

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

JULY/AUGUST 2018

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



St James the Apostle
Sunday 22nd July

GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE

RECTOR'S NOTES

SERVICES IN JULY AND AUGUST

During the next two months, St Peter's goes into summer mode, as we no longer have Sunday evening services, the choir takes a welcome break (except for St James' Day), and we enter and exit the church using the South Porch rather than the West Doors. Despite these changes, our services continue largely as normal, and I would hope that parishioners will continue to worship regularly when not away on holiday.

On **Sunday 8th July** we will celebrate Sea Sunday, when we remember those who live and work at sea.

On **Sunday 22nd July** we will celebrate St James the Apostle, who is one of our parish's two patron saints. Our 9am Holy Communion will be celebrated in the St James' side-chapel (to the left of the building when you enter St Peter's) using the Holy Table brought from the former St James' Church. At the 11am service the choir will return for our traditional language celebration of Choral Eucharist. If you know of any former parishioners from St James, then please do invite and encourage them to join us on this important day in our calendar.

On **Thursday 23rd August** we will have a traditional celebration of Holy Communion at 7:30pm in order to commemorate the life and witness of St Bartholomew, whose official feast day falls later than week.

ASSISTANT PRIEST

If you have been worshipping in St Peter's in recent months you will hopefully have encountered Ken and Patricia Houston. Officially styled the Rev'd Dr Ken Houston, Ken was the Non-Stipendiary Minister (NSM) Curate in St Andrew's, Glencairn, until January of this year. Since retiring from that ministry, Ken and his wife have joined St Peter's, their local church, and he has kindly volunteered to assist in whatever ways he can. Accordingly, I have asked Ken to provide pastoral cover for me whenever I am on holidays, and to lead services occasionally each month, and to assist me in various ministries. This is a very welcome addition to our team of people able to lead and assist worship, which includes David Cromie, Forde Patterson, and Tony Swan. I am of course mindful that Ken is retired, and therefore I will try not to encumber him too much, and I will continue to invite other clergy, notably our old friend, the Very Rev'd Brian Moller, to cover some services during my holidays. You can find out more about Ken and Patricia in Ken's own article elsewhere in these Parish Notes, and I encourage you to introduce yourself to them if you haven't already.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Please note that during July and August our two fellowship groups pause for a summer break. The Thursday Fellowship group, which meets at 7.30pm on the first, second, and fourth Thursdays of each month, will resume on Thursday 6th September. The Friday Fellowship group, which meets at 11.30am on the first and third Fridays of each month, will resume on Friday 7th September. You are welcome to come along to either/both of these groups, as often as you like!

DATA PROTECTION

If you have not yet returned your GDPR form (which was distributed alongside these Parish Notes last month) then please do so in the coming days. They may be returned to church or directly to Anne Cromie at St Peter's Parish Office, Fortwilliam Drive, Belfast, BT14 5EB.

Alternatively, if you would prefer to no longer receive these Parish Notes, and wish no further contact with St Peter's, then you can contact Anne and she will remove you from our database. Of course, we hope that you don't choose this latter option!

RURAL DEAN

I am honoured to report that Bishop Alan has appointed me as Rural Dean of North Belfast, effective from 15th July. This new role does not change my position as Rector of this parish, but it does give me additional responsibilities with regard to the other parishes in our Rural Deanery: St Katharine, St Paul & St Barnabas, Rathcoole, Whitehouse, Greenisland, Jordanstown, Mallusk, Monkstown, Cloughfern, and Mossley. During any vacancies in those parishes, I will chair meetings of their Select Vestry, and will organise pastoral cover. I am very grateful to the Rev'd David Lockhart, who has served as Rural Dean throughout my time in St Peter's, and wish him well for his forthcoming ministry as Rector of Larne, Raloo, and Inver.

PARISH MEETING

We have now had two monthly Parish Meetings, which have resulted in changes to our ministries and worship. Input from parishioners is always welcome, and indeed it is vital if we are all to feel ownership of the Christian mission which Jesus gave to all

his disciples rather than to just the clergy. I know that many of you are great at coming up with ideas, and that all of you have opinions worth hearing, so I urge you to come along to the Parish Meetings and tell me what you think. We're going to take a summer break, but the next Parish Meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 3rd September, and thereafter on the first Monday evening of each month. You can read our Honorary Secretary's summary of last month's Parish Meeting elsewhere in these Parish Notes.

OPEN CHURCH

At our Parish Meeting in June, it was decided that we would aim to open St Peter's to the public during the first week of August. Technically, this would be from Monday 30th July until Saturday 4th August, from 10am until 4pm. Last year we opened only for lunchtime on various days of the week throughout the summer, but we thought that it might be better to open for an entire week, and then take note of the times when people came in, and use this information to plan for future years. We therefore need volunteers to spend a couple of hours each day supervising the church. You don't need to give guided tours, although it might be useful to have a basic knowledge of the building in case anyone asks. Really all you need to do is make sure that nothing gets broken or stolen. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church, so please fill in the time slots for when you would like to volunteer.

CHURCHWARDEN

Since Easter, you might have noticed Dora Hanna assisting our Rector's Churchwarden, Daphne McClements at our 11am services, and I'm delighted to say that Dora has now officially

been elected as People's Churchwarden by the Select Vestry. Dora had been serving as one of our four Sidespersons (who assist and deputise for the Churchwardens), which means that there is now a vacancy for that role. If you would like to consider taking it on, which would involve covering for a churchwarden during their holidays, and generally assisting whenever needed, then please speak to me.

CHOIR

Our Choir traditionally takes a break for July and August, and so I'd like to thank them on behalf of us all, for their wonderful singing which enriches our worship. They return for the feast day of St James the Apostle (Sunday 22nd July) and then resume their choral ministry properly on the first Sunday in September, when we will dedicate them for the year ahead. In recent weeks, Peggy Magill has retired from the choir after 20 years. We are extremely grateful for her musical ministry in years past.

CHOIR FOLDERS

In response to our parish wish list, the family of the late Chris and Mary Bentham offered to purchase mastersinger folders for our Choir. Chris was a chorister in St Peter's for many years, and Mary was a skilled book binder, and it was thought that the folders would be a fitting gift in their memory.



These beautiful black folders, embossed with the crossed keys of St Peter's, are designed to be held in one hand, with music held neatly and securely within it, for easy use during our services. We dedicated the folders to the glory of God, in memory of Chris and Mary, at our 11am service on Sunday 17th June. We are indebted to Joe and Christine, and their spouses Lynda and Robbie, for presenting the folders to us. If you would like to consider purchasing something from the parish wish list in memory of a loved one, then please speak to the Rector.

MONEY BOX

Following the theft of a money box from the book stall in the foyer of the Halls, a parishioner (who wishes to remain anonymous) kindly offered to affix a secure money box to the adjacent wall. This was gladly approved by the Select Vestry, and the new box is now between the stall and the door to the Minor Hall. We are very grateful to the parishioner.

SERMON SUMMARIES

On the **First Sunday after Trinity** (Sunday 3rd June) we considered how many people simply do not know what the Church is about. This is particularly true for younger people who are searching for meaning in their lives, and they ask the question: What does the Church stand for? What does it believe in? What does it advocate? The answer to those questions changes from denomination to denomination, from congregation to congregation, from minister to minister. Which means that if you ask me serious questions about, for example, sexuality or abortion (which are two subjects clearly at the forefront of the minds of young people today) then I can tell you what my Christian beliefs are (and which I think the whole Church should believe) but you

could go to a rector of another parish and they might tell you something completely different. You could then go to a Roman Catholic priest, and they might tell you something different again, which might be different from what the local Methodist or Presbyterian Ministers might tell you. And even if you were to discover that all the clergy believed the same thing, the chances are that many people in our congregations disagreed with us. And yet, we are the one Christian Church.

How confusing it must be to the unchurched (that is, people have not been brought up in a church-going family) to understand what they can expect to be taught if they join the Church. How confusing it must be to belong to one Christian community, and to believe what you are being taught each week, and yet to have members of another Christian community saying the complete opposite, and claiming that you're not really a Christian—only they are.

It's no wonder that the Christian Church is in decline, particularly amongst young people: because whatever the simple truth of the Gospel is, the Church is doing a great job of overcomplicating it, and arguing about it, and making it appear more like bad news than good news.

And yet, having said that, maybe this has been going on for two thousand years. Maybe human beings have been distorting the Good News for a long time, because we are imperfect beings. How on earth could we, with our imperfections, ever fully communicate the glory of God to the world? Even the most holy person will occasionally think, speak, or behave in an ungodly way. And if the most saintly people can sometimes be poor representatives of God, then what chance is there for the rest of us normal folk?!

It's our imperfection at trying to proclaim our perfect God to the world, that St Paul was talking about in 1 Corinthians, when he wrote "We have this treasure in clay jars." The treasure he is talking about is, to quote Paul,



“the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” And the clay jars he refers to, are us. We are the clay jars which are cheaply made, mass-manufactured, easily broken, and quickly thrown away. In other words, we are ordinary and imperfect beings, to whom has been revealed the glory of our extraordinary and perfect God.

Our problem therefore as the Church, is that although we are a Godly organisation, we naturally articulate and express our godliness in very human ways. And part of that includes wanting things to be black and white, and feeling the need to judge and condemn others who disagree with us. Our Lord Jesus himself encountered such human imperfection when he and his disciples were walking through cornfields on the Sabbath day. Some of the religious leaders of the time, called the Pharisees, were outraged that they were snacking on the wheat. Afterwards, we read that they were similarly angry that Jesus would heal a man on that same day. Their concern was that these things were being done on the Sabbath day, when the Bible had clearly outlawed such activities. And yet here was Jesus doing these things, and telling the religious leaders that their perception of what God wants, was wrong. And in response to this, the Jewish leaders “immediately conspired ... against him, [in order] to destroy him.” They believed that the best way to bring glory to God, was to kill someone whose crime in their eyes was to eat and to heal on the day of rest.

Hopefully we can see how skewed their perception of God was, and how monstrously they were behaving in God’s name. But to those Pharisees at the time, they were in the right, and Jesus was in the wrong. And in order to best serve God, Jesus would have to be killed. But let’s not be too hard on them. They were, like us, clay jars, imperfect beings, trying to understand and articulate and obey our perfect God. We need to remember this about ourselves, whenever we hold fast to any particular religious or spiritual belief. We might think we are 100% right, and that those who disagree with us our wrong and should be condemned. But

that's what the religious leaders of Jesus' time thought. Rather, we must remember that none of us will ever be 100% right. Such perfection does not exist for us imperfect beings, and so we will often be wrong about God. And as a result, we will from one church to another, from one congregation to another, from one minister to another, hold different views from other Christians.

Because as imperfect beings, we can never expect to fully understand or represent our perfect God. So let's admit that we are clay jars, but let's also make sure that we don't become pharisees as well.

On the **Second Sunday after Trinity** (Sunday 10th June) I continued the theme of thinking about ourselves as "clay jars". And I told you that, if I do say so myself, I am becoming quite the gardener. And so I had been at the shops looking to buy some plant pots, and I noticed something odd. A basic plastic plant pot costs £1.75. Whereas a ceramic plant pot costs £1.20. The cheap plastic costs *more* than the ceramic. Which would suggest that the ceramic pot, even though it feels heavier, and looks studier, is actually cheaper to make, and is probably more easily broken than its plastic counterpart. And it reminded me of the Epistle in which St Paul described *us humans* as "clay jars", by which he meant that we are cheaply made, easily broken, quickly thrown away and forgotten about. St Paul was using that description in order to show how imperfect we all are, and yet to us imperfect beings, has come the knowledge of the glory of our perfect God. He was saying that because of our imperfect nature, we will never fully be able to understand or express the wonders of our perfect God. And yet, even so, our perfect God chooses to reveal himself to us, and to live within us, so that—despite our imperfections—even a little bit of himself can take hold of us and grow inside us, and change us day by day to be a little bit more like him.

That 'part' of God who lives inside us, is called the Holy Spirit. And it is he who helps us to be more godlike in our attitude and our abilities. So for example, as an imperfect human being, I have a natural tendency—as most people do—to hold a grudge if someone has wronged me. But with the Holy Spirit, I am inspired and empowered to forgive. Similarly, as an imperfect being, I don't always make the right decisions. I am, as most people are, inclined to make decisions that benefit myself. But with the Holy Spirit, I can see the needs of the world beyond myself, and I can focus on the needs of other people. On a more supernatural level, as an imperfect being I don't have the ability cure the sick, or bind demonic forces. But with the Holy Spirit, I have personally experienced those things. In these ways, our perfect God uses us imperfect beings to carry out his wonderful works.

But I acknowledge that there are many people in the world (perhaps many here today) who think that what I'm saying is farfetched. You might think to yourself, "there is no such thing as miraculous healing" or perhaps you think it's ridiculous to talk about God guiding our thoughts or helping us to know or do things that we otherwise wouldn't. I accept such things sound fanciful.



They sounded farfetched 2000 years ago, when even Jesus' own family tried to restrain him, for fear that he had gone mad! We read in the Gospel, they said, "He has gone out of his mind!" God living inside you? God working miracles through you? Surely, at best this is madness! But take note of Jesus' response to this accusation. He said, "Whoever

blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin.”

Blasphemy is telling lies about God, and in the context of the Gospel passage, Jesus had two lies being said about him. The first was that he was mad, and the second was that he was possessed by a demon. Both of these lies denied and rejected the Holy Spirit who was powerfully at work in and through Jesus. And so the point Jesus was making, was that by denying the work of the Holy Spirit, and attributing his behaviour to either madness or demonic activity, both his family and his enemies were insulting and offending God the Holy Spirit. They were taking the wondrous works of God, and reducing it to mental illness at best, or the power of evil at worst.

Now why do you suppose, of all the sins that we imperfect human beings can commit, that not acknowledging the work of the Holy Spirit is unforgivable, when forgiveness is at the heart of the Christian faith? What makes blasphemy against the Holy Spirit so dangerous? Well let me explain it like this. As imperfect human beings, we need the power of the perfect Holy Spirit within us, to be able to fully understand and receive and express the grace of God. It is the Spirit who brings our sinfulness to the forefront of our minds, and who helps us to repent, and who enables us to appreciate each fresh beginning which God gives us. If, however, we don't have the Holy Spirit, then—because we are imperfect—we will be blind to what God is doing around us and for us. Without the Holy Spirit we don't fully accept the grace of God; we don't acknowledge our sinfulness; we won't genuinely repent. So rejecting the Holy Spirit is a sin which cannot be forgiven, because we *need* the Holy Spirit in order to be forgiven. It is not that God refuses to forgive, but rather that we choose not to be forgiven. That is what makes it “unforgivable”.

For the people 2000 years ago, including some of Jesus' own family, who denied and rejected the work of the Holy Spirit in Jesus, they were committing this unforgivable sin. And their

inability to discern the work of the Spirit was a clear sign that the Holy Spirit was not at work *in them*.

Our challenge is to be careful not to commit that same sin when we observe the spiritual life of other Christians. It is not for any of us to look at other people and say to ourselves “God’s not at work in them. They’re not Christians.” Because if God is at work in them, if he *has* forgiven them, if he is slowly but surely transforming them, if he is using them for his purposes, then we deny and reject the Holy Spirit at our peril. So take note, that if we cannot see how or why God might be at work in a person’s life, remember that it says more about us, than it does about them.

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.

July	First Reading	Second Reading	Intercessor
1st	Wes Holmes	Daphne McClements	Dora Hanna
8th	Rosemary Johnston	Colin Bell	Noel Beattie
15th	Dora Hanna	Anne Stewart	Sandra Hutchman
22nd	Eleanor Henderson	Forde Patterson	Daphne McClements
29th	Marie Burrowes	Caroline O’Kane	Colin Bell
August			
5th	Tom Campbell	Barbara Greenlees	Forde Patterson
12th	Dora Hanna	Hilary Shields	Quintin Mulligan
19th	Sandra Hutchman	Ashlee McCune	David Cromie
26th	Wes Holmes	Daphne McClements	Karl O’Connor

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”.



Sunflower Competition

Grow a prizewinner. £1 entry. Seedlings available from the back of the church. Tallest recorded plant by Harvest Festival (30th September) wins.

Anne Noblett & Barbara Greenlees

CHURCH SERVICES IN JULY

SUNDAY 9am 11am	1st JULY Holy Communion Holy Communion	THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>traditional, Resurrection, green</i> <i>modern, Nave, green</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	4th JULY Holy Communion	MID-WEEK <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am	8th JULY Holy Communion Morning Prayer	SEA SUNDAY <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i> <i>modern, Nave, green</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	11th JULY Holy Communion	MID-WEEK <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am	15th JULY Holy Communion Holy Communion	THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i> <i>modern, Nave, green</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	18th JULY Holy Communion	MID-WEEK <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am	22nd JULY Holy Communion Choral Eucharist	ST JAMES THE APOSTLE (transferred) <i>modern, St James, red</i> <i>traditional, Nave, red</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	25th JULY Holy Communion	MID-WEEK <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am	29th JULY Holy Communion Morning Prayer	THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i> <i>modern, Nave, green</i>

CHURCH SERVICES IN AUGUST

WEDNESDAY 10.30am	1st AUGUST Morning Prayer	MID-WEEK <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am	5th AUGUST Holy Communion Holy Communion	THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>traditional, Resurrection, green</i> <i>modern, Nave, green</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	8th AUGUST Morning Prayer	MID-WEEK <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am	12th AUGUST Holy Communion Morning Prayer	THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i> <i>modern, Nave, green</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	15th AUGUST Holy Communion	MID-WEEK <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am	19th AUGUST Holy Communion Holy Communion	THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i> <i>modern, Nave, green</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	22nd AUGUST Holy Communion	MID-WEEK <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>
THURSDAY 7.30pm	23rd AUGUST Holy Communion	ST BARTHOLOMEW (transferred) <i>traditional, Chancel, red</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am	26th AUGUST Holy Communion Morning Prayer	THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i> <i>modern, Nave, green</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	29th AUGUST Holy Communion	MID-WEEK <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>

CHURCH SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	2nd SEPTEMBER Holy Communion Choral Eucharist Choral Evensong	THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>traditional, Resurrection, green</i> <i>modern, Nave, green</i> <i>traditional, Nave, green</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	5th SEPTEMBER Holy Communion	MID-WEEK <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>
THURSDAY 7.30pm	6th SEPTEMBER Holy Communion	BIRTH OF THE VIRGIN MARY (transferred) <i>traditional, Chancel, white</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	9th SEPTEMBER Holy Communion Choral Matins Evening Prayer	THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i> <i>modern, Nave, green</i> <i>modern, St James, green</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	12th SEPTEMBER Holy Communion	MID-WEEK <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	16th SEPTEMBER Holy Communion Choral Eucharist Choral Eucharist	THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i> <i>modern, Nave, green</i> <i>traditional, Nave, green</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	19th SEPTEMBER Holy Communion	MID-WEEK <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>
THURSDAY 7.30pm	20th SEPTEMBER Holy Communion	ST MATTHEW (transferred) <i>traditional, Chancel, red</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	23rd SEPTEMBER Holy Communion Choral Eucharist Compline	THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i> <i>modern, Nave, green</i> <i>traditional, Nave, green</i>
WEDNESDAY 10.30am	26th SEPTEMBER Holy Communion	MID-WEEK <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>
THURSDAY 7.30pm	27th SEPTEMBER Holy Communion	ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS (transferred) <i>traditional, Chancel, white</i>
SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm	30th SEPTEMBER Holy Communion Harvest Service Holy Communion	HARVEST THANKSGIVING <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i> <i>modern, Nave, green</i> <i>modern, Resurrection, green</i>

HONORARY SECRETARY'S BULLETIN

At its May 2018 meeting, the Select Vestry continued to discuss the three Fs—fabric, furnishings, and finance—and importantly, the implementation of the 2017 Quinquennial Report. Recent work has included repairs to the slates on the church roof, the cleaning of the gutters, and now, work has begun to repair the organ. In ensuring the continuation of this important work, we are, as always, indebted to the generosity of our members. In an effort to encourage fundraising, both within the church, as well as the broader community, the Select Vestry introduced the £1 fundraiser scheme. Already a number of parishioners have acted on their initiative and introduced a variety of projects, and I would encourage all parishioners to do their best to enter into the spirit of this scheme.

The ongoing repairs and improvements ensure that St Peter's remains a safe, clean, and secure environment for worship. This alongside the important local history contained within our walls, ensures that we have a church to be proud of. Indeed, we hope to be able to showcase St Peter's to the broader community in the coming months. Our application to European Heritage Open Days has been accepted, and so we will be advertised on the official brochure and open for tourists to visit in the second weekend of September. In addition to this, in June, the Parish Meeting discussed the Summer Opening Days scheme that was introduced in 2017. We are hoping to reintroduce this scheme in 2018, and while opening days and times have yet to be decided upon, we will require volunteers to open, close, and supervise the church.

The recent Parish Meeting also discussed a number of possible projects, from forming a men's group, to introducing a ministry for those affected by loneliness. The re-launch of the Telephone Prayer Team was also discussed, and if anyone is interested in participating, I would encourage them to speak with Rosemary Johnston.

Those present at the meeting also raised the importance of using Fair Trade tea and coffee at parish events. It is Select Vestry policy that Fair Trade products are used, and Tupperware containing Fair Trade tea and coffee will be made available in the kitchen. If this is ever running low, Jill Bradley should be contacted, and she would be more than happy to refill the containers.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parishioners, that in order to contact you, we need your consent. This is particularly true for those who do not regularly come to St Peter's. Without this consent, our ability to contact you and assist you will unfortunately be affected. If you have not yet read the consent form provided to you, please do so, and respond as soon as possible. If anyone needs a consent form, then Anne Cromie, the Parish Secretary, would be more than happy to help.

Gareth Larmour, Hon Sec to Select Vestry

KEN AND PATRICIA HOUSTON



Hello, St Peter's. As my wife, Patricia, and I have recently joined St Peter's and since it is likely that I shall be conducting worship from time to time, Rev Brian has asked me to introduce myself to you. I'll start at the very beginning since I am told that is a very good place to start.

I was born in South Belfast and lived there until I was sixteen. We attended All Saints' Church where I was baptised and confirmed. I enjoyed my time in the 16th Belfast Company of The Boys' Brigade. I was educated in a local primary school, at RBAI (Belfast Inst) and at Queen's University. We moved to North Belfast and Holy Trinity Parish where I served as an officer in the 118th BB eventually becoming Captain for seven years. Here, in the Youth Guild, I met Patricia and we were married in 1967. I graduated that year and we moved to Sheffield where I took up a lectureship in Applied Mathematics at Sheffield University. I spent a year on a Post Doc scholarship in the USA. We came back to Belfast in 1974 when I got a job at the Ulster Polytechnic. We re-joined Holy Trinity and in 1976 bought our present house on the North Circular Road—right here in St Peter's parish! About this time, the Church of Ireland introduced a new form of ordained ministry, like some of those being introduced in England and on the Continent. It was called the Auxiliary Ministry (A.M.) which was Ordained Ministry intended for men (remember it was 1980; women joined later) who would continue to work in secular employment while serving part time as a minister in a local parish where there was a need.

On the prompting of the rector I volunteered for this programme and on 23rd June 1985 (The Eve of the Festival of the Birth of John the Baptist), in St James' Church, I was ordained Deacon (along with five fulltime men) to serve in the Parishes of St James and St Silas with Canon (later Archdeacon) Jack Rolston. It is my understanding that this was the one and only ordination service ever to be held in St James'. I was ordained Priest a year later in Ballymena on St Peter's Day. In December 1990 Bishop Poyntz invited me for a "chat". He told me that he had invited a Church Army Captain, Scott McDonald to serve as Evangelist-in-Charge of the parish of St Andrew, Glencairn, and that he wanted

me to serve with him as part time Priest. This was another new venture for the Church of Ireland—having a lay-person to be “in charge” of a parish, along with an A.M. I served there for 27 years, first with Scott until 2014 and then with Rev Emma Rutherford. I continued to work at the Ulster Polytechnic/University of Ulster until 2006, having been promoted to Professor in 1996 for my work in the field of Mathematics Teaching at Sixth Form and Tertiary Level. When Emma left St Andrew’s to go to St Molua’s in 2017, I was left “in-charge” until I retired in January 2018. Patricia and I then decided to join our local church, so here we are! I hope to be able to share with you the Good News about Jesus Christ and to join with you in the life of the Parish. *Ken Houston*

JULY & AUGUST FLOWER LIST



1ST JULY THE HALL FAMILY IN MEMORY OF THEIR FATHER
5TH AUG SANDRA HUTCHMAN IN MEMORY OF HER PARENTS
19TH AUG ANNETTE BEATTIE

Thank you to all who give of their time and effort in beautifying the church with flowers. If possible, flowers should be in keeping with the liturgical colour of the season, particularly during Advent and Lent.

Christian Aid 2018

Our final total this year is £1,603. Although this is about £90 down on last year’s total it is still a very creditable amount.

The House to House Collection raised £776—once again many thanks to our faithful band of collectors—this is a job no one likes doing!

A big thank you to Anne Stewart who once again came up with a very original and appropriate way of raising money with her Water Walk—it raised £777.

These totals plus other donations gave us our grand total of £1,603. This money will go towards helping people like Marcelin and family that you read about on your contribution envelope who lost everything including their house in the hurricane in Haiti last year. Many, many thanks to all who participated and/or contributed in any way.

Jill Bradley

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!

FAMILY NEWS

Hearty congratulations to our most recent graduates:

Alan Campbell

*Bachelor of Arts with Honours
in History and Politics,*

Samuel Cromie

*Bachelor of Engineering with Honours
in Mechanical Engineering.*



Each year our members vote to support six charities. This year our first chosen charity is Alzheimer's Research UK.

ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH UK

Dementia is a word used to describe a group of symptoms that occur when brain cells stop working properly. Dementia is very common: Two in 100 people aged 65 to 69 have *dementia* and this rises to one in five aged 85 to 89. There are over 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK today, a number forecast to rise rapidly as the population ages. By 2025, this number will rise to one million. Without effective treatments, one in three children born today will die with dementia.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia and accounts for 50%-75% of all cases. It destroys brain cells and nerves disrupting the transmitters which carry messages in the brain, particularly those responsible for storing memories. People with dementia may have problems with short-term memory, keeping track of a purse or wallet, paying bills, planning and preparing meals, remembering appointments or travelling out of the neighbourhood. Alzheimer's disease often develops slowly over several years. It is not always obvious to begin with and symptoms can be subtle and overlap with other illnesses such as depression. Alzheimer's disease was first described by [Alois Alzheimer](#) in 1906.

Alzheimer's Research UK (ARUK) is the UK's leading dementia research charity, dedicated to causes, diagnosis, prevention, treatment and cure. ARUK is a company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity. **ARUK does not receive any government funding and instead relies entirely on donations from individuals, companies and charitable trusts, money raised by individuals and gifts left in people's Wills to fund dementia research.** They use the money received to make grants to research groups as they think appropriate. They have a [Grants Review Board](#) of over 15 UK-based research experts who review all their applications for grant funding, along with input from expert reviewers from across the world. They are governed by a Board of Trustees, the Charity's board of directors. The Board's role is to set the Charity's strategic direction. The Board monitors the delivery of the Charity's objectives, upholds its values and governance, and advises and supports the Chief Executive, who leads the Executive Management Team towards achieving the Charity's vision and purpose. The Board of Trustees is led by the Chairman, David Mayhew CBE and meets five times a year.

ARUK is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities and follows their guidelines for best practice in peer review. Grants are awarded on scientific merit in relation to ARUK's remit and on the basis of open competition. The quality of the application and applicants are the key determinants of outcome, although the strength of the dementia research environment within the institution is also considered.

They also have a separate Clinical Trials Advisory Panel whose expertise is specific to clinical trials and helps to advise ARUK on funding through its [Global Clinical Trials Fund](#). ARUK has an International Advisory Board of world-renowned dementia experts to provide insight and advice on what is happening in dementia research worldwide. Applications for research studies that involve people require lay review. The comments made by lay reviewers are made available to the reviewing ARUK board members.

To have the best chance of changing the outlook for people with dementia, promising ideas must be driven through the development process and into clinical trials in people as quickly as possible. Clinical trials represent the final stage of the research journey towards developing new treatments. ARUK has launched a dedicated fund to support this crucial area of research, the Global Clinical Trials Fund, which will support clinical trials across the world testing new experimental drugs, existing drugs developed for other conditions, and encourage non-drug interventions—as all have the potential to make a huge impact on people's lives.

ARUK's mission is **to bring about the first life-changing dementia treatment by 2025.**

For more information, visit the ARUK *Dementia* Statistics Hub.

ARUK focusses on four key areas of action to make this mission a reality:

- Understanding the diseases that cause dementia;
- Diagnosing people earlier and more accurately;
- Reducing risk, backed by the latest evidence;
- Treating dementia effectively.

If you would like to support the parish's charitable giving to Alzheimer's Research UK then we encourage you to give cash, or write a cheque payable to "The Parish of St Peter and St James, Belfast", and bring it to church or to the parish office in an envelope marked "Alzheimer's".

Peter Gray

ORGANISATIONS/HALL TIMETABLE

Sunday

11am—12noon: Sunday School

Monday

7.30pm Parish Meeting (1st Monday in month)

7.30pm Select Vestry (3rd Monday in month)

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

7.30pm—9pm 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 July—7th July ----- Group 2

9th July—14th July ----- Group 3

16th July—21st July ----- Group 4

23rd July—28th July ----- Group 5

30th July—4th Aug ----- Group 6

6th Aug—11th Aug ----- Group 7

13th Aug—18th Aug ----- Group 8

20th Aug—25th Aug ----- Group 1

27th Aug—1st Sept ----- Group 2



Crafty Goodness

Our Crafty Goodness group will continue to meet over the summer months on Tuesdays at 10.30am in the minor hall.

Do come along to this chatty group! Light refreshments are provided too!

Please send material for the September 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 20th August. Thank you.*