associated with raising money for water relief, the availability and suitability of water nevertheless plays a vital role in the programmes financed by Christian Aid.

You may remember that last year together we raised the wonderful sum of more than £700 for Christian Aid by our 'A Bag For a Life' campaign. This year it would be good if we could improve on that.

So – what is the point of all this?

During the next few weeks I intend to walk 11 miles while carrying a container of water similar in size to that carried by the women we have read about. The walk will be along the towpath following the perfectly clean River Lagan from Stranmillis to Lady Dixon Park and back again. This is my way of representing the struggle of many to provide water for their families and communities. I will however be doing it with shoes on my feet and I won't be carrying the water on my head!

If you would like to sponsor me please find the envelope enclosed. This can be returned via a collection plate any Sunday, given to a church warden or to Jill Bradley. Please make cheques payable to Christian Aid.

For more information about Christian Aid and how you can get involved please speak to our Christian Aid coordinator, Jill Bradley.

Many thanks for your help.

*Anne Stewart*

*(Answer: 40 children will die due to lack of water in the time it takes us to enjoy an average Sunday morning service!)*



## SELECT VESTRY BULLETIN

At the inaugural meeting of the new Select Vestry, the Rector took some time to explain to all the members their responsibilities and duties as Vestrypersons. He explained, that while the primary purpose of the parish is to worship God and proclaim the Good News, the Select Vestry exists to ensure that the practical resources are in place for this to occur. Each new Vestryperson is therefore called to ensure that parish funds are used appropriately, the fabric and furnishings are well maintained, and that the parish complies with all governmental and church legislation. In undertaking these obligations, the new Select Vestry finds a range of tasks before it, from implementing the recommendations of the recent Quinquennial Inspection Reports, through to ensuring compliance with new data protection legislation.

The new Select Vestry has now also made its annual appointments, with myself reappointed as Honorary Secretary, and Ashlee McCune reappointed as Honorary Treasurer. In addition to this, the Select Vestry also appointed members of our congregation to a wide range of roles, including Charities Secretary, Grounds-keeping Coordinator, Fire Safety Officer, and Holy Dusters Coordinator. While this is a small sample of the appointments made, it should help to act as an indication of the range of practical skills that we need to succeed and thrive as a parish. If anyone would like to volunteer to help out in any way, then I would encourage them to talk to the Rector who would be more than happy to discuss their options further.

Finally, I want to express the sincere gratitude of the Select Vestry to Ashlee McCune for her ongoing and detailed work as Honorary Treasurer, and to Noel Beattie for his dedication as Free Will Offering & Gift Aid Secretary on top of so many other duties for which he tirelessly volunteers. During the Easter Vestry meeting, Ashlee explained that because of events beyond the control of the Select Vestry, there were some outstanding matters to be resolved. Those matters have been dealt with in recent weeks, with Ashlee and Noel spending time examining the accounts in great detail. As a consequence, we are delighted to say that instead of a decrease in Free Will Offerings in 2017 compared to the previous year, there was in fact an increase! This amends the figure of £74,876 as reported to the Easter Vestry up to a revised total of £78,959. For comparison, the total in 2016 was £78,142. This in turn gives a revised deficit for the year of £9,693, compared to a deficit of £4,860 in 2016.

*Gareth Larmour, Hon Sec to Select Vestry*

## ST PETER'S BRIDGE CLUB



Our Bridge Club, which meets on Wednesday afternoons from 2-4.30pm, (no partner required) organised a charity fund-raiser with all proceeds being split between the NI Children's Hospice and Alzheimer's Research UK.



Thanks to the generosity of the community of bridge players, a very creditable amount of £1,282 was raised. The main hall was cleverly decorated by Florrie Greer who expertly organised the whole event. Seventeen tables filled the main parish hall.

Thanks also go to the catering team (too many to mention by name) and to those who supplied sandwiches, cakes, buns and cake stands.

Apart from the financial success, the event highlighted to the outside community, St Peter's at its best.

*Noel Beattie*



**National  
Osteoporosis  
Society**

**President:  
Her Royal Highness  
The Duchess of Cornwall**

*The National Osteoporosis Society invites you to a free Osteoporosis & Bone Health event in the Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May from 7 to 9pm.*

*All people affected by Osteoporosis are invited to attend this event and there will be presentations on the evening from leading Osteoporosis Health Professionals.*

*As this is a FREE event places are limited.*

*To reserve your place please  
text/phone Edel on 07515 574785 or  
email: [e.rogan@nos.org.uk](mailto:e.rogan@nos.org.uk)*

*Edel Rogan, Development Manager, NI*

christian  
**aid**  
week  
13-19 MAY

# GOD'S KINGDOM IS STRONGER



## Join our team of volunteer collectors!

Will you give a few hours of your time this Christian Aid Week?

**If you can help, please speak to Jill Bradley**  
**tel: 90 842 998**  
**email: [jill.bradley1@btopenworld.com](mailto:jill.bradley1@btopenworld.com)**

King and Wales charity no. 1158801. Book charity no. 80300198. Company no. 3071029. Christian Aid Ireland: NI charity no. 9001001.  
Companies no. 0040414 and 0021400. Charity no. 0010001. Company no. 0010001. The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of  
Christian Aid. All Christian Aid (December 2012) Christian Aid is a not-for-profit charity. Fundraising for the world's poorest.  
received from responsibility (excepted) 2012. 2012. Photo: Christian Aid/William Lister/Red.

**We believe in life before death**



### Our Parish Family ...

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

### THANK YOU

Christine and Robbie Marshall would like to thank St Peter's parishioners for the thoughtful greetings card they received on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary. It was much appreciated by them.

Christine is the daughter of the late Chris and Mary Bentham.



### CRAFTY GOODNESS

This beautiful quilt featuring St Peter's Church was made for Margaret Mulligan (pictured above) by her daughter, Susan, as a gift for her mother's 90th birthday. Margaret is a member of our Crafty Goodness group.

## BICYCLE SALE



A donation was made to church funds for the child's bike that was left 'for sale' beside the bookstall in the church hall. It occurred to me that the donor might want to know that it went to a good home. My 6 year old grandson loves it! I made a donation of £50.

*Wes Holmes*

## PARISH REGISTER

### *Holy Baptism*

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

*Amelie Charlotte Lacey*  
daughter of Brian and Laura Lacey, St Peter's Rectory  
on 1st April 2018

### *Christian Burial*

*"At rest in the Lord."*

*Robert (Roy) Shields Bell*  
ex Shore Road  
Cremation at Roselawn  
on 12th April 2018

*Elizabeth Beattie*  
ex Antrim Road, Newtownabbey  
Cremation at Roselawn  
on 18th April 2018



## **Ladies' Guild**

### **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm**

On Tuesday 8th May at 2.30pm our guest speakers will be from Second Bloom who will deliver a presentation entitled 'Handbags from glad rags'. We will find out about the history of handbags and how unwanted clothing can be transformed into something of lasting worth.

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.

<b>May</b>	<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Intercessor</b>
6th	Eleanor Henderson	Sandra Hutchman	Ashlee McCune
13th	Barbara Greenlees	Ashlee McCune	Sandra Hutchman
20th	Caroline O'Kane	Forde Patterson	Karl O'Connor
27th	Hilary Shields	Anne Stewart	Daphne McClements

### **AFTER CHURCH REFRESHMENT**

*Light refreshments will be served after the 11am service on Sunday 13th May by the Bridge Club and on Sunday 27th May by Hilary Woods.*



## TENEBRAE, EASTER 2018

I attended the Good Friday worship which was in the form of the ancient service of Tenebrae (darkness), a meditation on Christ's suffering. Centrally in the nave was the beautiful carved nearly life-sized 19th century crucifix from the Chapel of the Resurrection illuminated by flickering candles. The readings were touchingly apt and movingly read by the Rector and Sandra Hutchman. The choir sang, among other classic pieces, the heart-piercing, Stabat Mater Dolorosa (his broken hearted mother stood at the foot of the cross). As the service proceeded, one candle after another was extinguished until the church was in virtual darkness and all that was left was the persistent flame of the Christ candle and then it too was extinguished. This was rich Anglicanism recognizing that some truths can't be expressed sufficiently in mundane words alone; we need also music, poetry, drama and silence.

*Wes Holmes*

**As chosen by our members, this parish will be supporting these six charities until Easter 2019:**



**Jeel-Al-Amal Boys' Home**  
Bethany, Palestine



## MAY FLOWER LIST

6TH JILL BRADLEY IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER  
13TH THE NOBLETT FAMILY  
20TH THE DAVISON FAMILY

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](http://www.stpeters.connor.anglican.org) and click on “Parish Notes”.

## NORTH BELFAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY

7.30PM FOR 7.45PM

McCOLLUM MINOR HALL

**Speaker:** David Flinn

**Subject:** North Belfast Walks and The Appalachian Trail in NI

*Everyone is welcome*

David Flinn is on the Northern Ireland Advisory board of the National Trust and is also Chairperson of the Belfast Civic Trust.

North Belfast offers wonderful walking opportunities including walks for families, for people with limited mobility, tours and many more.

Join us to hear David Flinn talk about walking in North Belfast and begin to plan your summer evenings.

The Appalachian Trail in NI covers beach, coastal, forest, hill and mountain.

David will be enlightening us on the details, come along and hear about this wonderful trail.

After we have heard David Flinn talk, the NBHS will be having its AGM.

Do come along, EVERYONE is welcome—we look forward to seeing you on the 17th May.

*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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> in month)

7.45pm—9.30pm: Historical Society (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in month)

8pm—9.30pm: Guides and Senior Guides

### Friday

10.30am—11.45am: PhysioPilates

11.30am—12.30pm: Bible Study (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:stpeterandstjames@outlook.com).

Also please don't forget to let us know if you move house, change your telephone number or change your email address. Thank you.

## Holy Dusters Cleaning Rota

30th April—5th May ----- Group 1

7th May—12th May ----- Group 2

14th May—19th May ----- Group 3

21st May—26th May ----- Group 4

28th May—2nd June ----- Group 5



**TRAIDCRAFT**  
Fighting poverty through trade

Stall open on  
Sunday 13th May  
during coffee time after  
the 11am service

THE NEXT MEETING OF  
THE SELECT VESTRY  
WILL BE ON  
MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY  
AT 7.30<sup>PM</sup>  
IN THE MINOR HALL

*Please send material for the June issue of Parish Notes to:*

Anne Cromie, Parish Office, St Peter's Church,  
Fortwilliam Drive, Belfast BT15 4EB

*or email: [stpeterandstjames@outlook.com](mailto:stpeterandstjames@outlook.com)*

*by Monday 21st May. Thank you.*