

# ***CHURCH MATTERS***

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

***Here everyone matters***

***FEBRUARY 2022***

Join in our virtual  
sponsored walk to  
the USA and arrive  
in time for  
St Patrick's Day.  
More details inside



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

UNITED PARISH OF  
WHITEHEAD & ISLANDMAGEE



HAPPY

*Saint  
Valentine's  
Day*

God Loves You!  
"I have loved you with an  
everlasting love."

*Jeremiah 31:3*

## **Things happening in Church this month:**

We cancelled the January Messy Church and Story Teller Service due to the concerns about the Delta and Omicron variants of COVID-19. Much was being made of their transmissibility and the expected major rise in numbers infected, in hospital and very ill. We are thankful that the levels of illness and the hospital numbers did not reach expected levels.

We will be having **Messy Church** again on the 2nd Sunday of the month (**13th February**) and our **Story Teller** service on 4th Sunday of the Month (**27th February**). PLEASE remember to make the required contact for numbers or adults and children coming to messy Church by **texting 07719619286 by Thursday 10th February**. This enables us to be properly set up with the right number of tables for those attending and stops any problems with numbers and preparation.

Since the start of the pandemic, in March 2020, we have been receiving Holy Communion in one kind (bread) only. I found this to be spiritually unsatisfactory, and have maintained that while the congregation are limited to receiving the bread only then I will also be limited.

The House of Bishops have given permission for the distribution of wine in individual cups, as long as the wine is consecrated in a common flagon or other suitable and decent vessel .and is poured into the individual cups with due respect and decency and safely distributed The flagons that we have are designed to pour large amounts of wine into a large common cup not a small individual cup.

After much discussion and thought it is my intention, abiding by the instructions from the House of Bishops, to administer wine at the 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion, as soon as is practical, in individual cups - numbers attending permitting - using a small silver and glass cruet that we have. This is not just a matter of buying the required cups but also making appropriate provision for the safe and suitable distribution of the cups to those attending, and preparing the required risk assessment forms in advance of all this.

It has been mentioned to me that some other parishes are doing other things at Holy Communion, these things are in direct breach of the the instructions of the House of Bishops. It is part of our church identity, as Anglicans, that we follow the lawful instructions (church law) of our Bishops. The instructions we have received, concerning distribution of Holy Communion, are lawful and proper and we will adhere to them.

## A New Year message from our Rector

We should be used to it by now; the constant change to how we live our lives. It has been yet another interesting start to a new year. In mid-December, with the arrival of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, we were being lead to believe that early in the new year there was a very real chance of a major spike in numbers infected and a further lock down. Then just after mid-January we hear it announced on the news that there will be a broad relaxation of restrictions - almost immediately.



But we are also advised that even with the restrictions being lifted the virus will still be with us and people will still get ill and precautions will still need to be taken.

Cautious optimism. I think that is what it is called. But it is optimism, hope for a better future. With things changing we will need to do a review of all of our safety precautions for services and meetings. It is hoped that as the year progresses and restrictions are further lifted that more people will feel able to come back to share in our Church services in person. This is a feeling not just in our own parish but in many churches and congregations all over the world.

In the last two years much has changed in how we interact with other people. How close we are willing to be to other people in shops and other buildings. There is also the fact that during the first lock down many churches made a great effort to keep their congregations connected with worship and with each other, through broadcasting their services either live or as a recording. The preparation and doing of this takes up a considerable amount of time each week.

The reality is that things will probably not change too much in the coming weeks and months, that any change - to the way things used to be - will take much longer and involve a great deal of thought, planning and preparation. I hope that we can all be involved in thinking about how we move forward, in making plans for our shared future as a Parish and in putting those plans into effect. It all starts with as many of us as possible worshipping together again. If you can do join us Sunday by Sunday.

Every blessing to you all. *Mark*

## February Services & Readings

**Worship and services** - service at 10:30 from St Patrick's will be broadcast 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.

All readers - read the first reading from the "Sunday Readings" lists

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Two  
12 noon Holy Communion Two  
Sunday Readings - 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11  
Readers for first Lesson - Judith de Fleury/ Hazel Robinson  
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/Compline  
Weekday Readings: Genesis 25 - 29; Psalms 74-90; Hebrews 13:1-25;  
2 Timothy 1:15 - 4:22

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent - Septuagesima**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer  
10:30 a.m. **Messy Church** in the Parochial Hall - booking required for this services via texting the details of numbers attending to 07719619286  
12 noon Morning Prayer  
Sunday Readings - Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; Luke 6:17-26  
Readers for first Lesson - Colin de Fleury / Joy Kerr  
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/Compline  
Weekday Readings: Genesis 30 - 35; Psalms 91 - 107; 1 John 1:1 - 3:18

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent - Sexagesima**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer Two  
12 noon Morning Prayer Two  
Sunday Readings - Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25, Psalm 65; Luke 8:22-35  
Readers for first Lesson - Jack McKinney / Ann Thompson  
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/Compline  
Weekday Readings: Proverbs 1:1 - 8:36; Psalm 108 - 119:80;  
2 Corinthians 1:1 - 5:10

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Sunday before Lent - Transfiguration**

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 - Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; Luke 9:28-36  
Reader for first Lesson - Bobby Herron / Bill Rafferty  
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/Compline  
Weekday Readings: Proverbs 10:1 -12, 15:16-33; Psalm 119:81 - 130;  
2 Corinthians 10:1 - 11:21, Philippians 3:13 - 4:20

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Ash Wednesday (First day of Lent)**

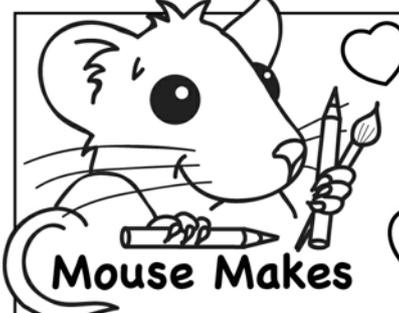
11:30 a.m. Penitential Service (BCP 1926)  
Readings - Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-12; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21  
7:30 p.m. Service for Ash Wednesday (BCP 2004)  
Readings - Isaiah 1:10-18; Psalm 102; Luke 15:11-32

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Two  
12 noon Holy Communion Two  
Sunday Readings - Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13  
Readers for first Lesson - Corrine Logan / Hazel Robinson  
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/Compline  
Weekday Readings: Genesis 37, 39, 40, 41:24; Psalms 131 - 150;  
1 Corinthians 1:1 - 4:7

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer  
10:30 a.m. **Messy Church** in the Parochial Hall - booking required for  
this services via texting the details of numbers attending to 07719619286  
12 noon Morning Prayer  
Sunday Readings - Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27; Luke 13:31-35  
Readers for first Lesson - Heather Cupples / Joy Kerr  
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/Compline  
Weekday Readings: Genesis 41:25 - 43; Psalms 1-21;  
1 Corinthians 4:8 - 7:24



**Mouse Makes**

*See what great love the Father has for us that He would call us His*

1 John 1:3

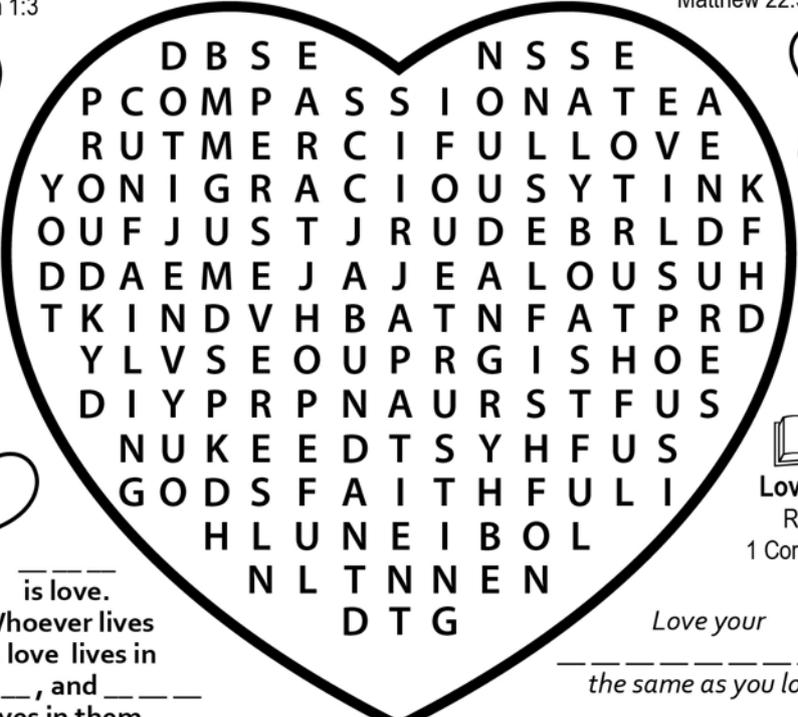
Lord, you are a God who shows \_\_\_\_\_ and is \_\_\_\_\_  
 ...You have great \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 86:1

How did God show He loved us?  
 Read 1 John 4:9

Love the Lord your God with all your \_\_\_\_\_  
 with all your \_\_\_\_\_  
 and with all your \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 22:37



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\_\_\_\_\_ is love.  
 Whoever lives in love lives in \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ lives in them.

1 John 4:16

Love your \_\_\_\_\_  
 the same as you love

Matthew 22:39

**Love is:**  
 PATIENT • KIND • GRACIOUS • JUST • TRUTHFUL • TRUSTING • HOPEFUL  
 PERSEVERE • ENDURES • GOD

**Love is not:**  
 JEALOUS • ENVY • BOASTFUL • PROUD • SELFISH • ANGRY • RUDE • EVIL

**God's love is:**  
 LOVE • MERCIFUL • FAITHFUL • UNFAILING • ABUNDANT • COMPASSIONATE



Dear Reader

Hello and a happy New Year to you all.

I hope you have been keeping safe and well like I have.

I've put on some weight over Christmas. I hardly dare tell you, but my underbelly is almost touching the floor! Talk of a spare tyre! So... I've got to get it off as I'm not as sprightly as I used to be to get out of harm's way. (I'm thinking of your feline friends.)

Diets don't work for me. So what better way to lose that fat than to exercise. So, I'm joining in the Church sponsored walk. I won't make Washington DC unless I stow aboard a Cunard liner, but I might just do a few turns up and down the promenade if the sun is shining. So look out when you're on the walk, you might just spot me.

Good luck with your walking and if you haven't yet signed up then talk to the Editor. She will be delighted to help you.

By the way when March 17th comes round, I hope to have banished the winter blues, lost my undercarriage and be able to show off my new, slim, trim figure! You won't recognise me!

Happy walking in the meantime....

**Church Mouse xx**

## **NEW YEAR CHURCH FUNDRAISER- DO JOIN IN!**

This year, for our New Year to St Patrick's Day Church Fundraiser we are organising an exciting sponsored 'virtual' walk to the USA (Washington DC to be exact) to link up with St Patrick's Episcopal Church there. We have been in touch with their rector Rev Kurt Gerhard and members of the vestry and they are very keen to link up with us and find ways to jointly celebrate St Patrick's Day. More on this in due course!

The distance from Whitehead to Washington is approx. 3,779 miles if we take the island hopping route via the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Canada. We have from now until midnight on 17th March ~St Patrick's Day~ to complete the challenge and raise as much sponsorship money as we can through our walking.

If you have a dog, then why not ask friends and family to sponsor your dog to walk and raise money for our Parish this way. It can be a lot easier asking friends to sponsor your dog than asking for sponsorship for yourself to walk. And if you can't walk please sponsor someone who is!

Our Rector's Dog -Lucy, is taking part and urgently needs kind people to sponsor her. So let the Rector know if you can support her walk in aid of our church.

Last year we walked two plus laps of Ireland -as a virtual walk in the same time period, so walking the distance to reach America should be totally achievable if we all give our support.

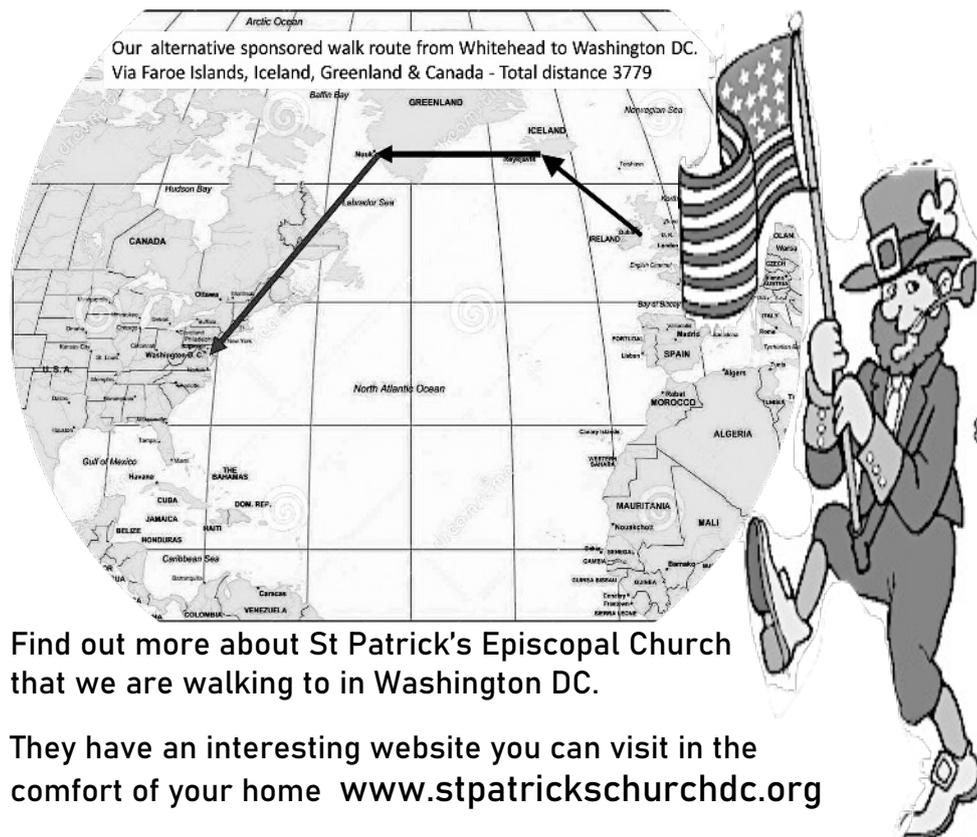


So, whether you walk lots or little, do please plan to step out and do some walking over the next few weeks to raise much needed funds for our Parish of Whitehead & Islandmagee. Joining in also offers a great way to get fit and connect with friends in the open air.

## How to get involved in the Sponsored Virtual Walk to Washington DC

Sponsorship forms can be requested from the Editor. (Back page for contact details) Or pick one up from the back of church.

Register the miles you walk. You can register the miles you walk using the link featured in the post about St Patricks USA walk at the top of our Church Facebook page, or visit our Events page on the Church website to find the same link or send an email or note to Jo Pawson or the Rector detailing the miles you have walked each week or month. Remember we have just until midnight on the 17th March to walk 3,779 miles!



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## Are you feeling unloved this St. Valentine's Day?

The celebration day of 'love' is upon us again this month, and for some who don't have a romantic or loving relationship in their life, Valentine's Day just brings up feelings of sadness, of being unloved and loneliness.

The love theme behind this day often gets buried under the pressure, expectations, and mixed emotions, especially for those of us who are single, separated, divorced, or widowed.

If Valentine's Day is a hard day for you, I won't pretend there are any magic words that will make it easier for you to handle it any better. But I want to say these words anyway, to let you know that you are not invisible. You are not alone. And even when it doesn't feel like it and you're having a rough St Valentine's Day, just remember, you are loved, and God wants you to know you're not alone because He is there with you always.

It can be challenging when we are feeling low, to feel God's loving presence, especially when everyone around us seems to be receiving bouquets of roses and boxes of chocolates or other sentimental gifts, but the Bible gives us endless reminders of God's perfect love for us.

Here are seven Bible verses that remind us, no matter our relationship status, that Jesus is our truest love:

*Precious one, you might not know me, but I know you like none other. Ps139:2*

*I am your most beloved companion. Psalm 119:63*

*It is my desire to overwhelm you in my love. 1 John 3:1*

*Nothing you have even done can separate you from my love. Romans 8:38-9*

*I am healing all wounds and brokenness of heart. Psalm 147:3*

*I will never, no never, leave you nor forsake you. Hebrews 13:5*

*You are my treasured possession. No one loves you like me. Exodus 19:5*

Reading these verses can help adjust our perspective of love. The purest, best love isn't found in the gifts and Cupid's arrows and "be mine" love heart greeting cards, but instead in our Heavenly Father.

I'm reminded that my own love so often falls short, but that God's love never will. Human love is a pale reflection of God's love. Human love frequently comes with conditions, it often lets people down, it's forgetful, it's self-centred and fickle and at times even jealous.

So instead of falling prey to feelings of inadequacy, comparison, guilt or sadness this Valentine's Day, let the words from Scripture fill your heart with a peace that you, whether you're single, divorced, widowed or living in an unhappy relationship, are very dearly loved by God.

And whether this is your first year alone or your fiftieth, God's love will never leave you nor forsake you. You are never alone, even when the loneliness starts to creep in.

In the Bible we can read the story of Ruth, a young widow who gives up her own life and home to support a struggling mother-in-law. She then waited many years before Boaz became her kinsman-redeemer. From reading stories like this we can find comfort in Scripture that the Lord is also writing beautiful, redemptive stories with our lives too. They might not all lead to fairy-tale "happy ever after," but when we seek Him in these lonely seasons of our lives, however challenging they may be, we find that He is constantly at work. What a remarkable gift!

So even if roses don't land on your doorstep this Valentine's Day, know that you are fiercely loved by a good, gracious Father!

May this year be a reminder that His love is the truest of all, and you are deeply cherished!



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### **Say it with flowers**

A man stopped by his local florist shop to buy flowers for his new girlfriend on Valentine's Day. He asked the proprietor, "You know the expression, 'Say it with flowers'?"

"I do indeed!" the florist enthused. "How about three dozen of my finest roses?"

The man hesitated. "No, make it just a half dozen roses. I'm a man of few words."

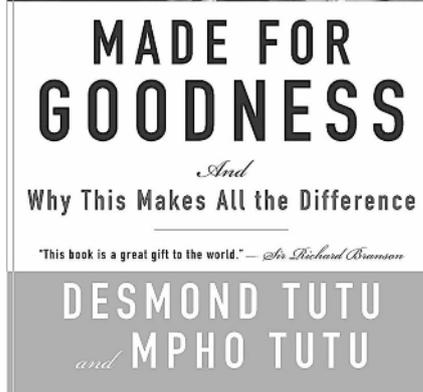
Book Review by Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat

## Made for Goodness And Why This Makes All the Difference (2010)

By Desmond Tutu, Mpho Tutu

*How honouring the goodness of all human beings can transform our views of ourselves, others, and the world.*

The anger, violence, hatred, and killing that goes on every day is hard and the combined greed, ignorance, and short-sightedness of humanity is hard to stomach. In this startling work, the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 and former Chairman of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and his daughter Mpho, executive director of the Tutu Institute for Prayer and Pilgrimage in Washington, D.C. in 2010, state that murder and greed are not the norm for human behaviour: the norm is goodness. These two set out to make a case that goodness changes everything: the ways we see ourselves, the world, and others.



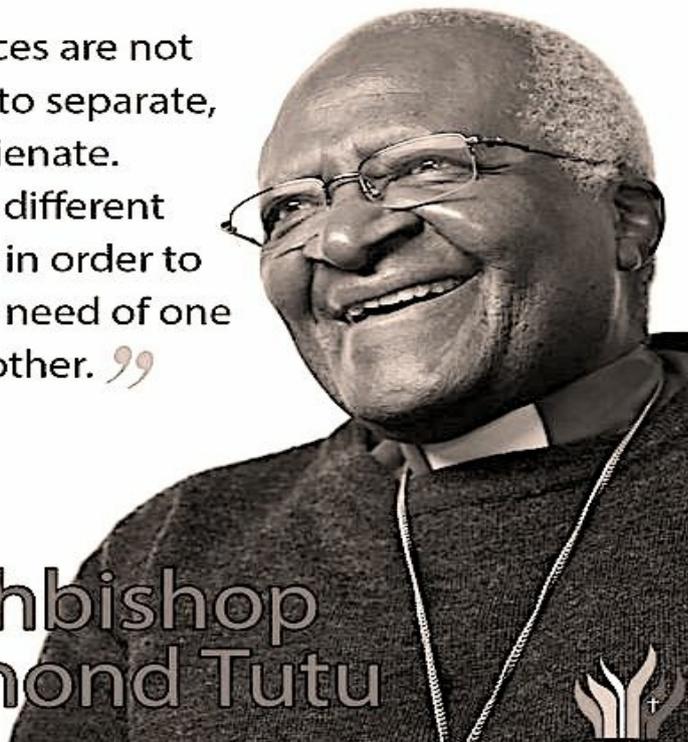
In the creation story, the Tutus discover that human beings have been made in the image of God, endowed with creativity, and challenged to see themselves as made for God. "The impulse to care, the instinct for goodness, is a shining thread woven into the fabric of our being." Africans have understood this: "*Ubuntu* is the Xhosa word used to describe the 'tend and befriend' survival behaviour. . . . A person is a person only through other persons, we say." In their assessment of goodness, the Tutus go on to discuss the grace of God as unmerited love; the toxins of guilt, shame, and nervous questing; the preciousness of the human freedom to choose; dealing with the habits of wrongness; suffering as part of the human condition; the trials and treasures that failure can bring; why God allows us to follow our own paths; going home to goodness; hearing God's voice; and seeing with God's eyes.

Along the way, the Tutus share vignettes and experiences from their lives and ministries. They also ponder the Scripture and let poems at the end of each chapter spell out the mysteries encountered on the Christian path. In the last chapter, the authors suggest a spiritual practice to help us see ourselves as God sees us:

"God's gaze is like the gaze between lovers wrapped in a tender embrace. God looks at us the way a mother looks lovingly at her newborn baby. If you can see the loving gaze between mother and child in your mind's eye, you can begin a small meditation on being held in God's loving gaze. Once you are able to fix the gaze in your mind, put yourself in the sight line of the one gazing. Allow yourself to be the subject of that long, loving look. In this way you can imagine, then experience, the loving gaze that God turns to us. As we allow ourselves to accept God's acceptance, we can begin to accept our own goodness and beauty. With each glimpse of our own beauty we can begin to see the goodness and beauty in others."

“Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realize our need of one another.”

Archbishop  
Desmond Tutu





ST. PATRICK'S  
& ST. JOHN'S  
CATHEDRAL  
DUBLIN



### Thursday Fellowship is a new daytime

group being set up to appeal especially to anyone interested in meeting to share Christian fellowship in an informal and relaxed way during the day instead of evening time..

Fellowship meetings will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 11am in the Boucher Room, at St Patrick's Parochial Hall, Edward Road, Whitehead. (Duration 1 hr.)  
Starting Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 at 11am.

At the fellowship there will be time to chat and catch up on what's happening in the world from a faith perspective, with the aim of sharing and learning from each other. We will also share a Bible reading, some prayer and hopefully refreshments too. ~ (Covid restrictions permitting)

No previous church attendance required or special knowledge of the Bible or Church.

Absolutely anyone and everyone is welcome to attend.

If you plan to come, please just confirm with Jo, by calling or messaging her on 07790 241263.

Wishing you every blessing. Jo

## St. Valentine's Day Chocolate Covered Strawberry Brownies

**Prep Time:** 10 minutes **Cook Time:** 20 minutes

**Cool Time:** 30 minutes **Total Time:** 1 hour **Servings:** 9

Chocolate covered strawberry topped fudge-y brownies!

### Ingredients

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter  
3/4 cup granulated sugar  
2 large eggs  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 cup all-purpose flour  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 pound strawberries, sliced  
8 ounces semi-sweet chocolate, coarsely chopped



### Directions

Melt the chocolate into the butter in a sauce pan over medium heat and let cool.

Mix the sugar into the eggs along with the vanilla extract.

Sift the flour, baking powder and salt.

Mix the melted chocolate into the egg mixture followed by the flour mixture.

Pour the batter into a grease (optionally foil lined) 8 inch baking pan and bake in a preheated 350F/180C oven until a toothpick pushed into the centre comes out clean, about 20-25 minutes.

Sprinkle the strawberries on top of the brownies.

Melt the chocolate over medium-low heat on the stove or in a microwave, pour it over the strawberries and let cool until the chocolate is set, about 30-60 minutes.

**Option:** Add 2 tablespoons cocoa powder to the flour. (For an even deeper chocolaty flavour!)

**Option:** Add 1 teaspoon finely ground coffee to the flour. (The coffee really brings out or enhances the chocolate flavour!)

**Option:** Replace the butter with coconut oil.

**Option:** Replace the some or all of the granulated sugar with coconut sugar or brown sugar.

**Option:** Replace the flour with rice flour for gluten-free.

# KAFKA AND THE DOLL

## A true story

Franz Kafka (1883-1924), who never married and had no children, walked through the park in Berlin one day when he met a girl who was crying because she had lost her favourite doll. She and Kafka searched for the doll unsuccessfully.

Kafka (then aged 40) told her to meet him there the next day and they would come back to look for her.

The next day, when they had not yet found the doll, Kafka gave the girl a letter "written" by the doll saying "please don't cry. I took a trip to see the world. I will write to you about my adventures." Thus began a story which continued until the end of Kafka's life. During their meetings, Kafka read the letters of the doll carefully written with adventures and conversations that the girl found adorable.

Finally, Kafka brought back the doll (he bought one) that had returned to Berlin. "It doesn't look like my doll at all," said the girl. Kafka handed her another letter in which the doll wrote: "my travels have changed me." the little girl hugged the new doll and brought her happy home.

A year later Kafka died.

*Many years later, the now-adult girl found a letter that had been hidden inside the doll. In the tiny letter signed by Kafka it was written:*

*"Everything you love will probably be lost, but in the end, love will return in another way".*

*There are many versions of the story of Kafka and the doll. I heard this one from Tara Brach, psychologist and Buddhist meditation teacher in Washington D.C.*

*Only after many tellings am I able to relay this story without crying. And I have found that when I tell it to others young or old, my listener is invariably moved.*

*When I went online to find confirmation for the story, I found one source that referred to it as a "healing story." That seems right. For whether this actually ever happened, the story is real and true and provides a template for healing.*

*For me there are two wise lessons in this story: Grief and loss are ubiquitous even for a young child. And the way toward healing is to look*

*for how love comes back in another form. I think there are advantages to viewing grief as omnipresent, an inescapable part of being a human being. Grief encompasses far more than the loss of a loved one, although that is perhaps its most profound manifestation.*

*The loss of the doll in the story is devastating to the little girl. This is what moves Kafka to create the wonderful stories of travel and adventure. He perceived the depth of her pain. It is reported that he put as much time and care into creating these letters for the little girl as he did in other writings.*



*Holding the perspective of the universality of loss, helps us with shame and loneliness. If a profound grief reaction to divorce or children leaving home or the loss of a pregnancy, or unemployment, or retirement, or having to confront the limitations of our children, or aging, or the loss of health is something I share with my fellow beings, I am less alone. And I don't have to be ashamed that I feel the way I do, for shame is part of the legacy of isolation.*

*And love coming back, in a different form? I believe it was Kafka's letters that were the real gift of love, and what was ultimately healing for the little girl was the relationship that was the balm. Someone cared enough for her pain to write her lovely stories of the lost doll's adventures. A great writer at that.*

*How healing it is to hold this conviction, that love will return. It is our job to recognize it in its new form.*

*May Benatar ,Psychotherapist, Writer.  
Washington DC*

## Farewell to Archbishop Desmond Tutu – A Life well lived.

*Foreword by The Archbishop of Canterbury- Justin Welby*

*“The death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu (always known as Arch) on 26th December 2021 was news that we received with profound sadness – but also with profound gratitude as we reflect upon his life.*

*Arch’s love transformed the lives of politicians and priests, township dwellers and world leaders. The world is different because of this man.*

*Archbishop Tutu was a prophet and priest, a man of words and action, one who embodied the*

*hope and joy that were the foundations of his life. He was a man of extraordinary personal courage and bravery: when the police burst into Capetown Cathedral, he defied them by dancing down the aisle.*

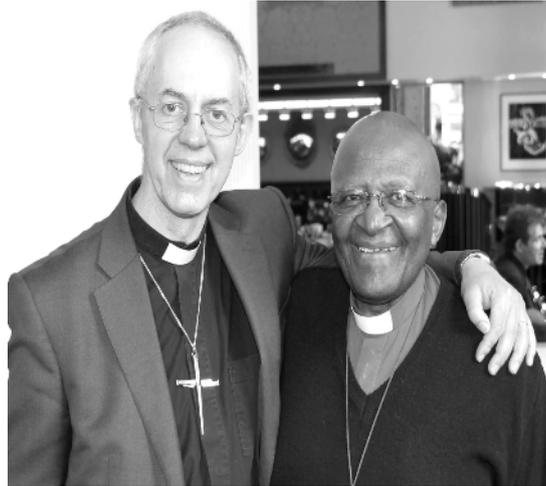
*He was a man of enormous vision: seeing the possibilities for building the Rainbow Nation long before anyone else, except perhaps President Mandela.....*

*His joy, grace, laughter, hope and life caught up those around him with a sense of Jesus Christ. It was Jesus’ love we saw in his eyes, Jesus’ compassion we heard in his voice, Jesus’ joy we heard in his laughter, Jesus’ face we saw in his face. And it was beautiful and brave.*

*His greatest love is now realised as he meets his Lord face to face.*

***We are thankful for such a life so well lived, even as we feel the sorrow of such great loss”.***

As Emeritus Archbishop of Cape Town Desmond Tutu was a renowned Anglican theologian and human rights activist who played a central role in the anti-apartheid campaign in South Africa. He was the first black African to hold the posts of Bishop of Johannesburg and Archbishop of Cape Town. He also spoke out on gay rights, the Iraq war and the political situation in Israel and the Palestinian territories. But his socialist political stance made him a divisive figure: he nevertheless remained very popular with many black South Africans



and some white liberals. But he was regarded with suspicion by the more radical black activists and by white conservatives.

### **Early life and training**

Archbishop Desmond was born in October 1931 at Klerksdorp in north-west South Africa. His family background was a mixture of Xhosa and Motswana heritage. His father was the principal of a Methodist primary school. His mother, Aletha, was a domestic worker. He suffered from polio as a child, which left his right hand permanently damaged. His family were Christians, and he was baptised into the Methodist tradition as an infant, but the family later moved to the Anglican tradition. At 12, he was confirmed, publicly declaring his Christian faith. While at school in Johannesburg, he was strongly influenced by the minister at his church, Bishop Trevor Huddleston - a vocal anti-apartheid campaigner. Archbishop Desmond completed his schooling as the authorities in South Africa began to introduce apartheid policies to separate South Africans by colour.

He trained as a teacher in Pretoria and began teaching in 1954 as the government introduced the Bantu Education Act which enforced racially segregated schooling. He married Nomalizo Leah Shenxane, in 1955 a major influencer in his life. (She survives him, as do their four children: a son, Trevor Thamsanqa Tutu; and three daughters, Theresa Thandeka Tutu, Naomi Nontombi Tutu and Mpho Tutu van Furth; as well as seven grandchildren.)

**In 1958 Desmond gave up teaching to train as an Anglican priest.**

### **Ordination and early career**

In 1960 he was ordained as a deacon against a backdrop of rising racial tension: that year 69 black South Africans were killed by police during a demonstration at Sharpeville. The same year the government banned the African National Congress (ANC). Archbishop Desmond became a priest in 1961. The next year he travelled to the UK to study theology at Kings College, London where he earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree and a master's in theology. He returned to southern Africa in 1966 where he taught at the Federal Theological Seminary and then the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. He was a supporter of the Black Consciousness Movement, which campaigned against apartheid.

He went back to UK again in 1972 to become Director for Africa for the Theological Education Fund of the World Council of Churches. He was attracted to the ideas of African Theology and Black Theology. The latter reminded black South Africans that God was on the side of oppressed people. Archbishop Desmond felt black theology would restore dignity to black South Africans and he likened their experience to that of the Jewish people in the Old

Testament part of the Bible. He wrote, God ‘...sides with the poor, the hungry, the oppressed, the victims of injustice...’. He felt Christians needed to speak up for the poor and the weak and change society around them.

### **Rising profile under apartheid**

Archbishop Desmond returned to South Africa in 1975 to become Dean of Johannesburg. In 1976 he wrote to the Prime Minister BJ Vorster warning him of the rising anger among black South Africans and urging him to end apartheid. That year violence erupted in the township of Soweto. Hundreds were killed. Archbishop Desmond became an increasingly vocal and high-profile critic of apartheid and white minority rule. But he continued to stress the need for non-violent protest. He called on other countries to apply economic pressure on the South African government to end apartheid and give black South Africans the right to vote. In August 1976 he was consecrated Bishop of Lesotho. Two years later he returned to Johannesburg when he was elected General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches – becoming its first black leader. His campaigning continued; he spoke in Europe and North America and met political and religious leaders. But he was regarded with suspicion by the South African government who twice confiscated his passport to stop him travelling and tried to smear his reputation. Despite this, his influence grew. In 1984 he addressed the United Nations Security Council and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

### **His leadership style was to build consensus rather than impose decisions.**

He became Bishop of Johannesburg in 1985. That year the South African government declared a partial state of emergency as racial unrest grew. The following year he urged the international community to impose sanctions on



South Africa. Months later he was installed as Archbishop of Cape Town, becoming the first black leader of the Anglican Church in South Africa. His leadership style was to build consensus rather than impose decisions. He oversaw the introduction of woman priests, a radical move at the time. Beyond the Church he was involved in mediating between black protestors and the security forces.

### **Post-apartheid roles**

After the ANC leader Nelson Mandela was freed from prison in 1990, he and Archbishop Desmond led negotiations to end apartheid and introduce a multi-racial democracy. Mandela called him ‘the people’s archbishop’. He acted as a mediator between rival black factions. When Mandela became president after the first fully democratic elections, Archbishop Desmond led prayers at his inauguration. He was then appointed to chair the Truth and Reconciliation Commission between 1996 and 1998. Archbishop Desmond believed the process, though not perfect, would help long-term reconciliation and healing.

The Archbishop popularised the term ‘Rainbow Nation’ to symbolise post-apartheid South Africa. He stepped down as archbishop in 1996 becoming Archbishop Emeritus. But he continued to campaign for various causes at home and overseas. He publicly criticised Mandela and two of his successors, Presidents Mbeki and Zuma and the regimes of other African leaders. He opposed the war in Iraq, condemned Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians and called for action to tackle HIV/AIDS. He also championed gay rights, blessing the marriage of his daughter Mpho to another woman and likening discrimination against gay people to discrimination against women and black people. He continued to travel and lecture before retiring from public life in 2010. He died at the age of 90.

**“We are made for goodness. We are made for love. We are made for friendliness. We are made for togetherness. We are made for all of the beautiful things that you and I know. We are made to tell the world that there are no outsiders. All are welcome: black, white, red, yellow, rich, poor, educated, not educated, male, female, gay, straight, all, all, all. We all belong to this family, this human family, God’s family.”**  
— Archbishop Desmond Tutu

The Rectory  
**St James the Least of All**

**On how to survive a residential conference**



My dear Nephew Darren

I am glad you enjoyed your conference, but please do not be deluded into thinking that conferences are there to teach you anything. Conferences exist to provide another entry on your CV, to give you time off while flattering yourself that you are working, and to make the person leading it feel that their life is not wholly pointless.

As it happened, I was also invited to the same one, the one entitled 'Learning how to say no.' But I refused to attend, thereby proving that I didn't need it anyway.

There are certain useful points you need to learn for conferences. First, about half the attendees will have been together only the previous week attending another conference in another part of the country. They will be eager, enthusiastic, and overflowing with management platitudes. Avoid them at all costs. Should one of them say to you: 'expect the unexpected' you have my permission to strangle them. They won't have expected that!

Secondly, when you are all asked to go through that ghastly process of introducing yourselves to everyone else, make it up. I think the last time I was obliged to do this, I became a butcher specialising in exporting offal to Saudi Arabia. All your clerical colleagues will then panic that they have turned up for the wrong course and the leader will make sure that you are not asked another single question throughout the event. Both outcomes are satisfying.

Thirdly, do realise that when you are asked to divide into small discussion groups, it means that the conference leader has run out of ideas about what to do next. Do not, at all costs, volunteer to be chairman. It only means that when you have to report back – and if the leaders use the word ‘plenary’, then by all means contemplate strangling them also - you will be involved in sticking sheets of paper on to walls, which will then rip off the wallpaper when you try to remove them.

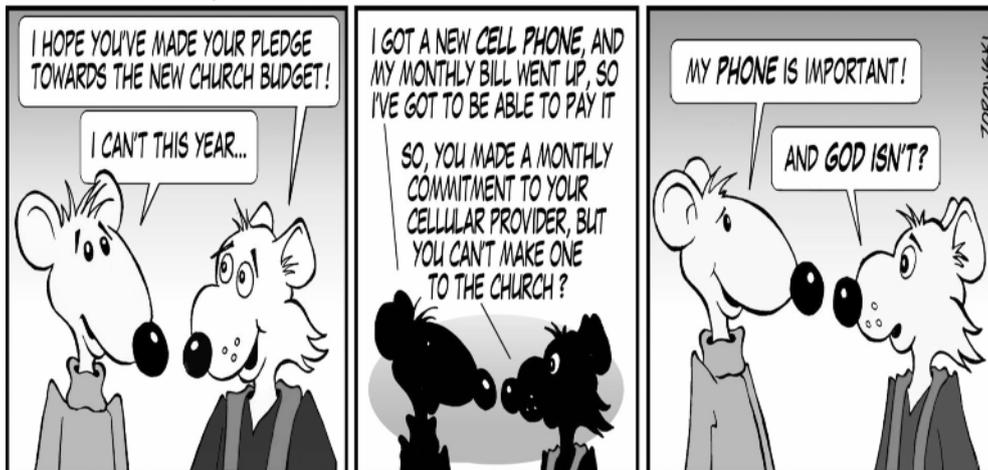
You will also have the embarrassment of finding that every felt tip pen you try to use will be empty, and what you thought were the conclusions your group had arrived at will be volubly contradicted by all the other members.

No, if you are ever obliged to attend another course, take a good book, enough claret to cover every evening away, and develop a debilitating illness that, while enabling you to attend every meal, obliges you to retreat to your room for the rest of the day. You will leave having learned as much on whatever the topic was as your colleagues, but you will return refreshed and eager to make the next booking.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

## Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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## **Winter Seminars organised by the Friends of the Anglican Province of Alexandria (FAPA)**

There is a great opportunity to widen our horizons and find out more about the Church in Ethiopia and Egypt by attending the following seminars by Zoom. These are the details:

### **THE CHURCH IN ETHIOPIA: ITS HISTORY, ITS THEOLOGY AND THE SITUATION TODAY**

***Sunday 30 January at 7.30pm:*** Chair - Rt Rev Andrew Proud, retired Bishop of Reading-  
Ven Jeremiah Paul, Archdeacon of Gambella; Rev Dr Johannes Vander Bijl, former Principal St Fumentius College, Gambella;  
Rt Rev Dr Grant Marquand, retired Bishop of the Horn of Africa.

### **THE CHURCH IN EGYPT: ITS HISTORY, ITS THEOLOGY AND THE SITUATION TODAY**

***Sunday 20 February at 7.30pm:*** Chair: Rt Rev Dr Michael Ipgrave OBE., Bishop of Lichfield and FAPA Patron  
His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos, Coptic Archbishop of London;  
Rt Rev Dr Mouneer Anis, former Archbishop of the Province of Alexandria

***Sunday 27 February at 7.30pm:*** Chair: Rt Rev Dr Bill Musk, retired Bishop of North Africa; Most Rev Dr Samy Fawzy Shehata, Archbishop of the Province of Alexandria; Rev Mark Takki, Acting Academic Coordinator, Alexandria School of Theology.

These seminars have been arranged by the Friends of the Anglican Province of Alexandria.

**If You Wish to Attend a Seminar** you will need to register with the Friends of the Anglican Province of Alexandria (FAPA) Secretary by emailing: [\*\*secretaryfapa@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:secretaryfapa@gmail.com) After registering you will be sent a confirmatory email and (nearer the date) Log In details. The web site is [\*\*www.fapa-egypt.org\*\*](http://www.fapa-egypt.org)

Meanwhile if you have any queries please get in touch with George McNeill – Diocesan Reader (07799 298654)

## **Want to see if you can find romance in your life? It's never too late!**

If you are alone and lonely, that is understandable, and you might wish to consider doing something about it this month as so many folk celebrate Valentine's Day.

**Why not pay a visit to Christian Connection, the multi-award-winning Christian dating site? <https://www.christianconnection.com>**

Since it was founded online in 2000, it has brought together thousands of single Christians across the world, in the UK, Ireland, Australia, United States, Canada, Singapore, Hong Kong, New Zealand, and South Africa.

The original reason was simple: there are very few opportunities outside local churches for single Christians to meet other single Christians especially during this covid pandemic.

As it is free to join, and there is no cost for a basic profile membership, it may be well worth visiting the site. You may find friendships, a special relationship, and even someone you'd like to marry!

Happy hunting!



## How full is your ‘Love Tank’?

As St Valentines Day fast approaches on the 14th February here is a question we can ask ourselves about our capacity to give and receive love from our partner!.

Everyone has times when, if we are in a relationship, we feel really loved by our partner, there’s a close connection and lots of fun and laughter. The relationship is flourishing. There are also times when we feel distant, frustrated, angry perhaps, and all the love seems to have leaked out of the relationship.

Imagine we have an inner emotional ‘love tank’, and how full or empty the tank is represents how loved we feel. What’s the ‘fuel gauge’ showing, how full is your love tank right now?

The question is not designed to be an opportunity to start thinking negatively about our partner, for criticising or demanding things, because we know that love is about giving, not getting. The thing is that we all experience love in different ways. For one person hearing the words: ‘I love you’ makes them feel on top of the world. Whilst words alone might feel quite hollow for someone else; regular cuddles and kissing may be what makes them feel loved.

Gary Chapman, author of *The Five Love Languages*, describes ways in which we can GIVE LOVE in the way our partner can receive it, when we know their ‘love language.’

**The five love languages are: Words of affirmation, Quality time, Physical touch, Acts of service, and Thoughtful gifts**

It comes naturally for each of us is to show love in OUR particular love language. I tend to do practical things, like making a nice meal or organising time together. There’s nothing wrong with either of those things, it’s just that my husband’s top love languages are: ‘words of affirmation’ and ‘physical touch’. So the candles on the table do very little for him. If I want to express love in the way he’s going to receive it, I need to tell him how special he is and whisk him off to the bedroom! In short, if I want my husband to feel loved I need to be thinking of HIS needs.

The 5 Love Languages are a great tool to help people understand different ways they feel or experience love. You and your partner can explore these in Toucan Together’s Loving Module. Toucan can help you start some really great conversations. It’s really worth learning how to fill each other’s ‘love tanks’, and then get filling!

Christine Daniel is a speaker and blogger for FamilyLife UK, developer of the Toucan Together resource. Toucan Together is a relationship wellness app for couples that covers friendship, intimacy, resolving conflict, love language, and money management. Visit it at [www.toucantogether.com](http://www.toucantogether.com)

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## RE-GIFTING IS GOOD!

Why not donate your unwanted Christmas gifts to achieve guilt-free re-gifting and support the work and ministry of St Patrick's & St John's Church in this local community. Email the Editor to arrange a drop off time in January at the Parochial Hall on Edward Road. Whitehead

Thank you for your support

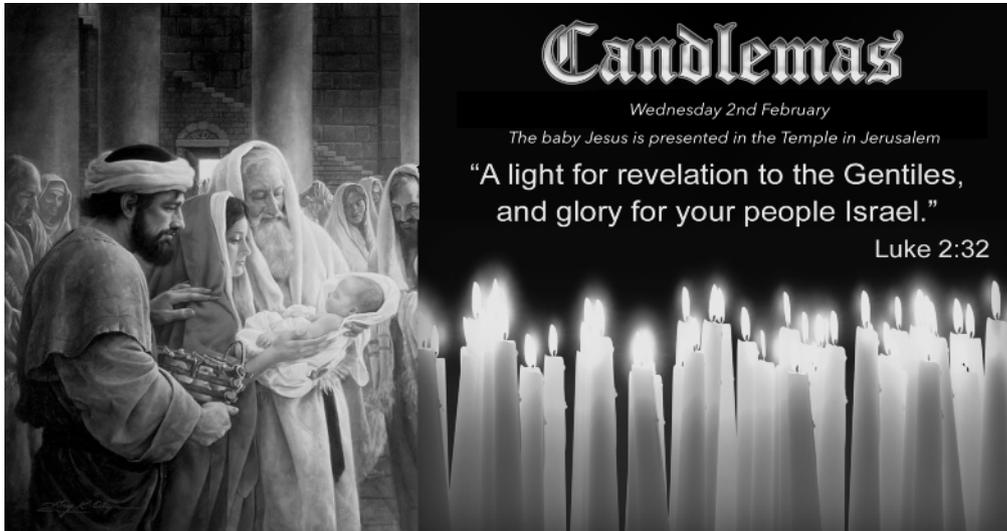


### Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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## Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple ~ 2nd February

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2<sup>nd</sup> February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in **Luke 2:22-40**. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.



## A Prayer at Candlemas

Dear Lord God,

February can be a difficult, cold month, and this year there is much to be concerned about, with the pandemic still affecting our lives in so many ways. But thank you, Lord, that February can also be a month of wonderful signs of hope.

Help us, when we look down, to see the snowdrops – sometimes known as Candlemas Bells – and other bulbs pushing through the dark earth, showing the promise of Spring and brighter days ahead. And then, help us to look up, to see the light of Jesus, Your revelation to all the world, in that baby who grew and died and rose again to offer salvation, hope and life to all who put their trust in Him.

Thank you, Father, for Jesus and that, because of Him, nothing – no pandemic, no circumstance – can ever separate us from You.

Thank you for Your Holy Spirit, living in all who trust in You, giving us strength for each new day of this and every month.

In Jesus name, Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

# A Prayer by Desmond Tutu

## Disturb Us O Lord

This prayer is attributed to Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu adapted from an original prayer by Sir Francis Drake.

**Disturb us, O Lord  
when we are too well-pleased with ourselves  
when our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little,  
because we sailed too close to the shore.**

**Disturb us, O Lord  
when with the abundance of things we possess,  
we have lost our thirst for the water of life  
when, having fallen in love with time,  
we have ceased to dream of eternity  
and in our efforts to build a new earth,  
we have allowed our vision of Heaven to grow dim.**

**Stir us, O Lord  
to dare more boldly, to venture into wider seas  
where storms show Thy mastery,  
where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.  
In the name of Him who pushed back the horizons of our  
hopes and invited the brave to follow.**

**Amen**

## Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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## God's Grandeur

The world is charged with the grandeur of God,  
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;  
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil  
Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod\*?  
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;  
And all seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;  
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil  
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all of this, nature is never spent;  
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;  
And though the last lights off the black West went  
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs-  
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent  
World broods with warm breast and with ah! Bright wings.

Gerard Manley Hopkins (1840-1889)  
Kindly contributed by Christine Ashby  
(\*heed his rule)



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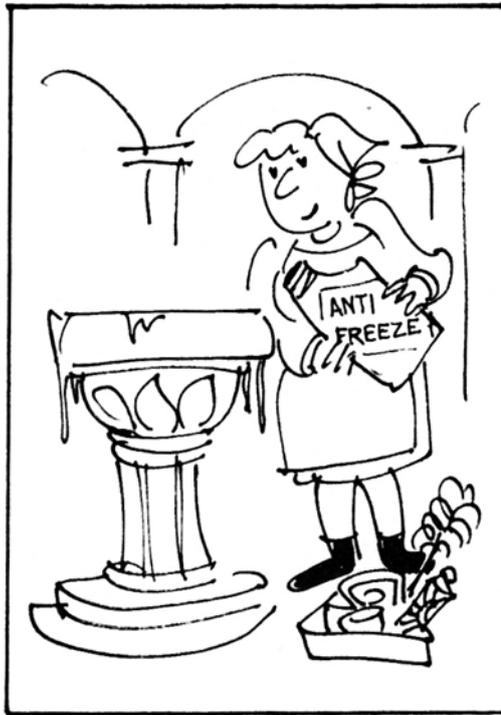


## Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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"We're looking for something to help us survive our church's early morning Winter services"

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## **Parish Announcements**

**The next Vestry meeting is Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February at  
10am in the Parochial Hall**

### **Counters for February**

6th February Brian Moore  
13th February Trevor Peoples  
20th February Bert Thompson  
27th February Walter & Sandra Thompson  
6<sup>th</sup> March Bill Pollock

# 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 FEBRUARY**

### **The House Group**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm

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

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

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.30pm

### **Contemplative Prayer Group**

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February

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**

Things in church are beginning to take off again in-spite of Covid19 variants, and the snowdrops are starting to show their pretty heads at St John's Churchyard as Spring approaches, bringing hope and a sense of renewal.

Hopefully you have read and been encouraged by the article on pages 8 & 9 to support our 2022 Church Fundraiser, which aims to get us walking virtually to Washington DC, where we plan to meet up with another 'St Patrick's Church', which will be very exciting.

Follow this story by regularly checking in on our Church Facebook Page. Here we are keep a running total of miles walked to date and how far we are on our 3,779 mile journey which commenced 1<sup>st</sup> Jan.

We are also launching a new daytime fellowship group at the beginning of March and hope that more than a few people from our community will come and give it a try. We will be maintaining social distancing and continuing to wear face masks until such time as this is no longer deemed necessary. Do contact Jo to let her know if you would like to come along to the first session.. Tel : 07790 241263. See page 16.

As this is the time of year when we all tend to feel our aches and pains more acutely, don't hesitate to contact the Rector or Pastoral Care Team if you need any help or would simply like someone to drop by to see you.. And if you know someone who you think needs a home call or visit because they are unwell or distressed in some way, please contact the Rector and let him know. Your request will be treated in confidence

We hope you enjoy reading the February Church Matters Edition and please keep sending content for inclusion in the next edition, due out in March. Thanks for content received and featured this month.

**Stay well and God Bless**

## 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**

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People's:	Jeni McAughey	William Rafferty

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Valerie Kincaid;	Maureen Reid;	George McNeill;	
Priscilla Carlisle;	Mabel Allen;	Bertnel Thompson;	
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