

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

PARISH NOTES

SEPTEMBER 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".

Please note
these dates for
the following
meetings:

SENIOR OFFICERS

Friday 1st
September
11am
in St James'
Church.

SELECT VESTRY

Monday 18th
September
7.30pm
in the
Minor Hall.



Cavehill
COFFEE

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



Fortwilliam Greengrocers

Fruit & Vegetables
Fruit baskets & Bouquets
Fresh Flowers & Plants

575 Antrim Road
Belfast BT15 3BU
Tel 028 9077 1013



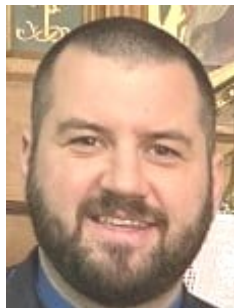
Prayer

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.

Our Church Family

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

RECTOR'S NOTES



SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

Following the summer break, our choir will make a welcome return in September, as will our early and evening services on Sundays. The evening service will resume at 6pm on the first Sunday of each month, commencing 3rd September, while our early service at 10am every Sunday will resume on 10th September.

At **10am** on the second and fourth Sundays of the month (10th and 24th September), there will be Holy Communion. On the 10th it will be the traditional service, and on the 24th it will be the modern service. On the third Sunday (17th September), there will be Morning Prayer.

At **11am** on the first Sunday of the month (3rd September) we will have a service of Readings and Hymns. There will be Choral Eucharist on the third Sunday (17th September), and Choral Matins on the second and fourth Sundays (10th and 24th September).

At **6pm** on the first Sunday only (3rd September), there will be a service of Choral Evensong.

Throughout the month, our midweek celebration of Holy Communion will be at **10.30am** on Wednesdays as usual.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Looking ahead to next month, our Harvest services will be held on the first Sunday in October. There will be a Children's Service at 10am, followed by Choral Eucharist at 11am, and

Choral Evensong at 6pm. Please come along to whichever suits you. If you would like to provide flowers or fruit and vegetables for our display, the church will be open from 10am till noon on Saturday 30th September.

As usual, we will be collecting for the Welcome Organisation, which cares for the homeless in Belfast. Any unused food in our Community Larder will be donated to them, but please also bring tea/coffee, tinned food, cereal, and hygiene products. We will gather these at the back of the church throughout September.

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Prior to the summer, there was an established pattern of in-person Bible Fellowship on Thursday evenings, except the third Thursday of each month when the Historical Society met instead. In order to encourage more parishioners to develop their discipleship, I am going to try a new pattern:

On the **first Thursday evening** of each month, there will be an *in-person* Discipleship Course in the Minor Hall from 7.30pm until 9pm. This will cover a range of subjects, including theology, ethics, mission, and spiritual growth. This is entirely separate from the Bible Fellowship on the other Thursdays, and attendance at one does not necessitate attendance at the other.

On the **second and fourth Thursday evenings** of each month, the Bible Fellowship will meet *in-person* in the Minor Hall from 7.30pm until 9pm.

There will be an *online* Fellowship Group, using ZOOM, from 2pm until 3pm on the **third Thursday afternoon** of each month. This will include Bible study, prayer, and general conversation. (Depending on who is interested in this, we may change the time, but we will try 2pm to begin with.)

Instead of a sermon during the mid-week service, there will be—only on the **last Wednesday of each month**—an *in-person* Bible

Study in the church from 11.30am until 12.30pm. This will be standalone, and the passages studied will be different to those discussed at Bible Fellowship on Thursday evenings. (Please note that there will be an interactive sermon during the other mid-week services!).

RURAL DEANERY

Connor Diocese is divided into three Archdeaconries, of which we belong to the Archdeaconry of Belfast. This in turn is subdivided into three Rural Deaneries, of which we belong to North Belfast. Our Rural Deanery consists of the parishes of St Peter & St James, St Katharine, St Paul & St Barnabas, the eight parishes in Newtownabbey, the parish of Greenisland, and the Mission to Seafarers. In the event of a vacancy in any of those twelve parishes, caused by the retirement or resignation of their rector or priest-in-charge, it is the responsibility of the Rural Dean to oversee the parish until a new cleric is appointed.

At the moment, there are currently three vacancies: Rathcoole (since September 2022), Whitehouse & St Ninnian (since May 2023), and Monkstown (since July 2023). As Rural Dean, I chair their meetings and ensure that there is pastoral provision for emergencies. In addition, I also happen to be serving as Priest in Charge of St Paul & St Barnabas (since June 2022).

Understandably, this is not a sustainable set-up in the long-run. The role of Rural Deans during a vacancy was only ever intended to be a stop-gap measure for a few months until a new appointment was made. Unfortunately, fewer clergy and less resources mean that vacancies are now becoming longer. This, then, increases the pressure not only on the Rural Deans, but perhaps even more so on retired clergy and diocesan readers who are called upon to help. There is also the unfortunate fact that congregations tend to dwindle the longer a vacancy continues, and this only exacerbates the problem.

Could I please implore you to pray for these vacant parishes. Having the right person appointed quickly to lead each of them is a blessing not only for them, but also for ourselves.

THE MINISTRY OF CHILDREN

Note that I did not write “The Ministry **to** Children”! All baptised children are members of the Christian Church, and are entitled (indeed, *expected*) to be involved in our Christian ministries and worship. In addition to reading the Bible at Children’s services, and leading prayers, I would like them to be involved in the choir, or assisting in services in some straightforward way—whether helping the officiant at the front, or the churchwardens at the back. If you have been to St Peter’s in recent weeks, you will have seen my own young son, robed up in a white surplice, joining me in the chancel (see front cover). He hasn’t been doing much, but as he grows older I will involve him in whatever way I can. As I have said before, though, sometimes it is spiritually beneficial for a child to be immersed in our liturgy, notwithstanding they may not readily claim to enjoy it! If you would like your own children to be involved, then please speak to me or the Churchwardens and we will gladly find them a role at any of our services.

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

The central panel of our east window depicts St Peter sinking in the Sea of Galilee, with Jesus standing above, holding on to him, lifting him up. You will find that story in Matthew 14: 22-33.

Whenever we read it, we tend to focus upon Peter, and how—despite his initial bravado in wanting to walk on water—he lets his fears overwhelm him and he begins to sink. And we read this as if the focus of the story is on Peter’s failure. If only he had a stronger faith, he could have walked on water. And wouldn’t that have been wonderful.

I think, though, that reading it with that emphasis, misses the point. The central message of the story is actually that Peter,

despite his best efforts, needed to be saved. And Jesus saved him. If we look at this story as a parable, then we can interpret the storm as being the difficulties of everyday life, and the water as representing chaos and godlessness (in much the same way that I've previously said about the waters in the opening chapter of Genesis, when the Spirit of God hovers over the waters). Peter himself represents us, all of humanity, immersed in this world in which trouble is always brewing under the surface, threatening to drag us under.

If you look at the story in this way, then you will notice something more clearly than you perhaps would otherwise: Peter asks for the ability to do what God can do. Peter wants to be unaffected by the storms of life; he wants to be able to rise above the things in this world which can harm us. And as much as we might read this story, egging him on, and hoping that he can do it, he inevitably fails. Why? Because he is not God. Only God can walk on water, and of course that's exactly what Jesus is doing. Why? Because Jesus is God. So, whether you look at this story as fact or as metaphor, the meaning is the same: humans need a saviour, and that saviour is Jesus, because Jesus is God.

"Being saved" is also the theme of the tenth chapter of St Paul's Letter to the Romans. He wrote, "If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." And then he says, "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved".

We tend to associate the idea of "being saved" with a particular brand of Christianity: usually Protestants from a hardline reformed tradition, sometimes charismatics such as Pentecostal churches. By and large, the secular world interprets "being saved" as meaning that someone has become very holy or very religious, perhaps to the point of becoming "holier than thou." Someone who is good living, who is overtly religious, with their whole life revolving around the Church, always looking for an opportunity to talk about their faith and convert others to their way of thinking. But that's a very stereotypical image of what a Christian should look like.

As anyone who has spent any time involved in the Christian Church, Christians are not so one-dimensional. There are many beliefs and practices and ways of life found expressed even within our own congregation. Within the worldwide church there are exponentially more. And I have met many Christians who think and act completely different from each other, and yet are all Christians. And that's because their salvation is not dependent upon their lifestyle. So, if one Christian decides that they shouldn't smoke, or gamble, or use bad language, or drink alcohol, then good for them. But doing those things does not affect their salvation. And Christians who do smoke, or gamble, or use bad language, or drink alcohol, are no less "saved" than those who don't.

Why? Because salvation is not something that we do. It is, instead, something that we receive. God himself has achieved our salvation, all we need to do is accept it. That's why St Paul wrote, "confess with your lips, and believe in your hearts." He didn't write, "behave a certain way and you will be saved." He said, "say it, and believe it." In other words, acknowledge that God, through Christ, has offered you salvation.

That's it. That's our only role in being saved. We acknowledge that God has saved us. Sounds easy doesn't it? And it is. We overcomplicate by insisting that Christians should behave a certain way. But, as I said before, how you live your life as a Christian is separate from how you become a Christian.

I've plenty to say about living as a Christian, but we'll keep that for another day. For now, I simply want to labour the point, that becoming a Christian, that is "being saved", is purely an acceptance that Jesus Christ has saved you. You are St Peter sinking in the waves, calling out for help, and Jesus Christ takes you by the hand, and saves you. This is the central truth of Christianity. And I can express it in four short sentences: (1) I need to be saved. (2) Jesus can save me. (3) I trust in Jesus. (4) Jesus has saved me. If you can say these words, and genuinely believe them, then you are Christian.

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER		OFFICIANT	LECTOR	PREACHER	INTERCESSOR
SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER (GREEN) - THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY					
11am Readings and Hymns 6pm Choral Evensong	David Cromie David Cromie	Multiple Hilary Shields	- -	Multiple David Cromie	
WEDNESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER (GREEN)					
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Rosemary Johnston	Rector	Rosemary Johnston	
SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER (GREEN) - THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY					
10am Holy Communion (trad) 11am Choral Matins	Rector Dora Hanna	Dora Hanna Dora Hanna	- Rector	Dora Hanna* Dora Hanna	
WEDNESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER (GREEN)					
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Daphne McClements	Rector	Daphne McClements	
SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER (GREEN) - THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY					
10am Morning Prayer 11am Choral Eucharist	Rector Rector	Margaret McK Black Rosemary Johnston	- Rector	Rector* Rosemary Johnston	
WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER (GREEN)					
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Timothy Wilson	Rector	Timothy Wilson	
SUNDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER (GREEN) - THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY					
10am Holy Communion 11am Choral Matins	Rector David Cromie	David Cromie David Cromie	- Rector	David Cromie* David Cromie	
WEDNESDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER (GREEN)					
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	Quintin Mulligan	Rector	Quintin Mulligan	

Breakfast at St Peter's: good enough for Goodenough

by David Cromie

On Friday, 30th June, the parish hosted students from Goodenough College, London to a 'political' breakfast, for the second time.

Goodenough College is situated in the Bloomsbury district of London and provides a collegiate residential base for post-graduate UK and international students. It is, in truth, a hot house for clever folks and the Dean happens to be our own Alan McCormack. Alan takes troops of students to events all over Europe and twice he has taken them to Northern Ireland where they can engage with the local political scene, an interesting opportunity, particularly for students from the more troubled parts of the world, to study how we have managed to create a peace process, warts and all, which has lasted for three decades, so far.

The students came from such varied places as Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, as well as the UK. Two local political representatives came to talk to them, Alban Magennis and Lewis Boyle. Alban needs no introduction to us, but Lewis may do. He is an Alliance Party councillor in Newtownabbey with the distinction of being, at eighteen, the youngest elected public representative in the UK or Ireland since William Pitt the Younger (he who gave us income tax as a 'temporary' measure to pay for the defeat of Napoleon!). Lewis was sitting his 'A' levels when elected to the council and hopes to go to QUB to study history and, wait for it—politics.

The usual Ulster fry was served up and the planned formal presentations were binned as the discussion developed naturally over the munching of sausages and spud bread and carried on long after the plates had been emptied. It was a most convivial and interesting meeting and valuable too: we always pray for peace, and here the parish was presented with a practical way to help achieve that, by hosting a gathering of international students who were able to take away a progressive analysis of the costs and struggles of making peace in a divided society and the hopes, opportunities and challenges a search for peace can raise.

You won't be surprised to know that Daffers, Ann and Margaret weighed in with loads of dish-washing and then assisted greatly in disposing of the left over bangers, eggs and mushrooms!



North Belfast Historical Society

The North Belfast Historical Society will start the 2023/24 season on 21st September opening with the reminiscences of a well-known media personality.



Further meetings are as follows:

19th October—David Cromie—Victorian Railways

16th November—Michael Flynn—Belfast during World War II

21st December—Noel Beattie—A Collection of World Wide Photos

Our meetings start at 7.30pm and all are welcome.

Daphne McClements

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

by Rosemary Johnston

'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat ...'



Before 24th February 2022 I knew very little about Ukraine or its people. I knew that Kyiv was founded by the Vikings, that it had a 'Great Gate' and that a comedian, Volodymyr Zelensky, had been elected president, but not much else—sorry, David! Since then, of course, we all know so much more and also about the horrors of war and the tragic effects on the people, both physical and mental.

Recently I was listening to the Food Programme on Radio 4 which was entirely devoted to bakers in Ukraine. It was inspirational. This is their story. 'Bake for Ukraine' was set up last year in Odessa by Maria Kolenska, a baker of sourdough bread which had been baked for centuries, each region producing its own variation. For years bland bread had been produced in vast quantities in Russian factories but Maria and two other women felt the need to revive the old recipes, so they started baking and in a trial run loaded up the furnace with wood and produced 50 loaves, then, as enthusiasm grew and more bakers and volunteers joined in they were producing thousands of loaves. Funds were raised to provide flour and to help bakers whose bakeries had been attacked by the Russians, providing them with new ovens and generators and helping with the rent. The bakers said the breadmaking 'felt like a good day when there aren't many good days to be had'. 'Bake for Ukraine' was set up to help the remaining bakeries survive; to give people hope—'our weapon'; to support the elderly, who felt very lonely and upset—when they received the bread, maybe still warm, they felt they were no longer alone. The Ukrainians don't like to eat alone. Food is shared. Hot meals were also provided, especially for people where the infrastructure had been destroyed and access to food was non-existent. Funds were raised in the UK by Felicity Spector, an Englishwoman descended from Ukrainian grandparents.

In Kyiv the ‘Victory Bakery’ baked 2,000 loaves a day, free for different regions, for citizens, soldiers on the front line, refugees, schools and hospitals. In Odessa a 100 year old Swiss army mobile bakery has been brought into use to take where infrastructure has been destroyed.



In the centre of Kyiv the ‘Good Bread Bakery’ had originally been set up as a social enterprise to provide employment opportunities for people with mental and learning difficulties to give them a path into work by training them in baking. When full-scale invasion broke out the bakery closed for a few days then reopened with a new mission—to make free bread and to distribute it to people in need. People helping people—people with mental disabilities baking bread for people in need.

This is just a taste of the story of the breadmakers of Ukraine.

*Heavenly Father,
we ask for your blessing and protection
for the breadmakers of Ukraine,
especially those who travel to the front line
and other dangerous areas.
Amen.*

Altar Guild Rota for September

Date	Time	Set-up	Wine Cruet	Wine Chalice	Colour	Location
Wednesday 6th	10.30am	Jim Wilson	Rosemary Johnston	Dora Hanna	Green	Resurrection
Sunday 10th	10am	Dora Hanna	Dora Hanna	Rector	Green	St James
Wednesday 13th	10.30am	Kathryn Hennessy	Dora Hanna	Rosemary Johnston	Green	Resurrection
Sunday 17th	11am	David Cromie	David Cromie	Dora Hanna	Green	Chancel
Wednesday 20th	10.30am	Quintin Mulligan	Rosemary Johnston	Marie Burrowes	Green	Resurrection
Sunday 24th	10am	David Cromie	David Cromie	Rector	Green	St James
Wednesday 27th	10.30am	Margaret McK Black	Dora Hanna	Rosemary Johnston	Green	Resurrection

FREEWILL GIVING 2024

Waiting for the summer to arrive? Might have a long wait! Hopefully we'll enjoy an Indian summer this month. Whatever happens I have to start now to prepare for 2024 giving to St Peter's.

If you are currently giving by freewill envelopes and wish to continue using this method during 2024, you need read no further as envelopes for use in 2024 will be with you towards the end of 2023.

However, if you wish to change to another method of giving during 2024 (ie Bankers Standing Order or other electronic means of giving) please contact me as soon as possible so that suitable arrangements can be put in place:

Noel Beattie—tel no: 90 778 428 or email: noel_innisfayle@msn.com

Many thanks.

FLOWER LIST FOR SEPTEMBER

3RD 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.

PARISH REGISTER

Holy Matrimony

*Signifying unto us the mystical union that is
between Christ and his Church.*

Harmony Estelle Black and Michael Conor Keenan

on 21st July 2023

Holy Baptism

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

Stella Byrne

daughter of Lisa Faulkner-Byrne and Jonny Byrne

on 13th August 2023



Stella with her mum, Lisa.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to our September birthday boys, Timothy Wilson and the Rector!
May the Lord bless you and keep you.

**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 18th September. Thank you.**

PARISH CONTACTS

Rector: The Rev'd Brian Lacey 90 777 053 brianlacey@stpeterbelfast.org
Parish Administrator: Anne Cromie 90 776 706 annecromie@stpeterbelfast.org
Organist and Choir Master: Robert Thompson 07590 8531564 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 81777 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: Florie Greer 90 776 812 floriegreer@gmail.com
Brownies: Lee Kennedy 07871 875985 lee_kennedy@btinternet.com
Crafty Goodness: Daphne McClements 07730 127350 daffersmcclements@btinternet.com
Glandore Dog Training Club: Ann Purse 07979 326041 ann.purse@sky.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
PhysioPilates: Sandra Hutchman 95 149 564 sehutchman@hotmail.com
Priory Singers: Philip Bolton 07821 906920 bolton390@btinternet.com
Rainbows: Lee Kennedy 07871 875985 lee_kennedy@btinternet.com
Speech & Drama: Claire McGrogan 07793 045071 clairreklar99@yahoo.co.uk
Unslim: Karen Flannery 07773 758524 Flannery-Karen@hotmail.com
Walking Group: Jill Bradley 90 842 998 jill.bradley1@btinternet.com