

CHURCH MATTERS

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

Here everyone matters

May 2024



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

UNITED PARISH OF
WHITEHEAD & ISLANDMAGEE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Sunday 19th May

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 2024 Services & Readings

Sunday 5th May - 6th Sunday of Easter - Rogation Sunday

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Two
12 noon Holy Communion Two
Epistle Reading - Acts 10:44-48 Gospel Reading - John 15:9-17
Readers for Epistle - Corrine Logan / Jim Reid
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Leviticus 25-26; Psalms 85-92; Ephesians 1 - 2

Sunday 12th May - 7th Sunday of Easter - Sunday after Ascension Day

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Messy Church - and Lunch for CMSI
*Messy Church this morning will be on the theme of "Hands Out".
This is a project organised by the Church Mission Society Ireland and
looks at how we use our hands and feet to serve God and those around
us. After Messy Church we will be having a Fundraising Lunch in the
hall for CMSI, and every one is invited to come and share with us.*

More details on page 6.

10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer Two
12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; John 17:6-19
Reader for first Lesson -
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Joshua 1-5; Psalms 93-100; Ephesians 3-6

Sunday 19th May - Day of Pentecost - Whit Sunday

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer Two
12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:26-36, 37a; John 15:26-27,
16:4b-15
Reader for the First Lesson
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Proverbs 1, 3, 4, 6-8; Psalms 101-107; 1 John, 2 John,
3 John

Sunday 26th May - Trinity Sunday

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
12 noon Morning Prayer
Sunday Readings -Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; John 3:1-17
Reader for the First Reading
7:00 p.m. “Sunday Lite” in the Parochial Hall - **details below**
Weekday Readings Proverbs 9, 10, 15, 17, 21, 25; Psalms 108 - 114;
1 Timothy 1 - 6

Sunday 2nd June - Trinity 1 -

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Two
12 noon Holy Communion Two
Epistle Reading - 2 Corinthians 5:5-12; Gospel Reading - Mark 2:23 - 3:6
Reader for first Lesson -
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Ecclesiastes 1 - 5; Psalms 115 - 119; Galatians 1 - 4

SUNDAY LITE

An informal and relaxed time of worship, with Bible reading, prayer and conversation (with some light refreshments thrown in).

While this is aimed at those in their teenage years and early 20's (and all who feel young at heart and in spirit) every one is welcome to come and share with us as we give thanks to God.

There will be tea and coffee, and some appropriate snacks, available as we sit around some tables, or in groups rather than in more formal lines.

The service will be more interactive, with opportunities to ask questions, request topics for prayer or offer prayers for those we want to pray for.

Put the date in your diary and please plan to come and share with us in this new and less formal act of worship.

A message from our Rector

Did you see it? Did you feel the effects of it? Was the pattern of your daily life changed, even for a moment?

The sun was out in late April. Several days in a row without rain. How fantastic it was. How much joy and hope was suddenly in our hearts at the prospect of good weather. Suddenly we were uplifted for those few days. Not only did it brighten and warm our hearts, it also warmed the stones of both church buildings and on Sunday 28th of April (despite the Rector turning the heating on later and later each week during April) both churches were overly warm!

Why am I talking about the weather? The same warmth and hope brought about by the sun comes with the resurrection of the son! We are almost at the end of the Easter season and will soon be celebrating Pentecost. The coming of the Holy Spirit, the first preaching about Jesus Christ, the birthday of the church. There is much to celebrate!

Once again, this year, we are encouraging you to come to church for our birthday celebration on Sunday 19th May, in St Patrick's at 10:30 and in St John's at 12 noon. To come wearing bright colours, red, orange, yellow - the colours of flames and bright fire - as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit in tongues of flame to rest upon the disciples.

Birthday parties are fun events where we celebrate another year of life and look forward to the next year. This year let us remember, in our celebrations this year, that in our calendar (based on the birth of Christ as 1 AD) the church is 1991 years old (as we state that Christ died aged 33), and that St Patrick's is 117 years old and St John's is 429 years old, and we are however many years old we are. There is so much to celebrate when we look back at all the good things the Christian church has done. There is also much to repent on when we see all the bad things that the church has done and been involved with. Yet here we are, still striving to follow Christ and to the the best that we can do in the world to make it a better place.

One of the best ways that we can follow Christ and make the world a better place is by doing it together, as a sharing, caring, Christian community. We do this by building each other up in faith through being together in worship and in our study and leaning about God's word.



Our faith is not about sitting still and doing everything in the same way for all of our lives. It is a living growing and changing thing that often works best when we are slightly uncomfortable in our faith - for it is then that it is most real to us and most important and we look more closely at what we believe and what we are doing. It is nice, and good, to have some (well a lot) of constancy in our faith and its practice in worship. It is good to be able to link what we do in church Sunday by Sunday with our past and with those who have gone before us. But it is even more important to leave a lively and vibrant practice of faith to those who come after us.

The past is good, but none of us are willing to worship as our parents and grandparents did. Sitting in church at least twice on a Sunday (morning and evening), no cushions on the pews, dimmer lighting, not as efficient heating, longer sermons that are harder to hear (no sound system); and walking to and from church in our Sunday best.

With this in mind we will be starting a new service on a Sunday evening, "Sunday Lite", as noted on page 3 of this magazine. It will be an informal service in the Parochial Hall, we will not be sitting in rows, like in church, but may well be sat in groups at tables or just in groups.

The worship will consist of a mix of mostly more modern worship songs and hymns and some more traditional hymns. There will be readings from the Bible and a few thoughts on them, which may be in the form of a video rather than a talk, or a guided meditation or just a brief talk. There will be the chance to ask questions or make comments about the readings or the theme. There will also be a time for prayer. Those attending may request prayers on a particular theme, like peace or healing or poverty; or they may offer a prayer of their own. Some time we will use the Prayer Net - when we can offer a prayer silently but share the theme of that prayer with others. There may even be the odd worship activity - like writing a prayer together, or working out a statement of faith based on what has been read from the Bible.

Before, during and after the service tea and coffee and some form of food (biscuits, scones, buns etc.) will be available.

Sunday Lite is for any one who wants to come along, but is aimed at teenagers and those in their 20's and 30's and 40's and 50's and 60's and 70's and 80's who want to come along and join in. I hope that you will all support this in one way or another.

Every blessing to you all, Mark.

Spring cleaning 2024

It is that time of year when we all do a bit of a clean up and tidy up inside and out. St Patrick's and St John's could do with a tidy up outside. Weeding the paths and steps, and tidying around the church and hall buildings.

If you can help out in any way, brushing, weeding, washing, please come at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday 11th May to St Patrick's and Saturday 18th May to St John's.

We aim to work for no more than 2 hours on each of these days to get as much done as we can.

If we don't get finished we will organise another day to finish up and leave things as they should be.

If you can bring your own weeding tools, brushes, shovels etc it would make life a lot easier (and you will probably find them more comfortable to use).

CMSI fund raising lunch

12th May 2024 after Messy Church, in the Parochial Hall.

For years we have supported the work done by CMSI in different parts of the world. Through Mark and Ali Gill we supported the work done in Nepal with HDCS and the Sundar Dokar Church.

Our Children have learned, for many years, about the mission work of the church through the study programmes that have been run during Lent. As with last year we are doing this through Messy Church and we are doing it on 12th May.

So do come and join us for some hot dogs, bacon butties and cake after church. All donations will go to the work of CMSI.

Have you completed your volunteer form yet?

Our church exists and is special because we each contribute whatever talents we have to help our church's ministry in Whitehead and Islandmagee.

You may be good at helping to raise funds, or have expertise in electrics or woodcraft, gardening, IT, or cookery? Or perhaps you have musical talent and can sing in the choir, or work with children or assist us with catering, painting, or polishing the brasses?

We are not looking for you to sign your life away, but if you are willing to offer the odd hour to give us a hand we would love to hear from you.

Let us know how you would be willing to help, using one of the forms on display on the table at the back of the church. Once completed please drop it off in the basket also at the back of church so that we can be in touch.

Whatever you do for our church is not only appreciated, it really makes a difference and we couldn't manage so well without you.

Also in case you missed this article

Wildflower Seeds (May) Appeal for St John's Graveyard

Can you help by donating a packet or two of seeds so that we can create wild flower patches in the graveyard? Not only will it make the graveyard look nicer, but it will also encourage wild insects and pollinators

Mowing the grass around cathedrals and churches is a relatively modern practice. Before the invention of the lawn mower in 1830, and its adoption by Victorian gardeners, the ground would have been covered with diverse plants, managed by passing feet, cutting with a scythe and grazed by wild or domestic animals.

But now there is a move away from uniformly flat, green spaces around churches, and a growing trend for letting the grass grow. Wildflower seeds are often added as appropriate and the area becomes an attraction in its own right.

A 'letting the grass grow in May and wildflower seed planting project' would promote biodiversity, help reconnect people with nature, provide a focus for worship, education and campaigning, and act as a witness to the care Christians have for all of God's creation.

So if you can donate some wildflower seeds please bring them with you to church for the attention of Jim Reid (Glebe Warden) at St John's Church or Sandra Thompson (Church Treasurer) at St Patrick's Church.

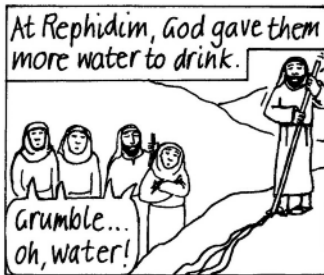
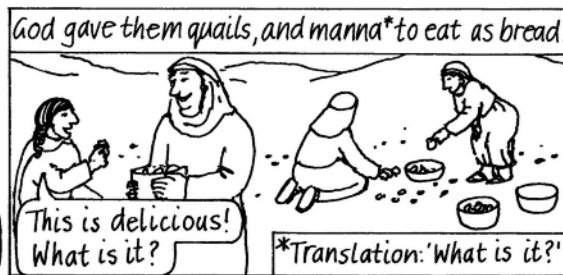
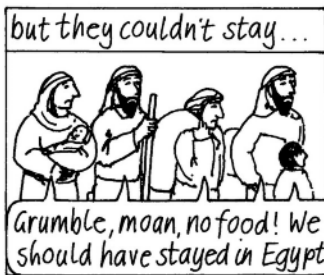
Many thanks.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus chapters 15:22 to 19:2

God had rescued the Hebrews from Egypt, and was leading them to their new land. But after 3 days...



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d	u	d	e	l	i	c	i	o	u	s	e
b	r	e	a	d	m	a	n	n	a	f	v

bread	whinge	land
manna	staff	oasis
water	Egypt	grumble
delicious	mountain	quails
Moses	food	Elim
Sinai	Aaron	months
God	moan	Amalekites
disputes	Rephidim	helped

Reflecting on this year's Lenten Lunches

by Sandra Thompson

It could be said that many of us groaned as the annual fund-raising topic of "Lenten Lunches" reached the agenda at a Select Vestry meeting earlier this year!

To provide an excellent lunch for enough people to fill the Parish hall each week of Lent, and carry outs, is a big undertaking and with every successful year, no one wants to see this special event close. But,

do we have the energy? Who will cook the soups? Will there be enough people bringing in delicious puddings? How many volunteers do we have and need?

Well, it turns out we did!



Yet again, on the first day, the buzz in the church hall was tremendous as our visitors sat and enjoyed their lunches, many only seeing each other for the first time, since last year! Old friends meet, families chat and the general hubbub is wonderful. As our servers would tell you, "It's hard to get them to go home!" As a social event, it is quite unique as well as raising funds for the church and other charities – 9 actually.

But behind this well organised lunch provision lies a wealth of humorous incidents that makes me sure that God has a sense of humour! If I could write a sketch, I am sure it would be as funny as the television series, "Faulty Towers".

There's the banter over the hatch – "Don't give all the soups to her, I was here first"

- "What have I come here to order?"

- "Two plain rolls, please. No butter." *No butter?* Was the reply.

"Yes, a plain roll has no butter" *Ok then. Two plain rolls unbuttered.*

Server comes back "Emmm can you butter those rolls, please?"

- "What am I looking in the fridge for?" (This phrase was heard often!)

- "Where did I put...?" (Another phrase often spoken)

- “People like the lentil soup better than the vegetable.” “Wait and see, Trevor!!”
- “More ham and cheese needed, and just get tomatoes and lettuce too” –MORE!!
- “We are going to run out of soup!!!!” We had to increase from 3 Pots to 4 this year.
- “Those serviettes aren’t up to standard. I will have to persuade someone to donate better ones”
- “Watch out, J. has been left in charge of the kitchen, and she’s strict!!”
- “Did you set the tables while wearing your roller boots?”
If you are not laughing, you had to be there!!

But joking apart, the success of this event is due to the many tasks being broken down into smaller responsibilities. That way, if a volunteer can’t be there one week, someone else can do that task easily enough. There’s a real sense of working together and acknowledging everyone’s part in the overall success. A huge thankyou goes to all who make wheaten bread, desserts, and provide the necessary ingredients every week. Your hard work does not go unnoticed. THANK YOU. A special thanks also goes to those who provided goodies to sustain the team as they worked. THANK YOU.

And to the team who for seven weeks, dedicated their Wednesdays to making sure that everything went well. To those who asked businesses for support, to those who took orders for carry outs, those who willingly set up the hall tables, those who decorated the tables with fresh flowers, those who counted the money, those who washed endless dishes, and to those who tidied everything away, **your hard work was very much appreciated.** **THANK YOU.**

Many people expressed their thanks and donated extra because they had such a lovely experience. THANK YOU.

Isn’t this what God’s people are meant to do?

As we read in 1 Corinthians v 12-31, we Christians all have our part to play in the work of God. Only by working together, with

kindness and thoughtfulness do we allow others to see how God is at work

to-day. Through the many small tasks, coming together to provide a social banquet, we are showing God's love for our local community. In Whitehead, we have so many who live and eat alone, that these Lenten Lunches help to lighten their hearts and know that people in their community do care.

There's also the matter of raising funds. This year the Lenten Lunches raised £8698.90. As advertised, Select Vestry will decide what proportion of the money will be allocated to the church and how much to the listed charities. This is the largest amount raised during this event. We are grateful to **EVERYONE** who supported us.



Book Reviews

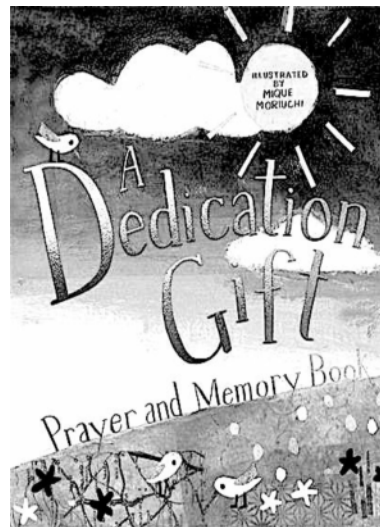
A Dedication Gift Prayer and Memory Book

By Various Authors, SPCK, £8.99

This illustrated gift book for a young child's dedication offers a collection of prayers, Bible verses, and pages for recording details, memories, and messages of the special occasion.

Parents can add memories of their child's dedication with spaces for photos and special blessings from the guests, as well as recording key milestones in their child's early years.

The book would make a good gift for a grandparent, godparent, or family member, to give to a young child.

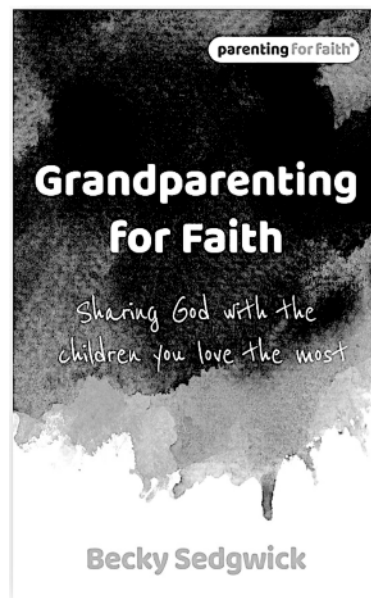


Grandparenting for Faith: Sharing God with the children you love the most

By Becky Sedgwick, BRF, £9.99

Part of the joy of being a grandparent is to help your grandchildren learn to have confidence in God's love for them.

This book will encourage grandparents to be a unique voice, speaking into their grandchildren's lives, and helping to nurture them into the reality of a relationship with the God who loves them.



May Day: unbridled merriment

1st May -

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to 'all sorts'! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli.

For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence and unbridled merriment. One Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: 'for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practised?'

Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and evening bonfires.

The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day, and in 1644 May Day was abolished altogether. Many May poles came down - only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was 'the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England', according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire.

May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and - since 1833 - Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism.

There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well-known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

An old May carol includes the lines:

The life of man is but a span, it flourishes like a flower

We are here today and gone tomorrow - we are dead within an hour.

There is something of a sadness about it, both in words and tune, as there is about all purely sensuous joy. For May Day is not Easter, and the joys it represents have always been earth-bound and fleeting.

Holywood is proud that its maypole is the only surviving one in Ireland and is still used every year on May Day.

The maypole was reportedly given as a gift to Holywood's townspeople in 1620 by a crew of Dutch traders in gratitude for the hospitality and assistance they received when their ship ran aground offshore in Belfast Lough. It is situated at a crossroads in the centre of the town and is still used in annual fairs.



On Monday 6th May the town will be transformed into a pedestrianised hub of activity. Expect delicious savoury and sweet treats on offer from a food stall market.

Enjoy funfair rides, Jump, Jiggle and Jive, the annual Bonnie Baby Competition as well as a fantastic Maypole Programme.

Musical performances will add to the ambience of a great day out, and of course the display of dance by local school children around the Ireland's only Maypole is a highlight!

Sewing Bee Crafts

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Ascension Day, 40 Days with the Risen Christ. 9th May

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (*Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.*)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them – to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

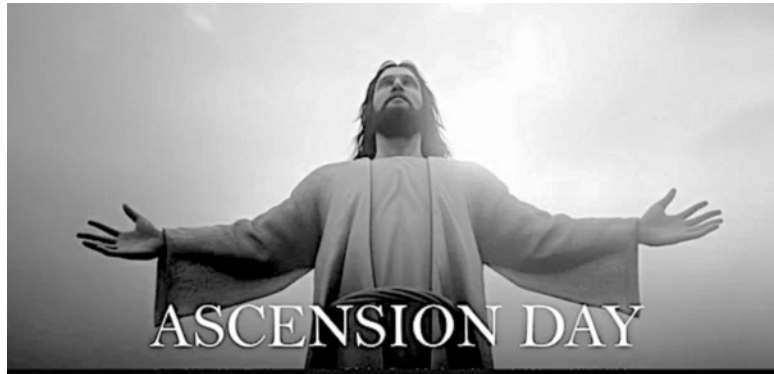
Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands – and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, & to have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem

with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.’ (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus



again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

Prayer for May 2024

May, the loveliest of months – and this year, as we welcome the blossom and the beauty of late Spring, we also welcome Your Holy Spirit afresh, as we celebrate Pentecost.

May we open our hearts to receive Your Spirit, as Your people did on that first Day of Pentecost. May we be filled and empowered and emboldened to witness to Your goodness and love.

May we be transformed by Him and reflect Your transforming grace to the broken world in which we live.

May people who meet us ask, "What does this mean?"

May they turn to You and hear You speaking in ways they can understand.

Without Your Holy Spirit we can do nothing.

With Him living in us, we can do all things.

Come Holy Spirit, come to us, we pray,

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Daily Hope is on the line – again!

A free telephone line that provides spiritual support for older people has been re launched.

The “DailyHope” telephone line serves many people in later life unable to participate in person with church life in the community, either in the long term, or temporarily due to sickness or medical treatment. It was launched during the Covid pandemic.

The recorded phone line provides a vital spiritual resource aimed at the around six million UK people aged over 65 who are either unable to use the Internet safely and successfully or are not on-line at all.

The organisation Faith in Later Life announced earlier this year that the line would have to be suspended because of a lack of funding .The good news is that additional funding has now been secured, DailyHope has been re launched, with a drive to find new content and content-providers.

Alexandra Drew said: “We’re looking forward to welcoming new callers, as well as content providers and funding partners, to help us to continue to bring DailyHope to older people, and others who are staying at home.”

Broadcaster Pam Rhodes, an ambassador for Faith in Later Life, said: “DailyHope has brought Christian fellowship through the landline into the homes of so many, filling their hearts and souls with God’s presence and comfort through word, prayer and song.

“It’s no wonder that DailyHope has remained so popular – and the thought that this vital service may have been lost to those who value and rely upon it brought real despair. But now, we’re thankful to God that DailyHope has been saved. This is wonderful news.”

**The DailyHope free telephone service is available on
0800 804 8044.**

***Churches and Christians are being encouraged to publicise
the telephone number widely.***

St James the Least of All
The Rectory
On the perils of building a kitchen in church



My dear Nephew Darren

It never fails to amaze me how, in church life, an issue can suddenly become an Issue. In the last month, we have acquired an Issue: a proposal to convert a space at the back of church into a kitchen. Inevitably, battle lines have been drawn and trenches dug. Attendance at church council meetings has soared and unofficial sub-committees meet in the car park after Services. It's obvious that feelings are running high, because people have become remarkably polite to one another.

Some who are wildly in favour see it as an opportunity of being able to leave the pews ten minutes early, in order to get ready for the rush for weak coffee and damp biscuits. I can already hear in my mind the final hymn being drowned by kettles being filled, biscuit tins opened, cups thunderingly placed on saucers, while the volunteers discuss the dress sense of others in the congregation in deafening whispers.

I was a little surprised to hear that Colonel Wainwright was all in favour – until I realised that it would give him a place to totter into to read his newspaper once he got bored with my sermon, which usually seems to happen in the first minute. Naturally, smaller turf wars have broken out alongside the major battle. There is conflict about whether we should get new crockery, what colour carpeting tiles would look right – and most importantly of all, who will take charge of the coffee rota.

Others are totally against the project: the treasurer dreads the thought of signing yet more cheques, the churchwardens worry about removing pews which have quietly hidden the dry rot, and the theologically angst-ridden agonise about the fact that St Paul never mentioned coffee after Sabbath worship.

Naturally, I encourage all sides, especially if it will bring any possibility of progress to a halt. I proposed bringing in flasks of coffee, thus stopping anyone being able to escape before the end of the Service; I suggested drinks being brought to people in the pews, thus ruining the Colonel's hopes of finding a safe haven; I organised a group to study High Priestly attitudes to refreshments in the Temple in Jerusalem in Leviticus.

I am sure that by the time all these groups have come up with their conclusions, we will have safely moved on to fight the next Issue.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Lemon & Elderflower Traybake

This clever twist on the classic bakewell has a delicate floral flavour, making it ideal for serving at spring garden parties or bake sales.

From goodFood recipes

Preparation and cooking time

Prep:40 mins. **Cook:**1 hr and 10 mins + chilling and cooling

Serves 12-15

Ingredients

- 250g lemon curd, plus extra to decorate
- 250g butter softened
- 250g caster sugar
- 2 lemons zested
- 4 eggs
- 100g self-raising flour
- 150g ground almonds

For the pastry

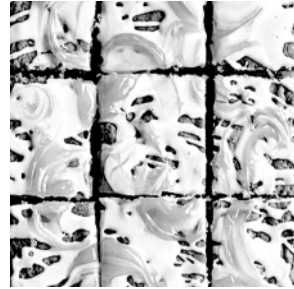
- 200g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
- 125g cold unsalted butter, cut into cubes
- 1 tbsp caster sugar
- 1 lemon, zested
- 1 egg yolk

For the icing

- 200g icing sugar
- 2 lemons juiced (use the zested lemons above)
- 2 tbsp elderflower cordial

Method

STEP 1. First, make the pastry. Tip the flour, butter, sugar and lemon zest into a **food processor** and blitz until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Tip in the egg yolk and $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 tbsp cold water and blitz again to bring everything together into a dough. If the dough isn't coming together, add more cold water, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp at a time, and blitz again. Roll the pastry out on a lightly floured surface



to a 3mm thickness, then use it to line the base of a loose-bottomed traybake or brownie tin (ours was 20 x 30cm). Transfer to the fridge and chill for 20 mins.

STEP 2. Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Line the chilled pastry case with baking parchment and baking beans, then bake for 15 mins. Remove the parchment and beans and bake for 5 mins more until the pastry is lightly golden. Leave to cool for a few minutes before spreading over the lemon curd, leaving a 2cm border around the edges (it will spread out when the cake batter is poured over). Turn the oven down to 180C/160C fan/gas 4.

STEP 3. Beat the butter, sugar and lemon zest together using an electric whisk or in a **stand mixer** until pale, light and fluffy, about 8 mins. Beat in the eggs, one at a time along with 1 tbsp of the flour, then fold in the remaining flour and the ground almonds. Carefully spoon the batter over the lemon curd and gently spread out using the back of the spoon, then bake for 35-40 mins until a skewer inserted into the middle comes out clean. Leave to cool in the tin completely, then carefully remove to a board.

STEP 4. *To make the icing, combine the icing sugar, lemon juice and elderflower cordial until loose enough to drizzle over the sponge, then swirl over extra lemon curd, if you like. Cut into squares and serve. Will keep in an airtight tin for up to three days.*

Twist it with alternative flavours option below.

Orange & ginger traybake

Swap the lemon zest and lemon curd for the same amounts of orange zest and marmalade, then use ginger cordial in place of the elderflower.

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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FIRE OF PENTECOST

Sunday 19th May 2024

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8



We all get tired and battle weary sometimes. The disciples of Jesus had just been through a three-year long roller coaster adventure with Jesus that had culminated in His death, resurrection and ascension into heaven.

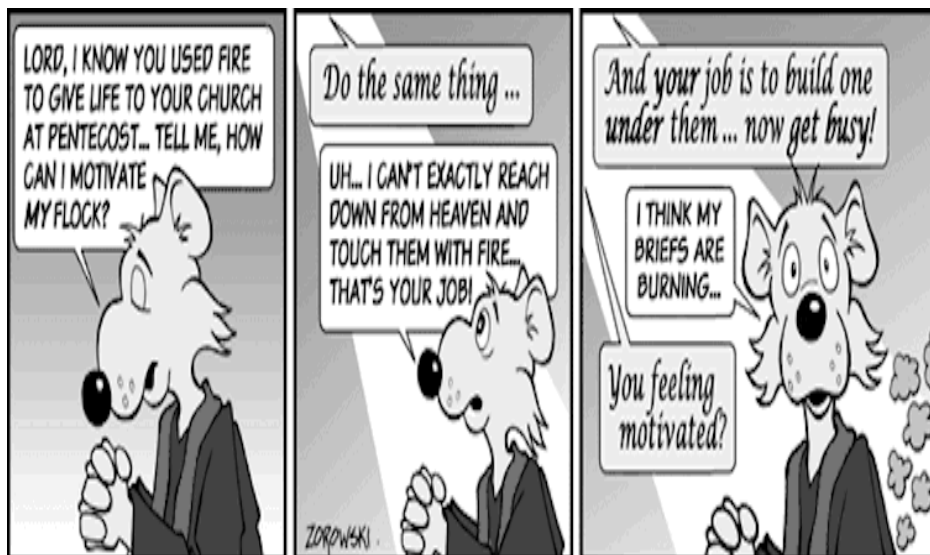
The range of emotions would have been hugely taxing in the days leading up to Pentecost, as they remembered Jesus weeping in the garden of Gethsemane, betrayed by Judas, brutally beaten and crucified, and then dead and buried. Then there had been the shock and awe of finding out

that He was alive again! But then He had left them again, to return to His Father. By the time the day of Pentecost arrived, the disciples would indeed have welcomed some fresh spiritual fire!

For us today, many of us have felt emotionally drained with the uncertainties caused by Covid 19, the worry of prices rising at an alarming rate, and the uncertainty of what is happening around the world with major political elections looming in the USA and UK, wars in Ukraine and the Holy Land and worrying climatic changes.

So, what better day to pray for fresh spiritual fire for each of us? As we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and birth of the Church, let us thank God that He will never leave us or forsake us.

On Pentecost Sunday (19th May) let's fill our church with fiery colours to remind ourselves of that first visit by the Holy Spirit to the disciples in the Upper Room. So if you have colourful coats, scarves or jumpers do wear them to church. Lets make the church a sea of reds, oranges, and yellows.



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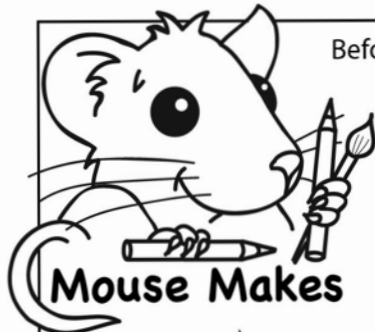
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Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples
 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit
 has come upon you, and you will be my
 witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea
 and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...

...When the day of Pentecost arrived,
 they were all together in one place,
 and they were all filled
 with the Holy Spirit."


 READ the story
 of Pentecost
 in Acts 1-2
 Look up the Bible
 verses to find
 the answers to the
 crossword clues.

How many
 words can you
 make from
 the letters of:
 DAY OF
 PENTECOST



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? <i>Acts 1:12</i> | 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? <i>Acts 2:2</i> |
| 2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? <i>Acts 2:3</i> | 9 What did they start speaking in? <i>Acts 2:4</i> |
| 3a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? <i>Acts 1:14</i> | 4 What were the disciples filled with? <i>Acts 2:4</i> |
| 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? <i>Acts 1:26</i> | 5 Who spoke to the crowd? <i>Acts 2:14</i> |
| 5d Which special day was it? <i>Acts 2:1</i> | 7 Who had prophesied this? <i>Acts 2:16</i> |

Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit.

A Confirmation Service held at St John's Church, Islandmagee, on Sunday 14th April, saw 10 candidates from the Parish being confirmed by Bishop Kenneth Clarke.

Many families, friends and parishioners from St Patrick's, Whitehead & St John's Islandmagee, attended to give their support and encouragement, as did the newly formed St Patrick's Church Choir.

Some readers may wonder what is the reason and significance of a confirmation? The answer is simply 'Confirmation' is a special church service in which a person publicly affirms their commitment to a journey of Christian faith and confirms the promises that were made on their behalf, by their parents and godparents when they were baptized as a child. As part of the confirmation the local bishop will lay their hands on the head of each person being confirmed and ask God's Holy Spirit to give them strength and commitment to live God's way for the rest of their life. Confirmation, is also a great moment to acknowledge our place in the local and worldwide church. In turn the church will promise to support and pray for us.

There were lots of highlights during the service with 21-year-old university student Marc McCausland giving a very positive testimony about his faith and the way God is working in his life. Later in the service a solo was bravely sung by 12-year-old Alicia Rainey, during one of the choir pieces.

In addition to the confirmation led by the Bishop, Holy Communion was also offered, enabling everyone to draw closer together in faith and one another.

The ten members of the parish who were confirmed were:

Sophie Henderson, Devyn Henderson, Joyce Martin,
Jo Pawson, Alicia Rainey, Marc McCausland, Campbell Coles,
Lilah Tilson, Austin Jenkins and David Young.



Many thanks to Bishop Ken Clarke, for attending at such short notice to lead the service (due to the death of our Bishop's mother), and to our Rector, Canon Mark Taylor, for coordinating the service.

A special thanks to the choir and leader Loreto McAuley, for the music and to all those ladies who prepared and served the supper that followed which was most enjoyable.

Not been confirmed yet?

Anyone may be confirmed who has been baptised, and as a general rule the Church of Ireland suggests that anyone who is over 10 years old and can answer for themselves could be ready for confirmation.

- Maybe you've been baptised as a child but would like to make the promises for yourself now you're older.
- Maybe you've been baptised and following Jesus for a while but would like to make a fresh commitment to be a disciple of Jesus now.
- Maybe you've been baptised in another church and would like to formally become a member of the Anglican Communion, a world-wide body of which the Church of Ireland is just one member.

- Maybe you're interested in making this commitment to Jesus but haven't been baptised. We hold baptism services in our Church, and maybe both baptism and confirmation are right for you this time.

If you would like to be confirmed whatever your age and circumstances, it's important that you have a strong personal conviction that it is right for you at this point in your life and you will need to attend some confirmation classes to help you prepare.

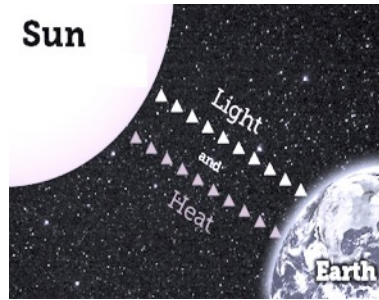
Do pray about it and then speak to our Rector, Mark Taylor, to find out more about Baptism or Confirmation in the church, even if you're not sure at the moment. Because here at St Patrick's & St John's all are welcome!

J. Pawson



Trinity Sunday, celebrating one God who is Three Persons. 26th May

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space, and unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father.



The light that flows from the Sun, which gives us life and illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are **from** the sun, and are *of* the sun, yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

The Bible makes clear that God is One God, who is disclosed in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. For example:

Deuteronomy 6:4: ‘Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’

Isaiah 45:22: ‘Turn to me and be saved... for I am God, and there is no other.’

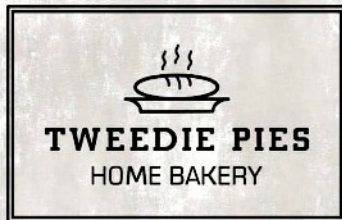
Genesis 1:1-2: ‘In the beginning God created.... and the Spirit of God was hovering...’

Judges 14:6: ‘The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power...’

John 1:1-3: ‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.’

Luke 24:49 actually manages to squeeze the whole Trinity into one sentence. Jesus tells His disciples: ‘I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power (the Holy Spirit) from on high.’

In other words, the sun eternally gives off light and heat, and whenever we turn to its brilliant light, we find that the warmth and life there as well.



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Tweedie Pies Home Bakery Open For Business

Many congratulations to Jason Tweedie and his team, who on the, 8th April 2024, opened their new bakery business called Tweedie Pies Home Bakery in Whitehead

Jason has run McKee's Bakery just down the road for 24 years, and this is a relocation from Windsor Avenue to the former Post Office building at 28a Kings Road, Whitehead

Jason and his team are pleased to welcome new and existing customers to the new and modern bakery, offering a wide selection of baked products and more, but asks please bear with us while we find our feet in our new location.

He added “ We thank you for your continued support and are forever grateful for our hard working staff, all our customers, friends and family”.

The members of Whitehead & Islandmagee Parish would like to wish Jason and his team every success in this new and exciting business venture.



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You Are Welcome Here

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- 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

May Church Activities

Together in Faith Group

Monday 13th & 27th May 7.30pm

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

Book Club

Book Club meets on the last Wednesday of the month
(Contact Paddy Rodgers tel 07720 404071
for venue & date)

Wednesday Morning Fellowship

Group (Monthly)

Next meeting will be on WEDNESDAY 22nd May
at 11am
in the Boucher Room.

New members welcome. We start with refreshments and
fellowship . 'We will be looking to understand 'Holy Communion'.

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

Parish Announcements

The Select Vestry meeting will be held on

Thurs 9th May at 10am in the Boucher Room

Counters for May

5th May Bert Thompson 12th May Trevor Peoples
19th May Colin de Fleury 26th May David Robinson
2nd June Brian Joyce

Sunday Refreshments Rota

5th May Inez Moore 12th May Messy Church
19th May Corinne Logan 26th May Judith & Colin de Fleury.
2nd June Jayne & David Robinson

Refreshments coordinator Priscilla Carlisle Tel 07787561517

Game On Meeting in May

Meeting in the Library on Wednesday

8th & 22nd May 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.

Brasso Club this month

Meets on Thursday 16th May at 10am

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.

Guide Dog Event

In St Patrick's Church Hall

**On Saturday 11th May 10am – 1pm
Coffee Morning & Guide Dogs Road Show.**

Call Gary Wilson for more details Tel - 028 9523 2732



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

Youth Fellowship

**Youth Fellowship / Sunday Brunch
will resume in September**

Given the approach of exam season, we'll take a pause until September. Thanks to everyone who has been involved this year and we look forward to seeing you along with some new faces (please pray for this) in September.

Stephen Martin

Youth Fellowship Leader

If you want to find out more, contact Stephen Martin
(Stepheneddu@gmail.com)

FROM THE **EDITOR'S DESK**

Dear Reader

There is a lot happening in church this month, with Trinity Sunday, Ascension Sunday and Pentecost to celebrate.

During May we also have Christian Aid Week happening. A supply of Christian Aid Gift Envelopes will hopefully be available in Church, so that we can support its essential work, especially overseas.

On page 20, there are details of a free Daily Hope phone line that offers spiritual comfort on a daily basis, using hymns, prayers, reflections and Bible readings for Christians unable to get to church, due to ill health or mobility issues. Do check it out.

Last month we held our General Easter Vestry meeting to elect members to serve on the vestry for the coming year. We wish God's richest blessing on all who were re-elected and also for our two new Rector's Churchwardens, Colin De Fleury and John Hall

Please spread the word about all that's happening in church and encourage family and friends to attend services and activities here.

Stay well and God Bless.

WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH

Rector: Revd Canon Mark Taylor,

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

Mobile: 07719 619286

George McNeill Diocesan Lay Reader

Facebook: St Patrick's & St Johns Whitehead & Islandmagee
Twitter: @Whitehead_Col
Email: churchofirelandwhitehead@gmail.com
Website: **www.whitehead-islandmagee-parish.co.uk**

CHURCHWARDENS

	St. Patrick's	St. John's
Rector's:	Colin De Fleury	John Hall
People's:	Mabel Allen	Pauline Riddle

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

Janet Peoples Bill Pollock Ann Mulholland

Alison Higginson Alan Hayward Priscilla Carlisle

Jo Pawson William Rafferty

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

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