

THE PARISH OF
ST PETER AND ST JAMES
BELFAST

PARISH NOTES

NOVEMBER 2024

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



Harvest Thanksgiving

GOD . LOVING . PEOPLE



Fortwilliam Greengrocers

Fruit & Vegetables
Fruit baskets & Bouquets
Fresh Flowers & Plants

575 Antrim Road
Belfast BT15 3BU
Tel 028 9077 1013

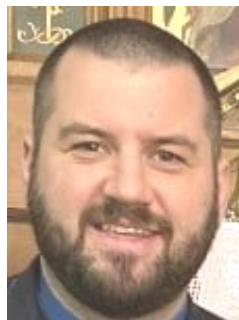


Please join us for
Choral Evensong
Sunday 10th November
at 3.30pm
Choirmaster: Robert Thompson
Organist: Tristan Russcher

Cavehill Community Choir
at St Peter's Church
Friday 6th December at 8pm
Tickets including light
refreshments are
available from
Clodagh Webb
tel 07565 501702



RECTOR'S NOTES



SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Throughout the month of November, we will continue with our experimental time of 10.30am, with tea and coffee served after each service.

On Sunday 3rd November, which we will celebrate as **All Saints' Day**, there will be Choral Eucharist at 10.30am. During this service, the names of parishioners who have died in the last three years will be read aloud.

On Sunday 10th November, which is **Remembrance Sunday**, we will have our Family Service and Act of Remembrance at 10.30am. The national silence at 11am will be observed as part of the service. There will then be a service of Choral Evensong at 3.30pm.

On Sunday 17th November, which is the **Second Sunday before Advent**, there will be Choral Eucharist at 10.30am.

On Sunday 24th November, which is the **Kingship of Christ**, there will be a service of Choral Matins at 10.30am.

EXPERIMENTAL SERVICE TIMES

Throughout November we will continue with our 10.30am and 3.30pm Sunday services. Most people I've spoken to have suggested that they are not really bothered whether our morning service is at 10.30am or 11am, but I do acknowledge that there will be some people for whom the time change is problematic. If

10.30am is genuinely difficult for you to get to St Peter's, please let me know as soon as possible. Obviously we cannot keep everyone happy, but it is important that we know all the facts before making a decision about December's service times.

HALLOWEEN

Given that quite a few shops were taking down their Halloween decorations in mid October, it seems that, like Christmas, it is nowadays being celebrated weeks in advance of the actual date. Culture and traditions change over time and so unless we want to be like old King Canute, trying in vain to hold back the rising tide, we need to learn to go with the flow. Nevertheless, for the purists out there who wish to watch scary films on Halloween, this is just your reminder that since All Saints' Day is being celebrated in St Peter's on 3rd November rather than the 1st, Halloween is technically Saturday 2nd November rather than the 31st October.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

With Remembrance Sunday falling on the second Sunday of the month, it would be tempting to move the Family Service to another day. However, it is important that our young people understand why we commemorate the Fallen, and therefore we will structure our Family Service at 10.30am around that theme. As we approach 11am that morning, the children (as usual) will be permitted to go to the halls, whilst those remaining in the church will continue with our formal Act of Remembrance, including the national silence, and the reading of the names of the Fallen from both St Peter's and St James'.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING

The Safeguarding Trust Panel is the committee tasked with ensuring the safety of children on church premises. It consists of Clodagh Webb, Philip Williamson, and myself. Our contact details are on the back cover of these Parish Notes, and you will

see them on posters in both the church and halls. One of the central purposes of the Panel is to receive reports concerning the welfare of children. Thankfully, such reports are rare, but could I encourage anyone who has reasonable grounds to suspect that children could be harmed – either purposefully or accidentally, to contact a member of the Panel in confidence. This applies to all activities relating to children – including Family Services, Sunday School, groups such as the Guides, and organisations which hire our halls. We want St Peter's to be a safe environment for all children, and we need your help to do so.

SIDESPERSIONS

A “sidesperson” (more traditionally a “sidesman”) is someone who assists or deputises the churchwardens. There's a myth that the name comes from these assistants passing around the collection plate in the side aisles of churches whilst the churchwardens stayed in the nave. However, it's actually a corruption of the word “synodsmen”, which is a representative from the parish who attends diocesan or national synods. Given the historic importance attached to such representation, it was customary for those individuals to be considered trustworthy and enthusiastic enough to warrant asking them to help the churchwardens. Nowadays, the roles of Synodspersons and Sidesperson are distinct, although there's certainly no reason why one person could not do both jobs.

We have been without Sidespersons in St Peter's for several years, since just before Covid, but now is the time to resurrect that office. We might decide next year to make formal appointments, but for the time being I will be asking some members of the Select Vestry to help the Churchwardens, or even to deputise for them on a regular basis. This is partly to ensure that our Churchwardens have a well-earned break from time to time, but also to enable more people to be trained to carry out this vital role. I am grateful to Jim Wilson, Nigel Macauley, and Ashlee McCune for helping out in this way in recent weeks.

PRAYER

During September and October, we have been offering private prayer in the Chapel of the Resurrection after our morning service for anyone who has wished to avail of it. Although the majority of prayer requests have concerned health, it is not limited to this. We would like to pray with you for any reason which is of importance to you. This could include anything that causes stress or anxiety for you or a loved one. It may also be that you would like to share good news and offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God. Whatever it is, I encourage you to step out in faith, and bring your prayer request to God with us.

Please also remember that you can request prayer online at stpeterbelfast.org/prayer

BIBLE STUDY

Our **Bible Fellowship** will meet at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th and 28th November in the Minor Hall. We will be continuing to study the Book of Nehemiah, before turning our attention to the Letter to the Galatians (either this month or next).

Our monthly **Bible Study Group** will be held at 11.30am on Wednesday 27th November, following our mid-week celebration of Holy Communion.

DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

On Thursday 7th November, we will continue our exploration of Mission and Evangelism, using the course "Calling Out". It doesn't matter if you weren't at the first session last month; you will be very welcome to join us. This group is open to parishioners from all the local congregations, so please invite anyone whom you think might be interested. We begin at 7.30pm in the Minor Hall, with tea and coffee served from 7.15pm.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Wasn't it lovely to see the church so well adorned with flowers, fruit, and vegetables for our Harvest Thanksgiving? Thank you to all who brought items for the various displays, and to those who arranged them. A particular thanks to Sandra Davison for taking the lead with the flowers.

In addition, we were collecting groceries for the North Belfast Foodbank. They have now been safely delivered, and the fruit was donated to Cavehill Primary School. Thank you so much to everyone who donated.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

At some point during the month, we will organise a fry-up for the men and boys of the parish. This will likely be on a Saturday morning; I'll let you know the details closer to the time. If any of our menfolk would like to assist with the set-up and/or cooking, please let me know.

CHARITIES

In addition to the charities which we support every year (such as Christian Aid and the Royal British Legion), and special fundraising for Greenisland Parish, this year we will be making financial donations to the following four charities: **NI Hospice**, **Air Ambulance NI**, **Child Aid** (*see article later in these Notes*), and the **North Belfast Foodbank**. We have been receiving donations throughout the year which will be divided between these four charities, but there is still time to make a contribution. You can place either cash or a cheque (made payable to "Parish of St Peter and St James, Belfast) in the designated charity box at the back of the church (*not the Free Will Offering box!*) or else make an online donation before the 31st December via this link:

<https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QEXK5M71>

THINKING AHEAD TO ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

It seems to me as if last Christmas was only a few weeks ago, but time is marching onwards and we'll soon be celebrating the festive season once again. There will be more information about worship and events in the December issue of the Parish Notes, but it is just worth highlighting a few dates for your diary:

- Sunday 1st December: Advent Carol Service.
- Sunday 8th December: Christingle Family Service.
- Monday 16th December: Nine Lessons & Carols at 7.30pm.
- Sunday 22nd December: Nativity Service.
- Tuesday 24th December: Christmas Eve Holy Communion.
- Wednesday 25th December: Christmas Day Holy Communion.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO GROW THE CHURCH?

I'll not bore you again with the long list of Church of Ireland churches which have been closed in Belfast in recent years, save to say that Immanuel (Ardoyne) and St Andrew's (Glencairn) have recently been added to that list.

You can never say never, but there's no immediate danger of the closure of St Peter's. Nevertheless, as other churches close around us, we will be drawn into conversations about the future of the Church of Ireland in north Belfast as a whole. And although those conversations will necessarily involve legalities, finance and the disposal of property, they will also – much more importantly – focus on: how do we keep the flame of Christianity alive in north Belfast; how do we grow the Church? More specifically, the question is: how do we convert non-Christians in the area, into Christians?

It's important to remember that, because it's always tempting to think that success or failure is determined by how many people are sitting in a church building on a Sunday morning. To some extent, the size of a congregation is an indicator of how healthy a

church is. But as other neighbouring churches close, and some members of those former congregations may come here to St Peter's, we might perceive that as growth. And yet although that may increase the size of our congregation, it is not increasing the number of Christians in this world. We are simply moving existing Christians from one place of worship to another. And whilst we will be delighted to welcome them, and I hope and pray that those affected by church closures will find a new spiritual home here with us, the true growth of the Christian Church will nonetheless be measured by how many non-Christians are converted to Christians through our efforts. And that is a huge challenge. It's a scary challenge.

Last month, I ran the first of a series of monthly seminars which will focus on mission and evangelism. But when I decided upon that theme, I knew I was risking nobody turning up – because the idea of being asked to be involved in evangelising (which means “proclaiming the Gospel) seems to fill most people with absolute terror. And for some, it will be because they don't think they know enough about Christianity in order to properly communicate it ... whereas for others, they fear they would be ridiculed for wanting to talk about Jesus. These are natural concerns. Indeed, they are likely the same concerns that the twelve disciples had when our Lord Jesus sent them out to proclaim the Good News in the towns and villages in Judea.

These were ordinary men – most of whom were fishermen or something similarly hands-on. They were not educated public speakers, and they undoubtedly had the same nervousness that we would have if we were asked to be involved in an evangelistic mission.

What's interesting, though, is what those evangelistic missions involved. The first thing to note is what they had to say. Jesus told them, “Proclaim the Good News that the Kingdom of Heaven has come near.” I wonder if I were to ask a modern day

Evangelist what the Good News is, would they say that the Kingdom of Heaven has come near? I doubt it. More likely they would talk about the sinfulness of humanity; the broken relationship between us and God; the need for a Saviour; the saving work of Christ's death upon the Cross, and that for those who believe in him, their sins can be forgiven, and so on. And they would be quite right in saying all of that. But it's not what Jesus is telling the disciples to say. He says instead, "Proclaim the Good News that the Kingdom of Heaven has come near." In other words, the power of God is not distant and remote; it is here with us now.

Now, there are two ways to interpret that, and the two ways are related, they're not mutually exclusive. The first is that Jesus himself is the physical manifestation of the Kingdom of Heaven coming into this world. He is literally something from heaven come down to earth. The second is that God's divine power to create, and to fix, and to transform, has been made available to us.

And if you're not sure what I mean by that, I can explain it best by moving on to the second thing that Jesus told the disciples to do during their missionary journeys: "Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons." These activities are not things to do to while away the time when they're resting their voices from telling people the Good News. They are instead, part and parcel of that proclamation. They are means of telling the Good News without using words. Because, in a very visible and physical way, they show how the power of God can have a positive and transformative effect in the world today, in the lives of ordinary people. They are an expression of the Kingdom of Heaven having come near.

For us, then, in St Peter's, we should learn that evangelism and mission are not just about having the right words to say, and hoping that nobody will ridicule us for saying them. The power of God must also be at work amongst us and through us. Because even if we had the confidence to go out into the streets and tell people about the transformative power of Jesus Christ, we need to

be able to back up that claim with real evidence of how our lives (individually and collectively) have been changed – and continue day by day to be changed - by Jesus. And we need to have the ministries in place here to respond positively and constructively to all who want their lives to be transformed by Christ. That includes healing services, and it includes offering – what is known as – “deliverance ministry”, for those who fear a negative supernatural element in the problems they face in life. That’s where we “cast out demons”.

Having a ministry in which we raise the dead would certainly be interesting, but we’ll maybe park that one for the time being. But cleansing the lepers might be more achievable. And it’s something we must work hard to do. But it’s not about curing people with leprosy: there aren’t many cases in north Belfast that I’m aware of. Instead, this is about welcoming people into our community. That’s what was really happening when lepers were cleansed. It was more than physical healing; it was about enabling people who had been outcast, forgotten about and abandoned, to re-enter society. So a key part of our mission as a Church, must be to make people feel part of our Christian family. We must welcome them with open arms, and give them a sense of belonging, a sense of value, respect, and most of all – love.

So what I want us to take from all this is that the Church’s mission (which we must be involved in if we are to grow) is more than getting a loudspeaker and standing on street corners. It is, rather, about us, as a community, making a real difference in this local area. It is about us showing in practical ways, that the Kingdom of Heaven has come near.

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.

SHOE BOX APPEAL

Bring some joy this Christmas

Transforming lives through Christian care for body and soul



Find:

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

Wrap:

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

Pack:

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

Check:

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

Donate:

Secure the ticked checklist to the outside of the shoe box lid using sticky tap. Detach the donation envelope as instructed and place with your donation inside the box. Keep the lid on with a rubber band.

Deliver:

Bring your shoe box to church or the parish office no later than **Sunday 10th November**. If you are unable to come to church please contact David Cromie, tel 9077 5669 or email davidcromie@stpeterbelfast.org and he'll arrange a mutually convenient time to collect it from you.



**ESSENTIAL ITEMS
(ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW)**

Please include the items highlighted opposite:

Toiletries (NO TALCUM POWDER)

- Shampoo/Shower gel
- Face cloth/ Moist wipes
- Deodorant
- Moisturising Cream
- Comb/Brush
- Sanitary Products
- Shaving foam/Razors

Miscellaneous

- New Make-up
- Sewing Equipment
- Household Candles
- Screwdrivers/Pliers
- Household products

Stationery

- Pens/Pencils/Sharpener
- Notepads/
Colouring books
- Rulers/Rubbers

Clothes and other Items

(T-shirts/Pyjamas/
Jumpers/Shirts) etc

-
-
-
-

- Toothbrush and
Toothpaste**
- Hat, scarf, gloves**
- Soap**
- Underwear/
Socks/Tights**
- Small Toy***
- Sweets***

NOTE* *Small toy for boys and girls such as, cars, dolls, balls.*

*A **small gift** for teens and adults. Please only include new items.*

** (No chocolate or any other food) 'Best before' date no earlier than 31 March next year. No loose sweets, lollies or undated bags of sweets.*

Do not include used or damaged items; war related items such as toy guns or knives or military figures; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys; chocolate or any food other than sweets. Chocolate Eclairs and Chocolate Limes are not allowed; books that are mainly words should also not be included.

Please tick the box next to who the box is for and the age of the female or male you have filled this box for:



Female



Male

- Preschool** age.....
- Primary** age.....
- Teenager** age.....
- Adult** age.....
- Elderly** age.....



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

by Rosemary Johnston

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

In the time of Moses, God made his covenant with the Israelites at Mount Sinai when Moses was commanded to bring the ten commandments to the people. This was followed by many instructions on worship, the construction of the tabernacle (place of meeting) and the ark of the covenant, as well as the making of the priestly garments – all to provide the venue and right atmosphere for worshipping God. There would have been much singing and rejoicing. Then came the psalms of David. From those early beginnings God has been worshipped and when Jesus came on earth bringing the Good News of salvation, his followers spread the gospel far and wide, also singing and rejoicing.

Fast-forward several hundred years when Christianity had already reached the British Isles. The Romans had been and gone, but they left behind towns and cities and long, straight roads which made communication easier. Saint Augustine landed in Kent in AD597 and Saint Aidan, head-hunted by King Oswald of Northumbria, settled on Lindisfarne in AD635, having come from the west of Ireland via Iona where he was a follower of Saint Columba. Thus there were two different missions: the Roman and the Celtic, and they followed their own separate teachings and rites. The famous Synod in Whitby in AD664 was set up to establish which body should be followed in unity – the result being a rejection of the Celtic Church in favour of the Roman. The Celtic religion then drifted out of England back to the remoter parts of Britain.

Church building in England was a communal effort. For the poor, treated badly by their landlords, it was their place of prayer, their only refuge, materially and spiritually. Masons, sculptors, painters, quarrymen and carters were paid; supported by their cathedral city, their local priests and their liege lords, but most of the work was done by untrained men in what time they could spare from their labours in the fields. Abbeys and monasteries were also built, such as Lindisfarne and Fountains Abbey in Yorkshire. The Normans came in 1066 and after they had conquered most of the country and taken over most of the earldoms, they set about

building great churches and cathedrals, such as Durham. (I was there when I was eight and thought the pillars enormous. When I was there more recently they were still enormous.)

In Ireland it was a completely different story. It was split into over a hundred kingdoms and the people were often at war with each other. The Romans had not come so there were no proper roads, towns or cities. The land was heavily forested which made travel difficult. The first evangelists arrived in the early fifth century, spreading the gospel over much of Leinster and Munster. The northern half of Ireland remained pagan until the arrival of Patrick. Pope Celestine made Palladius the first bishop to the Irish in 431. Without towns and roads, and without political unity, the geography couldn't have city-based bishoprics, which was what Patrick wanted. A monastic society more in keeping with Gaelic society developed. The forts and encampments of Gaelic kings and chiefs were chosen as sites for abbeys and monasteries which were generally constructed of thatched wood and wattle, though in other areas they were made of stone. At Nendrum Monastery, near Comber, the site was surrounded by three concentric circular walls and contained various ecclesiastical buildings, houses or cells for the monks and also for skilled workers. Bangor, Armagh and Derry became great centres of learning and craftsmanship. The kings lived in forts while the people lived in ringforts with circular walls. The Vikings arrived in 795. They later became Christians and Sitric Silkenbeard founded Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin in 1038. Church building was nowhere as prolific as in England. It increased after the 'Plantation of Ulster' and in the Victorian period.

Throughout all this time music was important, from the time of Moses, with rejoicing at festivals, and the psalms of David. From the time of Jesus early Christians probably sang psalms and other songs glorifying God and giving thanks for their new found faith. The monasteries and abbeys must have resonated to the plainsong of monks and nuns. Wonderful choral music came into being in Tudor times and we still sing the anthems of Thomas Tallis and William Byrd (a catholic, protected by Elizabeth I). Many great hymn writers such as Isaac Watts and Charles Wesley made it possible for the people to join in the worship more fully. There are many new hymn writers today with styles totally different to what went before. They may not please everybody, but it is the way each writer expresses their thoughts on their faith.

*Heavenly Father: We are your creation, your children, whom you love.
May we show our love for you in our worship and through our music,
and may our churches always be a reverent, welcoming space
for all who come through the doors. Amen.*

Discipleship Meeting

by Rosemary Johnston and Dora Hanna

On Thursday 3rd October, at our monthly meeting of the Discipleship Group, the Rector asked us what non-Christians might think about Christianity, and what might turn them off? We thought about judgement, hypocrisy, religiosity, and also the words 'saved' and 'evangelism', which we thought had acquired negative connotations. However, when the word "saved" was replaced by "healed" we found that to be more acceptable. We're still a bit nervous about evangelism.

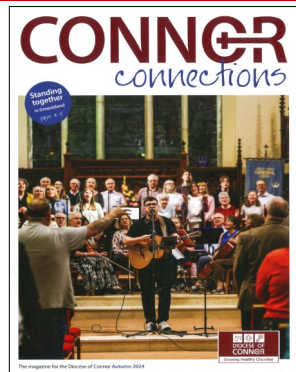
Then passages from Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians were shown on the projector screen, with questions relating to them from a book by J. John entitled 'Calling Out'. The purpose was to consider how we might summarise and explain the Christian message to those who don't yet know it. In our discussion, we felt that deeds and actions are very important, and that words and approach need to be carefully chosen if we are to communicate positively.

We would recommend attending the Discipleship Group to anyone who is interested.

Our Church Family

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

*Free copies of our
current diocesan magazine
are now available
in the south porch of
St Peter's.*



Freewill Giving 2025

As we approach the end of the year I am now starting to prepare for next year's free will offerings (FWOs) to St Peter's.

If you are currently giving by FWO envelopes and wish to continue using this method during 2025, you need read no further as envelopes for use in 2025 will be with you towards the end of this year.

However, if you wish to change to another method of giving during 2025 (ie Bankers Standing Order or other electronic means of giving) please contact me as soon as possible so that suitable arrangements can be put in place:

Noel Beattie—tel no: 90 778 428
or email: noel_innisfayle@msn.com

Many thanks.

If you would like a receipt for your free will offerings given during 2024 (excluding any special collection offerings), please contact our honorary treasurer, Ashlee McCune. Contact details on back cover.



THANK YOU
THANK YOU
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To the congregation from

St Peter's Church of Ireland

Thank you for your fantastic donation
of **65.9kg!**

Every donation makes a **big difference**
to those struggling with food poverty
in the local community

Seventy Years Ago in St Peter's
The Rev'd Chancellor R. S. Breen's
Parish Notes
for November 1954

New Desk Prayer Books. For a variety of sufficient reasons no large Prayer Books suitable for use in the Clergy Desks in churches have been printed or available in the Church of Ireland for more than a quarter of a century. For some time past new books of this time have at last been in preparation. They have now been published by the A.P.C.K. They are really necessary books, but as they must be made to last for a considerable time, they are costly to produce. In fact they are on sale at £7 each. A parishioner who feels that only the best should be used in connection with the worship of God at our Church services has presented to St Peter's two desk books for the Parish Church, and another for the Chapel. They make a very handsome gift. The donor, whom we thank on behalf of the whole Parish, is Mr R. H. Wilson of Skegoneill Avenue. Mr Mark Garrett is embellishing the books with illuminated inscriptions. They will be dedicated in the near future.

Haig Fund. This year we are having our Remembrance Service on Sunday the 7th of November at 10:30 am so as to include in it the 11:00 silence and commemoration of those who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the two great wars. You are invited to join your fellow parishioners in this special act of worship. Give, too, please, as liberally as you can on Remembrance Sunday, and in the street collections, to the Haig fund.

The Chapel of the Resurrection. Services will be continued during November. There will be no Parochial Services during the months of December, January and February next. Many thanks to all our good friends in other parishes who help us with the Chapel.

Church Expenses Fund. The Hon. Treasurer will be very grateful if subscriptions, great or small, now in arrears, are sent to him without delay. At this period of the year prompt payment helps to keep down our overdraft. Our Churchwardens would be glad to shorten a rather long list of non-subscribing parishioners.

Carols will be sung throughout the Parish in the week or ten days before Christmas as weather permits. Please give a welcome to the Carol Parties and help them to make their offering to Missions and Orphans a really good one.

Ladies' Gift Day this year has been fixed for Sunday, December 5th. The proceeds will be devoted, as usual, to Overseas Missions, Orphans, etc. Gift Envelopes will be distributed at an earlier date. Please put as much as you can afford into yours and bring it back when next in Church. All you can give is urgently needed.

War Memorial. The design of the War Memorial has been accepted, subject to possible minor modifications as the work goes on. We must now proceed to get in the money required as soon as possible. The window promises to be a very beautiful one, worthy, we hope, in every way of St Peter's Church, and of the Parish record in the 1939 – 1945 war. We plan, please God, to have it in place for next

Saint Peter's Day, when it will be duly dedicated. Meanwhile, there will be much to be done if it is to be unveiled free of debt. Let us give ourselves to the work with all our hearts. Please help those who are building up the Memorial Fund, by giving quickly and generously, if you have not done so already. £1,000 is still needed. More than £1,000 is in hand, or in sight.

Diocesan Council of Youth. We are glad to record the fact that the Rev. M. E. Leeman has been elected President of the Diocesan Council of Youth for the current session.

Entertainments. Both the Dramatic Society and the Youth Guild are arranging to present in the Parochial Hall in the immediate future. Details are not yet available, but announcements will be made without delay.

Miss Boyd's Concert. Miss Boyd hopes to present shortly in the Parochial Hall a Concert by her pupils, in aid of the funds of the Ladies' Work Committee (for Missions, etc.). on November 19th and 20th. We are very grateful to her for her continued help over so many years.

Week-Day Services (Morning). It is proposed, as from the beginning of the New Year, to hold the usual Morning Services on week-days half an hour earlier than at present, that is, at 10.30, instead of 11.00. This seems to be a more suitable hour for most parishioners.

AFTER CHURCH REFRESHMENT—*Thank you to all who provide light refreshments after services—it is much appreciated. If you would like to help sometimes please contact Sandra Hutchman.*



Discipleship Group

by Robert Long



At the first evening's monthly meeting of the Discipleship Group, we were thinking about mission and evangelism, beginning with "The Big Picture" of God's plan for salvation. It was a very thought provoking, engaging, and equipping evening about communicating the gospel and our salvation. The Rector led and facilitated the group using the course "Calling Out", designed and written by J. John, a seasoned Evangelist. "Calling Out" is a serious attempt to provide a practical, all-round guide, enabling believers to share Jesus. I found, from the first night, that the Discipleship Group is for all Christians, from new believers onwards, to engage in a fresh, lively, and jargon-free style.

In the first session, "Foundations for Mission – The Big Picture", the Rector guided us through a panoramic view of the Bible using Saint Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus – Ephesians chapter 1 verse 3 to chapter 2 verse 13 which begins:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love."

The author of the course states "The great theme of 'calling out' occurs throughout the Bible and is not confined to the book of Acts and the letters of the New Testament." In the opening group meeting we embarked on our journey together with a jigsaw puzzle which helped us focus on our own understanding of the faith we have to share and the audience with whom we share it. We then examined our understanding from the position of a non-Christian. Exploring further, we looked at seven major themes or episodes through the bible from Genesis to Revelation, including God's good earth; The Great rebellion and its consequences; The Rescue begins; Jesus the Great Intervention; The Resurrection-History's Turning point; The Unfinished Story; and The

Final Victory. We rounded up the evening's exploration of the Christian faith and our calling by evaluating the overall big picture of the Bible, the major themes discussed, and their relevance and application for sharing our faith in Jesus Christ with others. We completed the evening's discipleship by expressing what we had learned and closing in prayer.

With a nice number of people both men and women in the group I found this a safe space to ask questions, share thoughts and ideas, and encouraging. I felt that the group was welcoming and understanding of each other's experiences, knowledge, and outlook on the Christian faith. It was a positive, trusting and encouraging environment overall, where everyone was able to express their views on the topic. There was a high level of interaction between the group and the Rector as he led us through the Discipleship Course, keeping us on topic and encouraging us all to ask questions, providing a positive and safe environment to express our views.

Over the course of the next monthly meetings of the Discipleship Group, we will explore why we need to share our faith, what the message is that we have to share, why most of find it so hard to do and how we answer all those questions. The first evening of this course greatly improved my knowledge of evangelism and equipped me in my own self-assessment of my relationship with God and how I am living that out as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

If evangelism is something you would like to learn more about, I strongly advise you to join the group. Can I also encourage you to pray for all those participating in the Discipleship Group, and if you are able to come along you will be very welcome. See you there!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to those with birthdays this month:

Henry George, Valerie Guest,
Deirdre Mañill, 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!

NOVEMBER FLOWER LIST



3RD EILEEN TAYLOR
10TH VALERIE GUEST
IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND, JAMES

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.

OUR MISSION is to transform the limited circumstances of today's vulnerable, abandoned and disabled children in Eastern Europe into ones of opportunity and hope.

OUR VISION is that, in the longer term, local and national authorities will be persuaded to adopt this approach themselves, thereby rendering our further support unnecessary.

OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH is at the core of all our work.

- We take a compassionate and non-judgemental approach to all in need of our help.
- We are proactively involved with all our projects, promoting improvements where we think they are indicated.
- We are committed to positive social change in favour of the disadvantaged.
- We always work with local project Partners.
- We believe that Partners, UK staff and volunteers and our supporters are equally key to the success of our mission.
- We remain strictly non-political.
- Our dealings with Partners and supporters are always open, honest and transparent.



ChildAid
to Eastern Europe

www.childaidee.org.uk

ChildAid, PO Box 200, Bromley, BR1 1QF

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.

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

DO YOU HAVE A FOOD ALLERGY?

When refreshments are being served at church, if you have a food allergy or a special dietary requirement, please inform a member of the hospitality team.



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 (last Wednesday in month)

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: Discipleship Group (1st Thursday in month)

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

7.30pm: 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.*

Date for your
diary ...

THE PRIORY SINGERS

Christmas Concert



SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER

IN SAINT ANNE'S CATHEDRAL

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: PHILIP BOLTON MBE

Tickets will be available from St Peter's Parish Office.

You may also like to hear The Priory Singers performing Maurice Duruflé's Requiem in St Anne's Cathedral, along with the cathedral choir, on Remembrance Sunday, 10th November, at 7pm. You are all welcome.

Please note the dates for the following meetings:

Senior Officers

Friday
1st November
at 11.30am
in St James'

Select Vestry

Monday
18th November
at 7.30pm
in St Peter's church.

North Belfast Historical Society

21st November at 7.30pm

Speaker: Eddie McCamley

Subject: The murder of Patricia Curran

Our annual subscription is £15

Non-member £4 to attend a meeting.

We look forward to seeing you.



Daphne McClements (Chairman)

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.



SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

SERVICE	OFFICIANT	LECTOR	PREACHER	INTERCESSOR
SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER—ALL SAINTS (WHITE)				
10.30am Choral Eucharist	Rector	Dora Hanna	Rector	Ashlee McCune
WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Rosemary Johnston
SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER—REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (RED)				
10.30am Family Service	Rector	-	Rector	Dora Hanna
3.30pm Choral Evensong	David Cromie	Dora Hanna	-	David Cromie*
WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Jill Bradley
SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER—THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT (GREEN)				
10.30am Choral Eucharist	Rector	Robert Long	Rector	Robert Long
WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion	Rector	-	Rector	Daphne McClements
SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER—THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST (WHITE)				
10.30am Choral Matins	David Cromie	Wes Holmes	Rector	David Cromie
WEDNESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER (GREEN)				
10.30am Holy Communion 1662	Rector	Robert Long	-	Dora Hanna*

Altar Guild Rota for November

Date	Time	Set-up	Wine Cruet	Wine Chalice	Colour	Location
Sunday 3rd	10.30am	Dora Hanna	Dora Hanna	David Cromie	White	Chancel
Wednesday 6th	10.30am	Rosemary Johnston	Rosemary Johnston	Robert Long	Green	Resurrection
Wednesday 13th	10.30am	Jim Wilson	Robert Long	Margaret McK Black	Green	Resurrection
Sunday 17th	10.30am	Robert Long	Robert Long	David Cromie	Green	Chancel
Wednesday 20th	10.30am	Margaret McK Black	Margaret McK Black	Robert Long	Green	Resurrection
Wednesday 27th	10.30am	Dora Hanna	Robert Long	Dora Hanna	Green	St James



COURTYARD CAFÉ isn't just about great food and drinks—it's about creating a community. Our bright, open courtyard is the perfect space to relax, connect, and share moments with friends old and new. Whether you're catching up after a workout, taking a break from your routine, or simply enjoying some quiet time, our café offers a welcoming environment.

***Mon to Fri 9am-7pm Sat/Sun 9am-3pm
96 Templemore Ave, Belfast BT5 4FW***

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Parish Notes On-line

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

Please send material for the Dec/Jan 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 18th November.***

PARISH CONTACTS

Rector:	The Rev'd Brian Lacey	028 9077 7053	brianlacey@stpeterbelfast.org
Associate Minister:	The Rev'd Andrew Irwin	028 9600 5015	andrewirwin@stpeterbelfast.org
Parish Administrator:	Anne Cromie	028 9077 6706	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	028 9077 5669	davidcromie@stpeterbelfast.org
Parish Reader:	Dora Hanna	028 9573 3374	dorahanna@stpeterbelfast.org
Co-ordinator for Intercessors:	Rosemary Johnston	028 9084 0534	-
Co-ordinator for Flowers:	Sandra Davison	07738 403667	sandradavison@stpeterbelfast.org
Rector's Churchwarden:	Daphne McClements	07730 127350	daphnemclements@stpeterbelfast.org
People's Churchwarden:	Margaret McKenna-Black	07732 651569	margaretmckblack@stpeterbelfast.org
Rector's Glebewarden:	Victor Davis	028 9077 1197	victordavis@stpeterbelfast.org
People's Glebewarden:	Michael Moore	028 9050 8177	michaelmoore@stpeterbelfast.org
Honorary Secretary:	Clodagh Webb	07565 501702	clodaghwebb@stpeterbelfast.org
Honorary Treasurer:	Ashlee McCune	07801 556386	ashleemcune@stpeterbelfast.org
FWO & Gift Aid Secretary:	Noel Beattie	028 9077 8428	noelbeattie@stpeterbelfast.org
Safeguarding Trust:	Clodagh Webb	07565 501702	clodaghwebb@stpeterbelfast.org
Safeguarding Trust:	Phillip Williamson	028 9087 8355	phillipwilliamson@stpeterbelfast.org
Baby Sensory:	Heather Trojan	07590 928384	belfastnw@babysensory.co.uk
Bereavement Group:	Dora Hanna	028 9573 3374	dorahanna@stpeterbelfast.org
Bible Study:	The Rev'd Brian Lacey	028 9077 7053	brianlacey@stpeterbelfast.org
Bridge:	Florie Greer	028 9077 6812	floriegreer@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
Historical Society:	Daphne McClements	07730 127350	daphnemclements@stpeterbelfast.org
Kids' Church:	Cheryl Hurson	07725 644118	cherylbleakley@hotmail.com
PhysioPlates:	Sandra Hutchman	028 9514 9564	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	clairekieran99@yahoo.co.uk
Unislam:	Karen Flannery	07773 758524	flannery-karen@hotmail.com
Walking Group:	Jill Bradley	028 9084 2998	jill.bradley1@btinternet.com

Produced by the Parish Office of St Peter and St James, Belfast
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