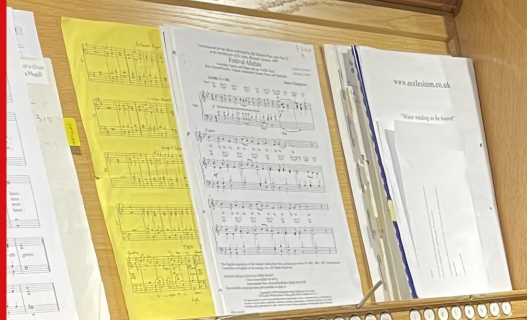


THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES, BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

JULY/AUGUST 2022

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



*Robert Thompson
Parish Organist*

GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE

Christian Aid 2022

As a result of our sponsored walk, we have raised £1,050 this year for Christian Aid. Many thanks to all of you who have generously donated. Be assured your support will be very much appreciated by Christian Aid and that the money will be put to good use. The total is slightly up from last year—in spite of the rising cost of living—so well done! Again a big thank you to all—not least to my fellow walkers. *Jill Bradley*



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Anne Cromie
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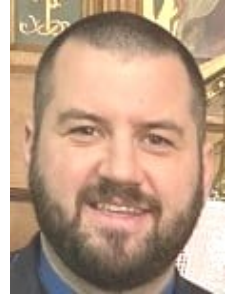
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RECTOR'S NOTES



SERVICES IN JULY AND AUGUST

Throughout the two months, there will only be one service each Sunday – at 11am. The 10am services will resume in September. We will be celebrating three Saints' Days during July and August:

- ◆ St Thomas (Sunday 3rd July)
- ◆ St James the Apostle (Sunday 24th July, transferred)
- ◆ St Bartholomew (Wednesday 24th August)

Our pattern of services follows the usual cycle of Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of each month, and Morning Prayer on the second and fourth. There is a fifth Sunday on 31st July which will be a Healing Service. The Rev'd Clifford Skillen and Mr Graham Chipperfield will be our guest preachers over the summer, on Sunday 3rd July and Sunday 10th July, respectively.

PASTORAL COVER

If you or a loved one require the prayerful comfort of Scripture or Sacrament, please ring me at the Rectory using the landline telephone on 90777053. Emails, texts, and social media messages are unreliable in a pastoral emergency, and may not be seen—particularly if I am on holiday. If at any time I am away over the summer, the answer machine message on the rectory landline will inform you of whom to contact if a crisis should arise. There are also Chaplains attached to the hospitals; a visit by them can be arranged by the person in hospital via a nurse, or by a family member. Their contact details are listed on the diocesan website at <https://connor.anglican.org/about-us/connor-diocese/hospital-chaplains/>.

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

The Rev'd Andrew Irwin was licensed as Curate of St Paul & St Barnabas on Wednesday 8th June, at St Paul's Church on York Road. As I explained in last month's issue of the Parish Notes, I was—at the same time—licensed as the Priest-in-Charge of that parish. Although I have been given that fancy title, my duties have not substantially changed, as I have had oversight of the parish since November 2020 as Rural Dean. Going forward, I will continue to chair meetings of their Select Vestry, but the day to day management of the parish's worship, mission, and ministries, will be the responsibility of the Rev'd Andrew.

Photographed at the service (courtesy of Karen Bushby, Diocesan Communications Officer) were, from left to right, Mrs Kate Crothers (Parish Reader), The Ven Barry Forde (Archdeacon of Belfast), The Rev'd Brian Lacey (Priest-in-Charge),

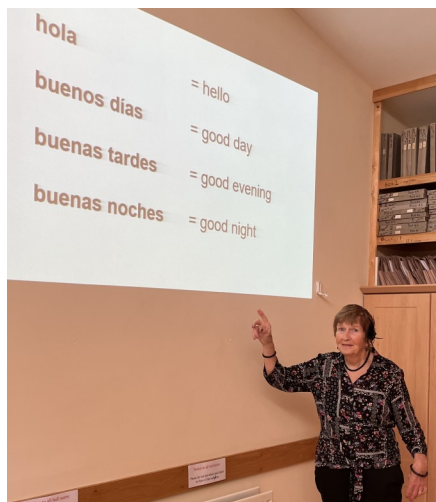


The Right Rev'd George Davison (Bishop), The Rev'd Andrew Irwin (Curate), The Rev'd Canon William Taggart (Diocesan Registrar), and The Ven Roderic West (guest preacher).

At my invitation, the Rev'd Andrew will also become the Associate Minister of St Peter & St James. You will occasionally see him at our parish events, and he will be the person to contact in the event of a pastoral emergency if I am on holiday. As he will have his own services of worship to conduct in St Paul's, you will not regularly see him in St Peter's on Sundays, but perhaps a few times a year we will do a pulpit swap. This new arrangement is a core component of the new missional area that is being developed in north Belfast. In the Autumn, representatives of the two parishes will meet together to examine the mission and ministries of the Christian Church in our local area, and determine a joint approach to advancing God's Kingdom.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

It has been really lovely to invite members of the local community into our halls each Wednesday in June for our Friendship Club. We have been treated to lunch by Peter Mulligan, quizzes by David Cromie, and activities led by Jill Bradley (Spanish for Beginners), Sandra Hutchman (Relaxation), Cheryl Hurson (Creative Writing) and Timothy Wilson (Singing). Thank you to them, and to all who have helped with setting-up and catering.



CHOIR

Our Parish Choir will take their summer break throughout July and August, with the exception of a brief return for St James' Day on Sunday 24th July. We are very grateful for the dedication and talent of our choir, led by Robert Thompson, our Organist & Choir Master, and the superb contribution they all make to our services of worship. Robert is pictured on our front cover, presiding at the organ console, and he has kindly written a little about himself elsewhere in these Parish Notes.

QUEEN'S JUBILEE

We were treated at lunchtime on Sunday 5th June to a Jubilee Tea Party, as we celebrated the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne in 1952. The party was hosted by Ashlee McCune, her husband Albert George, and their three sons. Many thanks to all of them for organising and hosting this lovely event. As well as food and fellowship, the Queen herself made an appearance—of sorts!



COMMUNITY LARDER

I will soon be advertising our Community Larder, which will provide basic food and hygiene products to anyone who needs it. The products will be available in our south porch, and anyone is free to come to collect what they like whenever the church is open. Thank you to those who have contributed items in the green box at the back of the church already. Please continue to donate whenever you can throughout the year. If you are struggling financially, then please remember that Advice NI (the

new name for the Citizen's Advice Bureau) can advise you on how to budget effectively and manage debt; they can also negotiate with creditors on your behalf. Moreover, you might be eligible for tax relief and it's always worthwhile to find out—it can make a big difference.

GOD IS CALLING YOU TO SERVE

The spiritual gift of “speaking in tongues” is not, as some would have you believe, an indication of whether or not you are really a Christian. At Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and gave them this spiritual gift, it was to enable them to communicate the gospel to people from all around the world. That had obvious practical application, but there was also a great deal of symbolism in that moment—the proclamation of the Gospel was no longer restricted to the Jews who spoke Hebrew or Aramaic. It was now to be spread far and wide to all nations, all cultures, all peoples. To do so, the Apostles needed to be able to communicate the Gospel in a way that people from all around the world would understand, and they were therefore given the gift of speaking in tongues. They spoke and—by the power of the Holy Spirit—the people could understand them.

What was happening at Pentecost, therefore, was that the Apostles received the ability they needed to fulfil their calling. They weren't speaking in tongues as evidence of super spirituality. They spoke in tongues in order to do their God-given job.

The same applies to us in our own calling as members of the Christian Church today. God the Holy Spirit changes us, to make us fit for purpose in his plan for the world. It's vital that we understand this, because all too often we, in the secular world, tend to look at people for the abilities and interests that they already have, and then we select them to undertake tasks appropriate to their ability. So, as an easy example, if you want to hire a gardener, you need to find someone who enjoys working outdoors, who doesn't mind getting their hands dirty, who

understands how plants grow, and who is able to nurture them. You would expect a person to tick all those boxes before you let them anywhere near your prize geraniums or whatever else it is that you have.

The Christian Church, however, is not like that. Or at least, it is not supposed to be. When God looks at us (and remember, he knows us better than we know ourselves) he sees not just what we have been, and what we can do—he also sees our potential, what we can become. So he therefore calls us to a function within his Church, based not on what our abilities are, but on what they could be. That's why I often tell you never to say “no” whenever you are asked to be involved in something in the Church. Because your “no” often comes from a place of insecurity in your mind where, based on your own assessment of your abilities, you do not believe yourself to be up to the challenge. But that assessment only takes into consideration who you are now, and not who you can become.

On the other hand, when we say “yes” to God, even though we may doubt ourselves, God provides us with the ability to do what needs to be done. We must learn to say “yes”, and we must be prepared for God to change us—to make us fit for purpose.

For some of you, that purpose may be very obvious to everyone else, particularly if it involves standing at the front on a Sunday morning. But God is not just interested in getting people involved in worship; he calls us also to mission and ministry. And that could mean anything, from organising an event in the Church, to simply having a friendly chat with someone on the street (perhaps someone who might not speak to anyone else for the rest of the week).

So please don't think that Christian ministry is restricted to within the boundaries of this parish church, or to people dressed up in robes. God is calling you to do something good in the world. And there will be people out there, that God the Holy Spirit is calling you to encounter, to assist them in some way, or to encourage them, or to advise them, or simply to be with them.

But very often we don't encounter these people because, and perhaps without thinking, we are saying "no" to God. Today, I want you to say "yes". I want you to think about people that you know—it could be family, or friends, or acquaintances whose names you don't know, or members of the community that for some reason have cropped up a lot in your conversations, or who you have thought about more than usual recently, or in whose company you have found yourself (that could be the homeless, or individuals who are living alone, or refugees, or whoever). I believe that God the Holy Spirit has been pointing you towards somebody, or a group of people, who need the light of God shone into their lives. And if you haven't really noticed it, think about it. Discern who God is putting on your heart to reach out to. And rather than dismissing the thought, recognise it as God at work in your mind. Recognise it as God the Holy Spirit asking you to do something, and then say "yes". And don't worry if you feel out of your depth, or embarrassed, or nervous. Learn to trust the Holy Spirit. He will make you fit for purpose.

TRANSFORMING LIVES FOR GOOD

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) for providing us with the most amazing coaches during this academic year here at Ballysillan Primary School. Ashlee McCune and Laura Lacey featured as safe, nurturing, and stable figures to three of our pupils on a weekly basis, who all needed an extra bit of care and attention. We very much value their kindness and compassion in nurturing our young people through troublesome times. They have made a positive, profound impact on their lives. Thank you, TLG, for making a difference."



Catherine Davidson, Principal of Ballysillan P.S.

Robert Thompson

I started to play the organ while I was studying for my music degree at Queen's, having been, up until then, a first study pianist. The Ulster Society of Organists and Choirmasters ran a Taster Day in Ballymena where you could go along, get some basic tuition and try the instruments in St. Patrick's Parish Church and West and First Ballymena Presbyterian Churches. I was hooked ... primarily because, if I'm honest, I found I could make so much noise! I started to have lessons on a serious level ... first with Bobby McQuillan in Ballymena and then with Gary Rodway in Fisherwick Presbyterian. I ended up giving my Final Year Recital at QUB on the organ in the Whitla Hall. I have very fond memories of a fabulous instrument and less fond ones of picking up the key from the Porter's Lodge and going into that building in the dark to practise with the only light being the one at the console ... scary!

My first church post was in First Ballyeaston Presbyterian and getting there on Sundays and for choir practice necessitated the purchase of my first car ... a red mini ... more Isopon than metal ... LIA 7120. After two years I moved to our family church, First Ballymena, where my mum and aunt both sang in the choir. Then in 1989, much to my mother's horror I defected to the Church of Ireland for my first incarnation in St. Peter's. I lasted, I think, about a year but found ... as a dyed in the wool Presbyterian ... the demands of the liturgy and the high standard of the choir too daunting and I moved on to St Thomas', Eglantine Avenue. I must have been mad ... the instrument there was, at that stage, riddled with problems and the choir, while lovely, were ... not St. Peter's!! So ... back I came ... my second incarnation! It was great fun working with a marvellous choir and the incomparable Charles McCollum. We did some wonderful things with visits to Christchurch and St Patrick's Cathedrals in Dublin and the Roman Catholic and Kilmore Cathedrals in Cavan, and Rachel and I were married in St Peter's in 1999. All good things, however, for whatever reason, come to an end and I moved on to St Molua's at Stormont. What an acoustic! To die for! Often during the service, however, I would find myself looking round that building ... interesting in its own way with its hints of Coventry Cathedral and thinking ... this doesn't have the special something that is St Peter's. So after eight very happy years and many lifelong friendships established a certain vacancy took me back across the Lagan to my spiritual home and my third incarnation. I'm afraid you're now stuck with me ... my wandering days are over ... and my cassock has found, what Kirstie and Phil might call "its forever home"!

SERVICES IN JULY	OFFICIANT	LECTOR	PREACHER	INTERCESSOR
SUNDAY 3RD JULY—SAINT THOMAS—ORDINARY TIME (RED)				
11am Holy Communion	Rev'd Clifford Skillen	David Cromie	Rev'd Clifford Skillen	David Cromie
WEDNESDAY 6TH JULY—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rev'd Andrew Irwin	Rev'd Andrew Irwin	Rev'd Andrew Irwin	Rosemary Johnston
SUNDAY 10TH JULY—THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
11am Morning Prayer	Graham Chipperfield	David Cromie	Graham Chipperfield	Graham Chipperfield
WEDNESDAY 13TH JULY—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
10.30am Morning Prayer	Dora Hanna	Timothy Wilson	-	Quintin Mulligan
SUNDAY 17TH JULY—THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
11am Holy Communion	Rector	Daphne McClements	Rector	Rector
WEDNESDAY 20TH JULY—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Rector	Rector	Daphne McClements
SUNDAY 24TH JULY—SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE—ORDINARY TIME (RED)				
11am Holy Communion	Rector	David Cromie	Rector	David Cromie
WEDNESDAY 27TH JULY—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Rector	Rector	Forde Patterson
SUNDAY 31ST JULY—THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
11am Healing Service	Rector	Rosemary Johnston	Rector	Dora Hanna

SERVICES IN AUGUST	OFFICIANT	LECTOR	PREACHER	INTERCESSOR
WEDNESDAY 3RD AUGUST—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Rector	Rector	Colin Bell
SUNDAY 7TH AUGUST—THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
11am Holy Communion	Rector	David Cromie	Rector	David Cromie
WEDNESDAY 10TH AUGUST—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Rector	Rector	Jill Bradley
SUNDAY 14TH AUGUST—THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
11am Morning Prayer	David Cromie	David Cromie	Rector	David Cromie
WEDNESDAY 17TH AUGUST—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Rector	Rector	Timothy Wilson
SUNDAY 21ST AUGUST—THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
11am Holy Communion	Rector	Daphne McClements	Rector	Sandra Hutchman
WEDNESDAY 24TH AUGUST—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Rector	Rector	Marie Burrowes
SUNDAY 28TH AUGUST—THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
11am Morning Prayer	Rector	Wes Holmes	Rector	Rosemary Johnston
WEDNESDAY 31ST AUGUST—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Rector	Rector	Quintin Mulligan

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

by Rosemary Johnston

The Importance of the Written Word

I expect many of you are the proud possessors of a ‘smart phone’. I am also the possessor of a ‘smart phone’, but there the resemblance comes to a grinding halt as I have failed to master mine and there it sits, gathering dust, because I just cannot use it. When I first informed an eminent member of this parish that I had acquired this wonder phone he rejoiced and was glad that I had, at last, come from the eighteenth century into the modern world; well it seems I have not quite left it. I have been (very patiently) guided through some of its mysteries, but somehow the penny hasn’t quite dropped yet. You see, I am one of those annoying people who really does need a book of words to explain all the symbols and how to access different functions—in other words—the ‘Ladybird’ book on smart phones. Which brings me to another extremely important point. What if no-one had written down any of the Bible? Where would we be? We might never have heard the creation story or about Abraham and Moses or King David or any of the great prophets and happenings in the Old Testament; and what about the psalms—could we have learned all 150 of them by rote if they were not written down? But thankfully, the stories were written down many years after the events, as it was realised how important it was to record the history of the Jewish people, warts and all, and how they had been chosen by God to be his people. The Old Testament has been read and treasured by the Jewish people as well as by Christians for many centuries. And what of Jesus? What might the story be today, 2,000 years after he walked the earth, teaching and healing, dying for us on a cross, rising from the dead on the third day and then ascending into heaven? How would we know for certain that the stories about Jesus were true? Would the story of Jesus’ birth, life, death and resurrection end up like so many Chinese Whispers, bearing little relationship to what actually happened? But, thanks be to God, the stories were written down, and we are able to read them today.

We thank you, heavenly Father, for all who wrote down the history of the Jewish people in the Old Testament. We also thank you for those apostles and disciples who wrote the gospels and letters without which we might have a very disjointed view of who Jesus was on earth and where he is today.

We thank you, Father, that your holy word is available to so many, in so many languages, as well as in Braille and audio all over the world, and we give thanks for today’s translators who make this possible.

PARISH REGISTER

Christian Burial

"At rest in the Lord."

Geraldine Virginia Amruth

Cremation at Roselawn

on 10th June 2022

Holy Baptism

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

Brody Mark Hill Murphy

son of Aaron Murphy and Rachel Hill

on 12th June 2022



AUGUST FLOWER LIST

28TH ANNE CROMIE IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER

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.





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North Belfast Historical Society

There will an Annual General meeting of the NBHS in the Minor Hall at St Peter's at 7.30pm on Thursday 18th August at which we will elect office bearers and committee members. *Daphne McClements*



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".

*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 22nd August. Thank you.*

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

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Parish Administrator: Mrs Anne Cromie 90 776 706 annecromie@stpeterbelfast.org
Organist and Choir Master: Mr Robert Thompson 25 631 505 marlaghodge@gmail.com
Honorary Assistant Priest: The Rev'd Dr Ken Houston 90 771 830 skhouston43@gmail.com
Ministry Assistant: Mr David Cromie 90 775 669 davidcromie@stpeterbelfast.org
Ministry Assistant (TLG): Mrs Laura Lacey 90 777 053 lauralacey@stpeterbelfast.org
Associate Minister: The Rev'd Andrew Irwin 07846 002792 andrewirwin@stpeterbelfast.org

Rector's Churchwarden: Miss Daphne McClements 07730 127350 daphnemmcclements@stpeterbelfast.org
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Co-ordinator for Flowers: Mrs Sandra Davison 94 439 230 noelbeatie@stpeterbelfast.org
Co-ordinator for Groundskeeping: Mr Noel Beattie 90 778 428

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FWO & Gift Aid Secretary: Mr Noel Beattie 90 778 428 noelbeatie@stpeterbelfast.org

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Crafty Goodness: Miss Daphne McClements 07730 127350 daffersmcclements@btinternet.com
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
Walking Group: Mrs Jill Bradley 90 842 998 jill.bradley1@btinternet.com

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

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