

# ***CHURCH MATTERS***

The monthly newsletter of the Church of Ireland  
United Parish of Whitehead & Islandmagee.

***Here everyone matters***

***DECEMBER 2021***

***& JANUARY 2022***



**ST. PATRICK'S  
& ST. JOHN'S**

UNITED PARISH OF  
WHITEHEAD & ISLANDMAGEE

# **HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!**



For today in the city of David there has  
been born for you a Saviour, who is  
Christ the Lord  
Luke's Gospel 2:11



## Church Christmas Bazaar

On Sat 4th December our two churches have agreed to organise a Christmas fundraiser for parish funds in St Patrick's Parochial Hall and we need as much help as possible.

### CALLING ALL HOME BAKERS, CRAFTERS ETC

Can you do some baking for this event, cakes, buns, biscuits, tray bakes, or make some seasonal crafts to sell? Or do you have any unwanted items in your home that we could sell on the Bric-a-brac or Toy stalls. Maybe you've some new items...unwanted gifts sitting in a cupboard or drawer. We could use anything you can come up with really! Drop them off Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Parochial Hall from 7pm

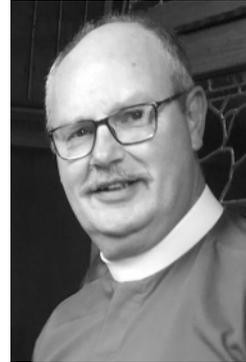
If you can help in any way we would really love to hear from you. Just message or phone Jo on 07790 241263. Alternatively speak to Pauline Riddle from St John's Church.

Many thanks

## A seasonal message from our Rector

Despite still being in the midst of a global pandemic and all the restrictions and limitations that it places on our daily lives we have a lot to celebrate this Christmas.

We celebrate the birth of God's only Son for our salvation. We celebrate that Jesus paid the price of our sins and, through our repentance, has given us the gift of eternal life with him. We celebrate our salvation!



Despite the troubles and difficulties of life, we have always been able to celebrate this very special time, and to give thanks to God for his mercy to us in the birth of his Son, Jesus. Let us, this Christmas, re-dedicate our lives to Jesus and look to a future that is filled with hope.

I pray, for you all, that at Christmas you may be able to feel the love of God in your lives and that you will respond to that love by answering the call of Jesus to follow him.

Peace and blessings to you all in Jesus name, *Mark*

### CHRISTMAS NATIVITY TRAIL

St Patrick's and St John's are hosting a Christmas Nativity Trail on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December, between 2 and 4 p.m. This will include some drama, some crafts and a puppet show.

There will be three sessions, starting at 2:00 p.m.; 2:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. and we will endeavour to place people in their preferred sessions. People will need to turn up 5 minutes before their session starts so that we can facilitate registration.

We can host no more than 35 people, parents and children, per session. So book early to avoid disappointment.

**To Book a place, text your name, the number of children and adults in your group and your preferred time to 07719619286**



# December/January Services & Readings

**Worship and services** - service at 10:30 from St Patrick's on the Parish Facebook page. You can listen to the service on your telephone, as a recording, by ringing **028 93270012** after 2:00 p.m. on the Sunday.

## **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November - Advent Sunday**

**The beginning of the Church's Liturgical year. All Sunday readings are from Year C of the Lectionary the Book of Common Prayer 2004.**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
10:30 a.m. Story Teller Service  
11:00 a.m. Shortened Morning Prayer Two  
12 noon Morning Prayer Two  
Sunday Readings - Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-9; Luke 21:25-36  
Reader for first Lesson - Jeni McAughey / Joy Kerr  
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/Compline  
Weekday Readings: Isaiah 25-30; Psalms 22-28; Matthew 8:1 - 10:8

## **DECEMBER**

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December - Advent 2**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Holy Communion Two  
Sunday Readings - Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6  
Readers for first Lesson - Judith de Fleury / Jim Reid  
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/Compline  
Weekday Readings: Isaiah 35-48; Psalms 29-35; Matthew 11 - 12

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December - Advent 3**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Morning Prayer Two  
Sunday Readings - Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm 146:4-10; Luke 3:7-18  
Reader for first Lesson - Colin de Fleury / Ann Thompson  
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/Compline  
Weekday Readings: Zechariah 1-4 Psalms 36-42; Revelation 1-4

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Advent 4**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One - St Patrick's  
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon A Nativity message  
Sunday Readings Nativity readings  
All Week - 1 Samuel 2, " Samuel 7; Psalms 43-49; Titus

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve**

6:00 p.m. Christingle service in the Parochial Hall

*To book a place please at this service please text your name and the number of people attending with you to 07719619286*

9:00 p.m. Holy Communion One in St John's, Islandmagee

11:15 p.m. Holy Communion One in St Patrick's, Whitehead

Epistle Reading - Hebrews 1: 1-4; Gospel Reading - John 1:1-14

Reader for first Lesson - Stephen Martin / Bill Rafferty

All of these services will also be available, as a live stream, on Facebook

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December - CHRISTMAS DAY**

9:00 a.m. Christmas Day worship in St John's

11:00 a.m. Christmas Day worship in St Patrick's - also on Facebook

*Both services conclude with an administration of Holy Communion*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas 1 - St Stephen**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One

10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Music and Readings for Christmas

Reader for first Lessons - The Rector

All Week Genesis 1-2; Psalms 50-56; Matthew 1-2, Luke 1-2

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> December - St John the Evangelist**

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion One in St John's

Epistle Reading - 1 John 1: 1-9; Gospel Reading - John 21: 19b-25

**JANUARY**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January - Christmas 2**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One

10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Holy Communion Two

Sunday Readings Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18

Reader for first Lesson - Bobby Herron / Hazel Robinson

All Week - Isaiah 52-60; Psalms 57-63; Ephesians 4 - 6

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January - Epiphany 1**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One

10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Morning Prayer Two

Sunday Readings: Isaiah 43: 1-7; Psalm 29; Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

Reader for first Lesson - Corrine Logan / Joy Kerr

All Week - Genesis 1-6; Psalms 64-70; Hebrews 1:1 - 4:13

**Sunday 16th January - Epiphany 2**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Morning Prayer Two  
Sunday Readings: Isaiah 62: 1-5; Psalm 36: 5-10; John 2: 1-11  
Reader for first Lesson - Heather Cupples / Jim Reid  
All Week - Genesis 7-13; Psalms 71-77; Hebrews 4:14 - 7:28

**Sunday 23th January - Epiphany 3**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Morning Prayer Two  
Sunday Readings: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; Luke 4:14-21  
Reader for first Lesson - Bill Pollock / Maureen Reid  
All Week Genesis 14-18; Psalms 78-84; Hebrews 8:1 - 10:39

**Sunday 30th January - Epiphany 4**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Morning Prayer Two  
Sunday Reading: Ezekiel 43: 27 - 44: 4; Psalm 48; Luke 2: 22-40  
Reader for first Lesson - Jeni McAughey / Ann Thompson  
All Week Genesis 19 - 24; Psalms 85 - 91; Hebrews 11:1 - 12:29

**Sunday 6th February - 4th Before Lent - Holy Communion Two**

Sunday Readings - 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11; Luke 5: 1-11

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Story Teller Service** - Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. in St Patrick's. This is a short service, about 20 minutes. All are welcome.

**Christmas Nativity Trail** - Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (details on page 3)

**Christmas Nativity Presentation** - Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. in St. Patrick's Church and at 12 noon in St John's Church. A service of Christmas music and readings with a video presentation of the story of the Nativity (including some of our young people).

**Christingle Service** - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 starting at 6:00 p.m. in Parochial Hall At this traditional service the young people will be invited to make Christingles and hear about the birth of Jesus.

**Christmas Day** - 9:00 a.m. St John's Church, Islandmagee  
11:00 a.m. St Patrick's Church, Whitehead

**Mouse Makes**  
 Colour the tree then colour in one star each day until Christmas. Leave the large star at the top of the tree to colour in on Christmas day!

*What's on the Christmas Tree?*

**A STAR**  
 shows the way to Jesus  
 Read *Matthew 2:1-12*

**ANGELS**  
 bring messages from God  
 Read about Gabriel's message in *Luke 1:26-38*      Read the shepherd's story in *Luke 1:26-38*

**LIGHTS AND CANDLES**  
 remind us that Jesus lights our way to God  
 Read *Luke 2:29-32*

**PRESENTS**  
 remind us of God's special gift to us ... **JESUS!**

Presents at Christmas under the tree,  
 A red Christmas stocking waiting for me,  
 But what really is Christmas,  
 What is it about?  
 Just look and the Bible and you will find out!  
 It's about **JESUS**  
 - the best present of all,  
**JESUS** our **Saviour**,  
 God's gift to us all!

"For God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." *John 3:16*

## **Jeni joins Christian Aid activists at COP 26**

*A member of our congregation Jeni McAughey joined tens of thousands of demonstrators on the streets of Glasgow on November 6<sup>th</sup> for a day of action to highlight the need for climate justice now!*

After the fires, floods and other extreme weather events, we have experienced over the past few years we can no longer bury our heads in the sand about climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change left us in no doubt about climate change and the fact that we as humans have caused it. In their report in August, they stated “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred” and “The scale of recent changes across the climate system as a whole – and the present state of many aspects of the climate system – are unprecedented over many centuries to many thousands of years”. We are feeling some of these effects of climate change but those in developing countries are suffering much more. Weather patterns are unpredictable with both droughts and floods being more common and sea levels are rising threatening those who live on islands and close to the sea. Those who have contributed least to climate change are suffering the most.

In order to try to avoid the worst and irreversible effects of climate change the COP 26 conference set an aim of keeping the rise in temperature to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. Current pledges will result in a rise of 2.4 degrees. We need to reduce carbon emissions by 45% by 2030 if we are to reach the target of 1.5 degrees. A rise of 2.4 degrees will result in more extreme weather events, rising sea levels and an increase in climate refugees.

Christian Aid Ireland organised a small group to go the People’s March on 6<sup>th</sup> November and I was delighted to be asked if I wanted to join this. We went to add our voices to the demands that businesses and governments act now to make the necessary changes to reach the 1.5-degree target. We wanted to speak on behalf of the many in developing countries who could not travel to Glasgow and whose voices are not heard. It has been estimated that there were 100,000 marching from Kelvingrove to Glasgow Green that day, as well as many on similar marches in cities and towns across the UK and the rest of the world. Policy makers can be in

no doubt that people want them to act and act now with real change and not just words. The organisers estimated that there were 10,000 in the faith block in Glasgow, from Jesuits to Quakers. It was inspiring to see so many united in demanding that action happens now.

So COP 26 is now over with an agreement that is flawed but shows there has been some compromise and some important commitments. However, there is still a long way to go to ensure that the words and promises are



translated into action. Our government has talked about the need for reducing carbon but continues to approve new oil and coal exploration. Climate finance for developing countries is already falling far short of what has been promised; Christian Aid has estimated that the financial effect of climate change could amount to a fifth of GDP for some poorer countries. So, we need to keep asking our government to act and act decisively and urgently.

We can all play our part too and this is part of our Christian commitment. We can reduce our impact by driving and flying less and walking or cycling more, by reducing our meat and dairy consumption and eating a more plant-based diet and by reducing our dependence on “stuff”. Then we have the moral right to ask our government to act too.

# Balmoral Estates

ESTATE AGENTS \* VALUERS \* SURVEYORS

Sales, Rentals, Commercial Sales, Commercial Lettings

Based in Whitehead for over 25 years, Balmoral Estates is a family-owned Estate Agency offering a professional & friendly service in the sale of residential property in the Whitehead and East Antrim area.

## FOR SALE

VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT

# Balmoral Estates

Whitehead

## 028 9337 3215

[www.balmoralestates.co.uk](http://www.balmoralestates.co.uk)

27 Balmoral Avenue, Whitehead. Co. Antrim BT38 9QD. [Enquiries@balmoralestates.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@balmoralestates.co.uk)

## Tweeds



We've been the first choice for Home Heating oil, Coal & Solid Fuels and Calor Gas in Co. Antrim for over 70 years.

Plus new home and garden range of furniture, outdoor cooking, heating equipment & accessories + more in our showroom. See our website

8A Portmuck Road, Islandmagee, Larne, BT40 3TW.

Tel: 028 9338 2502.

Website: [Tweeds.co.uk](http://Tweeds.co.uk).

Email [orders@tweedfuels.co.uk](mailto:orders@tweedfuels.co.uk)

SALES & SERVICE

# JACK REID



## CARS

QUALITY & CHOICE

### OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

If you want the best, you are in the right place! We are a family run business bringing you only the best cars.

SALES & SERVICING AT  
COMPETITIVE PRICES

111 Belfast Road  
Whitehead  
Carrickfergus BT38 9SU

Tel: 02893 373 600

[www.jackreidcars.co.uk](http://www.jackreidcars.co.uk)



## The perfect Christmas Gift



*Sure to raise a laugh!  
A new publication from  
local author  
Jack McKinney.*

*Available to  
purchase from the  
Bank House, Whitehead.*

## Rhymes and Ructions

Ballads and Banter from Ballyclare



Jack McKinney

***Rhymes and Ructions*** was originally the title of a variety concert arranged by the local historical society in Ballyclare in the 1980s and comprised traditional music and contributions from local entertainers of verses, anecdotes and stories from the Ulster-Scots culture of the district. This book, without the music of course, records such pieces many of which have never been published. The topics included vary in tone from serious poetry to the light-hearted treatment of significant civic episodes such as the shipwreck of a vessel of emigrants on the Six Mile Water and the arrival of a spaceship of aliens in Doagh. Readers may struggle to distinguish fact from fiction through the contents of the book.

From 1980, Jack McKinney has written extensively on the historical development of the Ballyclare district including accounts of its markets and fairs tradition and the growth of elementary education in the town and district.

His books have featured a range of interesting, historic photographs of Ballyclare and its surrounding villages. A founder member of the Ulster-Scots Language Society he was instrumental in setting up the Ballyclare and District Historical Society in 1980. He was principal teacher in Whitehead Primary School from 1986 – 2001.

## **How Father Christmas got where he is today**

One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. These days he seems to frequent shopping malls and garden centres. If he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time and gone through a lot of transformations.

Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor. He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity.

Nicholas died in Myra about AD343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas.

It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C

Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his life-work of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'.

From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get round all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.



The Rectory  
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

After all these years, I now understand why the non-conformist denominations sit down, rather than kneel, to say their prayers. That way, no decisions have to be taken over the number, size, shape, colour, material and design of kneelers in church.



Our present set was donated by a retired Major-General in 1899 to celebrate the Relief of Mafeking, and after more than a century of use by the pious and not-so-devout has taken its toll. Like certain members of our congregation, they now look a little worse for wear. Many have sprung leaks, so that when used, a jet of flocking is emitted all over the clothes of their neighbour, who then leaves Mattins looking like a Yeti.

Other kneelers have been occupied by grateful mice, who find them most congenial for nesting and who leave in high umbrage, creating chaos as Miss Mapp chases them down the aisle with her umbrella; that this provides her with the perfect excuse to leave before the sermon is, I am sure, entirely coincidental. The final straw came when my own, by some quirk in its design, now sounds like a whoopee cushion every time I kneel. It may cause the choirboys much amusement, but it lends nothing to the dignity of our worship.

So, we have decided to have a completely new set – and therein lies the problem. Who makes them? What will be the designs? Who co-ordinates the whole project? There is enough here to occupy the combined minds of our Church Council for the next Millennium and there will be enough scheming, manoeuvring, signing of non-aggression pacts and formation of tactical truces to make the United Nations look like amateurs. Unfortunately, we do not have the ecclesiastical equivalents of the blue berets to enforce peace.

The more patriotic members of the congregation have suggested they all show the Union Jack – presumably so they can be waved at appropriate moments in our services; one belligerent individual wants to see depictions of St Michael slaughtering the dragon, John the Baptist's head on a platter and other such tasteful scenes; on the other hand, dear Miss Timmins wants them all to depict doves or small fluffy creatures, which would make the church look more like pets corner. Cutting through these vital issues, I have suggested that the entire congregation converts to Roman Catholicism.... and then we could stand for our prayers and do without kneelers entirely.

Your loving uncle,  
*Eustace*

# Christmas Gift Book Recommendation by George McNeill

Maybe you've been given a book token for Christmas and wondering what to spend it on? Why not think about:-

## ***Europe's 100 Best Cathedrals* by Simon Jenkins.**

Reading this book you can visit one hundred architectural wonders from the comfort of your armchair - from Moscow to Magdeburg, Ely to Westminster Abbey, Chartres, Bourges, Amiens and St Peter's, Rome, plus 92 more.

You never know, reading this book could lead you on an architectural and spiritual pilgrimage. Hot off the press November 2021 and full of wonderful pictures..yours for just £18.65 on Amazon



### **Church Mice**

Karl A. Zorowski



[www.churchmice.net](http://www.churchmice.net)

# What a Christmas

*By the Ven John Barton*

The Bethlehem manger, shepherds, wise men, Jesus, Mary and Joseph – it's all so familiar to older people, who are shocked to hear that younger generations may be hazy or ignorant of them. Aren't they part of everyone's education?

Yet the first Christmas was restricted to just a few. What 21st Century Christians proclaim as the most significant event in history began in a remote corner of the Roman Empire, without the pomp and publicity we associate with kingship and power. What modern media have called 'The Greatest Story Ever Told', escaped everyone's attention in first century Palestine.

This year, Christmas is going to be a busier celebration than last year, but probably not yet back to the normal fuss we usually make each December. The streets will be crowded, but shops may struggle with supplies. Parties will take place, but many people will feel reluctant to join in. Family gatherings are allowed again, but the vulnerable may hesitate. Christmas services will be held, but as singing has the potential for droplet and aerosol transmission, music will be muted this year. A Christmas without many carols!

Many will struggle to hold their 'usual' Christmas. Yet God does not neglect us. This may be the very opportunity to rekindle or deepen our faith in what really matters about Christmas. Away from the hordes, perhaps completely alone this Christmas, we may sit quietly and allow our heavenly Father to draw near to us. We may picture Mary inviting us to gaze with her at her Son, born to save us from our sins. In the silence of our imagination, we may join the chorus of angels announcing His birth to the shepherds:

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom His favour  
rests."



It was that chorus which inspired an American Minister, Edmund Sears, to write the Christmas hymn, 'It Came Upon a Midnight Clear'. Sears, troubled by the world's turbulent history and failure to hear the Christmas message, was himself recovering from a breakdown. Written in 1849, his words have a timeless ring about them:

Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring;  
Oh, hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
*And hear the angels sing.*



# Lilyscape at Whitehead

NI Tourism Certified

Lilyscape is a modern, fully equipped self catering apartment, perfect for couples, small families and commuters wanting to stay in the area.

The apartment is nestled in the heart of Whitehead. Close to Gobbins Path, Whitehead Railway Museum and Carrickfergus Castle. Being close to local amenities and transport links makes for the perfect stay and easily accessible on foot.

**A great place for family & friends to stay on their visit**

For more details find us on Airbnb @lilyscape or Tel 075 1146 1691  
Facebook & Instagram @lilyscape Whitehead



## *The Bank House Café & Gift Shop*

*For freshly roasted artisan coffee, homemade soups, stews, Avoca style salads, cakes & more*

*Also quality, beautiful, quirky & unique gifts*

We pride ourselves on offering the *most* delicious locally baked cakes, scones and sweet treats alongside a wide range of fine loose leaf teas and artisan coffee. Presented in comfortable and stylish surroundings, you can relax and enjoy a quiet moment, or a catch up with friends over lunch. Our Cafe is also child friendly, and we warmly welcome Mums, Dads and tots

12 Edward Road, Whitehead. Tel: 028 9335 3021 Website: [thebankhousewhitehead.co.uk](http://thebankhousewhitehead.co.uk)

**SPAR**

*There for you*

**Shop at the 'Wright'  
Place!**

15 Kings Road, Whitehead. BT38 9PU

**Spar always there  
for all your daily  
essentials.**

**We're a friendly  
neighbourhood  
store, convenient  
and always open  
when you need us.**

**Free delivery service Tel : 028 9337 2344**



# Christmas is too soon again?

December is a difficult time of year for many people. TV and magazines are filled with articles and ads and images of people being happy, and when you're not feeling particularly happy, seeing those images can make you feel even worse. The pressure to be joyous and happy and filled with *seasonal spirit* is immense.

I've been thinking about people I know, as well as those I don't know out there who are not looking forward to another Christmas. I want you to know that despite the pressure and expectation to be oozing Christmas Joy and Goodwill, if that's not how you feel, *that's okay*. If you feel ok some days, and not on other days, or even swing back and forth each day, ***that's okay too***. There is no judgement here, only the recognition that being human is hard sometimes. Your feelings are okay, and you don't have to be anything other than who you are, December or any other day.

My mum grew to hate Christmas in her later life and had no difficulty telling me so at every opportunity. But for many people it can be hard to open up about your feelings when you think it's going to annoy or disappoint people around you.

I have found that when I'm able to make myself push through that barrier, people are almost always more supportive than I could have hoped. The best part is that speaking up about my feelings generally results in other people telling me they feel the same way, and both of us end up feeling less alone as a result.

It's important that we talk openly to people we can trust about things like depression, mental health, and the struggles people face especially at times like Christmas.

Christmas will not be ruined if you are melancholy. The most important thing for most people is spending time with those they care about. Sometimes that means jolly belly laughs and silly Christmas gifts. Other times, that can mean simply sharing cocoa or a glass of wine quietly in the glow of the Christmas tree.

And if you don't have someone to share your Christmas Day, make sure to make plans to catch up with a friend immediately after

Christmas as something to look forward to, when they will have more space to share quality time with you.

The place and the activity are much less important than the people you do them with. I would never want the people I care about to feel like they couldn't be themselves and share with me, especially at Christmas.

Sharing time together with someone who really needs to talk before they...for example spend several difficult hours with the in-laws or a prolonged time alone at home over Christmas, is a wonderful gift so many of us can offer. We just need to stop and think who requires it most. It may be the best gift they receive this Christmas!

And if you are dreading Christmas, there's nothing wrong with a casual Christmas. If you don't have the desire or energy to buy a Christmas tree and decorate it...don't worry, even a few Christmas cards displayed on the mantelpiece will show willing and serve the purpose.

If you're feeling more 'bah humbug' than 'ho ho ho', you aren't alone. You don't owe anyone false happiness or participation in things that don't feel right for you. I know that it's hard to see this when family, work, school, and church obligations loom. If you need to pass on Christmas parties this year? That's okay. You don't have to do it all, you only need to do what you can.

Just remember you're not much different from anyone else and if you are struggling this Christmas, chances are loads of other people are too. Be kind to yourself. Stop the self-criticism that says you aren't as good as others and that you are the only one whose life is rubbish—that just isn't true.

In closing there is a scripture verse I want to share with you — one that I believe will encourage you during this holiday season if you are feeling low or confronted by loneliness, grief, hurt, sadness, depression, or brokenness. In Luke 4:18, Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted".

Jesus promises to be close to us in those moments when we are grieving a death, a broken relationship, a lost job, a frightening

diagnosis, or depression or whatever causes us pain or hurt. And in every moment of our brokenness, we CAN become aware of Jesus being there with us bringing comfort and healing.

The amazing truth is that by simply believing in Jesus, we can discover release from the pain of our life's experience. It may not happen overnight, but with the grace of God working in each of us — and us cooperating with God— He can turn things around for us even this Christmastime. After all that's why Jesus came as God's greatest Christmas gift to us ...bringing hope, healing, love, peace, salvation and joy for all who believe in Him.

So, watch some good TV. Get some sleep. Eat some mince pies. Drop into Church on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, keep your chin up and allow yourself to enjoy whatever kind of Christmas you'll be having this year. It's yours and in lots of ways it's every bit as good as anyone else's.

**If however you find yourself feeling overwhelmed and just need someone to talk to you can call our Rector Mark Taylor on 0771 961 9286 or the Pastoral Care Team on 0777 776 8058. Leave your telephone number and first name if you don't get through immediately and we will call you back.**

*Below are words of a song written by my brother-in-law Eolath Magee that inspired this article.*

## ***Christmas is too soon again!***

Don't want to know, I'm blind to the snow  
Christmas is too soon again  
And my heart is cold, I feel so old  
Christmas is too soon again.

Hope my friends know I love them,  
Even though I don't write...  
This says more about me after all  
So, I send them my light and I send them my love  
But just now I can't ring them or call

Life feels so hard..put that in a card!  
Christmas is too soon again  
If the mood doesn't lift, there'll be no gift  
Christmas is too soon again



Oh, my father and brother  
just can't work me out.  
Think I'm lazy and don't give a damn  
But my love is not weighed by a letter post paid  
They must try to love me as I am.

It's the greed and the waste and deceit I can't face  
Christmas is too soon again  
And I've come too far to pull smiles from a jar  
Christmas is too soon again.

Oh I know I'll come through this like always before  
And get into the spirit of things  
But He called us to truth  
with no price tag or proof  
And I'm learning the lesson He brings.

So I send you my love with blessings from above  
For Christmas is too soon again  
And I wish you the best and to give your soul rest  
For Christmas is too soon again.



*We don't sing carols no more...  
you 'ave to listen to 'em off me iPod!*

© www.parishpump.co.uk

# Lighthouse YARNS

Lighthouse Yarns is a luxury high-end wool shop, housed in the old part of The Bank House, in Whitehead. A treasure trove for anyone who loves Yarn, Knitted goods, Crafting, Sewing & Haberdashery. We offer a wide range of brands - from hip Hand-Dyed, locally spun skeins, to traditional brands... Cashmere, Marino, Recycled, Lambswool... you will find something special and unique for any project. Lighthouse Yarns also stocks a lovely selection of Gifts, Patterns, Accessories and Kids Crafts.



The social power of Crafting and Knitting, and it's ability to bring people together, is something that owner, and keen crafter Louise Williamson holds at the heart of her business. Lighthouse Yarns runs many classes and events. Call in, to find out what we're working on now!

Email enquiries to [lighthouseyarns@yahoo.com](mailto:lighthouseyarns@yahoo.com)

12 Edward Road, Whitehead BT38 9QB

Tel: 02893 372888

## Walk s-l-o-w-e-r by Christine McNeill

In this digital age of podcasts, catch-up and programmes on demand, I have enjoyed feasting on episodes of Desert Island Discs. Each one is just the right length for occupying a train journey between Whitehead and Belfast. I love the intrigue of not knowing, until the story unfolds, whether I am going to hear about an idyllic or damaging childhood, a life of full of bliss or of tragedy and obstacles.

I am often inspired by how the 'castaways' have dealt with life's cruel blows. It is fascinating to discover what has influenced them and what they have decided is important. And I love absorbing the enthusiasm of specialists, especially scientists and musicians. Unfortunately, in my impressionable youth, no-one conveyed to me enthusiasm for these two areas. I found them both hard to fathom and chose the 'off-switch'. Now I am open and interested, making up for lost time perhaps. Or maybe realising that time is short, both for me and the planet.

I have graduated from Desert Island Discs to another radio programme, 'The Life Scientific'. This invites successful scientists to chart their career path and explain their research achievements, without the interruption of scraps of music. As well as being infectiously enthusiastic, scientists seem able to be precise when asked what advice they would pass on. In a nutshell, this is what I have gleaned:

Be curious.

Don't be frightened of being wrong.

And something we can probably all do: Walk slower.

## **Spiced Christmas**

### **Biscuits**

**1 Hour 30 Minutes Plus Chilling  
Makes 25-30 Medium-Large Biscuits - Easy to make**

The perfect edible Christmas decorations to hang from your tree or mantle. You can leave these iced biscuits out for Santa or wrap them up as a gift, the possibilities are endless!

#### **Ingredients:**

**light muscovado sugar 225g.**

**ground allspice 1/2 tsp**

**baking powder 1 tsp**

**plain flour 650g, plus extra for dusting**

**butter 200g, chilled and roughly grated**

**golden syrup 175g**

**eggs 2**

**royal icing sugar 100g**

**cinnamon 2 tsp**

**ground ginger 2 tsp**



#### **STEP 1**

Mix the sugar, syrup, spices and eggs in a jug. Tip the baking powder and flour into a bowl and add the butter, stir it through the flour and then rub it in thoroughly until it looks like breadcrumbs. Add the contents of the jug and a pinch of salt and stir the mixture to combine it. Use your hands to bring the dough together and then knead it until it's smooth. Divide the dough into 4 and press each into a disc. Put in plastic bags and chill for at least an hour.

#### **STEP 2**

Heat the oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas 4. Roll the dough out in batches on a lightly floured worksurface to the thickness of a pound coin and cut out shapes. Use the narrow end of a piping nozzle to make a hole at the top of the shapes big enough to thread ribbon or string through. Lift them with a palette knife onto a baking sheet lined with baking paper.

#### **STEP 3**

Bake in batches for 10-15 mins, depending on size. Leave for 5 minutes before moving off the tray to cool fully on a wire rack. Keep rolling, cutting and baking until they're all done.

#### **STEP 4**

Make up a batch of icing following the instructions on the packet – you're looking for a texture similar to toothpaste – then put into a piping bag fitted with a small nozzle. Decorate the biscuits. Leave to cool and harden.

# Christingle: a generous present from the Moravians

It is the Moravians whom we have to thank for bringing us the Christingle. Especially one Moravian clergyman: John de Watteville.

On 20<sup>th</sup> December, 1747, John de Watteville was taking a children's service in his Moravian church in Marienborn, Germany. He led the children in some hymns, and read out verses which the children themselves had written to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Then he explained to the



children that true happiness only comes through knowing Jesus. Jesus, said John de Watteville, "has kindled in each little heart a flame which keeps burning to their joy and our happiness".

John de Watermill then went on to illustrate that 'flame'. He gave each child a little lighted wax candle, tied around with a red ribbon. He ended his service with a little prayer: "*Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts, that theirs like Thine become*".

The visual aid was a great success with the children; for the Marienborn Diary for that day concludes: "hereupon the

children went full of joy with their lighted candles to their rooms and so went glad and happy to bed".

The candle and red ribbon were remembered the following year, and the following after that.... The years came and went, and as the Moravian's began to travel beyond Germany, so they took the custom with them: to Labrador, to Pennsylvania, to Tibet and Suriname, to the Caribbean and South Africa. In each country the Christians adapted it for their own use.

No one knows for certain when the word 'Chris tingle was first used with regard to the custom. No one even knows where the word 'Chris tingle comes from. Some people say it is from the old Saxon word 'ingle' (fire), meaning 'Christ-fire or light'. Another theory is that it derives from the German 'engel' (angel), meaning 'Christ-angel'.

In any event, the symbolism of Chris tingle gradually developed, until today the Moravian's in the British Province use an orange, representing the world, with a lighted candle to represent Christ, the Light of the World. Nuts, raisins and sweets on cocktail sticks around the candle represent God's bounty and goodness in providing the fruits of the earth. Red paper, forming a frill around the base of the candle, reminds us of the blood of Christ shed for all people on the cross at Calvary.

In Moravian churches, the Chris tingle Service is usually held on the Sunday before Christmas or on Christmas Eve. The website for the Moravian Church says: "We are glad that the Moravian Church has been able to make this contribution to the wider Christian world."



**Find Unique & Special Christmas Gifts**  
**Here in Whitehead**



**Artisan Style ~ 21 Kings Road**

Lesley Lowry offers a wide range of artisan handcrafted goods and gift ideas to help make buying a gift for any occasion so much easier.....check out the website at

[www.artisanstyle.co.uk](http://www.artisanstyle.co.uk) or call Lesley on 07368 945569

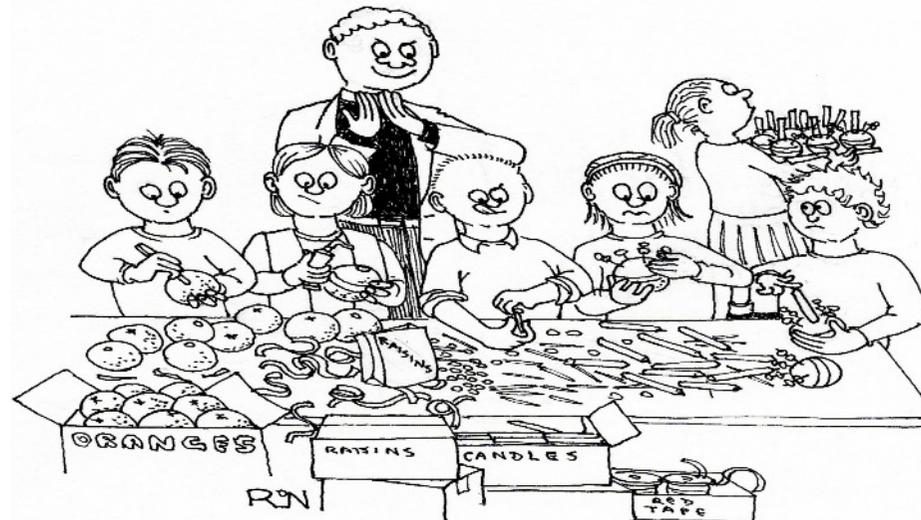
**20:20 Art ~ 23 Kings Road**

Vicki Foster welcomes you to her Contemporary Gallery & Gift Shop to find that special and unique gift. New and established NI artists work featured. Contact Vicki on 07590 437677 or go to her business Facebook page for more details: 2020 Art Whitehead

**Things Bright & Beautiful ~ 25 Kings Road**

Liz Rayner offers a vintage experience with slightly quirky gift items plus antiques and art too. Check out her range in shop or ask her to source an item not on the shelf.

To find out what Liz has for sale visit her shop or business Facebook page: Things Bright and Beautiful or call her on 07722 202247



Our Rector has found a nice little earner for Christmas

## The Carol Singers - A Childhood Memory

By Bill Pollock

Christmas Eve at Hillview was, on occasions, a somewhat noisy event. Not as you might imagine the clash of baking tins, the crackle of wrapping paper or indeed the throttling of a turkey. Of course not! None of the aforementioned. It was something completely different.

Throughout Christmas week I had looked out my bedroom window in expectation of hearing and seeing the carol singers. However, they rarely appeared before Christmas Eve. They gathered under the street lamp in order to see the words and music. Sometimes they came from a local church but more often from the Salvation Army. As a member of the Junior Choir of St Patrick's Parish Church, Newry I was familiar with the better-known carols and thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

On completion of their repertoire, their leader a certain Mrs N called at our home for an expected donation. On receipt of same there appeared to be a more pressing request. Our house, being on the periphery of the town was the last call for carol singers. "May we use your bathroom?" asked Mrs N. I think she meant toilet. On being given permission some fourteen (yes 14) choristers formed a queue. Thankfully a time before water meters!

On completion of this operation my mother plied all present with tea, coffee, mince pies and other goodies. The craic and laughter filled the house. I lay in bed wondering, with all the interruptions, if Santa would remember to bring me the books I had asked for. My thoughts were interrupted by the grandfather clock in the hall striking midnight. **Christmas morning!** Time for the carolers to take their leave, but not before they reformed the queue for the throne room! And then they were gone – for another year.



# **McMasters Butchers ~ Whitehead**

## **wish you a Very Happy Christmas**



With Christmas fast approaching our thoughts turn to family and celebration dinners, however big or small this year. We have for you, as always, our fantastic hand reared turkeys for a traditional meal, or how about some of our home farmed beef or lamb? All are raised locally and carefully prepared in our shop especially for you. Our door is always open for a chat or any advice you might need.

***Our wee team would like to sincerely thank our customers, old and new, for your continued support, friendships and laughs over the years and wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and hopes for a brighter 2022.***



### **Beef, Poultry, Lamb, Pork Roasts and Barbecue Meats**

Order now from your local family run butchers in Whitehead

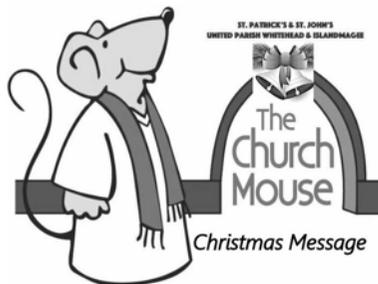
McMaster's Homefarm Meats believes that great tasting meat begins with naturally fed, hormone free animals that are bred on our farm just minutes from our shop in a healthy, natural free-range environment.



34 King's Road. Whitehead BT38 9PT Tel: 028 9335 3313

Dear Reader,

Last year in December we had lockdown and folks said that Christmas was effectively cancelled. But I can't remember anyone saying that they couldn't remember the birth of Jesus, can you? So, let's face it, Christmas 2020 wasn't cancelled!



And by the way talking of last Christmas, who could forget the Rector, in an Oscar winning performance, playing out the Christmas story on the big screen!?

More silliness this year, when in October, I overheard on a TV advert, that Christmas is NOW. Well, for me, Christmas is December 25th when we remember the birth of Jesus. Everything else is leading up to it, known as Advent - a time of preparation.

Talking of preparation, it's great to know that there will be another recorded Nativity play and a family event to tell the Christmas story. Perhaps a part can be found for me?

Whatever happens, when December 25th arrives, I'll be joining you in celebrating the birth of Jesus, the real meaning of Christmas. (You never know if there is a Nativity scene then you may see me sleeping next to Baby Jesus to keep him warm through the cold nights in St Patrick's).

Happy Christmas Day everyone and Happy New Year too!!

Church Mouse XX

## Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



Copyright 2021 Karl A. Zorowski. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Visit us online at [www.churchmice.net](http://www.churchmice.net).



## ISLAND MILL

---

### TILES & FLOORING

We're a family business based in Islandmagee and our speciality and passion is tiling and flooring.

We stock a broad range of wall and floor tiles for home or commercial space. Whether you want porcelain tiles that look like wood or natural stone, laminate flooring that emulates tiles, luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) that mimic both; all in classical, traditional and modern designs, you will find them all at Island Mill.

Ordering is simple, with goods ready for collection usually within a few days. Local delivery can be arranged free of charge.

Call us or visit our website today



13 Lough Road Islandmagee, BT40 3RA

**0289 335 3335**

[info@islandmill.co.uk](mailto:info@islandmill.co.uk)

Website: [islandmill.co.uk](http://islandmill.co.uk)



## ***Reflexology with Sarah McCann***

**Regular reflexology can help to improve  
your wellbeing and lower your stress**

**45 minute treatment £30**

**Opening offer –First treatment £20  
(for each client)**

***To book a treatment***

**Contact Sarah on 0777 23 175 23  
(Carrickfergus)**

## VICTORIANA FLORAL



## The Language of Flowers

- Kim Davies the Creative Director at Victoriana Floral offers a unique and comprehensive floral service from her home studio in Magheramorne for you to enjoy.
- Contact Kim for all your floral needs: for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, farewells, tributes, as well as for Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, and Easter.
- Delivering to doorsteps in the local area .

To place an order or to make enquiries contact Kim or visit her website

**Phone 07740721799.**

**Website: [www.victorianafloral.com](http://www.victorianafloral.com)**

---

## McKee's Home Bakery



**Traditional home bakery with freshly baked breads, buns, cakes, hot snacks and pies everyday.**

**At McKee's Bakery, all of our breads and produce are freshly made in store each day and we are continually dedicated to supporting our local community.**

**Orders taken for parties and celebrations**

**9 Windsor Ave, Whitehead, Carrickfergus BT38 9RX**

**Tel : 028 9337 2429**

---

## STEPHEN HENDERSON JOINERY



**Domestic & Commercial  
Qualified**

**All Interior & Exterior Joinery  
General Building Maintenance**

**Roofs, First & Second Fix, Decking,  
Stair Refurbishments, Bespoke Projects**

**Tel: 028 9338 2868**

**Mob: 077 1774 5369**

## **What to do with those lovely, but Unwanted Christmas Gifts?**

What will you do with the Christmas gifts you don't want after Christmas is over? Depends on your gender. It seems that women are 60% more likely than men to return or give away Christmas presents they don't want. This survey was done by *Which?*

What are considered unwanted presents? One list included a potato peeler, a carpet cleaner, a sleeve ironing board, a mop and bucket, and out-of-date Bailey Irish Cream liqueur.

*Some of us will sell our unwanted gifts on Ebay, while others of us will give them away, or to the nearest charity shop.*

*Here at St Patrick's & St John's Church we are always pleased to receive new unwanted gifts, as there are many ways we can use them to help others and make a difference....*

*We can sell them to raise funds to finance more care in the local community,*

*We can donate them to someone who cannot afford to buy basic essentials like toiletries, socks or woolly gloves.*

***So rather than stick unwanted gifts in a drawer where they will be forgotten please just drop them off at St Patrick's Parochial Hall on Edward Road, Whitehead when you are passing by.***



## **When someone you loved has died (Part 2)**

*Tony Horsfall lost his wife last year to cancer. He is a former missionary and retreat leader based in Yorkshire.*

*Following on from last month, the other lessons that I learned following my wife's death were:*

11. That it helps to talk about your loss and the person you have lost. Sharing helps you to put things together in your mind, and can be healing in itself.
12. Don't be afraid of pain, and don't anaesthetise it or avoid it – acknowledge it, face it, and you will heal more quickly.
13. That crying is normal, even for men, and it is a healing part of the grief process. Don't be afraid of this, even in public.
14. It may surprise you, to discover which people draw near to you in your grief, and who steps away. Appreciate those who come closer, without judging those who hold back.
15. Not everything people say to you about grief and your response will be helpful. Decide for yourself what is important for you, and let the rest go.
16. That grief may expose some of your inner fault-lines, but don't be afraid of this – learning more about yourself is a gift that comes with grieving.
17. No-one grieves perfectly. Following the death of your loved one, you will make mistakes, bad choices, and errors of judgment. This is normal, so forgive yourself.
18. That hope will rise again within you. The human spirit, in combination with God's grace, has its own remarkable resilience.
19. Don't be afraid to live again. God has a good purpose for you, and a plan for your life.
20. That your faith is an asset, not a liability. When you are tempted to be angry with God, remember that He is an ever-present help in time of need. Lean on Him.
21. That you have a part to play in your grief journey, so don't be passive and allow it to overwhelm you – begin to do what you can to rebuild your life.

# Epiphany for today

In January we celebrate Epiphany, when we remember the Magi (Wise Men) from the East who followed a star to find the baby Jesus: *'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?'* (Matthew 2:1).

At the start of a New Year, amid the continuing uncertainty of the pandemic, are we asking the same question? The gifts they offered show us how we can find Him in the uncertainty of the coming year: *'they bowed down and worshipped Him...and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.'* (2:11).

The *gift of gold* reflects that the Magi saw in the baby a king, destined to rule over us all. In this coming year we need to remember that Jesus is on the throne, the seat of power and authority in the whole universe. Will we crown Him king of our lives and dedicate all that we are and do to Him?

The *gift of frankincense* reflects that the visitors saw not just an earthly king, but God in human flesh. Incense symbolises the prayers of God's people and so this gift reminds us that God is worthy of our worship and prayer. Will we offer our praise and prayer, as we seek God to guide us through the uncertainties of this New Year?

The *gift of myrrh* reflects that these astrologers saw beyond the baby's birth and life, to His death which would secure life for all. Jesus was offered myrrh on the cross and was a spice used in His tomb. As we face the sufferings of this New Year, we can be confident that Jesus knows and understands our experience. Are we ready to trust Him?

*'Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice!  
Heav'n sings Hallelujah: Hallelujah the earth replies.'* ('We Three Kings').

*By Canon Paul Hardingham*

## As a New Year begins

*A prayer by Karl Barth (1886 – 1968). This most prominent Protestant theologian of his time spent much of his life resisting the Nazi movement, and so knew a thing or two about entering a New Year undaunted by troubles all around him.*

**O Lord, our Father!**

**At the turn of the year... our hearts are filled with sombre thoughts... our ears are deafened by the voices of the radio and the newspapers, with their numerous predictions for the coming year. Instead we want to hear Your word, Your voice, Your assurance, Your guidance. We know that You are in our midst, and are eager to give us all that we need, whether we ask or not.**

**...We ask for one thing only: that you collect our scattered thoughts, getting rid of the confused and defiant thoughts that may distract us, and thus enable us to concentrate on your limitless generosity to us. You were abundantly generous to us last year, and will be no less generous to us next year, and in every year to come. Fill us with gratitude to you. Amen**

---

## Parish Announcements

**The next Vestry meeting is Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
at 10:00 a.m. in the Parochial Hall**

### **Counters for December**

5th December William Pollock  
12th December Jim & Maureen Reid  
19th December Colin & Judith de Fleury  
26th December Walter & Sandra Thompson



# You Are Welcome Here

No matter:

- Where you've come from or are going;
- What you believe or doubt;
- What you are feeling or just not feeling;
- What you have or don't have; and
- No matter whom you love!



## **Fellowship Activities for December & January**

### **The House Group**

We will meet in the Parochial Hall at St Patrick's to follow the story of the early church from Acts.

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm

### **Book Club in the Parochial Hall**

No Book Club in December

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm

This month reading 'American Dirt' by Jeannie Cummins.

### **Contemplative Prayer Group**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January

at 7.30pm in the Boucher Room

**New members are always welcome to come along to  
any of the meetings listed above**



*FROM THE*  
**EDITOR'S DESK**



**Dear Reader**

As we prepare for Christmastide I would like to wish you all a Christmas full of goodwill, peace, joy and the knowledge of God's love revealed through the birth of His son Jesus Christ.

It seems an appropriate time to thank those of you who have contributed to this magazine over the past year or worked behind the scenes to compile and deliver it. I would also like to thank our Rector who continues to generously give of his time to print the magazine each month. No mean feat with so many pages to print! It really is a team effort however.

2021 has been a year of uncertainty, but we have got through it and can now look forward to the coming new year with hope that things will get better for us all. But whatever happens we can be certain that God will always be there beside us giving us the courage and strength to carry on.

Please keep supporting this Church Magazine and if you haven't had chance to make a donation towards its ongoing cost, I do urge you to give what you can afford so we can continue producing it as well as developing other avenues of communication within our local community to bring us closer together.

Don't forget we are here for you if you are feeling sad or lonely. We understand this can be a difficult time. Just contact us using the pastoral team tel no on the back page or speak to the Rector.

**Stay well & God Bless you this Christmas & New Year**

PS. Please keep sending content for inclusion in the next edition due out in February.

## WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH

**Rector: Revd Canon Mark Taylor,**

72 Riverforde T: 028 9337 3300 E: mark205@btinternet.com

**Mobile: 07719 619286**

**George McNeill Diocesan Lay Reader**

Facebook: St Patrick's & St Johns Whitehead & Islandmagee

Twitter: @Whitehead\_Col

Email: churchofirelandwhitehead@gmail.com

Website: **[www.whitehead-islandmagee-parish.co.uk](http://www.whitehead-islandmagee-parish.co.uk)**

**Pastoral Care Team - Tel no 077 0776 8058**

### CHURCHWARDENS

	St. Patrick's	St. John's
Rector's:	Jo Pawson	Pauline Riddle
People's:	Jeni McAughey	William Rafferty

### GLEBEWARDENS

St. Patrick's- Trevor Peoples    St. John's - Jim Reid

### SELECT VESTRY (includes Churchwardens & Glebewardens)

Inez Moore - Hon Secretary    7 Donegall Drive    9337 8927

Sandra Thompson - Hon Treasurer    07912478331

Ann Mulholland;    Bill Pollock;    Alison Higginson;

Valerie Kincaid;    Maureen Reid;    George McNeill;

Priscilla Carlisle;    Mabel Allen;    Bertnel Thompson;

Andy Niblock    Austin Jenkins -Graveyard Manager St John's

### Sunday School Leaders

St Patrick's: Frances Taylor    St John's: Sara Henderson

### Youth Fellowship Leader

Stephen Martin - stepheneddu@gmail.com

**Safeguarding Trust** Evelyn Powers 9337 2535    Valerie Kincaid 9335 3748

**Flowers:** St Patrick's: Judith de Fleury 07855736510

St .John's: Ann Thompson 9338 2295

**FWO & Gift Aid Sec:** Sandra Thompson 07912478331

**Distributors:** C of I Gazette: David Robinson 9338248

Church Matters Magazine : Valerie Kincaid 9335 3748

**Editorial communications to: Jo Pawson**

**[joanna\\_pawson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joanna_pawson@yahoo.co.uk) or tel: 077 9024 1263**

**Registered with NI Charity Commission NIC102649**