

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

NOVEMBER 2023

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



*Dora encouraging Lucy
to make a decoration for
Harvest Thanksgiving.*

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
3rd November
11am
in St James'
Church.

SELECT VESTRY

Monday
20th November
7.30pm
in the
Minor Hall.



Cavehill
COFFEE



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



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.



Fortwilliam Greengrocers

Fruit & Vegetables
Fruit baskets & Bouquets
Fresh Flowers & Plants

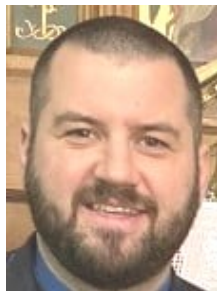
575 Antrim Road
Belfast BT15 3BU
Tel 028 9077 1013



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 NOVEMBER

Although we will have celebrated All Saints' on the last Sunday in October, its official date is 1st November, and for that reason we will celebrate it again at mid-week Holy Communion on that date. The only other holy day which we will celebrate this month will be The Kingship of Christ (sometimes known as Christ the King) on the last Sunday of November.

On **5th November**, the Fourth Sunday before Advent, there will be a Family Service at 10am, followed by Choral Eucharist at 11am, and then Choral Evensong at 6pm.

On **12th November**, Remembrance Sunday, there will be a traditional celebration of Holy Communion at 10am, followed by the Remembrance Service at 11am. At the latter service, the list of parishioners who died during the First World War and Second World War will be read aloud, lest we forget.

On **19th November**, the Second Sunday before Advent, there will be Morning Prayer at 10am, followed by Choral Eucharist at 11am.

On **26th November**, which is the feast day of Christ the King, there will be Holy Communion at 10am, followed by Choral Matins at 11am.

SAFEGUARDING TRUST

“Safeguarding Trust” is the name of the Church of Ireland’s child protection policy, and its implementation is the responsibility of our Select Vestry. However, for all practical purposes, this is delegated to a Panel consisting of myself and two parishioners. Until recently, they were Florrie Greer and Philip Williamson. Florrie has decided to step down from the role, and I am very grateful for her service over recent years. In her stead, Clodagh Webb has been appointed. More information about safeguarding policies and practices can be read at safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org but if you have any concerns about the safety of children in St Peter’s, then please contact Philip, Clodagh, or myself.

DISCIPLESHIP AND BIBLE STUDY

In our first two meetings of the monthly **Discipleship Group**, we examined what the Bible reveals about salvation and the afterlife. This month we will think about mission and evangelism, with a focus on how to articulate and communicate our own Christian faith. You will be very welcome to join us. We begin at 7.30pm on Thursday 2nd November in the Minor Hall.

On Thursday 9th and 23rd November, our **Bible Fellowship** will continue studying the Gospel according to St Matthew, commencing at 7.30pm in the Minor Hall.

On Thursday 16th November, particularly for the benefit of those who cannot attend church in person, there will be prayers and Bible study online using **ZOOM**, at 2pm.

On Wednesday 29th November, our monthly mid-week **Bible Study** will meet at 11.30am in the church.

TEA PARTY

There will be a Tea Party in St Peter's on Wednesday 8th November at 11.30am with tea, coffee, and a selection of sweet and savoury food. This is absolutely free to anyone from the local community, but numbers are limited. Please let me know if you would like to attend by emailing brianlacey@stpeterbelfast.org or ringing 90777053.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Thank you to Sandra Davison, our Coordinator of Church Flowers, for managing the team of floral arrangers for our Harvest display on Sunday 1st October. The church was beautifully adorned ... and it smelled lovely!



Thank you also to everyone who brought along fruit or vegetables for display, and especially to those who donated various items for the Welcome Organisation. Their premises are on Tennent Street, towards the city centre, and they gratefully received the trolley-full of products for use by the homeless.

CONFESS YOUR SINS

Sometimes we overlook or excuse or downplay our sinfulness, and we do that for various reasons, not least because we might think that humans are just trying their best to be good, and that's surely good enough. In a secular environment, that notion is probably acceptable, but in a Christian context, it is not. Let me explain why.

The ultimate intention of Christianity is to bring people into a living, loving relationship with God, their creator, in a way that affects their lives positively both in this world, and in the world

to come. But one of the core themes in the Bible, (and it's presented to us in the opening chapters with the story of Adam and Eve and the serpent,) is that humanity's relationship with God has been broken ... because he cannot tolerate sin. And you see this presented in stories such as Noah and the Ark, in which the flood comes to wipe out sinful humanity.

But despite the repeated warnings in the Old Testament that people needed to change their ways – (they needed to repent of their sins) such warnings generally fell on deaf ears, and people—even God's Chosen People—continued to be self-interested, corrupt, and violent. Despite having the Ten Commandments to guide them, they repeatedly broke them.

Why? Because humans are self-centred. Try as we might, we will never be good enough to justify ourselves in the eyes of God. The Good News, then, presented by, and embodied by, our Lord Jesus, is that we don't need to be good enough. All we need to do is admit our sins, and trust that through his death and resurrection, we have been set free from the consequences of those sins, and that our broken relationship with God has been healed.

Now, with that in mind, let's have a look at Matthew 22. This is the parable of the wedding banquet, which actually has two parts. The first part is probably straightforward. A banquet has been prepared, and the invitations sent out, but—for one reason or another—the invited guests are not interested, and so the host tells his servants to go out into the streets and invite anyone who wants to come. As with all parables, everything represents something else: So the host represents God. The banquet represents being in relationship with God; or the Kingdom of God, or more simply the Church. The originally invited guests are the leaders of the Pharisees and Sadducees at the time of Jesus, who refused to acknowledge (let alone be part of) the new community of God that Jesus was establishing. And the ones who did come in, are the ordinary people—whether Jews or Gentiles—who did want to belong to the Church.

The second half of the parable is perhaps a little more awkward. We read that wedding banquet is underway, filled with anyone who wants to be there ... when the host notices that someone is not wearing the appropriate clothing for a wedding banquet. The host asks, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And the man sitting there was speechless. And so the host has the man kicked out.

But why was the man thrown out? Why was the man, who having heard that there was something wonderful happening, and decides to go along and get involved, chucked out? The answer has to be in the "wedding robe" which all the other guests are wearing, but this man isn't. Now, as it's a parable, the wedding robe has to represent something else. But what is it? Well, given that I began by talking about sinfulness, that should be your clue. So let's think about it. In the parable, after the self-righteous invited guests refuse to come into the banquet, the doors are flung open, and everyone and anyone is invited in. And this is a metaphor for the Kingdom of God being open to all people. But there is a condition placed upon those who wish to enter. They cannot just come as they are, with their anger and bitterness and pettiness and grudges and self-interest and hatred. Rather, they have to prepare themselves. And in this context, that means confessing their sins, admitting to God that of their own merit they could never enter his Kingdom, and then asking him to cover their sins, so that they are seen no more. That's what we mean when we talk about "being clothed with Christ" during a baptism. If you confess your sins and trust in the saving power of Jesus, he himself provides you with the robe that all must wear at the banquet. That's what the man was missing, and why the man was cast out. He was trying to enjoy the wonders of the Kingdom of God on his own terms, in his own way. And his sins, unconfessed, unrepented, were plain for all to see.

Don't be like him. Confess your deepest, darkest sins to Jesus, and you will not find condemnation. You will find unrelenting forgiveness and everlasting life.

CHURCH GARDEN

To those who volunteered throughout the past year to look after a portion of the church grounds, we sincerely thank you for your assistance.

As we are now at the end of the weed growing season but before 'the snows' (not likely) appear, may I ask all volunteers to take an hour or so and carry out a final de-weed and a general tidy up in your area.

Many thanks to you all again.

Noel Beattie

BELFAST: A VIEW OF THE CITY

One of our choristers, Derek Gallop, has edited a book of photographs which shows the sites, life, and culture of Belfast. It is a large, beautifully presented book, which he is offering to parishioners for only £5—well below what it is worth—and 20% of sales go to parish funds. If you would like to buy



a copy, please speak to Derek directly, or to Anne Cromie in the parish office. It would make an excellent Christmas gift for anyone who lives here, or perhaps for those in far-flung places who remember the city fondly. There is a sample copy on the table in the hall foyer.

Parish Christmas Afternoon Tea
Saturday 16th December at 1.30pm
Lansdowne Hotel
£5/person
Further details from the Churchwardens

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER	OFFICIANT	LECTOR	PREACHER	INTERCESSOR
WEDNESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER (WHITE) - ALL SAINTS' DAY				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	-	Daphne McClements
SUNDAY 5TH NOVEMBER (GREEN) - THE FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT				
10am Family Service	Rector	-	Rector	Henry George
11am Choral Eucharist	Rector	Anne Stewart	Rector	Sandra Hutchinson
6pm Choral Evensong (1662)	David Cromie	Nigel Macauley	-	David Cromie*
WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Dora Hanna
SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER (RED) - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY				
10am Holy Communion (1662)	Rector	David Cromie	-	David Cromie*
11am Remembrance Service	Rector	David Cromie	Rector	David Cromie
WEDNESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Rector
SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER (GREEN) - THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT				
10am Morning Prayer	Robert Long	Rector	-	Robert Long*
11am Choral Eucharist	Rector	Robert Long	Rector	Robert Long
WEDNESDAY 22ND NOVEMBER (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Colin Bell
SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER (GREEN) - THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST				
10am Holy Communion	Rector	Dora Hanna	-	Dora Hanna*
11am Choral Matins	Dora Hanna	Dora Hanna	Rector	Dora Hanna
WEDNESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	-	Rosemary Johnston

Mind Matters Conference

Dublin, Friday 20 October 2023

by Nigel Macauley

Travelling by train, I arrived in Dublin the day prior to the conference. I spent my first day visiting the Oireachtas, attending St Peter's Zoom Bible study and having dinner with a friend at the Stephen's Green Club, where I was staying. Bed called, for an early start was required the following day. Morning came, and after breakfast I attended Matins at the National Cathedral, St Patrick's at 8.45am, planned to take place in the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The stage was set, but then the news came: the Archbishop of Canterbury was unable to attend as he had been called to Jerusalem; a hushed murmur spread over some of the congregation. The Very Rev'd Canon Dr Sammy Wainaina had been sent to represent the archbishop, and regardless a wonderful service was had, with congregation and choir both praising, glorifying and worshipping God in the highest.

Following the service, we made our way to the hotel for conference registration. It was there announced that the Archbishop of Canterbury would be joining us immediately via Zoom from St George's Cathedral in East Jerusalem. The archbishop spoke candidly about his own experiences of mental health issues, of how he suffered from depression. As part of his treatment, he had started taking anti-depressants – these he revealed had restored him from “total emptiness to mere grumpiness”. He expressed that in “Winnie-the-Pooh” terms, he was a natural “Eeyore” and while his medication will not make him a “Tigger”, with them he can be content “Eeyoring” around.



The archbishop went on to highlight that access to global communications from your phone can now bring you into contact with conflict like never before, this is something that for the most part we have little control over. He then pointed to a recent

survey that showed 46% of the clergy did not think the Church was doing enough to support their mental health, and how preventing isolation can in turn reduce mental health issues. Faith can be a great support he said and we must welcome everyone, while there may be differences and disagreements, we must foremost be welcoming and loving. Finishing his remarks, the archbishop stated that the Church must reach out and encourage people to talk about and work to reduce the stigma and shame of mental illness.

A panel discussion ensued, with Prof Jim Campbell stating that while the Church is well positioned to help people, the clergy themselves are a vulnerable group and have a lot to deal with day to day. The Archbishop of Canterbury was asked what the Church could do going forward. His response was the suggestion that the COI House of Bishops should in the first instance recognise via statement that mental health is not a sin, but an illness. Further he talked of clergy supervision as a way of support and Bishop Pat Storey expanded further on this, suggesting that “supervision” could be seen as a negative term, but that support could be very helpful. This suggestion was supported by Prof Campbell, and he indicated that this doesn’t need to be delivered in a “one size fits all” programme.

Lydia Monds extolled the need for the Church to get out into the community to engage and create meaningful activity. This theme was continued in the presentations of case studies that had been funded over the past three years. Irene from Londonderry outlined that they had started an “adopt a grandparent” scheme, which was not only beneficial to the elderly members of the local community, but also to those children that took part. Rev’d Rob Clements presented the All Minds Matter project that had taken place in Kiltiernan Parish. As part of this project they held a volunteer appreciation evening, this as a way to say thank you to those who do so much for the Church, congregation and local community – to show that they are truly cared for.

Andrew Bass from the Benefact Trust outlined support that they had provided over the past three years and that in the next financial year there would be millions more in funding available for a range of projects, small and large. The conference broke for lunch, where I had the pleasure of dining and talking with Bishop George Davison. Resuming the conference, Archbishop John McDowell reflected upon the morning session. He described himself as not quite a “Tigger”,

but generally chipper – that being said he did open up to the conference that he can often feel quite down each year following Easter. He stated that “life is complex” and that we need to help people through it. The archbishop finished by referring to John 13:1. Further case studies were presented from Cork and from Magheralin outlining the practical community activities and the creation of wellbeing spaces that can help to alleviate the symptoms of mental illnesses. Nicola Byrne summarised the work of Shine through their “See Change” project in challenging the stigma of mental health issues and how they’re using a range of social media platforms to effectively get their message out.

In some respects, Rev’d Ruth Elmes “stole the show” with her presentation of “Flush and Go”. Certain parts of Ruth’s speech may not be appropriate for publication, but that did not stop her saying them in front of five bishops, two archbishops and many others on the conference floor. Flush and Go in Tinahely was a project to assist menopausal women in an informal model providing warmth, cosiness, and support.

During the final panel discussion, points made included the requirement to listen to issues and then to act, ensuring to not let people down. There was concern over the range of legal responsibilities and compliance paperwork which in certain circumstances are taking priority over pastoral work. Archbishop John McDowell confirmed that there would be substantial funding from church funds for proposals out of Mind Matters over the coming years. That while this seed funding has kick started a conversation, internal and external partnerships are required.

Archbishop John McDowell summed up the day by saying “these first three years have been about us. In the next five years, I’d like to see that those today not involved with the Church being fully involved by then”. He finished that in this we are “building resilience in people”. The conference closed in prayer.

Afterwards I attended a service of Evensong at the National Cathedral. Finally, to finish up my trip to Dublin, the following morning I attended a service of Holy Communion at the Cathedral and had the opportunity to talk afterwards extensively with the Dean of St Patrick’s, the Very Rev’d William Morton.

THE PRIORY SINGERS

Christmas Concert

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER AT 7.30PM

THE GREAT HALL, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: PHILIP BOLTON MBE

Tickets £20 available from the Parish Office
or by emailing: thepriorysingers@outlook.com



thepriorysingers



The Priory Singers, Belfast

Mary Wright

The death of Mary occurred on 21st September. Mary was a stalwart of the parish immersing herself, along with her husband John, in many parish activities—we all remember her, along with Anne Noblett, dancing the night away at the 'Scottish Night' fundraiser! Most notably Mary was the superintendent of the Sunday School for many years and her contribution to children's ministry was much appreciated. In later years, Mary and John moved to Co Down to be nearer their family and we extend our deepest sympathy to their children, Jonny and Mandy and of course to John and the wider family circle.

Daphne McClements

North Belfast Historical Society

Date: 16th November 2023

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Minor Hall

Speaker: Michael Flynn

Topic: Belfast in World War II



Daphne McClements

Altar Guild Rota for October

Date	Time	Set-up	Wine Cruet	Wine Chalice	Colour	Location
Wednesday 1st	10.30am	Kathryn Hennessy	Dora Hanna	Margaret McK Black	White	Resurrection
Sunday 5th	11am	Dora Hanna	Dora Hanna	David Cromie	Green	Chancel
Wednesday 8th	10.30am	Jim Wilson	Rosemary Johnston	Dora Hanna	Green	Resurrection
Sunday 12th	10am	David Cromie	Rector	David Cromie	Red	St James
Wednesday 15th	10.30am	Dora Hanna	Dora Hanna	Margaret McK Black	Green	Resurrection
Sunday 19th	11am	Robert Long	David Cromie	Robert Long	Green	Chancel
Wednesday 22nd	10.30am	Rosemary Johnston	Margaret McK Black	Rosemary Johnston	Green	Resurrection
Sunday 29th	10am	Dora Hanna	Rector	Dora Hanna	Green	Resurrection
Wednesday 29th	10.30am	Margaret McK Black	Rosemary Johnston	Dora Hanna	Green	Resurrection

PARISH REGISTER

Christian Burial

"At rest in the Lord."

Margaret Davison

Cremation at Ballyearl

on 25th September 2023

William David (Billy) Clarke

Burial at Ballyclare Cemetery

on 6th October 2023

FLOWER LIST FOR NOVEMBER



5TH EILEEN TAYLOR

12TH VALERIE GUEST IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND, JAMES

19TH THE BELL FAMILY

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to those with birthdays in November:

Henry George, Deirdre Magill and Caroline Jeffers.

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!

Charity Christmas Concert at St Peter's
Cavehill Community Choir



Friday 1st December at 8pm



*Tickets (including light refreshments) in aid of:
Friends of the Cancer Centre, Sands, Air Ambulance,
Prison Fellowship NI and Tear Fund.*

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.

***Please send material for the December/January 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 20th November. 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 annecromie@stpeterbelfast.org
Organist and Choir Master: Robert Thompson 07590 8515664 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@baby sensory.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
PhysioPlates: Sandra Hutchman 95 149 564 sehutchman@hotmail.com

Priority Singers: Philip Bolton 07821 906920 bolton390@btinternet.com
Rainbows: Lee Kennedy 07871 875985 lee_kennedy@btinternet.com
Speech & Drama: Claire McGrogan 07793 045071 clairerakran99@yahoo.co.uk
Unslim: Karen Flannery 07773 758524 Flannery-Karen@hotmail.com
Walking Group: Jill Bradley 90 842 998 jill.bradley1@btinternet.com