

# ***CHURCH MATTERS***

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

***Here everyone matters***

***JULY-AUGUST 2022***



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

UNITED PARISH OF  
WHITEHEAD & ISLANDMAGEE



**Wishing You  
A Blessed  
Summer!**

*My presence will  
go with you, and I will  
give you rest.*

Exodus 33:14

# July and August Services & Readings

**Worship and services** - Due to the holidays of those involved we will not be broadcasting services during July and August this year.

**Wednesday 11:30 in St Patrick's - no services in July and August**

**During July the main morning service will be in St Patrick's at 11:00 a.m. There will be no service in St John's during July.**

**There will be no evening service during July.**

**Sunday 3rd July - Trinity 3**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion Two

Sunday Readings - Galatians 6:7-16; Luke 10:1-11; 16-20

Readers for first Lesson - Colin de Fleury

Weekday Readings: Numbers 26 - 35, Deuteronomy 1 & 3;

Psalms 74 - 89; Romans 8:26 - 10-13

**Sunday 10th July - Trinity 4**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Two

Sunday Readings - Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Luke 10:25-37

Readers for first Lesson - Stephen Martin

Weekday Readings: Joshua 1-6; Psalms 90 - 106; Romans 11:1 - 13:7

**Sunday 17th July - Trinity 5**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Two

Sunday Readings - Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52; Luke 10:38-42

Readers for first Lesson - Bobby Herron

Weekday Readings: Joshua 7- 9, 23; Psalms 107-119:72; Romans 13-15

**Sunday 24th July - Trinity 6**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Two

Sunday Readings - Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Luke 11:1-13

Readers for first Lesson - Trevor Peoples

Weekday Readings: 2 Kings 1:9-15, Judges 2 - 6; Psalms 119:73 - 136;

Romans 16, Acts 1:1 - 2:36

### **Sunday 31st July - Trinity 7**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Two  
Sunday Readings - Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Luke 12:13-21  
Readers for first Lesson - Corrine Logan  
Weekday Readings: Judges 7 - 10; Psalms 140 - 9; Acts 2:37 - 5:11

### **Sunday 7th August- Trinity 8**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion Two  
Sunday Readings - Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40  
Readers for first Lesson - Hazel Robinson  
Weekday Readings: Judges 11:1 - 16:31; Psalms 10 - 28; Acts 5:12 - 7:43

### **Sunday 14th August - Trinity 9**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Two  
Sunday Readings - Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 9-20; Luke 12:49-56  
Readers for first Lesson - Joy Kerr  
Weekday Readings: Judges 17 - 18, Jobe 1:1 - 4:21; Psalms 29 - 41;  
Acts 7:44 - 9:19a

### **Sunday 21st August - Trinity 10**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Two  
Sunday Readings - Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Luke 13:10-17  
Readers for first Lesson - Maureen Reid  
Weekday Readings: Job 5:1 - 10:22; Psalms 42 - 61; Acts 9:19b - 11:18

### **Sunday 28th August - Trinity 11**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Two  
Sunday Readings - Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16; Luke 14:7-14  
Readers for first Lesson - Jim Reid  
Weekday Readings: Job 11 - 19; Psalms 62 - 78; Acts 11:19 - 13:43

### **Sunday 4th September - Trinity 12**

Sunday Readings - Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:24-33  
Readers for first Lesson - Heather Cupples / Ann Thompson

## A summer message from our Rector

We all hope and pray that summer will be upon us. A summer similar to those which we remember from our childhood. For it seems that, in our memories at least, summers of the past were always filled with sunny days and balmy heat with little or no rain to spoil things.

Of course we know that this is not true, that there were good summers and not so good summers. There were days, in some years more than others, where the outdoor pool was a real blessing. But there were also days when, in some years more than others, where having to go to the outdoor pool was akin to a form of punishment (though it didn't stop some going - more to socialise than to swim!).



Our remembrances of the past are often seen through rose tinted glasses, meaning that we have the tendency to view past events in a positive and often unrealistic light. When we do this we see the past as being better than the present or the future. We yearn for the old days “when things were better”. The problem with this view is that it is often selective. Many years ago a parishioner (not of this parish) spoke to me after a church service one Sunday morning. He said that he didn't like the way the church was now, it was better in his younger days. He asked why we couldn't go back to those days. Before he got into his car to drive away I told him I would be happy to go back to those days, but he would have to walk home. He would also have to come back for afternoon Sunday School and again for the evening service - all of them walking the mile or more from his home to the church and back; as he did in the old days. I told him that, as he had done with his father before him, he would have to be at the church very early in the morning - especially in winter - to make sure the coke boiler was lit and stoked properly and the church was warm. I reminded him that there would be little or no indoor plumbing and the outhouse at the bottom of the yard was cold in winter. But worst of all . . . . The microwave that his nieces bought him to make hot chocolate in before going to bed at night would have to go as well. His reply; “Well Rector, may be things aren't so bad after all. May be we will just keep things as they are.”

For those with fond memories, and a yearning for the “old days” I would remind you of Leslie P. Hartley, in his book ‘The Go-Between’.

It begins with these words; “The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there.” Some times it is good to remember this.

Much of my summer will be spent looking forward, planning for what may be to come. Small things, like the collection being brought up to the front of the church during the third hymn. May be we will still leave the alms dishes (collecting plates) on the table at the back of the church for a while yet and bring them up from there , or we may return to collectors going round the pews. Let me know what you think about this as some who give by Standing Order through their bank had previously felt a little uncomfortable when the plate came round.

We also need to look at how we can encourage people to come and share worship with us. Some people still have genuine worries about being in a building with other people but some have just got out of the habit of coming to church on a Sunday morning.

The best way to encourage people is not to tell them to come to Church, nor is it even to invite them to come to Church nor yet to meet you there. The very best way is to bring them with you to Church. Let them know that you are coming, that you want to bring them with you and that you will come and collect them so that you are going together. It makes it much easier for them. Much easier.

If you are reading this and haven’t been at church for a while and are nervous about coming back you can ask some one if you can go to church with them and you can both come together.

We can worship God on the hill tops, when out for a walk, in our gardens, in the silence of our own homes. There is nothing wrong with any of these, nothing at all. BUT as Christians, as members of the body of Christ here on earth, the ideal way to worship is in the company of others. It is in the company of others that we share our faith, that we encourage those others around us and that we are encouraged by those others around us. It is in shared worship that we can most fully recognise that we are part of the church, the body of Christ here on earth. In the singing of hymns that we love, and some that others love more than us, we join together and for a moment stop being individual Christians. We become a part of a greater whole, a whole that can do more than we can ever do alone.

Let us all plan over the summer how we can make all of our church attendances better, in quality as well as quantity. I hope you all have a wonderful summer filled with blessings. Mark.

# What are your talents?

In the past, our parish ran a very successful "Talent Scheme" to raise funds for the building project at St. John's Church. It gained momentum and a lot of money was raised. Also, it was a project that brought everyone together and enabled people to get to know each other better.

## **How it worked?**

Everyone who joined in was given a small amount of money in which to use their talents to produce a bigger pot of money that could be given back to the church.

People made fudge, hosted poetry evenings, made planters for the garden, worked on crafts for sale, made greeting cards, and held car boot sales, to give just a few examples.

## **We invite you to join in our next 'Talents' Fundraiser**

We plan to run this scheme again and Austin Jenkins has kindly offered to be the main point of contact if you have an idea for raising funds.

We ask you now to give this some thought over the summer as we gear up to starting this parish fundraiser in September. This gives plenty of notice for all those who like to make things that can be sold.

## **How we plan to use the funds raised**

Funds raised will be used to carry out essential refurbishment of the organ in St .Patrick's Church and to support the on-going work of local charity- Woman's Aid.

As a church, we were a source of comfort when our neighbour, Alison was murdered. We want to be able to extend that hand of comfort through our support of Woman's Aid.

## **What to do next**

All of us have some talent and this idea involves people of all ages, so families can work together. Please see what you can do and let Austin know by completing the sign up form enclosed with this magazine. Everyone who signs up will be given £10 to invest in a fundraising project with the aim of multiplying this initial starter funding.

**Sandra Thompson - Church Treasurer**

## Talents Scheme Idea

### ***Would you like an evening of fine dining?***

As part of the “Talent Scheme”, I would like to offer an invitation to dine at 5 York Avenue.

With views of Belfast Lough, our home gives a great venue for an evening of chat and a meal. I would love to host a three course dinner for groups, (with a maximum of 8) twice a month from September to December.

You would pre-book the menu and bring your own wine. I would cook and serve the meal. You will get to enjoy a relaxing night without the fuss of travelling out of Whitehead, and the church will benefit by your donation.

### **Suggested Menu (To be booked in advance)**

Starter – Homemade Soup or Pate and salad with homemade wheaten bread

Main Course - Roast Chicken with Bacon & Peach  
-Braised beef Olives  
-Family favourite Fish Pie

(The group needs to choose ONE main course)  
Served with vegetables in season

Desert - Lemon Cheesecake  
-Cheese board

I hope you think this is something you can enjoy!

**Bookings through me, Sandra Thompson 07912478331**

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# The Parable of the Talents



The story told by Jesus goes like this. There was a man who was about to go on a trip and before he departed he entrusted his three servants with 10, 5, and 1 talents respectively. He expected his servants to grow and nurture these gifts whilst he was away. The individuals granted 10 and 5 talents multiplied their gifts, whereas the third servant miserly buried his 1 talent in fear of losing it. On his return home the master praised the good stewards saying, "Well done, my faithful servants. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy" (Matthew 25:21- 23).

The miserly servant did not get the same generous reply. Instead, the master declared,

'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'

## **Using our God-given gifts for the benefit of others**

The Holy Spirit according to his own richness and the needs of the ministries, gives his different gifts for the welfare of the Church." We are all endowed with a unique personality, unique soul, and unique gifts to help further the Kingdom of God here on earth and to promote peace and justice in the world as well. Be diligent to foster your gifts to share with others instead of selfishly squandering them away.

Traditionally, the parable of the talents has been seen as an exhortation to Jesus' disciples to use their God-given gifts in the service of God, and to take risks for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

## **A Prayer for guidance in using our talents (gifts)**

**Heavenly Lord do not let us neglect Your Spirit or the gifts You have given us. Give us courage to use these gifts and the humility to not use them for our glory, but for You and Your glory. Help us see the good work You have ready for us and embrace that work with willingness and joy. In Jesus' Name, Amen.**

# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Luke chapter 2 verses 41 to 51

Every year Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival with their family and friends. This year Jesus was twelve.

The women and children went in front to set the pace



Next year, Jesus, you'll be walking at the back with the men.

The Passover feasting lasted eight days...



..and then they set off for home again



but without Jesus.

Mary and Joseph didn't find out until the evening



I thought he was with you!

So they walked back to Jerusalem and started searching for Jesus...



Sorry, I haven't seen him.

..and the next day,



then on the third day

they went to the temple



He was talking with the teachers.



You must be very proud of your clever son



But Mary was not happy.

How could you treat your father and I like this?



Didn't you know I'd be here?



I needed to be where my birth father, God, is working.

Mary thought about this all the way home



...and all her life.

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temple

festival

Mary

evening

teachers

searching

son

home

men

Jerusalem

camp

Passover

feasting

talking

father

women

Jesus

twelve

Joseph

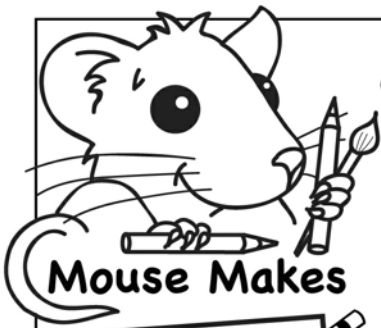
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walking

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children



# Mouse Makes

Cross out all the X  
to find the bible verse:

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 XRXEXMXAXNXYYOXT  
 XHXEXRXTXHXIXNXGX  
 SXTXHXAXTXJXEXSXU  
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What did Jesus turn water into?



\_\_\_\_\_

John 2:1-11

Who's mother-in-law did Jesus heal?

\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 8:14-15

How did Jesus get out to the disciples in the boat?



Matthew 14:22-27

Who did Jesus raise from the dead?



John 11:38-44

How long had the woman at the synagogue been disabled?

\_\_\_\_\_ years

What did she do after she was healed?


Luke 13:10-13

Who did Jesus heal when his ear was cut off?

Luke 22:47-51

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus fed thousands of people from a few loaves and fish... not once but twice!

READ   
Matthew 14:13-21  
AND  
Matthew 15:32-39

In each story...  
How many loaves and how many fish did Jesus have?

How many people were fed?

How many baskets of broken pieces were left over?



DID YOU KNOW?

There are over

**37**

miracles of Jesus recorded in the Gospels.

How many of them do you know?

F A L S H B J O H E A L E D  
 I S T T W L W M I R A C L E  
 S P G O A I I D E A F A I M  
 H E A R T N N Y J I S S W O  
 C A L M E D E A D S I T A N  
 K K P A R A L Y S E D O L S  
 M U L T I P L I E D E U K T  
 J E S U S I C K E M U T E W

Find these words in the word search

JESUS • MIRACLE  
 DEAF • HEAR • BLIND • SEE  
 PARALYSED • WALK • SICK  
 HEALED • DEAD • RAISED  
 MUTE • SPEAK • DEMONS  
 CAST OUT • STORM  
 CALMED • WATER • WINE  
 FISH • MULTIPLIED



Hi Everyone

I can't believe it's July. Summer has arrived- holiday time. Yippee!

I expect you have plans to make the most of the summer whether you go away or spend time in and around our lovely area. Funny to think now how Whitehead was like a magnet attracting thousands of holiday makers in times gone by.

Enough musing - I have plans. I'm off to Washington DC to stay with Palisades until September. I'm so excited, more excited than him because he will be sorry to leave Whitehead and return home. But, as I said to him, all good things have to come to an end at some time.

We will miss you all when we are away but whatever you do, think of the word holiday. In olden days it was holy day. If you go away don't miss going to a church. There's usually one not far away and a change is good for the soul.

Happy Holiday and enjoy yourselves over the Summer.

Church Mouse and Palisades xx

# Recipe from the Rectory- Wheaten Bread - Shared by Frances Taylor

*“This is the easiest and tastiest Wheaten Bread recipe that I have ever baked. I started to follow ‘Cook with Norah’ on Facebook during the 1st lockdown. I have since bought all her wee recipe books filled with tried and tested recipes. Have a look on Facebook as she often puts her recipes up on her home page. She’s a good Dungannon woman so she knows how to cook! This is a regular bake in the Rectory.”*

- You may like to add in 2tbs Linwoods Healthfoods Cold Milled Flaxseed into the mixture for a change as it gives the bread a lovely texture and flavour as well as adding extra protein.

- Don't use liners for the loaf tin as the bit of butter used to grease the tins gives the crust a wonderful flavour. I put a dab of butter into each tin, put the tins in the oven for a few minutes until melted while waiting on the oven to heat up, then use a pastry brush to grease it around the tin. You can use less or none if you prefer and you can also leave out or add a little bit more sugar.

-If you don't have Soda Bread Flour, just use Plain Flour and add in half a tsp of salt. Soda Bread Flour has all the necessary raising agents added during the milling process for making our traditional breads.

- The whole mixture can go into a 2lb loaf tin but it will take a bit longer to cook, about an hour. I find the 2x1lb loaves handy as we eat one and freeze one.

## INGREDIENTS

**350g/12oz Coarse Wholemeal Flour**

**100g/4oz Soda Bread Flour**

**600ml/1pint Buttermilk**

**1 piled tsp Bicarbonate of Soda - sieved**

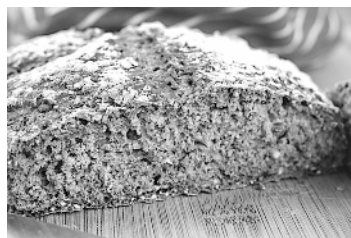
**25g/1/2oz Demerara Sugar**

**25g/1/2oz Butter – to melt and grease the insides of your tins**

**50g/2oz Pinhead Oats or Seed Mix (Optional)**

**2x 1lb non-stick Loaf Tins**

**Use PLAIN FLOUR if no Soda Bread Flour available. Add half tsp salt to the flour mixture.**



## METHOD

Put the Course Wholemeal and Soda Bread flour, sugar, bicarbonate of soda into a large mixing bowl. Gradually add the buttermilk and stir until you have a thick porridge like dough.

Split the mixture evenly between your already greased loaf tins and smooth out.

Sprinkle over your choice of pinhead oats or seed mix and pat down gently with your fingertips, this helps to prevent them falling off when you turn out the bread. You don't have to put any seeds on top if you prefer, just sprinkle over a little of the course wholemeal flour instead. It works just as well and gives the top of the bread a nice finish.

## COOKING TIMES

AGA – cook in the Roasting oven for the first 15/20 minutes on the right-hand side. Turning the bread around, remove to the Baking oven beneath the cool tray for a further 20/25 minutes. For a 2 oven Aga – cook in the Roasting oven on the right-hand side for 15/20 minutes, turn the bread around and add in your cool tray and cook for a further 20/25 minutes.

Fan/Gas Oven – pre heat your oven to 200C/Gas Mk6 and cook for 15/20 minutes. Reduce your temperature to 180C/Gas Mk4 and cook for a further 20/25 minutes.

When cooked, turn your bread out onto a cooling rack, the bread should have a hollow sound when you tap the base.

No 2 ovens are the same so timing and temperature may need adjusted to suit the needs of your own oven.

**Ed: Many thanks Frances for sharing this great recipe with us.**

## Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



# Grandma Alison

For 40 years I thought I had the best job in the world- I wasn't wrong I loved being with children, teaching alongside the most professional colleagues and in an excellent school. I eventually retired and very soon after I was offered an even better post- that of 'Nini' or 'Granny' to, first, my beloved granddaughter and eighteen months later, my darling grandson.



Ivy Alice Wilkin was born at 8:30pm on my 65th birthday. What a present that was! Caroline and Paddy will never better that gift in 2020! Ivy was born right in the middle of the pandemic. She was the little ray of sunshine in the midst of dark times. She was the one thing that made us smile each and every day. We laughed often at her facial expressions, we marvelled at her efforts of speech and when she walked we thought it a miracle.

Then one evening in September Bert and I were at home watching television when my son, Mark and his partner, Alexa arrived with very serious expressions on their faces. "Oh dear," I thought, "What's the matter? What can have happened? What have they done?" I was reached a folded page which was the twelve-week scan of my second grandchild. I was delighted with this good news. I just had to be patient now until March.

On the first day of Spring this year, the most handsome little boy came into our lives. Ollie George Higginson was a placid, happy little



lad. He ate and slept just like his Daddy. He has been another blessing sent to us.

Every evening before I go to sleep, I give thanks for the two little sweethearts who have come into our lives. Ollie melts my heart when he smiles at me. Ivy is learning to talk and each day I marvel at another phrase or word she has learned.

We're the most enthusiastic babysitters to both families- it's such a great job. I look at them both and see the future. I ask God to bless them and keep them safe and happy and healthy. Ivy and Ollie have good parents who will guide them and care for them.

Family is everything and I'm so grateful for the God given gifts I've been blessed with.

**Alison Higginson aka Granny or Nini.**



**Bert with Ollie and Ivy**



**Ivy**



**Ollie**

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# In praise of Our Rector:

A reflection from a parishioner.



Canon Taylor, Canon Mark , The Rector, or as I know him simply as Mark, I find to be one of the kindest people I know, but he always modestly shrugs off attempts to thank him with an ‘I’m only doing my job’ comment. No Mark – generally you go way beyond what is your job

I sometimes feel quite sorry for Mark because most of us have such high expectations of him. We probably judge him far more harshly than we would others - but I know he judges himself even more harshly, so for once, just let us think about the good things.....

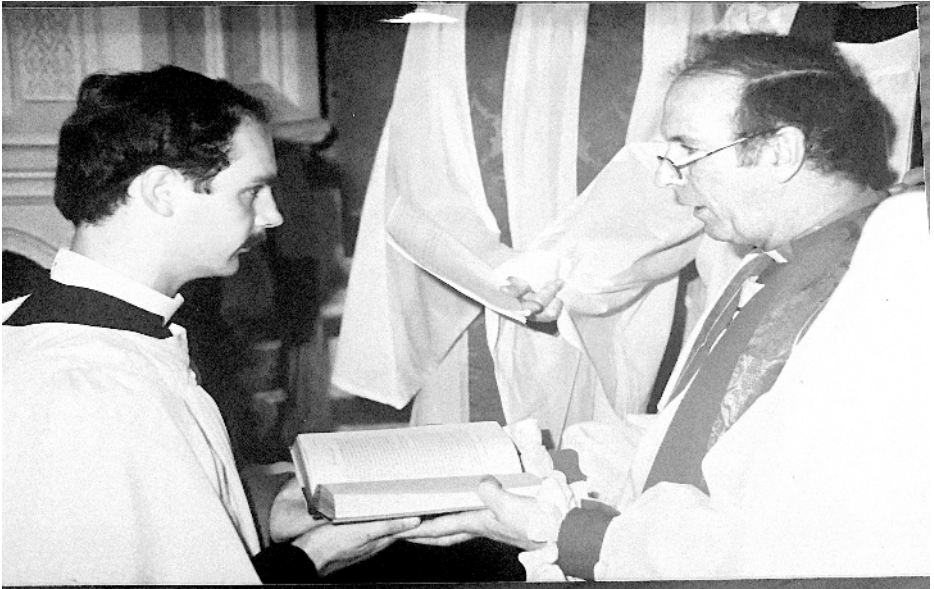
When I had a bereavement, I was told ‘Mark is brilliant at everything surrounding death!’ By this I understood that he would do a ‘good’ funeral service. Which he did – but it was more than that, much more. He was kindness personified and supported me and other family members so much, something for which I shall always be grateful.



In many respects I don’t have a lot of personal experience of other life milestones in church, christenings etc. but I’ve seen him in action with others. With families - he’s very ‘fatherly’ with the youngsters and always treats slightly older ones in a way deemed to be “age appropriate,” by not talking down to them. He is constantly thinking of ways in which to encourage people to participate in the life of the parish. With the

elderly he is kind and thoughtful - he is sensitive to what is required, should it be a prayer by a bedside, or a belly laugh over something vaguely ridiculous.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> June Mark will have been ordained 35 years (1986) – that’s a pretty good period of time to be in any job – only the parishes have changed. And believe it or not this August he will have been our Rector



in St Patrick’s and St Johns for 20 years!

**So, what do we know of this man apart from what we see on a Sunday?**

A side we don’t see but which I imagine would give us a much better understanding of him as a person is ‘Biker Mark’. I’m told this is now more for retirement as the bike needs work, but I can just imagine him clad in leathers roaring around Ireland, Frances clinging to his back.

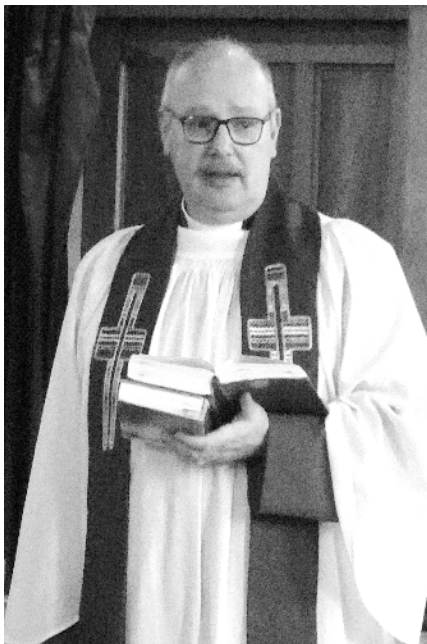
Another side is ‘Sports Mark’ – a side we do see sometimes, at least ‘Rugby Mark’ because he referees. I hear he is a very good, fair referee and it is a hobby that helps keep him fit, alert and is something completely different to his ‘day job’. As much as ministry is a vocation, those who minister also need to take care of their own physical and mental health, and what better way than something sporting.

What we probably don't appreciate enough though is that whatever activity Mark may have planned in his free time, ministry always comes first, so if there is something associated with the church that urgently requires his attention, then any other activity – family, sports, leisure activity – takes second place and we must be grateful to Mark's family that they understand this and let us have him even when they really would like him to be with them.

We take it for granted that Mark will be there when we need him. Writing this article has made me think – perhaps we all need to be there a little bit more when he needs us too. We become accustomed to the fact that 'it's what the Rector does' when in reality, things are changing so much we perhaps need to look for the things which we each can do to



support our Rector and our Parish.



Talking to a couple of people about Mark before writing this article reminded me that he is a great example of a good Christian person as well as a good Rector. I'm not sure I should be separating those two roles because one is the other but for the purpose of this, I am doing so.....whether kayaking, working with the British Legion or leading a service, what we are seeing is how a good Christian leads his life – with humility and humour, thoughtfulness and consideration, obvious love of Jesus Christ and his word and a willingness to welcome and treat all in the same way.

One of the things that is particularly but quietly impressive is his belief in inclusivity. He doesn't need to think about it – he just does it/lives it, it is part of the very fabric of the man. When he says (and I paraphrase) it doesn't matter where you come from, what you believe, who you love etc, you know he means it.

I know Mark is currently reflecting on Parish life post covid, as everything seems to be changing, which means whether we like it or not, parish life will also change. Inevitably some of these changes will not please everyone but, if we are willing to contribute, we can influence and be part of that change.

I don't believe we should stand by and say 'well that's the Rectors job,' then criticise his new ideas! The thing that hasn't changed of course is the love of God.

Looking to the future with our kind, thoughtful, committed Rector at the helm, we should perhaps take this opportunity to support Mark more in the work of helping our church and parish to grow and flourish, so that it continues to be a place where people can come to find the love of God for themselves.

By Christine Harpur.



**Editor: Forgive us embarrassing you Mark, but we felt it needed said!**

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# As a gay Christian, here's how I'm marking Pride

This July the Belfast Pride Parade will return to the streets of Belfast on Saturday 30th July. After a two year break this year's parade will mark the 30th anniversary since the parade first took place in the city to serve as: a protest and a celebration; to call out for equality; to stand for solidarity and to celebrate the lives of LGBTQ+ people in Northern Ireland.



*For David Bennett, a gay Christian living in Oxford, Gay Pride month is an opportunity for Christians to pursue humility.*

"I often struggle to celebrate pride because of the monoculture that surrounds it of glib commercialism, superficial activism, and theological ignorance. The emergence of homophobic Christian voices during Pride month is also a major downside. However, with all that's wrong with it there is so much that needs to be remembered and celebrated. The very fact I - a gay Christian - can write this article is one.

Someone recently asked me on social media 'What is being celebrated in Pride month?' My double-tongued response was, 'repentance from the sin of homophobia'. But it's true! Too often we forget how we really have been freed from atrocious sins.

The list of past homophobic sins includes electro-shock therapy, concentration-camp killings, lobotomies, social and economic discrimination, being locked in jail, hate-crimes and murders,

conversion therapy, police bashings and parental and familial rejection.

These realities are all symptoms of a world and church that hatefully rejected, in their pride, LGBTQI+ people. And we still live in that world. We still have churches that persecute and reject gay people who identify as Christian or want to assume leadership roles within the church, or that thinks simply changing scripture's ethic will solve the tough reality of being gay and Christian.

St Paul affirmed the ethics of first century Judaism, which included sex being designed for a monogamous marriage between a man and a woman, but in Romans 1-2 he was more concerned about the deeper sin of pride.

**For Paul, what was worse than the effects of the Fall, was the pride that makes us judge others.**

In Romans 2, Paul addresses those who were judging Gentiles (and gay people among them), and says "You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?"

For Paul, what was worse than the effects of the fall was the pride that makes us judge others - it reveals that we have unrepentant hearts. On Pride Month, we are called to ask for deliverance from this pride, which has motivated the heterosexual church to condemn and hate the LGBTQI+ community. Once that pride is dismantled a new conversation can open up

that will mean the Gospel can be heard again, and deeper discipleship can begin for all who claim Christ as Lord."

### **A Different Kind of Pride**

"This pride month I celebrate the pride of LGBTQI+ people who have come out and overcome great hurdles to accept themselves, and among them, an even braver group, who holding on to this right kind of pride, have committed to living for Christ and serving in the Church without denying the reality of being gay.

We can also celebrate the new and fledgling movement of young LG-BTQI+ people



who have decided that the harmful duality of 'church vs world', 'gay vs. straight', 'progressive vs. conservative' no longer works for them. They are tired of the pride that undergirds these dualities and have instead moved to try to find something more holistic.

In conclusion, this pride month let us remember all of those who strove to have the right to be honest and real about their sexuality and to throw off the oppressive effects of the wrong kind of pride that Jesus calls us to be delivered from."

*David Bennet is the author of A War of Loves, which describes his story from atheistic gay activism to becoming a follower of Jesus, in which he advocates for a positive moral vision of biblical sexuality and discipleship.*

# The Rainbow Flag

## A worldwide symbol of LGBTQ+ Pride

Arguably the most striking of any flag, the rainbow-coloured symbol has a history of its own. Although very well known, the flag was not always the emblem of the LGBTQ+ community. Before this version came the pink triangle, which had long symbolised the community.

However, the triangle had its origins in Nazi Germany when those whose sexuality did not conform with traditional ideas were forced to wear it. Therefore, although with a storied history as a symbol, people felt that something more positive was needed.

The rainbow flag was designed by Gilbert Baker and the original with eight different coloured stripes was first flown at a Pride March in 1978. However, due to fabric shortages, the hot pink and turquoise stripes were dropped resulting in the flag we see today: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple.

Each colour has a meaning: red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, blue for serenity and violet for spirit.



# The Difference By Daphne Kitching

So often  
I can't wear the right clothes,  
Speak the right words,  
Fit the right mould,  
Be the shape people want me  
to be,  
Expect me to be,  
Demand that I am,  
To conform.



But you Lord  
Accept me,  
Release me,  
Make it possible to be me,  
Perfectly free  
In your service,  
Open for you  
To transform.



# Those careless words

*By David Pickup, a solicitor, considers dangerous things to say*

*With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ...My brothers and sisters, this should not be. (James 3:9-10)*

Wise words from St James. He knew that it is easy to say the wrong thing and do a lot of damage. This happens in the home, at school or work or in church. Perhaps we sometimes think that people are too easily offended. 'Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words can never harm me.' Oh yes, they can!

Often a joke or what seems a light-hearted comment can do the most damage. Some places seem to attract a type of banter. I remember, with shame, some of the words that were used when I was at school to make fun of others. Comments about a person's private life, appearance, ethnicity, sexuality, age or disability are most likely to cause offence.

In some circumstances, what is said can amount to bullying or harassment. The Equality Act gives rights to protect people from discrimination and harassment. An employer could be legally responsible for banter that amounts to this, so if jokes or teasing goes on at work the victim could get compensation. Examples of comments which could be harassment or discrimination have included calling a person, 'gay', 'a cheeky monkey' or an 'oldie'. That is not to say every use of words like this is wrong. It is usually the context which is important.



**"That was a good sermon, Rector, but I'd have settled for a soundbite."**

What should the Christian do? We should be fair and not pre-judge people because of their appearance or make assumptions about them. We should gently challenge inappropriate language. We should not be abusive or offensive and be ready to apologise and forgive.

As always this is a very brief piece on a complex subject so if needed get professional advice.

# An interview with Doris Smyth

## of St Patrick's Church

*Doris is a familiar and well-loved member of our community at St Patrick's Church where she has served in the choir and worshipped for the past 14 years.*

*Her story was recently shared in 'Meapps Ageing Well Magazine', and I believe it is well worth retelling in this magazine too with a few additions .*

Doris was born in 1938 in Belfast and had an older sister Norma, who was also a beloved member of our congregation. Her father was an engineer and trained apprentices at Harland & Wolff in using lathes machines. Doris' mother was a weaver.



Doris and her family lived in North Belfast, and she was brought up Brethren. It was only much later in life that Doris found her way to the Church of Ireland via the Presbyterian Church. It was her love of singing that first took her to St John's Church, Whitehouse, where her sister Norma played the organ, and it was her who suggested Doris come to the services there. Soon after, Doris joined the choir there.

When Doris decided to move to Whitehead 14 years ago, she linked up with St Patrick's Church and joined the choir here as well as Whitehead Ladies Choir.

Returning to Doris' earlier life, she attended Belfast High School where she did very well and was selected to be head girl. When she had completed her final year at the school, she was still too young to start college, so chose to do an extra year at school. Ever anxious to excel in her studies, she worried she wouldn't secure a place at her chosen college and that she would end up without a job, which would be considered a disgrace. Since her father and elder sister were both working at Shorts at that time, she decided to apply for a job there.



Doris despite her anxiety at not being good enough, was considered a good candidate and offered a position working in Castlereagh, where the 'special products' were designed and made. Doris applied herself to the training she received and demonstrated a real aptitude to Mechanical Engineering, becoming the first woman in Northern Ireland to train in the subject at Belfast College of Technology.

For 10 years Doris worked on the design and development of airplane parts, guided missiles and the jacks operating the doors of ferries. Due to the top-secret and high security nature of this work, Doris had to sign the Official Secrets Act.



Doris recalls that as a woman she was treated with the greatest respect by the staff at the engineering workshops. On three occasions redundancies were announced. Women were often expected to give up their jobs in favour of the men. When Doris went to speak to her manager about if she should leave, she was told to stay as she 'worked better than the men'! Later however, after Doris married and

had her son Michael, she decided to leave her job at Shorts. (As an aside, Doris is very proud of her son Michael's achievements as a leading Scientist working in the UK)

During the 1980's she was invited to a flower arranging workshop. Rather than copying what other flower arrangers were displaying, Doris

felt inspired to learn more on the subject. She therefore enrolled on the City & Guilds Creative Studies Course and passed with a teaching qualification in 1989. Teaching flower arranging proved not only to be a pleasure to Doris, but also to the students she taught.

During the ‘troubles,’ many teachers were not willing to take classes in certain areas of Belfast and beyond, but Doris despite not having a car, had no such reservations and travelled all over the country, using the money from the classes to cover the cost of taxi journeys.

As time went on Doris increasingly started taking part in flower festivals and competitions as a member of Northern Ireland Flower Arranging Society. In 1992 she won her way through various competitions to be able to present ‘Northern Ireland’ at the ‘Chelsea Flower Show’, where she competed against floral artists from across the world.

More recently Doris has developed a health condition-Macular Degeneration and has been helping Queen’s University as a volunteer as they work towards developing new treatments for the condition.



Last year Doris shared that she went through a particularly stressful time in her life and acknowledges the importance of being able to share her concerns and to receive reassurances that enabled her to recover her confidence and belief in herself.

*Editor: Thank you Doris for sharing some of your amazing life story with us. You are a remarkable and very special person, and we are proud to call you our friend. God bless you always.*

# National ‘Don’t Step on a Bee Day’ 10<sup>th</sup> July

*Bees need your help. And we need their help.*

Not only do bees help provide the honey, propolis and beeswax, but they also help to keep us all fed and watered. Without bees, more than a third of everything we eat would disappear from our tables.

The majority of our honey here in the UK is imported (85%), but there are also many beekeepers on our doorstep\*. So why not visit a near-by farm shop or deli and enjoy the precious produce of local beekeepers for breakfast?

You can also help bees by planting wildflower seeds that will provide a food supply. Download the Great British Bee Count app created by Friends of the Earth which allows you to log the bees you spot out and about. This builds a picture of bee health and activity in the UK.

Finally, build a bee hotel! Bees need somewhere to rest when they venture out on their pollen mission. You can find a step-by-step guide here:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/04/how-to-build-a-bee-hotel/>

*Ed \*We are very fortunate to have a beekeeper in our own parish, so if you would like to find out more about Bees, Beekeeping or Honey speak to Bill Rafferty. In our September edition magazine we will have more about Bees from Bill.*



©ANDY ROBB

# Parish Announcements

The next Vestry meeting is Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September  
at 7.30pm in the Parochial Hall

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## **'GAME ON' - IS BACK by popular demand!**

Weds 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> July & 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> August from 2pm-  
3.30pm in the Boucher Room  
Bring your own mug for drinks  
and play games for the afternoon  
New members always welcome

---

## **Counters for July & August**

4 <sup>th</sup> July	Valerie Kincaid	8 <sup>th</sup> August	Colin de Fleury
11 <sup>th</sup> July	Bill Pollock	15 <sup>th</sup> August	Brian Moore
18 <sup>th</sup> July	David Robinson	22 <sup>nd</sup> August	Trevor Peoples
25 <sup>th</sup> July	Brian Joyce	29 <sup>th</sup> August	Bert Thompson
1 <sup>st</sup> August	Bill Rafferty	5 <sup>th</sup> September	Sandra Thompson

---

## **Sunday Refreshments Rota**

July every Sunday - St Patrick's -  
Priscilla Carlisle & Paddy Rodgers  
*All contributions in July will go to Brighter Whitehead*

Refreshments coordinator Priscilla Carlisle -Tel 07787561517



# 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!



CHANGING ATTITUDE  
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## July-August Fellowship Activities

### **Together in Faith-(Formerly The House Group)**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> August at 7.30pm

We meet in the Boucher Room,  
Parochial Hall at St Patrick's Church.

### **Book Club**

Weds 27<sup>th</sup> July @7.30pm Reading 'China Room' by Sunjeev Sahota

Weds 31<sup>st</sup> August -Book 'When all is said' by Anne Griffin

(Contact Paddy Rodgers tel 028 93372439 for venue )

### **NEW- Wednesday Fellowship Group** (Monthly)

Next meeting Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August at 11am in the Boucher  
Room

**Also Every Week the following 2 groups meet:**

***Circus Skills Class Tuesdays @ 10.30am - Parochial Hall***

***Indoor Bowling Club Tuesdays from 7pm - Parochial Hall***

**New people are welcome to join all of the activities listed.**

# Whitehead Christian Aid Week Collection 2022 Update

John Barnett from Whitehead has been telling us of his delight that the 2022 Christian Aid Week collection in Whitehead has once again done well this year.

John was able to share that the six churches in the town raised £2,981.93 this year, despite not carrying out a house-to-house collection. Instead, envelopes were distributed via the churches - either left on pews or enclosed with church magazines, and buckets were also left on the counter of the local Spar supermarket.



**In addition to the above collections, church members from the Methodist Church organised two additional fundraising efforts - an Art Sale in the new Whitehead Centre, whilst another member of the church did a sponsored fast. These two extra activities raised an additional £926, so that the overall total raised for Christian Aid in the area is £3,907.93**

## Many thanks to everyone who supported the appeal this year

John - who is a retired electrical engineer - has been the Christian Aid organiser in Whitehead since 2009.

Christian Aid are grateful to local co-coordinator John and to the members of all six churches who donated so generously.

**Church mice**

Karl Zorowski

**Pray for your  
RECTOR**



**Your Rector  
Prays for you**

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

## ***Dear Reader***

It's holiday time at last and hopefully whether you are going away or enjoying a 'staycation' the weather will be good and you will get to have some fun..

We have lots of news in this double edition of our magazine, not least the special news that our Rector has just celebrated the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination. Congratulations Mark! We give thanks to God for your calling and your life of faithful service: to Jesus Christ, our Church and the local community.

Hopefully, enclosed with this magazine you received a 'Talent Scheme sign up form' and I do hope you will feel encouraged to join in as we raise funds needed to refurbish the church organ at St Patrick's. We also plan to raise funds for local charity 'Women's Aid'. (See p6. for more details)

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed articles this month. Please keep sending in content and ideas for articles. I am still calling for grandparents to send in articles about yourself and your grandchildren for inclusion in the magazine, so we can continue to enjoy this series on being a grandparent. Do include any relevant photos. Time for a granddad to feature- Trevor, Austin, Jim,Bill,- what about it guys!

Our next magazine issue will come out in September.

***Stay well and God Bless***

# WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH

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

**Mobile: 07719 619286**

**George McNeill Diocesan Lay Reader**

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Website:

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

## CHURCHWARDENS

	St. Patrick's	St. John's
Rector's:	Jo Pawson	Pauline Riddle
People's:	Mabel Allen	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;    Bertnel Thompson;

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

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