CHURCH MATTERS

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

Here everyone matters

June 2025



Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire. Strengthen your children with the gift of faith

June Services & Readings

Sunday 1st June - 7th Sunday of Easter - Sunday after Ascension Day
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Holy Communion Two
Sunday Readings - Epistle - Acts 16:16-34; Gospel - John 17:20-26
Reader for the Epistle - Jane Robinson / Ann Thompson
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Deuteronomy 31 - 34 ; Psalms 148 - 150, 1-4; 1 John 2:18 - 5:21

Sunday 8th June - DAY OF PENTECOST - Whit Sunday
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Messy Church
10:30 a.m & 12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 140:26_36, 37b; John 14:8-17
Reader for first Lesson - Judith de Fleury / Alan Hayward
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Job 1 - 6; Psalms 5 - 11; Romans 1 - 3

Sunday 15th June - Trinity Sunday
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Messy Church
10:30 a.m & 12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; John 16:12-15
Reader for first Lesson - Colin de Fleury / Sara Henderson
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Job 7 - 12; Psalms 12 - 18; Romans 4 - 6

Sunday 22nd June - Trinity 1
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m & 12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - 1 Kings 1-15a; Psalm 42; Luke 8:26-39
Reader for first Lesson - Corrine Logan / Joy Kerr
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Job 13-18; Psalms 19 - 26; Romans 7 - 8

Sunday 29th June - Trinity 2 - St Peter's Day

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m & 12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - Isaiah 49:1-6; Psalm 71; Acts 11:1-18 (St Peter's Day)
Reader for first Lesson - Sheila Mason / Jim Reid
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Job 19-26; Psalms 27 - 33; Luke 13 - 14

SUMMER SHEDULE STARTS

United Service in St Patrick's during July, in St John's during August.
No evening service and Wednesday morning service during July.
Due to not being able to get a minister to cover all the services there will be no Holy Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sunday's in July.

Sunday 6th July - Trinity 3

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion Two
Sunday Readings - Epistle Galatians 6:7-16; Gospel Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
Reader for the Epistle -Valerie Kincaid
Weekday Readings: Job 27 - 32; Psalms 34 - 40; Romans 11:1 - 14:12

Sunday 13th July - Trinity 4

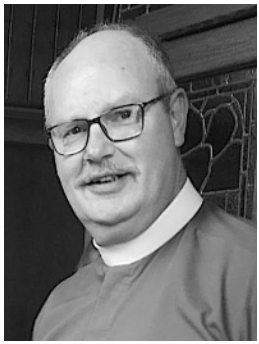
11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Luke 10:25-37
Reader for first Lesson - Scotty Heyes
Weekday Readings: Job 33 - 42; Psalms 41 - 47; Romans 14:13 - 16:27

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 June - Feast of Pentecost

A message from our Rector



How fantastic has the weather been over the last month? Day after day after day of sunshine and warmth. It feels idyllic. And while we are all thankful for the current weather we are at that point of starting to say that we need some rain; for the sake of the plants, the grass, the crops, the soil. We want the rain to come at night, when we are in bed and sleeping. It will come and do some good and not adversely affect us and stop our enjoyment of the sunshine and warmth.

We want our cake, and to eat it too! It is the way we are. We all want to have the good things in life and to enjoy them. We want to be able to eat whatever we want and never put on weight. We ant to be able to stay fit and strong, with great stamina, without having to do lots of exercise. We want to be healthy without having to worry about what we eat and drink or our exercise. We want to be able to spend the money we have and still have enough for the future without having to budget or save. We want to be able to go to heaven without having to give up some of the pleasures of life that we enjoy.

It is this last one that interests me most - obviously, because I am a minister of the Church and a follower of Jesus Christ (or may be that should be the other way round). The thing is that we can! We can eat whatever we want, as long as we don't eat too much, too often and otherwise take care of our weight. We can stay fit and strong with good stamina without excessive exercise if we keep physically active in many of the things that we do each day. We can stay healthy with a little care as to how we live. When we are sensible we can spend money on the things we want and still put some aside for the future. We can have a happy, pleasurable and enjoyable life and still get to heaven.

Living a Christian life is not all about living as if we are being examined and judged all the time. It is not about living by a set of rules that preclude fun and enjoyment. Let us reflect, for a moment, on the ministry of Jesus. About three years, spent with a close group of twelve men, and over another one hundred and twenty who were with them most of the time. There were, among the twelve, at least four fishermen, a tax collector, a political activist for Jewish independence, a theologian, and a chap who looked after the money. In the larger group there were a couple of fairly important people, members of the Sanhedrin. They were

a mixed bunch, they spent lots of time together. We know they discussed things, they argued, they questioned,. We know that two wanted to be given places of greater importance than the others, that one criticised Jesus and some of his teaching, that he carried a sword and used it. These people who followed Jesus were just ordinary people with all the faults and failings that ordinary people have. They are just like us!

Do we honestly believe that just because they were following Jesus that they never laughed, never played practical jokes on each other, never had fun or did things they shouldn't have done - in three years? Of course we don't. When we stop and think about it, really think about it, we know they were not perfect. And we need them to be not perfect, to be like us!

This is what the whole notion of forgiveness depends on. If we are perfect then there is nothing for us to be forgiven for; we don't need Jesus to have died for us. But we are not perfect. We make mistakes. We do things we shouldn't do. We don't do things we should do. We need to be forgiven. As we come tot he end of the season of Easter we can remind ourselves that we are still celebrating that Jesus died for our sins and rose again from death for our forgiveness. This was not just for the forgiveness of sins that are past, but of sins that are still to happen. Now, we need to be aware that this is not a free pass to sin any time we want. It is not us having a free reign to do what ever we want and then ask for forgiveness. It is the knowledge that when we fail to live a good life, when we sin, we can repent and ask for forgiveness, and that forgiveness will be given to us. There is an onus on us to try to live a good life, following the way that Jesus wants us to go, doing the things that he wants us to do, being the people that he wants us to be. And all with the knowledge that we have a safety net of forgiveness is, and when, we fail.

This is the wonder of our faith. *"not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." 1 John 4:10* and it continues in verse 11 *"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."*

It is a simple enough task that Jesus asks of us, to love one another. Yet a task that we often fail at, and are forgiven for. Let us put that love into practice each day and feel the love of God for us in return.

I hope the good weather continues, and that we get enough rain for the sake of the plants and crops. Please remember all the young people who are having important exams this month, and pray for their success. Every blessing to you and all you love. *Mark*



"Well, no, I'm not dressing like this to create common ground with today's youth culture – I've always worn a hoody."

Some thoughts on the Trinity

If asked to define the Trinity, we can only say that it is not this or that. – *Augustine*

No wonder that the doctrine of the Trinity is inexplicable, seeing that the nature of God is incomprehensible. Our faith must assent to what our reason cannot comprehend, otherwise we can never be Christians. – *Francis Burkitt*

Thousands of the ablest minds of the centuries have pondered this problem and no one has been able to explain it; who then invented it? What man can invent, man can explain: what man cannot explain, man cannot have invented. It must be a revelation. – G H Lang

The Trinity is the basis of the gospel, and the gospel is a declaration of the Trinity in action. – *J I Packer*

Tell me how it is that in this room there are three candles and but one light, and I will explain to you the mode of the divine existence. – *John Wesley*

Prayers for our community

Trinity Sunday, 15th June 2025

We will gather at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday 15th June at the Balmoral Avenue car park for the Community Centre. We will say a brief prayer and then receive our prayer sheets and go out to a number of destinations round the town of Whitehead and some to Islandmagee (best to do these journeys by car where possible). Those going out to Islandmagee will leave first to give them time to get there.

At 3:00 p.m., or as close to it as possible, we will all face inwards and say the first prayer, for our community, then we will all face outwards and say the second prayer, for those outside our community.

At 3:20 p.m. those who are able (not expecting those who have travelled a longer distance and will may be have to travel a distance home again to join with this bit) will meet again at the Community Centre car park to pray for all those who have come and taken part and give thanks to God for the ability to do so, and to give thanks for being involved in our community and sharing our faith with so many others.

At 3:30 p.m. we get to go home, or to other activities, and quietly give thanks for God's good ness to us.

Please plan to join us in this time of prayer for our community and world.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6&7

Two-Ingredient Chocolate Mousse

Perfect easy summer desert - 10 minutes preparation time

Ingredients

300 mls. double cream

180 gms. chocolate chips, or broken pieces (dark or milk or both).

Instructions

- Heat and Pour 150 mls of hot double cream over the chocolate in a bowl, leave for 5 mins, then stir to make sure all the chocolate is melted and combined with the cream. Leave to cool
- When cool, whip the combined chocolate-cream mixture until it starts to thicken.
- Whisk the remaining double cream in a separate bowl until soft peaks form. Continue slowly until stiff peaks form.
- Gradually and gently fold the whipped cream into the chocolate mixture with a large spatula, taking care not to lose the air from the mixture.
- When combined. Divide the mixture between 4 ramekins, glasses, or bowls and chill for 2 – 3 hours.
- Serve with your choice of topping - whipped cream, ice cream, strawberries, nuts, chocolate shavings.



A simple Prayer for our Rector and his team



Thank you Lord for sustaining Reverend Mark and the team through Lent and Easter.

We pray for the new members of the select vestry, help them to make a valuable contribution, under the watchful eye of those who know the ropes.

We thank you for all who have served, whose role has changed in some way.

Help our congregations support the team in all they do.

Help the Rector and the team be sensitive to the unique needs of each congregation.

As the team work together, guide them, lead them as a team to fulfil your will for St Patricks and St Johns Church buildings and Congregations.

*****

Almighty and everlasting God, we pray for the gifts of leadership and service for those in our churches who guide the care and keeping of our Parish. Be present with those who serve on our Vestry, that their committed hearts may be fixed upon you. Amen adaptation of prayer at https://episcopal-ks.org/vestry-resources/

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
Oakfield Community Centre:
Oakfield Drive, Carrickfergus, BT38 7SP

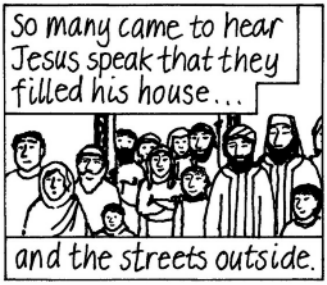
Call 0330 043 2789 (8 am - 10 pm)
www.caireland.live

Bible Bite

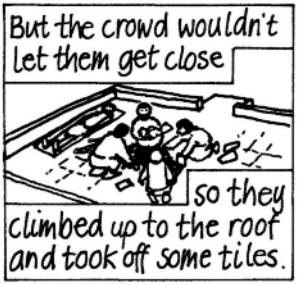
A short story from the Bible

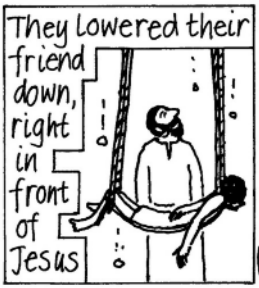
It can be read in the Bible in Mt 2:1-12, Mk 9:1-8, Lk 5:17-26

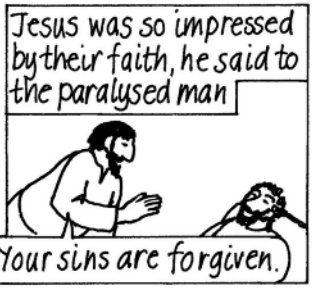
The Pharisees had come to Jesus' home in Capernaum to make sure he wasn't breaking any of their religious rules...



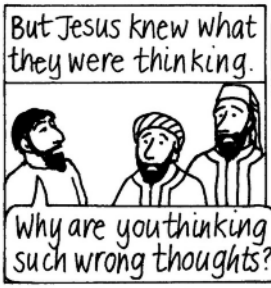










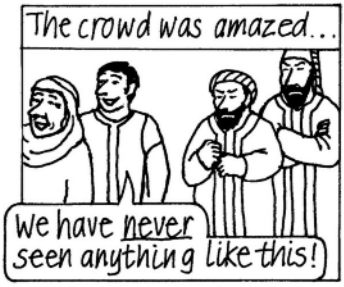




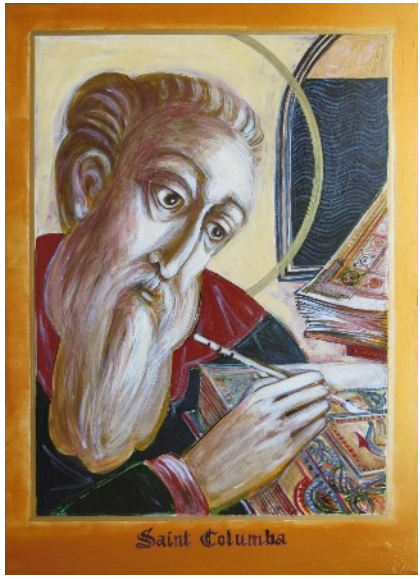








Holy day 9th June Columba of Iona, missionary to the UK



In 563 AD St Columba sailed from Ireland to Iona – a tiny island off Mull, in the Western Highlands. He brought Christianity with him.

Columba (c. 521 -97) was born in Donegal and he trained as a monk. He founded the monasteries of Derry (546), Durrow (c.556) and probably Kells. But in 565 Columba left Ireland with twelve companions for Iona, an island off southwest Scotland. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada.

Why would a monk in his mid-40s go into such voluntary exile? Various explanations include: voluntary exile for Christ, an attempt to help overseas compatriots in their struggle for survival, or even as some sort of punishment for his part in a row over a psalter in Ireland. Whatever the reason, Columba went to Iona and spent the rest of his life in Scotland, returning to Ireland only for occasional visits.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a

fearless commitment to God's cause. Able, ardent, and sometimes harsh, Columba seems to have mellowed with age.

As well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts. Columba had great skill as a scribe, and an example of this can be seen in the Cathach of Columba, a late 6th century psalter in the Irish Academy, which is the oldest surviving example of Irish majuscule writing. In his later years Columba spent much time transcribing books.

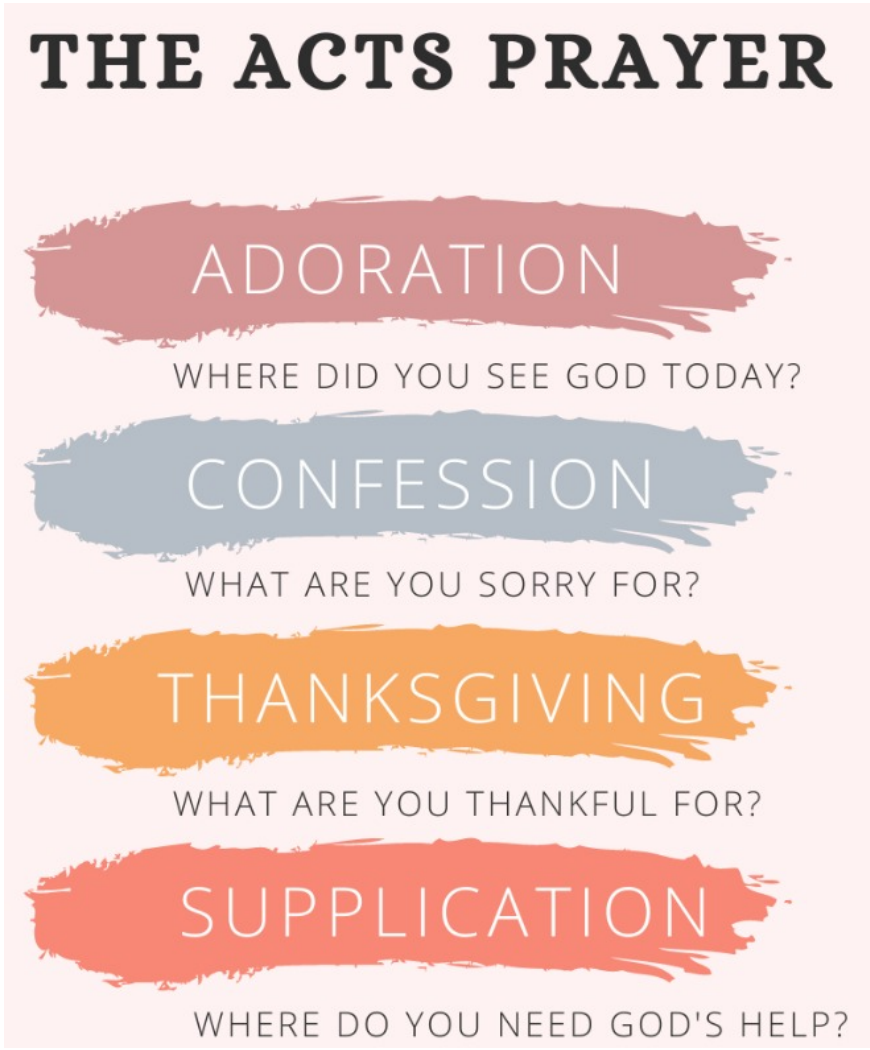
Columba's death was apparently foreseen by his community, and even, it seems, sensed by his favourite horse. He died in the church just before Matins, and it is a tribute to this man that his traditions were upheld by his followers for about a century, not least in the Synod of Whitby and in Irish monasteries on the continent of Europe.

Here is a prayer of St Columba:

Christ With Us

My dearest Lord,
Be Thou a bright flame before me,
Be Thou a guiding star above me,
Be Thou a smooth path beneath me,
Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
Today and evermore.





I am your father in heaven, but I am here, open for business 24/7 & waiting to hear from you and happy to help you.

GOD'S GARDEN

The Lord God planted a garden
In the first white days of the world,
And He set there an angel warden
In a garment of light enfurled.

So near to the peace of Heaven,
That the hawk might nest with the wren,
For there in the cool of the even
God walked with the first of men.

And I dream that these garden-closes
With their shade and their sun-flecked sod
And their lilies and bowers of roses,
Were laid by the hand of God.

The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,–
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.

For He broke it for us in a garden
Under the olive-trees
Where the angel of strength was the warden
And the soul of the world found ease.

Dorothy Frances Gurney (1858-1932)



LENTEN LUNCHES 2025

Wasn't it great to hear the buzz around St. Patrick's hall over the period of Lent?
I looked out from the kitchen hatch each Wednesday, to admire people sitting together eating and chatting. When I talked to those enjoying their lunch, I heard how important this lunchtime was. Especially for those who live alone.

Neighbours helped to transport people to the hall. Groups got together and many people caught up with the news from old friends. That's what we, who help out in the delivery of these lunches want. Despite our increasing age, each year, we know this time is important.

Sometimes, in the kitchen it's like an episode of "Dinner Ladies"! (No offence to anyone) There are comments like, "Why did I come into the kitchen?" "What am I looking in the fridge for?" and "Does a plain roll have butter?" And despite these quandaries, we pull together each Wednesday of Lent to provide a tasty meal for our guests.

Thank you to every contributor. There are those who make wheaten bread and desserts, set up tables, count the donations, prepare the soup, donate items to make the filled the rolls, those who serve tables and arrange the marvellous puddings, those who serve tea and coffee and

those who organise the carry-out orders, those who clear up, those who buy in stock, and wash the dishes and anyone else I haven't mentioned.

Unlike other teams I have worked in, everyone has worked together in a mannerly way and with a sense of humour. There is a sense of working together and looking out for each other. Effectively we are working to each person's strengths. Isn't that what God wants from us? Teamwork within the church is such a reflection of how God's family should work. It's a way of recognising that we are all equal in God's sight and that we should work in love with one another.

The Lenten Lunches also raises funds for the church. This year's total was £6097.69. This is a real help to our ongoing church running costs. So thank you all and we will hope to have the strength to continue on for another year!

Sandra Thompson (Hon. Treasurer)



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Holy day 11th June - Barnabas , Paul's first missionary companion



Would you have liked to go to Cyprus on holiday this year? If so, spare a thought for the Cypriot who played such a key role in the New Testament.

He was Joseph, a Jewish Cypriot and a Levite, who is first mentioned in Acts 4:36, when the Early Church was sharing a communal life-style. Joseph sold a field and gave the money to the apostles. His support so touched them that they gave him the nickname of Barnabas, 'Son of Encouragement'.

Barnabas has two great claims to fame. Firstly, it was Barnabas who made the journey to go and fetch the converted Paul out of Tarsus, and persuade him to go with him to Antioch, where there were many new believers with no one to help them. For a year the two men ministered there, establishing a church. It was here that the believers were first called Christians.

It was also in Antioch (Acts 13) that the Holy Spirit led the church to 'set aside' Barnabas and Paul, and to send them out on the church's first ever 'missionary journey'. The Bible tells us that they went to Cyprus, and then travelled throughout the island. It was at Lystra that the locals mistook Barnabas for Zeus and Paul for Hermes, much to their dismay.

Much later, back in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul decided to part company. While Paul travelled on to Syria, Barnabas did what he could do best: return to Cyprus and continue to evangelise it. So, if you go to Cyprus and see churches, remember that Christianity on that beautiful island goes right back to Acts 13, when Barnabas and Paul first arrived.

Barnabas the generous, the encourager, the apostle who loved his own people – no wonder he should be remembered with love.

Blessed Assurance - the story behind the hymn

https://www.godtube.com/popular-hymns/blessed-assurance/

We are thankful for all of the blessings that He bestows upon us. The lyrics of the classic hymn 'Blessed Assurance' is the perfect way to worship. And when you hear the story behind the hymn, you will be even more in awe of His amazing grace. Thank you, Jesus, for dying for our sins!

The hymn

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

The Story Behind the hymn

Francis Jane Crosby was born into a family of strong Puritan ancestry in New York on March 24, 1820. As a baby, she had an eye infection which a quack doctor treated by placing hot poultices on her red and inflamed eyelids. The infection did clear up, but scars formed on the eyes, and the baby girl became blind for life. A few months later, Fanny's dad became ill and died. Mercy Crosby, widowed at 21, hired herself out as a maid while Grandmother Eunice Crosby took care of little Fanny.

Grandmother took the education of her little granddaughter on herself and became the girl's eyes, vividly describing the physical world. Grandmother's careful teaching helped develop Fanny's descriptive abilities. But Grandmother also nurtured Fanny's spirit. She read and carefully explained the Bible to her, and she always emphasized the importance of prayer. When Fanny became depressed because she couldn't learn as other children did, Grandmother taught her to pray to God for knowledge.

In 1834 Fanny learned of the New York Institute for the Blind and knew this was the answer to her prayer for an education. She entered the school when she was twelve and went on to teach there for twenty-three years. She became somewhat of a celebrity at the school and was called upon to write poems for almost every conceivable occasion.

On March 5, 1858, Fanny married Alexander van Alstine, a former pupil at the Institute. He was a musician who was considered one of the finest organists in the New York area.

One evening, Fanny's friend and composer Phoebe Palmer Knapp was visiting and played a tune on the piano, asking Fanny what it sounded like. Fanny responded, "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine!" Phoebe and Fanny then continued to sing the melody and write the lyrics together.

****

I remember singing this hymn as a young girl at evangelical tent missions. While it is a hymn about assurance, as a young Christian, I never felt worthy of a love so great that God sacrificed his son for me. I lived a sheltered life, I was a 'goody-two shoes' but I was so unworthy of such a sacrifice. Decades later I still find it difficult to get my head round God giving his son for me. I now accept the blessed assurance that the wonderful Lord Jesus is mine, even if I am not worthy.

Fanny's story is testimony that all the terrible things that happened worked together as she loved the Lord. Janet

Crossword clues

Across

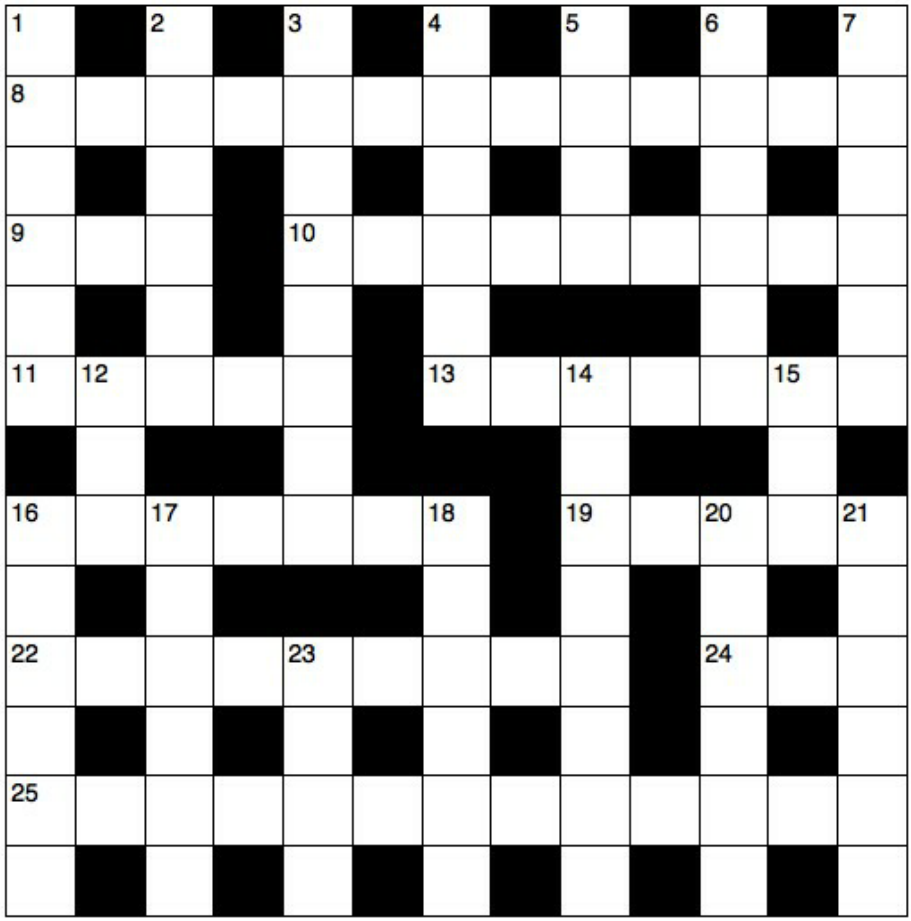
8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)
9 In favour of (3)
10 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)
11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)
13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)
16 Bay bits (anag.) (7)
19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)
22 Holy Communion (9)
24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3)
25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

Down

1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)
2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)
3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)
4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)
5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4)
6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)
7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — — ' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)
12 Ate (anag.) (3)
14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)

15 Abram’s nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)
16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)
17 ‘Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God’ (John 1:12) (6)
18 ‘I... asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things’ (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)
20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)
21 ‘Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace’ (Matthew 1:19) (6)
23 Diva (anag.) (4)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 27



Remembering the Deep Hurt and Pain of the 'Troubles'.

The 21st June is the longest day of the year and was chosen as The Day of Reflection for people at home and abroad to acknowledge the deep hurt and and pain caused by the conflict in Northern Ireland.

It is endorsed by a wide range of organisations, including Belfast Central Mission, Corrymeela, Fermanagh Churches Forum & the N.I. Policing Board. Today, we continue to disagree on many issues - especially the definition of a victim. Watching footage on TV makes it seem so long ago.... black and white images of boys in hand-knitted jumpers throwing stones at the army, policemen with 70's hairstyles and moustaches clearing areas where a bomb may go off, or worse, already had. The many funerals we got used to watching on the teatime news - bewildered children walking behind coffins, their lives altered in an instant.

As a society, we must always strive to do better, and being a good citizen starts in the home. Sadly we still see children who are victims of violence on television every day. Forced to flee bombing, made to fight as child soldiers, enslaved, abused and robbed of a proper childhood & education across the globe.

Dorothy Law Nolte was an American writer who was passionate that children should be nurtured and cherished in order to thrive. In 1954 she wrote a poem that has been popular on posters and cards ever since....

Children Learn What They Live









If children live with criticism,
They learn to condemn.
If children live with hostility,
They learn to fight.
If children live with ridicule,
They learn to be shy.
If children live with shame,
They learn to feel guilty.
If children live with encouragement,
They learn confidence.
If children live with tolerance,
They learn to be patient.
If children live with praise,
They learn to appreciate.
If children live with acceptance,
They learn to love.
If children live with approval,
They learn to like themselves.
If children live with honesty,
They learn truthfulness.
If children live with security,
They learn to have faith in themselves and others.
If children live with friendliness,
They learn the world is a nice place in which to live.

We are lucky to have our joyful dedicated Messy Church team who bring the Good News to young families every month & make our hall a happy, noisy place. Please smile and welcome them - we hope & pray they are still coming to St. Patricks when we are long gone!

Valerie Kincaid

Together in Faith Group



Formerly known as House Group, we meet on a Monday evening from 7.30 pm. Usually fortnightly, but please check with Sandra Thompson to get the date correct!

We are meeting on 2nd and 16th. of June.
Currently we are using a study book series called "Cover to Cover" and we are looking at the Prayers of Jesus.

We follow the text and then discuss it together, helping to support each other's faith. Everyone's opinion is important and we aim to help each other's understanding of the parts of the Bible that we study.
We all recognise that there's a lot to learn, and that everyone's experience is different.

Through time, we have noticed how this study supports our faith through Bible study and fellowship.

The group very much welcomes new members and studying together helps us to improve the relationship we have with each other.

Sandra .

How did you get on

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

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On what security cameras in church will tell you



From The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Much against my better judgement, after a recent series of small thefts, we have installed security cameras here at St James the Least of All. Thank goodness the suggestion for trip wires that opened the gate to Mrs Poppleroy's garden next door, thereby setting loose her deranged Pekingese, was narrowly defeated – though I had to use my casting vote.

So now we have a complete record of everything that goes on when no one is about. It makes such interesting viewing that I have cancelled my television licence and spend every evening watching the antics of my parishioners. I wonder if there is some niche television channel which would be interested; it could help the tower restoration fund no end.

Miss Margison seems to imagine she is now part of some theatrical performance every time she cleans the church; her body language as she wields a feather duster is of operatic proportions, as is her final bow to the cameras as she leaves.

I have at last found the several hiding places where Mr Prentice secretes his bottle of whisky every week when he comes to wind the tower clock.

Colonel Wainwright, who served for some time in the security services, is now worried that photographs of him cleaning the brass will be circulated in Russia. He fails to appreciate that his disguise as a French onion seller, with striped jersey, beret and waxed moustache does tend to make his presence rather more interesting than he imagines – to us, if not to the KGB.

The flower arrangers seem to imagine that we are recording sound as well as pictures and so whenever they are in church together, all gossip is written down and passed round by hand as they work in total silence. So far, they have remembered to take their pieces of paper home with them. One slip and I shall probably learn more about my parishioners in five minutes than I have done in the last five years.

The cameras have also solved the mystery of who has been pilfering the items - and even the nest where they have hidden it. If only I could teach the magpies to extract money from pockets and place it on the collection plate.
Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Editor: The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'… If you would like a copy of our published booklet of Uncle Eustace's letters, please email us at: enquiries@parishpump.co.uk

****



Sweets

I gave my four-year-old grand-daughter money for sweets and the church collection plate. Later, seeing her enormous pile of sweets, I got suspicious and asked if she hadn't also given some money to God in church that morning.
"No," she replied sweetly, "He wasn't there."

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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



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 19th June

Thank you for all you do.

Church Activities

Together in Faith Group

The first and third Monday of the month
at 7.30 pm.
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 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

Off until September - people bowling outside

New people always welcome to join in all the groups

Parish Announcements

The Select Vestry meeting, second Thursday in the month

Next meeting

7.30 pm. 12th June

St Johns Church

Counters for June

2nd June Scotty Heyes
9th June Trevor Peoples
16th June Bert Thompson
23rd June Sandra Thompson

June Refreshments Rota

1st Paddy Rogers
8th Messy Church
15th Judith de Fleury
22nd Alison Higginson
29th Judith de Fleury

Refreshments coordinator Priscilla Carlisle
Tel 07787561517

Game On Meeting

Meeting in the Library on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month - 11th and 25th June at 1.30 pm

Some members play Mexican Train, others Backgammon. 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 again in the autumn. Secondary school age or young adults under 25 are welcome to join us then. To find out more please come along or contact Stephen Martin (stepheneddu@gmail.com).

Stories of Hope from Ukraine, Sophia - Pay It Forward Foundation, Poland

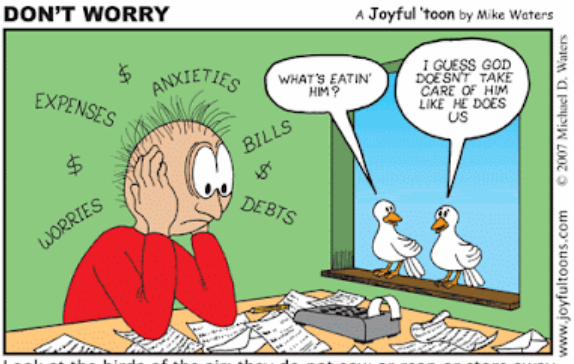




At 9 years old, Sophia came to the Pay It Forward Foundation with her mother from Ukraine. Sophia lives with a disability, and needed additional support that became impossible to find when Russia's war in Ukraine began.

"We arrived at 3 a.m. and people welcomed us at 3 a.m.," Sophie recalls of her first night at the foundation. "And then Emilia arrived, and I just love her so much."

Sophia resides at the Doctor Piotr Janaszek, Pay It Forward Foundation, a GlobalGiving partner helping to provide rehabilitation and other forms of assistance to people with disabilities. The Pay It Forward Foundation is working toward a world in which people with disabilities can feel empowered, work, pursue their passions, and find happiness independently and within a caring community.





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A SPACE FOR YOU

This is an appeal for your contributions to our Church Matters magazine with thanks to those who have, over the past months. Happy to have your contribution by email, text, hand written. Share things that others have shared with you on social media, something in a book, just take a photo or lend me the book. If something was thought provoking or made you smile then share it - Stories, Memories, Poems, Prayers, Recipes, Book reviews, Favourite hymn, Local events, Pictures, Cartoons, Jokes and more.

Support appreciated Janet 

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Happy Summer

In these long sunny days I often wish I had the physical fitness of those out running, power walking or cycling in the sun. I struggle with mobility issues, so I am mindful of those who do not let mobility issues hold them back, taking to the footpaths in their disability scooters. When I walk, I need to stop and sit a few minutes so I chose walks where there are benches along the way. As I sit looking over the sea, Rosie (my wee dog) by my side, I focus on the Stenaline Ferries, sailing boats, wild swimmers, birds and so more. Often there is a breeze, but there is always people, some wearing ear pods/headphones, enjoying their own head space. Others acknowledge each other welcoming the opportunity to stop and chat. Some days I am happy to chat, other days I want to be left alone preferring to be mindful of my surroundings, of the sea.

So what is the point of all this? you may ask. Well I guess I am aware of Psalm 24 v 1. ***The earth is the Lords and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.*** I like this inclusive space God Has made for all of us. So be it in Carrickfergus, where I walk, or anywhere in the world it all belongs to the Lord and we belong to him too. So while I encounter nature, I need to be more open to talking with others, while being mindful of those needing time and space alone. While for others a little chat may well be the only encounter with another person on that day. This can make a difference, it does for me.

I am mindful of those who cannot get out to enjoy the sunshine and I invite you to think of ways of bringing the sunshine inside for them.

Blessings for Summer where ever you are in the Lord's wonderful earth.



WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH

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Email: churchofirelandwhitehead@gmail.com
Website: **www.whitehead-islandmagee-parish.co.uk**

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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 07909 545651

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Registered with NI Charity Commission NIC102649