

CHURCH MATTERS

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

Here everyone matters

September 2022



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

UNITED PARISH OF
WHITEHEAD & ISLANDMAGEE

Show
Us
YOUR
Talent

★★★★★

A black microphone on a stand, positioned to the right of the text. Two white eggs are placed on the surface behind the text, one on the left and one on the right.

And help us raise funds for two
great causes. See inside for details

WINTER COAT PROJECT

St Michael's & St Stephen's Church of Ireland churches in the Lower Shankill/Falls area in Belfast will be running a Winter Coat Project in October this year and would appreciate your support.

With the rising cost of living crisis having a big impact on family finances and a potential challenging winter ahead, we want to help families in our local communities in a practical way.

In the recently published 'On The Edge' client report, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) highlight that '65% of their clients could not afford weather appropriate clothing for themselves or their family'. This winter with increasing energy, food and fuel costs, many more families may be unable to purchase coats for themselves and their children.

What is the Winter Coat Project?

It's very simple. In partnership with our friends in Redeeming Our Communities (ROC NI), a local Christian organisation, and the Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincy at Queen's University (The Hub), we are providing pre-loved winter weather clothing to children and adults in our community free of charge. Yes it's good for the environment and helping those in need, but it's not a recycling or re-use scheme. The Winter Coat Project is about helping provide practical support in a dignified and respectful way. We hope to help all ages.

How you can help?

We will be collecting pre-loved coats which are in good condition and new or nearly new scarves, gloves and hats for all ages. Donations of items can be left in St Michael's Church Hall on Craven Street, Shankill Road, BT13 1JJ during daytime on weeks commencing 12th September and 19th September and on Monday and Thursday evenings up to 8.30pm in those weeks. If you prefer to gather items in your church or organisation we can also arrange to collect them. Contact Heather on 07955092898.

This is a great opportunity to show the love of Christ in a practical way and we would very much appreciate your support.

Many thanks

Heather Carson

Parish Development Officer

Church of Ireland in Lower Shankill

A message from our Rector

A huge thank you to all who were involved in the “great ambush” on Sunday 21st August. I was well aware that at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday 27th August I would be marking 20 years since I was instituted as Rector of Whitehead and Islandmagee. The surprise of it being celebrated a week earlier left me speechless - a very, very, rare thing indeed! Thank you all so much for the card and gift, which also remembered that it is 35 years since I was ordained as a minister. I was truly delighted and deeply touched to be asked to plant a tree, to commemorate these last 20 years of our life together as a Parish.



On a totally different note, we are all aware from the news of the ever increasing cost of living at present. The rising prices of heating fuel and electricity, as well as the rising costs of food. For many people it is going to be a difficult and expensive winter. The same rising costs of heating and lighting will also be affecting the Church. We don't normally turn the heating on until late September or October and it will probably be the same this year. The Select Vestry will be looking at these rising costs and trying to work out ways to mitigate against them. What ever they are able to come up with it will be an expensive winter for all of us

The rise in the cost of living will not just affect the cost of staying warm this winter. There will be people who may have to choose between buying heating fuel or electricity or buying food; basically between staying warm and eating. This is where the Whitehead Storehouse will make a big difference to people. Some people are in need now! If you can help it will be greatly appreciated. In the coming months we will try to get lists of the items that are most in need. But as always it will probably be non-perishable items with a long shelf life (a Best Before Date that is a long way off) that are most needed.

Some times it is can be as little as a single straw that breaks the camel's back. One relatively minor emergency, an simple accident, a breakage or a bill that is bigger than expected. These are some of the things we have managed in the past, but at this time could cause a huge financial problem for people as prices rise for every thing else. Every thing could go from being well to being a disaster in a moment.

At our Harvest Services this year we will make a collection for the Whitehead Storehouse, please be as generous as you would like others to be if you were the one suddenly, by no fault of your own, in need of the care and help of others.

COVID is still here, in a different way. It is becoming like the cold and flu that affects us each year. For some it is a minor inconvenience, for others it can be very debilitating, leaving them tired, unable to focus and concentrate and in general discomfort for a week or more. Please remember to take suitable and sensible precautions. Keep up with your hand hygiene, if you are feeling ill stay at home and do not mix with others, get fresh air and exercise every day. We are all responsible for our own health and also we carry a reasonable responsibility for the health and welfare of others who we are in regular contact with.

Remember we are a community that lives, worships and witnesses to the love of God together. Let us strengthen and uphold each other. Every blessing to you all as we draw near the end of the summer.

Mark

Thank you From Brighter Whitehead

[Below is the content of a card received by those who made and served the teas/coffees at the after Church Fellowship in St Patrick's]

Very many thanks for choosing Brighter Whitehead to receive donations from the after Church tea/coffee and goodies provided each Sunday during the Month of July 2022

The generous response of the parishioners of St Patrick's and St John's resulted in the magnificent sum of £211, for which we are extremely grateful. Your contribution towards the floral displays at St Patrick's, around Whitehead and at St John's is very much appreciated,

Bill Pollock

Chair

Brighter Whitehead

September Services & Readings

Sunday 4th September - Trinity 12

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12:00 noon. Holy Communion Two
Sunday Readings - Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:24-33
Readers for first Lesson - Heather Cupples / Ann Thompson
Weekday Readings: Job 22 - 38; Psalm 79 - 100; Acts 13:44 - 15:35

Sunday 11th September - Trinity 13

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Messy Church in the Parochial Hall
10:30 a.m. & 12:00 noon. Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; Luke 15:1-10
Readers for first Lesson - Bill Pollock / Jim Reid
Weekday Readings: Job 40 - 42, Esther 1 - 2; Psalms 101 - 113, Acts 15:36 - 17:34

Sunday 18th September - Trinity 14

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12:00 noon. Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - Jeremiah 8:18 - 9:1 Psalm 79:1-9; Luke 16:1-13
Readers for first Lesson - Jane Robinson / Bill Rafferty
Weekday Readings: Esther 3 - 8; Psalms 114 - 127; Acts 18:1 - 20:16

Sunday 25th September- Trinity 15

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12:00 noon. Family Service
Sunday Readings - Judges 13:1-5, 24;
Readers for first Lesson - Rector
Weekday Readings: Hosea 1:1 - 6:11a; Psalm 128 - 150; Acts 20:17 - 22:29

Sunday 2nd October - Trinity 16

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Harvest Thanksgiving - St Patrick's
Sunday Reading - Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Reader - Judith de Fleury
12:00 noon. Holy Communion Two
Sunday Reading 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Reader - Hazel Robinson

Time now to sign up for the Talents Scheme!

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. All very Biblical.

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 now invite you to join in our next 'Talents' Fundraiser which begins this month and finishes at the end of the year.

Austin Jenkins has kindly offered to be the main point of contact if you have an idea for raising funds. Or contact Sandra, - Church Treasurer. Contact details for both are on the back page.

We ask you now to get in touch and let us know what you have decided to do to raise some funds.

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 last months magazine. **Spare sign up forms available at the back of church.**

Everyone who signs up will be given £10 to invest in a fundraising project with the aim of multiplying this initial starter funding.

We look forward to hearing from you

Sandra Thompson - Church Treasurer

Talents Scheme Fundraiser

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

IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA YOU WANT PROMOTED IN NEXT MONTHS MAGAZINE CONTACT THE EDITOR

Lilyscape at Whitehead

NI Tourism Certified

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

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

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

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Lemon Drizzle Buns

A favourite recipe from Jane Robinson

Oven Fan 160 degrees

Ingredients

120 grams or 4oz Flora

120 grams Caster Sugar

2 Eggs

120 grams Self Raising Flour

Lemon Essence

For the Drizzle

The juice of a small lemon or half a big one.

Tablespoon of sugar.



Method

Cream together the margarine and caster sugar for two minutes. Add about half a teaspoonful of lemon essence. Add one egg and whisk in. Then add a little flour and the remaining egg. Fold in remaining flour and then divide mixture between twelve bun cases.

Cook until golden brown and just firm to the touch (about 15 minutes)

To make the drizzle - put the caster sugar and lemon juice into a small saucepan and heat until just boiling. Take off heat when the mixture turns syrupy.

Allow the buns to cool slightly and pour over syrup.

Ice buns if required with icing sugar and lemon juice.

Finish with a slice of glacé lemon.

Enjoy!

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt. 13:3-8, Mk 4:1-9, Lk 8:4-8

crowds of people now came to hear Jesus, so he used stories to teach them; those who really wanted to learn would work out the meaning.

A farmer went out to sow a field of corn.



Some seed fell on the path



and some on to rocks.

Some fell among thorn plants and

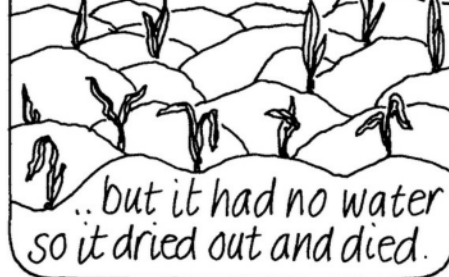


some fell on good soil.



The seed on the path was eaten by birds

The seed that fell on the rocks sprouted...



.. but it had no water so it dried out and died.

The seed that fell among the thorns grew well to start with,



then it was outgrown by the thorn plants.



But in the good soil the seed grew well and gave a fantastic harvest!

Jesus explained to his disciples what it meant.



Some people don't even listen to what he says.

For some it is the best thing ever!



But soon they move onto another 'best thing.'

Some listen gladly...



but then worries and busyness take over.

But some hear what Jesus says and learn from it,



and that makes all the difference!

s	f	i	e	l	d	z	t	b	f	e	e
p	a	t	h	m	o	i	l	i	w	q	c
r	n	b	m	s	m	i	e	r	a	u	w
o	t	c	e	y	o	a	g	d	t	w	r
u	a	q	z	s	u	w	r	s	e	e	d
t	s	m	i	a	t	e	e	n	r	s	j
e	t	n	b	l	g	v	w	r	k	r	s
d	i	f	f	e	r	e	n	c	e	t	f
c	c	z	z	a	o	r	o	m	n	h	d
b	u	e	h	r	w	r	r	a	h	o	z
e	a	t	e	n	n	a	l	c	o	r	n
s	w	p	u	k	f	p	d	g	r	n	g

seed

ever

corn

difference

thorn

sprouted

soil

water

outgrown

farmer

learn

rocks

birds

good

harvest

best

field

fantastic

path

sower

plants

grew

eaten

died

Lighthouse YARNS

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



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

Email enquiries to lighthouseyarns@yahoo.com

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McKee's Home Bakery



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

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

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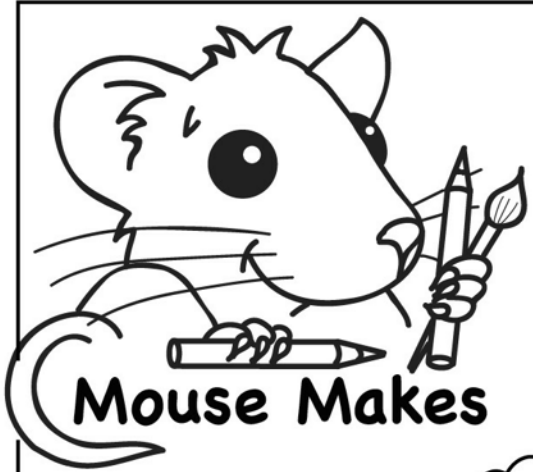
Tel : 028 9337 2429

Church Mice

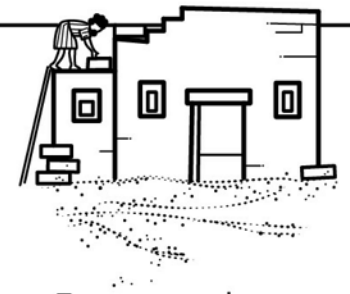
Karl Zorowski



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Everyone who hears Jesus' words and **does** them will be like a



Everyone who hears Jesus' words and does **not** do them will be like a

The _____ fell,
The floods came and the _____ blew.
Matthew 7:25



_____ man.
On what did he build his house?
Matthew 7:24

_____ man.
On what did he build his house?
Matthew 7:26

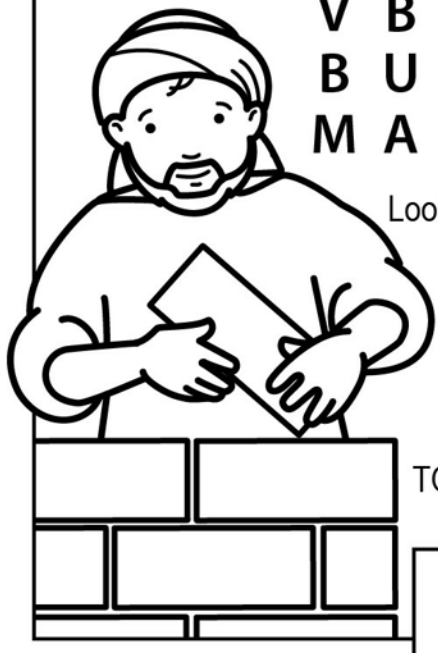

Matthew 7:24-27
and
Luke 6:46-49

What happened to the houses?
Read
Matthew 7:25 and 27

R J E S U S W I N D S D
O O W R H T O R R E N T
C R I V E R F E F S I L
K A S T A E O O L T S G
R I E D R A U W O R D S
U N A F I M N U O O U O
I G R O U N D G D Y G L
N S C O L L A P S E D I
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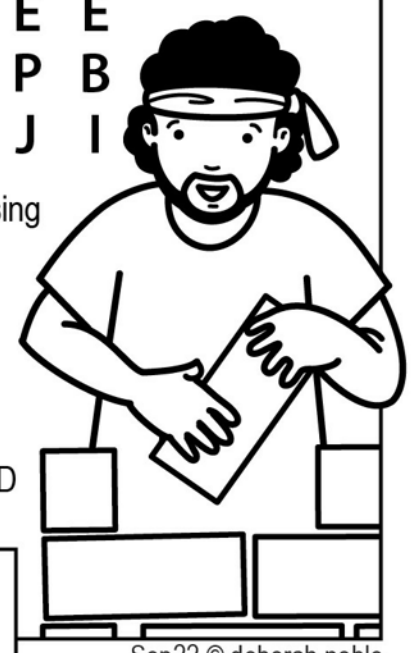
What was the reaction of the crowd to Jesus' teaching?
Read
Matthew 7:28-29



Look up the Bible references to find the missing words then look for them and the words below in the word search

JESUS • HEAR • LISTEN • WORDS
DOES • BUILT • FOUNDATION • MAN
DUG • DEEP • SOLID • GROUND
STREAM • RIVER • BURST • FLOODS
TORRENT • HOUSE • FELL • COLLAPSED
RUIN • DESTROYED

How many other words can you make from the word
F O U N D A T I O N S



A letter from our Church Mouse



Hi everyone

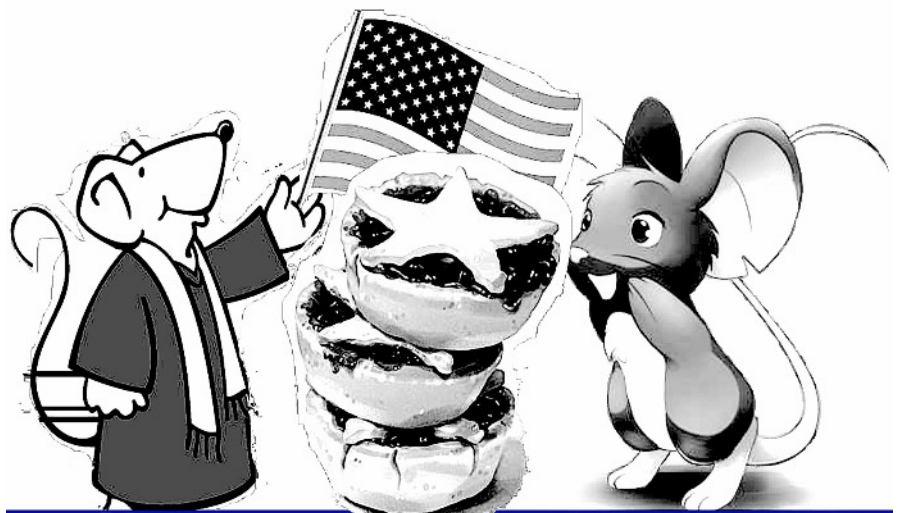
I'm back after a great holiday with Palisades in Washington DC. A whirlwind of new sights, great hospitality, and American food. We even got to celebrate 'Christmas' in St Patrick's Church with mince pies in the middle of summer! In fact, it was everything that a holiday should be!

Being away I missed you all of course. I was particularly sorry to have missed the pets' service at St Patrick's when our four-footed friends received a blessing. But I kept away as my presence would not have had a calming influence on the cats. Better safe than sorry!

It's great to know that everyone, whether they be human, or one of God's creatures like me, is welcome in our churches. This is inclusivity in practice.

I look forward to seeing you around!

Church Mouse. Xx



Pet Celebration and Blessing Service

On Sunday 7th August we opened St Patrick's Church to our first Pet's Blessing Service. When the idea was first put forward, we knew that similar services had worked well at Belfast Cathedral, so we felt we should have a go too.

Initial promotion of the service coincided with the July 12th holiday and as a result there was little interest shown. We then produced a flyer and posted it on Facebook. That's when things became a little hair raising, because the reach of our post went far beyond what is normal for our church. Instead of



CHURCH OF IRELAND
ST. PATRICK'S & ST. JOHN'S
UNITED PARISH OF WHITEHEAD & ISLANDAGEE

'Just like Vicar of Dibley but real!'

**A CELEBRATION
& BLESSING OF PETS
Led by Reverend Mark Taylor**

**This Sunday 7th August at 3pm
At St Patrick's Church of Ireland
Victoria Avenue, Whitehead**

All pets are welcome just bring your people with you!

reaching perhaps 500-600 people. The post became viral and within 24 hours had reached 11,000. By the next day it had risen to 15,000 and by the day of the service 20,000 people had seen the service notice. Our Rector was stoic on the matter and said, "Logistically if 1% of those reached on Facebook attend, then we will not be able to fit them in our church. But never worry we will simply take the service outdoors!"

The church was made ready for the unknown number of visitors with pets. Cushions were removed from pews and emergency clean-up materials were placed strategically for Valerie K. to access. This was a selfless act on her part to volunteer for this particular job!

And just like the episode from BBC's 'Vicar of Dibley,' pets and owners started to arrive at St Patricks to a warm welcome. The loudest dog was also one of the smallest! Cats were separated from the dogs, whilst still retaining an inclusive spirit to the service of course.

It was evident the visitors were almost as excited as their pets as they adjusted to the environment of the church. Without exception all the animals were extremely well behaved, and Mark our Rector was able to conduct the entire service without hardly any interruptions. Hymns were sung with Loreto our organist getting everyone to join in, and then there was a prayer and some words of blessing for pets and owners alike to conclude the service.

Following the success of our first Pets Service we definitely plan to hold more in the future.

Jo Pawson



Real life extracts from church notices that didn't come out quite right...

- * *Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING Conference:* The cost for attending the Prayer & Fasting conference includes meals.
- * *Report in a church magazine:* Miss Charlene Mason sang *I will not pass this way again*, giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- * *From a pew-sheet:* Ladies, don't forget the jumble sale. Now's your chance to get rid of all those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.
- * *From a pew-sheet:* The sermon this morning is entitled 'Jesus Walks on the Water'. The sermon tonight will be: 'Searching for Jesus'.
- * *From a pew-sheet:* Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. Do go along if you can sing at all. They need all the help they can get.
- * *From an announcement:* Sadly, Barbara remains in the hospital. She is having trouble sleeping, and so has requested tapes of the minister's sermons.

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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Riddle How many times does the letter 'A' appear in the numbers from one to 99 when they are spelled out? **Answer on p. 29**

A service for pets?

By Sandra Thompson



Like many, a smile came to my face when the service for pets was announced. I thought, "They are really pushing to get attendance up in church". Perhaps many of you thought the same. Then, a few weeks back, my little dog, Mollie, of 14 years old died. I hadn't really fully understood just how much I would miss her or how much of my day was taken up with ensuring that she was well looked after.

God created all the animals of this world and when you look at some, you might think that He also has a great sense of humour! But why did he put man in charge? What do we humans learn from animals?

1. You gain love and admiration from your pet. Particularly a dog, is always pleased to see you.
2. You learn about the temporary nature of life from a pet. They have shorter lives than us, and particularly for children, we learn about death.
3. As you get to know your pet, they become individuals and you start to know what they like and what worries them. Perhaps we could do well to take that experience into working with our neighbours!
4. When you are looking after a pet, you are not thinking about yourself. As anyone knows, who has cared for an older pet, the love you give to them makes you feel better.
5. In fact, on some level, caring for a pet is putting love into action. Maybe that was what God intended.

And so I was very upset when I couldn't bring Mollie to church. She had already gone from my life, and I was very sad. But I did attend with my friend's dog, who behaved very well! What I learned was that our pets are very important to us. To have a church service that recognises this area of God's provision is good for us. It's good to say thank you to our heavenly Father.

“I’m going to continue cheering for the Lionesses and thanking God he created us equal

By Rosie Woodbridge



The recent winning performance of the England football team at Euro 2022 has undoubtedly helped to change the game for women’s sport. But win or lose, our sporting talents are a gift from God. Male or female, we should use them for his glory, says Rosie Woodbridge

The 2-1 win by England over Germany in the Euro final, was a defining moment for women’s sport with attendance and viewing figures for the tournament breaking all records.



Football is traditionally seen as a men’s game in the UK. For the women who do play, there has not been anywhere near the same level of investment, coaching, visibility or pay. The opportunities available to women has always fallen far short of those available to men.

But things are now starting to change.

The Women’s Super League (WSL) turned professional in 2018 and is now televised by BBC and Sky Sports. Female footballers are becoming

household names, proudly displayed on the back of replica shirts. Sam Kerr now stars on the front cover of the FIFA 23 video game, and Lucy Bronze features alongside Messi, Ronaldinho and Pogba in TV adverts. The USA men's and women's teams now get equal pay.

DARING TO DREAM

What impact will this have on future generations? Northern Ireland player, Simone Magill, used the phrase: "If you can't see it, you can't be it." This has, historically, been the case with women's football.

I have always loved watching men's football. But watching women play is different: I can connect with it; it is relatable. As I watch the skill, athleticism, technique and mental resilience of female players, I feel as if I am on this journey with



them. These women inspire me to get my own boots on far more than watching men's football ever has.

AS YOU RUN, JUMP, DEFEND OR SCORE, YOU ARE LIVING OUT THE VERY IMAGE OF GOD

The hope is that many women and girls will be similarly inspired. FIFA are aiming for 60 million women and girls to be playing by 2026. When I was growing up, the idea of being a professional footballer was not an option (and not just because of my lack of skill!) But it's different now. There is a pathway; there is opportunity. They can dare to dream.

While there is still plenty of criticism around, millions of people are celebrating the growth of women's football and will continue to fight for something closer to equality.

BORN TO PLAY

This growing movement towards equality actually finds its roots in the Bible. In fact, it could be argued that the Bible gives us the best foundation for encouraging female sports players. In the very first pages of the Bible, we see the immense creativity of God displayed, as he brings the universe - in all its diversity and wonder - into being. This reaches its climax with the creation of human beings.

It says in **Genesis 1:27**: “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

This tells us that *both* men *and* women are created in the image of God. This is the greatest stamp of approval possible; a declaration that human beings are of infinite value and worth - both male and female. Equal.

It tells us that both men and women can reflect the creativity of the creator God who made them in his image. Humans are given bodies, with gifts and talents to use and cultivate for his glory. This includes the ability to play sport.

If you have the ability to run, jump, tackle, defend, pass or score... as you use those talents, you are living out the very image of God. You - male or female - are born to play. Creation tells us that women matter to God. He does not see them as less worthy than men, or less able to get on the pitch and use the gifts he has given us. When you score or if you miss. . Every tackle and every time you get beaten. Every victory or defeat. Whether you're playing professionally or with your friends in the park.

Go and play. You're born to do it. Go and live out the image of God, and know that, as you play for his glory, he is smiling down on you. be inspired by the Lionesses and watch the incredible skill and talent of these gifted players. But more than that, look beyond, to the magnificent, creative God who gave these women the gifts, talents, and opportunities to be where they are now. And praise him for it.

Rosie Woodbridge writes occasionally for Christians in Sport. She is an ultimate frisbee player and is at St Mary's Basingstoke with her husband Tom and young daughter.

REFUGEES

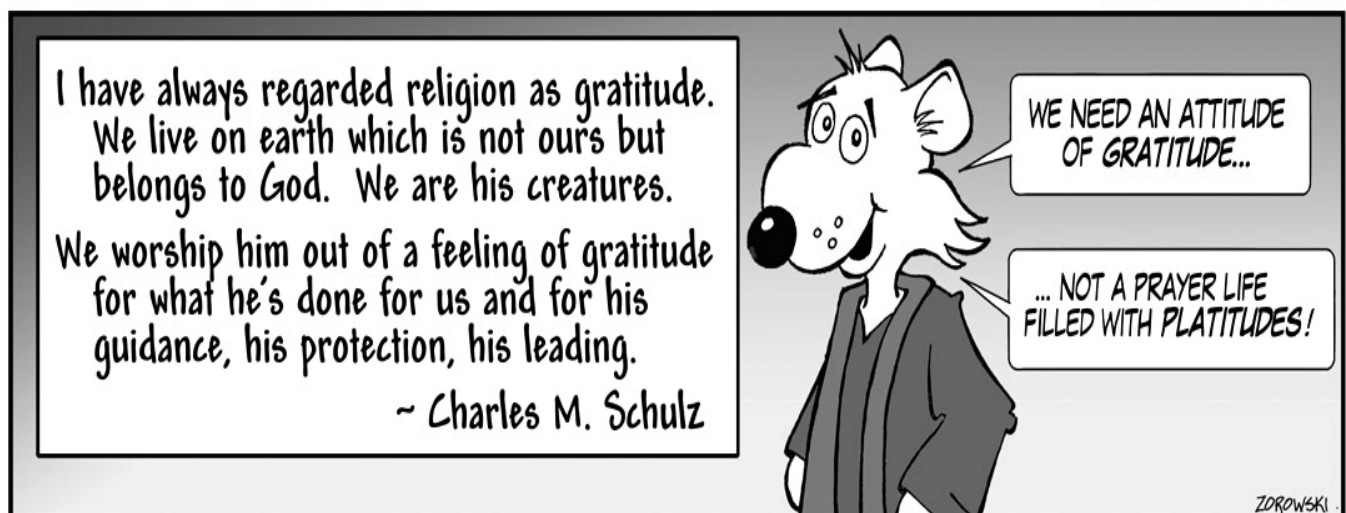
They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way

(now read from bottom to top)

Brian Bilston

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



How to be happy by Pope Francis

It may be that he can no longer stand on his feet and suffering has shaped his character, but this speech by Pope Francis a few weeks ago is simply AMAZING!

"You can have flaws, be anxious and even be angry, but do not forget that your life is the greatest enterprise in the world. Only you can stop it from failing. You are appreciated, admired and loved by so many. Remember that being happy is not having a sky without storm, a road without accidents, a job without effort, a relationship without disappointments".

"To be happy means to find strength in forgiveness, hope in battles, security in fear, love in discord. It's not only to enjoy the smile, but also to reflect on the sadness. It's not just about celebrating success; it's about learning from failures. It's not just about feeling happy with applause, it's about being happy in anonymous. Being happy is not a fatality of fate, but an achievement for those who can travel within themselves."

"To be happy is to stop feeling like a victim and become the author of your own fate." It's walking through deserts but being able to find an oasis deep in the soul. Is thanking God every morning for the miracle of life. Being happy is not being afraid of your feelings and being able to talk about yourself. Have the courage to hear a "no" and find confidence in criticism, even when it's unwarranted. It's kissing your children, cuddling your parents, having poetic moments with your friends, even when they hurt us".

"Being happy is letting the creature that lives in each of us live, free, joyful and simple. You have the maturity to be able to say: "I've made mistakes". It's having the courage to say I'm sorry. It's having the sense to say, "I need you". Is having the ability to say "I love you". May your life become a garden of opportunities for happiness... that in spring he maybe a lover of joy and in winter a lover of wisdom".

"And when you make a mistake, start over. Because only then will you be in love with life. You'll discover that being happy isn't having a perfect life. But use tears to irrigate tolerance. Use your defeats to train your patience".

"Use your mistakes with the serenity of the sculptor. Use pain to tune into pleasure. Use obstacles to open the windows of intelligence. Never give up ... Above all never give up on the people that love you. Never give up on being happy because life is an incredible spectacle."

POPE FRANCIS

Harvest Changes - Food for Thought

The word 'harvest' is from the Anglo-Saxon haerfest, which simply means autumn. But when does the ripening and decay of autumn occur? The autumn equinox this year will be on September 25th. but, as I write this in mid-August, harvesting has already been completed in most of the UK. This hot summer, many fields were cut before the end of July.

Harvest was a lengthy period in the old days, when Robert Hawker, the revolutionary vicar of Morwenstow in Cornwall, initiated the first Harvest Thanksgiving in 1843. Its completion was marked by Michaelmas quarter day (September 29th) when harvest payments and arrangements were finalised. And this Cornish Harvest Thanksgiving took place on the Sunday nearest the autumn equinox, which this year is September 25th.

August 1st is Lammass. The name comes from another Anglo-Saxon word, meaning Loaf Mass. In the early English church this was a kind of harvest festival, when loaves of bread made from the new grain were consecrated. Their harvest was just starting at a time when today we have almost finished bringing it in.

Aren't we often remarking how the seasons have changed? What we eat nowadays is not so determined by the seasons. We are fortunate to have an abundant supply of food all year round. When is it most appropriate to give thanks for it?

Whitehead holds a Foodfest in August, which does seem to be coinciding with the modern agricultural harvest season. Would it be a good idea to hold our churches' Harvest thanksgiving services at the same time? What do you think?



Kindly contributed by George McNeill

God in the Arts - 'Tis the gift to be simple

The Rev Michael Burgess considers God in the Arts with a look at 'Dust Motes Dancing in Sunbeams' by Vilhelm Hammershøi. It is found in Ordrupgaard, Copenhagen.

Have you ever read a book by Robin Meyers, 'Morning Sun on a White Piano'? It is subtitled 'simple pleasures and the sacramental life.' Its theme is that we can easily pass life by, as we search for it. We shun the 'ordinary' and the simple in pursuit of more worthwhile endeavours because we equate the 'ordinary' with the mundane and unrewarding.

The Shaker melody 'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free' is the origin of the popular hymn 'The Lord of the Dance.' It says: Look closely at the simple things of life and find in them depth and divinity. The 17th century Dutch artist Vermeer created masterpieces out of the ordinary – a woman reading a letter or pouring water into a basin. Critics have described his work as 'the timeless contemplation of the ordinary.'

Over 200 years later, a Danish artist found his inspiration in that same world of the simple and the ordinary: Vilhelm Hammershøi. He lived a reclusive life in Copenhagen with his wife, painting only a few pictures a year. Hammershøi died of throat cancer in 1916 at only 52 years. The theme of most of his paintings is limited to the world of his apartment at different times of the day and night.

His painting, 'Dust Motes Dancing in Sunbeams,' was painted in 1900. We are shown quite simply an empty room with a wall, a window, a floor and a door. There is no handle on the door. All is stillness and peace. And all is shadow until the winter sun streams into the room, catching in its rays the dust and lighting up the floor. It is the miracle of sunlight bringing life into the stillness. An ordinary aspect of creation, but lighting up a room and bringing wonder in its wake. One critic has called it 'a hymn to an everyday marvel.'

In this and in all of his paintings, Hammershøi seems to be saying: Accept the simplicity of the present, find beauty there and live in that beauty. For him the grass is never greener in the next field – it is here and now in the world we have that we find beauty and meaning.



John Keble's hymn 'New ev'ry morning is the love' says that 'the trivial round, the common task will furnish all we need to ask.' The artist is echoing that truth on canvas, telling us that the ordinary and common things of everyday life can provide the backcloth against which we can live and act.

When we are young, that backcloth stretches out to embrace the wider world

and time: it is full of potential and promise. As we grow older, that world shrinks to our home, our church, our town. If illness comes, our world may be the bedroom or the hospital ward. In that smaller world life can seem trivial and ordinary. But wherever we are, Hammershøi invites us to pause, to ponder and to find there beauty and light which will bring us 'daily nearer God.'

The Rectory
St James the Least

On how to save electricity in church

My dear Nephew Darren

Your church certainly seems to have taken to the idea of green electricity with a vengeance. To have covered the whole of your roof with solar panels was a brave move, and it makes quite a sight – especially when the sun catches them, dazzling motorists on the by-pass. I pity the local pigeons too, who try to land on it and then do a gentle slide into the gutters.



I know there have been objections to your proposal to erect a wind turbine in your car park – although no one could claim that it spoils the aesthetic appearance of your church. Nothing, my dear Darren, could do that.

May I humbly offer you some further suggestions for reducing your electricity consumption. If you cut your sermons by half, then everyone could go home 20 minutes earlier. Similarly, if you only sang each chorus once instead of your customary 17 times, that should cut your service times in half. And why have lighting so good that everyone can see everyone else? That is the last thing our own congregation ever want to do.

I raised the issue at our last church vestry meeting, but having only recently gone on to electricity, there seemed little enthusiasm for yet more change. Major Hastings still fondly remembers our old acetylene plant in the churchyard, destroyed during one Mattins when the verger lit up a cigarette, unawares of the gas leak!

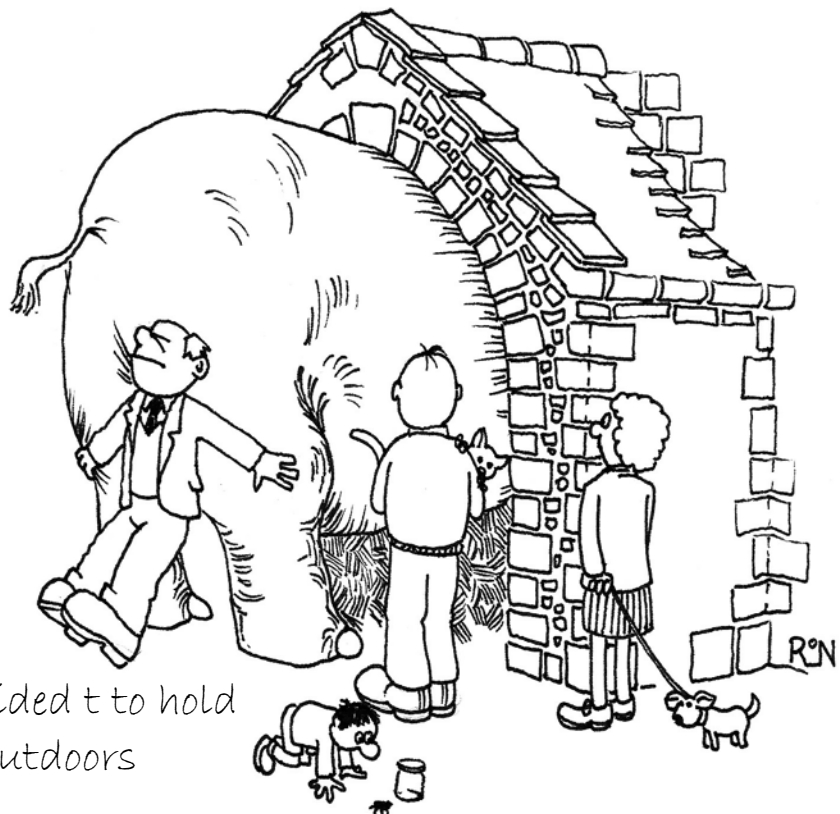
Mr Prentice, with a slightly malicious gleam, suggested building a treadmill, to be worked by the Young Farmers – which would also keep them out of the pub while Evensong was taking place. I couldn't help feeling that our Ladies Group would have far more determination to keep the thing rotating – probably providing enough energy to light the entire

County. I was tempted to suggest we invite the vicar from our adjoining parish, St Agatha's, to preach every Sunday, as that would fill our church with more than enough hot air.

I finally stopped all further discussion on the subject when a solar panel consultant arrived at the Rectory and began his sales pitch with the phrase: "I've come to convert you".

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



Eventually they decided to hold the pet service outdoors

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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Riddle Answer How many times does the letter 'A' appear in the numbers from one to 99 when they are spelled out? Answer: 0 (Zero)

Dare to be counted?

In July I decided to go and see the Pride Parade that took place in Belfast and was amazed at the crowds of people who gathered on both sides of the road to get a better view of the floats and participants. On Royal Avenue the crowds were six deep in places, not unlike similar ones I had witnessed in London for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

I watched with interest as the procession went by, from my vantage point on High Street. It was good to see so many organisations and mainstream companies participating and supporting the rights of LGBTQI+ people.

The procession was made up of numerous floats decorated in bright rainbow colours followed by groups of staff and volunteers also wearing bright t-shirts. Lots of big names were represented like Translink, Tesco, M&S, The NI Fire Service, Queens University, GAA & Rugby teams, PSNI, Danske Bank, and some Christian groups including— St George's Parish Church Belfast; St Gall's Parish Church, Bangor; Harbour Faith Community, Carrickfergus; and All Souls Church, Belfast

When I saw a group pass by with a banner saying, 'Christians at Pride,' I felt that I should not remain on the side lines as an observer, but rather add my support to those brave enough to stand and be counted. I joined the parade and walked with some fellow Anglicans, and there were many from a lot of different churches. They were not all members of the LGBTQI+ community, but they all felt passionately that LGBTQI+ people should not be discriminated against in the church or community and were there to lend their support.



As we headed down High Street towards Castle Place and Donegal Place, I was struck by the encouragement our small group of 'Christians at Pride' was receiving. People on the side-lines were clapping as we went by and smiling at us. Such a show of encouragement from the bystanders was unexpected but gladly received. Then as we approached City Hall, hidden behind the massive crowd I could see a number of placards being held aloft in defiance of all this joyful celebration of human diversity. For here were to be found some of those of the Christian faith groups who oppose and refuse to accept this diversity is part of God's creation.

Strangely they were, at that time, not the only Christians who were rejecting same sex marriage.

Over the summer the Lambeth Conference was taking place. It is a major event in the church calendar, only taking place every ten years. Archbishops and Bishops from around the world attend with the purpose of strengthening ties of Anglican Fellowship and to consider and discuss important issues that face the Church globally.

The topics for discussion that would attract the most publicity you would imagine would be the terrible wars in Ukraine and Yemen; climate change; global poverty; human trafficking; modern day slavery and what the church can do to respond to all these major issues. But what generated considerable and unwanted publicity was the Anglican Church's stance on same sex marriage. *At the heart of the matter was a 1998 resolution known as Lambeth I.10, part of which reaffirms the traditional Anglican view of marriage being between one man and one woman in a lifelong union.*



The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, commented that Lambeth I.10, was "not in doubt" but indicated churches that already allow same sex marriages would not be sanctioned by or excluded from the Anglican Communion.

What does Lambeth I.10 say? In 1998, the conference made a resolution that is rather lengthy, and is often reduced to a rejection of homosexual practice as incompatible with Scripture and “cannot advise the legitimising or blessing of same sex unions nor ordaining those involved in same gender unions”; [The full resolution can be found by an internet search for Lambeth I.10 and I advise reading it.]

But the resolution also called on the Church to recognise and learn from the experiences of homosexual persons and “that all baptised, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ;” and that there needs to be full pastoral care and sensitivity for all, regardless of sexuality and that the church needs “to condemn irrational fear of homosexuals, violence within marriage and any trivialization and commercialisation of sex;”.

Some countries have not followed the ‘advice’ of Lambeth I.10, that the Anglican Communion “cannot advise the legitimising or blessing of same sex unions”. Canada, Brazil, South Africa, the United States and New Zealand “welcomed same sex union/marriage, after careful theological reflection and a process of reception,” Thus same sex marriages can happen in some Anglican churches and those ministers can bless these unions.

However, the Church of England and Church of Ireland have not passed legislation to permit ministers to conduct these ceremonies and have followed the advice of Lambeth I.10 regarding ordination.

At the 2022 Lambeth Conference there were signs that views expressed were changing. Out of the 600+ delegates (Archbishops and Bishops of the Anglican Communion), 170 signed a public statement that they remained committed to working with other members of the Communion to find a workable compromise to affirm and celebrate LGBT+ people. Below is the key section of the statement they signed their names to:

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” - John 13:34

God is Love! This love revealed by Jesus, described in the Scriptures and proclaimed by the Church, is Good News for all - without exception. That is why we believe that LGBT+ people are a precious part of God’s creation - for each of us is ‘fearfully and wonderfully made’ (Psalm 139:14), and all are equally loved.

We recognise that many LGBT+ people have historically been wounded by the Church and particularly hurt by the events of the last few weeks. We wish to affirm the holiness of their love wherever it is found in committed relationships.

We therefore commit to working with our siblings across the Communion to listen to their stories and understand their contexts, which vary greatly. However, we will never shy away from tackling discrimination and prejudice against those of differing sexualities and gender identities.

Together, we will speak healing and hope to our broken world and look forward to the day when all may feel truly welcomed, valued and affirmed.

Patience and much prayer, to understand God's will, shall be required by all parties if we are ever to see a resolution to this rather contentious and divisive issue within the church.

We are blessed that a spirit of loving inclusivity exists in this parish, and we should make every effort to ensure it continues to shine brightly for others to see and be helped by it, as I have.

Jo Pawson

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SERVICE IN ST PATRICK'S
AND BEFORE THE SERVICE IN ST JOHN'S

A welcome cuppa and chat after/before the morning service on Sundays.

Welcoming refreshments are now being served after/before the church services in St Patrick's and St John's on Sunday mornings. This provides everyone attending church with a great opportunity for fellowship. So thank you to all those who so generously give of their time and talents in making this possible. It's much appreciated! And thank you for your donations!

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Parish Announcements

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

'GAME ON' - IS BACK by popular demand!

Weds 7th & 21st September 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 September

5th Sept Sandra Thompson

12th Sept Valerie Kincaid

19th Sept Bill Pollock

26th Sept David Robinson

3rd October Brian Joyce

Sunday Refreshments Rota

Sunday 4th Sept Priscilla Carlisle

11th Sept Messy Church

18th Sept Evelyn Powers

25th Sept Judith de Fleury

1st October Alison Higginson

Refreshments coordinator Priscilla Carlisle -Tel 07787561517

September Fellowship Activities

Together in Faith-(Formerly The House Group)

Monday 12th & 26th September at 7.30pm

We are commencing a 4 part study of the Book of Ruth led by Sandra Thompson

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

Book Club

Weds 28th September @7.30pm Reading 'All the Beggars Riding By' by Lucy Caldwell

(Contact Paddy Rodgers tel 028 93372439 for venue)

Wednesday Morning Fellowship Group

(Monthly)

Wednesday 7th September at 11am in the Boucher Room.

New members welcome.

We start with refreshments and fellowship . The theme this month: 'Why does God allows bad things to happen?'

Also Every Week the following 2 groups meet in the Parochial Hall

Circus Skills Class Tuesdays @ 10.30am - 12 noon

Indoor Bowling Club Tuesdays from 7pm

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

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
IRELAND

Reflected Faith: the grandeur of God

Do you understand the mysteries of God? Who is He? What is He up to? If Jesus's disciples who were with Him daily for years had trouble understanding Him, what expectation is there that you and I will?

We get glimpses of Him – through new life, through nature, in creativity, music and dance and so on – but none of us truly sees every part of Him. St Paul himself wrote that “now we see through a glass darkly”.

So how do we try to express the grandeur of God? In the Old Testament, Isaiah 6:1, the prophet wrote, ‘In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of His robe filled the temple.’

I love that picture, it makes me think of brides on their wedding day who have a full skirt and train, and the help they need from their bridesmaids just to get in and out of the wedding car let alone anything else they need to do.

Architects and builders over the centuries have used the church building to illustrate aspects of God and to share their faith.

This month, if you are able, visit St Patrick's Church here in Whitehead or go to a larger church building like St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast and spend some time there when there is no service taking place. As you go into the building, quickly stop and just look around you. 'Feel' the space surrounding and above you. The distance between you and the ceiling or roof.

Stop for a while in the area where the congregation sit – the nave – taken from the Latin word *navis* meaning ‘ship’. This is because when they were built, largely in the Middle Ages, the people thought a nave looked like the bottom part of a ship turned upside-down. This reminded them also of the story of God saving His creation at the time of the flood by using the Ark. What does this space say to you about the mysteries of God?

By The Revd Dr Jo White

FROM THE **EDITOR'S DESK**

Dear Reader

Welcome back after what I hope was a good summer for you. I had an exciting holiday planned to Austria with others from our church to see the Oberammergau Passion Play. However life is full of uncertainties, and things didn't go to plan for meI was gutted to discover on arrival in Austria that I had developed covid symptoms This meant I had to isolate for the rest of the week in my hotel room!.

Eventually my partner and I were able to resume our holiday albeit without our tour group and following our own personalised itinerary. Thankfully we were able to get to Oberammergau a week later to enjoy this amazing production of the passion story. In next months magazine I hope to include a write up from one of our church members who was also on the tour.

This month sees the launch of our Church Talent Scheme, so please do get signed up now to help us raise funds for two great causes. Details on page 6.

Don't forget it's Harvest next month so start gathering non perishable food stuffs for us to donate to Whitehead Food Bank. Perhaps more than ever this is a lifeline to local individuals and families who are struggling with the steep rise in the cost of living and trying to make ends meet!

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.

Finally do look out for the new benches arriving soon at St John's, thanks to a number of generous donors. More on this next month.

Stay well and God Bless

WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH

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