CHURCH MATTERS

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

Here everyone matters

MARCH 2025

CHURCH OF IRELAND

ST. PATRICK'S
& ST. JOHN'S

UNITED PARISH OF
WHITEHEAD & ISLANDMAGEE



March Services & Readings

Each Wednesday there is a service in St Patrick's Church at 11:30 a.m.
You are all welcome to come and join in prayer for 30 minutes.

Sunday 2nd March - Sunday before Lent
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Holy Communion Two
Sunday Readings - Epistle Galatians 1:1-12; Gospel Luke 7:1-10
Reader for the Epistle - Corrine Logan / Sara Henderson
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Jeremiah 1; Psalms 122 - 130; John 3:1-36

Wednesday 5th March - ASH WEDNESDAY - First day of Lent
11:30 a.m. Penitential Service
Readings - Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-18; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
7:00 p.m. Service for Ash Wednesday
Readings - Isaiah 1:10-18, Psalm 102; Luke 15:11-32
Weekday Readings: Jeremiah 2 - 4:18; Psalms 131 - 136, John 4:1 - 54

Sunday 9th March - Lent 1
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. MESSY CHURCH
10:30 a.m.& 12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;
Luke 4:1-13
Reader for first Lesson - Heather Cupples / Alan Hayward
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Jeremiah 4:19 - 7:20; Psalms 137 - 150;
John 5:1 - 6:40

Sunday 16th March - Lent 2
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m.& 12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27; Luke 9:28-36
Reader for first Lesson - Sheila Mason / Joy Kerr
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Jeremiah 7:21 - 10:24; Psalms 1-7; John 6:41 - 7:36

Sunday 23rd March - Lent 3

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m.& 12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-9; Luke 13:1-9
Reader for first Lesson - Jane Robinson / Jim Reid
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Jeremiaj 11:1 - 17:4; Psalms 8-14; John 7:37 - 9:17

Sunday 30th March - Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m.& 12 noon Family Service for Mothering Sunday
Sunday Readings: Colossians 3:12-17
Reader for first Lesson - Judith Defleury / Maureen Reid
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Jeremiah 17:5 - 20:18; Psalms 15-21; John 9:18 - 11:27

Sunday 6th April - Lent 5 - Passion Sunday

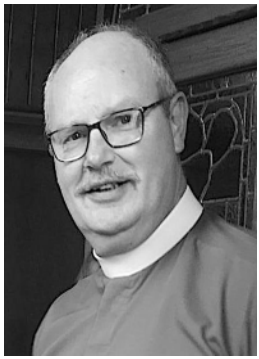
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Holy Communion Two
Sunday Readings - Epistle Philippians 3:4b-14; Gospel John 12::1-8
Reader for the Epistle - Colin de Fleury / Ann Thompson
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Jeremiah 21:1 - 25:14; Psalms 22-28; John 11:28 - 12:50

Messy Church

Dates for your diary up to June 2025
Starting at 10:30 a.m. in St Patrick's Parochial Hall, Edward Road., Whitehead.
Come and join us for fun, games, crafts, singing and food as we discover what the Bible says to us.

Sunday 9th March
Sunday 13th April - Palm Sunday
Sunday 11th May
Sunday 9th June - Feast of Pentecost

A message from our Rector



This year on the fifth of March we celebrate Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. What is Lent about? What do we do in Lent? For many in Whitehead, and the surrounding area, Lent is about coming to St Patrick's on a Wednesday for 7 weeks for lunch. They know these lunches are called "Lenten Lunches" because they are held in the season of Lent, but they do not really know what Lent is or what it is about and what we should be doing during Lent.

Lent is an ancient season of the church calendar that represents the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness after his Baptism and before he began his ministry. As with Jesus time in the wilderness Lent is a time of reflection and consideration of our lives and a time of preparation for our own ministry, as Christians. Usually it is a time when we consider our own faults and failings and seek ways to amend our lives. This is often done by the notion of "giving something up for Lent"; giving up something that is pleasurable and enjoyable to represent giving up the "sins of the flesh". Often this is combined with the idea of "replacing" the thing we give up with something godly and spiritual; like a Bible study, or more prayer, or some other good work.

All very simple and straight forward so far.

You see that this is the easy version of Lent. Sort of like the "Ladybird Book of Lent". Lent is much more, and is more complex than we think.

So let us start by setting out some facts about Lent.

Lent was originally a time of personal and spiritual preparation before baptism at Easter. Those preparing for baptism were instructed in the Christian faith and would fast and be penitent for the sins of their former life. As more people were baptised as children and a subsequent decline in adult baptism, and with higher infant mortality rates, baptisms happed throughout the year. By the 10th century Lent became a time of fasting, reflection and penance for all Christians in the period before Easter. It also retained its teaching about the faith aspect.

Since the 7th Century, in western Christianity, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends of Easter Eve/Holy Saturday. (The day before Easter is NOT Easter Saturday; Easter Saturday is the Saturday AFTER Easter, just as the day after Easter is Easter Monday.)

From Ash Wednesday to Easter Eve is more than 40 days - 46 days to be precise. 6 of those days are Sundays and they do not count as part of Lent. Why? Because every Sunday is our celebration of Jesus resurrection from the dead, and as such is a feast day (and you cannot fast on a feast day).

There are a lot more facts about Lent and its origins and traditions, if you are really interested just ask me and I shall be delighted to tell you.

We practice the penance side of Lent by giving things up. It should not be for issues of physical health (though that may be a side effect) but for reasons of spiritual health. The things we give up may be things, habits, that are harmful to us, spiritually. They may be things that "get in the way" of our prayer life, our Bible reading and study of God's word. They may be things that stop us being, and publicly acting like, the Christians we should (and could) be. We give these things up so that we may be better followers of Jesus Christ, any other benefit is a bonus.

We practice reflection by examining our lives. The good that we do, and the good that we do not do, are as important as the wrong we do. We reflect upon our lives so that we may improve them and do better in the future.

While fasting is no longer as commonly practiced as it once was, it is still a positive way to focus on our faith. Fasting is not just missing a meal, or several, during a day. It is not some thing that we should just undertake without proper preparation, and this preparation may require us to seek medical advice. To take the time we would have spent eating in prayer is very positive. To feel and understand hunger can help us in our understanding of those who do not have a choice but to be hungry, and may help us to help them as a practical outworking of our Christian faith.

We can also carry on the educational aspect of Lent, taking time to read or study a Christian topic, to understand more about our faith. This can be done by reading about issues of faith; about the lives of Christians, their struggles and triumphs; seeking to understand how our faith relates to our every day life.

Lent is about much more than having lunch in the Church Hall on a Wednesday - although that is important too. Lent is about our spiritual growth and development. It is about our preparation for the great Easter celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and all that it means for us.

Have a happy and blessed Lent, *Mark*

cmsireland
equipping the church in mission

Lent 2025 Collection

With this edition of the magazine is a sheet to help Count Your Blessings and support the work of CMS Ireland. There are some collection boxes to help with this available at the back of the Church.
The daily donations are only as a guide and you may follow them or exceed them as you wish.

For over 20 years we have supported the on going mission work of the church, the spreading of the good news about Jesus Christ and supporting local churches in different countries as they grow and develop. Traditionally we have done this during the season of Lent; through a Sunday School project as well as through the congregation generally.

I hope that we will all take part in this as best we may during this season of Lent.



George saw his whole Parish
as a Mission Field

Alcoholics Anonymous Ireland

Do you want another chance at life?

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

Every Saturday 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Now meeting upstairs at
Whitehead Community Centre:
Call 02890 351222
www.alcoholicsanonymous .ie
All enquiries are treated in strictest confidence

Let us thank God each day for those who struggle to improve their lives, especially those who fight against addiction to alcohol or drugs.
Let us pray for those of their family and friends who have been affected by their addiction.
Let us give thanks for all who support them in this battle.

Cocaine Anonymous

Do you have a problem with drugs and Alcohol?

So did we.

Cocaine Anonymous meeting

Every Monday 8 pm - 9:15 pm
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(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)

"I made you wonderful"

Kia Orana!

Our sisters in The Cook Islands welcome us and lead us for the Day of Prayer 2025. This group of 15 islands in the South Pacific Ocean has a rich and colourful Māori heritage and a deep connection to nature. Join with us as we pray together and reflect on the theme 'I made you wonderful'.

LOCAL AREA CHURCH SERVICE
(SHARED BY ALL THE LOCAL CHURCHES)

Friday 7th March 2025 in St John's, Islandmagee at 8:00 p.m.

It would be wonderful to see as many parishioners there as possible as we are hosting it this year.

It is always a great and moving service.



NHS Tribute Poem by Pam Ayres

I've been to other countries, where you pray you don't get sick,
Where if you're taken ill, no kindly ambulance comes quick,
No motorbiking paramedic, roaring through the rubble,
Where if you have no cash to pay, then mister you're in trouble.

We have a gentler system, which is comforting to all,
It strives for our well-being, be we elderly or small,
With expertise, professional, extended countrywide,
So, in an emergency, a world is at our side.

Consultants and anaesthetists, and those who man the door,
Specialists and surgeons, and the folk who mop the floor,
The porters and the nursing staff, who labour night and day,
And never ask the patient, if they have the means to pay.

A plague has come, a plague that's new, yet old, as old as time,
Fermented out of suffering, and cruelty, and grime,
With unimagined images, which linger in the head,
Refrigerated trailers, for the storage of the dead.

With calm and regulated care, staff with one accord,
Though fearing for their families, are working on the ward,
Where end-of-life care nurses, in their strange protective dress,
Hold a fading hand, to dull the pain of loneliness.

Thanks to every doctor, every midwife, every nurse,
Every single worker, in the flight for life immersed,
Whatever God you recognise, may your endeavours bless,
Sending love and gratitude to you, the NHS.



Heavenly Father

Hear our simple prayer for our Rector Mark.

We thank you for all Mark does for our churches and communities, St Patrick's Whitehead and St John's, Islandmagee.

We pray specifically for him as he guides us through Lent. We pray he will have the words as he greets visitors in our Lenten lunches.

We pray for Mark and all guiding their congregations as we contemplate Christ Crucified.

We continue to pay for Mark personally, for his good health, and strength to carry on;

And for his family, supporting him in his work.

Help us to be mindful of him and keep him in our prayers

Amen

Mobile Mountain Communities Facebook page

Imagine a community where honest people work together to fix brokenness. Every person you meet loves you authentically, and you love them in the same way. How would living in such a community change the way you think, feel, and act?

Jesus invites us into that kind of community. In Matthew 5:14, Jesus says, “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.”

The Greek work for ‘hill’ can also mean ‘mountain’, and in the ancient imagination, mountains were places where Heaven and Earth intersected – where people could encounter the gods. The ancient Hebrews understood mountains as unique spaces where God meets with humanity and where both dwell together as partners.

Abraham experiences divine testing and blessing on a mountain. God invites Moses up a mountain to receive instruction. And the prophet Isaiah uses mountain imagery to dream of a day when the Heaven-on-Earth space will expand beyond the mountain, filling the world with God’s kingdom and vanquishing the darkness of evil.

This makes Jesus’ teaching truly wild! He’s saying that Heaven and Earth reunite through people – through us. When Jesus calls his followers a “city on a mountain”, he’s saying they will bring the mountaintop experience to the world. He’s inviting us to become mobile mountains, creating pockets of Heaven on Earth wherever we go.

We do this by letting go of the old ways of fighting our enemies and picking up the practices of Jesus – feeding the hungry, living justly, and loving people patiently.

When this happens, the light of God's way that leads to true life shines through us, piercing the darkness. So let's find ways to be mobile mountain communities and participate in making God's Kingdom shine brightly on Earth as it is in Heaven.

(Thanks for sharing this Scotty)

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A space for your poems, recipes, stories, favourite hymns, memories, events in the community.

From a few lines to multiple page, I would love to share your contribution here.

If someone has shared something with you on social media, whatsapp, which made you smile, made you think, which helped you in some way, then just share it with me. Be it online or on paper, I will be delighted to share it.

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CHURCH OF IRELAND

ST. PATRICK'S & ST. JOHN'S

UNITED PARISH OF WHITEHEAD & ISLANDMAGEE

LENTEN LUNCHES

All welcome to join us for a weekly community meal

Every Wednesday 12-2pm from 5th March to 16th April

In St Patrick's Parochial Hall

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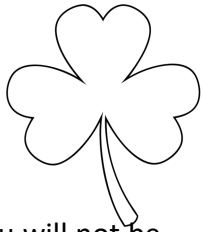
A Celebration of the Nativity continued



In the February Magazine Sandra shared her idea about displaying many of the Nativity Scenes that we have, in St. Patrick's, during Christmas this year. This would be instead of a Christmas Tree exhibition. You could bring much loved nativity sets in to add to the display. This Nativity Scene display in the church would be open to visitors during specific dates, to enable the viewing of these scenes and either donations or entry fees could help with raising church funds.

I was wondering if we could take it one step further as I don't have a nativity scene. Would you be interested in being part of a craft group to make and then sell our home crafted nativity scenes to raise some money for the church. This could be knitting, crochet, pottery, paper mache, banners, and more. The kids and young people could be part of this.
This is all at the ideas stage so your ideas are welcome.
If this is something you would be interested in doing. Happy to share your ideas and updates here.
Let Sandra or me (Janet) know.
Our contact details are on the back of the magazine.

A guided, prayerful reading and meditation on an excerpt from St Patrick's well-known prayer, the Breastplate.



Find a comfortable place to sit inside or out, where you will not be disturbed

I imagine myself rising, empowered by the same Spirit who powers the light of the sun, the radiance of the moon, the splendour of fire, the firmness of rock.

I imagine Christ's presence above and below me, behind and before, to my right and to my left.

A perfect meditation to listen to as you start your day.

The Breastplate of St Patrick

I arise today

Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,

Through belief in the Threeness,

Through confession of the Oneness

of the Creator of creation.

I arise today, through

The strength of heaven,

The light of the sun,

The radiance of the moon,

The splendour of fire,

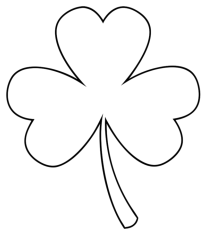
The speed of lightning,

The swiftness of wind,

The depth of the sea,

The stability of the earth,

The firmness of rock.

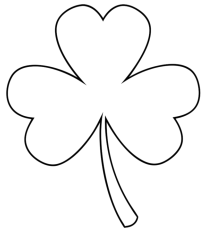


I arise today, through

God's strength to pilot me,

God's might to uphold me,

God's wisdom to guide me,

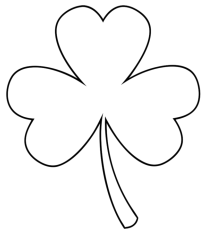


God's eye to look before me,

God's ear to hear me,

God's word to speak for me,

God's hand to guard me,

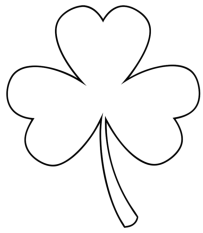


God's shield to protect me,

God's host to save me

From snares of devils,

From temptation of vices,

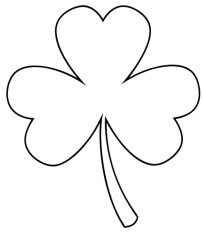


From everyone who shall wish me ill, afar and near.

Christ with me,

Christ before me,

Christ behind me,



Christ in me.

Shrove Tuesday - 4th March

The pancake has a very long history and featured in cookery books as far back as 1439. In the UK, pancake races form an important part of the Shrove Tuesday celebrations' Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday, Anglo-Saxon Christians went to confession and were "shriven" (absolved from their sins). A bell would be rung to call people to confession. This came to be called the "Pancake Bell" and is still rung today.

Shrove Tuesday always falls 47 days before Easter Sunday, the day before Ash Wednesday, so the date varies from year to year and falls between February 3 and March 9. In 2025 Shrove Tuesday will fall on March 4th.

Shrove Tuesday was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients.

As you know the pancake is a thin, flat cake, made of batter and fried in a frying pan, until the base of the pancake has is golden.

A traditional English pancake is very thin and is served immediately. Then add your favourite toppings

In Northern Ireland the smaller, spongy lighter versions, (dropped scones) are more popular. If you don't normally make your own try this easy recipe. (Drop in fresh blueberries or raspberries or choc chips into the pancake before flipping). - Yum.

Dry Ingredients:
2 cups (250g) plain flour
2 tablespoons castor sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt



Wet Ingredients:
1 ¾ cups (420ml) milk
2 large eggs
¼ cup (60ml) unsalted butter, melted
1 teaspoon vanilla Essence
*Fresh blueberries or raspberries**

Stir together all the dry ingredients: ensuresng an even distribution of ingredients, preventing clumps.

In a separate bowl, whisk the eggs, then add milk, melted butter, and vanilla extract and whisk well. Slowly pour the wet ingredients into the dry mixture, gently whisking. Do not over mix—the batter should be slightly lumpy. Over mixing will result in dense, tough pancakes.

Heat a non-stick pan over medium-low heat. Lightly grease the pan with butter or cooking spray. A properly heated pan ensures even cooking and a golden-brown surface.

*Using a ladle or measuring cup, pour about ¼ cup of batter onto the pan for each pancake. Cook for 2-3 minutes, until bubbles form on the surface and the edges look set. (*Drop fresh berries) in and flip the pancake and cook for another 1-2 minutes until golden brown. Keep the pancakes warm while you cook the batch.*
Why not add some crispy bacon and maple syrup.
Yum

(Or add fresh warm cherries and cherry syrup onto half a plain pancake, fold it over and top with fresh cream. The Rector's favourite.)

Stories of Hope from Ukraine
New Life: Dasha's Story,



February 24, 2022 is a day Dasha won't forget. Pregnant with their first child, Dasha was a surgical nurse and her husband was a doctor at the hospital in Mariupol, a city on the southeastern coast of Ukraine.

They were both working the day Russia invaded Ukraine. What followed was a series of harrowing events. First, their home was destroyed. They took shelter at the hospital, working around the clock to help the sick and injured. Then, the hospital was besieged by the Russian military, but the couple managed to escape. When questioned at a military check-point where no medical personnel were being allowed through, they decided to tell the truth — Dasha was pregnant and they were looking for a safe place to rest.

Miraculously, they were allowed to pass the check-point and found themselves displaced in Zaporizhzhia, a city far from their home. As the birth of her child came closer, Dasha and her husband found themselves alone, without the support of their families and community — but help was just around the corner. Seemingly by chance, Dasha came across an advertisement for Save a Life, one of our trusted partners in Ukraine. Save a Life operates eight centers for women in need of support across Ukraine. They came alongside Dasha

— now the mother of a healthy son! — when she needed help the most.

"When it was almost before the birth, it was difficult for us to settle down. There was no work because no one wanted to hire [Internally Displaced Persons], and so it happened that purely by chance I came across a Save a Life advertisement… They saved me from this situation, they helped me get ready for birth. They were always there for us…"And for more than a year now I have been here in the center. Almost every week we are here. And we are friends with the girls here. We are very close… They will always support us, they will always help if something happens. I couldn't imagine my life if I didn't end up here… Thanks to these girls and this center, I continue to live."

World Relief is continuing to partner with Save a Life to bring hope to women and their families in Ukraine.

From October to December 2023, World Relief reached 52 moms with education, employment and financial management training and vital financial support through Save a Life Zaporizhzhia.

https://worldrelief.org/blog-hope-for-ukraine

We pray for wisdom and compassion for all leaders involved in talks re brokering a peace deal between Russian and Ukraine. But most of all we pray for the people of Ukraine as war continues and they face uncertainty.

Sewing Bee Crafts



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Lighthouse YARNS



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

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

Email enquiries to lighthouseyarns@yahoo.com

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Liverpool Cathedral Prayer

Fill me with wonder, like a child. Give me wisdom.
Make me humble. Let me lean on your strength, not my own;
feel you counting the hairs of my head,
before the stars were made. With tender mercy hold me.
O Love, God, flood my darkness with light, your glory;
by faith in pure love, stronger than death;
Jesus Christ, who lives, now, and for ever, world without end.
Amen

This is one of my favourite prayers. Paul and I found it when we visited the Anglican Cathedral on one of our visits to Liverpool. It was 6th February 2022. We had casually decided to go to church that Sunday so we were surprised to see many dignitaries in various forms of regalia and uniforms as we approached. Doubting ourselves, we asked if this was to be a special service, only to be reminded that this service was in recognition of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, specifically Accession Day. Her reign had begun on 6th February 1952 when her father, King George VI, died.

It was a wonderful service with Bishop of Liverpool, Paul Bayes, giving the sermon. Sadly, I cannot do justice to either in words at this stage! I recall it was an engaging sermon on the theme of service and dedication in faith as he recalled the Queen's many, many years as monarch and his years as a Bishop. It was quite poignant as his retirement was imminent, but he recognised that the Queen remained resolute that she would continue in her duty to serve, even after all those years.

I still have the order of service and the lovely card with this prayer on it. I say it often, finding it powerful, comforting and reassuring. I hope you might like it too.

Scotty Hayes

Parish Pump Editor: The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'



The Rectory

St James the Least

On the perils of parking near church

My dear Nephew Darren

I cannot be wholly sympathetic because your church car park is now inadequate, only having space for 100 cars. Your solution of advising members of the congregation to park in the adjoining supermarket car park may not have been wise. The maximum time people can stop there is 90 minutes, and as your services often reach that length, returning to find their cars clamped may not make you universally popular – although it may give your congregation the opportunity of practising Christian forgiveness.

Since the medieval architect who built St James the Least of All was not overly concerned with car parking, the only space we have is along the road by the church. Inevitably, it gets blocked, which causes us all immense satisfaction when those not attending church but intending to have a morning shopping, find themselves unable to get out of the village until Mattins is over.

I did once encourage people to walk to church across the fields, but after we had nearly lost the present Earl in that swampy bit near the brook, I decided the idea was best dropped.

For most, the inconvenience of parking only makes attending church more of a pleasurable challenge; we so enjoy having something to complain about. Major Hastings, however, who has complained endlessly about parking problems, made a point last Christmas by leaving his car in the middle of the vicarage lawn. I was so pleased he happened to park just where I had had a garden pond filled in only the previous week. He returned to find that the car had sunk up to the windscreen and needed a crane to remove it.

For weddings, a farmer allows us to use the field adjoining the church. While he rarely attends church on Sundays, he is always there the week before – I suspect praying for heavy rain, so he can make a fortune charging to tow out with his tractor those who have got stuck. Perhaps the greatest act of witness your church could perform would be to get everyone attending church to park on the ring road, bringing the entire town to a halt until your Sunday morning Service is over.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Eustace

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Brasso Club

Keeping our brasses in tip top shape

This small, merry band meets on the third Thursday of each month at 10 am, usually for an hour or so. New folks are welcome to join the chat and the cleaning. We aim to keep the shiny things in Church bright and beautiful!

Enter at the front of the Church by the smaller door on the right-hand side.

Cleaning supplies are provided but if you can, bring rubber gloves, cloths, and an old toothbrush for little corners!

Next date:

Thursday 20th March 2025

Thank you for all you do.



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.

February Church Activities

Together in Faith Group

The first and third Monday of the month

(3rd and 17th March at 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

Wednesday Morning Fellowship Group (Second Wednesday in the month)

Next meeting 12th th March at 11am in the Boucher Room.

New members welcome. We start with refreshments and fellowship .

Circus Skills Class

Come along and try some light exercise and may be learn a few manual dexterity skills on Tuesdays @ 10.30am - Parochial Hall

Indoor Bowling Club

Tuesdays from 7pm -Parochial Hall

New people always welcome to join in all the groups

Parish Announcements

The Select Vestry meeting, second Thursday in the month at 10.00 am in the Boucher Room.

Next meeting on Thursday 13th March

Counters for March

3rd	**March**	**Valerie Kincaid**
10th	**March**	**Sandra Thompson**
17th	**March**	**David Robinson**
24th	**March**	**Brian Joyce**
31st	**March**	**Colin de Fleury**

Refreshments Rota, March

2nd Judith de Fleury ; 9th Messy Church

16th Heather Cupples; 23rd Frances Taylor

30th Janet Robinson

Refreshments coordinator Priscilla Carlisle

Tel 07787561517

Game On Meeting in March

Meeting in the Library on the second and fourth wednesday of the month 12th and the 26th at 1.30pm

Some members play Mexican Train, others played Back-gammon.

New participants always welcome. Come and join us for Tea and biscuits, even if you don't want to play.

Youth Fellowship Sunday Brunch

will meet on Sunday 2nd March in St Patrick's.

We join everyone else in the church for the start of the morning service before moving into the hall for some Bible study, prayer and games. Anyone of secondary school age or young adult under 25 is welcome to join us. If you want to find out, please come along or contact Stephen Martin (stepheneddu@gmail.com)



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dear Reader

Putting the magazine together makes me aware of all that is happening in the month ahead. March is a very busy month - we have Shrove Tuesday followed by Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Then our Lenten lunches every Wednesday, yet again St Patrick's opens the doors to the local community . Then we have our feast day on 17th March St Patrick's day. So, it will be 'all hands-on deck ' . Now and throughout the year the work of volunteers who give their time freely cannot be underestimated- - thank you. If you look through this magazine, you can see their work between the lines. Last year was my first experience of Lenten lunches. All I did was sit at the table, enjoy my lunch, and feel humbled by the 'hands on deck' extending the gift of hospitality to the community and keeping the boat afloat.

The Lenten Lunch crew are a shining example of doing something positive for Lent. So if you cannot think what to give up for Lent, consider taking something up, joining a club, volunteering, walking, cycling. Is there something you have kept meaning to do, someone you need to get back in touch with, or, like me, get back to something that you have let slip, for me swimming. Maybe have a good rest.

This might seem very self-focused but if we are going to reach out to help others as part of our faith journey, we first must look after ourselves. At times Jesus took himself away to have a good walk, to rest and recuperate as part of his ministry and as preparation for what he knew was coming.

May you have a blessed March (Lent, St Patrick's day and all the rest).

Janet

WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH

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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)

Hon Secretary

Sandra Thompson - Hon Treasurer 07912478331

Ann Mulholland; Bill Pollock; Alison Higginson;
Janet Peoples Alan Hayward ; Priscilla Carlisle;
Austin Jenkins - Graveyard Manager St John's Inez Moore

Messy Church

in the Parochial Hall on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 10:30 a.m.
Contact the Rector if you plan to come.

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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