

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

FEBRUARY 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 IN FEBRUARY

Our 6.30pm Sunday services resume from the start of February.

On the 2nd February, we will be celebrating the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, otherwise known as Candlemas. At 11am there will be a service of readings and music which cover the broad sweep of the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, which this day brings to a conclusion.

The last three Sundays of February are each numbered in relation to the beginning of Lent, which starts on Ash Wednesday, 26th February. We could just call them the Third, Second, and then Last Sundays Before Lent, but because we're very fancy in St Peter's, we'll be referring to them instead by their Latin names: Septuagesima (9th February), Sexagesima (16th February), and Quinquagesima (23rd February).

EVENING SERVICES

On average, about eight people come along to our 6.30pm evening service when there is no choir, which increases to about twenty when there is one. In trying to work out how these services could be more engaging, I freely admit that I've found it difficult to see how we can make them more appealing. I know of one parish which has moved its monthly Family Service to an evening slot and has found it to be very popular. Would that work for us? I don't know, but it's one of a range

of options that we could consider. So let's take stock this year of what the purpose of having an evening service is, and work together to make it a time when people really want to come to St Peter's to worship God. We might decide to keep things just as they are, but it will be a healthy exercise for us to examine the issue.

RURAL DEANERY

I'm not looking for any pity when I say that 2019 was quite a busy year for me, not least because of my additional duties as Rural Dean. Normally, that role isn't particularly taxing, but there was a larger than normal workload last year, primarily as a result of ongoing vacancies in two of the parishes. Having said that, I have thoroughly enjoyed interacting with other congregations and getting to know and minister to people beyond our own parish boundaries. But, of course, I can only do so much, so the more I do in another parish, means the less I can do in St Peter's. Hopefully (and if you're the sort of person to 'touch wood' then please do so now) in the coming weeks I will be able to devote myself nearly entirely to St Peter's & St James'.

Whilst on the subject of the Rural Deanery, there was a meeting of representatives from the twelve parishes, held in Cloughfern Parish Halls on Saturday 18th January. Facilitated by the Rev'd Paul Hoey, its purpose was to get us all thinking about how the Church needs to grow. Specifically, he had us considering what the purpose, identity, and values of our individual congregations were. Many thanks to Ashlee McCune, Daphne McClements, Dora Hanna, and Rosemary Johnston, for attending on behalf of our parish.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

If you need me—as your Rector—to help you in a pastoral way, then please pick up the phone or email me, or in any other way let me know what you would like me to do. I say this partly off the back of my previous comments about the Rural Deanery. There is only so much one person can do at any one time, so I often find myself responding primarily to emergencies and to those who take the initiative to approach me. Please, therefore, do not remain silent and wait for me to guess that you want to see me. I have a diary to fill with appointments each week, and I need you to tell me if you want your name written into it.

DEFIBRILLATOR

We now have a potentially life-saving defibrillator in St Peter's. In the event of a suspected heart attack, such devices can really mean the difference between life and death. Of course, it's the sort of thing that I hope we never need to use, but it does give a little bit of peace of mind if the need should arise in the future. The fundraising for the defibrillator was led by Kathryn Hennessy (pictured), supported generously by many parishioners. The defibrillator is being kept in the kitchen, which is accessible both during services of worship, and by those using our halls for activities throughout the



week. As a security measure, a camera has now been installed to monitor the kitchen and hallway, so please be aware that images and sound are being recorded at all times in those areas.

AFTERNOON TEA

It was decided last year to hold a fundraising Afternoon Tea in the run-up to Christmas, rather than our usual Christmas Fayre. This required the interior church to be reorganised to allow for tables, and for the food and drink to be prepared. We also had some wonderful singers and a visit by Santa and Mrs Claus. All of that necessarily took a lot of effort, and I am very grateful to all who participated in any way. A total of £1,144.69 was raised, of which half will go to the charity TinyLife, which cares for premature and sick babies.

BISHOP

After twelve years as our Bishop, the Rt Rev'd Alan Abernethy retired on New Year's Eve. As was widely known, the Bishop had been unwell for some time, and despite his condition improving, he did not feel that he could continue in what is a very demanding ministry. Please do continue to pray for him and his family as they enter a new phase of their lives in retirement in north Down. It is now the time to appoint a new Bishop of Connor, and that is the responsibility of an Electoral College, consisting of clerical and lay representatives both of this diocese and from the wider Church of Ireland. Once the Electoral College has made its decision, the House of Bishops must then ratify it. Please pray that the electors and the bishops would have God's wisdom to make the right decision.

BLACK SANTA

I was delighted to have been asked again by the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev'd Stephen Forde, to be one of his helpers at the Black Santa appeal. Assigned to the Saturday afternoon slot just before Christmas, I joined the Rev'd Canon Mark Niblock, who is the Dean's Vicar in St Anne's. You have probably heard of how much money is generated through the sit-out, but it's quite an eye-opener to be present on the steps of St Anne's and to see both how generous people are, and also how important it is to them personally to make a donation. All the money raised goes towards supporting charities, and I heartily encourage you to make a trip down to the cathedral next year to throw as much as you can afford into the collection barrel.



NATHAN ERVINE

For those of you who don't know how people become ordained ministers in the Church of Ireland, the current process is that (if you wish to go down the full-time route) you spend two years in the Theological Institute in Dublin, and then you are ordained as a Deacon and serve one year in a

parish whilst finishing off your Master of Theology (MTh) dissertation. After that, you are ordained as a Priest and become a Curate Assistant in another parish. Our former Children's Worker, Nathan Ervine, is currently in his second year of full-time study down in Dublin. I am delighted to report the good news that he has received word that he will serve his Deacon Intern year at the parish of Magheragall (outside Lisburn) and will be trained by the Rev'd Nicholas Dark. Please keep Nathan, his wife Grace and son Jacob, in your prayers.

CHOIR

I would like to express my genuine gratitude to our choir, and to Robert Thompson our choir master, for their wonderful ministry amongst us in our services throughout Advent and Christmas. Undoubtedly, our many visitors at the Nine Lessons and Carols would have been very impressed by the enriching way in which they led us in the worship of God.

Robert is always looking for new members to join the choir so please speak to him or me if you're interested. The choir sing at 11am services each week (except July and August) and at our 6.30pm services twice a month (except January, July and August) and practice on a Wednesday evening.

Ash Wednesday

26th February

Holy Communion at 10.30am

Penitential Service at 7.30pm

PRAYER POINTERS

by Rosemary Johnston

The following matters were discussed at our Parish Meeting in December. Please take some time to pray about these issues:

- We have received funding from the St James' Endowment Fund for a part-time Pastoral Worker/Ministry Assistant. Please pray that the Select Vestry would have the wisdom to appoint the candidate who will be best suited to this role.
- Whilst many of our parishioners give generously to the Church through their Free Will Offerings, the parish is still spending more than we are bringing in. Please pray that our income would increase so that we have the resources to effectively carry out Christ's mission and ministries.
- Preparations were made for our Christmas services, which included the Nativity Play, Nine Lessons & Carols, and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day celebrations of Holy Communion. Give thanks to God for the people who came to these services, and pray that year by year more people would come to St Peter's to celebrate the birth of Christ.
- Preparations were made for our Afternoon Tea fundraiser in December. Give thanks to God for the generosity of those who gave their time and energy to organising it, and for all who enjoyed the event. Please pray that more new people would volunteer to organise other social and fundraising events this year.
- The parishes of Greenisland and Cloughfern are still without permanent clergy of their own. Please pray that the Holy Spirit would inspire the right people to lead them.
- We would love to open the doors of St Peter's during the week, to enable parishioners to come in for private prayer. Please pray that volunteers would be willing to supervise the building during these times.

The next Parish Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 3rd February in the Minor Hall. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Prayer Cards are available in church for you to fill in should you wish to have prayer for yourself or another person. These prayers will be offered at our mid-week service of Holy Communion.

FLOWER LIST 2020



The Flower List for 2020 is on the notice board beside the south porch. Please tick your name if you are happy with the slot allocated to you or feel free to put your name against any other available slot (but don't forget to inform our Administrator, Anne Cromie, of your chosen date). If possible, flowers should be in keeping with the liturgical colour of the season, particularly during Advent and Lent.

Also please make sure your arrangements do not obstruct the reredos or make it difficult for the Rector to walk behind the altar! Thank you.

General Church Cleaning

We have eight volunteer cleaning groups in the parish. Each group cleans the church for about 1-1½ hours every 8 weeks. All help is greatly appreciated. Group 5 is currently vacant and we would really like this slot to be filled so as the existing groups still only need to clean every 8 weeks. A group can be as few as two people so if you and a friend would like to re-form Group 5 please just speak with Anne Cromie or one of our churchwardens. Thank you.

Church Spring Clean Saturday 22nd February 10am—12noon

On Saturday 22nd February we are asking for as many people as possible to come from 10am—12noon to Spring clean the church. Many hands make light work and a job like this is surprisingly enjoyable—everyone working together. Please bring your own dusters, polish, brushes, cloths, etc, then put this date in your diary and come along to help.



CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

<u>DAY</u>	<u>PROPER</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>OFFICIANT</u>	<u>PREACHER</u>
Sunday	Candlemas	9am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
2nd Feb	White	11am	Candlemas Procession	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
		6.30pm	Choral Evensong	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
Wed	Mid-week	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
5th Feb	Green				
Sunday	Septuagesima	9am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
9th Feb	Green	10am	Morning Service	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
		11am	Choral Matins	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
		6.30pm	Evensong	Rev'd Ken Houston	Rev'd Ken Houston
Wed	Mid-week	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
12th Feb	Green				
Sunday	Sexagesima	9am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
16th Feb	Green	11am	Choral Eucharist	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
		6.30pm	Choral Compline	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
Wed	Mid-week	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
19th Feb	Green				
Sunday	Quinquagesima	9am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
23rd Feb	Green	11am	Choral Matins	Mr David Cromie	Rev'd Brian Lacey
		6.30pm	Evensong	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
Wed	Ash	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
26th Feb	Wednesday Purple	7.30pm	Penitential Service	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Ken Houston

CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

<u>DAY</u>	<u>PROPER</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LECTOR 1</u>	<u>LECTOR 2</u>	<u>INTERCESSOR</u>
Sunday	Candlemas	9am	tbc	—	tbc
2nd Feb	White	11am	Anne Stewart	Sandra Hutchman	Dora Hanna
		6.30pm	—	—	—
Wed	Mid-week	10.30am	Marie Burrowes	—	Daphne McClements
5th Feb	Green				
Sunday	Septuagesima	9am	tbc	—	tbc
9th Feb	Green	10am	—	—	—
		11am	Ashlee McCune	Barbara Greenlees	Colin Bell
		6.30pm	—	—	—
Wed	Mid-week	10.30am	Rosemary Johnston	—	Quintin Mulligan
12th Feb	Green				
Sunday	Sexagesima	9am	tbc	—	tbc
16th Feb	Green	11am	Dora Hanna	Peter Coiley	Daphne McClements
		6.30pm	—	—	—
Wed	Mid-week	10.30am	Dora Hanna	—	Rosemary Johnston
19th Feb	Green				
Sunday	Quinquagesima	9am	tbc	—	tbc
23rd Feb	Green	11am	Noel Beattie	Rosemary Johnston	Marie Burrowes
		6.30pm	—	—	—
Wed	Ash	10.30am	Daphne McClements	—	Marie Burrowes
26th Feb	Wednesday Purple	7.30pm	—	—	—

<p>9 9am Holy Communion 10am Morning Service 11am Choral Matins & Sunday School & Creche followed by refreshments and Traidcraft Stall 6.30pm Evensong</p>	<p>10 8pm Badminton</p>	<p>11 10.30am Crafty Goodness 2.30pm Ladies' Guild 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal 8pm Scouts</p>	<p>12 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>13 4.30pm Speech and Drama 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Thursday Fellowship 8pm Guides and Senior Guides</p>	<p>14 10.30am PhysioPilates</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 9am Holy Communion 11am Choral Eucharist & Sunday School & Creche 6.30pm Choral Compline</p>	<p>17 11am <i>Deadline for material to be with Anne Cromie for March Parish Notes</i> 7.30pm Select Vestry Meeting 8pm Badminton</p>	<p>18 10.30am Crafty Goodness Beavers, Cubs and Scouts half-term break Priory Singers' half-term break</p>	<p>19 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>20 4.30pm Speech and Drama Rainbows, Brownies and Guides half-term break 7.45pm Historical Society</p>	<p>21 10.30am PhysioPilates</p>	<p>22 10am—12noon Church Spring Clean</p>
<p>23 9am Holy Communion 11am Choral Matins & Sunday School & Creche followed by refreshments 6.30pm Evensong</p>	<p>24 8pm Badminton</p>	<p>25 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal 8pm Scouts</p>	<p>26 ASH WEDNESDAY 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Penitential Service 8pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>27 4.30pm Speech and Drama Rainbows, Brownies and Guides half-term break 7.30pm Thursday Fellowship</p>	<p>28 10.30am PhysioPilates 4pm Speech and Drama</p>	<p>29</p>

Ladies' Guild

Tuesday 11th February at 2.30pm

On Tuesday 11th February at 2.30pm we will be joined by Catherine Glenn from Belfast Central Mission. Catherine will speak to us on the topic of Hoarding. How can you avoid being a hoarder, how to know if you've become a hoarder and how to stop being a hoarder? This is a topic familiar to many of us - not least to me! Assuming you can still squeeze past the pile of unused items in your hallway I would love you to join us for what promises to be an interesting afternoon.

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 028 9096 6597

Christmas at St Peter's

Whether you consider that the church looked festive enough over the Christmas period, only you can decide. All I can say is that a number of non-parishioners who attended our Nine Lessons and Carols commented most glowingly about the ambience of the church and how beautiful it looked by candlelight.

This didn't just happen and I wish to publicly thank the party of women (yes ladies were involved) and men who came along in early December to help decorate the church and then came back few weeks ago to transport everything away to the basement for yet another year.

Without mentioning names please accept our thanks for your ready assistance in this matter. With so many helpers it took just one hour to move everything and brush the church floor. Thanks also to the Crafty Goodness ladies who sustained us with tea, coffee and nice biscuits, which was much appreciated.

You all did such a great job please put Tuesday, 8th December 2020 in your diary in order to do it all again. I know where to reach you!

Very many thanks again for a job well done.

Noel Beattie

**The Parish Office will be closed
from 3rd-14th February inclusive.**

FWO ENVELOPES

If you are expecting FWO envelopes for 2020 and haven't received them yet, please check the back of the Church where you will find copies of Parish Notes along with some other literature awaiting collection.

While on the matter of FWO envelopes, we know that from time to time you may be away visiting friends and family or on holiday from Portrush to Portugal and much further afield. When you return to church, perhaps you scramble around to find the exact amount to fill each outstanding envelope or write a cheque for each one. Instead, why not make life a little easier and just fill one envelope with the total amount outstanding? Of course, if you wish to continue filling each and every envelope, please feel free to do so BUT, just to complicate matters, if you do not pay Income Tax and are thus unable to complete a Gift Aid Claim Form, please do not insert any more than £30 in **any one** envelope. I'll not go into the mechanics of this but the Church has an arrangement with HMRC to claim tax back without mentioning your name.

Any problems, please give me a ring and thank you for your cooperation.

Noel Beattie, FWO Convenor

PARISH REGISTER

Christian Burial

"At rest in the Lord."

Margaret McCleery, formerly Castle Gardens

Burial at Carnmoney

on 10th January 2020

*Date for your diary—Concert in the church
The Prioory Singers on Saturday 4th April at 8pm*

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.

CHURCH OF IRELAND

GAZETTE

WWW.GAZETTE.IRELAND.ANGLICAN.ORG

The Church of Ireland Gazette was first published in 1856, as a monthly journal, altering to weekly in 1880 and reverting back to monthly, being issued on the second Friday (10 months of the year) in 2019. The annual subscription is £40. If you would be interested in receiving it we can arrange for your copy to be left for you on the table at the back of the church on the second Sunday of each respective month, ready for your collection. Further information from our Honorary Treasurer, Ashlee McCune, or our Parish Administrator, Anne Cromie.

Margi Crawford

Remembering Dorothy Parker

Dorothy Parker, former member of St Peter's, died recently in Canada. Dorothy was the mother of Stephen in whose memory the Cavehill Cross at the back of the church was fashioned. He was killed at the age of 14 on Bloody Friday (July 1972) when 21 bombs were exploded across Belfast, one of them at the Cavehill Road shops.

After Stephen's death, Dorothy and her husband Joe set up a Memorial Trust at the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra as Stephen was a promising musician.

They also set up the peace group called Witness for Peace comprised mainly of people who had lost a loved one in the Troubles.

Dorothy and Joe worked tirelessly for better relationships within our community until their emigration to Canada a few years later.

Dorothy was predeceased by Joe by less than 2 years. Their other son Roger is a Rector in the Church of England and their daughter Karen still lives in Canada.

Jill Bradley

North Belfast Historical Society

Date: Thursday 20th February
Time: 7.30pm for 7.45pm
Where: McCollum Minor Hall, back of St Peter's
Speaker: Raymond Robinson
Subjects: Belfast Zoo



Raymond Robinson is the curator of Belfast Zoo and is responsible for a number of areas within the zoo such as elephants, bongo, etc.

Raymond is also responsible for co-ordinating our native species interests within the zoo, such as red squirrel breeding and their release.

Raymond organises student work experience placements and is the co-ordinator for the Diploma in Management of Zoo and Aquarian Animals within Ireland, as well as being the international assessor for this course in the Middle East and also Eastern Europe.

Raymond's talk will be centred on the history of the Zoo, how it came about opening in 1934 - yes it has been going for nearly 90years! - and about some of the early animals and staff.

Most definitely a subject of interest for everyone, don't forget to put the details in your diaries and on your calendars.

Do come along, everyone is welcome.

Margi Crawford

AFTER CHURCH REFRESHMENTS



Thank you to Daphne McClements and Margaret Mulligan, who will provide refreshments after the 11am service on 9th February and to Catherine Lyons who will provide them on 23rd February.

FEBRUARY FLOWER LIST

2ND ROSEMARY HINDS AND VIVIEN CLARKE
IN MEMORY OF THEIR MOTHER

23RD CAROLYN HILDITCH IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER



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. Also please make sure your arrangements do not obstruct the reredos or make it difficult for the Rector to walk behind the altar.

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”.

The next Parish Meeting, to which all parishioners are invited, will take place on Monday 3rd February at 7.30pm. The next meeting of the Select Vestry will be on Monday 17th February 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

27th Jan—1st Feb ----- Group 2
3rd Feb—8th Feb----- Group 3
10th Feb—15th Feb----- Group 4
17th Feb—22nd Feb ----- Group 6
24th Feb—29th Feb----- Group 7

*Please send material for the March issue of Parish Notes to:
Anne Cromie, Parish Administrator, St Peter's Church,
Fortwilliam Drive, Belfast BT15 4EB
or email: stpeterandstjames@outlook.com
by Monday 17th February. Thank you.*