

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

JULY/AUGUST 2021

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



*Ready for Mid-week
Holy Communion
on a sunny day*

GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE

RECTOR'S NOTES

SERVICES IN JULY AND AUGUST

On Sunday 25th July, we will commemorate St James the Apostle, who is the second of our two parochial patron saints.

Throughout the two months, we continue through Ordinary Time. The word “ordinary” should not be understood to mean “not special”! Rather, it simply refers to the fact that these Sundays are ordered numerically in sequence after Trinity Sunday.

We continue to have only the 11am service on Sunday mornings, alternating between Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of the month, and Morning Prayer on the second and fourth Sundays.

On sunnier days, we sometimes move our mid-week celebration of Holy Communion out into the side-garden. We were able to do so on one of the Wednesdays during June (see front cover) and I look forward to doing so again. It always reminds me of the open-air services conducted during pilgrimages in Israel, although the lawn at St Peter's doesn't quite equate to the experience of being on the shore of the Sea of Galilee! If you do arrive for our mid-week service on Wednesday morning in the summer months and discover the doors to the church locked because we're outside, please enter through the halls instead.

RURAL DEANERY

The parish of St Paul & St Barnabas has been vacant since November 2020, and the parish of Mallusk has been vacant since the beginning of June this year. During such times without a minister of their own, the Rural Dean becomes responsible for pastoral and administrative matters, such as responding to emergencies, conducting funerals, and charring committee meetings. As the Rural Dean happens to be me, my workload will be increased for at least the next few months until new ministers can be found for those parishes.

I will also be providing holiday cover for Cloughfern for a few weeks, so there will be no rest for the wicked. However, the cure of souls in St Peter & St James remains my primary focus, so please do continue to contact me if there is anything that I can help you with.

PRAYER TELEPHONE LINE

If you would like the Church to pray for you or for a loved one, then please leave a message on our new telephone prayer line. The number is **028 95 320 103**. You will be greeted with a recorded message asking you to leave the first name of the person for whom you are requesting prayer (whether yourself or someone else) and a short message specifying what you would like prayer for. I strongly encourage you to avail of this ministry, either to ask for God's help during difficult times, or to thank God in the good times. Confidentiality will be respected, and only the Prayer Team will receive the prayer requests.

PRAYER TEAM TRAINING

If you believe in the power of prayer, and you would like to join the parish Prayer Team, then please let me know by Sunday 11th July. During the summer I will be working with Rosemary Johnston, our Prayer Ministry Coordinator, in order to develop opportunities to pray for others either in your own time in your own home, or with other intercessors as a group, or face-to-face after services in church. Whatever you feel called to do, we will provide training and support for you as we develop these vital ministries.

THE COMMUNITY ON OUR DOORSTEP

We are fortunate that our church building is on a main thoroughfare, and that there is a slow but steady stream of pedestrians and joggers passing St Peter's throughout the day. During July and August (weather permitting) I am going to put up our little marquee in the church grounds and (hopefully) get to know some of them. If you would like to volunteer to join me, please let me know.

REV'D NATHAN ERVINE

Congratulations to our former Children's & Families' Worker, the Rev'd Nathan Ervine, on his recent appointment as Curate Assistant in the parish of Carrickfergus. Nathan was with us prior to leaving for the Theological Institute in Dublin



three years ago. He was ordained a deacon last year, and will soon be ordained a priest. Please give thanks to God for Nathan's ministry, and for wisdom and encouragement for both Nathan and his young family—his wife, Grace, and their two young sons, Jacob and Thomas.

CARING FOR ST PETER'S



It's lovely to see our parishioners busying themselves out and about in the grounds of St Peter's, or inside the church or halls, helping to keep our premises clean and tidy and in good order. Sometimes we do need a little help from a professional, and one example is Tony Smyth (left), a french polisher who carried out some minor repairs to the antique table at the

back of the church. That table is, in fact, the Communion Table from the former Chapel of the Resurrection. It is always incumbent upon our generation to ensure that such treasures from the past are kept safe and in good condition for the benefit of generations yet to come.

BECOME SOMEONE NEW

Have you got a breadmaker? The irony of having such a device in your kitchen, is that for the vast majority of human history, people had to bake their own bread. It was part of the daily routine. There was nothing fancy about it, and I'm sure for most people it was a chore. But nowadays if you tell people you make your own bread, they look at you as if you think you are something. You must think you're special, or you're rich, or you've plenty of time on your hands. Well, anyway, we have a bread maker up at the rectory and, I have to say, it's really easy to use. You pour in the ingredients, you switch it on, you go about your business, and in a few hours you open the lid and there's your little loaf of warm fresh bread, sitting there patiently, waiting to be eaten. And surprisingly, it actually tastes good. It tastes wholesome, because all you need to use are the basic ingredients: water, salt, sugar, flour, and yeast. So there's a purity about it, that you don't find in the bread you buy at the shops, which by necessity have preservatives added into the mix to make it stay fresh for the whole week rather than just for a few hours.

But what really fascinates me about making bread (and I suppose the same could be said for baking cakes) is how those rudimentary ingredients come together to create something better. I mean, you'd hardly sit down for a lovely meal of sugar, salt, and flour, washed down with a glass of water. And yet those same things can be mixed together, with a little bit of yeast, and heated up, and turned into something good that you would actually want to eat.

Now, why am I telling you all this? Well, partly it's because I wrote this whilst I was waiting for bread to bake in the

kitchen, and the smell was wafting through the house and it was quite hard to ignore. But mainly it's because of this little sentence from St Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation."

Now, to use my bread analogy, it's as if St Paul is saying here that Christ is like the bread maker machine, which takes us in our raw and unappetising state, and transforms us into something good. When we are "in Christ" we become "a new creation."

But what do you think "in Christ" actually means? I'm sure you can understand the concept of what it means to be "in a bread making machine" but what does it mean to be "in Christ." You might imagine that it wouldn't be too difficult to explain, as it's only two words, and yet nobody has ever really been able to properly define what St Paul was talking about. And that's despite the fact that he used the expression "in Christ", and similar sentiments, all through his writings in the New Testament. In fact, it's probably because he used it so frequently, in slightly different ways, that it's hard to pin it down.

What we can say, though, is that to be "in Christ" is much more than just a quaint way of saying "I believe in Jesus"; it's much stronger than that. There's a sense of a Christian actually being absorbed into the glory and the power and the grace of Jesus Christ, to the extent that we don't simply have faith in a saviour—rather, we have become one with him. We become spiritually united with the Christ who died, and was buried, and rose again. And just as he had the power to take his broken body and create something new—his new, eternal, resurrected,

glorious body—we too, in union with him, can be transformed.

That new creation will, of course, find its ultimate expression in the next world, when we will be resurrected also, but it also applies to our lives today. We can be that new creation now. So, if we are “in Christ”, then through the power of Christ, God can take the basic ingredients of our lives, some of which might not be very appealing, some of it might even be horrible, and he can mix himself into that mess, so that with time, and through the fire of the Holy Spirit, he can transform us into something better.

That new creation—that newness of life—is what God is offering to everyone in this world. So if you’re fed up with your past; if you’re tired of who you are, let Jesus Christ into your life to mix things up and create the better “you” that he destined you to be.

Our Parish Family ...

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

Congratulations

to Alan Campbell who has been appointed as a History teacher to Westfield Academy in Watford starting in September. This is his first job after completing the PGCE course recently.

Alan has a BA in History and Politics and an MA in History both from Queen’s University. Here he is displaying the Watford FC shirt! We wish Alan every blessing in his future career.



Pause for Thought and Prayer

Rosemary Johnston

The Mission to Seafarers—This wonderful organisation, founded in the 19th century, cares for thousands of seafarers around the world, offering them and, in times of crisis, their families, care and support. The Flying Angel Centres provide a warm welcome, telephone, internet and recreational facilities. The Mission also works nationally and internationally to achieve justice for seafarers, and also campaigns for seafarers' rights. Support is offered for the seafarers' spiritual needs when requested and ship visiting continues, on the berth, gangway or on deck to avoid going inside the ship. This past year has dealt a body blow to the Mission's finances as it is not possible to run the usual fundraising activities.

When ships come into port, the seafarers, who may not have been home for months and may have had their contracts extended unfairly, are so often not allowed ashore which is not good, either physically or mentally. Policy is dictated from the shipping company's headquarters with little or not consideration given to crew wellbeing. Fortunately, the chaplain in Belfast, the Rev'd Colin Hall-Thompson, and volunteers are allowed to visit the ships regularly. They try to assess the mental health of the crew and to persuade the captains/chief officers to allow crew members to have a walk or a short visit to the centre where it is covid safe.

Please remember the seafarers and their families in your prayers and also Colin Hall-Thompson and all the other chaplains and volunteers in the invaluable work they do in trying, as best they can in these difficult times, to assist those seafarers in need of their help or even a short break away from the ship.

PS Did you know that over 90% of goods used on a daily basis are transported by sea?

What's in a name?

A **cleric** is a person who has been ordained by a bishop. They are normally identified by the wearing of a white clerical collar, and the use of the word **reverend** (or some variant of it) before their name. More than one cleric are known as **clergy**. Every member of the clergy belongs to one of three orders: deacon, priest, or bishop. The word **deacon** comes from the Greek word **diakonos**, which means a **servant** or **waiter**. The word **priest** is a shorter form of the word **presbyter**, which comes from the Greek work **presbyteros**, which means an **elder** or **senior**. (Note that this is different from the use of the word *priest* by Roman Catholic clergy.) The word **bishop** comes from the Greek word **episcopos**, which means **overseer** or **supervisor**. As the name suggests, they oversee other clergy in their area, which is known as a diocese. In our diocese of Connor, the bishop is *The Right Reverend George Davison*.

The prefix **arch-** comes from the Greek word **archein**, which means a **ruler** or **chief**. The prefix appears in the words **archbishop** and **archdeacon**. There are two **archbishops** in the Church of Ireland: The archbishop of Armagh and the archbishop of Dublin. As our diocese is in the Province of Armagh, our Archbishop is the Most Reverend John McDowell. Every bishop appoints at least one **archdeacon**, who advises and assists them. In our diocese, there are three archdeacons, for Belfast, Dalriada, and Connor. As we are in the archdeaconry of Belfast, our archdeacon is *The Venerable Barry Forde*.

There are different titles for a cleric who has been appointed by the bishop to manage the worship, mission, and ministries of the Church in a particular parish. The official title for such a person is an **incumbent**. Traditionally, there were two types of incumbent, depending on how wealthy a parish was. If a parish had enough money to be self-sustaining, then the cleric-in-charge was called the **rector**. On the other hand, if the parish was dependent on financial support from the diocese, then the cleric-in-charge was called the **vicar**. Nowadays, however, there are examples of self-sustaining parishes who have a **vicar** rather than a **rector**, but this is more to do with tradition than with finance.

In addition to **rectors** who tend to minister on a full-time basis, there are some clergy who minister part-time, either during their retirement, or whilst holding down another job. Some of these part-time clergy are known as **non-stipendiary ministers** (or **NSMs**). A stipend is a grant given by a parish to its full-time clergy to support them and their families so that they do not need to look for other forms of employment. A non-stipendiary minister is therefore a cleric who does not receive the stipend.

A recent development in the Church of Ireland was the introduction of **ordained local ministers** (or **OLMs**) who are clergy whose ministry is restricted to a parish or local area, and who are unpaid and part-time, and who assist the stipendiary clergy. Increasingly, some part-time clergy are paid by a parish, particularly if there is no full-time cleric. Often, these clergy are known as **priests-in-charge**, or as **ministers-in-charge** if the word *priest* is considered too controversial in a particular parish. Sometimes the name **curate-in-charge** is used for clergy who are accountable to a **rector**, quite often of a neighbouring parish. A **bishop's curate**, on the other hand, is a cleric who is accountable to the **bishop** directly, rather than to a training rector. Such **curates-in-charge** can either be part-time clergy or full-time, stipendiary clergy, depending on the circumstances.

The fundamental difference these days between **rectors** and other types of clergy-in-charge is that other types might be removed from their parish by decision of the **bishop** or if a Select Vestry decides to terminate their contract. **Rectors**, however, cannot be removed unless they choose to go, or else they are tried and convicted by the Court of the General Synod.

In larger parishes, there may be one or more clergy who assist the **rector** in order to gain experience so that they can one day become **rectors** elsewhere themselves. Such clergy are usually known as **curates**, but officially they are **curates assistant**. Formally, the **curate** in a parish is the cleric in charge, as the word means the person who is responsible for "the cure of souls". In other words, the spiritual wellbeing of parishioners. If you are familiar with the words of the Prayer of the Church Militant in Holy Communion (Form One) then you will recall how we pray for "all bishops and curates". This reflects the use of the word **curate** to mean the cleric-in-charge, rather than their assistant.

The senior cleric in a cathedral is known as the **dean**, which comes from the Latin word **decanus**, which means someone who is in charge of **ten** things. The **dean** convenes a meeting of around ten clergy, called the **chapter**, who traditionally would have managed the cathedral. Every member of a cathedral chapter is called a **canon**, which comes from the Greek word **kanon**, which means a **rule**. The name expresses the idea that such clergy followed particular rules for living a Christian life as developed by the likes of St Francis (Franciscan) or St Benedict (Benedictine). Nowadays, long-serving clergy in a diocese are often given the title of **canon** as an honour, although this is not always the case. In our diocese, clergy can be appointed **canons** of three cathedrals: St Anne's (Belfast), Connor (Lisburn), and St Patrick's (Dublin).

A **rural dean** is a cleric appointed by the bishop to convene a meeting of

clergy in a particular area (whether urban or rural) which is also called the **chapter**. Our parish is in the Rural Deanery of North Belfast, which consists of three parishes in north Belfast, eight in Newtownabbey, the parish of Greenisland, and the Mission to Seafarers. Our **rural dean** is *The Rev'd Brian Lacey*.

A **chapter** is a meeting of clergy who come together to assist and advise each other. The name comes from the ancient practice of monks, who would have read a chapter of a religious book at the beginning of their meetings. Some members of a cathedral chapter are given specific roles, which may be purely ceremonial these days. These include the **chancellor**, the **precentor**, and the **succentor**. A **minor canon** is not a member of the chapter of a cathedral, but they assist in various ways in its worship and ministries.



PARISH REGISTER



Holy Baptism

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

Cubryn Butler

son of Matthew Butler and Megan Brown

Glencairn Way

on 30th May 2021

Holy Matrimony

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

Adam James Warnock, Kircubbin

and

Olivia Kathleen Hughes, Bangor

on 18th June 2021



Parish Notes On-line

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



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If you need any help accessing either easyfundraising or AmazonSmile please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your support.

Ashlee McCune, Honorary Treasurer

General Church Cleaning

We have a number of volunteer cleaning groups in the parish. Each group cleans the church for about 1-1½ hours every few weeks (frequency depends on how many groups we can muster). All help is greatly appreciated. A group can be as few as two people so if you and a friend would like to form a group or if you would like to join an existing group please just speak with Anne Cromie or one of our churchwardens. Needless to say, during the past 18 months or so, we have been unable to let our cleaning groups into the church (hence The Big Clean, see below) but we are hoping to be able to get our cleaning groups back into action again soon.

The Big Clean

Wednesday 25th August at 11.15am

On Wednesday 25th August we are asking for as many people as possible to come to do a 'big clean' of the church. We'll meet in the main hall at 11.15am to have a cup of tea or coffee and decide who is doing what. Many hands make light work and a job like this is surprisingly enjoyable—everyone working together. Please put this date in your diary and come along to help, bringing your own dusters, polish, brushes, cloths, etc. *Thank you!*



Christian Aid 2021

The total raised by our sponsored walk was £1,001.00. We were very pleased indeed by this total so many thanks to all of you who contributed.

I know this money will be put to very good use by Christian Aid to help provide clean water, within easy reach (the main aim of this year's campaign), to some of our less fortunate neighbours in the third world.

Once again a big thank you from me, Jill Bradley, and my fellow-walkers. We did enjoy it!



PARISHIONER CONTACT DETAILS

For speed of communication and to keep our records up to date please send your email address to the Parish Office at:

annecromie@stpeterbelfast.org

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

*Please send material for the September issue of Parish Notes to:
Anne Cromie, Parish Administrator, St Peter's Church,
Fortwilliam Drive, Belfast BT15 4EB
or email: annecromie@stpeterbelfast.org
by Monday 23rd August. Thank you.*