GOD. LOVING. PEOPLE

26TH MAY

ROGATION SUNDAY

OUT WITH JOY TO GOD ALL THE EARTA

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

MAY 2019

FAMILY FUN DAY Saturday 22nd June 2-5pm

Barbeque Playtime for children with a real fire engine

Face painting

Games

Ice cream Wine for the adults!



Tickets: £10 adults/£3 children available from the Parish Office or from the Churchwardens after any IIam Sunday service



Bring your children AND GRANDCHILDREN!

Fup for all

RECTOR'S NOTES

SERVICES IN MAY

The season of Easter continues throughout the month of May, during which time our liturgical colours will be predominantly white and gold.

Please make a special effort to be in church on **Rogation Sunday** (26th May), as our guest preacher is the Rev'd Andy Heber, who has been the Vicar of Carnmoney Parish for around six months. Originally from England, Andy was rector of Clogherny Parish in Armagh Diocese in recent years, until feeling called to come closer to Belfast. Please come along and hear what Andy has to say, so that he can give good reports of St Peter's to his own parishioners!

SERMON SUMMARY

On *Easter Day* (21st April) I mentioned that there had been two stories in the news relating to Christianity. The first story was the sacking of two rugby players over comments made on twitter. One of those rugby players, who played for Australia, tweeted a picture of a Bible verse, which has been described in the news as being "homophobic". In response to that, the second rugby player, who played for England, commented that in his view marriage was between a man and woman. Both of them have now been sacked from playing international rugby. Now I'll come back to that in a moment. The second story in the news was about the near destruction of Notre Dame cathedral in Paris. On the evening of Monday 15th April, possibly as the accidental result of renovation work being carried out in the building, a fire blazed through the central section of the cathedral, causing the roof and spire to collapse. In response, the French government, French companies, and some of the world's richest people have offered huge sums of money in order to restore it to its former glory.

Both of these two stories are challenging in their own individual ways. The story of the rugby players once again highlights for us that the secular world in which we live increasingly wants to promote freedom and equality, BUT not the freedom to promote certain religious beliefs. Now, even if you disagree with those rugby players (because there are a range of views on sexuality within the Christian Church), you should still be worried that the world is attempting to silence the Church if the Church says anything which it doesn't like. That's a problem because the Church is purposefully intended to be a countercultural movement. We are not meant to have our values and principals blown about in the winds of the prevailing cultural attitude of the time or place in which we live. And we cannot simply be silent about how we believe God wants the world to be transformed, simply out of fear of offending those atheists and secularists who believe they have the right to tell us how they want the Church to be transformed. If we really are going to live in a world in which freedom is promoted, then that must include the freedom to say things that some people might not want to hear.

The fire in Notre Dame cathedral has its own set of challenges. Like many people, I was saddened that a place of architectural beauty and religious significance has been seriously damaged, but what concerned me the most, was the attitude of the people being interviewed after the fire. Repeatedly, the cathedral was described as being "the house of God". Now, the name "the house of God" when used in the Bible is only ever used of one building, and that was the Temple in Jerusalem. It was the place where God's presence was believed to dwell. But, and this is important to remember, the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus changed that, so through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we Christians became the 'place' in which God dwells on earth. Each of us is therefore "a house of God". That's why St Paul refers to our bodies as "temples of the Holy Spirit". Our church buildings, as magnificent as they may be, are places of prayer and worship, but they are not "the house of God". Because the Christian Church is the people, not the building.

But as well as that, we heard news that the rich and powerful were offering millions of millions of pounds in order to restore the cathedral. That's great, but my concern is this: if the money is out there in the world to fix a building, then why oh why do we not have millions and millions of pounds to fix our broken society. It's not so long ago that the "yellow vest" movement was causing havoc in France in response to perceived injustices in the French economy. And I'm sure that, just as with most other big cities, there are plenty of homeless people living rough on the streets and there are families torn apart because of economic pressures or mental health problems. No money to fix these problems. But there's as much money as you need to fix the cathedral! There's money to help repair a church building, but there's no money to actually do the work that the Christian Church exists to do.

Now what I want you to take note of, is that because of pressure from the secular world, as well as a lack of clarity amongst Christians about our priorities, we—the Christian Church—are losing sight of our purpose, and we are allowing ourselves to be dumbed down to the point of near irrelevance. We are saddened by a fire in a building, but we're not saddened by the plight of the people who have been living rough in its doorway all these years. And we are being browbeaten into silence about Christian beliefs by a world which both subtly and overtly wants you to think that God is dead.

Well, it is time for the Christian Church to wake up and wise up. Our central belief—which we proclaim today—is that Jesus Christ died, and rose again from the dead. In doing so, he proved that he is God. And if he is God, then we must build our lives around how he says we should live, and not how the world tells us to live. And more than that, we must proclaim this truth into the world, even when the ears of the world don't want to hear it.

It is time that we begin to rebuild the Church—not a building, but a community of people who believe wholeheartedly in the divinity of Jesus Christ, and in the Good News he proclaimed, and who are willing to share it through words and actions with other people, no matter what the cost, or how much the world hates us for doing so. Let this be a warning and a challenge for us all: We are here to proclaim the Risen Christ, and to transform the world according to his will, or we shouldn't be here at all.

ANNUAL REPORT

If you have not received your copy of the Annual Report, please pick one up from the back of the church in the coming weeks. As usual, the report contains a list of those who volunteer within the parish, and an overview of our finances. However, there is one significant change: annual subscriptions to parish funds (your Free Will Offering) are now anonymous. So, rather than seeing your name written in the report alongside how much you gave last year, you will now see a number. This number, which you should keep private, has been issued to you in a letter, but you can contact our FWO Secretary if it hasn't, or if you need reminded. The production of the Annual Report is a team effort, and I am very thankful to Ashlee McCune for preparing the accounts, to Noel Beattie for the list of subscriptions, to the parishioners who attended our Parish Meeting in which we updated last year's report, and to Rosemary Hinds and Anne Cromie for proof reading and reprographics.



CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY

WEDNESDAY

10.30am

1st MAY Holy Communion

MID-WEEK Resurrection, white, modern

SUNDAY 11am 6.30pm

5th MAY Holy Communion Easter Vestry Service **Choral Evensong**

WEDNESDAY 10.30am

8th MAY Holy Communion

SUNDAY 11am 6.30pm

12th MAY Holy Communion **Choral Matins** Evensong

15th MAY WEDNESDAY **Holy Communion**

SUNDAY 11am 6.30pm

10.30am

19th MAY Holy Communion **Choral Eucharist Choral Evensong**

WEDNESDAY 10.30am

22nd MAY Holy Communion

SUNDAY 11am 6.30pm

26th MAY Holy Communion **Choral Matins** Compline

WEDNESDAY 10.30am

29th MAY Holy Communion

THURSDAY 7.30pm

30th MAY Holy Communion THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER Resurrection, white, modern Nave, white, modern Nave, white, traditional

MID-WEEK Resurrection, white, modern

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

MID-WEEK Resurrection, white, modern

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

MID-WEEK *Resurrection, white, modern*

ROGATION SUNDAY Resurrection, white, modern Nave, white, modern St James, white, traditional

MID-WEEK Resurrection, white, modern

THE ASCENSION DAY Resurrection, white, modern

CHURCH SERVICES IN JUNE

SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm 2nd JUNE Holy Communion Choral Eucharist Choral Evensong

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

Choral Eucharist

Holy Communion

5th JUNE

9th JUNE

Evensong

12th JUNE

WEDNESDAY 10.30am

SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY 10.30am

SUNDAY 16th JUNE 9am Holy Com

Holy Communion Choral Eucharist Choral Evensong

arist Nave, white, n song Nave, white, t

WEDNESDAY 10.30am

11am

6.30pm

19th JUNE Holy Communion

SUNDAY 9am 11am 6.30pm 23rd JUNE Holy Communion Choral Matins Evensong

WEDNESDAY 10.30am

SUNDAY

9am

11am

6.30pm

26th JUNE Holy Communion

30th JUNE Holy Communion Choral Matins Healing Service

THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

Resurrection, white, modern Nave, white, modern Nave, white, traditional

MID-WEEK *Resurrection, white, modern*

WHITSUNDAY Resurrection, red, modern Nave, red ,traditional St James, red, modern

ST COLUMBA (transferred) *Resurrection, white, modern*

TRINITY SUNDAY

Resurrection, white, traditional Nave, white, modern Nave, white, traditional

MID-WEEK *Resurrection, white, modern*

PETERTIDE SUNDAY *Resurrection, red, modern Nave, red, traditional St James, red, modern*

BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (transferred) *Resurrection, white, modern*

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME *Resurrection, green, modern Nave, green, modern Resurrection, green, modern*

May Diary	ary .					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates	2 HALLS BEING USED AS A POLLING STATION	<i>3</i> 10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Friday Fellowship 4pm Speech and Drama	4
<i>5</i> <i>9am</i> Holy Communion <i>11am</i> Easter Vestry Service & Sunday School & Creche Followed by Easter Vestry Meeting <i>6.30pm</i> Choral Evensong	<i>6</i> 7pm Parish Meeting 8pm Badminton	7 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal	<i>8</i> 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	<i>g</i> 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Thursday Fellowship 8pm Guides and Senior Guides	10 10.30am PhysioPilates 4pm Speech and Drama	11

12 START OF CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 9am Holy Communion Communion & Sunday School & & Sunday School & Creche followed by refreshments and Traidcraft Stall G.30pm Evensong	13 Bpm Badminton	 14 10.30 Crafty Goodness 2pm Ladies' Guild Outing 6pm Beavers 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal 	15 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	16 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.45pm Historical Society Senior Guides and Senior Guides	17 10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Friday Fellowship Fellowship Drama Drama	18
19 9am Holy Communion 11am Choral Eucharist & Sunday School & Creche 6.30pm Choral Evensong	20 10am Deadline for material to be with Anne Cromie for June Parish Notes 7.30pm Select Vestry Meeting 8pm Badminton	21 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal	22 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	23 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Thursday Fellowship 8pm Guides and Senior Guides	24 10.30am PhysioPilates 4pm Speech and Drama	25
26 ROGATION SUNDAY 9am Holy Communion 11am Choral Matins & Sunday School & Creche followed by refreshments 6.30pm Compline	27 8pm Badminton	28 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal	29 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	30 THE ASCENSION DAY 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7-9pm Church open for prayer 7.30pm Holy Communion followed by Thursday Fellowship Remor Guides and Senior Guides	31 10.30am PhysioPilates 4pm Speech and Drama	

The Trials of Annecules

How often have you heard the phrase—'I wouldn't do that if you paid me'?

Last year with your help I managed to raise the incredible sum of £777 by doing a sponsored water carry. It was a beautiful day and I relished the chance to have a walk along the Lagan albeit while carrying a substantial volume of liquid.

I always feel that to be a truly worthwhile sponsored event the activity should include or conjure up an element of dislike or dread.



While my feet were sore after last year's event I couldn't say by any stretch of the imagination that I didn't enjoy it.

So this will be the year of The Trials of Anne-cules—as in The Trials of Hercules!

Now while I don't intend to slay lions or capture wild boars I do intend to carry out a series of activities which are an anathema to me. Your job is to encourage my discomfort by sponsoring me while I squirm!

Beginning on Sunday 12th May—the first day of Christian Aid week—I promise to do the following (from the least to the most horrific!)

- Sunday—Eat a piece of Battenburg cake.
- Monday—Walk barefoot through a bed of seaweed.
- Tuesday—Eat a pork pie—one that has lots of jelly!
- Wednesday—Allow a slug to meander across my hand.
- Thursday—Invite a tarantula to walk up my arm.
- Friday—Eat an oyster.
- Saturday—Cuddle a snake—courtesy of Belfast Zoo!

(Of these there will be photographic evidence—it may not be for the faint-hearted! You can also follow it daily on Facebook).

To you these things may not seem too vile or terrible but they are activities that I would never willingly seek to undertake.

How much would you give to help me to 'face my fears'?

If you would like to sponsor me please put your donation in the envelope provided and return it to church by no later than Sunday 26th May. Please place your envelope on the collection plate or give it to one of the church wardens. All donations will be forwarded to Christian Aid. The only expenses incurred will be my nightmares!

Thought for the day—I can choose to do the things that I don't want to do. How many people living in difficult and dangerous situations can make that statement?

Thank you for helping them.

Anne (Hercules) Stewart

LESSON READERS AND INTERCESSORS

The following parishioners are on the reading/intercessor rota at the 11am Sunday services. If the date is unsuitable, please contact either Sandra Hutchman, tel 95 149 564 (readings), or Rosemary Johnston, tel 90 840 534 (intercessions).

N	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
May	First Reading	Second Reading	Intercessor
5th	—	—	Noel Beattie
12th	Marie Burrowes	Forde Patterson	Dora Hanna
19th	Anne Stewart	Hilary Shields	Forde Patterson
26th	David Cromie	Philip Williamson	Ashlee McCune

QUIZ NIGHT

Many thanks to those "ladies" who helped at our quiz night last month, namely Margi Crawford, Anne Fitzpatrick, Dora Hanna, Sandra Hutchman and Rosemary Johnston. They prepared the hall by putting up tables, set the trays, made tea and coffee and graciously served. Thanks also to Sandra Hutchman and Hilary Shields who sold the ballots. It was a very enjoyable evening and although this event was not intended as a fund raiser, nearly £350 was raised for church funds! If anyone would like to help at future events please contact Annette Beattie or myself.

Daphne McClements

A reflection on JUDAS THE BETRAYER

by David Cromie

In John's gospel we read that when Mary broke open a bottle of perfume to anoint Jesus' feet, it was Judas who was most annoyed, saying that it could instead have been sold and the money given to the poor. John goes on to say that Judas actually cared not for the poor at all, because he was a thief and wanted to skim some of the proceeds for himself. Later, we read of Satan entering into Judas, urging him to go to the chief priests to arrange the betrayal of Jesus, for which they would agree a fee—the famous thirty pieces of silver. The common theme is Judas Iscariot's lust for money.

We may recall that Presbyterian theologians in particular used to worry themselves over the doctrine of Predestination—the concept that if God knows all things, he must know in advance what we are going to do and therefore some are condemned from the beginning of time to damnation, whilst others are going straight to heaven almost in spite of themselves. It seems so unfair and contrary to the notion of individual responsibility for one's actions. You can relax in the knowledge that I am no theologian. Yet I wonder about Judas: hounded in memory for an act of betrayal which was in fact essential to the fulfilment of the scriptures—no Judas, no betrayal, so no crucifixion and no resurrection. Was the betrayal of Judas and his suicide long pre-ordained or was Satan just an opportunist?

Instead we might concentrate on the fact that whilst John was writing with the benefit of hindsight and thus had plenty of time to cogitate on the character of Judas and perhaps to conclude that he had always been a thief, Jesus must have known from the beginning that Judas was dishonest and capable of betrayal, yet he let him join his band of Apostles. And if we look closely at the apostles, we see, inter alia, a betrayer, a doubter, one who desperately wanted to be Jesus' favourite and one who never seemed quite to get what Jesus was on about, but ultimately upon whom the church was built. When Jesus called his disciples, it was a disparate and worrying lot and they were possessed of all the strengths and weaknesses of humanity, including a partiality to money and a willingness to go to any lengths to get it.

But what does the phrase "Then Satan entered into Judas ..." mean? I think it shows rather clearly that Judas was probably always untrustworthy and treacherous and that when Satan was looking for someone to betray Jesus, it was obvious who would be the best man to use. Moreover, it was equally obvious to Jesus, who did nothing to stop the outworking of the Divine plan: one word to Peter and that famously short temper might have silenced Judas before he had time to do anything. Jesus knew exactly what was going on and allowed Satan to play on the pre-existing flaw in Judas' character to move him like a chess piece from humble and sneaky thief, to being the most famous traitor in history.

Judas also would have known his own weaknesses and when he finally did betray Jesus, and then saw the result, he could not live with himself and sought the solace of death instead. If you can, look at Rembrandt's extraordinary and salutary painting of the anguished Judas trying to buy back his betrayal from the chief priests. For us, we know our own weaknesses, and as believers we also know that Satan can always use these to push us further into sin, to ever greater sin. It is from the little sins that the big ones can emerge. Each of us must engage honestly with our imperfections and seek the mercy of God to preserve us from being even worse than we already are. He is ever willing to forgive: how much better if there is less to forgive than might otherwise be the case.



A note of thanks from Norma Young:

I wish to convey my sincere thanks to all the congregation for the kindness shown to me since I have been ill—not forgetting the many visits that I have received. Yours sincerely, Norma.

And another kind note from Lila Millar:

Please pass on my thanks to all at St Peter's for my Easter Egg, sweets, book mark and card. It was really appreciated. I hope you all had a lovely Easter. With love, Lila.

Ladies' Guild

On Tuesday 14th May we will be treated to a lazy spring afternoon in the lovely surroundings of Marlagh Lodge, Ballymena—the home of our organist Robert Thompson. You may remember that our visit in December had to be cancelled due to the weather. We will have the opportunity to see around this beautiful house and to enjoy afternoon tea in the most elegant of settings.

The cost for the afternoon is £12. The bus will leave the church car park at 2pm and we should be back again by about 5pm.

If you would like to go please let me know by no later Sunday 5th May.

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)



NOTICE

OUR PARISH HALLS ARE TO BE USED AS A POLLING STATION ON THURSDAY 2ND MAY. UNLESS YOU ARE GOING THERE TO VOTE, YOU ARE ASKED TO STAY AWAY FROM THE HALL THAT DAY FOR ANY NORMAL BUSINESS PURPOSES. THANK YOU.



ANNUAL EASTER VESTRY MEETING Sunday 5th May in the church (immediately following a shortened 11am service).

MAY FLOWER LIST

5TH JILL BRADLEY IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER

26TH THE DAVISON FAMILY IN MEMORY OF ARTHUR

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.

North Belfast Historical Society

Date:Thursday 16th May

Time:7.30pm for 7.45pmWhereMcCollum Minor Hall

Speaker: Dr Stephen Goss

Subjects: Forgotten Celebrated Citizens of Belfast

Dr Stephen Goss has lectured at both Queen's University and Stranmillis University College. His academic focus is on the Cold War and the history of Northern Ireland, he regularly gives talks on subjects as diverse as Takabuti (the mummy in Ulster Museum), the origins of the First World War, the wit and satire of Gilbert and Sullivan operas.

^cForgotten Celebrated Citizens of Belfast' provides an insight into a smaller number of individuals from in and around Belfast, who were famous in their time for the their remarkable contributions and achievements. Unfortunately these citizens have largely become forgotten and are most undeservedly overlooked in the present day.

The evening promises to be most interesting. Mark your diaries and calendars and do come along, everyone is most welcome.





Margi Crawford

ORGANISATIONS/HALL TIMETABLE

Sunday

11am—12noon: Sunday School

Monday

7pm—8pm:	Parish Meeting (1 st Monday in month)
7.30pm:	Select Vestry (3 rd Monday in month)
8pm—11pm:	Badminton Club

Tuesday

10.30am—12.30pm:	Crafty Goodness
2.30pm—4.30pm:	Ladies' Guild (2 nd 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

6pm—7pm:	Rainbows
7pm—8pm:	Brownies
7.30pm—9pm:	Thursday Fellowship (every week except 3 rd in month)
7.45pm—9.30pm:	Historical Society (3 rd Thursday in month)
8pm—9.30pm:	Guides and Senior Guides

Friday

10.30am—11.45am:	PhysioPilates
11.30am—12.30pm:	Friday Fellowship (1 st and 3 rd 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 Administrator.

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.

Parish Notes On-line

There are full colour versions of Parish Notes on our website. Visit www.stpeters.connor.anglican.org and click on "News".

The next Parish Meeting, to which all parishioners are invited, will take place on Monday 13th May at 7pm. The next meeting of the Select Vestry will be on Monday 20th May at 7.30pm.

PARISHIONER CONTACT DETAILS

For speed of communication and to keep our records up to date please send your email address to Anne Cromie 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.

Holy Dusters Cleaning Rota

29th April—4th May ----- Group 6 6th May—11th May ----- Group 7 13th May—18th May----- Group 8 20th May—25th May----- Group 1 27th May—1st June----- Group 2

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 by Monday 20th May. Thank you.