

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES

BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

MARCH 2024

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



*The Rev'd Wes Sutton
visiting St Peter's*

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 March
11am
in St James'.

SELECT VESTRY

Monday
18th March
7.30pm
in the
Minor Hall.



Cavehill
COFFEE




Cavehill Coffee, Mount Lennox,
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Fortwilliam Greengrocers

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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,
tel 028 90 840 534, or go to
www.stpeterbelfast.org/prayer
and fill out the form.

*Please send material for the April
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 25th March.

Thank you.

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BINS

Recently we have been having trouble getting our bins emptied because parishioners have been putting rubbish into the 'wrong' bins.

Please be careful to adhere to the rules:

Blue bin is ONLY for:
paper, cardboard, plastic bottles and tins.

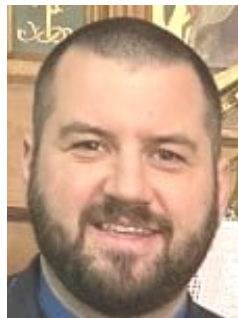
Brown bin is ONLY for:
garden rubbish, church flowers, food and shreadings.



Rubbish for the blue and brown bins must not be bagged.

If rubbish does not fall into one of these categories please put it into the grey bin. It's quite simple really but if we don't abide by these rules it causes a lot of hassle. Remember you're on CCTV so big brother is watching and 'be sure your sin will find you out'!! (Numbers 32: 23)

RECTOR'S NOTES



SERVICES IN MARCH

We are currently in the season of Lent, which will culminate with our celebration of Easter on Sunday 31st March. There will be one service at 11am that day, and I encourage all of you to attend on this most important day in the Church's calendar.

On Sunday 3rd March, which is the **Third Sunday in Lent**, there will be three services in St Peter's: 10am Family Service, 11am Choral Eucharist, and 6pm Choral Evensong.

On Sunday 10th March, which is **Mothering Sunday**, there will be a traditional celebration of Holy Communion at 10am, followed by Choral Matins at 11am.

On Sunday 17th March, which is **St Patrick's Day**, there will be Morning Prayer at 10am, followed by Choral Eucharist at 11am.

On Sunday 24th March, which is **Palm Sunday**, there will be Holy Communion at 10am, followed by a Service of the Word at 11am.

On Sunday 31st March, which is **Easter Day**, there will be Choral Eucharist at 11am. Please note that this will be the only service that day. If you would like to help decorate the church for Easter please bring brightly coloured flowers at 10am on Saturday 30th March.

Our mid-week celebrations of Holy Communion continue on **Wednesdays** at 10.30am.

During **Holy Week**, in addition to the mid-week morning service, there will be services at 7.30pm from Monday to Friday. These will include Choral Eucharist, Compline, Late Evening Office, and two special services: “The Way of the Cross” and Tenebrae. Please make every effort to attend as many of these weekday services as you can.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Just a reminder that adults wishing to be Confirmed must attend our monthly Discipleship Group. The forthcoming dates are: 7th March, 2nd May, and 6th June. These are all Thursdays, and we meet at 7.30pm in the Minor Hall.

Children to be confirmed must meet on the following Sunday afternoons at 3pm in the Minor Hall: 17th March, 21st April, and 26th May. Each session lasts for one hour, and parents are welcome to wait in the foyer or to return to collect them afterwards.

REV'D WES SUTTON

Those of you who worshipped at our 11am service in St Peter's on Sunday 11th February, will have met the Rev'd Wes Sutton (see front cover). Ordained in the Church of England, Wes is the director of the Acorn Healing Academy, which establishes “Healing Hubs” throughout the UK, and offers training for those involved. In recent years, Jill Bradley, Dora Hanna, Rosemary Johnston and I attended such training alongside several parishioners from Carnmoney. It is wonderful that Wes was able to preach in both churches during his short stay in Northern Ireland. In addition to preaching at St Peter's, he also offered private prayer after the service, and this was much appreciated by those who availed of it.

DISCIPLESHIP AND BIBLE STUDY

Our monthly **Discipleship Group** meets at 7.30pm on Thursday 7th March in the Minor Hall. This month we will be learning about the origins and authority of the Bible.

Owing to other events happening in the parish, there will be no Bible Fellowship in March. It will resume again on Thursday 25th April.

Our monthly mid-week **Bible Study** will be held on Wednesday 27th March in the Minor Hall, from 11.30am for one hour. Accordingly, there will be no sermon at the prior celebration of Holy Communion. We will be continuing our study of the Book of Micah.

ST KATHARINE'S

The Rev'd Canon William Taggart, who has been the Rector of our neighbouring parish of St Katharine's since 1990, has announced his retirement. Accordingly, from the beginning of May, I will have oversight of that parish in my capacity as Rural Dean.

As is the case with all vacancies, a diocesan committee known as the Permanent Commission will be convened in order to determine the viability of the parish, and they will take into consideration various factors including finance, attendance at worship, and potential for growth. Please pray for wisdom and guidance for those who will be involved in deciding the future of St Katharine's. And please also remember Canon Taggart in your prayers, giving thanks for his ministry, and that he may have a relaxing retirement.

EASTER VESTRY MEETING

The Easter Vestry will be held at 11am on Sunday 14th April, following a short service of worship in the church. Every member of the congregation is welcome to stay for the meeting, but only Registered Members may speak or vote. The updated list of Registered Members is pinned to the noticeboard at the back of the church.

LET YOUR LIFE TELL THE STORY OF SALVATION

Before the four Gospels were written down, there was probably at least one piece of writing which was either carried around by the apostles as they went on their missionary journeys, or perhaps even circulated amongst the Christian community. That document was likely a list of the sayings of Jesus. So, not a record of where he went or what he did, but simply a record of his teaching. (Theologians refer to this hypothetical text as Q, and it is probable that parts of that text were absorbed into some of the four Gospels at a later date.) But the question is: Why didn't the very early Church need to write down an account of Jesus' activities? Why commit to paper the teaching and not the journeys and the casual interactions that he had with people?

Well, there are various reasons, but the primary one is the human brain: It is much easier for us to remember stories that we can visualise, than to remember information that we simply have to store away. That's why people can remember the story of Noah and the Ark, for example, much better than they can recall St Paul's theological essays on salvation. Similarly, the Apostles could remember from their own experience where Jesus went and what he did, but they needed an aide-memoire for his sayings. The same principle applies to why Jesus often

taught using parables and stories, rather than articulating raw theology. Indeed, it is the reason why much of the Bible consists of stories. Because God likes to show us what he means, rather than simply telling us.

Those of you who attended our Discipleship Group a few weeks ago, may recall that we learned about the Christian Sacraments – which Protestants general limit to Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. We learned that there are four requirements for something to be considered a Sacrament. The first is that there must be a physical object involved in the ritual. So, in Holy Communion, that would be the bread and the wine. In baptism, it would be the water. The second requirement is that the physical object must represent something spiritual. So, in Holy Communion, the bread and the wine represent the body and blood of Jesus. And in Baptism, the water cleansing the body represents the Spirit cleansing the soul. The third requirement, and it is this one which limits the Protestant list of two Sacraments from the Roman Catholic list of seven sacraments. And that is: Jesus must have told us to do it. So, he instituted Holy Communion at the Last Supper with the words, “Do this in remembrance of me,” and he instituted Baptism, saying “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the father, the son, and the holy spirit.”

The fourth requirement is that the ritual must communicate the grace of God. Now, this is not a particularly easy concept to articulate, and different theologians will give you different explanations of what it means. But if we remember what I said earlier about how God prefers to show us rather than tell us, then we begin to see how the sacraments reveal something about God’s love for us in a way that words simply don’t do justice to. But as an attempt: In the waters of baptism, we see something being cleaned by God, not just in terms of having dirt removed, but also being made ready to go and do something special.

And in Holy Communion, we are invited to share in God's banquet, to receive nourishment from him, and for his own life to be taken into our bodies.

So, God uses these physical actions in order to communicate something to us that goes much deeper than words will adequately express. And perhaps more importantly, he's not just communicating something about salvation to us, he is also making us participants in that story of salvation.

But we see this also in the various Seasons of the Church's calendar: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and so on, in which we as a Christian community don't simply learn about what Jesus did ... we are also invited to journey with him ... and conversely, we are inviting him to journey with us in our everyday lives. So Lent, for example, is not simply a time for the Church to acknowledge the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness, it is a time for us, as Christians, to acknowledge our own temptations and draw strength from Christ as since he withstood them, so can we, by the grace of God.

And it's wonderful that the story of Jesus' life, can be so easily woven into our own, so that – as we say in Holy Communion, he might live in us and we in him. It's as if our own lives become sacramental, as we embody the grace of God in the world through our own journey of faith. So, I want you to pray each day during this Season of Lent, that God would use your life – your attitude, your actions – as a story that other people can easily read and understand – and through you, perceive God at work.

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.

NOTES FROM THE CONSOLE

by Robert Thompson

It's some time since I have written anything about the music in St Peter's for the Parish Magazine and I thought it was time for an update. You will notice that I've called this little article "Notes from the Console" because I'm sure you will be aware that for some time now the console has been in a rather different place, giving both you and me a different perspective on proceedings. It has been interesting for me to hear that there are a number of lovely singers in the congregation which is something I don't really hear in my usual little nook. It has also been interesting for some of you to see that I use my feet...a revelation to one parishioner...and to observe my frequent facial grimaces as, in a way reminiscent of that famous Morecambe and Wise sketch with "Mr Preview" (André Previn), I play all the right notes just not necessarily in the right order!

Back in September we had what we thought at the time was a minor meltdown of some circuitry in the organ which could be easily—and quickly—repaired. Unfortunately the damage caused was much more considerable than we realised and that is why the main organ has been out of commission for so long. Several components have had to be sent to England for repair and co-ordinating diaries with Rénatus Organs in England and Wells Kennedy here in Northern Ireland has been, to say the least, challenging. There is, however, good news on two levels! Firstly the organ should be back and fully operational towards the end of April and secondly, thanks to the good services of our very own Brian Davison, all the work will be covered by our insurance thus costing the Parish no additional expense! The organ we are using is my own and it has been interesting for me to hear it in the setting of the parish church and I hope you'll agree that it has acquitted itself very well.

The next month is a busy time for the choir with so many services in the lead up to Easter. Can I encourage you to come along to more evening services! In the Autumn months we were delighted that the numbers attending Choral Evensong were growing steadily which was marvellous. The music at Evensong is always lovely and it's a nice reflective way to end one week and approach the next. It was slightly disappointing then that so few were able to come along to *Advent to Candlemas* at the start of February—this is one of the most moving services of the year as we revisit all the events of the last few months—in music and readings, from Advent, through Christmas, Holy Innocents, The Naming of Jesus, Epiphany and finally the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. So do try and get along next year when hopefully, if you read the Rector's comments in last month's magazine, the church will be warmer!! Meanwhile there's a fantastic Choral Evensong coming up on the first Sunday evening in March (March 3rd) and of course wonderful music on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day!

We are particularly fortunate to have the support of great “guest” organists for some of our special services, not least Tristan Russcher who will be playing at the next Choral Evensong and on Good Friday. Tristan, who now lives in Belfast and who is married to a former St Molua's chorister, is an organist with an international reputation and we are so lucky that he loves our choir, organ, liturgy and building. Do come along to hear him—it'll be a joy!!

Choral music in church is never just a “performance”, and we know that we are in the presence of God and the great cloud of unseen witnesses but we musicians are only mere mortals and the additional presence of those who, to quote that lovely prayer of St Hugh of Lincoln which David sometimes uses at Evensong, “the present age yet holds them in the flesh” is a great encouragement!

SERVICES IN MARCH	OFFICIANT	LECTOR	PREACHER	INTERCESSOR
SUNDAY 3RD MARCH—THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (PURPLE)				
10am Family Service	Rector	Rector	Rector	Akin Archer*
11am Choral Eucharist	Rector	David Cromie	Rector	Dora Hanna
6pm Choral Evensong	David Cromie	Dora Hanna	-	David Cromie*
WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH (PURPLE)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Rosemary Johnston
SUNDAY 10TH MARCH—MOTHERING SUNDAY (PURPLE)				
10am Holy Communion (1662)	Rector	Dora Hanna	-	Dora Hanna*
11am Choral Matins	Rector	Ashlee McCune	Rector	Dora Hanna
WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH (PURPLE)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Daphne McClements
SUNDAY 17TH MARCH—SAINT PATRICK'S DAY (GREEN)				
10am Morning Prayer	Robert Long	Nigel Macauley	-	Robert Long*
11am Choral Eucharist	Rector	Robert Long	Rector	Robert Long
WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH (PURPLE)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Jim Wilson
SUNDAY 24TH MARCH—PALM SUNDAY (RED)				
10am Holy Communion	Rector	David Cromie	-	David Cromie*
11am Service of the Word	Rector	David Cromie	Rector	David Cromie
MONDAY 25TH MARCH—FIG MONDAY (RED)				
7.30pm The Way of the Cross	Rector	TBC	-	TBC
TUESDAY 26TH MARCH—HOLY TUESDAY (RED)				
7.30pm Late Evening Office	Dora Hanna	Andrew Irwin	Andrew Irwin	Dora Hanna*
WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH—SPY WEDNESDAY (RED)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	-	Jill Bradley
7.30pm Compline (1662)	Robert Long	Dora Hanna	Robert Long	Robert Long*
THURSDAY 28TH MARCH—MAUNDY THURSDAY (WHITE)				
7.30pm Choral Eucharist (1662)	Rector	David Cromie	Rector	David Cromie*
FRIDAY 29TH MARCH—GOOD FRIDAY				
7.30pm Tenebrae	Rector	TBC	-	Rector
SUNDAY 31ST MARCH—EASTER DAY (WHITE)				
11am Choral Eucharist	Rector	David Cromie	Rector	Rector

North Belfast Historical Society

21st March at 7.30pm in the minor hall

Speaker: Daphne McClements

Topic: My Flying Years—tales from
Daphne's career as an air hostess.

Everyone welcome.




SPRING
FORWARD

on Sunday 31st March

The clocks go forward one hour
at 2am on the last Sunday in March,
ie Easter Day!

Altar Guild Rota for March

Date	Time	Set-up	Wine Cruet	Wine Chalice	Colour	Location
Sunday 3rd March	11am	David Cromie	Dora Hanna	David Cromie	Purple	Chancel
Wednesday 6th March	10.30am	Margaret McK Black	Dora Hanna	Robert Long	Purple	Resurrection
Sunday 10th March	10am	Dora Hanna	Dora Hanna	Rector	Purple	St James'
Wednesday 13th March	10.30am	Jim Wilson	Rosemary Johnston	Dora Hanna	Purple	Resurrection
Sunday 17th March	11am	Robert Long	David Cromie	Robert Long	Green	Chancel
Wednesday 20th March	10.30am	Kathryn Hennessy	Dora Hanna	Margaret McK Black	Purple	Resurrection
Sunday 24th March	10am	David Cromie	David Cromie	Rector	Red	Resurrection
Wednesday 27th March	10.30am	Rosemary Johnston	Robert Long	Dora Hanna	Red	Resurrection
Thursday 28th March	7.30pm	David Cromie	Rosemary Johnston	David Cromie	White	Chancel
Sunday 31st March	11am	Rector	Dora Hanna	David Cromie	White	Chancel

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

by Rosemary Johnston

HENENI

They say you are never too old to learn, and it's true. I have recently learned a new word—HENENI. Have you ever heard it? No? Well, neither had I until I came across it in our bible notes when a passage from Isaiah (chapter 6, verses 1-3) was the reading for the day. Of course, there will be those who will raise their eyes upwards in disbelief at my ignorance. It means, 'Here am I. Send me.', (verse 8) and is Isaiah's response to God who is seeking a messenger to go to the sinful people of Israel and asks 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?'. But the question is as relevant today as it was in Isaiah's day. We are all called to go and serve God. We don't all have to do big things like organising events but we can help in other ways and I know many in this parish who quietly look out for neighbours, make phone calls to see if they are alright, get shopping, take people to hospital and more. During Lent and afterwards I will try to do better, to make better use of my time, to heed the promptings of the Holy Spirit, also to think about Saint Paul's words in Romans, chapter 7, when he says 'For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do'.

*Heavenly Father, may we seek your guidance in all we do
and do everything with a willing heart
for the sake of your Son the Lord Jesus Christ
who died for us all. Amen.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to those with birthdays in March:

Rory Douglas-Smith, Daniel George and Pippa Knowles.

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!

MARCH FLOWER LIST

10TH ANNE CROMIE IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER

24TH MARIE BURROWES IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER

31ST EASTER DAY



Please come along on Saturday 30th March from 10am-12noon to help decorate the church for Easter.

All help greatly appreciated.

If you can help please get in touch with Sandra Davison, either catch her at church or ring her on 9443 9230.

Alternatively, just turn up on the morning! Thank you.

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.

CONNOR

connections



The magazine for the Diocese of Connor Spring 2024

The Spring issue of our diocesan magazine Connor Connections is now available. Copies for everyone are in the south porch.

If your business would like to advertise in our Parish Notes please contact the Parish Administrator, Anne Cromie. Contact details on back cover.

If you would like to support the worship, mission, and ministries of St Peter's, please deposit your FWO envelope or loose money in the box at the back of the church. If you prefer to donate by Apple Pay, Google Pay or by credit/debit card, please scan this QR code on your phone. Thank you.



PARISH CONTACTS

Rector:	The Rev'd Brian Lacey	90 777 053	brianlacey@stpeterbelfast.org
Honorary Assistant Priest:	The Rev'd Dr Ken Houston	90 771 830	-
Associate Minister:	The Rev'd Andrew Irwin	9600 5015	andrewirwin@stpeterbelfast.org
Parish Administrator:	Anne Cromie	90 776 706	annecromie@stpeterbelfast.org
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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	daphnemclements@stpeterbelfast.org
People's Churchwarden:	Margaret McKenna-Black	07732 651569	margaretmckblack@stpeterbelfast.org
Co-ordinator for Intercessors:	Rosemary Johnston	90 840 534	-
Co-ordinator for Flowers:	Sandra Davison	07738 403667	sandradavison@stpeterbelfast.org
Rector's Glebewarden:	Victor Davis	90 771 197	victordavis@stpeterbelfast.org
People's Glebewarden:	Michael Moore	9050 81777	michaelmoore@stpeterbelfast.org
Co-ordinator for Groundskeeping:	Noel Beattie	90 778 428	noelbeattie@stpeterbelfast.org
Honorary Secretary:	Yvonne Crozier	07525 134947	yvonnecrozier@stpeterbelfast.org
Honorary Treasurer:	Ashlee McCune	07801 556386	ashleemcune@stpeterbelfast.org
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	florriregreer@gmail.com
Brownies:	Lee Kennedy	07871 875985	lee_kennedy@btinternet.com
Crafty Goodness:	Daphne McClements	07730 127350	daffersmclements@btinternet.com
Glandore Dog Training Club:	Ann Purse	07979 326041	ann.purse@sky.com
Guides:	Lee Kennedy	07871 875985	lee_kennedy@btinternet.com
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Unslim:	Karen Flannery	07773 758524	Flannery-Karen@hotmail.com
Walking Group:	Jill Bradley	90 842 998	jill.bradley1@btinternet.com

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 HMRC Charity Recognition No: XN45475 Charity Registration No: NIC101020