



THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

OCTOBER 2019

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

*The grass withers,
the flower fades;
but the word of our God
will stand for ever.*

GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE

RECTOR'S NOTES

SERVICES IN OCTOBER

Following the success of last month's less formal **10am service**, we'll be testing the format again on **Sunday 13th October**. Whilst these services are not intended to be children's services as such, I am very pleased that the older children felt able—alongside the adults—to join in the conversation on the theme of the day. My intention is to have one of these services each month until Christmas, and then from the new year increase that to twice a month. This will obviously have a knock-on effect for children's ministry at 11am, so I think we'll need to give serious thought to how best we can involve and educate the children in general in St Peter's. So please—particularly if you are a parent—talk to me about what you think would work best for your family, and we'll try to work out some means to accommodate everyone.

On **Wednesday 23rd October** it's the feast day of **St James the Brother of our Lord**. Not to be confused with the St James after whom our parish is half-named, this St James was nevertheless a very important figure in the early Church. We'll celebrate his life at our 10.30am Holy Communion.

On **Sunday 27th October** it's **Bible Sunday**, when we dedicate our Lectors (Bible readers) for the forthcoming year. Now is the time for you to decide if you would like to be added to the rota of readers at the 11am service, or conversely to have your name removed if you would prefer for any reason not to continue. Speak to the Lectors' Coordinator, Sandra Hutchman, or myself. Immediately following the 11am service that Sunday, there will be a short meeting held in the church for lectors, so it is vital that they be in church that morning.

PRAYER TRAINING

The Church's Ministry of Healing has organised a four-session prayer training course, beginning on Monday 30th September from 10am—noon, and then continuing the three subsequent Mondays. It will be a very straightforward course, and nobody will be put on the spot or asked to participate in a way that might make them uncomfortable. I'll be going and I would be very glad to take anyone who wants a lift over to The Mount on the Knock dual carriageway in east Belfast.

LAY VISITORS

The parishioners who took part in the Lay Visitors course earlier this year will begin their visits during the coming weeks. Their role is to have a friendly chat with you in your home, and then read a short passage from the Bible and offer a prayer. Initially, they will be sent to parishioners who are housebound or who have requested a visit. As this is not a familiar practice to many in St Peter's, there are a few important points I need you to take note of.

1. This is not a replacement for a visit from the clergy. I will still respond to pastoral crises whether at home or hospital, and I will continue to visit you from time to time, or at your request, to discuss your Christian faith. Any Lay Visits will be in addition to this, rather than instead of it.
2. You won't receive a visit from a Lay Visitor unless you've either requested it, or I've discussed it with you. So, if you've never had such a conversation with me, then don't worry about someone landing on your door unexpectedly.
3. Lay Visitation is a Christian ministry, and it should be honoured as such. Although Lay Visitors don't wear a clerical collar, they are still acting on behalf of the Christian Church, and they should be treated with respect. As with anything

new, it will take time for the Visitors to become comfortable in their role, and for the congregation to accept this as a normal part of parish life. So let's all be gentle and positive as this ministry unfolds.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

The Church looked really beautiful for our Harvest celebration, and I am grateful to the ladies and gentlemen who came down on the previous day to decorate St Peter's in a lovely range of floral colours. That appreciation extends to all who helped at our Harvest Lunch following the 11am service on the Sunday. There was a lovely atmosphere, plenty of food to go round, and we raised a few hundred pounds towards the cost of replacing stolen lead on the church roof. Many thanks to all involved!



SERMON SUMMARY

On the **10th Sunday after Trinity** (25th August) I preached on Luke 13: 10—17. I explained that in a traditional Jewish synagogue, the focus of the room is their equivalent of a large pulpit, around which the congregation sits. Or to be specific, around which the men and teenage boys sit, whilst the women,

girls, and younger boys sit in a different area, which is sometimes physically separated by a curtain or wooden panelling. That's important, and I'll explain why in a moment. But let me first explain how the Jews worshipped. Like ourselves, they would have readings from the Bible; they would sing Psalms; and somebody would give a talk about one of the readings, in order to explain its meaning or make it applicable to everyday life.

Now in the same way that the Church has preachers, who are trained in theology and Bible studies, so too do the Jews have Rabbis (which means Teacher), who are nowadays largely trained professionals. During the time of Jesus, you could become a Rabbi if you went to a rabbi-training school, which is the career path which St Paul took in his youth. And he makes a point of writing that he was trained by a very famous Rabbi called Gamaliel, who was thought to be very wise. One other route towards becoming a Rabbi, was simply to set yourself up as one, and gather a band of followers around you, whom you could teach. Rabbis like this didn't have a theological education, but they had the innate wisdom, and knowledge, and charisma, that drew people to them to hear what they had to say. Examples of such Rabbis include John the Baptist, and even our Lord Jesus himself.

The custom in each Synagogue was that the local Rabbi would do most of the preaching, but throughout the year he might invite others to say a few words about the Bible passage. Just as we do nowadays whenever I invite a guest preacher to come along. Of course, in those days, you didn't pick up the phone and ask someone to preach on a certain date. Rather, it depended on who was around. And in the example of the Gospel passage, it happened that Jesus, a Rabbi from Nazareth, had come into whatever town this was, and word of his arrival had reached the leader of the local synagogue, and he perhaps sent word to Jesus saying, "If you're coming to worship with us on the Sabbath, would you like to preach?" And clearly, Jesus agreed, because as we read at the beginning of the passage, "Now, he was teaching in

one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.” So you need to imagine him standing on an elevated platform, just like a pulpit, and the crowd of men gathered around in front of him, and then the women and children farther back out of the way. He would have taken a book of the Old Testament in his hand, read from it to the congregation, put it down, and then started to talk.

Now, we’re not told *which* passage from the Bible he was talking about on this particular occasion. Customarily, it would have been from one of the Books of the Prophets. Indeed, on a different occasion, when he was preaching in his hometown of Nazareth, he famously read from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, beginning with the verse, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me” and then he goes on to say to the congregation, “Today in your hearing, this prophecy has been fulfilled.” Much to the shock and confusion of his listeners. So although we can’t be sure which passage he was talking about in this Gospel passage, it was more likely than not something prophetic. And if you read the books of the prophets, then you will know that if you can get past the doom and gloom and destruction within them, the general theme is that God is angry with the Jews because they keep getting religion wrong. They either ignore God’s commandments completely, or they misinterpret them, or they focus too heavily on one part of them and ignore another. This is in itself important, because of the response from the leader of the synagogue to what happens whilst Jesus is preaching.

“There appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and quite unable to stand up straight.” So, from a modern medical perspective, the bones in this woman’s back have become fused together, and she is now constantly bent over.



Earlier, I told you that the women were segregated from the men in the Synagogue, so take note of what Jesus does. We read, “He called her over.” That would have been highly controversial, and it would have annoyed or even angered many of the men, because Jesus was breaking down established barriers and hierarchies, by inviting this woman into the very heart of the place of worship. Interestingly the passage doesn’t dwell on that. What really annoys the men, and particularly the leader of the Synagogue, is the fact that Jesus heals the woman, and for the first time in eighteen years she is able to stand up straight.

They are annoyed because if you have a very strict interpretation of Old Testament laws, then the Jews were very limited in what they could do on the Sabbath day. They could only walk a certain distance, and they had to refrain from many activities. And in the mind of these particular Jewish men, the law did not allow Jesus to heal on the Sabbath. “There are six days on which work ought to be done,” said the Rabbi, “come on those days and be cured, and not on the Sabbath day.” To our ears, that sort of sounds funny, but he was being deadly serious.

What then angers our Lord Jesus, is that even the most strict Jewish Rabbis interpreted the Law in such a way that it prevented cruelty to animals. You couldn’t just allow an animal to suffer just because it was the Sabbath. They still needed care. And so he asks, “Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey and lead it away to give it water?” The point he is making is that their interpretation of the Old Testament was allowing them to care for animals, but not care for human beings. It was a completely ridiculous interpretation. And indeed, we read that when Jesus pointed this out, his “opponents were put to shame, and the crowd rejoiced.”

The message for us today, is probably exactly the same as what Jesus himself was teaching in this synagogue. That if you think the Bible is teaching us that there are limits to when and how and whom we should help in God’s name, then you’ve completely misunderstood the Bible.

October Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p><i>Rector on holiday this week. Please contact the Rev'd Ken Houston in the event of a pastoral emergency—tel 9077 1830</i></p>	<p>1 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal 8pm Scouts</p>	<p>2 10.30am Morning Prayer and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir</p>	<p>3 4.30pm Speech and Drama 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Thursday Fellowship 8pm Guides and Senior Guides</p>	<p>4 10.30am PhysioPilates 4pm Speech and Drama</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 9am Holy Communion 11am Choral Eucharist & Sunday School & Creche 6.30pm Choral Evensong</p>	<p>7 7.30pm Parish Meeting 8pm Badminton</p>	<p>8 10.30am Crafty Goodness 2.30pm Ladies' Guild opening meeting 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal 8pm Scouts</p>	<p>9 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir</p>	<p>10 4.30pm Speech and Drama 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Thursday Fellowship 8pm Guides and Senior Guides</p>	<p>11 10.30am PhysioPilates 12.15pm Big Coffee Break 4pm Speech and Drama</p>	<p>12</p>

<p>13 9am Holy Communion 10am Morning Service 11am Choral Matins & Sunday School & Creche followed by refreshments and Traidcraft Stall 6.30pm Evensong</p>	<p>14 8pm Badminton</p>	<p>15 10.30 Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal 8pm Scouts</p>	<p>16 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir</p>	<p>17 4.30pm Speech and Drama 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.45pm Historical Society 8pm Guides and Senior Guides</p>	<p>18 10.30am PhysioPilates 11.30am Friday Fellowship 4pm Speech and Drama</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 9am Holy Communion 11am Choral Eucharist & Sunday School & Creche 6.30pm Choral Eucharist</p>	<p>21 11am <i>Deadline for material to be with Anne Cromie for November Parrish Notes</i> 7.30pm Select Vestry Meeting 8pm Badminton</p>	<p>22 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal 8pm Scouts</p>	<p>23 SAIN'T JAMES THE BROTHER OF OUR LORD 10.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir</p>	<p>24 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Thursday Fellowship 8pm Guides and Senior Guides</p>	<p>25 10.30am PhysioPilates</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 BIBLE SUNDAY 9am Holy Communion 11am Choral Matins & Sunday School & Creche followed by refreshments 12.15pm Lectors' meeting 6.30pm Compline</p>	<p>28 8pm Badminton</p>	<p>29 10.30am Crafty Goodness 6pm Beavers 7pm Cubs 7.30pm Priory Singers' Rehearsal 8pm Scouts</p>	<p>30 30.30am Holy Communion and refreshments 2pm Bridge 6.30pm PhysioPilates 7.30pm Choir</p>	<p>31 6pm Rainbows 7pm Brownies 7.30pm Thursday Fellowship 8pm Guides and Senior Guides</p>		

CHURCH SERVICES IN OCTOBER

<u>DAY</u>	<u>PROPER</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>OFFICIANT</u>	<u>PREACHER</u>
Wed 2nd Oct	Mid-week Green	10.30am	Morning Prayer	Forde Patterson	—
Sunday 6th Oct	Trinity 16 Green	9am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Ken Houston	Rev'd Ken Houston
		11am	Choral Eucharist	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
		6.30pm	Choral Evensong	David Cromie	—
Wed 9th Oct	Mid-week Green	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
Sunday 13th Oct	Trinity 17 Green	9am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
		10am	Morning Service	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Ken Houston
		11am	Choral Matins	David Cromie	Rev'd Brian Lacey
		6.30pm	Evensong	Rev'd Ken Houston	Rev'd Ken Houston
Wed 16th Oct	Mid-week Green	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
Sunday 20th Oct	Trinity 18 Green	9am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
		11am	Choral Eucharist	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
		6.30pm	Choral Eucharist	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
Wed 23rd Oct	Saint James Red	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
Sunday 27th Oct	Bible Sunday Green	9am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
		11am	Choral Matins	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey
		6.30pm	Compline	David Cromie	David Cromie
Wed 30th Oct	Mid-week Green	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Brian Lacey	Rev'd Brian Lacey

CHURCH SERVICES IN OCTOBER

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>EPISTOLER</u>	<u>INTERCESSOR</u>
Wed 2nd Oct	10.30am	Marie Burrowes	—	Daphne McClements
Sunday 6th Oct	9am 11am 6.30pm	tbc Hilary Shields —	tbc Wes Holmes —	tbc Daphne McClements —
Wed 9th Oct	10.30am	Quintin Mulligan	—	Rosemary Johnston
Sunday 13th Oct	9am 10am 11am 6.30pm	tbc tbc Ashlee McCune —	tbc tbc Barbara Greenlees —	tbc tbc Dora Hanna —
Wed 16th Oct	10.30am	—	Dora Hanna	Timothy Wilson
Sunday 20th Oct	9am 11am 6.30pm	tbc Peter Coiley —	tbc Dora Hanna —	tbc David Cromie —
Wed 23rd Oct	10.30am	—	Daphne McClements	Marie Burrowes
Sunday 27th Oct	9am 11am 6.30pm	tbc Sandra Hutchman —	tbc Noel Beattie —	tbc Colin Bell —
Wed 30th Oct	10.30am	—	Forde Patterson	Quintin Mulligan

Free Will Offering Envelopes

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9: 6-7

We will soon be preparing the Free Will Offering (FWO) envelopes for next year. Those who wish to continue using this method to subscribe need not take any action as the 2020 envelopes will be automatically given to you in early December.

If, however, you wish to change to a different method (eg banker's standing order or other electronic means) please advise Noel Beattie (tel: 90 778 428 or email: noel_innisfayle@msn.com). Please do this as soon as you can and before the third week of November if at all possible.

If you are a new parishioner and would like to use FWO envelopes please contact Noel Beattie as above.

Thank you.

Ladies' Guild Tuesday 8th October at 2.30pm

We will begin our year with our opening service. This will be followed by our AGM and the obligatory cuppa. If you would like to know more about the Ladies' Guild but are too scared to ask, please come along to see for yourself. We are always delighted to see new faces. This is a good opportunity for existing members to meet up again after our summer break and is also a chance to meet new members.

Our meetings are open to everyone. If you would like to attend but don't have transport please contact me or speak to one of our members after church and we will be happy to arrange a lift for you.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Anne Stewart (Hon Sec), tel 028 9096 6597

All parishioners are encouraged to take part again this year in the

Shoe Box Appeal

1. FIND

Find an average-sized shoebox. Decide who to fill it for; a child, a teenager, a man or a woman.

2. WRAP

Wrap your box and lid separately so that the lid can be removed without tearing the paper.

3. PACK

Gather the items, remove any excess packaging and pack into the box.

4. CHECK

On the checklist, tick the items you have put in your shoebox and note any that are not on the list.

5. DONATE

Secure the ticked checklist to the outside of the shoebox lid using sticky tape. Detach the donation envelope as instructed and place with your donation inside your box.

6. DELIVER

Secure the lid with rubber bands. (Custom regulations require Blythwood Care to check the contents of your box.)



Shoe boxes must be brought to church or to the Parish Office no later than Sunday 27th October.

Please see the enclosed checklist for suggested items.

HALL CHAIRS

Our thanks go to the ladies of Crafty Goodness who, over a period of three years, have re-upholstered over 100 hall chairs. While some have been completely refurbished, others have had just the base or the back repaired. Considering that the original quote for this job from an outside contractor was £25 per chair—and that was for refurbishing only the base, you will appreciate how much money we have saved.



Some Sunday after the service do call down to the hall and see how expertly these chairs have been returned to their former glory. All being well it will be many years before we have to revisit this exercise!

Noel Beattie

Back on Track

Back on Track is a programme within SOLAS, a charity which supports children with additional educational needs. We are looking for retired teachers or people who have an interest, experience and/or expertise in the field of education to provide 1:1/small group support specifically in literacy and numeracy on a voluntary basis. One morning per week (2/3 hours) is required and full induction will be provided. Please contact Kate at Sólás on 9024 7600, or email progs@solasbt7.com for further details and information pack.



Supporting Parents after Bereavement

Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 9th October at 7.20pm in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Belfast, BT8 7XP. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not.



DOWNTON ABBEY

Downton Abbey themed
Christmas Afternoon Tea
at St Peter's
Saturday 14th December
Start looking for your outfits now!

PARISH REGISTER

Holy Matrimony

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

Christopher Millar and Olivia Davidson, Belfast
on 4th September 2019

North Belfast Historical Society

Date: Thursday 17th October

Time: 7.30pm for 7.45pm

Where: McCollum Minor Hall

Speaker: Tom Hartley

Subjects: Women from Belfast—hidden from view



Tom Hartley is a well known author and speaker. Tom is actively interested in environmental issues and is vigorously against vandalism in our parks and cemeteries. He was lord mayor of Belfast in 2008.

Women from Belfast—hidden from view: Tom explores the lives of women as artists and entrepreneurs, that have somehow been written out of history, by looking at the lives of many through headstones found in various graveyards.

You, your family and friends are most welcome, do come along and listen to this interesting presentation by Tom Hartley.

Everyone is welcome.

Margi Crawford

OCTOBER FLOWER LIST

6TH ROSEMARY HINDS IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER

13TH DAPHNE MCCLEMENTS IN MEMORY OF HER PARENTS

20TH BARBARA GREENLEES

27TH QUINTIN MULLIGAN IN MEMORY OF HIS WIFE

Thank you to all who give of their time and effort in beautifying the church with flowers. If possible, flowers should be in keeping with the liturgical colour of the season, particularly during Advent and Lent.



BIG COFFEE BREAK



**Northern
Ireland
Hospice**

PhysioPilates @ St Peter's
invites you to a

Big Coffee Break
on Friday 11th October
12.15pm—2pm
in the Minor Hall.

All donations welcome.
The Northern Ireland Hospice will
really appreciate your support.

Thank you.

Sandra Hutchman

Bishop of Connor

We have received a letter from Bishop Alan thanking us for our prayers and kind get well wishes. However, for the sake of the diocese and his own long-term health, he has since announced his retirement. The medical advice has been clear that he will not have the energy he used to have and ongoing treatment will affect his ability to fulfil the very demanding role of Bishop. We wish him every blessing for his retirement which starts in the new year.

LESSON READERS AND INTERCESSORS

If you find that the date assigned to you is unsuitable, please contact:

Sandra Hutchman, tel 95 149 564 (readings), or

Rosemary Johnston, tel 90 840 534 (intercessions).

The rota can be found in the 'Church Services' section.

Thank you to Margi Crawford for sharing this with us—something she recently read:

*For Jesus there are no countries to be conquered,
no ideologies to be imposed,
no bullying necessary,
no people to be dominated.*

For Jesus there are only men, women and children to be loved.

ORGANISATIONS/HALL TIMETABLE

Sunday

11am—12noon: Sunday School

Monday

7.30pm: Parish Meeting (1st Monday in month)

7.30pm: Select Vestry (3rd Monday in month)

8pm—11pm: Badminton Club

Tuesday

10.30am—12.30pm: Crafty Goodness

2.30pm—4.30pm: Ladies' Guild (2nd Tuesday in month)

6pm—7pm: Beaver Scouts

7pm—8pm: Cub Scouts

8pm—9pm: Scouts

Wednesday

2pm—4pm: Bridge Club

6.30pm—7.45pm: PhysioPilates

7.30pm—9pm: Choir

Thursday

4.30pm—5.30pm: Speech and Drama

6pm—7pm: Rainbows

7pm—8pm: Brownies

7.30pm—9pm: Thursday Fellowship (every week except 3rd in month)

7.45pm—9.30pm: Historical Society (3rd Thursday in month)

8pm—9.30pm: Guides and Senior Guides

Friday

10.30am—11.45am: PhysioPilates

11.30am—12.30pm: Friday Fellowship (1st and 3rd Friday in month)

4pm—8pm: Speech and Drama

*For more information on the parish organisations (including term dates)
please contact the appropriate personnel listed on the back page
or the Parish Administrator.*

PASTORAL CARE

If you would like to arrange for the Rector to visit you at home, whether to share your anxieties in confidence, for spiritual advice, for prayer, or for Holy Communion, then please contact him on 90 777 053. This is an essential part of his ministry and he will be pleased to visit you and help in whatever way he can. If the Rector is unavailable, there will be contact details for other clergy on the answer machine.

If you or a loved one is seriously ill, particularly if you are admitted to hospital, please inform the Rector. He often visits the hospitals but has no way of knowing who has been admitted unless he is informed. If you are visited by a hospital chaplain and they ask if you would like your Rector to visit, please say “yes” and he will gladly come to see you.

Parish Notes On-line

There are full colour versions of Parish Notes on our website. Visit www.stpeters.connor.anglican.org and click on “News”.

The next Parish Meeting, to which all parishioners are invited, will take place on Monday 7th October at 7.30pm. The next meeting of the Select Vestry will be on Monday 21st October at 7.30pm.

PARISHIONER CONTACT DETAILS

For speed of communication and to keep our records up to date please send your email address to Anne Cromie at stpeterandstjames@outlook.com. Also please don't forget to let us know if you move house, change your telephone number or change your email address.

Holy Dusters Cleaning Rota

30th Sept—5th Oct-----Group 7
7th Oct—12th Oct-----Group 8
14th Oct—19th Oct -----Group 1
21st Oct—26th Oct-----Group 2
28th Oct—4th Nov -----Group 3

*Please send material for the November issue of Parish Notes to:
Anne Cromie, Parish Office, St Peter's Church,
Fortwilliam Drive, Belfast BT15 4EB
or email: stpeterandstjames@outlook.com
by Monday 21st October. Thank you.*