

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES  
BELFAST

# PARISH NOTES

APRIL 2024

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



*Joan Walker receiving her Easter gift.*

**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](http://www.stpeters.connor.anglican.org)  
and click "Parish Notes".

Please note the  
date for the next  
meeting of the  
**SELECT  
VESTRY**  
Sunday  
21st April  
12.15pm  
in the church.



**Cavehill**  
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Cavehill Coffee, Mount Lennox,  
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If your business  
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Anne Cromie.  
Contact details on  
back cover.



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## 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](http://www.stpeterbelfast.org/prayer)  
and fill out the form.

*Please send material for the May  
issue of Parish Notes to:*  
Anne Cromie,  
Parish Administrator,  
St Peter's Church,  
Fortwilliam Drive,  
Belfast BT15 4EB  
*or email:*  
[annecromie@stpeterbelfast.org](mailto:annecromie@stpeterbelfast.org)  
*by Monday 22nd April.*  
*Thank you.*

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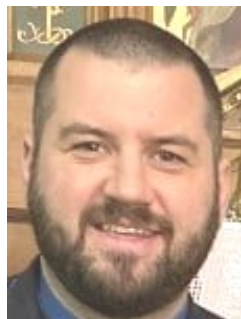
## Altar Guild Rota for April

Date	Time	Set-up	Wine Cruet	Wine Chalice	Colour	Location
Wednesday 10th April	10.30am	Rector	Robert Long	Rosemary Johnston	White	Resurrection
Sunday 14th April	11am	Dora Hanna	Margaret McK Black	Dora Hanna	White	Chancel
Wednesday 17th April	10.30am	Jim Wilson	Rosemary Johnston	Robert Long	White	Resurrection
Wednesday 24th April	10.30am	Robert Long	Robert Long	Dora Hanna	White	Resurrection
Sunday 28th April	10am	David Cromie	David Cromie	Rector	White	Resurrection

*Congratulations*

*to Daphne McClements on being appointed Honorary Patron of Newtownabbey Drama Festival.*

# RECTOR'S NOTES



## SERVICES IN APRIL

Owing to the Easter holidays, our regular schedule of services will be paused for the first three weeks of April. On those Sundays, there will be neither 10am nor 6pm services, and consequently there will be a service only at 11am. The 10am services and Kids' Church both resume on 28<sup>th</sup> April, which is the last Sunday of the month.

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April, which is the **Second Sunday of Easter**, there will be a service of Morning Prayer at 11am.

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April, which is the **Third Sunday of Easter**, there will be a celebration of Holy Communion at 11am, at which the guest preacher will be the Rev'd Clifford Skillen.

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April, which is the **Fourth Sunday of Easter**, our Easter General Vestry meeting will be held in the church, following a Service of the Word at 11am.

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April, which is the **Fifth Sunday of Easter**, there will be two services: Holy Communion at 10am, followed by Choral Matins at 11am.

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

## HOME COMMUNION

It is a privilege for me to celebrate Holy Communion in the homes of those parishioners who – either temporarily or permanently – are unable to come to St Peter's. At Christmas and Easter, I present gift bags to those whom I visit, and they are always well received. May I thank our Honorary Treasurer, Ashlee McCune, for generously giving her time and effort to prepare these gifts twice a year. They are a blessing to those parishioners who receive them, and a reminder that – though they cannot join our worshipping community in person – they have certainly not been forgotten and are very much still part of our Christian family. Two recent recipients are pictured in these Parish Notes: Joan Walker on the front cover, and Marie Burrowes pictured here.



## CONFIRMATION CLASSES

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

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

## DISCIPLESHIP AND BIBLE STUDY

There is no meeting of the **Discipleship Group** during April. The next meeting will be on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Bible Fellowship** will not meet until Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April, at 7.30pm in the Minor Hall. We have concluded our study of the Gospel according to St Matthew, and will now turn our attention to Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

Our monthly mid-week **Bible Study** will be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 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.

## EASTER VESTRY MEETING

The Easter Vestry will be held at 11am on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> April, following a short service of worship in the church. *Please note that this has unavoidably been pushed back one week from the date publicised last month.* All members of the congregation are welcome to stay for the meeting, but only Registered Members may vote. The names of such members are printed on the list at the back of the church. The meeting should last no longer than thirty minutes.

The Easter Vestry has only three purposes: (a) to receive the financial accounts for the previous year, (b) to appoint an Independent Examiner for next year, and (c) to form a new Select Vestry who will manage the human, physical, and financial resources of the parishes until next Easter. Each Christian denomination is different, and if you have joined us from another Church, it is worth noting that the Select Vestry has no formal role in the worship, ministries, and mission of St Peter's. It does, instead, provide the resources to support those activities.

In our election/appointment of a new Select Vestry, we should be mindful of the Church of Ireland's goal to have equal representation of men and women, and a healthy mixture of ages. Of the current membership, ten are women, seven are men, eleven are older than fifty-five, and six are younger. We have a tradition in St Peter's of avoiding divisive elections, and we appeal instead for a negotiated consensus. Speak to me if you would like more information about this, particularly if you are considering letting your name go forward for the first time.

## **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

We are blessed in St Peter's to be able to have services throughout Holy Week. Each service was different, and I am grateful for all involved, including our superb choir, conducted by Robert Thompson; our Parish Readers, David Cromie and Dora Hanna, and our Lay Ministry Apprentice, Robert Long; our Parish Administrator, Anne Cromie; our Churchwardens,



Daphne McClements and Margaret McKenna Black; all who led prayers or read lessons, notably Sandra Hutchman; and all who helped out in many and varied little ways throughout the week, notably Quintin Mulligan, without whose enthusiasm and dedication we would be lost. Thank you to all who enabled us to mark this most important week in the Church's calendar.

## **WORRY ABOUT IT WHEN YOU HAVE TO**

Are you one of those people who cannot enjoy the good times in life, when everything is going well, when there is so much to be thankful for ... because there is always that lingering certainty

that somehow things will go wrong ... that life will take a downward turn ... and that unknown fear overshadows any chance for joy in the present moment?

By and large, I don't feel that way. Without naming names – someone else who lives in the Rectory, has a tendency to fret about everything and anything that could go wrong ... and my usual response is: “What's the point of worrying about it before it happens? Especially if it might not happen at all. Worry about it if and when it does happen.”

There's an old saying, “Life is hard, and then you die,” and it expresses the basic truth that our lives will have plenty of moments of hardship and suffering along the way. And try as we may to mitigate the tough times, they will come. Other people will let us down. Our feelings will be hurt. We will sometimes feel stressed. We will have periods of illness. And that's if we're lucky. Sadly, there will be many whose lives will crumble entirely ... losing even the basic necessities of life, such as a roof over their head and food in their cupboards. And that, at some point, our loved ones will die, one by one. And then, eventually, we will too.

It's not a particularly nice thing to dwell upon, but it's the way it is. And part of maturing as a human being, is coming to terms with the inevitable suffering that we will face. And an important aspect of that is learning how to not allow the difficulties of life, whether real or imagined, to prevent us from enjoying all that is good in our lives. Life can be hard enough, without ruining the good days by worrying about the bad days.

Why am I telling you this? Well, on Palm Sunday we reflected upon the triumphal entry of our Lord Jesus into Jerusalem. And in the accounts in the Gospels, there was a bit of party atmosphere as the crowds gathered to celebrate Jesus' arrival. John's Gospel records two expressions of that celebratory mood. First, the people are waving palm branches ... which in



the ancient world represented victory and success. And secondly, they are shouting “Hosanna!” which, translated from Hebrew into English means, “Save us!”

So, you need to imagine a lot of noise and movement and excitement as the crowds pushed in around Jesus and his disciples, welcoming him into the city – hoping, it seems, that he would be the Messiah for whom they had waited. And here’s what I want you to take note of: not only did Jesus go along with it, he wanted it. In fact, you could say that he orchestrated it. He had previously arranged for the donkey to be made ready, and it was his intention to make this moment “triumphant” despite – and here’s the important bit – the fact that he knew that within a matter of days, he would be arrested, tried, mocked, tortured, and killed.

That was always the plan. That’s why he was entering Jerusalem. He had made this clear to his disciples on repeated occasions, notwithstanding their inability to understand why such an eventuality would need to happen if he was indeed the Messiah. And we know from Jesus’ behaviour in the Garden of Gethsemane, prior to his arrest, that he was worried about the pain and suffering that he would endure. He begged God the Father “If there is any other way, please do it.”

Undoubtedly, those same fears were in his mind in the days and weeks beforehand, and especially on Palm Sunday, as his entrance into the Holy City began the countdown of days until the end would come. But in this moment, those fears take second place. And at the forefront of his mind, is the celebration of what will happen after the suffering. In the end, he will be victorious, and all that suffering will be forgotten.

For us, then, in our own lives, the message is simple: difficult times will always be around the corner, whether we are aware of it or not. Worry about them when they happen. But on the good days, be glad, celebrate, and be thankful.

## PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

by Rosemary Johnston

### “He is not here, he has risen.”

Seven ordinary words, but they would change the lives of not only the disciples, but of all of us. How did the women—Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome—feel when they saw the empty tomb? Can't you imagine their despair as they gazed inside to see their master gone? Then the next big shock when the angel, after terrifying them (might most of us not feel terrified under the circumstances?), told them the most wonderful news that Jesus was alive and that they were to tell his disciples and Peter that they were to go to Galilee where they would see him. Note that the news was given to the women, and, of course the disciples didn't believe them—they were only women after all. There is no gift more precious than this, that Jesus gave his life to save us and it is not something we are meant to keep to ourselves. Where would we be today, if the disciples had failed to spread such amazing news? It doesn't bear thinking about. But thanks to all who have spread the gospel down through the centuries—and many have died for it—we do have 'a gospel to proclaim', and it is for all of us to make sure it is still spread far and wide, to those who want to hear its message. It gives hope to those of us who blunder through life, falling short of God's expectations; when 'We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done'. We know that when we turn to our heavenly Father in true repentance, he will forgive us every time, because of what his beloved Son did for us.

*Heavenly Father,  
we thank you for your gift beyond price,  
paid for by your beloved Son sacrificing himself on the cross  
so that we might be saved. Amen.*

## APRIL FLOWER LIST

21<sup>ST</sup> KATHRYN HENNESSY IN MEMORY OF HER  
HUSBAND, HUGH, AND SISTER-IN-LAW, GRETTA

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.



# North Belfast Historical Society

## Thursday 18th April at 7.30pm in the minor hall

Speaker: John Gribben

Topic: The Donegall family and Belfast Castle

*Everyone welcome.*



SERVICES IN APRIL	OFFICIANT	LECTOR	PREACHER	INTERCESSOR
<b>WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL (WHITE)</b>				
10.30am Morning Prayer	Dora Hanna	Daphne McClements	-	Rosemary Johnston
<b>SUNDAY 7TH APRIL—THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (WHITE)</b>				
11am Morning Prayer	Rector	Nigel Macauley	Rector	Nigel Macauley
<b>WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL (WHITE)</b>				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Robert Long
<b>SUNDAY 14TH APRIL—THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (WHITE)</b>				
11am Holy Communion	Rev'd Clifford Skillen	Dora Hanna	Rev'd Clifford Skillen	Dora Hanna
<b>WEDNESDAY 17TH APRIL (WHITE)</b>				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Timothy Wilson
<b>SUNDAY 21ST APRIL—THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (WHITE)</b>				
11am Easter Vestry Service	Rector	Robert Long	Rector	Robert Long
<b>WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL (WHITE)</b>				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	-	Jim Wilson
<b>SUNDAY 28TH APRIL—THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (WHITE)</b>				
10am Holy Communion	Rector	David Cromie	-	David Cromie*
11am Morning Prayer	Rector	David Cromie	Rector	David Cromie

*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, PayPal or by credit/debit card, please scan this QR code on your phone. Thank you.*



# PARISH CONTACTS

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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
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FWO & Gift Aid Secretary:	Noel Beattie	90 778 428	noelbeattie@stpeterbelfast.org
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