

THE PARISH OF
ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

MAY 2023

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



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".



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Please note
these dates for the
following meetings:

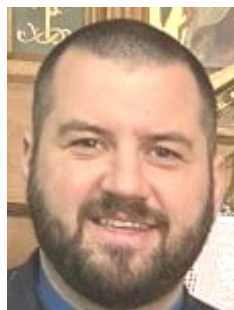
SENIOR OFFICERS

Friday 5th May
11.30am
in the Clergy Vestry

SELECT VESTRY

Monday 15th May
7.30pm
in the Minor Hall

RECTOR'S NOTES



SERVICES IN MAY

Please make every effort to join us for worship on the Day of Pentecost (28th May) at either 10am or 11am, and could I encourage you to wear something red!

Easter Day has been and gone, but the Season of Easter continues throughout May. There are several important Holy Days during the month: Rogation Sunday (14th) is the day on which we pray for a bountiful harvest later in the year. The Ascension Day (Thursday 18th) marks the end of our Lord Jesus' ministry on earth, prior to his ascension into heaven. On the Day of Pentecost, also known as Whitsunday (28th), we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. On the feast day of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Wednesday 31st) we remember the visit of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist.

Our 10am Sunday services will be the Family Service (7th), Holy Communion (14th and 28th), and Morning Prayer (21st).

Our 11am Sunday services will be Choral Eucharist (7th and 21st), Choral Matins (14th), and a Service of the Word (28th).

There will be one evening service, at 6pm on the first Sunday of the month (7th).

Please note that there will be no mid-week service on Wednesday 17th May. This has been moved to the next day, Thursday 18th at 10.30am, to celebrate the Ascension Day. This is also election day, so please enter the carpark via the gates closest to the Antrim Road.

PARISH FINANCES

In 2022, our income was £115,120, and our expenditure was £132,187. This means that we brought in £17,067 less than we needed. However, given that we have two part-time members of staff in addition to a full-time clerical stipend to pay each year, that shortfall is not surprising.

Although we had several sources of income, much of it came from Free Will Offering envelopes, standing orders, and annual subscriptions, amounting to £54,707 (not including Gift Aid). If we are to maintain the quality of our worship and ministries, then we will find it difficult to reduce our expenditure. Instead, we need to increase our income. We can do this in two ways: (1) Having more people donate to parish funds, and (2) having existing members giving more this year than they gave last year. Will you please, therefore, examine how much of a financial contribution you give to the Church, especially in light of our need to raise in excess of £130,000 each year. If we were all to give an additional 10% of what we gave last year, then this would certainly help. Please pray about this, and give joyfully what you can afford.

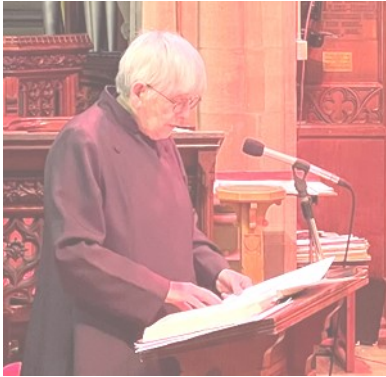
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Thank you to Cheryl Hurson for faithfully leading Kids' Church at 10am on Sunday mornings during term-time. This is a vital ministry, and I encourage all parents to bring their primary school age children. Could I also ask you to consider volunteering to lead Kids' Church even on an occasional basis, as I am sure Cheryl would appreciate the support and a chance to rest.

Our Family Services continue at 10am on the first Sunday of May and June, and then there will be a summer break during July and August. Thank you to all who come along. Pictured

on the front cover are some of the children on Palm Sunday, when we re-enacted the triumphal entry of our Lord Jesus into Jerusalem.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



On Fig Monday in Holy Week, we had a new (for us) service of images, readings, and prayers, journeying with our Lord Jesus on The Way of the Cross. I am very grateful to the Rev'd Mellissa Jeffers (pictured) and Jonny Watson for leading services on Holy Tuesday and Spy Wednesday, respectively. On Maundy Thursday we celebrated

Choral Eucharist, and on Good Friday we had our atmospheric service of Tenebrae. Every service was different, and each one was enriching in its own way. Thank you to all involved.

I was delighted to see over a hundred people in St Peter's on Easter Day. Numbers aren't everything, but it does make such a positive difference to our worship, and – most importantly – it honours our Lord Jesus Christ. Please keep joining us as often as you can!

EASTER VESTRY

At our Easter Vestry Meeting on Sunday 23rd April, we elected the committee which will manage the human, physical, and financial resources of the parish for the next year. Known as the Select Vestry, its members now include Daphne McClements (Rector's Churchwarden), Margaret McKenna Black (People's

Churchwarden), Victor Davis (Rector's Glebewarden), Michael Moore (People's Glebewarden), Yvonne Crozier (Honorary Secretary), Ashlee McCune (Honorary Treasurer), Adam Alexander, Noel Beattie, Jill Bradley, David Cromie, Dora Hanna, Sandra Hutchman, Matthew Lambert, Sarah McCusker, Quintin Mulligan, and Clodagh Webb.

As this is a Triennial Year, we also elected Parochial Nominators, Diocesan Synodspersons, and their supplementalists. The four Nominators are David Cromie, Dora Hanna, Noel Beattie, and Ashlee McCune, supplemented by Jill Bradley, Yvonne Crozier, Adam Alexander, and Michael Moore. The two Synodspersons are Quintin Mulligan and Sarah McCusker supplemented by Michael Moore and Sandra Hutchman.

Congratulations to all who will be serving this year, and many thanks to those who served last year. A full report of the parish's activities and finances for 2022 is in our Annual Report, of which there are copies at the back of the church.

GENERAL SYNOD

The annual meeting of the General Synod will be held in Wexford on 12th and 13th May, followed by a half-day online during the following week. I will be one of a few hundred clerical and lay representatives from across the Church of Ireland in attendance. Under discussion will be the following proposals:

- ◆ to amend registration forms for General Vestries to include contact details;
- ◆ to remove the requirement that Review Meetings and General Vestries must be advertised by affixing notices to the door of the church;
- ◆ to ensure that each member of the General Synod is a member of a parish in the diocese which they represent at the Synod;
- ◆ to require each member of the General Synod to provide their email address to the organisers of the Synod;

- ◆ to change the name of the Board of “St Patrick’s Cathedral Company, Limited by Guarantee” to simply “Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin”;
- ◆ to give clearer permission to clergy of the Methodist Church in Ireland to carry out ministry in a Church of Ireland context, with the permission of the Bishop;
- ◆ to amend regulations in parishes in the Republic of Ireland, concerning their charitable administration;
- ◆ to remove a ceiling figure on annual increases to clergy pensions and child dependency allowances;
- ◆ to allow flexibility in amending contributions to the Clergy Defined Pension Schemes, providing that they not be reduced below 8% of the Minimum Approved Stipend;
- ◆ to consider limiting the term in office of archdeacons;
- ◆ to remove the automatic re-nomination of previously co-opted members of the Standing Committee of the General Synod;
- ◆ to change rules governing elections to the Standing Committee of the General Synod;
- ◆ to consider limiting the tenure of parochial clergy;
- ◆ to establish a Pioneer Ministry Governing Council;
- ◆ to make minor revisions to the Book of Common Prayer concerning references to the monarch;
- ◆ to establish a working group to explore pastoral support for individuals and families affected by the Troubles;
- ◆ to encourage suggestions from Diocesan Councils with regard to how the Church can support migrants and refugees;
- ◆ to remove the Clergy Pension Fund Levy from the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.

As you can see, much of the work of the Synod is administrative, but there are also speeches from various groups and organisations which aim to keep us all informed of what is happening in the wider Church. Please keep the Synod in your prayers, that our decisions would serve only to support and grow the Church.

STUDENT READER

We said “thank you” but not “goodbye” to Jonny Watson at our 11am service on Sunday 23rd April. Jonny is a second year student at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, studying part-time to become an ordained minister, and he was with us for about ten Sundays since January. During training, ordinands (as they are called) are asked to arrange placements in parishes which broaden their experience of the Church of Ireland. They are then licensed as Student Readers by the Archbishop of Dublin, with permission to lead non-sacramental services and to preach in any diocese. As such, Jonny has helped lead services, administered the chalice, and preached on Palm Sunday and Spy Wednesday (pictured). Even though his placement has come to an end, he has asked to maintain his connection with us in St Peter’s, and I will be delighted to welcome him back whenever he is able to join us.



THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUTH

“Tell us *your* truth” has to be one of the most annoying things that I hear in television interviews. It is usually Americans who say it, but not exclusively. In recent times, it was said most notably by Oprah Winfrey when she interviewed Prince Harry and Megan Markle. It’s a statement which suggests that truth is subjective. As if reality is what we choose it to be – and all that matters are not “the facts” but our opinion and everyone’s opinion is equally valid. It’s no different than the ludicrous term “Alternative Facts”, which was coined a few years ago during the presidency of Donald Trump. Within the Church of Ireland, (and within the Anglican

Communion worldwide) we might not use terms like “Alternative Facts” or “Your Truth”, but you will find quite a range of opinions in our pews on a Sunday morning, and a strange sense of pride that there is such a breadth of theological opinions in Anglicanism. We pat ourselves on the back for it, as if each of us having “our own truth” and our own “alternative facts” is something to be valued.

It is true, of course, that Anglicanism is a broad church. I mean, how we worship here in St Peter’s is markedly different than how our Anglican brothers and sisters worship in Willowfield Parish in East Belfast, or in Lisburn Cathedral. And yet we’re all Anglicans. And the theology expressed in sermons will differ, depending on which Church of Ireland parish you visit, and who the particular preacher is. Some will be conservative evangelical. Some will be moderate evangelical. Some will be liberal or progressive. And you could well find two different Church of Ireland preachers giving radically different interpretations of the same passage of Scripture. And yet we’re all Anglicans. Even within a congregation, you will find very different opinions on the nature of God, or the authority of the Bible, or the nature and consequences of sin, or the mechanics of salvation, or what happens when we die. And yet we’re all Anglicans.

To some extent, there is value in this. We may not be the established state church any longer, but we still behave as if we are, and our parochial structure is intended to give every person in a parish a place to worship, no matter what their theological beliefs may be. But that doesn’t mean that every opinion, every belief, is correct. When it comes to the Christian faith, revealed in the Scriptures, manifested in Jesus, proclaimed by the Apostles, and confirmed by the Holy Spirit, there is only one truth. Any alternative beliefs are wrong, regardless of how strongly held your opinion is.

Let’s take the Resurrection, as an example. There are broadly three beliefs to be found among any Church of Ireland

congregation. The first is that Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday, and on Easter morning, he rose from the dead; his old earthly body was gone, and instead he had a new, resurrected body. He interacted with his disciples for forty days until ascending into heaven, and he sent his Holy Spirit at Pentecost. This is the Apostolic Truth, passed down over two thousand years from the time of Jesus, to us here today. The second belief is that Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday, and on the morning of Easter Sunday, his old body came back to life. A variation on this might be that Jesus did not really die on the cross at all. Instead perhaps he slipped into a coma, and on the morning of Easter Sunday he simply woke up. He then interacted with his disciples, before slipping into obscurity, and then somehow dying for real at a later date. Such beliefs are based on a scientific worldview, which tries to re-imagine the Gospel stories but without any supernatural elements. The early Church, then, was simply mistaken about who Jesus was, and they injected a lot of wishful thinking into their memories of what happened. The third belief is that Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday, and he stayed dead. There was no resurrection. The early Church simply made it up, and they then went around the world telling people lies for whatever spurious reasons they may have had.

I wonder, if we were to have a vote, which of those three beliefs would best match “your truth”? And does it really bother you if other people here believe something different to you? Well, it should. Those three beliefs cannot all be right. Two of them must be wrong. And if you happen to believe either of the two which are wrong, then it doesn’t matter how fervently you believe it; it doesn’t matter how you came to your conclusion; it doesn’t matter how clever or educated you think you are compared to everyone else who has a different opinion, you’re still wrong.

And although – as I said earlier – Anglicanism seems to provide space for varying beliefs and practices, the Truth of the

Resurrection is never dependent upon the prevailing popular opinion. The one and only Truth about what happened in the days following Jesus' death come not from what we think may have happened – but from what was said by the witnesses at the time, recorded in Scripture, passed down from one generation to another, and affirmed by the Holy Spirit. And that one Truth is what was said by the Angel in the empty tomb: “Jesus is not here. He has been raised, just as he said he would.”

This is our faith as a Christian Church: Jesus Christ died on the Cross. He was resurrected. He ascended into heaven to the right hand of the Father. He poured out his Holy Spirit upon all believers. And through his Spirit he is here with us now. This truth is not “my truth”. It is the “the truth”. The Apostolic Truth which this Church proclaims. Believe no other.

Date for your diary ...

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.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

by Rosemary Johnston

“And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anointed Solomon King”.

On Saturday 6th May, we will be able to watch King Charles III being anointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury in Westminster Abbey. In the splendour of the surroundings and amid all the pomp and ceremony, the King will make his solemn vow to serve all his people as a servant of God. The service will be held according to the rites of the Church of England but His Majesty has shown himself keen to show his respect for all faiths. It is a very demanding role but the King has shown how much he cares about the people he is to serve, both in the United Kingdom and throughout the Commonwealth. For most people today, it will be their first chance to witness a coronation and all it involves. There will be the solemnity of the service itself plus all the pomp and splendour surrounding such an important occasion. However, we are told that the numbers of those attending will be much reduced and other cost cutting exercises will be in place. I'm sure it will be magnificent for all that. The question also inevitably arises—why do we need a monarchy, isn't it totally out of date in the 21st century? Perhaps one reason is that, since it became a constitutional monarchy with no actual power, it is on the outside of politics, and therein may be its continuing strength despite its imperfections. It can be a beacon of stability in a very uncertain and often frightening world. We have a king who will promise to serve God and all his people regardless of race or creed, at home and in the Commonwealth. With his deep concern for people and the planet we can hope for a very relevant and inclusive reign. There are those who would prefer a republic, to do away with the monarchy; and of course that is their absolute right. But if a republic were to come about—how would we go about it? Would it be like the USA or France whose presidents are political? Or, would it be like Ireland whose president is above politics? And also, who would you choose, who would have the respect and trust of all the people? Not an easy question to answer. I am really glad that I will not see the day when the monarchy is no more.

Sovereign God, who called King Charles to be a ruler among his people: give him grace to be their servant; and help us, following our Saviour Christ in the path of humble service, to see God's kingdom set forward on earth and to enjoy its fulness in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(From 'Daily Prayers for the Coronation of King Charles III'
and compiled by the Church of England.)

SERVICES IN MAY	OFFICIANT	LECTOR	PREACHER	INTERCESSOR
WEDNESDAY 3RD MAY (WHITE)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Rosemary Johnston
SUNDAY 7TH MAY (WHITE) - THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER				
10am Family Service 11am Choral Eucharist 6pm Choral Evensong	Rector Rector David Cromie	Henry George Jonny Watson Daphne McClements	Rector Rector -	Cheryl Hurson* Jonny Watson David Cromie*
WEDNESDAY 10TH MAY (WHITE)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Daphne McClements
SUNDAY 14TH MAY (WHITE) - ROGATION SUNDAY				
10am Holy Communion (trad) 11am Choral Matins	Rector David Cromie	Daphne McClements David Cromie	- Rector	Rector* David Cromie
THURSDAY 18TH MAY (WHITE) - THE ASCENSION DAY				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Forde Patterson	Rector	Rector
SUNDAY 21ST MAY (WHITE) - THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION				
10am Morning Prayer 11am Choral Eucharist	Rector Rector	Quintin Mulligan David Cromie	Rector Rector	Rector* Rosemary Johnston
WEDNESDAY 24TH MAY (WHITE)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Colin Bell
SUNDAY 28TH MAY (RED) - THE DAY OF PENTECOST				
10am Holy Communion 11am Service of the Word	Rector Rector	Dora Hanna Dora Hanna	Rector Rector	Dora Hanna* Dora Hanna*
WEDNESDAY 31ST MAY (WHITE) - THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Jill Bradley*

Christian Aid Week 2023

14th-20th May

We are again planning to do a 20-mile sponsored walk during the above week in aid of Christian Aid. We are, of course, asking parishioners to sponsor us by placing a donation in the Christian Aid envelope you will find on the seats in church. Anyone who feels like joining us on the walk will be very welcome—starting at church at 10.30am on Monday 15th May. Thanking you in advance for your support.

Jill Bradley

North Belfast Historical Society

Annual General Meeting

to include discussion about arrangements for our 40th Anniversary Dinner to be held in the Lansdowne Hotel next season.

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



Daphne McClements, Chairman

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 May:

Sandra Davison, Rosemary Johnston, Eileen Jeffers,
Anne Cromie and Quintin Mulligan.

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.

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.



Daphne McClements has embroidered a new kneeler for Florrie Greer, marking the baptism of her granddaughter, Elena May Lin Greer, on 25th September 2022. Pictured holding the kneeler is Elena's father, Duncan.

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 MAY

- 7TH JILL BRADLEY IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER
- 14TH THE HALL FAMILY IN MEMORY OF THEIR PARENTS
- 21ST THE DAVISON FAMILY IN MEMORY OF ARTHUR
- 28TH JOYCE HUNTER IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND



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 June 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 May. 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 90777 0964 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
Bridge: Florrie Greer 90 776 812 florregreer@gmail.com
Brownies: Lee Kennedy 07871 875985 lee_kennedy@btinternet.com
Crafty Goodness: Daphne McClements 07730 127350 daffersmcclements@btinternet.com
Guides: Lee Kennedy 07871 875985 lee_kennedy@btinternet.com
Historical Society: Timothy Wilson 07928 850108 williamtim@hotmail.com
Kids' Church: Cheryl Hurson 07725 644118 cherylbleakley@hotmail.com
Learning Unlocked: Trevor Jamison 07771 778496 trevor@learningunlocked.co.uk
PhysioPlates: Sandra Hutchman 95 149 564 sehutchman@hotmail.com
Rainbows: Lee Kennedy 07871 875985 lee_kennedy@btinternet.com
Speech & Drama: Claire McGrogan 07793 045071 clairekieran99@yahoo.co.uk
Unislim: Flannery-Karen 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

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