

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

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

PARISH NOTES

APRIL 2023



*Dora Hanna and Sandra Davison
with posies on Mothering Sunday*

GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE

Parish Notes On-line

The Parish Notes can be read
in full colour on our website.
Visit www.stpeters.connor.anglican.org
and click "Parish Notes".



Cavehill
COFFEE

Cavehill Coffee, Mount Lennox,
683 Antrim Road, BT15 4EG

Please come
along on
Saturday
8th April
from 10am-
12noon
to help
decorate the
church for
Easter.

All help
greatly
appreciated.

Thank you.



Fortwilliam Greengrocers

Fruit & Vegetables
Fruit baskets & Bouquets
Fresh Flowers & Plants

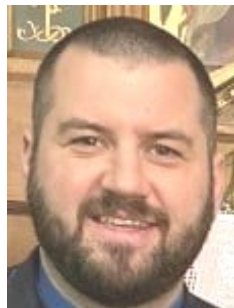
575 Antrim Road
Belfast BT15 3BU
Tel 028 9077 1013

The Priory Singers
Tuesday 25th April
7.30pm
Fisherwick
Presbyterian Church
Tickets available from
St Peter's Parish Office



90 776 706 or
07808 578775

RECTOR'S NOTES



SERVICES IN APRIL

Could I please encourage all parishioners to make every effort to attend our 11am service on **Easter Day (Sunday 9th April)** to worship the Risen Christ.

The first week of April is Holy Week. In addition to our regular acts of worship, there will be services at 7.30pm every day except Holy Saturday:

Monday 3rd April - The Way of the Cross

Tuesday 4th April – Late Evening Office

Wednesday 5th April – Compline (traditional)

Thursday 6th April – Choral Eucharist (traditional)

Friday 7th April – Tenebrae

“The Way of the Cross” on **Fig Monday** is a service of short readings and prayers, each focussed on the stages of our Lord Jesus’ final earthly hours.

On **Holy Tuesday**, the service will be led by the Rev’d Mellissa Jeffers, and on **Spy Wednesday** by our Student Reader, Jonny Watson.

During Choral Eucharist on **Maundy Thursday**, the Holy Table will be stripped to reveal its bare wood.

During Tenebrae on **Good Friday**, as we hear the Passion Story from the Gospel according to St Luke, accompanied by anthems sung by the choir, the lights inside the church will be turned off one by one until we are in darkness – signifying the death of Christ.

Throughout the month, at **10am on Sundays**, there will be a Family Service (2nd April), Holy Communion in traditional language (23rd April), and Morning Prayer (30th April). Please note that there will not be a 10am service on Easter Day (9th April) or the following Sunday (16th April).

At **11am on Sundays**, there will be Holy Communion on the first three Sundays of the month (2nd, 9th, and 16th April), a Service of the Word (23rd April), and a Healing Service (30th April).

At **6pm on only the first Sunday** (2nd April) there will be Choral Evensong.

CHARITIES

This year, our parish will be supporting the following five local charities:

Friends of the Cancer Centre
Air Ambulance
Prison Fellowship
SANDS – Stillbirth and Neonatal Death
Tearfund

If you would like to make an additional donation to parish funds to help support these charities, please place cash in an envelope marked “charities” and leave it in the box at the back of the church, or write a cheque to “St Peter and St James, Belfast” with “charities” written on the back, or make a bank transfer with “charities” as the reference. A lump sum will then be sent to each charity at the end of the year. Thank you.

EASTER VESTRY MEETING

The Easter Vestry is the name of the annual meeting of Registered Members of the parish, at which the previous year’s

accounts are presented, and officers and representatives are appointed/elected for the year ahead. This year, the meeting will take place on Sunday 23rd April, immediately following a thirty-minute act of worship at 11am. Any member of the congregation is welcome to remain in the church throughout the meeting, but only Registered Members may participate.

PARISH APPOINTMENTS/ELECTIONS

I am very grateful to the outgoing members of the Select Vestry, and not least the six Senior Officers: Daphne McClements and Dora Hanna (*Churchwardens*), Victor Davis and Peter Mulligan (*Glebewardens*), Sarah McCusker (*Honorary Secretary*), and Ashlee McCune (*Honorary Treasurer*). Of these six roles, two are appointed by me, two are elected at the Easter Vestry, and two are elected by the Select Vestry. These appointments/elections will take place in April. In addition to those six officers, we will also elect up to twelve further members of the Select Vestry, three representatives to Diocesan Synod (and three supplementals), and four Parochial Nominators (and four supplementals).

The two **Churchwardens** are responsible for opening the church for services of worship, turning on the lights, heating, and sound system, and providing the congregation with orders of service, and then switching everything off and locking up afterwards. On a Sunday morning, the Churchwardens should arrive no later than 9.30am, and remain until 12.30pm (sometimes a little earlier or later, depending on what is happening that day.) There are also some ceremonial roles involved, such as processing in front of the clergy and readers, and presenting the bread and wine for Holy Communion. Churchwardens are also ex-officio members of the Select Vestry.

The two **Glebewardens** are responsible for the oversight of

repairs, maintenance, and development of Church property. This includes St Peter's church and halls, the Rectory, and the former St James' church and halls. The Glebewardens are not required to carry out any repairs themselves, but rather to liaise with electricians, plumbers, builders, etc, as may be required from time to time. Glebewardens are ex-officio members of the Select Vestry.

The **Honorary Secretary** records minutes at meetings of the Select Vestry and at the Easter Vestry, and issues any formal correspondence on their behalf.

The **Honorary Treasurer** ensures that the parish complies with legal obligations to the Department of Finance and the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland, receives and issues invoices, maintains financial records, oversees the payment of salaries and the operation of the pension scheme, and makes regular reports to the Select Vestry.

The **Select Vestry** consists of myself, the two Churchwardens, the two Glebewardens, and up to twelve other members. The Select Vestry is responsible for managing the physical, human, and financial resources of the parish, and its members are recognised as Trustees by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. The Select Vestry meets nine times each year – usually once a month, except during December, July, and August.

The **Diocesan Synod** meets once a year, and consists of representatives of every parish in the Diocese of Connor (which is essentially County Antrim). In addition to myself, two members of St Peter's attend. If both lay representatives are over 35 years old, then there is provision for a third person, aged under 35, to attend.

The four **Parochial Nominators** have had nothing to do since I became Rector in 2013, as their role is to help to appoint a new rector in the event of a vacancy.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE REAL JESUS?

After the ancient Israelites conquered Canaan around 1200 BC, the land was divided up between the Twelve Tribes of Israel, and for a few hundred years they were a loose confederation – before being united as the Kingdom of Israel under King Saul. That union carried on during the reign of Saul’s son-in-law, King David, and the reign of David’s son, King Solomon.

After Solomon’s death, the united country was divided in two. The northern tribes kept the name Israel, whilst the southern tribes took on the name of the largest tribe in the area, which was Judah. It’s from this southern Kingdom of Judah, that we get the words “Judaism”, and “Jew” and “Jewish.” It’s the northern kingdom, though, - which was still called Israel – that we’re concerned with for a moment.

About two hundred years after Israel and Judah split from each other, Israel in the north was attacked by the Assyrian Empire. They conquered the land, and took away about 30,000 Israelites, and in their place, they took people from other conquered lands, and settled them in Israel.

Now, it’s important to note that this is not the same event as the Babylonian Exile, which features prominently in the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah. That exile happened hundreds of years later, and affected the southern kingdom of Judah.

The exile of the northern Kingdom of Israel was different to what would later happen to Judah, because whereas the Jews were permitted to return home and rebuild Judah, such permission was never given to the Israelites in the north. And instead, the Kingdom of Israel became known as Samaria (named after its capital city) and it was reduced to merely a province of the Assyrian Empire. Of course, not all of the Israelites had been exiled, and so Samaria became this multi-ethnic, multi-cultural country, whose religion was related to

Judaism, but distinct from it in many ways. In the eyes of the Jews, therefore, the Samaritans were impure, inferior, half-castes. And over the course of the seven hundred years from the creation of the Province of Samaria until the time of Jesus, the dislike of their own distant cousins and geographical neighbours, grew so much that – as we read in the fourth chapter of John’s Gospel: “Jews do not associate with Samaritans.” Remembering this will help you understand why Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan would have been shocking to the Jews hearing it for the first time.

But it also explains why the woman at the well in the fourth chapter of John’s Gospel was – if not concerned, then certainly – confused. We read, “The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?’”

You will sometimes hear preachers say that the focus is on the fact that Jesus is talking to “a woman” because a solitary male talking to a solitary female in the ancient world would have been frowned upon. Maybe, but that’s not really the issue here. What’s important is that she is a Samaritan. And we can see this from how Jesus criticised her Samaritan religious beliefs and practices. So, she says, “Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you (that is, the Jews) says that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” And in response, Jesus says, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.”

But it’s what happens next that I really want to draw your attention to. The woman says, “I know that Messiah is coming (who is called Christ). When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” To which Jesus replied, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Now, the reason why this is noteworthy, is because it is very rare in the Gospels for Jesus to positively identify himself with the word “Messiah.” Or at least, if he does, he then quickly tells whoever he is talking to, not to mention it to anyone else. That is called “the Messianic Secret”. And he wanted it to be kept a secret, because he did not want people to misunderstand the kind of Messiah that he was. He was not, for example, going to be a great military leader who will expel the Romans from Jerusalem, and re-establish an independent Kingdom of Israel. That’s what many of the Jews expected. But it was not what Jesus was and so he distanced himself from the word “Messiah” in case it confused people.

Why then, does he identify himself with that word, when it is mentioned by this Samaritan? Well, maybe it’s precisely because she was a Samaritan: she had no expectation of the Messiah being a great military conqueror. Indeed, she states exactly what she thinks the Messiah will do: “when he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” And that, of course, is precisely what Jesus was doing. He was proclaiming the Good News of the coming of the Kingdom of God. So he could freely admit to being the Messiah, because the woman he was speaking to had no religious baggage or expectations that would have confused her. The irony then, is that whilst – as Jesus told her – “salvation is from the Jews”, it took someone who was not a Jew, to recognise how that salvation would come.

The question I want to put to you is this: If Jesus was talking to YOU, and you asked him if he was the Messiah, would he freely admit it? Or would he be concerned that your expectation of him might be wrong? Let’s widen it out, and consider whether or not your entire understanding of Christianity might be wrong?

I have encountered many Christians – many of whom were born and raised within the Church – who have bizarre

expectations what the Christian Church is, what its purpose is, who should belong to it (and who shouldn't), what roles people should have within it. And don't get me started on their theological ideas: about who and what God is, and how he interacts with us: because I have heard some frighteningly heretical nonsense over the years. And just as the Jewish expectation of the Messiah was wrong, so too can Christians be wrong with regard to our faith. It's those errors that have led, perhaps well-intentioned, Christians over the years to embrace slavery, or to promote racism, or to suppress the rights of women, or – well, I'm sure you can think of other injustices tolerated or promoted by the Church.

I fear that for many Christians, they will one day encounter Jesus face-to-face, and yet they will not recognise him – because for so long they have believed not in the real Christ, but in a Christ that they themselves created in their imagination – perhaps a Messiah who advocates wealth and power; or a Messiah who readily condemns people to hell, or even a Messiah who doesn't really care what you do with your life.

So, this is your challenge: Ask yourself what you believe about Jesus. And where do you get your beliefs from? Do you know who he really is, or do you believe in something that fits with what you want him to be?



Plenty of craic at the Men's Breakfast!

Men's Breakfast
A Few Strange Men, Plus One.

by David Cromie

There was still a little snow on the ground when the men of St Peter's ploughed through the doors of the minor hall to a welcome mug of tea and a fry-up on Saturday, 11th March. The usual numbers were there, with a slight change in personnel to add spice (or was it sauce?) to the proceedings. This time we got the timing about right in terms of having the food ready and even if the eggs were a little over-done, nobody mentioned it.



Three junior Petrines turned up to support the older boys, and one asked very gently and politely if there might be any spare sausages he could take home for his mum and sister, proving that there is hope for the rising generation: we found a few for him.

We also found a way round certain deep ethical and moral challenges by making Rosemary Johnson an honorary 'man', thus obviating any legal difficulties surrounding her consumption of one of 'our' sausages! Moreover, a cleaning party arrived around half ten, just as we were starting to tidy up, and Sandra H, Clodagh, Dora and Jill tucked in to ensure there was no waste whatsoever.

I spent most of the time in a kitchen (a man's work is never done), so I missed much of the craic, but I did hear a certain and very recent 7 – 0 score referred to more than once, and yet more chatter about the joys of Dungannon.

My thanks to everyone who turned up with appetites, to the Rector for plating-up superbly and Quintin who did a vast job helping me wash and tidy-up.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

by Rosemary Johnston

From the bleakness of Calvary to the glorious light of Easter ...

Palm Sunday, and Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem. The crowds swamp him, spread palms along the way before him and cry 'Hallelujah!'. But he is riding a little donkey, not a warhorse—a bit of a disappointment for those expecting to be delivered from the yoke of Rome. But Jesus is a mighty Saviour not a mighty warrior. His mission was to bring the Good News of the Kingdom, healing of souls and bodies, to empower his disciples to spread the Word far and wide, and one more thing—to sacrifice himself—for us—to be hung on a cross like a criminal. He was hardly looking forward to this cruel death but he accepted that it had to be done. There was no other way, otherwise where would we be today if Jesus had not died in our place? When you think about it, life would be so different. How could we account for our sins before Almighty God with no-one to plead for us? And what might the consequences/punishments be? But Jesus did suffer the rushed trial, being spat upon, mocked and scourged, all for us. Then he paid the ultimate price by dying on a cross so that we would be spared the punishment we deserve. Let us then, during Holy Week, walk the last journey with Jesus as we think on his trial, his suffering and death. I feel that it is a small way to consider all that Jesus did for us, and is still doing for us. Of course we have the benefit of knowing how things turned out, that Jesus rose from the dead on the third day and that we have the hope of that glorious first Easter Day when we can all cry 'Hallelujah!'.

**Heavenly Father, may we never cease to thank you
or take for granted this most wonderful gift of your beloved Son
and may we walk in his ways all our days. Amen.**

*But the pains that he endured,
our salvation have procured;
now above the sky he's King,
where the angels ever sing, alleluia!*

| SERVICES IN APRIL | OFFICIANT | LECTOR | PREACHER | INTERCESSOR |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| SUNDAY 2ND APRIL (RED) - PALM SUNDAY | | | | |
| 10am Family Service | Rector | Akin Archer | Rector | Jonny Watson* |
| 11am Choral Eucharist | Rector | Rector | Jonny Watson | Jonny Watson |
| 6pm Choral Evensong | David Cromie | Daphne McClements | - | David Cromie* |
| MONDAY 3RD APRIL (RED) - FIG MONDAY | | | | |
| 7.30pm The Way of the Cross | Rector | Multiple | - | Multiple |
| TUESDAY 4TH APRIL (RED) - HOLY TUESDAY | | | | |
| 7.30pm Late Evening Office | Rev'd Mellissa Jeffers | Rector | Rev'd Mellissa Jeffers | Rev'd Mellissa Jeffers |
| WEDNESDAY 5TH APRIL (RED) - SPY WEDNESDAY | | | | |
| 10.30am Holy Communion | Rector | - | Rector | Quintin Mulligan |
| 7.30pm Compline (traditional) | Jonny Watson | Rector | Jonny Watson | Jonny Watson* |
| THURSDAY 6TH APRIL (WHITE) - MAUNDY THURSDAY | | | | |
| 7.30pm Choral Eucharist (trad) | Rector | David Cromie | Rector | David Cromie* |
| FRIDAY 7TH APRIL (NO COLOUR) - GOOD FRIDAY | | | | |
| 7.30pm Tenebrae | Rector | Multiple | - | Rector* |
| SUNDAY 9TH APRIL (WHITE) - EASTER DAY | | | | |
| 11am Choral Eucharist | Rector | David Cromie | Rector | Rector* |
| WEDNESDAY 12TH APRIL (WHITE) | | | | |
| 10.30am Morning Prayer | Dora Hanna | Daphne McClements | - | Rosemary Johnston |
| SUNDAY 16TH APRIL (WHITE) - THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER | | | | |
| 11am Holy Communion | Rev'd Clifford Skillen | Sandra Hutchman | Rev'd Clifford Skillen | Dora Hanna |
| WEDNESDAY 19TH APRIL (WHITE) | | | | |
| 10.30am Holy Communion | Rector | - | Rector | Daphne McClements |
| SUNDAY 23RD APRIL (WHITE) - THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER | | | | |
| 10am Holy Communion (trad) | Rector | - | - | Rector* |
| 11am Service of the Word | Rector | - | Rector | Jonny Watson |
| WEDNESDAY 26TH APRIL (WHITE) | | | | |
| 10.30am Holy Communion | Rector | - | Rector | Timothy Wilson |
| SUNDAY 30TH APRIL (WHITE) - THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | | | | |
| 10am Morning Prayer | Dora Hanna | Quintin Mulligan | Rector | Dora Hanna* |
| 11am Healing Service | Rector | Dora Hanna | Rector | Rosemary Johnston* |

Prayer

If you would like your name added to our prayer list please get in touch with Rosemary Johnston or Daphne McClements.

Contact details on back cover.



North Belfast Historical Society

Date: Thursday 20th April
Time: 7.30pm
Where: Minor Hall
Subject: The Vikings
Speaker: Rosemary Johnston and Timothy Wilson



*Everyone is very welcome to come along
to what promises to be a very interesting evening.*

Daphne McClements, Chairman

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 addresses. Thank you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to those with birthdays in April:

Kathryn Hennessy, Rebecca Delaney, Ashlee McCune,
Alex Delaney, Dora Hanna, Jim Knowles,
Pamela McCamley and Jim Wilson.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

*If you would like to add your name to our birthday board,
you'll find it on the notice board at the back of the church,
alternatively, you can ask Anne, our Parish Administrator, to add it for you.*

Thursday evenings at St Peter's



Rainbows

6-7pm



7-8pm

Brownies*

Guides*

8-9.15pm

For more information see contact details on back cover.

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

At HOPE Counselling we are:

Here to help Open to listen Provide confidentiality Encourage you

Tel: 07902 523883

Email: hopecounselling1@hotmail.com

FLOWER LIST FOR APRIL

9TH EASTER DAY

23RD KATHRYN HENNESSY IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND, HUGH, AND SISTER-IN-LAW, GRETTA



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.

*Please send material for the May issue of Parish Notes to:
Anne Cromie, Parish Administrator, St Peter's Church,
Fortwilliam Drive, Belfast BT15 4EB
or email: annecromie@stpeterbelfast.org
by Wednesday 19th April. Thank you.*

Rector:
Parish Administrator:
Organist and Choir Master:
Honorary Assistant Priest:
Associate Minister:

The Rev'd Brian Lacey
Anne Cromie
Robert Thompson
The Rev'd Dr Ken Houston
The Rev'd Andrew Irwin

brianlacey@stpeterbelfast.org
annecromie@stpeterbelfast.org
marlaghodge@gmail.com
skhouston43@gmail.com
andrewirwin@stpeterbelfast.org

Parish Reader:
Rector's Churchwarden:
People's Churchwarden:
Co-ordinator for Intercessors:
Co-ordinator for Lectors:
Co-ordinator for Flowers:

David Cromie
Daphne McClements
Dora Hanna
Rosemary Johnston
Sandra Hutchman
Sandra Davison

90 775 669
07730 127350
95 733 374
90 840 534
95 149 564
07738 403667

davicromie@stpeterbelfast.org
daphnemcclements@stpeterbelfast.org
dorahanna@stpeterbelfast.org
-
sehutchman@hotmail.com
sbdavison@hotmail.com

Rector's Glebewarden:
People's Glebewarden:
Co-ordinator for Groundskeeping:

Victor Davis
Peter Mulligan
Noel Beattie

90 771 197
07850 492572
90 778 428

davisvictor9@aol.com
pjmulligan1@outlook.com
noelbeattie@stpeterbelfast.org

Honorary Secretary:
Honorary Treasurer:
FWO & Gift Aid Secretary:

Sarah McCusker
Ashlee McCune
Noel Beattie

-
07801 556386
90 778 428

sarahmccusker@stpeterbelfast.org
ashleemcune@hotmail.com
noelbeattie@stpeterbelfast.org

Baby Sensory:
Bereavement Group:
Bible Study:
Bridges:
Brownies:
Crafty Goodness:
Guides:
Historical Society:
Kids' Church:
Learning Unlocked:
PhysioPilates:
Rainbows:
Speech & Drama:
Unisflm:
Walking Group:

Heather Trojan
Dora Hanna
The Rev'd Brian Lacey
Florrie Greer
Lee Kennedy
Daphne McClements
Lee Kennedy
Timothy Wilson
Cheryl Hurson
Trevor Hutchman
Sandra Hutchman
Lee Kennedy
Claire McGrogan
Jacquileen Henderson
Jill Bradley

07590 928384
95 733 374
90 777 053
90 776 812
07871 875985
07730 127350
07871 875985
07928 850108
07725 644118
07771 778496
95 149 564
07871 875985
07793 045071
07786 742558
90 842 998

belfasthw@babysensory.co.uk
dorahanna@stpeterbelfast.org
brianlacey@stpeterbelfast.org
florriegrer@gmail.com
lee_kennedy@birtelnet.com
daffersmcclements@birtelnet.com
williamtim@hotmail.com
cherylbleakley@hotmail.com
trevor@learningunlocked.co.uk
sehutchman@hotmail.com
lee_kennedy@birtelnet.com
clairakeran99@yahoo.co.uk
jacquileen.henderson@gmail.com
jill.bradley1@birtelnet.com