

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES, BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

SEPTEMBER 2022

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

*Karen Parker
visiting the
Cavehill Cross*

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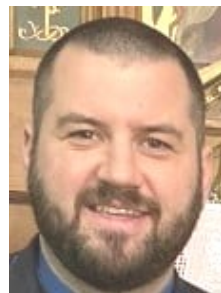


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RECTOR'S NOTES



SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

Following the summer break, our 10am Sunday services will resume on the 11th September with Holy Communion. On the remaining two Sundays of the month (18th and 25th) there will be Morning Prayer. The Family Services will resume on the first Sunday in October.

Our 11am Sunday services continue as always, with only one change to the usual liturgical pattern: On the first Sunday in September (4th), when the choir makes a welcome return, there will be a Songs of Praise service with hymns, readings, and prayers. On the remaining Sundays, there will be Morning Prayer on the 11th and 25th September, and Holy Communion on the 18th.

Choral Evensong will return on a monthly basis, at 6pm (*note the change in time from the previous 6.30pm*) on Sunday 4th September. This will be the *only* evening service during the month.

Our mid-week services at 10.30am on Wednesdays continue as always. Of note, we will be celebrating the feast day of Saint Matthew on Wednesday 21st September.

FRIENDSHIP CAFÉ

On Wednesdays from 7th September, we will be running a weekly Friendship Café from 11.20am to 12.30pm in the halls, at which tea, coffee, soup, and cake will be served.

This is open the public, and it's entirely free, having been kindly sponsored by Belfast City Council. Come along for some light refreshments and a chat. You'll be very welcome!

INTRODUCTION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Despite all the mysteries of Christianity, nothing seems to confound the average churchgoer more than the mention of the Holy Spirit. And yet, knowing the Holy Spirit is the key to deepening and enriching our Christian faith. To address this deficit, I am going to run a three-session introduction to the Holy Spirit with one session each in September, October, and November. However, I want to work with small groups so that we can really get to grips with the subject. Throughout each month, I will repeat the same session at different times on different days, and I would like you to sign up for whichever session suits you. Remember you only need to attend once a month. There is a list of dates and times at the back of the church. Please sign up to whichever works best for you.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Our new support group for those who are bereaved will commence on Wednesday 7th September at 12.30pm. This will run for six consecutive weeks (7th, 14th 21st, 28th September, and 5th, 12th October). The group is a safe environment for anyone to reflect upon our grief, whether those whom we mourn have died recently or a long time ago. This is open to members of our congregation and the local community, so please encourage your family, friends, or neighbours to join us if you think it would help them.

BIBLE STUDY

I'll be running Bible Studies again from Thursday 1st September, meeting from 7.30pm till 9pm in the Minor Hall. The group will meet weekly, except for 22nd September which is when the Historical Society meets instead. Note that from October, the Historical Society will meet on the *third* Thursday of each month. I would encourage all parishioners to give serious consideration to joining the Bible Study group, whether or not you have ever done so in the past. Now that technology is improving, we will try once again to let people join via ZOOM. I'll email the link to everyone closer to the time.

EUROPEAN HERITAGE OPEN DAY

St Peter's will be open to the public on Saturday 10th September, from 10am till 4pm as part of European Heritage Open Day. If you would like to volunteer an hour or so of your time to supervise the building, please fill in the sign-up sheet at the back of the church, or send me an email to let me know.

CAVEHILL CROSS

Thursday 21st July marked the fiftieth anniversary of Bloody Friday, when IRA bombs killed nine people and injured 130 more. One of those killed was a teenager who was due to be confirmed in St Peter's—Stephen Parker (pictured), whose father—the Rev'd Joseph Parker—was the local Mission to Seafarers' Chaplain. From the wreckage



of the debris where he died, the Cavehill Cross was constructed, and it stands at the back of the church both as a reminder of that atrocity and of our determination to be hopeful in the face of terror. For many years, Stephen's father arranged for flowers to be laid at the foot of the cross on the anniversary. Since his own death, his remaining children have taken on that responsibility.

To mark the anniversary, Stephen's sister Karen and brother Roger, travelling from Canada and England respectively, attended an event hosted by Belfast City Council. On the following Sunday, 24th July, Karen joined us in St Peter's and had the opportunity to meet with members of the congregation after the service. She is pictured beside the cross on the front cover of these Parish Notes.

BE OBEDIENT TO GOD'S CALL

Have you ever been asked to do something that really made you nervous? Twenty years ago, I was a member of a committee which consisted of older, wiser, more intelligent, and more experienced people than myself. In comparison, I was young, foolish, and out of my depth. And on one occasion, I felt compelled to say something, but as I spoke, I could hear the nervousness in my voice. My whole body was trembling. And I knew that they knew that I was nervous, which in turn made me even more self-conscious. I'm sure many of you have experienced something similar, whether in your younger days at school, or during your career. Have you felt that feeling of inadequacy when comparing yourself to others?

The Prophet Jeremiah certainly did. Let's think about the opening chapter of his Book in the Old Testament. Here, Jeremiah lays out his prophetic credentials: "*The word of the*

Lord came to me saying, Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you, I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” What’s vitally important to note here, is that God was the one doing everything: “I formed you... I knew you... I consecrated you... I appointed you...”.

It was not the case that Jeremiah was searching for a career path, and decided that being a prophet might be an interesting or lucrative job. As far as Jeremiah was concerned, it was God who had decided that he would become a prophet, and that this role had been prepared for him since before Jeremiah even existed.

In fairness, it does sound a little bit vain. But Jeremiah wasn’t writing this for his own glory, with the suggestion that he was superior because God had picked him. In fact, it’s quite the opposite. Look at Jeremiah’s response to the feeling that he had been called by God to this prophetic ministry: *“I said, ah, Lord God. Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.”*

There’s that inferiority complex. “I am only a boy.”

There would have been two things going on in Jeremiah’s mind, as he sought to discern whether or not being called as a prophet was something that he could accept. The first is his literal youthfulness. He was a young man, without much experience or wisdom or knowledge. And understandably he would have been afraid of being ridiculed for it. The second is that, having been born around the year 650 BC, there had been many prophets before him. Elijah, Elisha, Obadiah, Joel, Isaiah, Amos, Jonah, Hosea, Micah—all of these names from the Old Testament would have been familiar to Jeremiah. He would have known their stories, he would have read their prophecies. He would have revered them as holy men, who had communicated God’s word to humanity. And then here HE is, being called to step into

their shoes. It's easy to empathise with his doubts, that perhaps there could be someone more qualified than himself to fill that role.

And yet, look at God's response to Jeremiah's self-doubt: *"Do not say, I am only a boy, for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you."* The core of that response is the insistence of God that Jeremiah will live up to—and not shirk—his prophetic responsibilities. "You SHALL go." But this is not God telling someone to do something, and then stepping back and letting them sink or swim. Just as God took the initiative to call Jeremiah to be a prophet, so too would God take the initiative throughout Jeremiah's ministry: "The Lord said... I send you... I command you... I am with you..."

What's important to understand here is that although Jeremiah doubted his own ability, God did not need him to be able; he needed him simply to be willing. For as with all things to do with God, it is God himself who is the driving force. When he calls people to act in his name, he already knows our strengths and weaknesses. He knows that, despite our own self-doubts, we are capable.

Let's remember that, the next time we sense God calling us to do something: And it doesn't matter if it's calling you to be ordained and lead a parish, or calling you to have a friendly chat with a stranger (who perhaps unbeknownst to you is having a tough time and needed someone to talk to). Whatever it is that God wants you to do, never think to yourself "I can't do that." Because God is calling you to do it, you can. He doesn't need you to assess your own ability. He just needs you to be obedient, and to become the person he has called you to be.

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER	OFFICIANT	LECTOR	PREACHER	INTERCESSOR
SUNDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER—THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
11am Praise Service 6pm Choral Evensong	David Cromie David Cromie	David Cromie David Cromie	— David Cromie	David Cromie David Cromie
WEDNESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Rector	Rector	Rosemary Johnston
SUNDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER—THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
10am Holy Communion 11am Morning Prayer	Rector David Cromie	Rector David Cromie	Rector Rector	Daphne McClements David Cromie
WEDNESDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Rector	Rector	Marie Burrowes
SUNDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER—THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
10am Morning Prayer 11am Holy Communion	David Cromie Rector	David Cromie Rosemary Johnston	David Cromie Rector	David Cromie Colin Bell
WEDNESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER—SAINT MATTHEW (RED)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Rector	Rector	Daphne McClements
SUNDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER—THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
10am Morning Prayer 11am Morning Prayer	Rector Rector	Dora Hanna Forde Patterson	Rector Rector	Rector Dora Hanna
WEDNESDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER—ORDINARY TIME (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Rector	Rector	Timothy Wilson

The Return of Choral Evensong

Robert Thompson

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Choral Evensong has only been sung twice in Saint Peter's. In June 2021 we marked Saint Peter's Day with a "socially distanced" evensong where the choir was spread around the nave and there was no congregation. Then on June 29th 2022 we were finally able to return to a normal service.

It is our intention, from September, to have Choral Evensong once a month, on the first Sunday of the month at 6pm. These services will start on Sunday September 4th. In St Peter's we are so lucky to have a good choir of dedicated choristers and we are now one of only about four parish churches in the city where Choral Evensong is a regular part of the choir's work. While Evensong, like everything we do, is done "Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam" and not for the personal edification of the choristers we are only human and it can be dispiriting to be offering up this wonderful feast of music "To the greater glory of God" where the only congregation can sometimes be the Rector and the Church Wardens!

I recently came across this quotation in a Choral Evensong Service Sheet. It was written by Joseph Poole (Precentor of Coventry Cathedral in the 60s/70s) and it perfectly sums up what "The Evensong Experience" should be:

Evensong is a tiny fragment of something else; it is a part of the worship which is offered to God by Christian people every hour of the day and night, in every part of the world. When you come to Evensong, it is as if you were dropping in on a conversation already in progress—a conversation between God and his people which began long before you were born and which will continue long after the end of your life. So, do not be surprised or disturbed if there are some things which you do not understand straight away. For a brief moment, you

step into the continual stream of worship which is being offered today and which will be offered to the end of time. You are one with those who worship here on earth and in heaven. Evensong is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. Its primary purpose is to proclaim the wonderful works of God in history and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Its secondary purpose is to evoke from the worshipper a response of praise, penitence, prayer, and obedience. Much of the English of the service is the language spoken and written by our ancestors more than four hundred years ago. It may sound old-fashioned but its meaning is not out of date.

Evensong lasts for about 45 minutes and there are two good congregational hymns to help you feel involved. It's a lovely service ... especially, I always feel in the darker autumn and winter evenings ... so do give it a try if you haven't before. Your life will be enriched by it!

CHORAL EVENSONG

Kate Thompson, a journalist, wrote of Choral Evensong in the *Irish Times* a few years ago:

"These days, people look for alternative, trendy escapes from the stress of daily life. ... I am lucky. I have discovered a place not far from my home where I can take time out at the end of the day to wash away any negativity or stress that's been accumulated. It's slap-bang in the city centre. Although there is traffic barging past directly outside the door, once inside you cannot hear it. There is sublime music. There are flowers and candles. There are hand-embroidered cushions, and pillows of plush velvet. The floor is a mosaic of jewel-coloured tiles, and the soaring architecture of both the interior and the exterior must rank among the most beautiful in the world. It is a haven, a refuge, a sanctuary from real-life rattle and hum. For forty minutes you get to listen to sweet singing and resonant, reassuring chanting, and when you emerge into the fraught morass of road rage, gridlock and car horns outside, you realise you feel serene."

Anne Cromie

Music list for Choral Evensong Sunday 4th September at 6pm

Introit: Peace be to this congregation (Alison Cadden)

Responses: Ayleward

Canticles: Noble in B minor

Anthem: Rejoice in the Lord (Redford)

Voluntary: Fantasia in G major BWV 572 (JS Bach)

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

by Rosemary Johnston

Dedication

In a world which sometimes seems to be all about ‘me’ it is very refreshing to find out about people who do not think like this. Many people are dedicated to their work, but some go more than the extra mile, eg, there are those in this parish who care so much about its needs that they have got up from their sick beds in order to see that some important task was completed. So often it goes unnoticed; things get done; everything is running smoothly without anyone realising the enormous effort it took to complete the task. Such people are the ones that underpin many organisations, like those in the health services, working under extreme pressure, but struggling on because someone’s life may depend on their skills and hard work.

*May we always be grateful for,
and appreciative of,
the efforts others are making on our behalf.*

FLOWER LIST

28TH AUGUST ANNE CROMIE, IN MEMORY
OF HER MOTHER, ROSEMARY HINDS

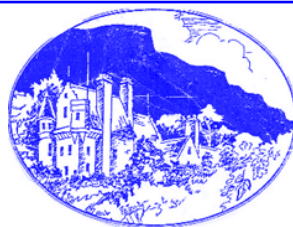
4TH SEPTEMBER KATHRYN HENNESSY, IN MEMORY OF
CONOR AND EDWARD

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

Date: Thursday 22nd September
Time: 7.30pm
Where: Minor Hall
Subject: The Merchant Families of Belfast
as viewed through their memorials
at Belfast City Cemetery



Everyone is welcome to come along to what promises to be a very interesting evening with speaker and author Richard Graham.

*Daphne McClements
Chairman*

PARISH REGISTER

Christian Burial

"At rest in the Lord."

Mary Moffett Dundee (Maureen) Sinn

Burial of Ashes in Lambeg Graveyard

on 29th July 2022

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.

Physio Pilates

Gently regain fitness after the summer break by coming to my PhysioPilates classes.

They start again in September on Wednesday 7th at 6.30pm and Friday 9th at 10.30am.

You would be very welcome to join one (or both) of our friendly groups.

Sandra Hutchman

If your business would like to advertise in our Parish Notes please contact the Parish Administrator, Anne Cromie contact details on back cover.

Parishioners' Birthdays

It has been suggested by a parishioner (who saw this idea in another church while on holiday) that we should have a 'Birthday Board' at the back of the church on which parishioners can note their birthdays, no year of birth mentioned (!), just the date and the month. Presently our Birthday Board can be found on the table at the back of the church so do please add your birthday to the list so that other parishioners can remember you in prayer that day.

*Please send material for the October 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 19th September. Thank you.*

CHURCH CLEANING

*There is a **Cleaning Rota** on the table at the back of the church, please add your name to the rota to indicate which area of the church (see below) you would like to clean. There is no limit to the number of people that can join each group. Alternatively please get in touch with Anne Cromie.*

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PARISH CONTACTS

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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	daphnemclements@stpeterbelfast.org
People's Churchwarden:	Mrs Dora Hanna	95 733 374	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
Co-ordinator for Flowers:	Mrs Sandra Davison	94 439 230	sbdavison@hotmail.com
Co-ordinator for Groundskeeping:	Mr Noel Beattie	90 778 428	noelbeattie@stpeterbelfast.org

Rector's Glebewarden:	Mr Victor Davis	90 771 197	davisvictor9@aol.com
People's Glebewarden:	Mr Peter Mulligan	07850 492572	pjmulligan1@outlook.com
Honorary Secretary:	Ms Sarah McCusker		sarahmccusker@stpeterbelfast.org
Honorary Treasurer:	Mrs Ashlee McCune	07801 556386	ashleemcune@hotmail.com
FWO & Gift Aid Secretary:	Mr Noel Beattie	90 778 428	noelbeattie@stpeterbelfast.org

Bereavement Group:	Mrs Dora Hanna	95 733 374	dorahanna@stpeterbelfast.org
Bible Study:	The Rev'd Brian Lacey	90 777 053	brianlacey@stpeterbelfast.org
Bridge:	Mrs Florrie Greer	90 776 812	florriregreer@gmail.com
Brownie Guides:	Ms Lee Kennedy	90 772 023	lee_kennedy@bintinternet.com
Crafty Goodness:	Miss Daphne McClements	07730 127350	daffersmcclements@bintinternet.com
Friendship Café:	The Rev'd Brian Lacey	90 777 053	brianlacey@stpeterbelfast.org
Guides & Senior Guides:	Ms Lee Kennedy	90 772 023	lee_kennedy@bintinternet.com
Rainbow Guides:	Ms Lee Kennedy	90 772 023	lee_kennedy@bintinternet.com
Walking Group:	Mrs Jill Bradley	90 842 998	jill.bradley1@bintinternet.com

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

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