



THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020

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

GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE



RECTOR'S NOTES

SERVICES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Sunday 1st December marks the beginning of the season of Advent and the new liturgical year in the Church's calendar. During the four subsequent weeks—before we celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas—we use this time to affirm our hope in the Second Coming of Christ, and to prepare ourselves spiritually. Whilst the joys of Christmas increasingly threaten to overwhelm the penitential purpose of Advent, our services will largely serve to remind us of our sinfulness which required the birth of our Saviour.

Throughout the month, in the lead up to Christmas, there will be services of **Advent Compline** at 6.30pm each Sunday evening.

On Sunday 1st December, we will have our **Advent Carol Service** at 11am, which will include appropriate hymns and anthems, and seven readings from the Bible.

On Sunday 8th December, the children will prepare our **Christingles** for distribution to the congregation at 11am.

On Sunday 22nd December, the children will perform a **Nativity Play**.

On Monday 23rd December, we will have our always-popular service of **Nine Lessons & Carols** by candlelight at 7.30pm.

On Tuesday 24th December, we will give thanks for the birth of Christ with a traditional service of **Midnight Communion** at 11pm.

On Wednesday 25th December, there will be a celebration of **Christmas Communion** at 10.30am. Wear your Christmas jumper if you have one!

10am Morning Service

Please note that there will be no 10am Morning Service during December. The next one will be on Sunday 12th January, when we will think about baptism. This short, less formal service has been well received by both children and adults, and I encourage you to come along.

FOOD HYGIENE

As a community of volunteers, many of our social and fundraising events require parishioners to prepare food. This is greatly appreciated, and we are thankful to all who help in this way. It is, however, very important that any food prepared in the church, or for church events, is done so with regard to basic food hygiene regulations. These are all common-sense things, which should not be an undue burden, but which might certainly help to keep each other safe from the nasty bacteria which can spread at this time of year.

- Do not prepare food for other people if you have a transmittable disease.
- Clean your work surfaces and utensils before you begin, and then keep cleaning as you go.
- Always wash your hands thoroughly before and after handling food, and particularly if you have touched raw meat.
- Do not sneeze or cough near food.

- Do not smoke when preparing food.
- If you have long hair, tie it back to prevent it falling into food.
- Wear an apron if you have one.
- Cover any cuts and sores on your skin with a waterproof plaster.
- Use separate chopping boards for different types of foods.
- Use separate utensils for raw food and cooked food.
- Raw food and cooked food must be kept separate from each other.
- Hot food needs to be kept above 63 degrees C.
- Cold food needs to be kept below 5 degrees C.
- Cover any food which won't be eaten immediately.

TABLE QUIZ

Our table quiz on Saturday 16th November, raised £135 for TearFund. Many thanks to Ashlee McCune for reading out the difficult questions which had been prepared by Tearfund, to her husband Albert George for keeping the scores, to Matthew Lambert for setting up the tables, and to Aaron and Yvonne Crozier for providing the refreshments. The winners were Aaron and Yvonne Crozier, whom everyone will want to be on their team in the future. Quite fittingly, the loser's prize—a lovely framed photo of myself—was won (probably not the right word) by none other than my wife. Many thanks to those who took part and contributed!

AFTERNOON TEA

Instead of a Christmas Fayre this year, we're having Afternoon Tea in the church on Saturday 14th December. The theme is "Downton Abbey" and the organising committee has suggested that you may wish to dress accordingly. Don't panic though if you don't happen to have any Edwardian costumes in your wardrobes, you'll be most welcome even in your ordinary clothes!

It promises to be a lovely afternoon in the beautiful surroundings of St Peter's, with delicious food and music. Santa and Mrs Claus will be there, so it'll be a treat for children too! The money raised at this event will be split between parish funds, and Tiny Life—a local charity which cares for premature and ill babies.

HOLIDAY COVER

I will be on holiday after Christmas until Sunday 12th January. The Rev'd Ken Houston has kindly agreed to respond to any pastoral emergencies that (hopefully do not) arise.

The Rev'd Mellissa Jeffers will celebrate Holy Communion on the first two Wednesdays in the new year. Mellissa has a personal connection with St Peter's, and I am delighted that she will be ministering among us in this way.

On Sunday 29th December, the Very Rev'd Brian Moller will officiate at both morning services, followed by the Rev'd Clifford Skillen on Sunday 5th January.

SERMON SUMMARY

On **Remembrance Sunday** (10th November) I said that anger, for many people, is one of the stages of grief that we experience when we are bereaved. I mention this because, on Remembrance Sunday, much of our focus is on acknowledging before God, the *deaths* of many people during the First and Second World Wars, and all subsequent conflicts.

Undoubtedly, the loved ones of those who have died (whether one hundred years ago, or just last year) when they received their heart-breaking news, would have experienced those stages of grief: the denial, bargaining, depression, and indeed anger. I wonder, though, to what extent the pains of grief are amplified because that death has come as a consequence of conflict with an enemy nation? How does someone who is grieving in such circumstances feel about the other side? How do they feel about the country that we are fighting against? To what extent does being able to blame someone for our loved one's death, shape our grief?

Anger is a natural part of any grieving process, but very often what we feel is a very general sort of anger, in which we are angry at what has happened; we are angry at death itself. But if some is responsible for our loved one's death, then we have someone to blame, and *that* focusses our anger and can turn it into *hatred*, or even the *desire for revenge*.

Let me give an example from the Second World War. After the Germans invaded Russia in 1941, many Russian soldiers were killed in battle. The widow of one such Russian soldier was called Marija Oktybrskayav, and in her grief, at the death of her husband, she had two options about how to respond. The first option was to accept that death is unavoidable in a military conflict, and that she would need to learn to live with it, and move on with her life. The second option, was to sell everything she owned, buy herself an army tank; seek

permission from Stalin to use the tank in battle; go on a six month training course; and then go to the front line and attack the German army.

She chose the second option, and for about three months it is reported that she astounded her male comrades with her steely determination to exact her revenge upon the Germans who had killed her husband.

She wrote to her sister, saying, "Sometimes (during the fighting) I'm so angry that I cannot breathe." Her anger at the death of her husband had so consumed her, that it had transformed into revenge.

I use her as an example of how our natural tendency to experience negative emotions as we grieve, do have the potential to transform into something much worse if we have somebody to blame.

That is a natural response. But when we find ourselves in a similar situation, we do need to be careful not to allow ourselves to hate *them* or want revenge upon *them*, whoever they may be.

This is particularly true for Christians, because we need to follow the teaching and the practice of our Lord Jesus.

So it's important that we understand how *he* responded to people whom he could justifiably blame for his own impending death on the cross. Who does that include? Well, we've got Judas who betrayed him. We've got the Jewish Leaders who conspired against him. And we've got the Romans who carried out the execution. These people were to blame for the crucifixion. And yet Jesus on the Cross prayed "Father, forgive them." I imagine that if Jesus were just any other human being, then his attitude and response to those people would have been very *different*. We need to learn to do what he did, rather than immersing ourselves in anger. As painful as it was, he showed restraint and forgiveness against those who hurt him. As his followers, we too need to learn to do the same with the people that we blame for hurting us or the ones we love.



Start your Christmas celebrations with an evening of stunning festive music, brought to you by The Priory Singers, in the atmospheric Great Hall of Campbell College. From the roaring open fire which will welcome you as you arrive in this historic building, to the carols, old and new, sung by one of the leading choral groups in Ireland, you are guaranteed an evening of music, seasonal readings, the chance to sing your favourite Christmas carols and even a glass of wine.



Free Parking
Disabled Access
Duration approximately 90 minutes
Yes ... you will be allowed to sing!



Following their successful summer residency at the world famous Canterbury Cathedral, The Priory Singers are delighted to invite you to this, one of their most popular concerts of the year. Tickets are available from the following members of our parish choir. Anne C, Anne S, Catherine, Clodagh, Ernie, Hilary or Robert. If you need transport please let your ticket provider know and we will try to arrange a lift for you.

Defending What Matters

*Address given by David Cromie
at our Service of Compline on 27th October*

I have just returned, this very afternoon, from a trip to Eastern France with some pals to visit old border battlefields and, in particular, to see where some of the opening battles of the Franco-Prussian War were fought in 1870 and also to visit a portion of the once famous, magnificent, yet ultimately pointless, Maginot Line. These were the fields and architecture of border warfare and defence, and we should remember that the oft-derided European Union started out as a project to prevent France and Germany ever coming to blows again. We in Northern Ireland have long obsessed about borders, originally just that with the Republic, but perhaps in the near future with one shared with Great Britain.

Borders define us and building them is second nature: we have hedges to keep the neighbours at bay, we have satellite photography to define the boundaries of our individual fields and farms, in future, even the fish in the English Channel, by swimming a few millimetres south may become subject to the rules of the European Union, or by swimming a few millimetres to the north might become subjects of Her Majesty and the playthings of Westminster. When it comes to defending our borders, fish can be a serious business: we fought the Dutch three times in the seventeenth century partly over herring stocks and in our own time almost came to blows with the Icelanders over access to cod. Borders matter and people are often fully prepared to fight over them.

To get back home, we drove from Eastern France to Germany, flew to Dublin and then drove to Belfast. In these Brexit scarred days, it is interesting to realise that we either drove through or flew over France, Germany, Belgium, The Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Given what we had travelled to France to see, it is amazing to think that all those borders, so simply crossed in a day, have been fought over for centuries – and if they are crossed so easily today, do they actually matter anymore, are they worth killing for, or building Maginot Lines to protect?

I wonder what God thinks about our borders: our pathetic attempts to carve up his earth with boundaries and our determination to keep others out and to hold sacred arbitrary lines on a map - lines which have changed so often throughout history and many of which are now forgotten. What do we worry about and prepare to defend: where the boundaries of the Assyrian Empire used to lie, or where China stops today; where the Moghul Empire used to rest or who owns which rock in Kashmir? Where the Russian Empire ended in Asia, or whether Eastern Ukraine now belongs to Mr Putin?

Jesus said not to take any thought about the matters of today, for sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. Right now, we are facing an existential political crisis in our democracy, a dispute about either taking back control or submitting to a greater authority; about staying in a cosy club or opening to the world – it's all about borders and boundaries isn't it? I have no easy solution to offer, except to note that in the past we have spent so much treasure and spilt so much blood to define and protect things which seemed so inalienably ours, or, not theirs. But Jesus never said smash the Roman Empire; he never said the Holy Land belongs only to the Jews; or that salvation was only deserved by those of his own stock. He told his followers to make disciples of all nations, to, in effect, ignore borders and boundaries in order to bring the Good News to everybody.

That message is as true today as it was then. Our very own St Peter argued with his colleagues that conversion of the gentiles was the duty of Christians - as the children's hymn puts it simply, but well: "red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in his sight."

We are asked only to consider two rules in life, and neither of them has anything whatsoever to do with borders, customs' pacts, international rules or Free Trade Agreements: but rather "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength, and the second is like it, you shall love your neighbour as yourself."

So whether Brexit brings us what we want or not, or whatever changes may happen to borders and regulations, or, for that matter, however excited and angry some people may get, we, as Christians, must stick to what really matters and never changes. What we must defend are our faith, our friendship and the offer of salvation to everyone - whichever temporary boundary they might happen to live within.

December Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 ADVENT SUNDAY 9am Holy Communion 11am Advent Carol Service & Sunday School & Creche followed by refreshments 1-6pm Speech and Drama Christmas Plays 6.30pm Advent Compline	2 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED THIS WEEK 7.30pm Parish Meeting 8pm Badminton	3 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal 8pm Scouts	4 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	5 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Thursday Fellowship 8pm Guides and Senior Guides	6 10.30am PhysioPilates 8pm Concert—Cavehill Community Choir	7
8 9am Holy Communion 11am Christingle Service followed by refreshments and Traidcraft Stall 6.30pm Advent Compline	9 8pm Badminton	10 10.30 Crafty Goodness 2.30pm Ladies' Guild 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal 8pm Scouts	11 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	12 HALLS BEING USED AS A POLLING STATION 7.30pm Thursday Fellowship at the Rectory	13 10.30am PhysioPilates 12 noon Deep clean of kitchen	14 2.30pm Downton Abbey themed Christmas Afternoon Tea

15 9am Holy Communion 11am Choral Eucharist & Sunday School & Creche 6.30pm Advent Compline	16 8pm Badminton	17 10.30am Crafty Goodness	18 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 7.30pm Choir	19 7.45pm Historical Society	20	21
22 9am Holy Communion 11am Nativity Play followed by refreshments 6.30pm Advent Compline	23 7.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 11pm Holy Communion	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10.30am Holy Communion	26	27	28
29 9am Holy Communion 11am Choral Matins	30	31				

January Diary						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments	2	3	4
5 9am Holy Communion 11am Choral Eucharist & Sunday School & Creche	6	7 10.30 Crafty Goodness	8 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	9	10 10.30am PhysioPilates	11

12 9am Holy Communion 10am Morning Service 11am Choral Matins & Sunday School & Creche followed by refreshments and Traidcraft Stall	13 8pm Badminton	14 10.30 Crafty Goodness 2.30pm Ladies' Guild 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal 8pm Scouts	15 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	16 4.30pm Speech and Drama 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.45pm Historical Society 8pm Guides and Senior Guides	17 10.30am PhysioPilates 4pm Speech and Drama	18
19 9am Holy Communion 11am Choral Eucharist	20 7.30pm Select Vestry meeting 8pm Badminton	21 10.30 Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal 8pm Scouts	22 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	23 4.30pm Speech and Drama 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Thursday Fellowship 8pm Guides and Senior Guides	24 10.30am PhysioPilates 4pm Speech and Drama	25
26 9am Holy Communion 11am Choral Matins followed by refreshments	27 8pm Badminton	28 10.30 Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal 8pm Scouts	29 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir	30 4.30pm Speech and Drama 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Thursday Fellowship 8pm Guides and Senior Guides	31 10.30am PhysioPilates 4pm Speech and Drama	

CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER

<u>DAY</u>	<u>PROPER</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>OFFICIANT</u>
Sunday 1st Dec	Advent Sunday <i>Purple</i>	9am 11am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Advent Carols Advent Compline	Rev'd KenHouston Rev'd Brian Lacey Mr David Cromie
Wed 4th Dec	Mid-week <i>Purple</i>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey
Sunday 8th Dec	Second in Advent <i>Purple</i>	9am 11am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Christingle Advent Compline	Rev'd Brian Lacey Mr David Cromie Rev'd Ken Houston
Wed 11th Dec	Mid-week <i>Purple</i>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey
Sunday 15th Dec	Third in Advent <i>Purple</i>	9am 11am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Choral Eucharist Advent Compline	Rev'd Brian Lacey Rev'd Brian Lacey Rev'd Brian Lacey
Wed 18th Dec	Mid-week <i>Purple</i>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey
Sunday 22nd Dec	Fourth in Advent <i>Purple</i>	9am 11am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Nativity Play Advent Compline	Rev'd Brian Lacey Rev'd Brian Lacey Rev'd Brian Lacey
Mon 23rd Dec	— <i>Purple</i>	7.30pm	Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols	Rev'd Brian Lacey
Tues 24th Dec	Christmas Eve <i>White</i>	11pm	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey
Wed 25th Dec	Christmas Day <i>White</i>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey
Sunday 29th Dec	First Sunday of Christmas <i>White</i>	9am 11am	Holy Communion Choral Matins	Rev'd Brian Moller Rev'd Brian Moller

CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER

<u>DAY</u>	<u>PROPER</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LECTOR 1</u>	<u>LECTOR 2</u>	<u>INTERCESSOR</u>
Sunday 1st Dec	Advent Sunday <i>Purple</i>	9am 11am 6.30pm	Cheryl Hurson — —	— — —	Tony Swan — —
Wed 4th Dec	Mid-week <i>Purple</i>	10.30am	Daphne McClements—		Dora Hanna
Sunday 8th Dec	Second in Advent <i>Purple</i>	9am 11am 6.30pm	Florence Moore Barbara Greenlees —	— Ashlee McCune —	Tony Swan — —
Wed 11th Dec	Mid-week <i>Purple</i>	10.30am	Quintin Mulligan	—	Rosemary Johnston
Sunday 15th Dec	Third in Advent <i>Purple</i>	9am 11am 6.30pm	Michael Moore Peter Coiley —	— Dora Hanna —	Tony Swan Colin Bell —
Wed 18th Dec	Mid-week <i>Purple</i>	10.30am	Dora Hanna	—	Daphne McClements
Sunday 22nd Dec	Fourth in Advent <i>Purple</i>	9am 11am 6.30pm	Tony Swan — —	— — —	Tony Swan — —
Mon 23rd Dec	— <i>Purple</i>	7.30pm		—	
Tues 24th Dec	Christmas Eve <i>White</i>	11pm	David Cromie	—	David Cromie
Wed 25th Dec	Christmas Day <i>White</i>	10.30am	—	—	—
Sunday 29th Dec	First Sunday of Christmas <i>White</i>	9am 11am	Ken Houston Rosemary Johnston	— Daphne McClements	Tony Swan Marie Burrowes

CHURCH SERVICES IN JANUARY

<u>DAY</u>	<u>PROPER</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>OFFICIANT</u>
Wed 1st Jan	Mid-week <i>White</i>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Mellissa Jeffers
Sunday 5th Jan	The Epiphany of our Lord <i>White</i>	9am 11am	Holy Communion Choral Eucharist	Rev'd Clifford Skillen Rev'd Clifford Skillen
Wed 8th Jan	Mid-week <i>White</i>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Mellissa Jeffers
Sunday 12th Jan	The Baptism of Christ <i>White</i>	9am 10am 11am	Holy Communion Morning Service Choral Matins	Rev'd Brian Lacey Rev'd Brian Lacey Rev'd Brian Lacey
Wed 15th Jan	Mid-week <i>White</i>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey
Sunday 19th Jan	Second Sunday after Epiphany <i>White</i>	9am 11am	Holy Communion Choral Eucharist	Rev'd Brian Lacey Rev'd Brian Lacey
Wed 22nd Jan	Mid-week <i>White</i>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey
Sunday 26th Jan	Third Sunday after Epiphany <i>White</i>	9am 11am	Holy Communion Choral Matins	Rev'd Ken Houston Mr David Cromie
Wed 29th Jan	Mid-week <i>White</i>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey

CHURCH SERVICES IN JANUARY

<u>DAY</u>	<u>PROPER</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LECTOR 1</u>	<u>LECTOR 2</u>	<u>INTERCESSOR</u>
Wed 1st Jan	Mid-week <i>White</i>	10.30am	—	—	—
Sunday 5th Jan	The Epiphany of our Lord <i>White</i>	9am 11am	Tony Swan Wes Holmes	— Hilary Shields	Tony Swan Daphne McClements
Wed 8th Jan	Mid-week <i>White</i>	10.30am	Rosemary Johnston	—	Dora Hanna
Sunday 12th Jan	The Baptism of Christ <i>White</i>	9am 10am 11am	Cheryl Hurson — Anne Roberts	— — Philip Williamson	Tony Swan — Noel Beattie
Wed 15th Jan	Mid-week <i>White</i>	10.30am	Forde Patterson	—	Daphne McClements
Sunday 19th Jan	Second Sunday after Epiphany <i>White</i>	9am 11am	Quintin Mulligan Marie Burrowes	— Forde Patterson	Tony Swan Quintin Mulligan
Wed 22nd Jan	Mid-week <i>White</i>	10.30am	Marie Burrowes	—	Rosemary Johnston
Sunday 26th Jan	Third Sunday after Epiphany <i>White</i>	9am 11am	Cheryl Hurson Colin Bell	— Moya Bell	Tony Swan Rosemary Johnston
Wed 29th Jan	Mid-week <i>White</i>	10.30am	Timothy Wilson	—	Quintin Mulligan



SAINT PETER'S PARISH CHURCH

**CHARITY CONCERT
IN AID OF PARISH FUNDS**

**CAVEHILL COMMUNITY CHOIR
FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER AT 8PM**

WINE AND NIBBLES
TEA AND COFFEE
BALLOT

TEL 9077 8428 FOR TICKETS £10

A group of people in Edwardian attire standing in a grand hall with a Christmas tree.

DOWNTON ABBEY
themed
CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA
at St Peter's Church, Antrim Road
Saturday 14th December 2.30-4.30pm
in aid of Tiny Life and Parish Funds

Optional Edwardian dress-up Music Ballot Wine stall Santa

Adult/Children 12+yrs £10
Primary School Children £5 (pre-school free)
Tickets available from Daphne 07730 127350

A small icon of Santa Claus wearing a red hat and white beard.

Nativity Play

Sunday 22nd December
at 11am



*If you would like your child to be
involved please make sure they are
at church the previous Sunday,
ie, 15th December at 11am*



The Welcome Organisation provides a range of potentially life-saving services to around 1,400 people affected by homelessness across greater Belfast every year.

A home is not just a physical space, it provides a sense of belonging, roots, identity and a place of emotional wellbeing. Homelessness is about the loss of all of these. For many it is a damaging and isolating experience. People become and stay homeless for a whole range of complex and coinciding reasons. Tackling homelessness is about much more than putting a roof over people's heads. Many homeless people face a number of issues in addition to, but often compounded by, their homelessness. Isolation compounded with the destructive nature of homelessness means that homeless people find it difficult to access the help they need. Every year around 20,000 people present as homeless to the Housing Executive. 57% are single people, mainly young males. A third of all homeless presentations are made in Belfast.

What Welcome Organisation is doing.

The Welcome Organisation adopts a non-judgemental approach to addressing homelessness issues. All of their services are based on the principles of harm reduction delivered through low-threshold services. They are recognised for accepting people 'where they are at' as opposed to where others think they should be. A belief in action rather than words is the foundation of their hands-on approach to working with some of society's most vulnerable people.

Drop-in centre / Street Outreach / Floating Support Service

The Drop-In Centre at 36 Townsend Street, Belfast, is open from 8am-10pm, 365 days of the year. It acts as the 'hub' for all of their services and is also their administration base. People affected by homelessness have free access to: Hot meals | Tea and coffee | Showers | Toilets | Internet | Laundry facilities | Pool table | Advice | Health support and much, much more.

Their **Street Outreach** team is on the streets of greater Belfast from 7am to 2am every day of year. Their Outreach staff and volunteers are trained to provide potentially life-saving care and support for people on the street.

Their **Floating Support Service** aims to assist people who are facing difficulties in sustaining their tenancy. The service is for people who have been homeless but have now accessed accommodation. The team will make regular visits to the people who use the service to ensure they have everything that they need in place to retain their tenancies and to turn a house into a home. Floating Support is a free service that provides housing-related support for individuals for up to two years. This is ideal for persons whose complex needs – often due to addiction – make it difficult for them to attend regular meetings or to engage in group activities.

The Drop-In Centre and Floating Support Service accept referrals from other agencies but these services are available to anyone over 18 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness or who are in need of support.

Crisis Accommodation for Women

Their Crisis Accommodation for Women provides shelter for some of the most vulnerable women in Belfast. The five-bed crash facility based at Annsgate is used by women with multiple and complex problems that include homelessness, substance misuse and mental ill health.

Welcome Home

Welcome Home provides opportunities for people affected by homelessness to help restyle and redesign furniture and everyday items for sale in Welcome Home, offering homeless clients and volunteers the chance to rediscover skills and be trained in new ones which will help with employability. Visit the Welcome Home retail boutique on Townsend Street today to find beautifully unique homeware and gifts – with proceeds being reinvested into the project creating more opportunities for more people. Welcome Home retail boutique is open Monday to Friday, 1pm-5pm.

cont'd/...

Partnership

The Welcome Organisation has partnered up with the homeless charity **Belfast Live** and over the coming months they will be **Opening Eyes on Homelessness**. This is a campaign which aims to highlight the serious issue of homelessness in Belfast. A donation to Belfast Live's Opening Eyes On Homelessness campaign will help fund a new Street Outreach vehicle for The Welcome Organisation that will be able to provide medical support to the most vulnerable on the streets of Belfast. You can donate here www.justgiving.com/campaign/openingeyesonhomelessness.

Influencing

They are not a campaigning organisation but they strive to make change happen by using their influence on those people with the power to act. By bringing together as many voices as possible – including supporters, local communities, civil society, businesses and service providers – they have a better chance of getting the change they want. Their supporters ensure housing and homelessness remain at the top of the agenda; encouraging decision-makers to make the necessary investment in those areas which can directly influence both the causes and effects of homelessness.

Specialist alcohol and mental health support

They offer practical and sympathetic support, through their drop-in and floating support services, to those struggling with alcohol, drug and mental health issues. They also arrange in-house interventions and access to specialist services provided by partner agencies.

Activity groups and life-skills programmes

Although their ultimate aim is to get people into paid employment, they also provide life skills training and confidence-building opportunities which can help in the process of developing healthier lifestyles. To that end they offer a range of meaningful activities which give people something positive and enjoyable to do. They believe this is a vital part of the transition because it helps in building self-esteem, developing skills and joining a valuable social circle away from the streets.

Nursing and health surgeries

They offer health care surgeries on Mondays and Fridays delivered by nurse practitioners. On-call interventions are available in case of emergency. This service provides a broad range of assistance and advice including drug-overdose training, dental treatment, opticians, podiatrists, sexual health screening etc.

Housing surgery

They have a range of services to help people find and keep a home. To do this it is important that each situation is addressed as early as possible, before a problem becomes a crisis. To that end, they have a housing representative available at their Drop-In centre every Friday morning between 10am and 12.30pm. Housing advice and support is always available from their staff team during opening hours.

IT Facilities

As you would imagine, many of their visitors have no stable forms of communication to rely on. They offer access to internet facilities to assist people to 'keep connected' and help them find housing and the necessary resources to get back on their feet.

Donations

If you would like to support the parish's charitable giving to The Welcome Organisation 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 "The Welcome Organisation". Thank you.

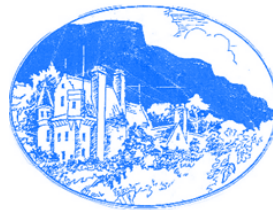
Peter Gray

The Welcome Organisation,
Unit 36,
28 Townsend Street,
Belfast BT13 2ES
tel: 9024 0424
email: info@homelessbelfast.org

North Belfast Historical Society

December

Date: Thursday 19th December
Time: 7.30pm for 7.45pm
Where: McCollum Minor Hall, St Peter's
Speaker: Monica Cash
Subjects: History of the Linen Hall Library



Monica Cash hails from north Belfast, she began her career as library assistant in the University of Ulster, went on to complete post-graduate diploma in Library and Information Studies in Scotland and for the last 20 years has worked in the Linen Hall Library, Belfast. In 2010 Monica became Deputy Librarian in the Library's history and she works closely and earnestly overseeing the development, accessibility and preservation of the Library's unique collections.

History of the Linen Hall Library the Library lies in the heart of Belfast, established in 1788, it is the oldest Library in the city and is the only remaining subscription library in Ireland now. The Linen Hall Library is renowned for its Irish and Local Studies Collections, the Theatre and Performing Arts Archive, Northern Ireland Political Collection, to name a few.

January

Date: Thursday 16th January
Time: 7.30pm for 7.45pm
Where: McCollum Minor Hall, St Peter's
Speaker: Rev'd Brian Lacey
Subjects: The Evolution of the English Language

Rev'd Brian Lacey needs no introduction, do put this date in your diaries and on your calendars and phones and come along to hear how and why Brian became introduced to and interested in this subject.

The Evolution of the English Language Look at the word for 'father' in some other languages—pater (Latin), père (French), athair (Irish), vader (Dutch) and so on. You might not immediately see the connection but each of these evolved from a single word which was spoken in the distant past. We'll look at why and how languages change, particularly focusing on the development of the English language.

EVERYONE is welcome to the meetings, do come along and bring your family and friends to hear these interesting speakers.

Margi Crawford

LESSON READERS

AND

INTERCESSORS

If you find that the date assigned to you is unsuitable, please contact:

Sandra Hutchman, tel 95 149 564 (readings), or

Rosemary Johnston, tel 90 840 534 (intercessions).

The rota can be found in the 'Church Services' section.

Prayer Cards

Prayer Cards are available in church for you to fill in should you wish to have prayer for yourself or for another person.

These prayers will be offered at our mid-week service of Holy Communion.

The next Parish Meeting, to which all parishioners are invited, will take place on Monday 2nd December at 7.30pm. The next meeting of the Select Vestry will be on Monday 20th January at 7.30pm.

DECEMBER FLOWER LIST

8TH BARBARA JACOBS IN MEMORY OF HER PARENTS

22ND THE CHOIR

JANUARY FLOWER LIST

5TH THE REID FAMILY IN MEMORY OF THEIR PARENTS



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.

Don't be late for church!

We are now at that time of year when starting our cars can become an issue as we need to switch on lights and heater fans more frequently which can drain the battery. So here are some tips to help us to avoid being late for church, or missing church altogether, because the car wouldn't start!!

Since the starter motor takes all of the power of the battery, it is essential that when starting up first thing in the morning that no other electrical items such as side lights, wipers and heater fans etc are on. This will help the starter motor perform its function more easily and help us get to church on time! Topping up our batteries daily is also matched by topping up our faith daily.

Quintin Mulligan

Ladies' Guild

Tuesday 10th December at 2.30pm

On Tuesday 10th December at 2.30pm our topic will be *Christmas Customs around the World*. We will also have a chance to share some of the customs enjoyed by our own families.

Needless to say there will be many festive goodies to enjoy with our obligatory cup of tea.

Tuesday 14th January at 2.30pm

You are invited to come with us on Tuesday 14th January 2.30pm as we travel once again in the company of Noel and Annette Beattie. With the aid of his wonderful slides and prompted by his beautiful assistant Annette, Noel will guide us around the breath-taking scenery of Switzerland.

I'm looking forward to it already. I hope you can join us.

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.

I would like to wish a very happy Christmas to all the members of the Ladies' Guild but especially to those who for one reason or another have been unable to join us recently.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Anne Stewart (Hon Sec), tel 028 9096 6597

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Thank you to everyone who presented flowers in 2019

The Flower List for 2020 is now open for bookings and we would ask that all existing contributors contact the Parish Office (90 776 706) to confirm their usual Sunday for the coming year. Of course, as there are always some Sundays left available we appeal to new people to come forward and donate flowers, perhaps to mark a particular occasion or anniversary for them. It may be a wedding anniversary, the birth of a child or grandchild, to remember the death of a family member, or indeed as an act of thanksgiving for some notable blessing. All such donors will be acknowledged on the church notice board and in the Parish Notes.



We really appreciate all who contribute flowers Sunday by Sunday and also all those who devote so much time and energy in arranging them and looking after them mid-week.



PARISH REGISTER

Holy Baptism

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

Isobel Anne Reynolds

daughter of Paul and Gemma Reynolds, Belfast

on 27th October 2019

Holy Matrimony

*Signifying unto us the mystical union that is
between Christ and his Church.*

Patrick Stark and Rebecca Milliken, Newtownabbey

on 2nd November 2019

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

8pm—9pm: Scouts

Wednesday

2pm—4pm: Bridge Club

6.30pm—7.45pm: PhysioPilates

7.30pm—9pm: Choir

Thursday

4.30pm—5.30pm: Speech and Drama

6pm—7pm: Rainbows

7pm—8pm: Brownies

7.30pm—9pm: Thursday Fellowship (every week 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

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”.

CHANGES IN

PARISHIONER CONTACT DETAILS

Please don't forget to let the Parish Administrator know if you move house, change your telephone number or change your email address.

Contact Anne Cromie by emailing:
stpeterandstjames@outlook.com
or by ringing:
90 776 706.

Thank you.

Holy Dusters Cleaning Rota

2nd Dec—7th Dec -----	Group 1
9th Dec—14th Dec -----	Group 2
16th Dec—21st Dec -----	Group 3
23rd Dec—28th Dec -----	Group 4
30th Dec—4th Jan -----	Group 6
6th Jan—11th Jan -----	Group 7
13th Jan—18th Jan -----	Group 8
20th Jan—25th Jan -----	Group 1
27th Jan—1st Feb -----	Group 2

*Please send material for the February 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 January. Thank you.*