CHURCH MATTERS

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

Here everyone matters

October 2024

ST. PATRICK'S & ST. JOHN'S

UNITED PARISH OF WHITEHEAD & ISLANDMAGEE

You are invited to share with us as we celebrate Harvest Festival



HARVEST SERVICES

At St Patrick's Church, Whitehead, on Sunday 6th October at 11am followed by a Harvest Lunch.

At St John's Church, Islandmagee, on Sunday 20th October at 11am, followed by refreshments & chat

October Services & Readings

Wednesdays at 11:30 in St Patrick's there is a brief service (about 30 minutes) of the readings and Psalms for the day, Litany (form One) or Prayers for that day.
On Sunday evenings there is a service of Compline at 7:00 p.m., (lasting 20 minutes), to mark the end of the day.
All are welcome at both of these services!

Sunday 6th October - Trinity 19
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
11:00 a.m. United Harvest Thanksgiving - St Patrick's
Followed by Parish shared lunch in the Parochial Hall.
Sunday Readings - Joel 2:21-27; Psalm 126; Matthew 6:25-33
Reader for first Lesson - Scottie Hayes
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Hosea 6:12 - 13:3; Psalms 1-34; Acts 22:30 - 25:27

Sunday 13th October - Trinity 20
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. MESSY CHURCH
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15; Mark 10:17-31
Readers for first Lesson - Trevor Peoples / Alan Hayward
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Hosea 13 - 14, Jonah 1 - 4, Micah 1 - 2; Psalms 35 - 53; Acts 26:1 - 28:31

Sunday 20th October - Trinity 21
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
11:00 United Harvest Thanksgiving - St John's
Followed by shared refreshments in St John's.
Sunday Readings - Philippians 4:4-9; Psalm 100; John 6:25-35
Reader for the First Lesson- Sarah Henderson
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Micah 3:1 - 7:20, Daniel 7:1-28; Psalms 54 - 78; Revelation 7:1 - 10:11

Sunday 27th October- 5th Sunday before Advent - Bible Sunday
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12:00 noon. Family Service
Sunday Readings- 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5
Readers for first Lesson - Rector
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Daniel 8:1 - 12:13; Psalms 79 - 150; Revelation 11:1 - 13:18

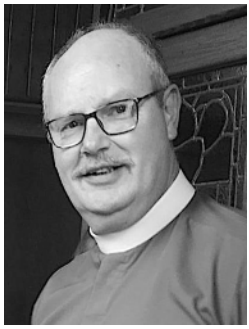
Sunday 3rd November - 4th Before Advent
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Holy Communion Two
Sunday Readings - 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12
Readers for first Lesson - Heather Cupples / Maureen Reid
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Nehemiah 1- 8; Psalms 95 - 109; Matthew 13:36 - 14:36

Sunday 10th November - 3rd Before Advent - Remembrance Sunday
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:00 a.m. Act of Remembrance in St Patrick's followed by Civic Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in Whitehead at 10:50 a.m.
12:00 noon. Act of Remembrance and Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 4; Matthew 5:1-12
Readers for first Lesson - Colin de Fleury / Ann Thompson
2:30 p.m. MESSY CHURCH in the Parochial Hall
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Nehemiah 9 - 14; Psalms 110 - 119:128; Matthew 15:1 - 16:28

REMEMBER
HARVEST SERVICES
are at 11:00 a.m.

St Patrick's on Sunday 6th October
and
St John's on Sunday 20th October

A message from our Rector



There is a song, written by Bob Dylan in 1964, for the album of the same name, called "The times they are a-changing". It was written in a time of change and speaks to all people, to writers critics, to politicians and to mothers and fathers amongst them. Dylan sought to create and anthem for change in a time of change; an anthem that would not only note change but encourage people to accept change and even to seek change.

The reality is that change has always been inevitable, nothing stays the same for ever. All of us have lived through changes in our lifetime, some we have liked and accepted willingly and sometimes enthusiastically, others we have loathed and accepted grudgingly, if we have accepted them at all; but all have come.

Now, do not start panicking that I am about to declare some great and massive change to the life of the church. It is just that our second Risograph printer has finally ceased its work and has been replaced. (You will have already noted the coloured print on the front page of this edition of the Church Matters magazine.) This is one change, we will have a bit of colour in the magazine. It will take a bit of time to sort out getting the coloured pages for the front cover organised, but we will get there. We have got a new copier and, in keeping up with the times, we have gone for a photocopier; and more than that one with a thing that collates, folds and staples the magazine for us.

The big change is that we no longer need a team of people to come and collate, fold and staple the magazine each month. I would like to express my, and your thanks, to those who have done this job over the past twenty odd ears. Over the years as the number of pages has increased and the people doing the work have got older the work required (especially the stapling and folding) has become more difficult - but it has always been done! So a huge THANK YOU to all those who have collated, folded and stapled the magazine; and to those who continue to deliver it around the Parish.

There are other changes as well. We will be getting a new editor, as Jo Pawson is moving away from the Parish. We will miss her and the many things that she did, and does, for us as a Parish. This means that others will have to step up and take on the running of things, and we

thank those who have already agreed to do this and those who will take things on in the future.

As already stated, change is inevitable and some changes we like and others we don't like. The biggest change that will ever affect us is this; that through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ we have the gift and promise of eternal life. We do not have to pay the price for our sins, we are forgiven and redeemed by Jesus Christ. We are changed into the adopted children of God, heirs to the kingdom of heaven. This is a massive change, a change that comes through us believing in Jesus Christ and following him.

Compared to this change all the other changes in our life are insignificant and unimportant. This is the unchanging promise of God, the one surety that we can hold onto in this ever changing world. No matter who we are or what we may have done, through faith in Jesus Christ and repentance of our sins we are changed to become the children of God.

One of my favourite prayers, at the end of the day is from the ancient service of Compline, traditionally the last service of the day. This service can be found in the current Book of Common Prayer on page 161, or if you have an older Book of Common Prayer it should be on page 334. The prayer goes as follows:

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may rest in your eternal changelessness.

The Book of Common Prayer, the Second Collect at Compline,

May you enjoy God's protection in the silent hours of the night and in the busy hours of the day and constantly receive his blessing, *Mark*

Editor

Harvest time at St Patrick's & St John's.

We are encouraging parishioners again this Harvest to donate food gifts for the Whitehead Storehouse, to help those in our community who struggle to afford the basics of life. Please give what you can.

Gathering the harvest: ideas for a whole-life harvest festival

How our scattered lives work together to feed God's people.

Summer has come to an end, and the fields are looking browner by the minute. If you're anything like me, that means your inner church leader probably can't help but look ahead to what needs doing now we are in autumn

Sandwiched between the busyness of the summer holidays and the whirlwind of Christmas, it's easy to skip over harvest festival. But whether it's a regular fixture in your church's calendar or something you've never marked before, we'd encourage you to take time with your church families to celebrate it this year.

And it's an opportunity to recognise the abundant provision of the Lord God, both materially and spiritually, and also the ways in which he's working through people up and down the country to put food on our plates. An opportunity to highlight the inherent value of human work – and the way God calls us to join his redemptive purposes day by day.



Why celebrate harvest festival?

The Bible is full of images of harvests, planting, and farming. Yet most of us are far from living a life on the land. When harvest comes round many of us – including me – feel under qualified. Though, I'm not without green fingers: I try and weave the odd rainbow chard, pot of peas, or colourful nasturtium into my little garden. That said, I'm not reliant on what I grow for my food, and my livelihood isn't dependent on the weather or the cost of animal feed.

But the Bible isn't just talking about actual, literal farming. For example, Jesus uses harvest imagery when he sends his disciples into the world to 'bring in the harvest' – to sow the seed of the gospel, nurture disciples, and tend to the growing church (Matthew 9:37-38). Likewise, our call is to be disciples who make disciples. The whole of our lives should echo his beautiful, radical love and be focused on the command to bring in a spiritual harvest for the Lord.

So, in our churches, harvest festival can be about both aspects. First, the daily grace we experience as God gives us weather that allows crops to grow, fruits to ripen, and animals to thrive. And second, the God-given skills and calling of people in your church: the part we all play in 'bringing in the harvest'.

As an aside, whilst not the focus of this article, there are also lots of resources for supporting charities to share God's harvest provision, from local food banks to international aid organisations. Partnering with them is another wonderful way to celebrate the harvest!

By Rev. Jo Trickey



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Pumpkin soup



Preparation time less than 30 mins
Serves 6–8
Cooking time 30 mins to 1 hour

You need to have this delightfully warming pumpkin soup on hand when autumn rolls around and there are pumpkins aplenty. It works just as well with dense orange squashes like butternut. Serve with a swirl of cream and some toasted seeds from the pumpkin.
By Annie Rigg

Ingredients

1 large onion, chopped.
2 carrots, peeled and chopped.
2 garlic cloves
3 tbsp pumpkin seeds
100ml/3½fl oz double cream
1 bay leaf
2 tbsp olive oil
25g/1oz unsalted butter
salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 medium pumpkin (prepared weight about 850g/1lb 14oz) deseeded and roughly chopped
1 medium-sized floury potato such as Maris Piper, roughly chopped
1 litre/1¾ pint vegetable or chicken stock, a little extra may be needed

Method

1.Put the onion, carrots, garlic, bay leaf, butter and half the olive oil into a large pan. Cook over a low–medium heat for about 10 minutes until the vegetables are tender but not coloured.
2.Add the squash and potato, mix to combine and cook for a further 2–3 minutes. Pour in the stock, season well and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat to a gentle simmer, half cover the pan with a lid and continue to cook for about 40 minutes until the squash is really tender when tested with the point of a knife.
3.Pick out the bay leaf and blend the soup until smooth using a stick blender.
4.Add the cream and a little more stock if the soup is on the thick side, taste for seasoning, adding more salt and pepper as required.

5.Meanwhile, heat the remaining oil in a frying pan over a medium heat and add the pumpkin seeds and fry quickly until the seeds start to pop. Remove from the pan.
6.Ladle the soup into bowls and serve with a swirl of cream and the toasted pumpkin seeds.

Recipe Tip

Pumpkins vary considerably in their flavour and sweetness. A large pumpkin (typically used as a jack o'lantern) will almost always have more water, less flavour and a spongy texture. Use a small culinary pumpkin, or switch to a reliable squash such as Crown prince or butternut.

You can make this soup with leftover roast butternut squash or pumpkin, reducing the simmering time to 15 minutes, just so the potato is cooked through.

Which comes first, the jam or the cream?

Which do you prefer, when it comes to eating scones? Of course, Cornwall and Devon have long been in rivalry over it, with Cornwall preferring the jam first, while Devon opts for the cream.

Now a recent YouGov survey has found the Cornish method is currently winning the debate. 62 per cent of us, and every British county (except Devon and Somerset) favour the jam-first Cornish approach.

Even the Queen also favoured the Cornish method. But the King is more pragmatic, once admitting that "I go with whichever is closest to me to start off."



Harvest Festival Tradition

The Harvest Festival is a traditional event celebrating the successful gathering of the year's crops. Often celebrated in churches and schools, people are encouraged to donate home-grown produce, fruit and vegetables to those in need. The Harvest Festival is a time for feasting, celebrating and giving thanks. It is also a time for honouring those who grow and reap crops.

Harvest festivals are nothing new - they've existed across many different cultures for hundreds and in some cases thousands of years!

When is the Harvest Festival celebrated?

Harvest festivals are celebrated at different times around the world - differences in location, climates and the types of food grown all have an impact on when crops are ready to be harvested.

But here in the UK, the Harvest Festival occurs on the Sunday nearest to the appearance of the harvest moon. This is the full moon that appears closest to the autumn equinox, which is usually at the end of September or the beginning of November. This marks the traditional start of the autumn season.

But to give you an exact date, the Harvest Festival in 2024 falls on the 1st of October!

How is the Harvest Festival celebrated?

The Harvest Festival is usually a time to share locally-grown produce with those in need and celebrate with a big feast. Churches like our own here at Whitehead and Islandmagee, are decorated with fruits and vegetables brought by parishioners, which is then donated to charity.

But other faiths and cultures also have their own unique ways to celebrate a successful harvest. In the USA, the Harvest Festival has been adapted into the holiday of Thanksgiving, which is a national holiday that happens in November every year. Over in China, the Mid-Autumn Festival coincides with harvest time, and people celebrate with lanterns, family gatherings and tasty sweet-bean filled pastries called mooncakes.

the PARABLE of the SOWER

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS





ONE WAS ABOUT A FARMER WHO SOWED SOME SEEDS

MOST FARMERS DIDN'T BURY THEIR SEEDS IN THE GOUND. INSTEAD THEY THREW THEM IN THE AIR!



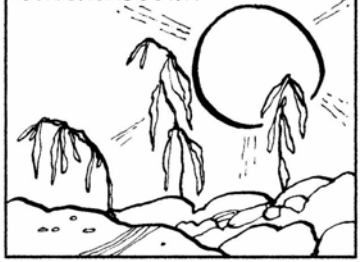


THE FARMER HOPED THEY WOULD TAKE ROOT JUST WHERE THEY LANDED



BUT SOME SEED WAS EATEN BY BIRDS!

SOME SEED FELL ON ROCKS, BUT THE PLANTS DIED WHEN THE HOT SUN SHONE DOWN





OTHER SEEDS TOOK ROOT, BUT WERE QUICKLY STRANGLED BY WEEDS



SOME SEED FELL ON GOOD SOIL. IT TOOK ROOT AND GREW AND GREW!

SOON THERE WAS A FINE FIELD OF WHEAT!





JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE SEED ARE 'WORD OF GOD' AND WE SHOULD LET THAT WORD 'GROW' IN OUR HEARTS, JUST LIKE SEEDS IN GOOD SOIL.

Harvest Prayer

God of creation, thank you for your abundance in the food you have provided for us. We confess we haven't always shared what we have with others. Please make us generous. Where there isn't enough to go around, please provide for us. Thank you for all those who you inspire to grow good crops. Thank you for those who work unseen and unpaid, daily, to put food on the tables of our homes, we thank you for their faithfulness.
Lord of the harvest, we thank you for your creativity.

God of provision, thank you for providing so much for us. Thank you for those who work hard in distribution –people harvesting food and carefully packing it for transport, those overseeing supply chains and negotiating trade deals, and those driving vehicles that bring it to our villages, towns, and cities.
Lord of the harvest, we thank you for your provision.

God of justice, you commanded us to look out for the widow and the orphan, to always make sure they have enough. We pray for those who find themselves without enough food. Guide us in how we can work for justice for them. Bless those who make policy decisions with wisdom, so that all can enjoy the fruits of your harvest. (Take our offerings today and use them to bless others).
Lord of the harvest, we thank you for your justice.

God of hope, we pray for those people and places who do not yet know your love and hope. We pray today that you would send us to be your workers in the harvest field, showing by our lives and words how you long to embrace them in your arms and welcome them at your abundant table. Send more workers into the fields so that we may bring more brothers and sisters home to you. Lord of the harvest, we thank you for your hope of salvation.

God of peace, just as seeds germinate quietly under the ground, so you are often at work before we see it. We pray for your unseen work in our world. Let it happen in us and help us to become people who look more and more like you. Mould us as your people so that we bear much fruit.
Lord of the harvest, we thank you for your peace.



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Feeding hungry children in Kenya

Do you know that in Kenya, many parents and caregivers struggle to provide their children with even one meal a day?

As a response to the need, the Kisumu Children Trust has long been feeding as many desperately hungry children as it can in the Kisumu area of Kenya, where food is often scarce and expensive.

The Trust provides a nutritious cooked lunch, and currently gives free daily lunches to 150 children a day. It has served more than 120,000 meals since it began the free meals in September 2020. For 80% of those children, it is the only meal they get that day.

Is it worth it? The headmistress of the local school says that the children are now more attentive in the afternoons, learning is better, and they are getting better exam results.

The Kisumu Children Trust also runs Bible Camps and Bible lessons. The children are eager to learn about God, and many have come to faith in the Lord Jesus.

For the past 20 years the Trust has also run a sponsorship programme. With the support of Christians in the UK, more than 200 youngsters have been accommodated, educated, medically cared for, clothed, and befriended.

As one visitor to Kisumu said: “It was a privilege to see children who have lost parents and family and faced lives filled with hunger and despair become dressmakers, carpenters, nurses, teachers, and more besides. Above all, they have self-belief and the skills to face life's challenges in Kenya with optimism, hope, and Christian values.”

The Trust says: “Jesus cares about poor people, and we seek to share His compassion.”

The Kisumu Children Trust is a small charity based in Tunbridge Wells. For more details, please visit:

https://www.kisumuchildren.org.uk/

or write to

Kisumu Children Trust, 36 Beulah Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2NR.

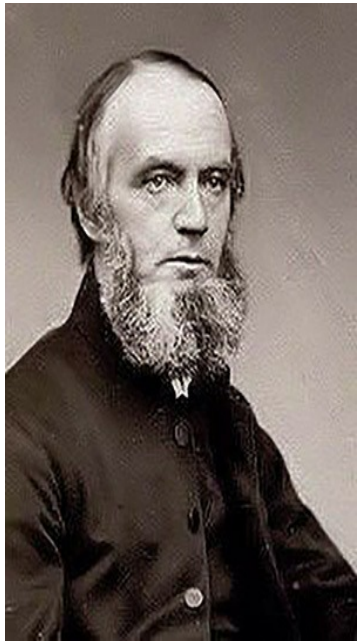
The story behind the HYMN: …



Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our maker, doth provide.
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come;
Raise the song of harvest home!

We ourselves are God's own field,
Fruit unto his praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown,
Unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade and then the ear,
Then the full corn shall appear:
Grant, O harvest Lord, that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be

By H Alford (1810 – 71)



Very probably, we will sing this well-loved Harvest hymn this month. It was written by the Revd Henry Aldford, DD, a Victorian clergyman who had been a fellow student at Trinity College, Cambridge with Alfred Tennyson, and whose transparent goodness and friendliness seem to have made him liked and appreciated wherever he went.

His ministry began as vicar of Wymeswold, a tiny village in Leicestershire with a badly neglected church. Over 18 years, Henry rebuilt the faltering Christian community, faithfully visiting every person in his parish, and preaching his way through the Bible in sermons that were so clear that

everyone could understand him. He then moved on to the incumbency of Quebec Chapel in London for four years, before moving to the Deanery of Canterbury, in 1857, where he lived until his death in early 1871.

Henry was one of life's good people; gentle, kindly, grateful for everything he had (he used to say 'grace' before AND after each meal), and eager to encourage all those whom he served. He was prodigiously productive: writing something like 50 books. The best known of these was a four-volume exposition of the New Testament, which took him nearly 20 years.

His famous hymn draws upon two of Jesus' parables: the story of the wheat and tares (Mt 13:24-30) and also the story of the seed that grows unbeknown to the sower (Mark 4:26-29). Both are parables drawn from agriculture; both are about the ultimate harvest of our souls before God. During this lifetime we properly give thanks to God for our harvest of His gifts of creation, but we should also reflect on what seed we are sowing in our lives, and what harvest we may expect; as one day God will gather together *only His own* for the eternal heavenly harvest.

Persecution continues in Russia

In Russia, an outspoken Christian preacher is facing trial for posting a question on social media. And in occupied Ukraine, a Christian woman could be jailed for up to ten years for remarks made in a prayer meeting.

'Both cases reflect the rising persecution of Christians in Russia and in Russian-occupied Ukraine,' says Paul Robinson, the CEO of Release International, which supports persecuted Christians around the world.

'Christian leaders have been tortured, disappeared, and murdered for taking a Christian stand, in what looks worryingly like a return to the bad old days of Christian persecution under the Soviet Union.'

Eduard Charov, a Russian preacher with Orthodox and Pentecostal roots, posted online the question: 'Would Jesus Christ have gone to kill in Ukraine?'

He is set to stand trial on charges of discrediting the Russian armed forces and is expecting a prison term. In the meantime, he has been forbidden from leaving his home district or from using the phone or the Internet.

India
where Christian arrests and attacks continue to rise

Hostility towards Christians is growing in India. In the past four years, almost 1700 people have been arrested under anti-conversion laws in one state, Uttar Pradesh, alone.

And Uttar Pradesh is moving to tighten that law. A new bill increases the maximum penalty for fraudulent or forced conversion to 20 years with provision for life imprisonment.

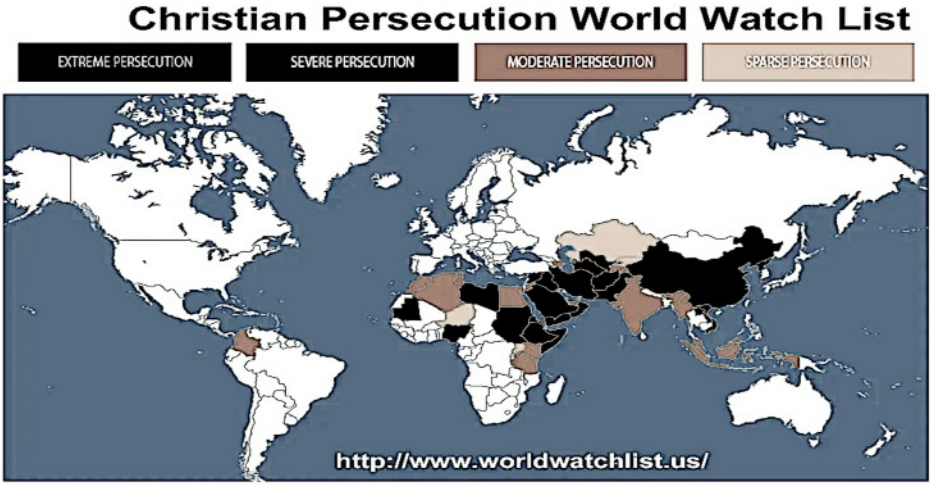
Some 12 states in India have now passed anti conversion laws, reflecting the rise in Hindu religious nationalism and accompanying intolerance in the country.

Intolerance against Christians has been growing since the election of the nationalist BJP government in 2014. The party's re-election in June has strengthened the hand of Hindu militants, and it is BJP-governed states that are leading the anti-conversion charge.

The Religious Liberty Commission of the Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI) recorded a record 601 cases of persecution against Christians in India last year – a rise of 45 per cent. And in the first six months of 2024 there were 361 attacks against Christians, according to India's United Christian Forum (UCF).

The growing *Hindutva* nationalist movement aims to keep India a Hindu nation and to prevent Hindus from converting to Islam or Christianity.

Below is a map that shows areas of the world where Christians face persecution



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Oskar Schindler – the German businessman who befriended Jews

Tim Lenton on the real man behind 'Schindler's List'



Fifty years ago, on 9th October 1974, Oskar Schindler, Austria-Hungarian-born German businessman, died. He saved more than 1,100 Jews during the Holocaust by employing them in his factories. The story is told in the film *Schindler's List*.

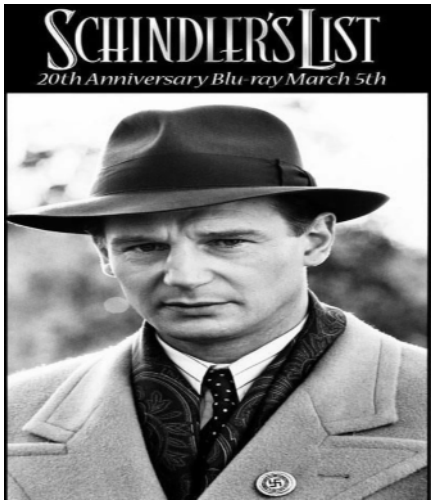
At the time of his death, in Hildesheim, Germany, he was almost unknown and very poor. After the war he and his wife Emilie (both now recognised by Israel as Righteous Among the Nations) had emigrated to Argentina, where they separated in 1957 and Oskar returned to Germany alone. Money was raised to pay for his burial in Israel. Emilie died in Germany in 2001, having spent most of her later life in Argentina.

Oskar Schindler had been an opportunistic German industrialist and a 'convenient' member of the Nazi Party who set himself up in an enamel factory in occupied Krakow, Poland, as part of a 'Germanisation' programme in 1939. The factory had previously been Jewish-owned.

Schindler employed Jews from a nearby concentration camp and used bribes and his own diplomatic skills to protect his workers from the brutality of life in the camp and ensure they were not deported. He added an armaments division and convinced the SS that his employees were essential to the war effort – although very little was produced.

The risks he took, which included dubious business deals, brought him suspicion of giving unauthorised aid to Jews and of corruption: he was arrested three times but not charged.

His factory was also relocated to Brünnlitz, near his hometown, at his request and reopened there purely as an armaments factory – and, thanks to Schindler's persuasive powers, became a sub-camp of a nearby concentration camp. One of his assistants compiled the list of almost 1,200 Jewish workers who were needed to move from Krakow to work in the new factory – this was 'Schindler's list' – a list which enabled their survival.



Have you been stressed at work?

Take it seriously. If it has gone on for a while, it may even be well worth paying your doctor a visit.

The reason is that a recent study has found that on-going work-related stress can actually double your risk of a potentially deadly irregular heartbeat.

Researchers discovered that having 'job strain' along with a 'perceived lack of reward' are associated with a much greater chance of developing atrial fibrillation. Their findings are published in the Journal of the American Heart Association.

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common form of arrhythmia, or abnormal heart rhythm. It can lead to a stroke, heart failure or other cardiovascular complications. An estimated 1.4 million people in the UK suffer from the condition, and it can affect adults of any age.

One professor, from Laval University in Quebec, Canada, said that his team had studied the impact of job strain, looking at factors like high job demands, a heavy workload, tight deadlines, low control over work, little say in decision-making and how tasks are executed.

The study also considered the effort-reward imbalance which occurs when employees invest significant effort into their work, but then perceive the rewards they get in return – such as salary, recognition or job security – as insufficient or unequal to their performance.

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Guardian Angels keeping an eye on us.. feast day 2nd October



The teaching of Jesus encourages us to believe in guardian angels. He once said, *'See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.'* (Matthew 18:10)

The existence of angels was suggested in various Old Testament texts, Jesus mentioned them explicitly, and the early Christians accepted their existence and work (Acts 12:15).

In England, devotion to the angels, both in Anglo-Saxon times and later, was strong. In modern times, the great American evangelist Billy Graham has written an entire book on the existence and work of angels.

Alcuin described them as intercessors (in the 11th century Leofric Missal); Herbert of Losinga, bishop of Norwich (d 1119) specially praised them, and his contemporary, Reginald of Canterbury, wrote prayers in their honour.

Honorius Augustodunenis (d 1151) clarified the existing belief of the time by asserting that each human soul, when infused into the body, is entrusted to the particular care of a single angel, who protects both body and soul and offers prayers to God.

For many centuries Christendom was satisfied with the feast of St Michael and All Angels, but the special feast of the Guardian Angels was introduced in Austria, Spain and Portugal in the 15th – 16th centuries. Guardian Angels were then seen as guardians of particular towns or regions, or of each individual. The feast day became universally accepted in 1607, with its date fixed to 2nd October.

Bible Bite

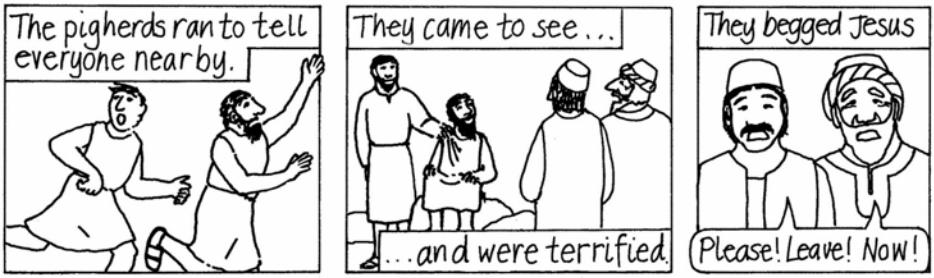
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Mk 5:1-17, Lk 8:26-39, Mt 8:28-34

In Gerasa was a man filled with demons He tore off any clothes or chains put on him, and he lived in the graveyard.









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chains
terrified

St James the Least of All

On why you should never replace your hymn books



The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am surprised you are considering buying a new set of hymn books for your church. I had assumed everything you sang would be projected on to one of those screens which are invariably placed to obscure the altar.

In my – fortunately limited – experience of such devices, they provide the projectionist with endless opportunities for showing the wrong hymn, or the right hymn but from another edition, which will contain either one verse too many or one too few. Should the hymn run to two pages, then the turnover always takes place some milliseconds after that verse has started, so that the congregation is faced with the snap decision of either trying to sing two lines at double time, or just to join in late, making a nonsense of the words.

When we decided to change hymn books some years ago, the reverberations made the consequences of that little event in Sarajevo seem insignificant. The proposal was to move from *Hymns Ancient and More Ancient* to the more recent version: *Hymns Ancient and Slightly Less Ancient*.

Colonel Wainwright said he would be happy so long as we continued fighting good fights and urging Christian soldiers onwards. The men wanted the hymns they remembered from school, the ladies those they sang at their weddings, and no one would consider anything that dropped 'thines' or 'wouldsts'. The basses in the choir wanted hymns they knew the tenors found difficult and those who couldn't read music wanted more hymns sung in unison. When a rumour started that the books may contain hymns written in the last 50 years, timetables were consulted for bus services to the next village.

Eventually we reached a perfect compromise: doing something which made no change whatsoever. Miss Simpson was charged with buying yards of sticky backed plastic and repairing the current books. She put a note on the front of every copy that if the page for the hymn they wanted was missing, they should share with the person sitting next to them – an experience which will be almost as traumatic as being invited to pass the peace. Yet another decision has thereby been deferred for a Church Council to make some time next century. Harmony reigns once again.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



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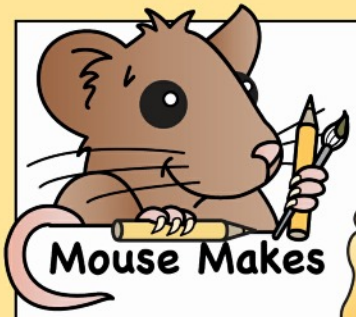
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WALK WITH THE LORD

"Teach me your way, O Lord, that I would **walk** in your __ __ __ __ __."
Psalm 86:11

"For we **walk** by __ __ __ __ __ not by sight."
2 Corinthians 5:7

"**Walk** by the __ __ __ __ __ __."
Galatians 5:16

Jesus said: "*I am the light of the world. If you __ __ __ __ __ me you won't have to* ***walk*** *in darkness because you have the light that leads to life."*
John 8:12

"**Walk** in __ __ __ __ as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us."
Ephesians 5:2

"**Walk** in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing __ __ __ __ __ in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God"
John 8:12

"__ __ __ __ __ __ __ is everyone who fears the Lord, who **walks** in his ways."
Psalm 128:1

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GOD • JESUS • LORD • WALK
WAYS • STEP • FEET • PATH • GO • TEACH • KNOWLEDGE • LIGHT

Find the words from the questions too!

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Women in church leadership



Women are increasingly represented in church leadership and ministry roles across many denominations.

Some have had women in leadership right from their foundation, like the Salvation Army, while the Roman Catholic Church and Orthodox Churches still have none. The Church of Ireland ordained its first woman priest in 1990, and the Church of England in 1994, and their numbers have been increasing every year since 2000.

The average percentage of women clergy across denominational groups and the year range of 2000 to 2020 shows that in 2000 it was 14% and by 2020 it was 22%. In numbers, this has been an increase of about 630 more women priests year on year, spread across all these denominations.

Very broadly, research shows women are often preferred for pastoral and community care by 'those in the pew', while men tend to be seen as better administrators. But for competence in leadership, communication and foresight, gender is not usually a significant variable – age is seen as more important.

By Dr Peter Brierley, a church statistician

Do you think twice before you join a committee?

People involved in church or village life are often asked to join committees or to help run things. These include trusts and charity groups, being Select Vestry members, school governors and, community groups.

These community positions are vital for the good of everyone, but unfortunately not many people are prepared to give up their evenings or weekends to go to lengthy meetings in draughty halls.

If you are invited to join a group like this, what questions should you ask?

Why were you asked? What do they think you can contribute? If you are in a job, are they expecting you to do work for them for nothing?

Do you have the time to do the job? People on committees tend to be asked to join other committees, and so it is easy to get overloaded. Are the meetings at a time convenient to you?

What risks are there? Does the group have liability insurance to protect members against claims?

What are the finances like? Are the records up to date? Do they have budgets and accounts they can show you?

Good advice would be to ask to go to a meeting before committing yourself. You can soon find out if the place is well run and people get on with each other. Ask to look at the insurance documents, constitution and accounts.

If the answers to these questions are negative, it does not necessarily mean you should not join. If the finances are in a mess, perhaps you can help. If they say they had a constitution when the charity was set up in 1879 but no-one knows where it is now, then perhaps it can be found again. Most people get a lot out of contributing to society in this way.

By David Pickup, Solicitor

How about joining our Church Select Vestry? You would learn more about the church and get to know some very friendly & interesting people. Plus your support could make a difference. Ask the Rector for details and to find out what is involved.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS BAZAAR IN ST PATRICK'S CHURCH HALL

On Saturday 30th November
from 12noon - 4pm
(as part of the Whitehead Victorian Street Fair)

Stalls will include Cakes, Refreshments, Crafts,
Toys and Children's Books
Jewellery,, Tombola, Bric-a brac and much more.

We need your support

We are appealing for volunteers to come and help with the stalls and serving of refreshments

<u>We need the following items - can you donate any?</u>

TOYS (not fluffy toys please!)
Children's Books
Homemade Cakes and Buns
TOMBOLA PRIZES (Unwanted unused gifts, wine etc)
Bric-a-brac items
Handmade crafts
Christmas Themed items

PROCEEDS OF THIS EVENT WILL SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF THIS CHURCH IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

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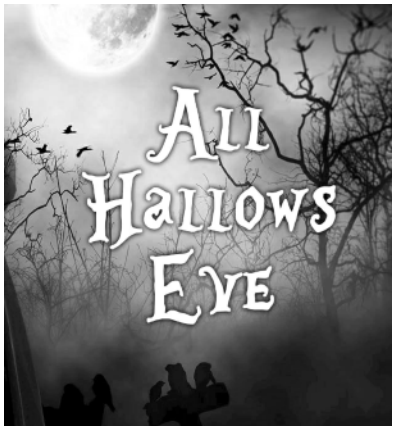
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31st October – All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening



Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatualloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.



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

You are welcome at our Church!

Come as you are, as you already are…
Come and join us – our doors are wide open
Bring your life's regrets, or fears and disappointments,
or anything that leaves you sad & low…

It's ok if you're divorced
or you've never had a faith!
If you're full of doubt and don't know where to turn.
For our lives can be so different and better indeed,
if we trust in God and leave the rest to Him.

Bring your partner, bring your friend
Bring the ways you want to mend
and discover what God can do for you today!
Whether you're transgendered, bi or gay, there's no shame in being that way
For God loves you more than you will ever know.

Are you battling addictions or other afflictions?
Or mourning the loss of a loved one?
Simply reach out to Christ
For He understands and you'll find healing and hope in abundance

Come as you are, as you already are, because here you will always be welcome.
If you're depressed, downhearted or despairing?
Then let God do the repairing
For our lives can be so different and better indeed,
if we trust in God and leave the rest to Him.

Jo Pawson

We are blessed at both St Patrick's & St John's Church,
with a faith community that is loving, welcoming & inclusive.
May these qualities always be cherished and shared generously with those who come seeking a faith community, love and acceptance.

October Church Activities

Together in Faith Group

Monday 7th & 21st October at 7.30pm
Meet in the Boucher Room,
Parochial Hall at St Patrick's Church.
Studying Book of Esther

Book Club

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

Wednesday Morning Fellowship Group (Monthly)

Next meeting on WEDNESDAY 2nd October **at 11am**
in the Boucher Room.
New members welcome.
We start with refreshments and fellowship .

Also

Every Week the following

Circus Skills Class

Some light exercise of body and mind, and lots of laughter.
Tuesdays @ 10.30am- 12 noon - 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 Thursday 10th October at 10.00 am in the Boucher Room at St Patrick's Church

---

Counters for October

6th October Colin de Fleury 13th Oct Sandra Thompson

20th Oct t Bert Thompson 27th Oct Scotty Heyes

3rd November Valerie Kincaid

Sunday Refreshments Rota

6th October Harvest Lunch 13th October Messy Church

20th Oct in St John's 27th Frances Taylor

3rd November Inez Moore

Refreshments coordinator Priscilla Carlisle

Tel 07787561517

Game On Meeting in October

Meeting in the Library on Wednesday

9th & 30th Oct 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 24th October 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.

'Youth Fellowship Sunday Brunch will meet on Sunday 6 October in St Patrick's. We join everyone else in the church for the start of morning service at 10.30am before moving into the hall for some Bible study, games, craic and brunch. Anyone of secondary school age or young adult under 25 is welcome to join us. If you want to find out more, please come along or contact Stephen Martin (stepheneddu@gmail.com). '



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dear Reader

I am sad to say that this is the last Church Matters Magazine that I will be editing, as I am moving to York in December.

Many of you have voiced concerns over recent weeks about what will happen to the magazine. Well the good news is that we have found a Church Member who is willing to give the editorship a go. Which is great news and of course there will be more information about our new Editor in the November edition of our Parish Magazine.

This seems an appropriate opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude to you all for making me so welcome when I first walked into St Patrick's Church on Sunday 21st January 2018. Never did I imagine I would be befriended by so many lovely people and fully accepted. Nor did I ever think that I would get so involved in church life, especially coming from a non-conformist background. I have to say it has been a privilege and pleasure to serve at St Patrick's on the Select Vestry and to be appointed Rector's Church Warden for 3 years.

Thank you for all the other ways you allowed me to get involved in leadership and fellowship at the church, from the Together in Faith Group, Wednesday Morning Fellowship Group, Church Website construction, Church Logo design, Brasso Club, plus various fundraising events and other projects around the church.

This church and members will always have a special place in my heart and I pray that in York I am led to a church that similarly offers a warm welcome to strangers, the way you so generously do. Ps I shall always be delighted to hear from any of you- anytime. Let me know if you are in York.

As always, stay well and God Bless You. Jo

WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH

Rector: Revd Canon Mark Taylor,

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

Mobile: 07719 619286

Facebook: St Patrick's & St Johns Whitehead & Islandmagee
Twitter: @Whitehead_CoI
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
Ann Mulholland; Bill Pollock; Alison Higginson;
Janet Peoples Alan Hayward ; William Rafferty
Priscilla Carlisle; Jo Pawson
Austin Jenkins - Graveyard Manager St John's

Sunday School Leaders

St Patrick's: Frances Taylor St John's: Sara Henderson

Youth Fellowship Leader

Stephen Martin - stepheneddu@gmail.com

Safeguarding Trust Evelyn Powers 9337 2535 Valerie Kincaid 9335 3748

Flowers: St Patrick's:Judith de Fleury 07855736510
St .John's: Ann Thompson 9338 2295

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