CHURCH MATTERS

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

Here everyone matters

May 2025

ST. PATRICK'S & ST. JOHN'S



Church in the community Matt 5:14-16, Acts 2:44-47, Phil 2:3-5

May Services & Readings

Sunday 4th May - 3rd Sunday of Easter
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Holy Communion Two
Sunday Readings - Epistle - Acts 9:1-6; Gospel - John 21:1-9
Reader for the Epistle - The Rector
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Deuteronomy 5- 8; Psalms 120 - 126; Ephesians 1- 3

Sunday 11th May - 4th Sunday of Easter
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 9:36-43; Psalm 23; John 10:22-30
Reader for first Lesson - Scottie Hayes / Joy Kerr
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Deuteronomy 9-15; Psalms 127 - 133; Ephesians 4-6

Sunday 18th May - 5th Sunday of Easter
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; John 13:31-35
Reader for the First Lesson - Heather Cupples / Jim Reid
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings:Deuteronomy 16-24; Psalms 134-140; 1 Peter 1-3

Sunday 25th May - 6th Sunday of Easter
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - Acts 16:9-151; Psalm 67; John 14:23-29,
Reader for the First Lesson - Alison Higginson / Maureen Reid
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Deuteronomy 26-30; Psalms 141-147; 1 Peter 4-5; 1 John 1:1 - 2:17

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

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS/ CMSI Collection

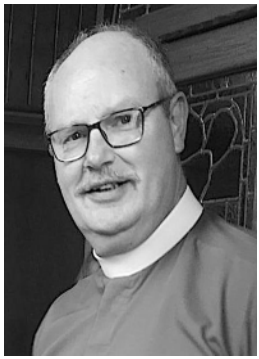
In our March Magazine there was a "Count your Blessings" Sheet and a request to raise some money for the Church Mission Society Ireland. Those who took boxes, or collected money some other way, could you bring it to Church in the next couple of weeks so that we can get it

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 11th May
Sunday 8th June - Feast of Pentecost

A message from our Rector



The Church in the Community, so says the front cover of Church Matters this month. It even comes complete with Bible references. Did you just note that they were there? Or, did you actually know them or look them up?

Matthew 5:14-16 states:

"You are the light of the world. A city located on top of a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and place it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it shines on all those in the house."

Acts 2:44-47 states:

44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Philippians 2:3-5 states:

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

What do they mean for us, these three passages of scripture?

None of you want to read a sermon at this point, so I an assure you that **this is not a sermon.**

As the Church in the Community we are visible to others in the community. We need to be setting the best example that we can, we need to be *"the light of the world"* that Jesus proclaimed us to be.

The passage in Acts tells us what the Church did in those days, it is not an instruction to do these things now; although we do still come together to worship and praise God as a community of believers.

St Paul, writing to the Philippians, tells them (and us) to value and consider others.

The Church has not always had the best of reputations. Over the centuries the Church has made mistakes and done things wrong. The problem is that, as Christians, we are all tarred with the one brush. What other Christians, or the Church, may have done wrong centuries ago, or more recently, we often get blamed for today. This can make it hard to

be the Church in the Community. It can make it hard to be the witnesses for Jesus Christ that we could, and should, be.

The good news is that no one is going to persecute us for being Christians. No one is going to arrest or imprison us for being Christians. No one is going to put us to death for being Christians. So, while it may be a bit difficult, at times, being a Christian publicly, that is all it is - a bit difficult.

How are we to be the Church in the Community?

There is one simple answer as to how we do this, and that is to be active and involved in the life of the community as witnesses for Jesus Christ. The manner and type of involvement changes for each person. For me it will be different than for you.. There are things that I can do in the community that others can't.; Just as there contacts and connections in the community that others have that I don't. It is all a matter of being an active Christian where ever we are, what ever we are doing, when ever we are doing it.

Again the question is, "How do we do this?"

The easiest way is to pray for the people that you share any part of your life with, be it in work or rest or play. It is easy to say to people that you pray for them, that you remember them in your prayers, that you pray for their particular circumstances in life. This is the easiest way to be actively involved, as a Christian, in the community in which we live.

So let us be active, let us pray for those around us, and tell them that we are doing it.

Every blessing to you and your families, I remember you all in my prayers. *Mark*

Easter General Vestry Meeting - Thursday 1st May

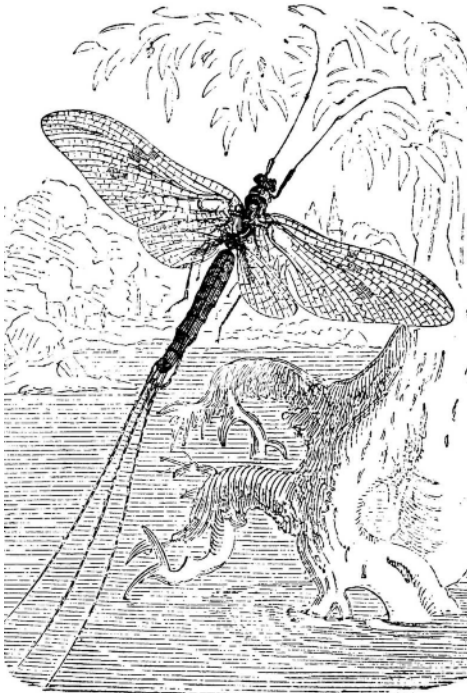
The following were appointed or elected to the Select Vestry - please pray for them, regularly and frequently, for the next year.

Church Wardens - Colin de Fleury, and Alan Hayward, Mabel Allen and John Hall.

Glebe Wardens - Trevor Peoples and Jim Reid

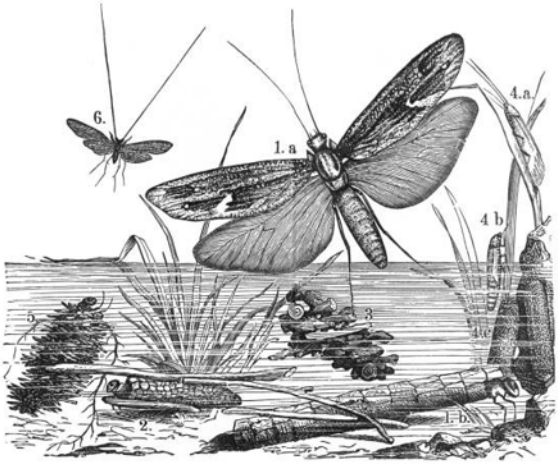
Select Vestry Members - Sandra Thompson, Priscila Carlisle , Inez Moore, Geraldine Scott-Heyes (Scottie), Bill Pollock, Pauline Riddle, Paul Heyes, David Young, Janet Matthews, Ann Mulholland, Austin Jenkins and Terry Waugh

MAYFLY



By Mary Ann Hoberman

Think how fast a year flies by
A month flies by
A week flies by
Think how fast a day flies by
A Mayfly's life lasts but a day
A single day
To live and die
A single day
How fast it goes
The day
The Mayfly
Both of those.
A Mayfly flies a single day
The daylight dies and darkness grows
A single day
How fast it flies
A Mayfly's life
How fast it goes.



I struggle to concentrate when I pray so I found this helped me stay focused, thought you might find it helpful.

You can use either hand!

The 5-Finger Prayer



Thumb: Pray for those closest to you: your family and friends.

Pointer finger: Pray for those who point you in the right direction: your teachers, and other leaders in your life. Pray for wisdom and support.

Middle finger (tallest): Pray for those that lead us: those in government, in business, in church leadership. Pray for guidance and wisdom.

Ring finger (weakest): Pray for those who are poor, sick, in pain, in trouble: those most in need.

Pinkie finger (smallest): Pray for yourself and your own needs.

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Easy Delicious cheesecake - no bake Recipe



The Base

8 ounces of Digestive biscuit

4 ounces of melted butter

The filling

200 grams of cream cheese

100 grams of icing sugar

250 grams double cream

Your sweets of choice e.g. Maltesers, chunks of crunchie, flake, mini chocolate eggs of broken crème eggs.

How to make it

Crush the digestive biscuits and stir in the melted butter

Press into a lined cake tin, or tin with a removable base, place in fridge for at least an hour.

Lightly beat the double cream - when starting to thicken add in the cream cheese and sieved icing sugar. Continue to beat slowly until filling thickens.

Then fold in some of your favourite sweets, keeping some to decorate the top.

Gently place on top of biscuit base and return to fridge for at least six hours. Best made the night before if you can bear to wait that long.

Gently remove from the tin and decorate

Thank you Sheila for sharing this scrumptious recipe

A simple Prayer for our Rector and his team



Heavenly Father

We thank you for sustaining Mark and the team of volunteers during Lent and Easter in our churches and in our local community.

We acknowledge your hand on them through the Lenten Lunches and in St Patricks and St Johns churches special services over Lent, Holy week and Easter.

We pray for Mark as as leader, the vestry and others who hold key roles in our churches.

Father may Mark and the team have a very strong sense of Your leading as they plan and manage the maintenance of our church buildings.

We pray that You would bless Mark and the team with Your divine wisdom as they make decisions with understanding and humility. We acknowledge Your supreme authority in this and are mindful that it is not possible to please all of us, all of the time, across our congregations.

We pray for our church wardens as they support our rector and the congregation.

Help us to be mindful of the team and keep them in our prayers.

Amen

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



Note to self - I need to remember it is not all about me, and make room for others. To hear their story, to help……

Hope for Ukrainian New Beginnings: Ludmila's Story

At World Relief, we've been welcoming Ukrainians in the U.S. for over two decades. Prior to the war in Ukraine, we had resettled over 13,000 refugees from Ukraine under the Lautenberg Amendment, which offers resettlement to particular religious minorities from the Former Soviet Union.

When the war began in 2022, our hearts broke for the many Ukrainians we had already walked alongside — many of whom had joined our staff. We immediately began praying and looking for ways to help those seeking safety in the U.S., Providing support with housing, medical care, education and more.



Ludmila has found hope in God's provision of safety and welcome in the U.S. She escaped Mariupol and came to the U.S. in April 2023, is just one of the many Ukrainians who we have welcomed across the U.S. Her words of faith in the midst of chaos are a humbling encouragement in times of trouble:

"I am 80 years old. I've known God for 26 years. One thing I regret is not coming to him sooner because only in him do I find peace and hope for myself. He is the foundation of my life.

"I am from Mariupol. My house has been destroyed… If I had stayed in Mariupol, I don't think I would be alive right now. Mostly because I have diabetes and need insulin to survive.

"In the beginning, I wanted [the war in my city] to end as quickly as possible. Once I started to realize that it was not going to end, I started to have hope in the church. Only faith in God gave me hope…

"My niece, who already lived in America for a while, recommended World Relief. I didn't know exactly what it was about, but I prayed and took a chance. Then I decided to fly there. The organization was extremely helpful. The people at the church welcomed me with open arms. I've received a ton of help regarding my health, and I'm learning English".

"To people who suffer right now, I would tell them to have faith in the Lord. If not for him, I don't know if I ever would have known that an organization like this exists… I have never felt alone or unwelcome here. I have met my truest brothers and sisters in Christ."

Since the start of the war, we've helped create hope for Ukraine by walking alongside over 5,000 Ukrainians seeking safety in the U.S.

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

A note from Janet

When I watch stories about people across our world who due to war have lost everything, I get so stressed. On editing this magazine I have looked for individual stories of hope, which I share with you. They to me are a sign of hope, that God is working and using World relief and other organisation to help his suffering children . While we can pray, and donate, they can do so much more. Thank you for your servants Lord.

Prayers for Ukraine https://worldrelief.org/triad/ukraine/

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

The Rectory

St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

I have to say that the couple who complained that you never noticed they had been missing from church for a month had a point. There is a simple way of noticing when someone is absent: everyone sits in the same pew. Every Sunday. Always.

Little Miss Margison sits in the pew after the third pillar on the right here at St James the Least. As she walks up the aisle, you can sense her counting the pillars until she reaches the right one, which then allows her to sit in front of it. I have speculated that if I ever had that pillar removed, then the following Sunday, she would have a complete mental collapse.

One Sunday a visiting family arrived early and sat down; three people in an empty church seating 200. Colonel Wainwright and his wife were the first of our regulars to arrive and froze in horror. The Colonel said in a deafening whisper to his wife: "There's someone sitting in our pew."

At least they had the grace – no matter how reluctant – for one week, to sit somewhere else. Unlike the Prentice family of husband, wife and three children, who arrived to discover that a visiting family of husband, wife and four children were sitting in their pew; six people in a pew that held eight. Or, it normally holds eight. That Sunday, it held thirteen.

We at least have one iconoclast in Miss Pemberton, who makes a point of sitting in a different place every week. This thoroughly unsettles the rest of the congregation, who fear she may sit in their seats during her nomadic wanderings. I sometimes wonder if she has a chart at home with all the pew spaces marked on it and she strikes one off each week as she returns home after Mattins.

Occasionally the unexpected can happen. Mrs Cholmondeley arrived one week in good time, settled herself in her accustomed place, but half-way through the Service suddenly ran out of the building. Ten minutes later, she was back and in her usual place once again. It was only when the church filled with the smell of burned bacon that we understood.

That is why replacing pews with chairs in your church was a mistake. Pews can never be moved. You know where everybody is – or should be!

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Thank God our for our lovely pews



"Welcome to our church—even though you're sitting in our family pew . . ."

Artificial Opponents?

Wordles and Quordles and Octordles too,
Who can be bored with so much to do?
Puzzles online, and less now in print
Is it surprising that I'm starting to squint?

Crosswords and lost words in a grid you must find
Sudoku, Kakuro for the numerate mind,
Backgammon or chess, if that is your sport
And card games of every conceivable sort!

Deep in my cupboard is a box full of games
And a beautiful chess set, abandoned – a shame!
But do you remember (long ago as it seems),
When we played games with people, and not these machines?

By Nigel Beeton, Parish Pump

Game On Meeting May
Play with a real person

Meeting in the Library on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month 14th and the 28th at 1.30 pm

Some members play Mexican Train, others played Backgammon.
New participants always welcome. Come and

Sudoko essentials - A mug of tea, pencil and rubber and your favourite tunes in the back ground. Sitting at the kitchen table - A great way to keep your brain cells ticking over and relax. Check you answers on page 30

5	4			7	6	1	8	
7							2	
		6	1	2	4	7	3	
		4	8			9		
2				3				1
		8			1	3		
	6	1	5	4	9	2		
	5							6
	2	9	7	6			1	3

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Mental Health Awareness Week - 12th – 18th May

In May we observe Mental Health Week, at a time when sadly many of us, as a nation, are struggling. Roughly one in four of us now experience a mental health problem every year.

According to the Health Foundation, for young people aged 10–24 a staggering 45% are experiencing mental health disorders. While the medical profession is helping with medication and medical care, many Christians are also deeply concerned.

As one theologian, Professor John Swinton, has said: "Mental-health professions play a significant part in the healing process for people. Most people, however, are not acutely unwell… they live in ordinary communities, and work out their lives amid family, friends, society and church. It is there that the Church can offer important gifts and insights.

"The central intention of the Gospels is to enable people to come to know God, and to live with God for ever. Within this perspective, mental health is not the absence of symptoms or distress, it is assurance of the presence of a loving God who cares."

There is plenty of emotional and mental pain in the Bible: just read the Psalms of lament, which express sorrow and desolation. (They include Psalms 3, 6, 13, 22, 28, 42, 44, 56, 57, 71, 77, 86, 88, 102, 120, 130, 137, 142.) Here you will find desolation and sorrow – but also hope and assurance that at the end of all things, God is still there for those who turn to Him.

The Bible assures us that God will "never leave you or forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). As Jesus told His followers: "I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you" (John 14:18)

The Bible reminds us that we should not be surprised by deeply painful times in our lives, as these are not outside the experiences of people who know God. However, it assures us that He will draw close to us (James 4:8) and that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him" (Romans 8:28). (Parish Pump Editor)

https://www.rethink.org/campaigns-and-policy/awareness-days-and-events/mental-health-awareness

All Things Bright and Beautiful - the story behind the hymn

In my search for a 'summer hymn' All Things Bright and Beautiful came to the fore on Google. The author Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1890) was a prominent Irish hymn writer. All Things Bright and Beautiful was part of a collection of Hymns for Little Children published in 1848. a very successful and influential work.

The hymn serves as a commentary on the phrase "Maker of heaven and earth" in the Apostles creed, which is a statement of Christian belief in the creator of all things, emphasizing the beauty and wonder of the natural world. The hymn may have been inspired by Psalm 104, which praises God for the beauty and wonder of the natural world.

The hymn celebrates God's role as the maker of all things, from the smallest flower to the largest mountain. It highlights the beauty and wonder of the natural world, inviting the listener to appreciate God's handiwork, his creation and the blessings of nature.

"All Things Bright and Beautiful" remains a popular and beloved hymn, sung in churches and schools worldwide. James Herriot, the veterinarian named his popular book series "All Creatures Great and Small" taking this phrase from the hymn.

But few know of the part the hymn played in transforming the education of deaf children in 19th century Northern Ireland. Fewer still know the tragedy that befell its writer's dream.

Cecil Frances (Humphreys) Alexander and her sister Anne were very involved in local church activities in Strabane, including visits to local families where they encountered a small deaf boy from a poor home. "They were concerned about the barrenness of his existence and the blank future he faced, cut off from knowledge of the love of God" said Symington. The proceeds from her "Hymns for Little Children" collection made a significant contribution to opening what was called the Derry and Raphoe Diocesan Institution for the Education of the Deaf.

Sadly it ended tragically when a fire started in the residential school and six children died. Devastated, it is said that after that event joy left her writing but she continued to be a pioneer for deaf education for the rest of her life. Her beautiful hymn is tribute to a wonderful lady, who desired that children learn about Jesus and this included children who are deaf.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-4401826

All Things Bright and Beautiful

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colors,
he made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
he made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.

Deaf Awareness Week 5 - 11 May

14 in every congregation of 100 will have a hearing problem?
Deaf Awareness Week is a time to promote understanding, and build a more inclusive world for all. The theme for Deaf Awareness Week 2025 is "Beyond Silence", focusing on breaking down barriers to full accessibility for individuals with hearing loss, celebrating the diverse ways Deaf people communicate, highlighting the richness of Deaf culture.

https://bda.org.uk/deaf-awareness-week/

We pray for the deaf community, help us to be mindful of those who live with hearing loss.

The Cuthbert Compline (from the Northumbrian Community)



Cuthbert was a shepherd lad looking after his flock on the Lammermuir hills. He had an angelic vision coinciding with the death of Aidan which convinced him that he was meant to follow Christ. He became a monk at Melrose Abbey. Later in his life Cuthbert became a dearly loved bishop at Lindisfarne, from where, until his death in 687, he loved to retreat in solitude to pray and fast on the Farne Islands.

This compline is used by the community and others throughout the world. This is an abbreviated version, to find the full version and other prayers search .
(Join us in our Daily Prayer - Northumbria Community on Google)

Compline
I will lie down and sleep in peace
for You alone, Lord,
make me dwell in safety.

O God, and Spirit, and Jesu, the Three,
from the crown of my head, O Trinity,
to the soles of my feet mine offering be.

Come I unto Thee, O Jesu, my King –
O Jesu, do Thou be my sheltering.

My dear ones, O God, bless Thou and keep,
in every place where they are.

Whoever has chosen to make
the shelter of the Most High their dwelling place
will stay in His over-shadowing.
He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;

He is my God, and I am trusting Him.
His faithful promises are your armour.
You need no longer be afraid of any terror by night,
or the death-arrow that flies by day.

The Lord Himself is your refuge;
you have made the Most High your stronghold
Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for You are my crag and my stronghold.

The peace of all peace
be mine this night
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

This ancient language requires close attention, it is part of the beauty of ancient Celtic spirituality. Northumbria, especially Holy Island is a very special place to visit, often described as a 'thin place'. The island is accessed when then the tide is out, then it is cut off from the mainland when the tide is in. Having stayed there on retreat, it has a unique spiritual feel, I long to go back. (Janet).



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The Eightieth anniversary of VE Day - Tuesday, 8th May

This year, we have 80 years of peace in the UK to celebrate, though once again the shadows of war darken the sky...

The bells rang out in England

The bells rang out in England and songs of heartfelt joy,
But 'midst the cheers were bitter tears for each lost man and boy.

The six long years of fighting had such a dreadful cost
In blood and sweat and mortal threat and countless lives were lost.

It now, at last, had ended – in Europe's shores at least;
Our people brave feared not the grave to slay the Nazi beast.

The lessons learned stayed with us for eighty peaceful years.
Yet now, again, some brutal men are raising wartime fears.

We should be celebrating this coming VE Day;
Yet not at ease, but on our knees for lasting peace, we pray.

By Nigel Beeton Editor Parish Pump



Julian of Norwich, voice from a distant cell (Parish Pump)

Julian of Norwich was born in 1342 and wrote at the end of the 14th century, when our modern English language was slowly emerging from its origins in Anglo-Saxon and Middle English.

We know little about Julian's early life, but when she was 30, she fell ill and was near death when suddenly her pain left her, and she received 16 visitations. Julian wrote these down, in what became known as the 'short text'. 20 years later she extended this to become her 'long text'.

She was an anchoress – someone who had committed herself to a life of solitude, giving herself to prayer and fasting. St Julian's, Norwich was the church where she had her little 'cell'.

Julian taught that all things depend upon the love of God for their being. Her spirituality was focused on the cross, and she wanted to share the sufferings of Christ. She believed that humanity is separated from God by sin, but redeemed through Christ, who reunites us with God. Julian also emphasised Christ as mother, but within a clear Trinitarian understanding of the godhead.

Her masterpiece, *Revelations of Divine Love,* reveals a mystic of such depth and insight that it is still read by many thousands of Christians today. One of the notable features

is that her theology determined her experience, rather than the other way round.
She is honoured this month in the Lutheran and Anglican Churches, but although she is held in high regard by many Roman Catholics, her own Church has never felt able to recognise her as a 'saint'. This is probably because she spoke of God as embracing both male and female qualities. *Revelations* is an account of the visions she received in her tiny room, which thousands of pilgrims visit every year.

Her most famous saying, quoted by T S Eliot in one of his poems, is 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.' These words have brought comfort and strength to many a soul in distress.
(From the Editor of Parish Pump)

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Fun Fact

Julian of Norwich was an anchorite, which means she lived in small room by the cathedral to advise & pray for people as part of the anchorite rule of life. This recommended having a pet cat, because cows are too big. This is why Julian is often depicted with a cat!



Icon of Julian with her cat by Br Robert Lentz OFM

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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Lilyscape is a modern, fully equipped self catering apartment, perfect for couples, small families and commuters wanting to stay in the area.
The apartment is nestled in the heart of Whitehead. Close to Gobbins Path, Whitehead Railway Museum and Carrickfergus Castle. Being close to local amenities and transport links makes for the perfect stay and easily accessible on foot.

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For more details find us on Airbnb @lilyscape or Tel 075 1146 1691
Facebook & Instagram @lilyscape Whitehead

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A Sonnet for Ascension Day (May 29th 2025)
the glorious finale of the Easter Season

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place
As earth became a part of Heaven's story
And heaven opened to his human face.
We saw him go and yet we were not parted
He took us with him to the heart of things
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted
Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,
Whilst we our selves become his clouds of witness
And sing the waning darkness into light,
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,
Which all creation waits to see revealed .

(Malcolm Guite)

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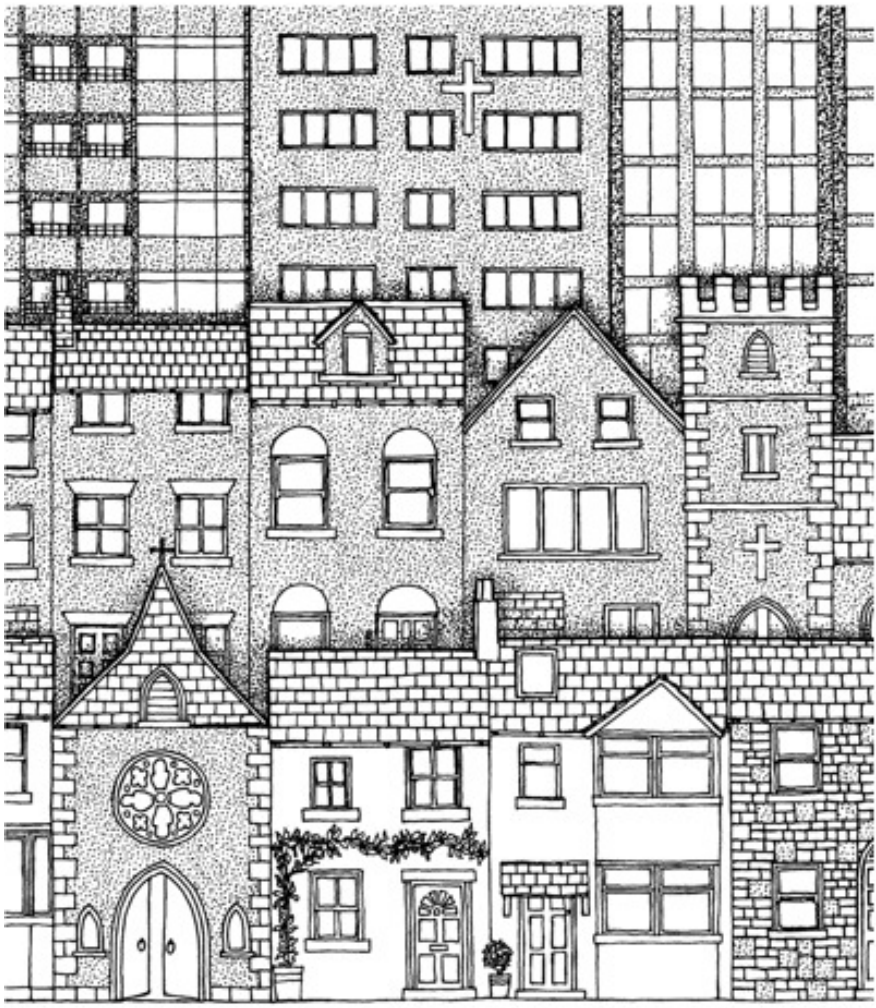


5	4	2	3	7	6	1	8	9
7	1	3	9	8	5	6	2	4
9	8	6	1	2	4	7	3	5
1	3	4	8	5	2	9	6	7
2	9	5	6	3	7	8	4	1
6	7	8	4	9	1	3	5	2
3	6	1	5	4	9	2	7	8
8	5	7	2	1	3	4	9	6
4	2	9	7	6	8	5	1	3

Colouring in is a meditation tool, as you focus on the colour and images, you are present in the moment.

The over thinking part of your brain shuts down.

Use the front cover as your guide or just go free style.



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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



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 15th May

Thank you for all you do.

May Church Activities

Together in Faith Group

The first and third Monday of the month

(5th and 19th May 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 (28th)

(Contact Paddy Rodgers tel 07720 404071)

Wednesday Morning Fellowship Group (Second Wednesday in the month)

Next meeting 14th May 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 7.30 pm alternating between St Johns and St Patricks

Next meeting Thursday 8th May - St Patricks

Counters for May

5th	**May**	**Sandra Thompson**
12th	**May**	**David Robinson**
19th	**May**	**Brian Joyce**
26th	**May**	**Colin de Fleury**

May Refreshments Rota

5th May Janet Foster
12th May Messy Church
19th May Priscilla Carlisle
26th May Corrine Logan

Refreshments coordinator Priscilla Carlisle
Tel 07787561517

Game On Meeting May

Meeting in the Library on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month 14th and the 28th at 1.30 pm

Some members play Mexican Train, others played 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 on Sunday 4th May in St Patrick's, Whitehead.

We join everyone else in the church for the start of the morning service before moving into the hall for Bible study, prayer and games. Anyone of secondary school age or young adult under 25 is welcome to join us. We will then break for the summer until Sunday 31st August. If you want to find out, please come along or contact Stephen Martin (stepheneddu@gmail.com)



This is an **appeal for your contributions** to our Church Magazine, with thanks to those who have over the past months. Happy to have your contribution by email, text, whatsapp. Share things that others have shared with you on social media. Or 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

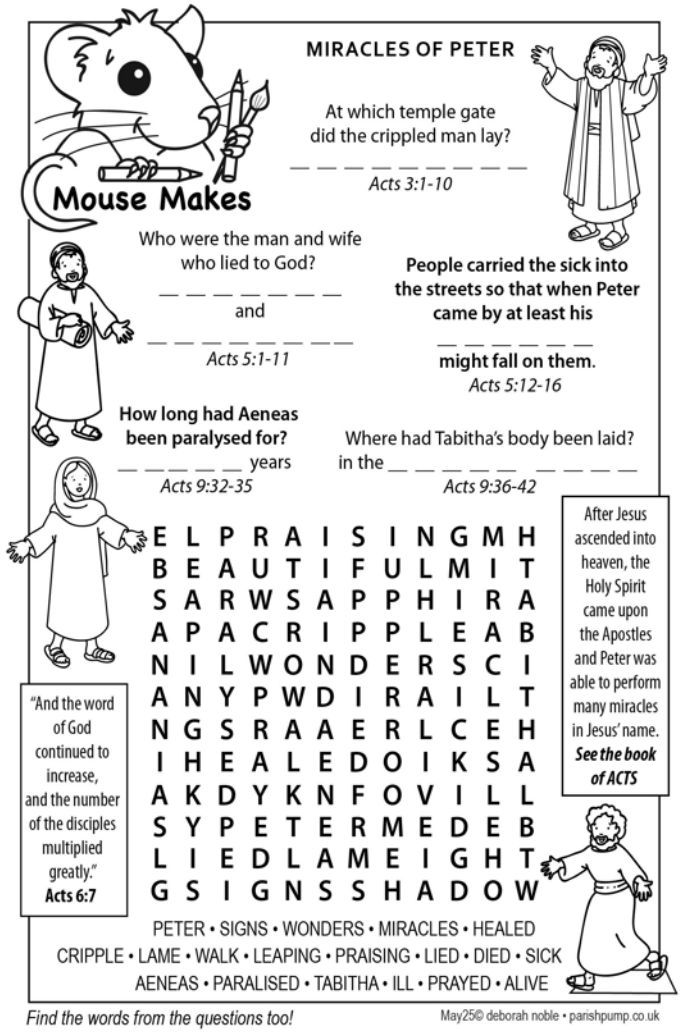
Local events

Pictures

cartoons.

Jokes etc.,

Thank you



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dear Reader

'Summer time and the weather is…..'
Writing this in the sunshine and warmth, I can only hope that by the time you are reading this that you still have warm sunny days to enjoy this summer. Yet as I watched the NI news this week I can see that our land really needs the rain to dilute our fresh water lakes (blue green algae) and to help reduce the risk of forest fires. And off course water the garden.

Yet there is no doubt that grey skies, cold and rain impacts on our sense of well being. On Lectio 365 (a prayer app I use), they describe Lent as a wilderness experience. When it gets dark and wet it does feel like being in the wilderness, then the sun comes out. Just like Easter ended Lent, we are back in the sun - Christ is risen indeed. So this summer at the times it feels anything but summer, we need to remember the sun will come out again.

Back to the Lectio 365 app - it is part of the 24/7 prayer movement, a great help to those who find praying alone difficult. You can download the app on your phone. There is morning, midday and evening prayer. It comes in written form that you can read but you can also listen. The App is free, run by a Christian charity. To download on your smart phone or computer type Lectio 365 for iPhone or android into Google on your smart phone and then click the links to download.
If You don't find it helps you it is easy to remove from your phone



What ever the weather, have a great summer.

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	Alan Hayward
People's:	Mabel Allen	John Hall

GLEBEWARDENS

St. Patrick's - Trevor Peoples St. John's - Jim Reid

SELECT VESTRY (includes Churchwardens & Glebewardens)

Geradine Scott-Heyes Hon Secretary
Sandra Thompson - Hon Treasurer 07912478331
Ann Mulholland; Bill Pollock;;
Priscilla Carlisle; Pauline Riddle; Paul Heyes;
Janet Matthews; David Young; Terry Waugh;
Inez Moore Austin Jenkins - Graveyard Manager St John's

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

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

FWO & Gift Aid Sec: Sandra Thompson 07912478331

Distributors: C of I Gazette: David Robinson 9338248
Church Matters Magazine : Valerie Kincaid 07909 545651

Editorial communications - to: Janet Matthews
jem.matthews2@gmail.com or tel. WhatsApp 07581031915,

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