

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES, BELFAST

# PARISH NOTES

JUNE 2022

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



*From left: Annette, Dora,  
Geraldine, Jill and Thelma  
who walked 20 miles  
in aid of Christian Aid.*

**GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE**



To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee there will be light refreshments in the halls following the 11am service on Sunday 5th June. Everyone welcome!

## Spread the word ...

We are trying to engage more with our neighbours and would like to leave copies of Parish Notes in some public spaces. If you have access to such places, eg, doctors' or dentists' surgeries, leisure centres, coffee shops etc, please let Anne Cromie, know and she can provide you with as many extra copies as you like. Let's not hide our light under a bushel!

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# RECTOR'S NOTES



## SERVICES IN JUNE

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June (**The Day of Pentecost**) there will be a Family Service at 10am, followed by a celebration of Holy Communion at 11am. Pentecost, also known as Whitsunday, is one of the three principle holy days in the Christian Calendar, on a par with Christmas and Easter. Please do make every effort to worship in St Peter's that morning. As the colour red is associated with the Holy Spirit, whom we celebrate on this day, please wear something red if you can!

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June (**Trinity Sunday**) there will be a celebration of Holy Communion at 10am, followed by a Service of the Word at 11am.

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June (**The First Sunday after Trinity**) there will be Morning Prayer at 10am, followed by Holy Communion at 11am. The guest celebrant and preacher at 11am will be the Rev'd Clifford Skillen. He will be marking the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of his Ordination, so please make sure to support and encourage him in his ministry.

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June (**Petertide Sunday**) there be a celebration of Holy Communion at 10am, followed by Morning Prayer (Form One) at 11am in traditional-language. This is the day on which we give thanks for our parish, and ask God's blessing upon our future.

Throughout the month, the mid-week services on Wednesdays at 10.30am continue as usual. The last Wednesday of the month (29<sup>th</sup> June) is the **Feast Day of St Peter**, so in addition to Holy Communion at 10.30am, there will also be Festival Choral Evensong at 7.30pm.

## **FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

Each Wednesday throughout June, we will be serving a light lunch at midday in our parish halls. In addition to something to eat, we will enjoy games, quizzes, and activities. Nothing too tasking—just a bit of fun. This is entirely free, and it's open to anyone in our local community, no matter if they worship elsewhere or nowhere. So please do invite or bring along your friends or neighbours.

To help with catering, please let me know if you intend to join us, by emailing [brianlacey@stpeterbelfast.org](mailto:brianlacey@stpeterbelfast.org) or phoning 90777053.

## **COMMUNITY LARDER**

If you would like to provide hygiene products and non-perishable food to support members of our local community who are struggling financially, then please leave your donation at the back of the church. This will be an ongoing ministry, so don't feel you need to buy in bulk immediately—just a little on a regular basis would be very helpful. The idea is that these products will be on display in the south porch, and—whenever the church is open—anyone can come and take what they need. Any surplus items will be donated to the Welcome Organisation for the homeless.

## **NORTH BELFAST FOOD BANK**

The Trussell Trust operates the North Belfast Food Bank, of which our closest branch is at the Ekenhead Memorial Halls, just up the North Circular Road. They are always in need of certain food products. Currently, they need: long life orange juice; UHT milk; cooking oil; dried potatoes; and tinned fish.

Note that these items should not be donated to the local branch, but to the central warehouse, so please bring your donations to St Peter's rather than to the Ekenhead Memorial Halls—even if you happen to live nearby.



## DIOCESAN READER

Since just before Christmas, Mr Graham Chipperfield (*pictured receiving his parting gift*) joined us in St Peter's on one or two occasions each month to further his education and experience as a Diocesan Reader. Going forward, he will be called upon to lead services and preach throughout our diocese, which essentially covers all of County Antrim. In addition to his services in St Peter's, he also led worship on a few occasions in



our neighbouring parish of St Paul & St Barnabas. It is always a pleasure for me, (and certainly for the congregation) to have a change of voice from the pulpit, so I am grateful to Graham for giving me a few Sundays off preaching duties, whilst at the same time giving him more experience of leading services outside of his home parish.

However, although his placement in St Peter's ended in recent weeks, you will see him—and hopefully his lovely wife Alison—before too long, as he will be invited back for holiday cover over the summer.

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June, the Rev'd Andrew Irwin will be introduced as the new Curate of our neighbouring parish of St Paul & St Barnabas. He will also become our own Associate Minister in St Peter & St James, and you will encounter him at our own parish events and on occasional Sunday or Wednesday services. We will also be covering for each other during holidays, so he will become your first port of call if I am away.



As part of this reciprocal arrangement, I will—with very little fanfare—be appointed as the Priest-in-Charge of St Paul & St Barnabas in addition to remaining Rector of St Peter & St James. The intention is to create a missional area in north Belfast, in which we foster a joint strategy for sustaining and developing the mission and ministries of the Church across the two parishes.

It would be good for relationship-building between our parishes if some of our members would attend St Paul's for Andrew's Service of Introduction at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June. Please let me know if you would like to go. He will be celebrating Holy Communion in St Peter's at our mid-week service at 10.30am on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Come along if you would like to meet him.

## CHRISTIAN AID

Congratulations to this year's team of Christian Aid fundraisers: Geraldine Amruth, Annette Beattie, Jill Bradley, Thelma Cross, and Dora Hanna (see front cover). Over the course of five mornings during Christian Aid Week, they walked a total of 20 miles. Thank you to all who have been so generous in sponsoring them. If you haven't already, then you can pick up a Christian Aid envelope in the church, or you can write a cheque to "St Peter and St James, Belfast" with "Christian Aid" written on the back. Monies raised will go towards helping to alleviate poverty in some of the poorest places in the world.

## IF WE CAN HELP, WE WILL

On the Sunday of Christian Aid Week, I played short video clip in church which showed us how that charity is helping some of the poorest people in the world. It introduced us to a lady called Janet, who lives in Africa in an area of very poor soil. And we saw how she had been taught how to use drought-resistant crops, so that she and her community could continue to provide food for themselves even in the very hot environment in which they live.

But, of course, food poverty is not unique to far flung places. It exists in Belfast too—and not just amongst those who one might typically imagine to be poor. Food poverty can and does affect people who you would not expect. But very often, it is hidden, because many are—wrongly—embarrassed that they cannot provide themselves and their families with the quantity or quality of food that one might expect in a modern, developed country, such as our own.

There were some shocking statistics in the news recently which stated that 4.4 million people in the UK are—what is called—*food insecure*, which formally means that they are “without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.” Of

those 4.4 million, one million people have reported that they or someone from their household have had to go at least one full day without eating anything each month. And if you listened to the stories on the news, you will have heard of parents being unable to eat, because whatever little food they had available to them, they gave to their children. Or in some cases, particularly with the elderly, the choice often has to be made between eating or heating. Unfortunately, the “cost of living crisis” which we are currently experiencing, has already, and will continue to, exacerbated this problem. And the war in Ukraine will make it even worse.

Again, if you listen to the news, you will have heard that, under normal circumstances, Ukraine and Russia produce 30% of the world supply of wheat and maize. Much of that is now wasting away in Ukraine, unable to be exported, because of the Russian blockade in the Black Sea. And as countries turn to other suppliers to fill that gap, the cost of global food has gone up by a third. That will, as I have said, affect many people in our society, but it will do a tremendous amount of harm to the poor in the Middle East and Africa. So, as much as we are able, we must continue to support charities such as Christian Aid, but also here at home, we need to find ways to support the most vulnerable.

One obvious way for us to do so, is to routinely donate certain products to our own local foodbank, managed by the Trussell Trust, just a stone’s throw away at the Ekenhead Memorial Halls. We will put a collection trolley at the back of the church, and as often as you like throughout the year, please do contribute whatever you can. Just note, however, that they regularly update the list of what they do and do not need. So, for example, they do not need beans, tea, coffee, sugar, or pasta, but they do need long life orange juice, UHT milk, cooking oil, dried potatoes, and tinned fish. I’ll put that list at the back of the church as often as it updates, to let you know what to donate if you would like to help.

But believe it or not, there are limitations as to who can access a



food bank, and how often, so there is a general need for us to provide food for people who are struggling, who either do not meet the criteria to use a food bank, or who are not comfortable asking for help. One thing we can do is to start—what you might call—a *community larder*, perhaps in our south porch. And this would involve nothing more than bringing down any spare items of non-perishable or long-life food that you have in your cupboards, and leaving it here. And when the church building is open (which it will be more often from now on) anyone can come and take what they need. No strings. No questions asked. And if you're a "glass half empty" sort of person who thinks that we shouldn't do this because it might be abused by people taking more than they need, well I'd rather they did that, than go hungry.

Here in St Peter's, we have a particular duty to be concerned about this. Because, by and large, the people in this area are a little better off than the average for Belfast. And here in the leafy suburbs, we can all too often forget (or choose to ignore) that there are many in our society—maybe even our own neighbours—who are really struggling financially. And their struggles are not about whether or not they can afford two holidays abroad this year—they're over whether or not they can have two decent meals each week. So, and this message is for anyone who is financially comfortable, if you can help, then please do. Support our fundraising for charities to help those around the world, and start bringing in donations to help people here in north Belfast.

And for those who may be struggling, don't be afraid to ask for help. There are many charities and agencies that can support you. And if some day you find you cannot put food on the table for yourself or your family, come to me in confidence and the Church will help. We're not rich, but what we can do, we will.

Going forward, through this cost-of-living crisis, that should be our motto, as a Church and as individuals—"What we can do, we will—in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord."

# Happy 122nd Birthday to us!

We have four special services in late June as we celebrate both Saint Peter, our patron saint, and also the anniversary of the opening of our beautiful place of worship in 1900.

## **Dedication Festival** **Petertide Sunday, 26th June**

10am Holy Communion

11am Choral Matins (Form One)

## **Patronal Festival** **Saint Peter's Day, Wednesday, 29th June**

10.30am Holy Communion

7.30pm Choral Evensong (Form One)

## **Celebratory Lunch**

Following our main morning service on Sunday 26th June, there will be a light lunch for our congregation in the Lansdowne Hotel. The cost is only £5 per person. Food will be served from 12.30pm. Please sign up at the back of the church, or inform one of the churchwardens, Daphne and Dora, by Wednesday 15th June.

## **The Big Clean** **Saturday 11th June, 10am—12noon**

On Saturday 11th June we are asking for as many people as possible to come from 10am—12noon to 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, and come along to help.



SERVICES IN JUNE	OFFICIANT	LECTOR	PREACHER	INTERCESSOR
<b>WEDNESDAY 1ST JUNE—EASTERIDE (WHITE)</b>				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Rector	Rector	Rosemary Johnston
<b>SUNDAY 5TH JUNE—THE DAY OF PENTECOST—WHITSUNTIDE (RED)</b>				
10am Family Service	Rector	Rector	Rector	Rector
11am Holy Communion	Rector	David Cromie	Rector	David Cromie
<b>WEDNESDAY 8TH JUNE—WHITSUNTIDE (RED)</b>				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Rector	Rector	Daphne McClements
<b>SUNDAY 12TH JUNE—TRINITY SUNDAY—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)</b>				
10am Holy Communion	Rector	Rector	Rector	Daphne McClements
11am Morning Prayer	David Cromie	Hilary Shields	Rector	David Cromie
<b>WEDNESDAY 15TH JUNE—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)</b>				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Rector	Rector	Marie Burrowes
<b>SUNDAY 19TH JUNE—THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)</b>				
10am Morning Prayer	David Cromie	Dora Hanna	David Cromie	David Cromie
11am Holy Communion	Rev'd Clifford Skillen	Sandra Hutchman	Rev'd Clifford Skillen	Colin Bell
<b>WEDNESDAY 22ND JUNE—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)</b>				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rev'd Andrew Irwin	Rev'd Andrew Irwin	Rev'd Andrew Irwin	Forde Patterson
<b>SUNDAY 26TH JUNE—PETERIDE SUNDAY—PETERIDE (RED)</b>				
10am Holy Communion	Rector	Rector	Rector	Dora Hanna
11am Morning Prayer (Form 1)	Rector	David Cromie	Rector	David Cromie
<b>WEDNESDAY 29TH JUNE—SAINT PETER'S DAY—PETERIDE (RED)</b>				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Rector	Rector	Dora Hanna
7.30pm Evening Prayer (Form 1)	David Cromie	David Cromie	-	David Cromie

## PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

by Rosemary Johnston

### But for the Grace of God ...

Sometimes the News is so bad, eg, in Ukraine, or elsewhere in the world, where war and civil strife seem to be ongoing, that it is easy to mentally switch off because the situation is too awful to contemplate and because we can feel so helpless and unable to do anything to make things better. But those affected by such horrors have no such luxury, often there is no way of escape for people still trapped in some places in Ukraine where the situation can change every day. We pray that those still trapped may be rescued and that this dreadful war does not last for years. We are so fortunate to live far from such terrors. We also hear about those caught up in the reign of terror wrought by drug barons in places like Central and South America. I know I cannot stop the nightmare of violence wherever it is happening, but I cannot simply ignore it. Supporting the work of NGOs can help in some instances where brave people work in areas I would be afraid to go to, eg, Mexico or Colombia. We can donate to their work and pray for them. In many of these countries, poverty plays a part and many NGOs work with those in extreme poverty to improve their lives and to attempt to turn young people away from the clutches of the drug barons. We pray that those working so hard, and in such danger may be blessed and protected as they go about their invaluable work.

We came through 30 years of violence in this country, and, thank God, life is a lot less dangerous today, but we still have that undercurrent of distrust and uncertainty. This is nominally a Christian country. May we pray that we become a more Christ-like people, following the teachings of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who taught us that love of friend and enemy is our duty.

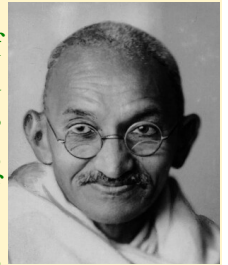


# Impressions of India

*by Jill Bradley*

Some years ago I was invited to visit south India with a group of ten Christian Aid supporters from Ireland. The purpose of the trip was to visit development projects funded in part by Christian Aid.

The first project we visited was in the district around the town of Thiruvavur, some 180 miles south of Chennai. In order to get there we experienced train travel—Indian style—an overnight journey. The sleeping accommodation was on three-tier bunks open to the corridors—very hard and very public! Quite an experience. In this area, known as the ‘rice bowl of India’ we visited our first project in a village called Meppallam where an organisation called LAFTI (Land for Tillers’ Freedom) is fighting for the right of the ‘landless’ to buy their own plot of land. The landless are people of low caste or those outside the caste system—the so-called ‘untouchables’ who traditionally have been forced to work on the land of rich landlords and who had no means of buying land for themselves. It was founded by Mr & Mrs Krishanamal who modelled themselves on Ghandi, believing in a non-violent means of redistribution of land. LAFTI negotiated with the banks for loans, with the government to get stamp duty and registration fees waived and with landlords themselves, persuading some of them to sell land to these people—one acre per family—and advanced the people with money to buy. The loan to be paid back over a five year period.



In that first village we watched the ladies, who did most of the work in the rice fields, parade down to the field carrying the rice plants ready for transplanting, spread themselves out across the field and start



the methodical transplanting so adeptly they made it look easy. They sang as they worked. A very moving sight, full of colour from the ladies' saris and full of purpose as these ladies were now working for themselves and their families, not for their landlords. This was the first transplanting of the land since its purchase—we were privileged to be there.



A project that went hand in hand with the struggle for land was the forming of nursery schools or 'balwadis'. These provided care for young children thus freeing their mothers to go to work in the fields. Most of the balwadis provided a nutritious meal for the children.

One of the aspects of LAFTI's work which impressed us was the courage and energy of the women who had not enjoyed the 'rights' which women in our society take for granted. Much of the purchased land is now registered in women's names.

From Thiruvavur we moved a further 120 miles south to a town call Sivaganga where we visited projects on re-forestation, crop growing and irrigation, animal husbandry and cottage industries—all aimed at helping the villages to be self-sufficient.

First of all we heard how IRCDS (Integrated Rural Co-operative Development Society) had organised their villagers to plant and tend very productive kitchen gardens. In the one we visited we saw a multitude of crops such as papayas, guavas, custard apples, jackfruits, bananas, lemons, limes, pomegranates, mangoes, coconuts, peanuts, cashew nuts, tomatoes, cucumbers, yams, chillies—the list was endless. They had also planted trees for wood such as teak, rosewood and tamarind.



A problem in this area was the drop in the water table due to the drawing off of too many bore wells—an organisation called ASSEFA (Association of Sarva Seva Farms) had developed a way of using the water available efficiently in their orchards. They placed a pot with a small hole in it in the ground beside each tree and when watering left the pot full. The small hole permitted the water to flow out gradually to the tree, supplying a steady flow of water and prevented waste.

ASSEFA also worked hard developing ‘cottage industries’ such as basket weaving, dressmaking, leather work and synthetic gem cutting. They had an artificial insemination programme for improving stock, they established village libraries and set up a co-operative bank to help villagers purchase seeds, raw materials etc.

Then we went from Sivaganga to the city of Madurai to spend our first day off-duty. It was Sunday, so we went to the CSI (Church of South India) and enjoyed the service even though it was conducted in Tamil. There were a few musicians and a choir leading the worship and at the end we were treated to a rendition of ‘Danny Boy’—we were all very touched. We met the minister and were very impressed by how the church was ministering to the poor in its area. They could also teach us a thing or two about unity.

By good chance we were there for the Hindu festival of Divali (Festival of Lights) which is a bit like their equivalent to our Christmas.

We were fortunate to be invited into an Indian household to participate in their celebrations.



The visit started at 8am with breakfast of rice cakes and curry accompanied by sweet tea, followed by a selection of sweetmeats. After breakfast the family members all received a gift—the ladies and girls a new sari—the men and boys a new shirt. These were all put on and then there was a session of fireworks ranging from sparklers to firecrackers.



From Madurai we returned to Chennai—a journey of over 300 miles—again by train—no more comfortable but we were getting used to it!



*Railway carriage showing the three-tier bunks open to the corridors!*

Back in Chennai we visited a slum programme run by MCCSS (Madras Christian Council of Social Service), which was jointly run by the CSI and Roman Catholic Church. It was a slum of 10,000 people living on four acres. We saw how great efforts were being made to improve housing, to give vocational guidance and to teach health care. It added up to a very positive picture—much good work was being done but sadly sometimes the development workers came up against the greed of commercial developers.

So far all our visits had been in the province of Tamil Nadu; next we headed off to Hyderabad to the north of Chennai in the province of Andhra Pradesh—this time a 16 hour rail journey—to visit projects organised by DDS (Deccan Development Society). This area was semi-desert and the people were noticeably poorer. The DDS were tackling the problems created by erosion and de-forestation. They called their method the ‘barefoot philosophy’ meaning that experts worked in and through the villages. These experts included kindergarten teachers, health workers and forestry technicians.

In this area we heard how child marriage was very common and met one little girl who had run away from home to escape an arranged marriage taking refuge at the DDS training centre.

Our final visit was to the Eva Mair Polytechnic in Hyderabad and was a very inspiring one. Founded and run by Mrs Dorothy Ebenezer who started off under a tree with 19 girls, an old typewriter and a sewing machine, it had flourished into a successful academy catering for 400 girls. Mrs Ebenezer’s achievement was remarkable considering how little she started with just 12 years previously. In her



struggle to raise funds she had had great difficulty convincing Christian Aid that she was worthy of their support!

The whole trip was a wonderful experience for me and I would not have liked to have missed it. I still feel very privileged to have been able to participate. As well as the sunshine, colour and smiling faces, I shall always remember the dignity of the people who had so little yet worked so hard.

Christian Aid continues to have diverse partnerships in India, with grassroots organisations, networks and campaigns, ecumenical organisations, research institutions and the private sector. They work in 16 states with 27 active partners, in particular working on social exclusion, governance and human rights, and sustainable livelihoods.

In the photo below another Christian Aid partner, SAAL (The Sustainable Agro Alliance), supports a group of 12 women who produce natural bio-inputs as alternatives to chemical fertilisers and pesticides in Tamil Nadu. Trained at the agricultural university there, the group has been making and selling their bio-inputs to farmers for over 10 years and demand is increasing!



As a postscript, I would like to add that my visit to the various Christian Aid projects confirmed my belief in the work of Christian Aid. I saw for myself the good use which is made of Christian Aid support and how much it is appreciated.

Needless to say, all the work of Christian Aid in India and throughout

## Church grounds

I wish to thank, most sincerely, all those who have put their name forward to assist in keeping our beautiful church grounds in pristine condition to be enjoyed, and complimented upon, by those passing on the Antrim Road. We are very grateful to you for giving of your valuable time. We could *still* do with an additional two volunteers to help spread the work load around.

Whilst Annette and I can pull weeds, we are not expert gardeners. Fortunately we have someone who has recently joined the parish and who is, by profession, a respected horticulturist. He will be advising us on what needs to be pruned, dug out or burnt; but we will be doing the work.

As a parish we look after each other so, if you need professional gardening advice or work undertaken, please speak with Garnet Maguire (tel 07786 980720) but please remember that any work or advice given by him will be on a professional, business basis as it is how he makes his living.

Again many thanks to our volunteers and thanks in advance to the two who are about to submit their names!  
*Noel Beattie*

## JUNE FLOWER LIST

5<sup>TH</sup> JOAN LAWTHER AND FAMILY IN MEMORY OF BOBBY

Thank you to all who give of their time and effort in beautifying the church with flowers. If practicable, flowers should be in keeping with the liturgical colour of the season, particularly during Advent and Lent.



## North Belfast Historical Society

We are hoping to hold an AGM on Thursday 18th August. More details will appear in the July/August Parish Notes. Watch this space!

*Daphne McClements*



## 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](mailto: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.



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*Please send material for the July/August issue of Parish Notes to:  
Anne Cromie, Parish Administrator, St Peter's Church,  
Fortwilliam Drive, Belfast BT15 4EB  
or email: [annecromie@stpeterbelfast.org](mailto:annecromie@stpeterbelfast.org)  
by Monday 20th June. Thank you.*

# PARISH CONTACTS

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Rector: The Rev'd Brian Lacey 90 777 053 [brianlacey@stpeterbelfast.org](mailto:brianlacey@stpeterbelfast.org)  
Parish Administrator: Mrs Anne Cromie 90 776 706 [annecromie@stpeterbelfast.org](mailto:annecromie@stpeterbelfast.org)  
Organist and Choir Master: Mr Robert Thompson 25 631 505 [marlaghodge@gmail.com](mailto:marlaghodge@gmail.com)  
Honorary Assistant Priest: Rev'd Dr Ken Houston 90 771 830 [skhouston43@gmail.com](mailto:skhouston43@gmail.com)  
Ministry Assistant: Mr David Cromie 90 775 669 [davidcromie@stpeterbelfast.org](mailto:davidcromie@stpeterbelfast.org)  
Ministry Assistant (TLG): Mrs Laura Lacey 90 777 053 [lauralacey@stpeterbelfast.org](mailto:lauralacey@stpeterbelfast.org)

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Rector's Churchwarden: Miss Daphne McClements 07730 127350 [daphnemcclements@stpeterbelfast.org](mailto:daphnemcclements@stpeterbelfast.org)  
People's Churchwarden: Mrs Dora Hanna 95 733 374 [dorahanna@stpeterbelfast.org](mailto:dorahanna@stpeterbelfast.org)  
Co-ordinator for Intercessors: Mrs Rosemary Johnston 90 840 534  
Co-ordinator for Lectors: Mrs Sandra Hutchman 95 149 564 [sehutchman@hotmail.com](mailto:sehutchman@hotmail.com)  
Co-ordinator for Flowers: Mrs Sandra Davison 94 439 230 [sbdavison@hotmail.com](mailto:sbdavison@hotmail.com)  
Co-ordinator for Groundskeeping: Mr Noel Beattie 90 778 428 [noelbeattie@stpeterbelfast.org](mailto:noelbeattie@stpeterbelfast.org)

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Rector's Glebewarden: Mr Victor Davis 90 771 197 [davisvictor9@aol.com](mailto:davisvictor9@aol.com)  
People's Glebewarden: Mr Peter Mulligan 07850 492572 [pjmulligan1@outlook.com](mailto:pjmulligan1@outlook.com)  
Honorary Secretary: Mrs Yvonne Crozier 07525 134947 [yvonnecrozier@stpeterbelfast.org](mailto:yvonnecrozier@stpeterbelfast.org)  
Honorary Treasurer: Mrs Ashlee McCune 07801 556386 [ashleemcune@hotmail.com](mailto:ashleemcune@hotmail.com)  
FWO & Gift Aid Secretary: Mr Noel Beattie 90 778 428 [noelbeattie@stpeterbelfast.org](mailto:noelbeattie@stpeterbelfast.org)

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Bridge: Mrs Florrie Greer 90 776 812 [florriregreer@gmail.com](mailto:florriregreer@gmail.com)  
Brownie Guides: Ms Lee Kennedy 90 772 023 [lee\\_kennedy@btinternet.com](mailto:lee_kennedy@btinternet.com)  
Crafty Goodness: Miss Daphne McClements 07730 127350 [daffersmcclements@btinternet.com](mailto:daffersmcclements@btinternet.com)  
Guides & Senior Guides: Ms Lee Kennedy 90 772 023 [lee\\_kennedy@btinternet.com](mailto:lee_kennedy@btinternet.com)  
Rainbow Guides: Ms Lee Kennedy 90 772 023 [lee\\_kennedy@btinternet.com](mailto:lee_kennedy@btinternet.com)  
Walking Group: Mrs Jill Bradley 90 842 998 [jill.bradley1@btinternet.com](mailto:jill.bradley1@btinternet.com)

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