

CHURCH MATTERS

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

Here everyone matters

September 2023



September Services & Readings

Wednesday 11:30 in St Patrick's - a brief service of prayers or the Litany

Readers, please read the first reading on the Sunday List

Sunday 3rd September - Trinity 13

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Two and Holy Baptism
12 noon Holy Communion Two
Sunday Readings - Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28
Readers for first Lesson - Jane Robinson / Ann Thompson
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings - 1 Kings 8:31 - 12:24; Psalms 62 - 78; Mark 14:53 - 15:39

Sunday 10th September - Trinity 14

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer Two
10:30 a.m. MESSY CHURCH in the Parochial Hall
12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Matthew 18:15-20
Readers for first Lesson - Judith de Fleury / Joy Kerr
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: 1 Kings 12:25 - 19:21; Psalms 79 - 100; Mark 15:40 - 16:8, Matthew 2:1 - 3:17

Sunday 17th September - Trinity 15

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Holy Baptism Two Sunday
Reading - Exodus 14:19-35; Mark 10:13-16 12 noon
Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Reading - Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114; Matthew 18:21-35
Readers for first Lesson - Colin de Fleury / Jim Reid
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: 1 Kings 21:1 - 2 Kings 2:18; Psalms 101 - 113; Matthew 4:1 - 5:20

Sunday 24th September - Trinity 16

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Family Service
12 noon Family Service
Sunday Readings - Matthew 20 - 1-16
Readers for first Lesson - The Rector
3:00 p.m. Blessing of Pets service - see page 6 for more information
Weekday Readings: 2 Kings 4:8 - 11:20; Psalms 114 - 125; Matthew 5:21 - 6:24

CHOIR FOR HARVEST - rehearsing in The Boucher Room at St Patrick's at 10:00 a.m. on the 10th, 17th and 24th September.
All welcome

Sunday 1st October - Trinity 17

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Harvest Thanksgiving
Sunday Readings - 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Psalm 65; Luke 17:11-19
Reader for first Lesson - Bobby Herron
12 noon Holy Communion Two
Sunday Readings - Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32
Reader for first Lesson - Maureen Reid
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: 2 Kings 17:1-19:36, Psalms 126 - 150; Matthew 6:25 - 8:27

Sunday 8th October - Trinity 18

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer Two
10:30 a.m. MESSY CHURCH
12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9; Psalm 19; Matthew 21:33-46
Readers for first Lesson - Trevor Peoples / Ann Thompson
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: 2 Kings 20:1 - 25:26; Psalms 1 - 34; Matthew 8:28 - 10:4

A message from our Rector

September is upon us. It is a very strange time of the year.

We look at September as a time of restarting - as the beginning of a new year, a new season. The school and academic year starts in September. Many organisations start their yearly programme of events in September. Most sports and sporting organisations start their season and competitions in September, other than the summer sports. This is because September comes after the long months of July and August; supposedly the warmer sunnier months when most people take their holidays (mainly because schools are off).

But September is the 9th month of the year. It is the beginning of Autumn, the season of harvesting. September is the month when the days get noticeably shorter and the evenings longer. It is the season that brings the summer to an end as we get ready for the winter that is looming ahead of us. September is a month of endings

So, how do we see September? Is it a time of beginnings, of new starts? Or a time of endings, of finishes?

Whatever way we see September there is something we should note. Be it starts and beginnings, or ends and finishes, September is about hope. Hope for the future of the things we are starting and hope for the things that are ending. We hope that the things we start will be successful, will have a good ending. We hope that the things that are ending have been successful and that their ending will lead to something good. We hope for a good and successful harvest and that the growing season of the summer will provide the ripe fruits we need for our food.

As we look forward we make our plans for the things that are to come. Planning has already started for Messy Church and our Family Services for the months to come. You were able to read, on the previous pages, plans for the services for September and into October. Hopes and plans for a choir for Harvest, and may be for Christmas as well. Our plans for Sunday evenings, starting bi-monthly. (See Page 6 for more details)

As the great Scottish poet, Robert Burns, wrote “The best laid schemes o’ mice an’ men Gang aft agley,”; meaning that our plans, no matter how well prepared, don’t always work out. For our plans for our services to work out it is important that you, the parishioners, join in. If



you don't, our Sunday evening 'Favourite Hymns' may well end up as 'the Rector's favourite hymns as sung by the Rector'. So please join in, as it gives the plans for our services a greater chance of success.

We all make plans in our lives. Plans for things we want to happen and things we don't want to happen. All of us, who drive, have to have car insurance, in case of accidents. We don't want to be involved in an accident but with insurance there is a plan in place in case some thing happens. We do the same with travel insurance when we are on holiday, house and contents insurance. Even the church plans by having insurance. These are all plans for if things that we don't want to happen actually happen.

We have other plans for how we live to avoid things that we don't want to happen from happening. We eat healthily, we exercise, we look after ourselves physically and emotionally and take other sensible precautions so that we can maintain our health and general well being - to avoid sickness and ill health as far as possible.

We also make plans to help the good things in life happen. We plan holidays and events with our families and friends. We save what money we can for things in the future. There are lots of things that we do to plan for our futures. For me the most important things in my future planning is making sure that I am, and stay, right with God. I can plan for the next 10 or 20 or (if I am lucky) 30 or more years of my life but for me I want to plan for a lot longer than that. I am making plans for eternity!

It is through my active faith in Jesus Christ that I can plan for eternity. I plan not just to avoid sin and Hell - like having a spiritual insurance policy. My plan is to actively embrace and seek out heaven. It is not enough just to say "I believe in God and in Jesus Christ his Son, my Saviour." I try, as far as I am able, to follow the path he has set out for me. To live by his word and commandment. This means doing the things that Jesus has asked us to do; to be loving, caring, forgiving, generous, humble, tolerant, understanding and to be willing to tell others about our own faith by telling them about Jesus.

This is part of my plan for eternal life. I hope that it is part of your plan too. If we all have plans for eternal life we can all help each other with those plans, supporting and encouraging one another and being encouraged and supported ourselves.

Every blessing for this life, and for eternal life, to you all. Mark.

What ever is happening at our church on Sunday Evenings?

We are planning a variety of 'special' services for Sunday evenings. Some will be in the church itself and some will be in the Parochial Hall, depending on what we are doing that evening.

Many will have a distinctly musical theme, but not all.

They will start being bi-monthly, until we see how things are going and how well they are received.

We did this before, with an evening of favourite hymns, our evening of 'The sacred in the secular' when we looked at popular music with a sacred message.

So far the plans are as follows:

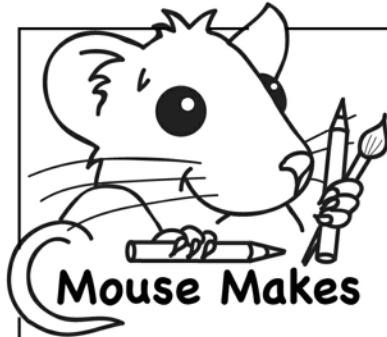
SEPTEMBER 24th at 3:00 p.m. Service of thanksgiving and blessing for our pets - in the Church (as pets can be hidden from each other by the pews).

NOVEMBER 26th at 7:00 p.m. "Songs of Praise" in the Parochial Hall. During November you will have a chance to nominate your favourite hymn, and may be tell us a bit about why it is important to you. We will pick a number of hymns and join together to sing them, and have a cuppa afterwards.

We are open to other ideas for less formal services for Sunday evenings, may be a service looking at more modern Christian music. A Taize service is also a possibility - you might want to look that up on the internet. We could have an interactive service where we can respond to questions about issues of our faith and practice.

I have recently been asked about a service of Prayer for Healing. This is also possible and may be done as a united morning service in November (but needs to be arranged yet) so that we can all share together and pray for each other without having to come out at night (which does not always suit those who are ill or have mobility issues).

If you have other ideas please let me know, to add to our plans.



THE WEEDS AND THE WHEAT

What did the enemy sow amongst the wheat?

Matthew 13:25



READ

the parable in

Matthew 13 v24-30, and v36-43



but the wheat is stored

in the

Matthew 13:30

Who sows the good seed?

Matthew 13:37

What does the field represent?

the _____ and who is the good seed?

The people of the

Matthew 13:38

Who sows the weeds?

The _____

Who are the harvesters?

The _____

Matthew 13:39

"He who has ears, let him

_____"

Matthew 13:43

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

PARABLE • HEAVEN • SOWED • GOOD • SEED • FIELD • ENEMY • WHEAT • GRAIN
GROW • TOGETHER • TIME • HARVEST • GATHER • BUNDLE • TIE
PEOPLE • DISCIPLES • JESUS • EXPLAIN • EVIL • FIRE • END • AGE • EARS

Find the words from the questions too!

Equipping for Life

Your opportunity to make a difference!

We are a Belfast faith-based charity, established in 2018, and we seek to offer people of Christian faith volunteering opportunities to support children in local primary schools. We prioritise working in areas which have, and continue to experience, generational disadvantage.

From humble beginnings, working with a few schools on the Shankill Road, we have grown to working with over 20 primary schools across Northern Ireland. Our volunteers work with about 350 pupils on a weekly basis. New schools are being added on a regular basis and our volunteer team is growing rapidly.

Reading Programme

A child's ability to read is the cornerstone of a successful and rewarding life and our volunteers are passionately committed to helping primary-aged children to improve this vital life skill. Equipping for Life is working in partnership with over 20 primary schools across Northern Ireland to place teams of volunteers who read to children on a regular basis.

We have over 120 volunteers who each have two 30-minute sessions per week with two different children. Each session opens with a prayer of blessing for the child followed by reading.

The children come from P2 to P7 and the volunteers are encouraged to use a flexible approach to each session. In consultation with the schools the volunteers may use other resources such as mini whiteboard or educational games to help build self-confidence and communication skills.

“Our pupils have benefitted greatly from the one-to-one reading experience they have had through EfL. The children have blossomed academically,



socially and spiritually. They look forward very much to their weekly sessions with the devoted group of volunteers."

Judith Stevenson (Principal) Forth River Primary School

"One of my pupils came in mid-September at the start of his primary 3 year with just a handful of recognised words in his vocabulary. Praising, patience and pushing just 30 minutes a week saw him taken off the 'programme' a few months later because he no longer needed support. He was an independent reader!

What a joy this is for us as volunteers to know that small amounts of time can have such a big impact."

Jean Matchett, Volunteer


We are looking to recruit volunteers for Hollybank and Whitehouse Primary Schools (existing EfL schools) and Ballycarry Primary School (a new EfL school).

If you would like to be involved in the Reading Programme please contact Pat Hutchinson MBE at EfL on 07889572800 or at pat@equippingforlife.org.uk Alternatively speak to Scotty Heyes at St Patrick's Church or emailing her: scotty@soulfeet.co.uk

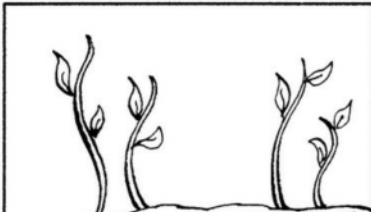


The tale of the Wheat and the Weeds

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS




ONE WAS ABOUT A MAN WHO SOWED SEED IN HIS FIELD.



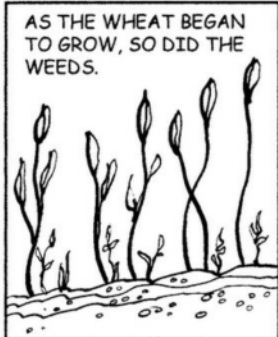
THE SEED TOOK ROOT, AND SOON STRONG PLANTS BEGAN TO GROW.

BUT ONE NIGHT, WHEN EVERYONE WAS ASLEEP...



... AN ENEMY OF THE MAN, CROPT INTO THE FIELD, AND SOWED SEEDS AMONGST THE WHEAT.

AS THE WHEAT BEGAN TO GROW, SO DID THE WEEDS.



WHEN THE SERVANTS SAW THE WEEDS THEY SUGGESTED RIPPING THEM OUT.

NO, LET'S LEAVE THEM UNTIL HARVEST TIME!



IF YOU PULL THEM UP NOW, YOU MIGHT KILL THE WHEAT TOO. WE'LL SORT THEM OUT AT HARVEST.



WHEN THE WHEAT WAS READY, IT WAS HARVESTED INTO HUGE BUNDLES.

BUT THE WEEDS WERE BURNED IN A LARGE FIRE.



THE PARABLE TELLS US THAT ALTHOUGH WE LIVE ALONGSIDE BADNESS, WE CAN KEEP SEPARATE FROM IT.

What do you need to come back to church?

A light hearted reflection..

To encourage you to attend church, how about if we offered:

Beds - for those who say Sunday is their day to sleep-in.

Safety helmets – for anyone who fears the roof would fall in if they entered a church door.

Blankets and hot water bottles – for those who find our church too cold.

Fans and ice cream - for those who find our church too hot.



Cushions - for anyone who find our seats too hard.

Bicycles – for those who exercise on Sunday mornings.

Hearing aids - for those who find the minister speaks too softly. *(Not in our Parish)*

Cotton wool - for those who find the minister speaks too loudly. *(Possibly needed)*

Score cards - for all who want to rate the hymns/sermons/coffee.



Ready-meals - for anyone who can't come because they have to cook Sunday lunch.

Some flowers - for those who prefer to seek God in nature.

Christmas poinsettias and Easter palms - for all those who have never seen the church without them.



Ignore the above silliness, but seriously, we do offer a warm welcome to come to church.

We hope to see you SOON!!

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Scandinavian Apple Cake Recipe.

Ingredients

- 1lb / 450g. cooking apples
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 rounded tablespoon granulated sugar
- ¼ level teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 ounce / 25g. sultanas
- 10 ounces / 275g. Madeira cake
- 2 ounces / 50g. butter
- Rind of one lemon
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice



Method

Butter deep loose-based 6-inch round tin.

Stew sliced apples with water and sugar. Add cinnamon and sultanas.

Cool.

Crumble the cake. (You can do this in advance and freeze the crumbs.)

Melt the butter in a saucepan. Add lemon rind, juice, crumbs.

Make layers by pressing $\frac{1}{3}$ of the crumbs in the tin, add apple, then crumbs, apple, crumbs.

Cook in the centre of the oven at 190 deg. C / 375 F/ Mark 6. for 30 mins. (Reduce temperature for a fan oven.)

Cool slightly.

Remove from tin.

Sprinkle with icing sugar.

Kindly contributed by Christine McNeill

Youth Fellowship is back!

Youth Fellowship Sunday Brunch is back after the summer break. We're going to meet on **Sunday 3 September** and **Sunday 24 September**. We'll meet in St Patrick's church at 10.30 and join in the first few minutes of the morning service before moving to the stage for breakfast and some Christian craic. We'd love to see you there and if you want to find out more, you can contact Stephen Martin (Stepheneddu@gmail.com).

Riddle

I take off my clothes when you put on your clothes. I put on my clothes when you take off your clothes. What am I? Answer on p.35



"Er... vicar – does the church have a position on the donation of GM vegetables for the Harvest Festival?"

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!

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Are you always a bit late - for everything?

Is this you? - late for work, late for friends, nearly missing trains and flights, late for lunch dates, late for dinner dates, and late for just about everything else.

If you are habitually late for almost everything, is it an actual mental condition?

When a recent TikTok video called it 'time blindness', that struck a chord – the video has been viewed nearly five million times.

But some psychologists doubt you can just claim being late 'a mental condition'. Instead, they say that a major factor is our childhood experiences of lateness - whether we have since tried to mimic our parent's behaviour about punctuality, or rebel against it.

Certainly, once we have got into the habit of acting in a certain way, we tend to do it long-term, unless we make a really conscious effort to change ourselves.

One common reason for lateness is over-optimism. If we are a bit too positive about our abilities, we may assume that we can leave at the last minute and still get somewhere else in time. We don't factor in any possible problems along the way. Whereas pessimists always imagine there will be problems with the journey, and so give themselves more time.

Church mice

Karl Zorowski



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Reflecting faith – pews and chairs

By The Revd Dr Jo White

A series on finding faith in the fabric of our church buildings.

Most of us think of pews as having been installed at the same time the church building was built, with occasional upgrades over time. But that's not the case.

Originally church floors consisted of little more than stone flags or beaten earth on which grasses or rushes were lain as a renewable winter covering for cleanliness and insulation. Each year, in late summer, the old and rotten rushes were cleared out and new ones taken to the churches in carts. There are still a number of English towns, in particular in the north of England, that celebrate 'Rushbearing' each year.

The people stood for all the services. However, it was recognised that the infirm and elderly needed support, and stone benches - often backless - were placed by the walls for them. It was not until the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s that wooden pews were introduced for everyone to be able to be seated. Naturally, people being people, there were pews and then there were *pews!*



Society was organised in classes or hierarchies and the richer and more important folk had the best seats near the front so they could hear what the priest was saying and watch the service.

One's place to sit was arranged by your place in Society, so the poorer and least important were at the back of church.

Sermons alone could be lengthy much longer than we are used to in our church; two hours was not unusual, and if you could pay for privacy to doze off and some form of personal heating for winters, then clearly that made sense.

This month - Have a look at the seating in St Patrick's or St John's Church. Are all the chairs or pews the same? Are some more elaborately decorated or larger? Is there a difference between the pews in the nave for the congregation and those for the choir and different again in the sanctuary? Does any of this reflect your faith?

New Church Brasso Club

The club met for the first time on the 8th August with a positive turnout of 5 church members, who came armed with dusters, old rags and toothbrushes, plus rubber gloves so that they could quickly get stuck into the brasses.

As you look around the inside of St Patrick's Church it soon becomes obvious that we possess a lot of tarnished brass. Stretching from the brass cross at the front of the church, down to the brass memorial plaques at the back. In between lie numerous brass umbrella brackets at the end of each pew, brass door handles, a large lectern, plus the communion rail and candle sticks on the communion table, although I suspect there is more not mentioned here and still to be discovered and cleaned.



If you can spare just one hour once a month, we could really use your help as brass cleaning in our church is a bit like paint-

ing the Forth Bridge, as one of our members commented. Because once cleaned the brass needs regularly polished to keep it looking nice.

The next Brasso Club meets on Thursday 14th September at 11am

Bring rubber gloves, some old rags and an old tooth brush if you have one. We use the main church door to enter the church, not the church hall entrance



The Annual Holiday- A thought-provoking journey across Germany

I wonder where you spent your holiday this summer? Did you opt for somewhere warm and sunny, a beach to laze on and warm sea to swim in, or perhaps like me you chose a more active sightseeing holiday? However you spent your summer, hopefully you have had time to relax, and to enjoy a change of pace.

Holiday breaks can be beneficial to us, allowing us vital time to de-stress and unwind, they also can be a way to meet interesting new people and learn more about other countries and cultures.

This year my partner and I decided to tour parts of Germany. It is a country we have visited before, and this time we planned a three week break to allow time to visit some of the most picturesque areas not visited before, in the Rhine Valley, Black Forest and Bavarian Alps.



Our holiday began in Berlin, a city unknown to us and with so much to see we knew it would be a bit of a challenge to see all the highlights in just a few days. Staying near the famous cold war 'Checkpoint Charlie,' we got to see parts of what was former communist East Berlin, along with short sections of the Berlin 'wall' that still remain today as a tourist attraction, but more importantly they serve as a reminder of how life was here after the war when families found themselves suddenly divided and separated geographically, by a wall, guarded by



armed soldiers, and unable to reunite with loved ones from 1961 to 1989. A stark contrast from Berlin today where trains can be boarded to almost anywhere in Europe.

Moving on we went to the Middle Rhine Valley to a small town called Bacharach. It was such a quaint place to stay, lying on the bank of the River Rhine, which allowed us the opportunity to watch numerous large barges going up and down the river carrying cargoes of coal, oil, building materials and so much more.



It was whilst we were exploring the small lanes in Bacharach, with grape vines decorating many a house front, that we noticed two brass plates 10cm x 10cm set in to the cobbled pathway.

On closer inspection we discovered that the tablets or stumbling blocks, called 'stolperstein' in Germany, commemorated the lives of a Jewish couple Willi & Emma Keller who had been forcibly deported to Theresienstadt in 1942.



Each stumbling block, and there are many to be found across Germany, provide the name, date of birth and death, also the place where that person died. The creator of these memorials to the Jewish holocaust, Gunter Demnig, offers a private memorial to each victim.

His motto is: 'A HUMAN BEING IS FORGOTTEN ONLY WHEN HIS OR HER NAME IS FORGOTTEN'.

It felt sad in this picturesque town, idyllically situated beside the Rhine

and surrounded by vine-yards, to see evidence of what happened during the war, when local Nazi officials had this couple removed from their home and despatched to a place far away never to return. I was glad at least that the couple were now being remembered.

Moving on to the Black Forest, we arrived in the small town of Triberg, which is most famous for three things, it's waterfalls, it's black forest gateau and the making and selling of cuckoo clocks.

No-one in this town should ever be late, as there are thousands of clocks everywhere you look, including the world's largest cuckoo clock, which is so large you can actually walk inside it.



Our next stop by train was Fussen, an alpine town which lies on the German side of the border with Austria. Thousands of tourists flock here every year because the town lies just a few kilometres from the fairy tale castle of Neuschwanstein, made famous by the Walt Disney films which use a stylised outline of this castle as its logo. It is worth the effort of getting up to the castle, whether you reach it by foot, horse drawn carriage or bus. The views of the mountains surrounding the castle are breath taking, moreover the air is so clean and fresh.

After a short time in the mountains, it was time to move on again, this time to Munich, the capital city of Bavaria, famous for it's beer, BMW car factory, football team and architecture. There are numerous art galleries and museums to see in the city, as well as beautiful gardens to relax in with a coffee or ice cream.

Jean decided she would like to spend a day visiting one of the art galleries, whilst I decided to travel out of the city some 10kms, no further than from Whitehead to Belfast, to visit Dachau Concentration Camp.

Opened in March 1933, it was the first of hundreds of similar camps opened during the Third Reich.

As I was shown around the camp by a guide, I did not find it difficult to imagine the hopelessness, and utter fear that camp inmates must have experienced on arrival, when subjected to terrible living conditions and physical privations by the camp guards.

My attention was drawn to two lines of fully grown ash trees that created an imposing green corridor in the desolate centre of the camp. I was



informed that they had been planted by the camp authorities before the war to make the camp look more pleasing.

As I walked down this avenue of trees, which stretched from the far end of the camp and led to the parade ground and administration buildings, I picked up a small stick off one of the trees, but soon had to leave it

down again. It seemed to me that the trees which stand as solitary beings, not touching each other, but alone thin and separated, echo the way the prisoners would have lined up in columns every day to be counted in the parade ground, often for hours on end in the freezing cold. I sensed that the trees which had witnessed such terrible acts of inhumanity on a daily basis, had actually absorbed something of the horror into the very fabric of their branches and leaves.

On the site of the camp most of the inmates living quarters /huts were demolished after the war leaving only the outlines of their foundation stones to show where they were neatly lined up, hut after hut, after hut. But at the perimeter of the camp just beyond the barbed wire I saw a

small number of timber buildings, not unlike the huts inside the camp, but painted white with green roofs. The guide told me that these timber buildings are home to a Carmelite order of nuns, whose mission is to pray for all the souls who lost their lives at Dachau. Every day the nuns are seen visiting inside the camp and often leave bunches of flowers where they have stopped to pray. What a special ministry they continue to offer to a place that must have felt so God forsaken for so long.

Today there are three churches and a Jewish shrine within the Dachau compound, built to remember the



thousands who suffered and died here, and at the head of the parade ground is a sculptural memorial in memory of all the victims.

As I travelled back to Munich, I felt profoundly moved and saddened by all I had seen and heard about this place. However I am glad that to this day all German students in the senior end of school have to be taken to visit one of these camps in Germany, as part of their education about what the Third Reich did to Jews , gypsies, homosexuals and others they regarded as sub-human or enemies of the state. The aim being never to forget or to let it happen again in Germany. There must have been at least 200-300 young people there on a visit that day .

When I later caught up with Jean at the hotel, we were able to share our different experiences and highlights of the day over a meal. I think her visit to the gallery was more uplifting, but perhaps less impactful.

Jo Pawson

God can use everything we give Him

The story is told of a man in charge of building a great church, who was pestered by an apprentice who wanted to design the glass for one of the windows. Finally, he agreed that the apprentice should be given one very small window. BUT – the apprentice would have to provide all the materials himself.

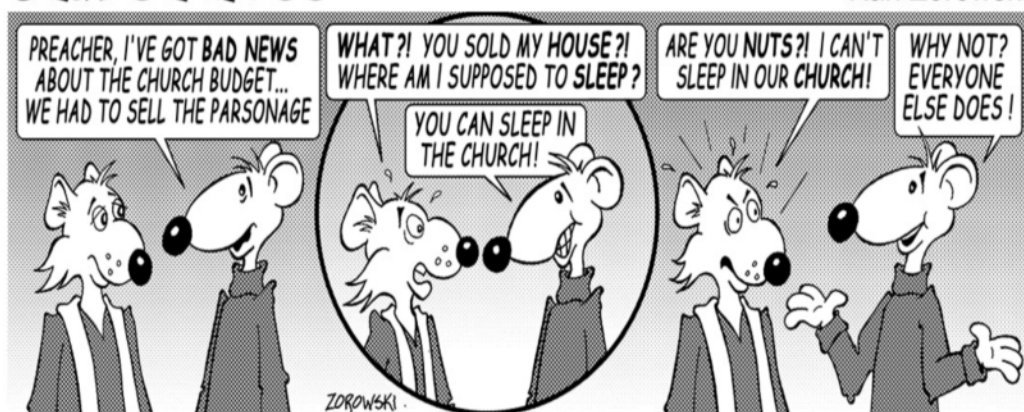


Undaunted, the apprentice carefully swept up all the stray bits of coloured glass that had been discarded and set to work. Slowly, and with great care, he pieced together a window of rare beauty. When the church was finally opened, many people stopped to stare in wonder at his small, but so beautiful, iridescent window.

Our lives can be like that - no matter how small we may feel, or that we have only scraps to offer to God, He can still help us use every bit of time and energy and love we do have, to build a life that is beautiful, and which will reflect the glory of God to others.

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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SMOKY - The first therapy dog

In 1944 an American Corporal in the US Army Air Corps, 26th Photo Reconnaissance Squad bought a Yorkshire Terrier from another soldier who wanted to return to a poker game. The tiny dog, named Smoky weighed less than 2 kg and had been found in an abandoned foxhole in New Guinea where the soldiers were based. She understood English and her new owner Bill Wynne quickly realised she was a little gem, and the pair became inseparable.



Smoky had a special seat on the aircraft when Bill went on many missions, the pair surviving dozens of air raids and even a typhoon. She featured in 'YANK' magazine and became a well-known mascot for the troops. When an essential new airfield was being constructed at Luzon, Smoky crawled through a 70ft underground pipe which was only 8in in diameter, with a phone line cable tied to her collar. The pipe was full of dust and soil, but the brave little dog made it across in minutes. This saved days of dangerous work by soldiers who would have had to dig a trench and move planes around the airfield exposing them to certain attack by the enemy.

The bond between Bill and Smoky was amazing - he shared his rations with her, bathed her in his helmet to keep her clean and comfortable in the humid conditions and taught her dozens of tricks. As a boy along with his brother, Bill had spent time in children's homes as their mother struggled to find work and dogs had provided love and friendship as they moved from place to place. When Bill became ill with dengue fever he was admitted to a military hospital where Dr Charles Mayo - who went on to found the

famous Mayo Clinic - was in charge. He allowed Smoky to sleep with Bill and the nurses quickly realised the other patients were more cheerful when she was in the ward. They were given permission to take her on their rounds and when she was set on the lap of a soldier who had not spoken and had refused to move for months, he lifted her in the air and tried to speak. Bill said there wasn't a dry eye in the ward - this little dog soldier had seen combat and truly was a comrade.

To get Smoky home when the war ended Bill had to smuggle her on board a ship. When she was discovered by senior officers, he was made to sign documents agreeing to pay over a thousand dollars - which he certainly did not have - when the ship reached USA. On arrival at the port the officers were nowhere to be found and the pair quickly made their escape!

Bill, his wife Margaret and Smoky headed to Hollywood after the war where he worked as an animal trainer. Later they moved to Cleveland where Smoky continued to entertain and bring love and joy both on TV and in the community. She mastered almost 200 tricks and only slowed down in the year before she died aged 14.

There are several memorials to Smoky, but one for her and other Dogs of War in Cleveland Metroparks has a life size bronze of her in a soldier's helmet - just as she was when she came to be the first recognised therapy dog.

Kindly contributed by
Valerie Kincaid



On the absurdity of a vicar ever retiring

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Beware of being invited by bishops to drop round for a chat. My first mistake was to answer the phone when he rang; what are answer phones for, but to avoid having to talk to anyone - ever. My second mistake was not to be able to think of a meeting I had to attend - preferably on another planet - on the day he suggested.



I therefore found myself in his study this morning, waiting for the point of the meeting while we negotiated the obligatory five minutes discussing the weather and his summer holiday in France. I made it quite clear that I had been far too busy to swan off to foreign parts – although I suspect the implication of what I said passed him by.

We then got to the point. He was toying with the thought of my retirement and linking us with the adjoining parish of St Agatha's. I patiently explained, using simple words and speaking slowly for his benefit, that at 85 and with 40 years at St James the Least of All behind me, I was just getting into my stride and that the vicar of St Agatha's, a stripling at 63, had nowhere near enough experience to organise the hymn list, let alone two parishes. This, too, seemed to drift somewhere above his head.

He had clearly done his homework. There were already plans for *my* Queen Anne rectory to be sold and *my* five acres of garden be turned into a housing estate. This news would be received by our parishioners with as much equanimity as if they were told that Buckingham Palace was to be converted into a sports centre.

The matter, I was told, was confidential – which meant that I only relayed the news to one parishioner at a time. By the end of the day everyone in the village knew, and a counter attack was being planned. Inevitably, the most outraged were those who never attend church. People do so love having a church not to go to. Congregations have

soared, gardeners are being brought in to tidy the rectory grounds, and the church council is now well attended. The latter is a mixed blessing, as I always think that the time to get worried is when people start to turn up to meetings.

It may surprise our bishop, but the threat of a merger has been the greatest impetus to mission outreach we've had in years. Retirement indeed! I'm sure Zadok was never asked about his pension plans.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Prayer for September 2023

Dear Father in heaven,

September is a time of change, a change of season, changes in many areas of our lives as a new term begins and new opportunities present themselves. It can be a time of challenge and uncertainty for many of us as well as excitement. Thank you Lord, that You never change, Your promises never change, Your Holy-Spirit inspired Word never changes. You are constant and rock-solid, always.

Help us to remember that You make all things new when we put our trust in Jesus, You give us new life and new ways of understanding, but help us also to remember that You never contradict Your revealed self. Help us always to check out our thinking with what You say in Your Word. Help us to be faithful to You as we take each step forward, each new day.

In Jesus name, Amen

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.

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How not to be a Grumpy Old Man (or Woman)

By The Ven John Barton considers...

Marvel. Marvel every time you see a child learning to walk and speak at the same time.

Share in their delight. Wonder at the dawn of each new season: sunshine and shadows, falling leaves, frost, sudden new growth. You are still alive to take it all in. That's an unexpected bonus.

Appreciate. Have a look around your living room and concentrate on items designed for your comfort and entertainment, which your forbears never had. Think of someone you don't like; now ponder a couple of their good points. Try to desire their welfare more than their downfall.

Forgive. (That's a condition for being forgiven). You may have to do it over and over again for the same person. Unearth grudges which have been lying under the surface. Are they worth preserving that much? Think of the damage they are doing you.

Married or Single? Don't envy. The grass on the other side of the street isn't greener, it's just different. Count your blessings - some will be uniquely yours. Be concerned for the welfare of someone whose circumstances are unlike yours.

Deal with disappointment. If you have become grumpy it's probably caused by a deep-down dissatisfaction with yourself. Stop raking over past failures. Each morning when you wake up, say with the Psalmist, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Change. No, it isn't too late. It will only be too late to change when you are in a coffin. In the meantime, there's still room for manoeuvre. Remember John Henry Newman's words, "To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often."

Church Mice



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Parish Announcements

***The Select Vestry meeting will be held on
Thurs 14th Sept at 7.30pm in the Parochial Hall***

Counters for September

3rd Sept Sandra Thompson, 10th Sept David Robinson
17th Sept Brian Joyce, 24th Sept Bill Rafferty
1st October Colin de Fleury

Sunday Refreshments Rota

3rd Sept Priscilla Carlisle. 10th Sept. Messy Church
17th Sept Heather Cupples. 24th Sept Janet Peoples
1st Oct Judith de Fleury & Colin De Fleury.

Refreshments coordinator Priscilla Carlisle -Tel 07787561517

A Big Thanks

A special thanks to Pauline, Angela and Joy for organising and providing the August refreshments in St John's Church.

Game On Meetings in September

Meeting in the Library on Edward Road on Wednesday 13th & 27th September at 1.30pm.

New participants always welcome . And if you are a bit shy, just come and see what games we play first. Of course there will be tea and biscuits served.

September Fellowship Activities

Together in Faith Group

Monday 4th & 18th September at 7.30pm

We will be commencing study of the Book of Philippians

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

Book Club

Reading 'All the broken pieces', by John Boynes

The October book is 'The Whistle-blower' by Kristin Hannah

(Contact Paddy Rodgers tel 028 93372439 for venue & date)

Wednesday Morning Fellowship Group

(Monthly)

Next meeting will be on WEDNESDAY 6th Sept at 11am
in the Boucher Room.

New members welcome. We start with refreshments and fellowship . 'We will be looking at The After life!'

'Power in Prayer' Group (Monthly)

Wednesday 27th Sept 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



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

FROM THE **EDITOR'S DESK**

Dear Reader

Welcome back EVERYONE to our September Magazine. If you have been away over the summer we hope you had a good time.

We are once again back to our regular church service plan and fellowship activities, including the new Brasso Club, featured on p.19. We would love some men to join us for our next meeting, as it was all ladies last time we met!

Please note Youth Fellowship starts again this month, p.15. Also Game On for the folks who enjoy various card and board games- see p.32.

Take a look at all our activities on offer. Its a good time to join in, especially if you haven't done so before

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

Riddle Answer from page 15: A coat hanger

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People's:	Mabel Allen	Pauline Riddle

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Priscilla Carlisle; Austin Jenkins -Graveyard Manager St John's

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Registered with NI Charity Commission NIC102649