

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

JUNE 2023

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



*Sheila, Annette, Dora, Jim, Thelma and Jill
starting off on their sponsored walk for Christian Aid.*

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".

Our Church Family

Please let us
know about
any happy
events or
exciting news
within our
parish family.
Good news is
always worth
sharing!



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COFFEE

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Please note
these dates for the
following meetings:

SENIOR OFFICERS

Friday 2nd June

11.30am

in the Minor Hall

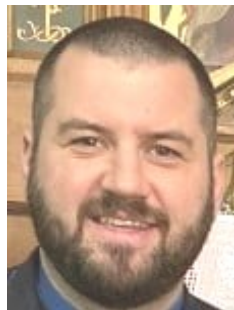
SELECT VESTRY

Monday 19th June

7.30pm

in the former
St James' Hall

RECTOR'S NOTES



SERVICES IN JUNE

Please make every effort to worship in St Peter's on both the morning of Pentecost Sunday (25th June) and the evening of St Peter's Day (Thursday 29th June) as we celebrate both our dedication and patronal festivals, respectively.

From the beginning of June, the white of Easter and red of Pentecost will be replaced by the green of the Sundays after Trinity, also known as **Ordinary Time**. That name probably doesn't arouse much excitement, but this time of year is still important as we continue to hear the Good News of our Lord Jesus proclaimed.

Our 10am Sunday services will include a Family Service (4th June), Holy Communion *Form One* (11th June), Morning Prayer (18th June), Holy Communion *Form Two* (25th June). Please note that the 10am services will pause during July and August.

Our 11am Sunday services will include Choral Eucharist (4th and 18th June), and Choral Matins (11th and 25th June).

At 6pm on the first Sunday of the month (4th June) there will be a said service of Compline rather than Choral Evensong. Later in the month, there will be a service of Choral Evensong at 7.30pm on Thursday 29th June to mark St Peter's Day.

Our regular mid-week services are on Wednesdays at 10.30am, with Holy Communion throughout the month.

We have four Holy Days during the month:

- ◆ **Trinity Sunday** (4th June) when we try to wrap our heads around the doctrine of the Triune God;
- ◆ the feast day of **St Barnabas** (Sunday 11th June);
- ◆ **Petertide Sunday**, (25th June) which is our dedication festival, when we give thanks for our Christian community in St Peter's;
- ◆ **St Peter's Day** (Thursday 29th June), which is our patronal festival, when we remember the chief Apostle, St Peter, after whom our parish is named.

LECTORS AND INTERCESSORS

It is vital to the health of the congregation that members volunteer to read the Bible and lead the prayers during our services. For many, this will initially require them to step outside their comfort zone, as public speaking can seem a daunting prospect. Whilst some nerves are to be expected, challenge yourself to overcome them. Indeed, I would ask you to reflect upon your experience of listening to others who go up to read. Being focussed on the passage being read, we rarely fixate on *who* is reading. And even if there is some little mistake, we tend to forget it quite quickly! So please don't worry about how others will perceive you.

Leading the prayers requires a little more preparation than reading the Bible, as our intercessions must be written in advance by the person who leads them. To simplify this, I have compiled some prayers from which you can select those you wish to pray either as they are written, or amended to reflect your style or concerns. There are two such lists of prayers: one for Holy Communion, and the other for Morning Prayer. Both lists will be available at the back of the church, or I can email them to you if you would prefer to cut and paste. Please note that these prayers, whilst perfectly fine to use as necessary, are not intended to be a crutch.

They are there primarily to let you see the style and content of the prayers, so that eventually you can prepare your own from scratch.

Please do have a think about whether reading the Bible or leading the intercessions is something that would like to do – even just to try once or twice to see how you get on.

GENERAL SYNOD

Although we sometimes describe the Church of Ireland as “episcopalian” (from the Greek word “episkipos”, meaning “bishop”) we are governed not by the bishops, but by the General Synod. We should, therefore, more accurately be described as “synodical”. Modelled on the British Houses of Parliament, the General Synod consists of the House of Bishops and the House of Representatives. The Bishops include the eleven serving diocesan bishops, and the Representatives include the clergy and lay people who have been elected by the Diocesan Synods of each of the eleven dioceses.

To be fair to all members, the venue of the General Synod is relocated every year, meaning that those from the far flung corners of the island are not forever at a disadvantage when it comes to travelling. Last year, the Synod met in Belfast, and this year, we met in Wexford. For the first time, we met in-person



for two days (Friday 12th and Saturday 13th May) and online for one evening (Tuesday 16th May). There were 407 people in attendance on Friday, 355 on Saturday, and around 300 on Tuesday.

There are three main purposes of Synod, although only two are official. Formally, we hear reports on all aspects of Church life, from various expressions of ministry, to finance, property, and law. We also deliberate and vote upon bills and motions, which effect change to how we do things in the Church of Ireland. Less formally, it is also an important opportunity to renew old friendships, and get to know people from across the Church of Ireland whom we might not otherwise encounter.

After a long day of listening to speeches, it was lovely on the Friday evening to spend a little time with three of my clerical colleagues with whom I lived and studied for three years at the Theological College in Dublin: the Very Rev'd Paul Bogle (now Dean of Trim in Meath Diocese), the Rev'd Canon Paul Arbuthnot (now Rector of St Ann's, Dawson Street, in Dublin Diocese), and the Rev'd Peter Ferguson (now Rector of Castleberg, in Derry & Raphoe Diocese). Some of you might remember that Canon Arbuthnot preached in St Peter's on Petertide Sunday in 2019. To show how small this island is, his grandfather was once Rector of St Paul's, York Road, and I am now his successor as Priest-in-Charge of that parish.

In last month's issue of the Parish Notes, I gave a list of all the various matters that were to be debated and resolved at the Synod. With very few exceptions, all of them were passed. If you would like to learn more about what was decided, then a comprehensive report is to be found on its website at:

synod.ireland.anglican.org/2023/welcome

As much as I enjoyed my time at Synod (even the bureaucratic bits), the one complaint I have is that I ended up with an awful cold. That's the downside of gathering hundreds of people from all over the island into one room! Nevertheless, it is always good to have a reminder that the Church of Ireland is much bigger than just St Peter's, and that we are part of an all-island Christian family.

FAMILY SERVICE

At the 10am Family Service on Sunday 7th May, we reflected upon the King's Coronation service in Westminster Abbey, and the meaning of the various actions and objects involved. We even crowned a little king! (*See photo*). In that same vein, I should say thank you to Ashlee McCune, her son Henry, and Sandra Hutchman for providing "coronation refreshments" that same day, following our 11am service.



Our next Family Service will be at 10am on Sunday 4th June, and we will be reflecting upon the Doctrine of the Trinity. Please do come along, regardless of your age – but we do warmly encourage families with young children. Note that all of the 10am services will pause during July and August.

CHRISTIAN AID

Congratulations to Jill Bradley and her team of walkers (*see front cover*) who have so far raised around £700 for Christian Aid. From Tuesday 16th May, the group, consisting of Annette, Dora, Jill, Jim, Shiela, Thelma, and Quintin, depending on the day, walked 20 miles over four mornings. They walked from St Peter's, to the Waterworks, did three laps around them, and then returned to the church.



Thank you to those who contributed. If you would still like to, then please use the Christian Aid envelopes at the back of the church, making sure to fill in the details for Gift Aid.

“NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME.”

For many people, that has to be one of the most difficult statements that Jesus made, because it seems to shut out of heaven, anyone who does not believe in Jesus Christ—and that means atheists on one hand, and non-Christian religious people on the other. So we have huge numbers of the global population who, Jesus says, will not get to the Father. And this is generally interpreted as meaning, they won't get into heaven when they die. And although I am sure there are a few Christians that you would be happy not to see in the afterlife, there are probably a lot of non-Christians that you would like to see. But ... they are seemingly excluded.

Let's look at the passage and see what Jesus is saying, and consider why he was saying it. John 14 (from which that verse is to be found) is an account of the Last Supper, which begins in chapter 13. John's memory of that event differs from those recorded in the other three gospels, because whereas their focus is on the institution of Holy Communion, John's focus is on Jesus preparing the disciples for his death. So it includes Jesus washing his disciples' feet, and telling them that—in the same way—they need to serve each other. And then he gives them the New Commandment: “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” And of course, we know in hindsight that the way in which Jesus loved, was in being prepared to give up everything for us, even his own life. And then he tells them, “You cannot follow me now where I am going, but later you will follow me.” To which St Peter protests, saying “Why can't I follow you now? I am ready to die for you!” To which Jesus asks, “Are you really ready to die for me?” before uttering the famous statement, “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” John chapter 14 (today's passage) is the direct continuation of this conversation between Jesus and his disciples. And it opens with Jesus saying, “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” The

implication, of course, is that the disciples were troubled, and understandably so. Jesus had been telling them that within a short period of time, he would be gone. And although he seemed to think that this would be a good thing, we need to empathise with the disciples who had expected to be involved in changing the world, but now realised that it was not going to be the kind of revolution they had hoped for, and it seemed very likely that—rather than becoming heroes—they would be rounded up and executed.

With that in mind, Jesus telling them “Do not let your hearts be troubled” was probably a bit of an understatement. And interestingly, he does not deny the fact that many of them will be killed. What he does do, is explain that their afterlife will be better than their earthly life. I suppose it was his way of encouraging them not to focus on their suffering, but on the joy that would come afterwards.

And so he tells them, “I will go and prepare a place for you ... so that where I am, there you may be also.” In other words, “we will all be together again.”

And then he says, “And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas (doubting Thomas) replied, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” To which Jesus responds, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” In other words, “Believe in me. Trust in me. Do what I have been doing ... and you will receive eternal life.” And then comes the bit that many find so difficult: “No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Now, if you're hoping that I am going to wrangle from these words, some notion of universal salvation, in which everyone gets into heaven, I am afraid you are going to be disappointed. Jesus means what he says here: he, and he alone, is the only way to God. Of course, the context of why he is saying this is, as I've explained, to comfort his disciples, and to strengthen their resolve in the days to come, following his death. So it makes sense that

he should affirm for them that they haven't been involved in a lost cause by following him. But he's going far beyond that, by explaining not that he is "one way" to get to God, indeed, not simply that he is the "only way" to get to God, but so much more than that: he is God himself.

We see this clearly in the conversation that follows: Jesus says, "If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.'

Now, I want you to recognise the magnitude of that statement. Because understanding that "Jesus is God" underpins the entire Christian faith.

And the reason why Jesus can claim to be the only way to "get to God" is because "he is God." And this stands in direct contrast to the universalist idea that all religions are just different paths that lead to some vague notion of an abstract God, and that Jesus is just one path. Jesus is not simply a way to get to God. He is God. And unless other religions lead you to Jesus, then they are not leading you to God.

Now, I fully get the common desire that everyone should get into heaven. And I'll let you into an open secret: that is precisely God's desire too. He wants all of creation, and every human being, to be in eternal relationship with him – in this life and in the next. But there is only one way to know him: and that is to know Jesus Christ.

Petertide Sunday

There will be a light lunch at the Lansdowne Hotel at midday on Sunday 25th June, as we celebrate the 123rd anniversary of the parish. We are asking for a minimum donation of £6 per person to help us cover the cost, with any extra gladly received! There will be sandwiches, sausage rolls, chicken goujons, cocktail sausages, and tea/coffee. To book a place, please sign the sheet at the back of the church or contact Daphne McClements.

SERVICES IN JUNE		OFFICIANT	LECTOR	PREACHER	INTERCESSOR
SUNDAY 4TH JUNE (GREEN) - TRINITY SUNDAY					
10am Family Service	Rector	Cheryl Hurson	Rector	Ashlee McCune*	
11am Choral Eucharist	Rector	David Cromie	Rector	Sandra Hutchman	
6pm Compline	Rector	Rosemary Johnston	-	Rector*	
WEDNESDAY 7TH JUNE (GREEN)					
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Quintin Mulligan	
SUNDAY 11TH JUNE (RED) - SAINT BARNABAS' DAY					
10am Holy Communion (trad)	Rector	David Cromie	-	David Cromie*	
11am Choral Matins	David Cromie	David Cromie	Rector	David Cromie	
WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE (GREEN)					
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Timothy Wilson	
SUNDAY 18TH JUNE (GREEN) - THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY					
10am Morning Prayer	Rector	Quintin Mulligan	Rector	Rector*	
11am Choral Eucharist	Rector	Jonny Watson	Rector	Jonny Watson	
WEDNESDAY 21ST JUNE (GREEN)					
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Jill Bradley	
SUNDAY 25TH JUNE (RED) - PETER/TIDE SUNDAY					
10am Holy Communion	Rector	Dora Hanna	-	Dora Hanna*	
11am Choral Matins	Dora Hanna	Dora Hanna	Rector	Dora Hanna*	
WEDNESDAY 28TH JUNE (RED) - PETER/TIDE					
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Rector	
THURSDAY 29TH JUNE (RED) - SAINT PETER'S DAY					
7.30pm Festival Choral Evensong	David Cromie	Dora Hanna	-	David Cromie*	

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

by Rosemary Johnston

'The Big Fisherman'

This month on the 29th we celebrate Saint Peter, our patron saint, that big fisherman, who, despite all his flaws, became the leader of the church in Jerusalem. As we know, Jesus called him and his brother Andrew as they were fixing their nets by the Sea of Galilee. They immediately followed Jesus, who must have seen something special in Peter and changed his name from Simon to Cephas, meaning rock, and told him he would now be fishing for men. Peter was one of the first to recognise that Jesus is the Messiah, and said so when Jesus asked the disciples who people thought he was. But Peter was also very human—which cheers me up. Like me he could put his foot in it as when he argued with Jesus when he told them he would be killed. Jesus told Peter he did not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns. When Peter saw Jesus walking on the water and asked Jesus to tell him to walk on the water too it worked for a while—he trusted Jesus—but then he became aware of the wind, and fearful human nature overtook him, his trust evaporated and, as we know, he began to sink and was rescued by Jesus only to be told ‘You of little faith, why did you doubt?’ This could be said to some of us many times and I think that is why the east window depicting Peter being rescued by Jesus is the one that means the most to me—that my trust in Jesus is not what it should be—too many doubts and fears. When Jesus was arrested, the servant’s ear was struck off, presumably by Peter, thinking he was defending his master but Jesus didn’t appreciate the action and healed the servant. But then came Peter’s greatest failure when, through fear for his life, he denied Jesus three times. How must he have felt when Jesus turned and looked straight at him? He had denied his Lord three times in public through fear for his life—after all his protestations that he would stand by him come what may. Utterly devastated by his failure he went away and wept bitterly. As someone who fails regularly, I can empathise with Peter. On the Sunday morning when the women went to the tomb and found it empty, they were told by angels that Jesus had risen and they ran to tell the disciples and, of course, Peter along with John had to go and see for themselves. But when Mary Magdalene actually saw and spoke to the risen Jesus he told her to tell the disciples to go on to Galilee. How did Peter feel when he heard this—with hope or fear after what he had done? But, as we know, Jesus not only forgave Peter, he reinstated him after asking him three times if he loved him and Peter, a bit miffed, replies ‘Lord, you know that I love you’.

In the forty days that Jesus taught and inspired the disciples, Peter must have learned a lot and when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, he was empowered, transformed, emboldened. Gone is the impetuous, foot-in-mouth, fearful, doubting Peter. Here is a man who addressed the crowd in Jerusalem with such authority, and such knowledge of the scriptures, that 3,000 became believers. He also pointed the finger at the Jewish leaders, accusing them of having Jesus crucified, without fear of what might happen to himself. The leaders were astonished as the disciples were ordinary, uneducated men. Later Peter travelled widely, spreading the gospel in many countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region and I read that he was accompanied not only by Silas but also by his wife. He was martyred, as Jesus had predicted and we are told, upside down. Saint Peter is an example to us all. He left his former life behind, his trust in Jesus was absolute and he went on to live his life in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the end did die for his Lord.

Heavenly Father, Saint Peter had many faults, but through the love of the Lord Jesus and the empowering of the Holy Spirit he became the great leader we remember today. May we too look to Jesus to help us, and to the Holy Spirit to guide us, so that we are ready to serve all our days. Amen.

Saint Peter's Day

You are invited to our

PATRONAL FESTIVAL SERVICE

THURSDAY 29th JUNE 7.30pm

wine reception after.

Everyone welcome.

North Belfast Historical Society

40th Anniversary Buffet Supper

Lansdowne Hotel

Thursday 15th June at 7pm

*If you would like to attend, please contact Daphne McClements
tel 07730 127350 (cost of supper £10)*

Altar Guild Rota for June

Date	Time	Set-up	Wine Cruet	Wine Chalice	Colour	Location
Sunday 4th	11am	David Cromie	David Cromie	Dora Hanna	Green	Chancel
Wednesday 7th	10.30am	Margaret McK Black	Rosemary Johnston	Rector	Green	Resurrection
Sunday 11th	10am	David Cromie	David Cromie	Rector	Red	St James'
Wednesday 14th	10.30am	Rosemary Johnston	Marie Burrowes	Rector	Green	Resurrection
Sunday 18th	11am	Jonny Watson	Jonny Watson	Dora Hanna	Green	Chancel
Wednesday 21st	10.30am	Jim Wilson	Rosemary Johnston	Rector	Green	Resurrection
Sunday 25th	10am	Dora Hanna	Dora Hanna	Rector	Red	Chancel
Wednesday 28th	10.30am	Kathryn Hennessy	Dora Hanna	Rector	Red	Resurrection

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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to those with birthdays in June:
Julie Douglas, Hannah Delaney,
Eddie McCamley and Laura Lacey.

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. No years mentioned!

PARISH REGISTER

Christian Burial

"At rest in the Lord."

Heather Tweedie

Burial at Dunluce Graveyard

on 29th March 2023

Derek Graham

Cremation at Roselawn

on 18th April 2023

Robin Reid

Cremation at Roselawn

on 20th April 2023

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.

FLOWER LIST FOR JUNE

7TH 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.



*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
by Monday 19th June. Thank you.*

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

Rector: The Rev'd Brian Lacey 90 777 053 brianlacey@stpeterbelfast.org
Parish Administrator: Anne Cromie 90 776 706 anecromie@stpeterbelfast.org
Organist and Choir Master: Robert Thompson 07590 851564 marlaghodge@gmail.com
Honorary Assistant Priest: The Rev'd Dr Ken Houston 90 771 830 skhouston43@gmail.com
Associate Minister: The Rev'd Andrew Irwin 9600 5015 andrewirwin@stpeterbelfast.org

Parish Reader: David Cromie 90 775 669 davidcromie@stpeterbelfast.org
Parish Reader: Dora Hanna 95 733 374 dorahanna@stpeterbelfast.org
Rector's Churchwarden: Daphne McClements 07730 127350 daphnemcclements@stpeterbelfast.org
People's Churchwarden: Margaret McKenna-Black 07732 651569 m.mckenna-black@sky.com
Co-ordinator for Intercessors: Rosemary Johnston 90 840 534 -
Co-ordinator for Lectors: Sandra Hutchman 95 149 564 sehutchman@hotmail.com
Co-ordinator for Flowers: Sandra Davison 07738 403667 sbdavison@hotmail.com

Rector's Glebewarden: Victor Davis 90 771 197 davisvictor9@aol.com
People's Glebewarden: Michael Moore 9050 8177 mjmoore1947@gmail.com
Co-ordinator for Groundskeeping: Noel Beattie 90 778 428 noelbeattie@stpeterbelfast.org

Honorary Secretary: Yvonne Crozier 07525 134947 yvonnecurrid@gmail.com
Honorary Treasurer: Ashlee McCune 07801 556386 ashleemcune@hotmail.com
FWO & Gift Aid Secretary: Noel Beattie 90 778 428 noelbeattie@stpeterbelfast.org

Baby Sensory: Heather Trojan 07590 928384 belfastnw@babysensory.co.uk
Bereavement Group: Dora Hanna 95 733 374 dorahanna@stpeterbelfast.org
Bible Study: The Rev'd Brian Lacey 90 777 053 brianlacey@stpeterbelfast.org
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Rainbows: Lee Kennedy 07871 875985 lee_kennedy@btinternet.com
Speech & Drama: Claire McGrogan 07793 045071 clairekieran99@yahoo.co.uk
Unislim: Karen Flannery 07773 758524 Flannery-Karen@hotmail.com
Walking Group: Jill Bradley 90 842 998 jill.bradley1@btinternet.com

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

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

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