

**THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST**

PARISH NOTES

DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022

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

**Filming at the former
St James' Church**

GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE

IN MEMORIAM
DAVID GOODING



Funeral at St Peter's on Thursday 26th November 2020
followed by Committal at Roselawn Crematorium

Whenever appropriate throughout this year, we will include photos of members of our congregation who died during the Coronavirus Pandemic, to mark their anniversary.

RECTOR'S NOTES

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It seems so early to be saying that, but Christmas decorations have started to appear and it won't be long until we're fully immersed in the festive spirit. I hope and pray that—whatever your circumstances—you experience the peace, joy, and love of Jesus Christ.



SERVICES IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Although there are concerns about the rising number of cases of Covid-19, I have not received any indication that places of worship will be closed again. On that basis, our 11am services continue every week as normal, including Boxing Day which falls awkwardly on a Sunday this year. There will also be a 10am service each Sunday until (and including) 19th December. After a break for Christmas, the 10am services will resume again on the 9th January. The rota of services is:

SUNDAY	10am	11am
5 th December	Family Service	Holy Communion
12 th December	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer
19 th December	Holy Communion	Nativity Service
26 th December	No Service	Morning Prayer
2 nd January	No Service	Holy Communion
9 th January	Family Service	Morning Prayer
16 th January	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
23 rd January	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer
30 th January	Morning Prayer	Service of the Word

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Unfortunately, there will be no Christingle Service this year due to the potential risk of infection of Covid-19. However, we will still have our other traditional Christmas services:

Sunday 19 th December at 11am	Nativity Service
Monday 20 th December at 7.30pm	Nine Lessons & Carols
Friday 24 th December at 11pm	Midnight Communion
Saturday 25 th December at 11am	Christmas Communion

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME

As a Christian community, we look forward to meeting together on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of our Saviour Christ. Such worship must be the focal point of all Christians' Christmas activities. Of course, some of our brothers and sisters in Christ are unable to come to St Peter's through illness or disability, and I would be delighted to celebrate the sacrament in their own home in the weeks leading up to Christmas Day.

Thank you to all who have already contacted me to ask for Holy Communion at home. I will give you a call in the first week of December in order to arrange a suitable day and time later in the month.

If you haven't yet told me that you would like Holy Communion at home, then don't worry—it's not too late. But please do let me know by phoning 90 777 053 or emailing brianlacey@stpeterbelfast.org by Monday 6th December.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

One of our Ministry Assistants, David Cromie, organised a fry-up breakfast for the men of the parish on Saturday 20th November. Assisted by his son, Samuel, their culinary skills proved to be not-as-bad-as-I-had-feared. In fact, it was good! There were sixteen adults and two children, and the feedback has all been positive. God willing, David and Samuel will be slaving over the hob again on Saturday 29th January. So, if you would like to come along for some grub and conversation, then speak to David or myself.

PASTORAL COVER AFTER CHRISTMAS

I will be on annual leave for two weeks after Christmas Day, returning to duty on Sunday 9th January. If there is a pastoral emergency during that time, please ring the Rectory landline on 90 777 053 for information on who to contact. The Churchwardens, Daphne and Dora, will also be able to point you in the right direction.

DALGLEISH

If you're a fan of TV detectives, then you might have recently watched the Channel 5 mini-series, "Dalgleish". Three episodes were broadcast (each in two parts), featuring Bertie Carvel as the titular Alex Dalgleish from the P.D. James novels. The episodes broadcast on 18th and 19th November were largely filmed at the former St James' Church at the corner of the Antrim Road and Cliftonville Road. Anyone who has spent time in that building will immediately recognise it, albeit dressed as a Roman Catholic chapel. Although the production crew did a lot of work to tidy and clean the interior of the building, there was clearly a lot of computer wizardry during post-production to spruce up the outside!

Filming took place earlier in the year, and if you passed by that way, then you would likely have noticed the rigging for the exterior lighting (see front cover). On the last day of the shoot, I and Matthew Lambert (a member of the Select Vestry, and—more importantly—a fan of the P.D. James novels) were invited in for half an hour to see what went on behind the scenes. I had the chance to speak briefly with Bertie Carvel (telling him that my wife, Laura, had loved him as the adulterous husband in *Doctor Foster*) but I was most awe-



struck by my encounter with Jim Norton with whom I managed to take a selfie whilst he was trying to enjoy his lunch. Those of you who enjoyed Fr Ted, should recognise him as Bishop Len Brennan!

I'm grateful to the production crew for doing so much in so little time to restore the church to a semblance of its former glory, and for the opportunity for us to use our resources to help the burgeoning film and television industry here in Northern Ireland.

THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST

Every so often, the Messianic Secret crops up in our lectionary readings. You might recall that this is the name given to those occasions in the Gospels when people, or even sometimes demons—declare that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, and in

response Jesus tells them not to tell anyone else. He did this because he did not want people to misunderstand what sort of Messiah he was. He knew that they expected God to send someone who would be a great political and military—as well as spiritual—ruler. They expected this Messiah to overthrow the Romans and create the Kingdom of God here on earth as a political entity, which would succeed the Roman Empire and dominate the whole world.

Of course, Jesus did not live up to that expectation. Indeed, the fact that he died on the Cross was evidence to the Jewish leaders at the time that he was definitely not the Messiah as they understood it. So, throughout his earthly mission, Jesus was at pains not to let people describe him in such a way that could lead to them misinterpreting words such as “Messiah” or “Son of God”. However, this was not because he rejected those titles. Rather, he rejected the erroneous beliefs and expectations that some people attached to them.

The famous encounter between Jesus and Pontius Pilate in John 18: 33–37 is an extension of that idea. Here we have Pontius Pilate, the Roman official responsible for maintaining peace and order in Judea, asking Jesus if he is “the King of the Jews.”

It is quite a facetious question as the Jewish leaders—the members of the Sanhedrin—were publicly rejecting Jesus and calling for his execution. This suggests that Pilate was merely humouring the Jewish leaders, and perhaps even mocking Jesus, by asking him, “Are you the King?”

The answer to that question was never going to be straightforward. Because there were historical and legal baggage attached to the idea of the King of Israel.

The first such King, was Saul, who reigned around 1,000 before the time of Jesus. After Saul, came King David, and after David came his son, Solomon. After Solomon, the kingdom

split in two, and there were rival kings—one in the north (in what was called Israel), and one in the south (in what was called Judah, from which we get the word Jew).

A few hundred years later, about five hundred years before the time of Jesus, there were no longer kings in either country. Foreign invaders had come in and conquered both Israel and Judah at different times, and, no longer kingdoms in their own right, they simply became small territories of much larger empires. And that state of affairs carried right through to the century before Jesus' birth.

At that point, a non-Jewish businessman called Herod, petitioned the Roman Emperor to make him the King of Israel, on the basis that he would maintain order and levy taxes for Rome. And that's what happened. That's the evil King Herod that we read about in the Nativity Story. This explains why King Herod was so concerned when the three Wise Men came to him, saying that they were following a star, which would lead them to the birthplace of the new King. Herod feared that if there was someone with a strong claim to be a descendant of King David, then the people might rally around that child and overthrow both Herod and his Roman masters.

So, there had been during the time of Jesus, a King of the Jews. And that was Herod. But when he died, the kingdom was split into four, and each of Herod's sons was made a King. That's why we read about Jesus being sent for trial by King Herod of Galilee, when Pontius Pilate learned at first that Jesus was from that region. It was this Herod who wanted Jesus to perform miracles for his amusement, and when Jesus did nothing, he sent him back to Pontius Pilate. Pilate was in charge because the King of Judea (who had been the brother of King Herod of Galilee) had been so inept; and the Romans had decided to put the region under direct rule from Rome. This meant that technically—according to the logic of the Roman Empire—the Emperor was the King of the Jews. Now, bearing all of that in mind (and I know it's a lot to take in if you've never studied the

history of Israel) when Pilate asks Jesus if he is “the King of the Jews” he is asking a very loaded question.

You see, Jesus could have simply said “yes”. What the gospels record is that both through his adoptive father Joseph, and his biological mother, Mary, Jesus was both the legal successor to the last King of the Jews (who had reigned hundreds of years before his birth) and also a blood descendent of King David.

But there were two problems which would arise if Jesus had said “yes.” First of all, for Pontius Pilate, such a claim would have been an act of treason, because Jesus would have been claiming for himself the title that, as far as Pilate was concerned, belonged only to the Roman Emperor. Secondly, Jesus could not say “yes” because Pontius Pilate would interpret that word in the wrong way. He would think that Jesus was claiming to be an earthly, military King.

That’s why Jesus gives this cryptic response, “my Kingdom is not from this world” and then he even directly challenges the interpretation of the word “king” by Pontius Pilate. “You say that I am King.”

In other words, “you have used that word as if you know what it means, but you misunderstand what sort of king I am.”

And then—in the last line of the passage—Jesus explains the nature of what it means for him to be a king. “I came into the world to testify to the truth.” This is not the sort of kingship that Pilate, or the Jewish leaders, or indeed most of the Jewish people expected. He would not be a military ruler, hellbent on defeating his enemies on the battlefield. Instead, Jesus’ brand of kingship would be to lead people to a deeper understanding of the love of God and to proclaim mercy and peace and self-sacrifice. And his kingdom would not be advanced by soldiers with weapons, but by ordinary people caring for each other. That is the King that we worship, whose enthronement was upon the cross, and who was crowned by thorns, and whose greatest victory came from defeat.

'Fun' at the Men's Breakfast

The first 'Men's Breakfast' in quite a while took place on Saturday 20th November.

Sixteen men and a couple of younger ones turned up and it all went very well. It was magnificently organised once the rector and I had agreed that the appropriate number of sausages was 'loads'.

The tables were laid out separately at the beginning, but were quickly re-arranged into one large banqueting bench and the conversation burred all morning. Of course, there was panic in the kitchen—not helped by my leaving all the eggs at home—but, with a few kindly, helping hands, we got the food out and nobody starved.

One thing we did learn was not to bother bringing cereal next time—nobody wanted any of that when the smell of bacon was wafting through the church halls. Afterwards, one poor chap told his wife it was 'fun' only to be castigated for using such a boyish adjective—but he was right: there were no 'men' there, just a bunch of wee lads having good craic over a fry-up!



Date for the diary:

Men's Breakfast
Saturday 29th January 2022
at 9.30am

David Cromie



PARISH REGISTER



Christian Burial

"At rest in the Lord."

Susan Carolyn Saville

Cremation at Roselawn

on 17th November 2021

Barbara Alice Caroline Cornett

Cremation at Roselawn

on 25th November 2021



Free Will Offering Envelopes for 2022

If you normally donate to parish funds using FWO envelopes and wish to continue doing so for this incoming year (commencing 1st January 2022), your FWO envelopes should be with this copy of your Parish Notes.

If by any chance you do not receive them, please contact me, (tel, 90 778428 or email, noel_innisfayle@msn.com) and I will investigate!

Thank you.

Noel Beattie

Is life getting you down? Would you like someone to talk to?

At HOPE Counselling we are:

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Tel: 07902 523883

Email: hopecounselling1@hotmail.com

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

by Rosemary Johnston

Unsung Heroes—Volunteers

There are people in our community who few of us know anything about. They are many and varied and come from all walks of life. Some work within well known organisations such as the RNLI and the NI Hospice where some of our own parishioners have been involved for many years. Some help because they feel it is the right thing to do, eg, helping neighbours with shopping or making sure they are all right, especially during the pandemic. Others work in their communities, including in areas where trouble is liable to break out at any moment. Some go out at night providing a safe place for homeless people to find shelter. One such person is Philip Lee, an architect by day, a ‘Good Samaritan’ by night. Philip has kindly provided us with information relating to his charity ‘Manna4Many’—Street Aid for the Homeless.

*Heavenly Father, we pray for your blessing on all
who give of their time to help those in need.*

“Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”



The direct benefits that flow from this organisation are that homeless people and rough sleepers in Northern Ireland are provided with the necessities of life, medical advice, and with practical and emotional support to help them survive and hopefully move off the streets, relieving their poverty, anxiety, poor health and distress. Manna4Many also helps our homeless to access temporary accommodation, and, if necessary, addiction services, and other support services and facilities which can relieve their need and also provides assistance with tackling any underlying issues affecting their lives such as mental ill-health and

addiction. Persons in need on low incomes are supplied with clothing, toys, books, furniture and other household accessories, eg, safe electrical white goods, either free or at low cost in order to relieve their poverty and hardship.

It all started with volunteers getting the opportunity to open a charity shop at 140 North Queen Street, where furniture, clothes and other goods could be sold to buy food to be distributed to the needy in order to demonstrate God’s outreach and goodness. This distribution of food and warm clothing was established using some redundant post delivery hand trucks donated from The Post Office. A truck wagon was also sourced which now acts as a weekly feeding station (see photo). Also two elderly buses were donated. With the help of expert assistance from Arcus Architects, the interiors of these buses were stripped out and reconfigured to provide private bedding in a mobile facility (see photo).

If you would like to help the work of Manna4Many we encourage you to give sleeping bags, or cash, or a cheque payable to “The Parish of St Peter and St James, Belfast”, and bring them to church or to the parish office in an envelope marked “Manna4Many”. All donations (or offers of support: contact Stanley Donaghey tel 07747 683360) are very welcome. Thank you.

Daphne McClements



IN MEMORIAM
WILLIAM (BILLY) GINN

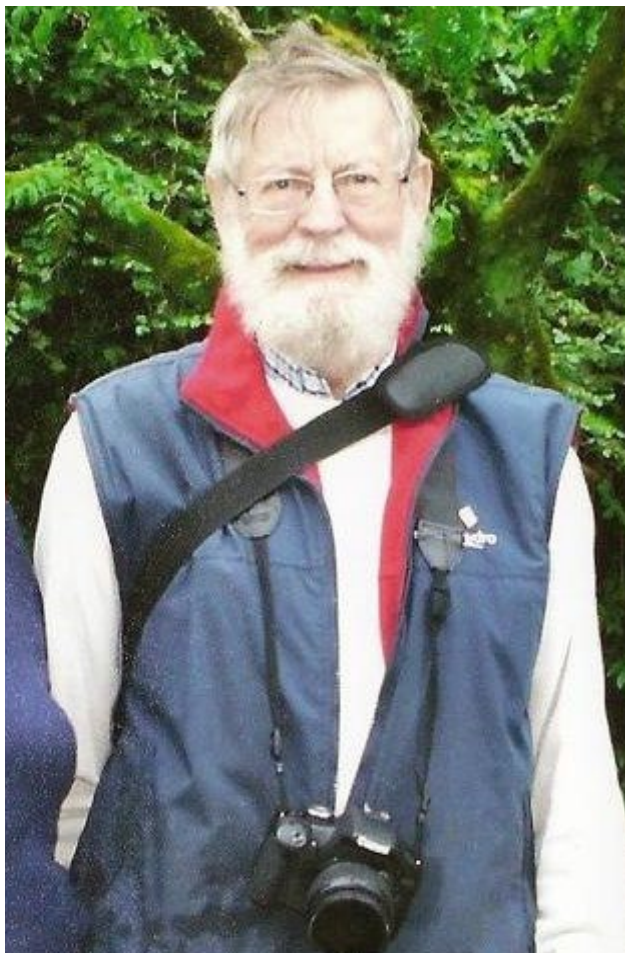


Funeral at St Peter's on Wednesday 23rd December 2020
followed by Committal at Lambeg Graveyard

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".

IN MEMORIAM
ANTHONY (TONY) SWAN



Funeral at St Peter's on Wednesday 30th December 2020
followed by Committal at Roselawn Crematorium

*Please send material for the February 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 24th January. Thank you.*

P A R I S H C O N N O R T A C T S

Rector:	The Rev'd Brian Lacey	90 777 053	brianlacey@stpeterbelfast.org
Parish Administrator:	Mrs Anne Cromie	90 776 706	annecromie@stpeterbelfast.org
Organist and Choir Master:	Mr Robert Thompson	25 631 505	marlaghldodge@gmail.com
Honorary Assistant Priest:	Rev'd Dr Ken Houston	90 771 830	skhouston43@gmail.com
Ministry Assistant (Griefshare):	Mrs Sarah Coates	07734 850060	sarahcoates@stpeterbelfast.org
Ministry Assistant:	Mr David Cromie	90 775 669	davidcromie@stpeterbelfast.org
Ministry Assistant (TLG):	Mrs Laura Lacey	90 777 053	lauralacey@stpeterbelfast.org
Rector's Churchwarden:	Miss Daphne McClements	07730 127350	daphnemcclements@stpeterbelfast.org
People's Churchwarden:	Mrs Dora Hanna	95 733 374	dorahanna@stpeterbelfast.org
Co-ordinator for Intercessors:	Mrs Rosemary Johnston	90 840 534	sehutchman@hotmail.com
Co-ordinator for Lectors:	Mrs Sandra Hutchman	95 149 564	sbdavison@hotmail.com
Co-ordinator for Flowers:	Mrs Sandra Davison	94 439 230	
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Honorary Treasurer:	Mrs Ashlee McCune	95 739 988	
FWO & Gift Aid Secretary:	Mr Noel Beattie	90 778 428	noelbeattie@stpeterbelfast.org
Badminton:	Mr Harold Jacobs	90 779 945	harold.jacobs@btinternet.com
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Bridge:	Mrs Florrie Greer	90 776 812	florriregreer@gmail.com
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Guides & Senior Guides:	Ms Lee Kennedy	90 772 023	lee_kennedy@btinternet.com
Rainbow Guides:	Ms Lee Kennedy	90 772 023	lee_kennedy@btinternet.com
Scouts:	Mrs Valerie Gibson	90 772 699	gibsonvalerie01@gmail.com
Walking Group:	Mrs Jill Bradley	90 842 998	jill.bradley1@btinternet.com

Produced by the Parish Office of St Peter and St James, Belfast

www.stpeters.connor.anglican.org www.facebook.com/stpeterbelfast

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