

THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

SEPTEMBER 2024

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

*David Cromie and Michael Moore
working hard at the parish fun day.*

GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE



Cavehill Coffee has moved and been relaunched as the Courtyard Café at the newly refurbished Templemore Baths. Graham thanks all his customers from St Peter's for their loyalty over the last four years and would be delighted to welcome you to his new coffee shop. It is open Monday to Friday 9am-7pm and on Saturdays and Sundays from 9am-3pm. He is offering a wider menu now, including sandwiches and paninis, as well as your favourite scones and pastries.



*Please join us for Choral Evensong
Sunday 8th September at 3.30pm
Choirmaster: Robert Thompson
Organist: Tristan Russcher*

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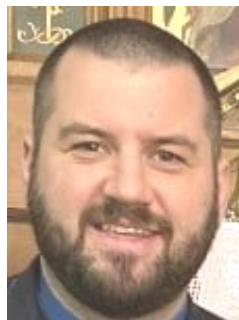
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RECTOR'S NOTES



SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

Please note that the new time for our main act of worship in September and October will be 10:30am! This will be the only service in St Peter's on Sunday mornings.

On the first and third Sunday mornings, there will be Choral Eucharist. On the second Sunday, we will have our Family Service, and on the fourth Sunday there will be Choral Matins. As there is a fifth Sunday in September, there will be a Healing Service that day. All of these services will commence at 10.30am.

On Sunday 8th September, there will be a service of Choral Evensong at the new time of 3.30pm.

Throughout the month, there will be a celebration of Holy Communion at 10.30am on Wednesdays.

The two Holy Days this month are the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Sunday 8th September, and Saint Michael and All Angels on Sunday 29th September.

EXPERIMENTAL CHANGES TO SERVICES

In September and October 2024, there will be one service of worship in St Peter's on Sunday mornings. We will begin at the new time of 10.30am, and each service should last just over one hour. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards.

Most of our services will be either Choral Eucharist (Holy Communion), or Choral Matins (Morning Prayer). There will

also be one Healing Service. During all of these services, children will sit with their parents in the church for the first five minutes, after which they will be invited to go to the halls for age appropriate teaching and activities.

On the second Sunday of each month, there will be a Family Service. For the first half hour of this service, it will be relaxed and informal, with praise and teaching suitable for all ages. In the second half hour, during which children will be invited – if they wish - to play games in the halls, the service in the church will conclude more formally, similar to the latter half of Choral Matins.

In addition, there will be a traditional-language service of Choral Evensong at 3.30pm on one Sunday each month. From October, this will be the first Sunday, but in September it will be the second Sunday.

As always, there will also be a service at 10.30am every Wednesday. This will usually be a modern-language celebration of Holy Communion, but we will use the traditional-language form of the service on the last Wednesday of each month.

These nine weeks are an experiment. The intention is to sustain and grow our congregation, with all ages meeting together every week. We will keep this under constant review, and you will be asked for feedback towards the end of the nine weeks.

For this to be a success, we need you to be involved:

- 1) Come to St Peter's every Sunday, or as often as you are able.
- 2) Invite your friends and family to join us for worship.
- 3) Volunteer to help with Children's Church, either leading or assisting on a rota basis.
- 4) Volunteer to make tea/coffee after our services on a rota basis.

SAFEGUARDING TRUST

If you have any concerns about the welfare of children in St Peter's – either at our own parish events or during the activities of organisations which hire our halls – then please contact a member of the Safeguarding Trust Panel. This includes Philip Williamson, Clodagh Webb, and myself. Our contact details are printed on the back cover of these Parish Notes, and are displayed on notice boards in the church and halls.

Could I please ask parishioners to ensure that they do not enter the halls alone during children's activities in which they are not involved. In an emergency, if a keyholder needs to enter the halls, they must first report to the leader of the children's organisation in order to explain why they have to be there.

DISCIPLESHIP GROUP AND BIBLE STUDY

As St Peter's is hosting the monthly meeting of the Diocesan Council, there will be no **Discipleship Group** in September. However, from October onwards, we will be working through seven sessions of the "Calling Out" course, which encourages us to explore how we share our faith with others. There will be more information about this in the next issue of the Parish Notes.

Our **Bible Fellowship** will meet on Thursday 12th and 26th September, commencing at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7.15pm, and tea/coffee will be served before we begin.

Our monthly **Lunchtime Bible Study** will be held at 11.30am on Wednesday 25th September, and concludes at 12.30pm with a light lunch.

PARISH FUN DAY

Thank you to all who helped at our Fun Day on St James' Day on Sunday 21st July. On the front cover are David Cromie and Michael Moore, who oversaw the barbecue. Some of the ladies



who helped in the kitchen are pictured above: Margaret McKenna, Jill Bradley, Dora Hanna, and Sandra Hutchman. We are grateful to them, and to all others who helped in various ways, not least Daphne McClements who procured the meat. Around eighty people came along, including parishioners and members of the local community. It was a lovely day, and much appreciated by all who attended.

LORD, WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO?

US President Joe Biden had to make a very big decision in July: whether or not he would run for re-election. Given how adamant he was – initially – that he would, it must have taken a lot of soul searching for him to change his mind. You may or may not know, but Joe Biden is a practicing Catholic, although his stance on abortion has not pleased the Catholic hierarchy. But I wonder to what extent he turned to God to help him come to his final decision on running for President. Did he ask the question: “What do you want, Lord?”

Is that a question you ever ask, concerning your own decisions?

In June, I asked you to fill in a questionnaire on paper or online, indicating your preferences for how and when we worship here in St Peter’s on Sundays. Following on from that, and having

consulted with those who are involved in our worship, we will be making a few changes – as an experiment – during September and October. [You can read more about these changes elsewhere in these Parish Notes.]

When it comes to the specific question of “how we worship in church” it is vital that we do what God wants. In case you’ve ever wondered, the modern English word “worship” comes from the Old English word “weorthscipe” – which means “to declare that something has value” – that it is “worth” something. And within a religious context, it means to declare that God – as our creator and sustainer – is worthy to be praised. So worship is about honouring God and so when we meet together for an hour on a Sunday, what we do during that time, must serve to honour God. Therefore, when it comes to making changes to how we worship, we need to ask: “Is this what God wants? Does it honour him?” Because if it doesn’t, then we are simply making changes to suit ourselves, and our worship on Sunday becomes about us, and what we get out of it, and what we enjoy. And Jesus, who should be the absolute focus of our attention, becomes nothing more than a peripheral character in our activities.

When it comes to making significant decisions – whether in the Church or in our everyday lives – to what extent do we let God lead us to the right decision, rather than trying to work it out for ourselves and hoping that God will be on board with what we decide? If we proclaim him as our Lord, and yet never take the time to reflect upon what he wants us to do, then the title “Lord” becomes fairly meaningless. If we only ever do what we think is right, without considering what Jesus thinks, then we have relegated him to being a spectator in our lives, rather than the one whom we serve.

Ironically, the same is sometimes true even for people who consider themselves to be very holy, very Christian: they have preconceived notions of what they presume God wants, but they never take the time to actually ask him. Indeed sometimes

Christians can be like the Pharisees during the time of Jesus: they demanded obedience to the rules, and when Jesus demanded kindness and forgiveness, the Pharisees condemned him for it. The Christian Church is full of people who think the same way – they will decide what God wants.

We see this expressed in the Gospels immediately following the miracle of the Feeding of the Four Thousand. Jesus senses that the mood of the crowd is to “take him by force to make him king”. From our perspective, you could argue that that would be a good thing. The people clearly believed in him. They were awestruck by the miracle he had performed, and they wanted to form a new community and make him their leader. Wasn’t that what Jesus wanted?

Well, clearly not – because we read that “he withdrew to the mountain by himself.” Why? Well, first of all, the Kingship of Christ is determined not by popular approval, but by the nature of who Christ is as the Son of God. It is not for humanity to “make him king”. He is our king by virtue of the fact that he created us. And secondly, to make any sort of public proclamation at that time would have interrupted the plan that Jesus had. He needed to go to Jerusalem and there be condemned and crucified. It would be the very opposite of what the Four Thousand intended for him. So this is a good example of “what God wants” versus “what the people think God wants”.

We see it again a little later in the same passage. Jesus comes walking on the water, and after recognising him, the disciples, we read “wanted to take him into the boat”. Why? Because they thought Jesus would be safer sitting in the boat than standing on the water? Because seeing Jesus doing something so supernatural scared them, so they wanted him to stop. We’re not told why they wanted him to come into the boat, but we are told that what they wanted was irrelevant: the boat arrived at the shore and they presumably all got out and carried on with their mission. That’s what Jesus wanted to do.

What we see in these two examples from this passage is the human inclination to think that we know what would be best for God. Whereas in both cases, they should have asked: “Lord, what do you want us to do?” For us Christians, who profess to be followers of Christ, we need to learn to ask that question with regard to everything in our lives. We must stop forcing God into going along with what we think is best, and instead – despite how challenging it may be sometimes – force ourselves to go along with what God thinks is best. He is, after all, much wiser than we are.

Altar Guild Rota for September

Date	Time	Set-up	Wine Cruet	Wine Chalice	Colour	Location
Sunday 1st September	10.30am	David Cromie	Dora Hanna	David Cromie	Green	Chancel
Wednesday 4th September	10.30am	Rosemary Johnston	Rosemary Johnston	Robert Long	Green	Resurrection
Wednesday 11th September	10.30am	Margaret McK Black	Robert Long	Dora Hanna	Green	Resurrection
Sunday 15th September	10.30am	Dora Hanna	Dora Hanna	Robert Long	Green	Chancel
Wednesday 18th September	10.30am	Jim Wilson	Rosemary Johnston	Robert Long	Green	Resurrection
Wednesday 25th September	10.30am	Robert Long	Robert Long	Dora Hanna	Green	St James



Harvest Thanksgiving
Sunday 13th October
10.30 am



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

by Rosemary Johnston

MOSES One of the 'Greats' of Old Testament history

Nearly 300 years have elapsed since the death of Joseph. In total the Israelites have been in Egypt around 370 years but their old privileged status is gone and there is a new pharaoh—Sethos I—'who knew not Joseph' and who started a great building programme in the fertile delta region. His successor was Rameses II and he made use of the now enslaved Israelites, organising them into gangs, under taskmasters, to make bricks out of mud for the new cities. Worse was to come. Pharaoh decreed that all Hebrew boy babies were to be cast into the Nile. To avoid this happening to her son, Moses' mother put him in a watertight papyrus basket and placed it among the reeds beside the river Nile. Pharaoh's daughter spotted him and rescued him. His sister, who saw what happened, offered to provide him with a wet nurse, and brought his own mother to perform this service. So Moses was raised at court, learning the Egyptian hieroglyphics and culture. When he was about 40 he killed an Egyptian who had killed a Hebrew, was found out by Pharaoh and fled to Midian where he met Jethro, a Midian priest, and married his daughter Zipporah. (The Midianites were descendants of Abraham through his second wife, Keturah.) About 40 years later, Moses led Jethro's flock of sheep across the desert to Sinai, the holy mountain, where he came across the burning bush which was not being consumed by the fire. Then God spoke to Moses and told him he had heard his people's cry and that Moses was to lead them out of Egypt. Well, that was not what Moses wanted to hear and argued with God as to why he was not 'yer man' for his task. But God was angry and he and Moses argued:

Moses: 'I am not up to the job.'

God: 'But I will be with you.'

Moses: 'How am I to explain to people who you are?'

God reveals himself as the God of their ancestors, and God of the present. 'I am'.

Moses: ‘The people won’t believe me.’

God gives him three signs with which to convince them and said that his older brother, Aaron, could speak for him.

So, God’s reluctant messenger, his wife and sons and brother, Aaron, set off for Egypt. Moses approached Pharaoh but his plea was rejected, part of the reason being that the Israelites outnumbered the Egyptians and were needed to build the cities. Then the plagues began—the Nile turned blood red; frogs came into the houses; there were gnats and flies and disease striking the cattle and a skin infection affecting animals and humans; hail and thunderstorms ruined the flax and barley crops and a wind blew in a plague of locusts from Ethiopia and for three days the sun was blotted out. But despite all this suffering Pharaoh would not give in. Then came the tenth plague. Before it came Moses told his people to kill a lamb for roasting but to use some of the blood to paint the lintels and doorposts of their houses. They were to eat the whole lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs and were to stay indoors. That night the Lord passed over and the firstborn sons throughout Egypt were killed including Pharaoh’s own son. Only those with blood on the doorposts were spared. At last Pharaoh agreed to let the Israelites go. A new feast was instituted—the Passover—in commemoration of God’s deliverance of his people. Around two million people, plus their animals and goods as well as gold and silver from the Egyptians. It must have been an amazing sight as the people wended their way towards the ‘promised land’. Moses took Joseph’s bones with him. God led them in a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night. After realising his mistake in letting the Israelites go, Pharaoh pursued them and trapped them at the Red Sea. God then instructed Moses to strike his staff over the sea to divide it and the people were able to cross over safely to the other side. Then, also on God’s instruction, Moses stretched out his staff again and the waters closed, drowning the Egyptians. Thus, after 430 years, the Israelites left the land of Egypt.

*Heavenly Father,
when you call us to do something,
help us not to argue,
knowing that you will be there with us. Amen.*

More to come next month ...

SERVICE SCHEDULE

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER	OFFICIANT	LECTOR	PREACHER	INTERCESSOR
SUNDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER—THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (GREEN)				
10.30am Choral Eucharist	Rector	David Cromie	Rector	Nigel Macauley
WEDNESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Rosemary Johnston
SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER—THE BIRTH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (WHITE)				
10.30am Family Service	Rector/ Dora Hanna	-	Rector	Dora Hanna
3.30pm Choral Evensong	Rector	David Cromie		David Cromie*
WEDNESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Daphne McClements
SUNDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER—THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (GREEN)				
10.30am Choral Eucharist	Rector	Robert Long	Rector	Robert Long
WEDNESDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Jill Bradley
SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER—THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (GREEN)				
10.30am Choral Matins	David Cromie	Sandra Hutchman	Rector	David Cromie
WEDNESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion 1662	Rector	Robert Long	-	Robert Long*
SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER—SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS (WHITE)				
10.30am Healing Service	Rector	Dora Hanna	Rector	Rosemary Johnston*

Our Church Family

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

North Belfast Historical Society

We are looking forward to having many of you join us for our exciting new season. Our meetings are held in the minor hall on the third Thursday of each month except for April—it will be held one week earlier, due to Easter.

On **19th September** our first speaker of the season will be John Gray, our president, whose subject will be ‘Saving the Assembly Buildings’.

Our October and November meetings as follows:

17th October

Speaker: Hugh Daly

Subject: One hundred years of Cliftonville Golf Club

21st November

Speaker: Eddie McCamley

Subject: The murder of Patricia Curran.

Our annual subscription is £15 and visitors pay £4 to attend a meeting.

We look forward to seeing you.



Daphne McClements (Chairman)

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the Rector whose birthday is in September.

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!

Please note the dates for the following meetings:

Senior Officers

Friday

6th September

at 11.30am

in St James'

Select Vestry

Monday

16th September

at 7.30pm

in St Peter's church.

TIMETABLE

Sunday

10.30am: Sunday Service and Kids' Church

Monday

10.30am: Walking Group

6pm: Glandore Dog Training Club

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

Tuesday

10.30am: Crafty Goodness

7.30pm: Priory Singers

Wednesday

10.30am: Holy Communion

11.30am: Bible Study

2pm: Bridge Club

5pm: Unislim

6.30pm: PhysioPilates

7.45pm: Choir Practice

Thursday

9am: Baby Sensory

10am: Chair PhysioPilates

6pm: Rainbows

7pm: Brownies

7.30pm: Bible Fellowship (2nd & 4th Thursdays in month)

7.430pm: Historical Society (3rd Thursday in month)

8pm: Guides and Senior Guides

Friday

10.30am: PhysioPilates

4pm: Speech and Drama

*For more information on the parish organisations
(including start back dates for the new season)
please contact the appropriate personnel listed on the back page.*

SEPTEMBER FLOWER LIST

8TH 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 practical, flowers should be in keeping with the liturgical colour of the season, particularly during Advent and Lent.



Parish Notes On-line

The Parish Notes can be read in full colour on our website. Visit www.stpeterbelfast.org

If your business would like to advertise in our Parish Notes please contact the Parish Administrator, 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 and fill out the form.

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 23rd September.

Thank you.

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

Rector:	The Rev'd Brian Lacey	90 777 053	brianlacey@stpeterbelfast.org
Associate Minister:	The Rev'd Andrew Irwin	9600 50115	andrewirwin@stpeterbelfast.org
Parish Administrator:	Anne Cromie	90 776 706	annecromie@stpeterbelfast.org
Organist and Choir Master:	Robert Thompson	07590 851564	roberthompson@stpeterbelfast.org
Ministry Apprentice:	Robert Long	07535 775360	robertlong@stpeterbelfast.org
Parish Reader:	David Cromie	90 775 669	davidcromie@stpeterbelfast.org
Parish Reader:	Dora Hanna	95 733 374	dorahanna@stpeterbelfast.org
Co-ordinator for Intercessors:	Rosemary Johnston	90 840 534	-
Co-ordinator for Flowers:	Sandra Davison	07738 403667	sandradavison@stpeterbelfast.org
Rector's Churchwarden:	Daphne McClements	07730 127350	daphnemcclements@stpeterbelfast.org
People's Churchwarden:	Margaret McKenna-Black	07732 651569	margaretmckblack@stpeterbelfast.org
Rector's Glebewarden:	Victor Davis	90 771 197	victordavis@stpeterbelfast.org
People's Glebewarden:	Michael Moore	90 508 177	michaelmoore@stpeterbelfast.org
Honorary Secretary:	Clodagh Webb	07565 501702	clodagharris@hotmail.com
Honorary Treasurer:	Ashlee McCune	07801 556386	ashleemcune@stpeterbelfast.org
FWO & Gift Aid Secretary:	Noel Beatie	90 778 428	noelbeatie@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	florigreer@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:	Daphne McClements	07730 127350	daphnemcclements@stpeterbelfast.org
Kids' Church:	Cheryl Hurson	07725 6441 18	cherylbleakley@hotmail.com
PhysioPlates:	Sandra Hutchman	95 149 564	sehutchman@hotmail.com
Priority Singers:	Phillip Bolton	07821 906920	bolton390@btinternet.com
Rainbows:	Lee Kennedy	07871 875985	lee_kennedy@btinternet.com
Speech & Drama:	Claire McGrogan	07793 045071	clairrekeran99@yahoo.co.uk
Unslim:	Karen Flannery	07773 758524	Flannery-Karen@hotmail.com
Walking Group:	Jill Bradley	90 842 998	jill.bradley1@btinternet.com

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