

CHURCH MATTERS

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

Here everyone matters

April 2023



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

UNITED PARISH OF
WHITEHEAD & ISLANDMAGEE

blessed 
Easter

Here's to an Easter
spent remembering
what the holiday
is really about:

*Peace,
Forgiveness,
and the Gift of
Jesus*



April Services & Readings

Our Holy Week evening Services will be at 7:30 p.m. in St Patrick's
Come and share with us as we worship together and read from the story
of Jesus last week on earth. We will be reading from, and learning from,
St Luke's story of Jesus last days - to be found in the Gospel According
to St Luke chapters 21-23.

Monday 3rd Irish Vigils

Luke 21:1-4 - The widow's Offering

Tuesday 4th - Compline

Luke 21:5-37 - Signs of the end of the age

Wednesday 5th The Litany

Luke 22:1-6 - Judas agrees to betray Jesus

Thursday 6th Holy Communion

Luke 22:7-53 - The Last Supper and Jesus Arrested,

Friday 7th The Three Hours

Luke 22:54-62 - Peter disowns Jesus,

Luke 22:63-65 - Guards mock Jesus,

Luke 22:66-23:1 - Jesus before the Sanhedrin,

Luke 23:2-7 - Jesus before Pilate,

Luke 23:8-12 - Jesus before Herod,

Luke 23:13-25 - Jesus before Pilate,

Luke 23:26-49 - Jesus Crucified.

Friday 7th - Late Evening Office

Luke 23:50-56 - Jesus Burial

Sunday 9th April - EASTER DAY

6:30 a.m. Dawn Service at the Castlevew Car Park, Whitehead

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One

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

Sunday Readings - Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18

Readers for first Lesson - Colin de Fleury / Maureen Reid

7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/Compline

Weekday Readings: Jonah; Psalms 21-32; John 14:1 - 16:33

Sunday 16th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Morning Prayer
Sunday Readings - Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16, John 20:19-31
Readers for first Lesson - Bobby Herron / Ann Thompson
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/Compline
Weekday Readings: Daniel 1:1 - 4:3, Psalms 33 - 40; John 17:1-26, Luke 3:1 - 4:13

Sunday 23rd April - 3rd Sunday of Easter

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Family Service
Sunday Readings - Luke 24:13-35
Reader for Lesson - The Rector
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/Compline
Weekday Readings: Daniel 4:4 - 6:28; Psalms 41 - 48; Luke 4:14 - 5:39

Sunday 30th April - 4th Sunday of Easter

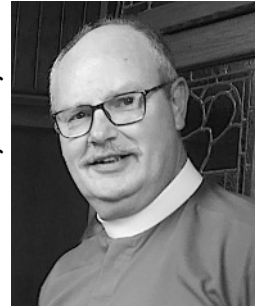
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Morning Prayer
Sunday Readings - Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; John 10:1-10
Readers for first Lesson - Trevor Peoples / Bill Rafferty
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/Compline
Weekday Readings: Proverbs 2, 4, 13, 16, 22, 23:1-18; Psalms 49 - 56;
Luke 6:1 - 7:35

Sunday 7th May - 5th Sunday of Easter - Coronation Sunday

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
11:30 a.m. United Holy Communion Two
Sunday Readings - Acts 7:55-60; John 14:1-14
Readers for first Lesson - Corrine Logan / Joy Kerr
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/Compline
Weekday Readings: Proverbs 23:19 - 24:34, 30, 31:10-31; Psalms 57 - 64; Luke 7:36 - 9:17

There will be a Coronation Tea after this service - do sign up to come and join us.

A message from our Rector



Last month I wrote about the importance of prayer - from a personal perspective relating to the death of my younger brother and the attendant grief and bereavement that comes with it. This item on the importance of prayer followed on from the February magazine's article which spoke of the importance in Lent of prayer and also of scripture reading.

This month we will look at scripture reading from the same perspective, almost.

Some have questioned my ability to be cheery in the face of the sudden death of my brother and mother's death 5 weeks and 2 days later. I am told how difficult this must be, that I should be sadder than I appear to be. Some have told me how difficult things must be.

The truth is, I am saddened by these two deaths, I am saddened by each of them, and coming so close to each other it makes things worse. It is difficult to move forward, BUT (and it is a big but) I am not trying to deal with this by my self. I know I have my family, my friends, my parishioners and colleagues, but much more than that I have Jesus Christ!

When, in 1986, I went off to Kenya for the summer with CMSI as a theological student my big brother gave me a conveniently sized Bible to carry with me and use. In the inside cover he wrote a message. It ended with the words from Matthew 28:20b "*and surely I will be with you always, until the very end of the age.*"

I took those words to heart, more than I already had done, and I have never felt alone since. When I have been faced with difficulties, with tragedy, with the deaths of family members, I have known that Jesus is with me. I do not face these things alone, nor do I face them in my own strength. Jesus has promised to be with me, and he is. This has helped me immeasurably in all of my life.

All through my life I have found great contentment from knowing the presence of Jesus with me. It is as St Paul wrote to the Philippians 4:12b-14 "*I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength. 14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.*" The prayers of you all, sharing in my troubles, is making the difference for me at this time. I am also uplifted by the knowledge of the strong faith of my mother and my wee brother.

There are lots of other verses in the Bible that give me strength and comfort at this time - probably too many to list here. All these verses speak of the promise of the presence of Jesus and of God with us in times of difficulty. You all know *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, thou are with me, thy rod and thy staff comfort me.”* (Psalm 23:4) These words of this very well known Psalm remind me that at this time I am not alone, that God offers me protection and comfort.

So it is in the comfort provided by God that I can proclaim that *Jesus is risen and all who believe in him will rise with him* (Funeral Service BCP)

I am cheery because I am confident in the promises of God. Because I am confident that this is not the end of my relationship with my brother or my mother. I am confident because Jesus promised that he will dwell in us and we will dwell in him *1 John 4:12b-15 “if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.”* As I believe in God and say that Jesus is the Son of God then God is in me and I am in him. This is the same belief that my brother and mother, and other family members, had. Thus God is in them and they are in God as I am in God so we are still united in God.

This is a large part of what our faith in Jesus is about. Believing in him and being one with him. This is where I get my comfort and strength. This is how, in the face of grief and tragedy, I can still smile and be happy. This is how I can still give thanks for Jesus Christ and all that he has done for us. Because Jesus is now, always has been and always will be, my saviour and he holds me in the palm of his hand at all times. Have you ever read the poem *Footprints in the sand* (it is printed out on the next page)? This is what our lives should be like, walking with Jesus and recognising that he holds and carries us at the most difficult times in our lives. Once you know this, life becomes easier to deal with. We find that even in the bad times we can smile. That no matter how things are we can know that we are not alone.

This is what reading the scriptures has done for me. Given me comfort and confidence and contentment, and it can do it for you.

Every blessing and the joy of Easter be with you all. Mark.

One night a man had a dream.

He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord.
Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.
For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand:
one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him,
he looked back at the footprints in the sand.
He noticed that many times along the path
of his life there was only one set of footprints.

He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest
and saddest times in his life.
This really bothered him
and he questioned the Lord about it.

"Lord, You said that once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I have noticed that during the most
troublesome times in my life,
there is only one set of footprints.

I don't understand why,
when I needed you most,
you would leave me."

The Lord replied,
"My son, My precious child,
I love you and I would
never leave you.

During your times of trial and suffering,
when you see only one set of footprints,
it was then that I Carried You."



Balmoral Estates

ESTATE AGENTS * VALUERS * SURVEYORS

Sales, Rentals, Commercial Sales, Commercial Lettings

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

FOR SALE

VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT



028 9337 3215

www.balmoralestates.co.uk

27 Balmoral Avenue, Whitehead. Co. Antrim BT38 9QD. Enquiries@balmoralestates.co.uk

Tweeds



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

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

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

Tel: 028 9338 2502.

Website: Tweeds.co.uk.

Email orders@tweedfuels.co.uk

SALES & SERVICE

JACK REID



CARS

QUALITY & CHOICE

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

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

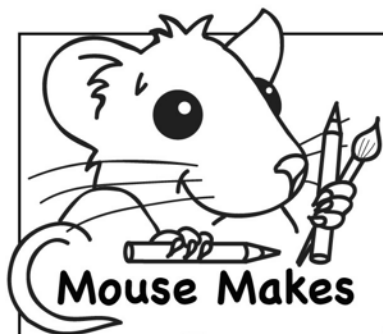
SALES & SERVICING AT
COMPETITIVE PRICES

111 Belfast Road
Whitehead
Carrickfergus BT38 9SU

Tel: 02893 373 600

www.jackreidcars.co.uk





Mouse Makes

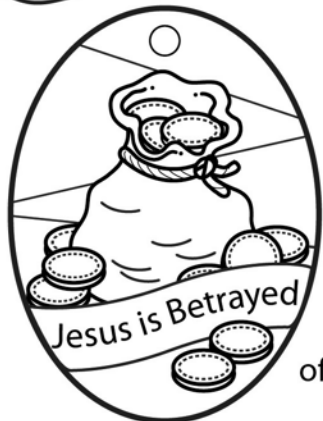
HE IS RISEN!

Read the story of
The Resurrection in
Matthew 28:1-20



Into Jerusalem

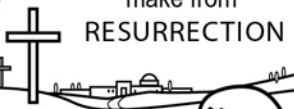
How many other
words can you
make from
RESURRECTION



Jesus is Betrayed

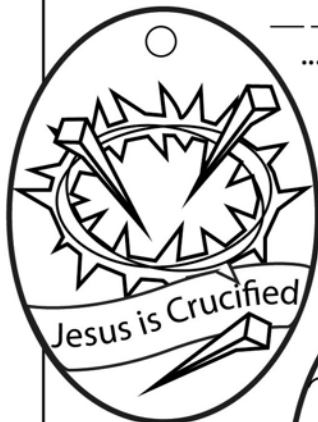
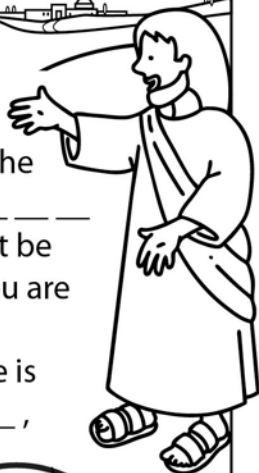


The Last Supper



An _____
of the Lord came down from
_____ and going to the
_____ rolled back the _____

... the _____ said, "Do not be
_____, for I know you are
looking for Jesus who was
_____, He is
not here; he has _____,
just as he said."



Jesus is Crucified



Jesus is Buried



Jesus is Risen!

Glue this page onto
card. Cut out the
ovals then colour in.
Punch a hole at the
top and hang up
for Easter

Youth Fellowship is back!

After a three-year break for a global pandemic, Youth Fellowship Sunday Brunch is back!

We're going to meet twice in April (before exam season starts) and then pick up again in September.

So if you're between 11 and 25 and interested in meeting up with other young people for Bible study, prayer, craic and some tasty breakfast, come join us on **Sunday 16 April** (and discover the meaning of Easter eggs!) and on **Sunday 30 April**.

We'll meet in St Patrick's church at 10.30 and join in the first ten minutes of the morning service before moving to the stage for breakfast and some Christian craic. We'd love to see you there.

If you want to find out more, you can contact Stephen Martin by emailing him at stepheneddu@gmail.com.

Youth Fellowship

JOIN US ON SUNDAY 11TH & 25TH APRIL AT 10.30AM
IN ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

SUNDAY



BRUNCH

Letter from Church Mouse

Hello everyone

Graham Oakley, a children's author-illustrator, published a series of books a long time ago about a church mouse called Arthur, his fellow mice and a friendly cat called Samson. (Are there really any friendly cats? I wonder.) They got up to all kinds of adventures inside the church including sailing in the font in a boat made of newspaper, eating sweets dropped by choirboys and waving a tiny baton in time to the church organ. At Christmas Arthur dressed up as Father Christmas and the other mice as reindeer. Sounds like fun



I have heard you laughing at our Rector's jokes and seen some of you dressed up in comical outfits for Nativity plays, and I am glad I am part of a church that can have a bit of fun. In the Bible, in Proverbs chapter 15 it says: "For the despondent, every day brings trouble; for the happy heart, life is a continual feast."

Vicky xx

Church Mouse

**VICTORIANA
FLORAL**



The Language of Flowers

- At Victoriana Floral we offer unique and individual floral arrangements for weddings, events and special occasions when you just want to show someone you care.
- With unsurpassed attention to detail, we are one of the Antrim Coast's more sought-after florists.
- Kim Davies the Creative Director offers a comprehensive floral service from her home studio in Magheramorne for you to enjoy.
- Contact Kim for all your floral needs: for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, farewells, tributes, as well as for Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, and Easter.
- Delivering to doorsteps in the local area .

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

Phone 07740721799.

Website: www.victorianafloral.com

April 1st - Fooling Around

by Canon David Winter



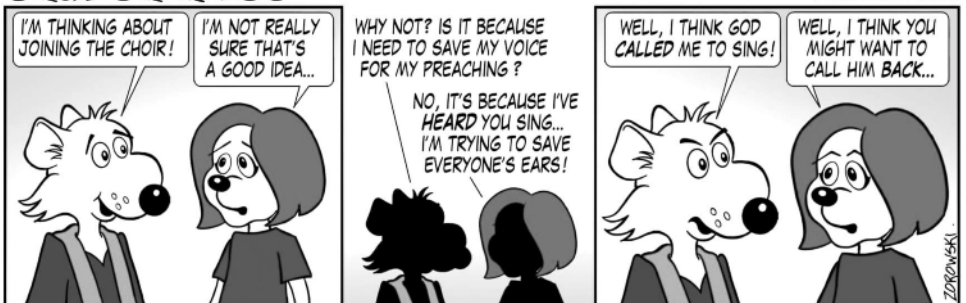
I was about six when I began to enjoy April Fool's Day. My older brother was very clever at appropriate hoaxes, not only deceiving me but also mum and dad. On the whole my childish efforts were encouraged. The day was full of laughs, even at school, where the teachers would try to trick us and all day long no one quite believed anything they were told. So it went on, year after year, though I think it all seems as a bit unsophisticated for the modern generation.

You couldn't say that, though, about probably the most famous April Fool's effort of all time. In the 1960's BBC TV broadcast a feature on the spaghetti farms of Italy. Even those of us who bought our spaghetti in the supermarket from the pasta shelves began to wonder if we'd been wrong. Italian farmers explained their work and the progress of the spaghetti plants was carefully filmed, from planting to reaping. And all in the BBC's most serious documentary manner. It took a while to appreciate that this was Aunty playing games. Whatever next!

The odd thing is that no one is quite sure of the origin of this very British tradition. Most attribute it to changes in Britain's calendar in the 1700s, when New Year's Day moved from March 25th to January 1st. Not surprisingly, the change caused a lot of confusion and mistakes around the start of April. Others look further back, to the ancient Roman feast of Hilaria, when the goddess Cybele was celebrated with pranks and jokes around the spring equinox, March 25th.

Either way a touch of hilarity at the end of Lent does not seem amiss. Go to Greece, where the resurrection of Jesus is celebrated with fireworks and parties to see how it might work.

Church Mice



Prayers for God’s blessing for same-sex couples take step forward in the Church of England

The Church of England’s General Synod has recently welcomed proposals which would enable same-sex couples to come to church after a civil marriage or civil partnership to give thanks, dedicate their relationship to God and receive God’s blessing.

Synod members also voted to “lament and repent” of the failure of the Church to welcome LGBTQI+ people and for the harm that LGBTQI+ people have experienced – and continue to experience – in churches.

A motion which details and recognises a series of proposals put forward by the bishops on human identity and marriage was agreed by majorities in the Houses of Bishops, Clergy and Laity after a landmark debate over two days.

Synod’s comments will now guide the bishops as they refine those texts carefully and prepare new pastoral guidance for the Church on sexuality and marriage in the coming months before the prayers are formally commended for use in churches.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said: “It has been a long road to get us to this point. For the first time, the Church of England will publicly, unreservedly and joyfully welcome same-sex couples in church.

“The Church continues to have deep differences on these questions which go to the heart of our human identity. As Archbishops, we are committed to respecting the conscience of those for whom this goes too far and to ensure that they have all the reassurances they need, in order to maintain the unity of the Church as this conversation continues.”

The Archbishops hoped that the debate would “mark a new beginning” for the Church as “we seek a way forward, listening to each other and most of all to God.

“Above all we continue to pray, as Jesus Himself prayed, for the unity of His church and that we would love one another.”

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who led the debate and chairs the group which oversaw the development of the proposals, said: “This is a moment of hope for the Church. “I know that what we



have proposed as a way forward does not go nearly far enough for many but too far for others.

“It is my prayer that what has been agreed today will represent a step forward for all of us within the Church – including LGBTQI+ people – as we remain committed to walking together.

“We have always said we will listen carefully to Synod, so over the next few months we will reflect on everything which has been said and prepare new pastoral guidance for the Church on matters of sexuality and marriage. We will also refine the texts of Prayers of Love and Faith.”

What is the origin of the Easter bunny and Easter Eggs?



Sometime between Valentine's Day and the beginning of spring, our retail and grocery stores like Tesco's seem to experience an invasion of chocolate boxed eggs, fluffy chicks, wicker baskets, and little furry bunnies. Not to mention the bags and bags of small pastel-coloured eggs. These things are all indicators that Easter is coming. But wait— isn't Easter about the resurrection of Christ? What do bunnies and eggs and candy have to do with the return of Jesus? Well, nothing.

Just as the origins of Easter itself are rather obscure, so is the reasoning behind associating bunnies and eggs with Easter celebrations. Maybe the bunny thing goes back to a belief that the word "Easter" originated from the name of the pagan goddess of spring, Eastre (or Eostre) and that her favourite animal was a bird which she turned into a hare when she got mad at it.

Maybe the eggs thing comes from the old Orthodox custom of fasting from eggs during Lent; to keep the eggs from going to waste, they were first boiled, then consumed when breaking the fast weeks later. Or maybe because rabbits and eggs are associated with fertility, and Easter is in the spring, it's all tied to the emergence of new life at springtime. Truthfully, no one really knows for sure why bunnies or eggs are linked to Easter.

The Easter Bunny Legend

Even though we don't know WHY bunnies are associated with Easter, we do know where in the world this idea originated. Did you know that different countries associate different animals with Easter? For example, Switzerland uses the cuckoo bird as their Easter symbol. Neat! Some regions in Germany used to associate a fox with Easter, but Germans also had an interesting legend about a bunny named Oschter Haws.

In this legend, the Easter bunny (a.k.a. Easter hare or spring bunny) judges children by their good or bad behaviour, then brings little baskets filled with coloured eggs, candy, and even toys to good little boys and girls on the eve of Easter. (Yes, kind of like Santa Claus.) The Easter bunny would either put the baskets in a certain place, such as a "nest" the children would prepare, or he would hide the gifts as a game. This, of course, gave rise to the tradition of the Easter egg hunt.

Over many years, the Germans have shared their rich traditions and legends with us. And we have slowly picked up on these stories and reimagined the idea of the Easter bunny over the last 200 years. Now the Easter bunny is one of the most commercially recognized symbols of Easter in the UK.

Obviously, none of this has anything to do with the resurrection of Christ.



*It's Not Just About the Easter Egg or Bunnies,
It's the Hope That This Season Enfolds in Everyone's Homes.
May God's Blessing Come Overflowing.*

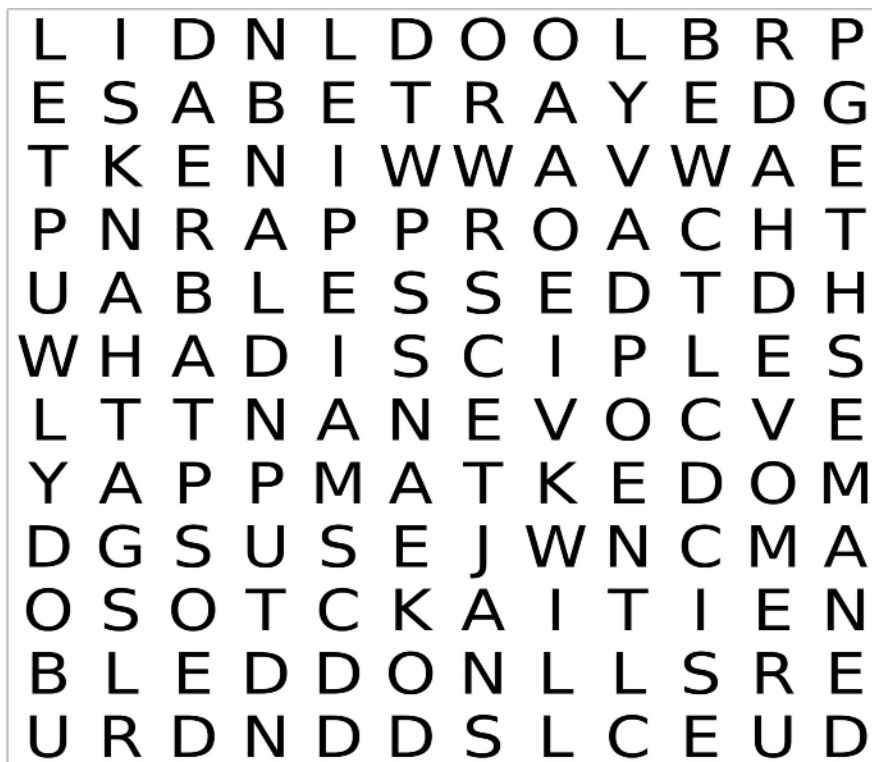
Happy Easter

Easter Word Search

Even as Jesus ate that last Passover meal with His disciples, He warned them He was about to be betrayed. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them; He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink. The Old Covenant, based on Law, was ticking away its final hours; the New Covenant, based on Christ's body and His blood, was about to be ushered in.

Jesus prayed in Gethsemane that this fearful cup of suffering might be removed from Him, but even more, that God's will might be done. And it was. Because of Easter we can approach God through his Son, Jesus Christ. He has opened the gates to heaven for us!

Jesus	Disciples	Wine	Old	Will
Ate	Warned	Thanks	New	Cup
Last	Betrayed	Drink	Body	Removed
Passover	Bread	Covenant	Blood	Easter
Meal	Blessed	Law	Gethsemane	Approach
God				



THE DONKEY

By G.K. Chesterton

When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I
am dumb,
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my
ears,
And palms before my feet.



Kindly contributed by Valerie Kincaid

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



Copyright 2014 Karl Zorowski. All rights reserved. www.churchmice.net

Fosters Fruit & Flowers

15 Kings Road, Whitehead

For a wide range of personally selected Fruit & Vegetables
Fresh Cut Flowers and Fruit Baskets made to Order

Tel: 93372755 for orders

Free delivery in town



STEPHEN HENDERSON JOINERY



Domestic & Commercial
Qualified

All Interior & Exterior Joinery
General Building Maintenance
Roofs, First & Second Fix, Decking,
Stair Refurbishments, Bespoke Projects

Tel: 028 9338 2868

Mob: 077 1774 5369

Whitehead Home & Hardware



WHITEHEAD HOME & HARDWARE STORE - Tel 028 9337 2656

Open Mon-Sat 9am-5.20pm We stock just about everything you may need!

Tools, paint, pet supplies, stationery & cards, fire grates & wood, batteries, key cutting service & so much more

16 Balmoral Avenue, Carrickfergus, County Antrim, BT38 9QD. Email: hugh@anythinggoesni.com

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

12 Edward Road, Whitehead BT38 9QB

Tel: 02893 372888



ISLAND MILL TILES & FLOORING

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

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

Ordering is simple, with goods ready for collection usually within a few days. Local delivery can be arranged free of charge. Call us or visit our website today



13 Lough Road Islandmagee, BT40 3RA
[0289 335 3335](tel:02893353335)
info@islandmill.co.uk
Website: islandmill.co.uk

SPAR

There for you

Shop at the 'Wright'
Place!

15 Kings Road, Whitehead. BT38 9PU

Spar always there
for all your daily
essentials.

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

Free delivery service Tel : 028 9337 2344

What Is the True Meaning of Easter? Why Is it Celebrated?

Easter is one of the central holidays, or Holy Days, of Christianity. It honours the Resurrection of Jesus three days after His death by crucifixion. For many Christian churches, Easter is the joyful conclusion to the Lenten season of devoted prayer, fasting and penitence.

Along with the Christmas, Easter is one of the most important celebrations in the Christian calendar. It is when Christians glorify and give thanks for the **Resurrection of Jesus Christ**. After His crucifixion, death, and burial, Christ rose from the grave three days later. By this, He conquered death and redeemed us from sin.

Definition of Easter

According to dictionary.com, Easter is “an annual Christian festival observed on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox, as calculated according to tables based in Western churches on the Gregorian calendar and in Orthodox churches on the Julian calendar. Also called Easter Sunday. the day on which this festival is celebrated.”

The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia gives biblical references of "Easter," stating,

"The word does not properly occur in Scripture, although the King James Version has it in [Acts 12:4](#) where it stands for **Passover**, as it is rightly rendered in the Revised Version. There is no trace of Easter celebration in the New Testament, though some would see an intimation of it in [1 Corinthians 5:7](#). The Jewish Christians in the early church continued to celebrate the Passover, regarding Christ as the true paschal lamb, and this naturally passed over into a commemoration of the death and resurrection of our Lord or an Easter feast."

The Etymology and Origin of Easter

There are a number of suggestions as to how Easter got its name.

One view is that the name was derived from the Norse *eostur*, *eastur*, or *ostara*, which meant “the season of the growing sun” or “the season of

new birth.” The word ‘east’ comes from the same roots. In this case, easter would be linked to the changing of the season.

A more recent and complex explanation comes from the Christian background of Easter rather than the pagan. The early Latin name for the week of Easter was hebdomada alba or “white week,” while the Sunday after Easter day was called Dominica in albis from the white robes of those who had been newly baptized. The word alba is Latin both for white and dawn. People speaking Old High German made a mistake in their translation and used a plural word for dawn, ostarun, instead of a plural for white. From ostarun we get the German Ostern and the English ‘Easter’.

One other probable suggestion is that the word Easter derived from “Eostre,” “originally a Saxon word (Eostre), denoting a goddess of the Saxons, in honour of whom sacrifices were offered about the time of the Passover.”

When early Christian missionaries saved the Saxons to Christianity, the spring holiday, because it occurred near the same season as the traditional memorial of Christ's resurrection from the dead, was joined with the pagan festival, and became known as Easter. The meaning of Easter was also changed to honour its new Christian significance.

Christian Meaning of Easter

The significance of Easter is Jesus Christ's triumph over death. His resurrection means the eternal life that is granted to all who believe in Him. The purpose of Easter also means the full confirmation of all that Jesus taught and preached during His three-year ministry. If He had not risen from the dead, or simply died and not been resurrected, He would have been thought of as just another teacher or prophet. However, His resurrection rebuked all that and provided final and undeniable proof that He was the Son of God, and that He had overcome death once and for all.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the core of the Christian gospel. Saint Paul says that if Christ is not raised from the dead, then our preaching and hope are in vain ([1 Cor. 15:14](#)). Certainly, without the resurrection, there would be no Christian preaching or faith. The apostles of Christ would have continued as the disheartened group which the Gospel of John depicts following Christ's crucifixion, being

in hiding for fear of the Jews. They were in total despair until they met the risen Christ (John 20:19) Then they touched Christ's wounds of the nails and the spear; they ate and drank with Him. From then on the resurrection became the foundation of everything they said and did (Acts 2:4): "...for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have" (Luke 24:39).

The resurrection affirms Jesus of Nazareth as the prophesied Messiah and the King and Lord of all.

The use of the Colour Purple in church at Easter

To understand why the colour purple became the colour of Lent and Easter, we must first look at the colour's significance in ancient society. Purple dye was a prized commodity in antiquity because it was difficult to obtain. In particular, purple dye was obtained from harvesting certain marine snails.

In light of how labour-intensive it was to produce purple dye, purple apparel was very expensive and often only worn by kings, other royal members, or those with high-ranking authority. As such, the colour purple became known as a mark of royalty and sovereignty.

The Roman soldiers who tortured Jesus during His Passion would've been well-aware of the imperial symbolism behind the colour purple. This is why, in mocking Jesus before His crucifixion, the soldiers dressed Jesus in a purple robe and put a crown of thorns on His head, proceeding to then beat Him and yell, "**Hail, king of the Jews!**" (John 19: 2-3).

In a further attempt to humiliate Jesus after the soldiers had removed the purple robe from Him, Pilate had a sign affixed to Jesus' cross inscribed with the words, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" (John 19:19). This inscription is memorialized on today's crucifixes by the letters *INRI*, which are the initials for "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" in Latin — *Jesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum*.

In remembrance of the purple robe the Roman soldiers put on Jesus in mockery, churches like our own St Patrick's & St John's display the colour purple during Lent to mourn the emotional and physical anguish that Jesus underwent during His Passion, and also to proclaim Him as

the true King of Kings. At this time in many churches, the clergy wear purple vestments, drape lecterns with purple cloths, and cover the front of altars with purple frontals.

Easter Meaning Today

For Christians worldwide, the importance of Easter is praising and acknowledging Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, and His glorious assurances of eternal life for all who believe in Him. While there are plenty of non-religious traditions, such as the Easter bunny, baskets of candy, and Easter egg hunts, there are also meaningful traditions for Christians today. Some include Sunrise services – which we observe here in Whitehead early every Easter Sunday morning to celebrate the risen saviour.

Easter Lilies can be found decorating many churches and homes as a reminder of the purity of Jesus' sacrifice and the new life we have through his resurrection.

A Bible Verse about Easter & the Resurrection of Jesus

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, John 11:25 -

We have full confidence that no matter what happens to us on this Earth, we can experience eternal joy with God in heaven. No wonder many brothers and sisters continue praising Jesus even when they experience persecution and martyrdom. Because we have a greater hope and promise than earthly life.



Mary Berry's Hot Cross Buns Recipe

Mary's going to be so proud that you made your own hot cross buns. The recipe is completely fool proof. For this recipe you will need a piping bag fitted with a 3mm nozzle, but if you don't have a nozzle you could use a piping bag or plastic food bag and snip the end off.

Preparation time over 2 hours / Cooking time 10 to 30 mins / Makes 12 buns.

Ingredients

- 500g/1lb 2oz strong white flour, plus extra for dusting
- 75g/2³/₄oz caster sugar
- 2 tsp mixed spice
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 lemon, finely grated zest only
- 10g/1/4oz salt
- 10g/1/4oz fast-action dried yeast
- 40g/1 1/2oz butter
- 300ml/10fl oz milk
- 1 free-range egg, beaten
- 200g/7oz sultanas
- 50g/1 3/4oz finely chopped mixed candied peel
- oil, for greasing



For the topping

- 75g/2³/₄oz plain flour
- 2 tbsp golden syrup, for glazing

Method

1. Put the flour, sugar, spices and lemon zest into a large bowl and mix together. Then add the salt and yeast, placing them on opposite sides of the bowl.

1. Melt the butter in a pan and warm the milk in a separate pan. Add the butter and half the tepid milk to the dry ingredients. Add the egg and use your hands to bring the mixture together, incorporating the flour from the edges of the bowl as you go. Gradually add the remaining milk, to form a soft pliable dough (you may not need all of the milk).
2. Tip the dough out on to a lightly floured work surface. Knead by hand incorporating the sultanas and mixed peel into the dough. Lightly knead for 10 minutes until silky and elastic and forming a smooth ball. (The kneading can also be done in a food mixer with a dough hook.) Oil a bowl and place the dough in a bowl, cover with cling film and leave to rest in a warm place for about 1½ hours or until doubled in size.
3. Turn the risen dough out on to a lightly floured surface. Knock back and knead for a further 5 minutes. Return to the bowl, cover with cling film and leave in a warm place to rise for a further hour, or until doubled in size.
4. Turn the dough out again on to a floured surface and divide into 12 equal pieces, shaping each of these into a ball. Line 1-2 baking trays with paper and place the balls on the tray, placing them fairly close together and flattening them slightly.
5. Slip each baking tray into a large clean polythene bag, making sure the bag doesn't touch the buns. Leave for 40-60 minutes until the buns have doubled in size.
6. Preheat the oven to 220C/200C Fan/Gas 7.
7. For the topping, add the flour to a bowl with 100ml/3½fl oz water. Mix together to make a paste and spoon into the icing bag.
8. When the buns have risen remove the polythene bags and pipe a cross on each bun.
9. Bake for 15-20 minutes until pale golden-brown, turning the baking trays round halfway through if necessary.
10. Melt the golden syrup in a pan and while the buns are still warm, brush the buns with a little syrup to give a nice shine, before setting aside to cool on a wire rack.

Recipe Tips

The second prove is really necessary, as there is a lot of butter and sugar in the dough which will make it heavy otherwise. It's the kind of recipe that doesn't take much active time - you can do lots of other things in between these short steps. These buns will keep in the freezer for up to 1 month.

THE TERROR OF WAR' – As seen in a photograph.

I know very little about the Vietnam war. It was a television backdrop to my 1960/70's childhood - American G.I's fighting or resting after battle in a hostile terrain, student protests and the anti-war activism of 'Hanoi Jane' Fonda, helicopters falling into the sea. Like all wars it changes and ruins lives - anyone of a certain age will remember the pictures of frightened civilians - a grandmother running with a little injured boy in her arms and the nine year old girl Phan Thi Kim Phuc fleeing the napalm attack that had set her alight.

War photographer Nick Ut who took the photos that the world needed to see, set about tending to the injured and took Kim to hospital before submitting his film for publishing. Kim's injuries were extensive and as the doctors gave her no chance of life, she was left in the mortuary of the hospital. Her family did not find her for three days and when it was discovered she was still breathing, only then was she taken to a burns unit.

Kim has had to endure unimaginable pain and many medical procedures even to the present day, but says that the physical pain was easier to bear than the



trauma of what happened to her. Filled with anger she struggled with life until the day when she came across a New Testament in a Saigon library. John 14:6 jumped out at her "I am the way, the truth and the life." Some months later, after being invited to church she listened to a Pastor talk about the meaning of Christmas and the peace that His love brings.

"I opened my heart and accepted Jesus. I stopped worshipping all the gods that I'd prayed to before, and I knew that He had set me free. I continued to pray, and the more I prayed, the more I had peace. I prayed for joy, for wisdom and more than anything, for forgiveness. I had so much anger in my heart and, while sometimes I failed, I prayed that God would help me."

Kim realised that because of her suffering she was in a unique position: "I believe that God had a plan for me. He looked down and he said: "I am not finished with that little girl." All that I went through - the physical, emotional, and spiritual pain - means I can understand those who face pain. "

Working with UNESCO and her own foundation Kim is involved in the medical and psychological support of child victims of war. Unfortunately, fifty years after she was injured this work is needed more than ever - we see children robbed of their childhood every day on the news. Kim remains friends with the photographer she now calls Uncle Ut.

Kim is an inspiration - her faith, her prayers, her strength, and her joy in life. Our Christian faith should never really be surprised when a beautiful bright light shines from real darkness - it is what He has promised.

Valerie Kincaid

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



Why is it getting harder to see your GP?

Ever wonder how many other patients your local GP now cares for? Recent figures show that could be up to as many as 3,000 other people.

Amid worsening staff shortages, the number of fully qualified GPs has fallen from 29,320 in 2016 to 27,372 last year across the UK, as more and more doctors are opting to reduce their hours, or go for early retirement.

And to make matters worse, the number of registered patients has grown from 58 million to 62.2 million in that time, according to the House of Commons Library.

The Liberal Democrats, who commissioned the research, have recently warned that the falling numbers of GPs “is creating a perfect storm that means for many people, it feels almost impossible to see your GP when you need to.

“This ever-worsening GP shortage is having a terrible human cost, as people face delayed or missed diagnoses, and A&Es fill up with desperate patients looking for treatment.”

Prayer requests this month

Our Doctors, Nurses and Care Professionals

The people of Ukraine as they continue to struggle to survive a terrible war.

For those who are ill at this time

Our Rector, his family and others in our community who have experienced bereavement.

For King Charles and the Royal Family as they prepare for the Coronation



You are invited to a Coronation Tea Party

On Sunday 7th May following the 10.30am united morning service at St Patrick's Church, the Select Vestry are preparing a special Coronation Tea for all members of congregation who would like to join us to mark the Coronation of King Charles III.

We will be offering dainty sandwiches and sweet things, so do keep this date in your diary and join us then.

If you plan to join us please register your name on the attendance form at the back of the church, or in St John's it will be located in the entrance hall. Or contact Inez Moore or Priscilla Carlisle to let them know you plan to be there. See back page.

Deadline for registering is Sunday 30th April so that we can make sure everyone is catered for. Thank you.



Church Mice

Karl Zorowski

**Pray for your
RECTOR**



**Your Rector
Prays for you**

The Rectory
St James the Least

Beware when the choirs meet

My dear Nephew Darren

You agonised recently over your ecumenical service: who should be invited? Who should preach? What about the order of service? If you had attended our recent combined churches' choir festival, your own dilemmas would have seemed a little less acute.



At the pre-meeting, there was heated discussion about whether those choirs who normally wore robes would be comfortable standing among those who didn't. The more aesthetically sensitive worried whether St Agatha's pea green cassocks may clash with our red ones. Intending to be helpful, but phrasing it rather badly, someone suggested that the normally robed choirs should wear nothing. Colonel Wainwright was a little too quick to chuckle.

I began to wonder if a prize was to be awarded to the person who raised the greatest number of concerns: Should the choirs stay separate? Would the tenors be next to the altos or the basses? Where would extra seating be placed? Would the heating be on for the rehearsal? Then came what you would call the 'elephant in the room': of all the choirmasters, *who would conduct and who play the organ?* Tension mounted, and expressions grew grim. But before the committee started to dig trenches in my carpet and position howitzers under the desk, I briefly left the room, turned off all the electricity and claimed we'd had a power cut. This is a useful device for truculent committees; sadly, it can be used only rarely.

Come the day, an uneasy truce lasted while everyone adopted the traditional solution to disagreement within congregations, and simply did exactly what they wanted. Some were robed, some were not, some choirs congealed in their own huddles, while others joyfully sat next to

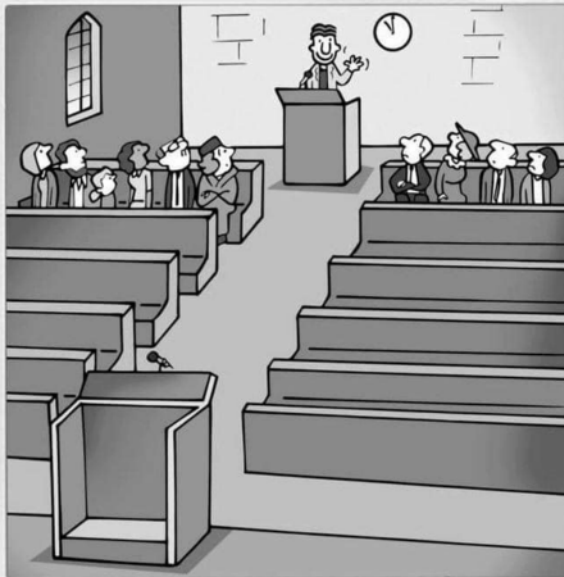
people from other churches – mainly so they could point out their neighbour’s wrong notes. Some sang in the right key, some sang in the wrong key, some sang what sounded like quite different songs altogether.

The service ended with one choir thinking that the organist had played too loudly, while another choir thought that the conductor wasn’t up to much. Everyone agreed afterwards that we must do it again, while firmly stating that if their own choirmaster didn’t conduct next year, they wouldn’t be there.

Thankfully, one fundamental thing on the day united them: they all said that our church was too cold, and they all went down to the pub afterwards to warm up.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



Derek figured that if you
can't beat 'em...

Ukrainian church leaders targeted by Russian forces.

Church leaders in Ukraine are being singled out for persecution by Russian forces in occupied areas. Some pastors have been arrested, interrogated, tortured, and even expelled from their towns by the Russian military and their supporters.

Occupying forces have confiscated church buildings and Christians have received harsher treatment at Russian military checkpoints, say partners of Release International, which serves persecuted Christians around the world.

According to reports, Russian forces broke into a Baptist place of worship in occupied Berdyansk, in Zaporizhzhia. After checking the identity of everyone present, they searched the church and sealed it. The next day they seized another Baptist church nearby.



Later that month, according to Forum 18, Russian forces seized a priest of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in occupied Kherson.

Before the war Pastor Ivan led a growing congregation of more than 200 people in a town in the Kharkiv region. He also supported a thriving network of five evangelical churches in the area.

Last spring when the Russian military were poised to take the town many fled, including families with young children. Only some elderly people remained. Pastor Ivan and his wife Viktoria stayed behind too.

They felt called by God to serve the elderly and vulnerable in their occupied town. So, they did what they could to provide those who remained with food, prayer, and comfort from the Bible.

But the Russian forces came to Pastor Ivan's home to arrest him. They threw him into prison and tortured him, accusing him of being an American spy. They are suspicious that evangelical pastors are agents of the West.

Enduring their beatings, Pastor Ivan tried to talk about God with them. And when he was stuck in a tiny cell with eight other prisoners, he prayed for them.

Two days later the Russian soldiers interrogated him again and beat him so badly he thought he would die.

“Other prisoners tried to help me and called for help. The Russians sent me to a hospital, which I believe was divine grace and intervention. I believe God saved my life through the Ukrainian doctors who helped me.”

After two weeks, Pastor Ivan was allowed home where he recovered slowly. And, as the Russians tightened their grip, Pastor Ivan and Viktoria left for Poland. As soon as their town was liberated by Ukrainian forces, they returned.

Says Release International CEO Paul Robinson: “Pastor Ivan is again leading a congregation of more than 300 people, many of whom are new to church. God is using him and others like him to share the gospel and to help people in practical ways in the liberated areas of eastern Ukraine.”

Release International has launched an [appeal](https://releaseinternational.org) to help Christians in Ukraine and around the world who are suffering oppression for their faith. If you would like to help, please go to: <https://releaseinternational.org>

Please pray for Christian leaders and believers in Ukraine who are being mistreated because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

Lilyscape at Whitehead

NI Tourism Certified

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

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

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

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



Beef, Poultry, Lamb, Pork Roasts and Barbecue Meats

Order now from your local family run butchers in Whitehead

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



34 King's Road. Whitehead BT38 9PT

Tel: 028 9335 3313

McKee's Home Bakery



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

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

Orders taken for parties and celebrations

9 Windsor Ave, Whitehead, Carrickfergus BT38 9RX

Tel : 028 9337 2429



come
as you
are

We would love to see you.
Why not join us at 10.30am on Sunday

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

Parish Announcements

***The Easter Select Vestry meeting will be held
on Thursday 9th March at 10.30am
in the Parochial Hall***

'Game On' is cancelled until further notice

Organiser- Evelyn Powers Tel : 07753 292938

Counters for April

3rd April Brian Joyce

10th April Sandra Thompson

17th April Colin de Fleury

24th April Brian Moore

1st May Trevor Peoples

Sunday Refreshment Rota

9th April Messy Church

16th April Scotty Heyes

23rd April Evelyn Powers

30th April The Lewis Family

7th May Select Vestry ***'A Coronation Tea'

***Book in advance for the Coronation Tea

Refreshments coordinator Priscilla Carlisle -Tel 07787561517

April Fellowship Activities

Together in Faith Group

Monday 3rd & 17th April at 7.30pm

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

Book Club

Weds 3rd May @7.30pm

Reading 'Solace' by Mary Lawson

(Contact Paddy Rodgers tel 028 93372439 for venue)

Wednesday Morning Fellowship Group (Monthly)

Next meeting will be on WEDNESDAY 12TH APRIL at 11am in the Boucher Room when we will look at what faith means to me.

**New members welcome. We start with refreshments and fellowship .
'We will be looking this month at our own personal faith?'**

'Power in Prayer' Group (Monthly)

Wednesday 26th April at 7.30pm in the Boucher Room

Join us and see how powerful prayer can be .

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 always welcome to join in

The Churchkey



**Do you
have one?**

We are keen to find out who has a Church Key and also to collect back any that are no longer required for church duties

Please email, or message our Rector (see back page for details)

Or call Trevor Peoples 07904 016 591

If you:

A) Are in possession of any Church KEYS

B) If you have a key you no longer require and wish to return

**WE NEED THIS INFORMATION SO WE CAN CREATE
A NEW REGISTER OF KEY HOLDERS Thank You.**

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



Copyright 2018 Karl A. Zorowski. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Visit us online at www.churchmice.net.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Reader

We wish you a Happy Easter full of blessings and plenty of chocolate too.

There is much happening in the church this month so do check the service times at the front of the magazine and events coming up so that you and your family can join us.

If you haven't attended a Lenten lunch yet, then there is still time to fit one more in before Easter on the 5th April. The lunches have been tremendously well supported by the local community, and not forgetting our wonderful volunteers led by Austin Jenkins ,who have made it all possible-a very big thank you.

We also have other events planned such as another Table Quiz at the end of the month. And don't miss signing up to our Coronation Tea Party on Sunday 7th May. More details on page 29.

In closing thank you to all who contributed to this edition of Church Matters. Please keep the articles coming in.

Stay well and God Bless

NEXT TABLE QUIZ NIGHT IN ST PATRICK'S PAROCHIAL HALL

On Friday 28th April at 7.30pm £4 pp

#Bring your own refreshments..

4 or more people per team

Everyone welcome

WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH

Rector: Revd Canon Mark Taylor,

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

Mobile: 07719 619286

George McNeill Diocesan Lay Reader

Facebook:

St Patrick's & St Johns Whitehead & Islandmagee

Twitter:

@Whitehead_Col

Email:

churchofirelandwhitehead@gmail.com

Website:

www.whitehead-islandmagee-parish.co.uk

CHURCHWARDENS

Rector's: St. Patrick's
Jo Pawson
People's: Mabel Allen

St. John's
Pauline Riddle
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

FWO & Gift Aid Sec: Sandra Thompson 07912478331

Distributors: C of I Gazette: David Robinson 9338248

Church Matters Magazine : Valerie Kincaid 9335 3748

Editorial communications to: Jo Pawson

joanna_pawson@yahoo.co.uk or tel: 077 9024 1263

Registered with NI Charity Commission NIC102649