CHURCH MATTERS

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

Here everyone matters

September 2025

CHURCH OF IRELAND

ST. PATRICK'S
& ST. JOHN'S

UNITED PARISH OF
WHITEHEAD & ISLANDMAGEE



September Services & Readings

Wednesday 11:30 in St Patrick's - a brief service of prayers or the Litany One
Sunday Lesson Readers, please read the first reading on the Sunday List

Sunday 7th September - Trinity 12
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Two
12 noon Holy Communion Two
Epistle Reading - Philemon 1-25; Gospel Reading - Luke 14:25-33
Readers for first Lesson - Jane Robinson / Ann Thompson
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings - Proverbs 13, 15, 18, 209, 22, 24; Psalms 97-103; Mark 6:45 - 8:10

Sunday 14th September - Trinity 13
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. MESSY CHURCH in the Parochial Hall
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer Two
12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; Luke 15:1-10
Readers for first Lesson - Judith de Fleury / Joy Kerr
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Proverbs 25-31; Psalms 104-110; Mark 8:11 - 9:37

Sunday 21st September - Trinity 14
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer Two
12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Reading - Jeremiah 8:18 - 9:1; Psalm 79:1-9; Luke 16:1-13
Readers for first Lesson - Colin de Fleury / Jim Reid
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: 1 Chronicles 10-13, 15-17, 21-22; Psalms 111-117; Mark 9:38 - 10:52

Sunday 28th September - Trinity 15 - Back to Church Sunday
"Better together"
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m Family Service
12noon Family Service
Sunday Readings - Hebrews 10:19-25

Readers for first Lesson - The Rector
Weekday Readings: 1 Chronicles 28-29; Psalms 118-119; Mark 11:1-12:27

Sunday 5th October - Trinity 16

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
11:00 a.m. United Harvest Thanksgiving - St Patrick's
Followed by Parish shared lunch in the Parochial Hall.
Sunday Readings - Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 100; John 6:25-35
Reader for first Lesson - Scottie Hayes
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: 2 Chronicles 1, 2, 3, 5, 6; Psalms 120-126; Mark 12:28 - 13:36

Sunday 12th October - Trinity 17

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. MESSY CHURCH
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-11; Luke 17:11-19
Readers for first Lesson - Trevor Peoples / Alan Hayward

Sunday 19th October - Trinity 18

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
11:00 United Harvest Thanksgiving - St John's

Messy Church

Dates for your diary
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 14th September
Sunday 12th October
Remembrance Sunday 9th November 2:30 in the afternoon
Sunday 14th December
Nativity Service - Sunday 21st December - in the Church

A message from our Rector



The summer is almost over - except that we usually get some very nice weather in September. I hope that you are all rested and feeling refreshed and relaxed. September is traditionally the start of the new school and university academic year, and in many ways the start of the Church's social year.

We will be thinking of all the children in our congregation, in our families and in our town who are starting school for the first time, those moving up a year or starting a new school or going to university or college. It is a time of new experiences and a time that can be stressful and difficult to deal with. We have all done it in he past, and we have all survived it, some more easily than others.

For each of us life has different pressures and traumas, pleasures and joys. For some it is matters of education - whether school is easy and enjoyable or difficult and stressful; whether we have lots of friends or find ourselves alone and lonely; whether we enjoy certain subjects or dread them; or any combination of the above. The same goes for work, sports, hobbies, recreation and all of life.

The one place that should be pressure and stress free is Church, but that is not always the case. A friend once joked (even if it was actually true), "The last time I was in Church a man threw water over me and called me names." For many this is the case; the last time they were in church was at their baptism when they were carried in as a babe in arms. And there is an increasing number who cannot even say that!

Over the years I have spoken to people who, after a bereavement, found the Church a difficult place to be, because of the memories of their loved one, and so stopped coming. Others have found it a place of comfort where the pain of their bereavement has been eased.

Some have fond the church to be a place of judgement and rejection and some a place of forgiveness and welcome. We need to make sure that 'Our Church' is the latter, a place of forgiveness and welcome! A place of peace and calm in the troubles and stresses of life. A place where current fellowship eases the pains of loss and bereavement. We need to make sure that our church is a welcoming place were everyone feels that they have a place.

So how do we do that? What is it that we need to be doing, each week, each month, each year, to make people want to be involved with us

and to share in our worship and community life? Is it the seating, the lighting, the heating, or the music? Is it the brand of tea or coffee, the biscuits, the buns or tray bakes after the service? Is it the organisations and activities that we do, the bowls, Messy Church, Sunday Brunch?

Truthfully it is all of the above and more. But first, and foremost, it is the welcome, the friendliness the care that we show to others.

People do not come to church because we have the best looking minister in Whitehead and Islandmagee - obviously not. They don't come because of the organist, or the comfortable seats, or the warmth (or otherwise). People come to Church because they feel welcomed and value, and they feel that they belong.

The hard part is to get them to come in the first place!

Evidence, over many years in may locations has shown that the best way to get people to come to church in the first place is by personal invitation. Not that the church sends out lots of individual, hand written invitations or lovely paper with great calligraphy. It is when a member of the church personally invites some one to come with them to Church.

We have all invited people to come before, and they have not accepted our invitation - so we stopped asking. Usually we have said, "I'll see you there." What we need to do is to say, "I will call for you on my way and we will go together. We can sit together and may be get a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit after." I mean, who could refuse an offer like that? The pleasure of your company and refreshments, priceless! If you ask once and people are unable to come, ask again, and again, if necessary. Our faith should be important enough to us that we want to share it with others. We should not want to take no for an answer. The people we ask to share our faith are people that we want to spend eternity with, people that we want to see accept the gift of salvation.

This should be the reason that we ask people to come to Church, not just to make the building look full. While it is nice to have lots of people in church, to have good singing, to have lots of volunteers for our activities; this is not what we are about. As a Church we are in the business of proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. This is our only reason for existence, to proclaim Christ and help to advance his kingdom here on earth.

It is our business, and duty, to make every effort to bring people to share in our faith and worship. To spread the good news about Jesus Christ. As we move forward in this year, let us pray, earnestly, for the help of Christ in all we do. Every blessing to you all. *Mark*

Alpha Course announcement



Since the late spring a group of people from the different churches in Whitehead, Ballycarry and Islandmagee, have been working together to organise an Alpha course this autumn.

This community Alpha Course is taking place on Monday nights 7.00 – 9.00 pm in the Gobbins Centre, at the Greedy Gannett, starting on 29 September. Each evening begins with a meal.

The Alpha course provides an opportunity to explore the Christian faith and ask any questions you may have in an open, friendly environment. It's for any adult who's curious, no matter their beliefs or background. Anyone who is seeking answers to the big questions of life and wanting to know more about God is welcome.

If you know anyone who might be interested, please invite them to the course and come along with them.

You can find out more about alpha at www.alpha.org

For more details of the local course contact:
commmunityalpha@yahoo.com or Mike 07828857051 or Joe 07794089253
If you have any questions, please contact us.
Many thanks
Mike and Joe

Or you can just ask the Rector, any question is a good question and all will be most welcome at the Alpha Course.

Back to Church Sunday 2025 "Better Together"

On Sunday 28th September we are holding our "Back to Church Sunday" as a family service, at each of our main morning Church services.

As Christians we have an individual relationship with God in Jesus Christ; yet as a congregation we are better together.

We can read our bible by ourselves, alone; but in discussion with others we can understand scripture better together.

We can pray for the world and those we love by ourselves; but we can see that the power of prayer is better together.

We can sing our hymns and worship God in our own homes, by ourselves; but we know that our singing is better together.

There will be information about our "Back to Church Sunday" services each week during September.

Information that you can share with friends or family members who you would love to see in church on a Sunday. People that you can invite to Back to Church Sunday, when we will all be better together.

The tale of the RICH FOOL



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS





ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A MAN WHO HAD LOTS OF LAND WHICH GREW WONDERFUL WHEAT.







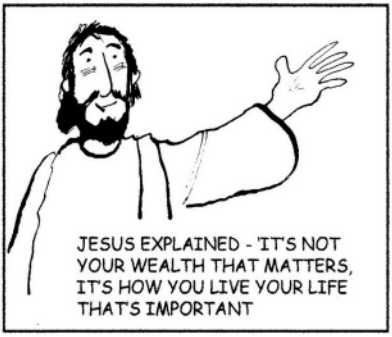












A simple Prayer for our Rector and his team



Our Father who are in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Give our Rector Mark and Frances everything they need to sustain them.

Help our Rector and his team to know and follow your lead so your will may be done.

Help us to be mindful of their needs, supporting them with kindness and prayer.

We give thanks for our organist Loreto and the choir, who help us praise you and uplift our spirits.

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

As shared before, I struggle to concentrate when I pray so this has helped me, you may find it helpful, If you have something that helps you why not share it here.

PRAY - for your loved ones

B - Body: pray for their good health, protection and strength.

L - Labour: pray for their work experience and financial security.

E - Emotional: pray for their emotional health and a good quality of life; for joy, peace, hope.

S - Social: pray for their relationships with their family and friends.

S - Spiritual: pray for their salvation, that they will live and grow in the faith of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:18 ... "Offer prayers and petitions in the Spirit all the time. Stay alert by hanging in there and praying for all believers.".

Gwen and Douglas Stanbridge

A Precious Memory of Devoted members of St Patrick's Congregation.

Gone but not forgotten. They were very involved in St Patricks, Gwen was always in the kitchen, Douglas as warden and a member of the select vestry, both involved with all organisations in the parish.

Gwen was a State Registered Nurse working locally. There was a gathering in the hall, maybe after a service. Gwen went around quietly distributing a leaflet and putting a little pebble in my hand. I still have the pebble and I have the leaflet - Just A Pebble.

I have never forgotten this and keep it safe it in a drawer which I open regularly - I see it and I remember Gwen and Douglas .

I share it now with you.

Just a Pebble.

Lord, I picked a Pebble off the beach today and put it in my pocket. When I looked down, I couldn't see the place where it had been.

Life's like that, I thought to myself. We're here today, gone tomorrow and life's beach will look just the same after we are gone. It made me feel very small Lord.

As I gazed out across the sea, Sadness swept over me like a huge wave: My life is so insignificant in the vastness of your creation, Father, it's depressing.

My child. Take the pebble out of your pocket and feel its smoothness, which has been brought about for many years of moving gently with its brothers in the tide. It is important to the stones around it because as they are rubbed together, their rough edges gradually disappeared. Look at that special beauty. Its shape and colour. No other stone is like it because it is unique. The pattern on the beach has in fact changed since you lifted it up even if it's not apparent to you. Other pebbles have been drawn together by its loss.

As you hold this pebble stone in your hand you add your warmth to it, a warmth that even its brothers and sisters could not bring. It must be pleased with itself to have been chosen by you and to have all your attention. Why, you even took it home with you! Can you see the important truth that this pebble is showing you?

Do not be sad. for although you may feel like just another Pebble on the beach you are precious to me. I have placed you amongst the others for your mutual benefit. You are unique because I made you. Your place in the pattern is important, for I placed you where you are, and there is work for you to do. (Psalm 139 14-16).

In the vastness of my creation, you are indeed one of many but remember that I sent my son for you to lift you up into the warmth of my hand (Psalm 30 v 1). I have chosen you because you are mine and my attention is on you as you move in life's tides.

Whenever you look at the pebble, remember that I am the Lord your God and that nothing can separate you from my love. Remember too, that one day I am coming to take you home.



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

On hymns – ancient and more ancient

My dear Nephew Darren

So, your church does not bother with hymnbooks but uses one of those hideous screens which are invariably strategically placed to obscure the altar. I suppose I am not bothered, as wherever you placed it in your converted cinema, it could never spoil its architectural aesthetics.

In my fortunately limited experience of such devices, they provide the projectionist with endless opportunities for showing the wrong hymn, or the right hymn but wrong verse, or the right hymn and right verse, but all upside down. In any case, the turnover from one verse to the next always takes place some milliseconds after that verse has started. This means that the congregation, having been silenced for lack of words, is then faced with the challenge of singing two lines at double time.

When we decided to move from *Hymns More Ancient* to *Hymns Slightly Less Ancient* some years ago, our Sunday attempts to 'make a joyful noise unto the Lord' threatened to get lost in the noise of battle. Colonel Wainwright was happy so long as we continued fighting good fights and urging Christian soldiers onwards. Very keen on smiting is the Colonel; under his command, the Midianites wouldn't have stood a chance.

Colonel Wainwright was happy so long as we continued fighting good fights and urging Christian soldiers onwards. Very keen on smiting is the Colonel; under his command, the Midianites wouldn't have stood a chance. The men wanted the hymns they remembered from school, the ladies wanted those they had sung at their weddings, and no one would consider anything that dropped 'thine's or 'wouldst's. Then a vicious rumour started that the new hymnbook might even offer hymns written in the last 50 years. At this, timetables were consulted for bus services to the next village (and church).

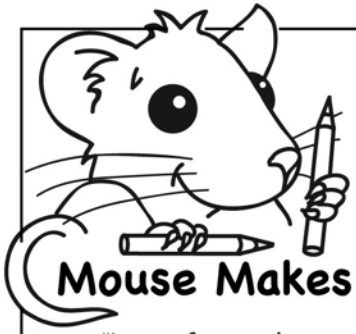
Eventually we reached the perfect solution: we did nothing. Instead, Miss Simpson was charged with buying yards of sticky backed plastic and repairing the current books. But there was still a crisis to come: her young (and radical) niece decided to add a note in the front of every copy. It suggested that if the page for the hymn you wanted was missing, then you could share with the person sitting next to you. Of course, no one has done that yet; it would be an experience almost as traumatic as being invited to pass the peace.

And so, we struggle on with our *Hymns More Ancient*, whenever we can find the words. Harmony reigns once again.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace





Mouse Makes

"May the people **praise** you **God**...
The **land yields** its harvest, God,
our God **blesses** us."
- from Psalm 67:5-6

"***Honour** the **Lord** with your wealth and the first part of your **harvest**."*
- Proverbs 3:9

"Let us fear and respect the Lord our God.
He gives **autumn** and **spring** rains
at the right time. He makes sure that we
have the harvest at just the right **time**."
- from Jeremiah 5:24

*"God... gives you **rain** from heaven and good harvests at the right times. He gives you plenty of **food** and fills your hearts with **joy**."*
- Acts 14:16-17

"So the one who **plants** is not important, and the one who **waters** is not important. Only GOD is important because He is the one who makes things **grow**."
- 1 Corinthians 3:7

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

*Find the words in **bold** type in the bible quotes in the wordsearch then look for the words below too!*

PLOUGH • FIELD • SOIL • SCATTER • SOW • SEEDS • SUN
REAP • PICK • CROPS • GRAIN • CORN • BARN • BREAD • THANKSGIVING

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29th Sept - Enter all the angels, led by Michael

What is an angel?

Easy, people think: a shining figure with glorious wings, who appears from time to time to do some mighty work for God or bring a very special message from him.
Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings, which owe more to stained glass windows than the Bible). But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are 'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to categorise them in this spectacular way. After all, the three apparently ordinary men who visited Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son even though she was long past child-bearing age had none of those outward embellishments. Nevertheless, Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.

The Bible is full of angels, from the early chapters of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation, and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In many stained glass windows he's seen with a sword, because in a vision in Revelation he led the angelic host who fought and defeated Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. An angel - Gabriel - appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the Son of God. An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph, the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to go ahead and marry his fiancée, Mary, and later - also in a dream - warned him not to go back to Bethlehem. A 'young man', whom we take

to have been an angel, was sitting in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there - He had risen (Mark 16:5).

Without going into every biblical reference to angels, those should be sufficient to show that the word covers an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of those who practice hospitality as sometimes 'entertaining angels unawares'. Sometimes people recognised angels for who they were, and sometimes they didn't. Angels, quite simply, are God's agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of His will. Sometimes they are human; sometimes they seem to be spiritual beings.

Perhaps we could even say that *anyone*, in any situation, who is at that moment God's 'messenger' to us, or serves us graciously, is an 'angel'. So, when we say, 'Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my prescription', we may be nearer the heart of the matter than we think!

(From Parish Pump)

Here is a simple task for you.
Who is an angel in your life? (There may be more than one!)
Remember them as often as you can in September with this prayer of thanksgiving, for them and all they do.

"Dear God, bless . . . . . each and every day. Keep them safe from all that may hurt or harm them. Strengthen them as they live and act as Christians in this world. Thank you for all that they do for me and for others. Let them know they are loved by you, and by those who see them as angels; in Jesus name I pray. Amen.



Another one for the kids to colour in.

Get them to think about the difference between Angels and Fairies.

Talk to them about being an angel for someone else in simple ways.

Church Matters - our magazine

Thank you for the many contributions for our magazine which have come in over the summer. Some included this month but more will be included across the Autumn - Winter months. Always happy to have more to add to that stock. It is encouraging to see how much our Magazine matters to both congregations. Your feedback is much appreciated.

Janet

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Gaza food system 'like Hunger Games' - Archbishop Hosam

From editor Parish Pump
Archbishop Hosam, of Jerusalem, recently addressed the Church of England General Synod. Here are some highlights of what he said.
The leader of the Anglican church in the Holy Land has urged Christians to "speak out in the face of injustices" – including the "horrifying' current arrangements for food aid in Gaza" – as he called for a permanent cease fire to end the war.

The Most Revd Hosam Naoum, the Archbishop in Jerusalem, was addressing the General Synod in July. He said that at that time, hospitals were being bombed in Gaza, medical supplies were in short supply and that there was a 'horrifying' system of food distribution, comparable to the dystopian series *The Hunger Games*, with three sites open one hour a day for two million people.

Calling for a restoration of humanitarian supplies including food and medicine, under UN supervision, Archbishop Hosam said there should be no targeting of civilians, especially emergency workers and medical staff.

He called for the release of all hostages and captives and a permanent cease fire for the end of the war and rebuilding of Gaza – "not ethnic cleansing that is presently being discussed by the Israeli and US Government."

The church is committed to peace building and reconciliation – a message that he has repeated "time and time again" – but these are "alien terms" that people across both sides of the divide refuse to talk about or even listen to, he said.

"I realise that as a church we live and embody the Gospel and we are not politicians.

“However, we need to speak out in the face of injustices and be prophetic for the sake of our people and our calling as Christians.

“But where a church is wounded and constrained, we need the wider body of Christ to help us to be the church in brutal and damaging times.”

The Most Reverend Hosam Naoum is the 15th Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, a role he has held since 2021. He was born in Haifa and grew up in Shefa’amr in Galilee.

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem is home to about 7,000 Anglicans worshipping within 28 different congregations. It is also responsible for more than 30 institutions, including hospitals, schools, clinics and rehabilitation centres. The Diocese is scattered across five separate countries or territories: Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Israel.

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Please pray for all the people of Israel and Gaza, Christians, Jews, Muslims and those of no faith at this difficult time.



Great is Thy faithfulness - the story behind the hymn

By Taylor Brantley (Hymncharts.com)

One of the most wonderful things about being a follower of Christ is the peace that attends even when life is difficult. *Great Is Thy Faithfulness,* a testament to God's unchanging nature, was written by a man who suffered prolonged trials in life, yet chose to see God's faithfulness through it all. This hymn, deeply rooted in Scripture, continues to inspire and bless those who sing it.

Thomas Chisholm the author was born in Kentucky, 1866. From a young age, Thomas was highly intelligent and ambitious. He became a school teacher at the age of sixteen and an associate editor for his hometown newspaper at the age of twenty-one. Though he achieved success in his early years, Thomas found his greatest success at the age of twenty-seven when he became a follower of Christ. From that moment on, he used his intelligence and ambition for God. Thomas Chisholm had always been a lover of poetry. Not able to use that love to its fullest in glorifying God, he pursued ministry. Sure enough, Thomas was ordained and given a congregation of his own in Scottsville, Kentucky.

In 1903, Thomas started a family by marrying the love of his life: Catherine Vandervere. It seemed to Thomas that his path in life was now set, that he would be a Methodist minister for the remainder of his days. Soon Thomas experienced a decline in health and in 1909, those health issues forced him to leave his congregation. In the years that followed, financial issues arose from numerous hospital bills. But in the face of his adversity Thomas remained positive. Yes, he was no longer a minister but now he had more time to focus on writing hymns and he also had the loving support from his wife and two daughters. He found a job selling life insurance, allowing him to keep up with the bills.

No matter the struggle, Thomas always chose to see God's faithfulness. Thomas' positive outlook on life never shifted, and in 1923, he took up pen and paper and wrote his most famous poem: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness.* He sent the poem to Reverend **William Runyan**, musician

of Moody Bible Institute and editor of Hope Publishing Company in Chicago.

Runyan's position brought in many a poem submission, but Thomas' moved Runyan so much that Runyan took to praying that God would reveal a tune worthy of the lyrics. With divine guidance, Runyan composed a beautiful tune to accompany the poem and named it FAITHFULNESS. Reflecting on this creative process, Runyan later wrote, "This particular poem held such an appeal that I prayed most earnestly that my tune might carry over its message in a worthy way, and the subsequent history of its use indicates that God answered prayer."

Great Is Thy Faithfulness: A Timeless Hymn Gains Momentum
Once Runyan found the tune, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* as a hymn was born. It was an instant favorite amongst Moody Bible Institute staff and students, quickly becoming the college's unofficial hymn.

Past the college, the hymn took a bit longer to reach great heights, that is until a certain man by the name of Billy Graham heard it and began using it in his crusades during the 1950's. What began as a simple poem from a simple man was suddenly reaching the ears of millions, and has continued to do so each year since.

Despite having an office job, he continued to express his love for God through poetry and wrote nearly 1,200 poems throughout his life. Many of these poems became published hymns that have further spread the message of God's faithfulness.

"It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23 KJV

Like many great hymns *Great is they Faithfulness* is routed in the Bible.

Spend a few moments considering the lyrics of a simple poem by a man facing life long adversity. This is one of the the most loved hymns today, popular at weddings, baptisms, funerals and other celebrations.

Great is thy faithfulness

1

"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

"Great is Thy faithfulness!"
"Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!

2

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

What is your favourite verse of this hymn?
Mine is verse 2.
What is you favourite hymn? I would be happy to find the story behind it for you.

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Great Bakers

In our church we have so many brilliant bakers and that means we also have so many recipes that are our favourites. Our Cake stand was evidence of this and look how much money we made. So yes this is a request for your favourite recipes with stories behind them for our church magazine. Then I started to think why don't we produce a recipe book and publish it. I know of a church who managed to do this and they raised a lot of money. If we decide it is something we would like to do then I would be happy to put it together and sort out the publishing. I could ask Jo if she would be happy to help us with the art work. We could decide to raise money for our church funds or select a charity. This is just a thought and I would love to hear your views on this. I will not be the least bit offended if you think this is too much. I will bring it up at the Select Vestry and see what they think. When you meet up again in church services or various groups, talk about it and we can make a decision together, If we decided to go for it, it would be good to have them ready for sale at the Victoria day Fair.

Lemon squares makes 16 - 20 depending on size

7 oz or 200g crushed Rich Tea, Marie biscuits
1 lemons - finely grated rind and juice
3 oz or 85g desiccated coconut
4 oz or 110g butter
7 oz or 200g condensed milk (half a can)
8 oz or 225g icing sugar for the icing

Line an 8"/20cm square tin with baking parchment and set aside.

Put the butter and condensed milk in a small saucepan and heat gently until the butter has melted. Pour over the coconut and the grated rind of the lemon and mix well in a large bowl.

Press into your lined tin and leave to set for 1-2 hours in the fridge.

When the base has set, cover with lemon icing made form 3 tbsp of lemon juice, blended well with 225 g of icing sugar to make a thick paste. Top the icing with extra desiccated coconut before it sets. When icing is set slice into squares and enjoy with cup of tea.

Store in air tight container.

Snipers

When I was knee high to a tabletop,
Uncle Tom came home from Burma.
He was the youngest of seven brothers
So the street borrowed extra bunting
And whitewashed him a welcome.

All the relations made the pilgrimage,
including us, laughed, sang, made a fuss.
He was brown as a chair leg,
Drank tea out of a white mug the size of my head,
and said next to nowt.

But every few minutes he would scan
the ceiling nervously, hands begin to shake,
"For snipers," everyone later agreed,
"A difficult habit to break."

Sometimes when the two of us were alone,
He'd have a snooze after dinner
and I'd keep an eye open for Japs.
Of course, he didn't know this
and the tanner he'd give me before I went
was for keeping quiet,
but I liked to think it was money well spent.

Being Uncle Tom's secret bodyguard
had its advantages, the pay was good
and the hours were short, but even so
the novelty soon wore off, and instead,
I started school and became an infant.

Later, I learned that he was in a mental home.
'Needn't tell anybody…Nothing serious
…Delayed shock…Usual sort of thing
…Completely cured now the doctors say'
The snipers came down from the ceiling
but they didn't go away.

Over the next five years they picked off
three of his brothers; one of whom was my father.
No glory, no citations,
Bang! Straight through the heart.

Uncle Tom's married now, with a family.
He doesn't say much, but each night after tea,
He still dozes fitfully in his favourite armchair.
He keeps out of the sun, and listens now and then
for the tramp tramp tramp of the Colonel Bogeymen.
He knows damn well he's still at war,
Just that the snipers aren't Japs anymore.

Roger McGough 1969

I was reading this on VJ day and heard the stories of the horror of Prisoners of war at the hands of the Japs on TV.

Say a little prayer for all our veterans and particularly for those with PTSD for whom war never ends.



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 (Thursday 18th September) 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 tooth-brush for little corners!
Thank you for all you do.



Church Activities

Together in Faith Group

The first and third Monday of the month

1st and 15th September at 7.30 pm
Meet in the Boucher Room, Parochial Hall
St Patrick's Church.

Wednesday Morning Fellowship Group

(Second Wednesday in the month)

10th September refreshments 10.30 am followed by
a discussion about Saints
in the Boucher Room.
Who is your favourite Saint?

Book Club

Book Club meets on the last Wednesday of the month

24th September at 7.30 pm
(Contact Paddy Rodgers tel 07720 404071)

Circus Skills Class

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

Game On Meeting - Play with a real person

Meeting in the Library on Wednesday, 10th and 24th September 1.30 pm.
Come to play or for tea and biscuits

Indoor Bowling Club

Tuesdays from 7pm - Parochial Hall

Parish Announcements

The Select Vestry meeting

Second Thursday in the month
11th September at 7.30 pm in the Boucher Room.

Counters for September

07/09/2025	Scotty Heyes
14/09/2025	Trevor Peoples
21/09/2025	Bert Thompson
28/09/2025	Valerie Kincaid

Refreshments Rota

7th September - Priscilla Carlisle
14th September - Messy Church
21st September - Judith de Fleury
28th September - Shiela Mason

Refreshments coordinator Priscilla Carlisle
Tel 07787561517

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



I hope all of you have had a lovely summer and I am sure that we will still get some more sunshine even as the days shorten. It was good to have a lovely sunny day for the the food and folk festival with such a great turn up. Didn't we do well £625, I am still smiling at the thought of it. My friends came a long and they were surprised at the array of amazing cakes and buns and the friendly atmosphere at our impressive stall. A walk by the sea and ice-cream at the famous Rinka did the trick. I was mindful of the beauty and charm of Whitehead and Island- Magee.

I have enjoyed being together in both churches over the summer, particularly the old church and the graveyard at St Johns set in such beautiful scenery. I now feel quite at home in both churches. I have moved, in my head, from being the new girl to being part of the family. Getting to know some of you more through the book group, Wednesday fellowship and other groups has been heart warming, and fun.

So I have been thinking about those who for what ever reason don't get to church. For those who simply want to slip in and out of the service. I know our style of service is not for everyone, so they may come and decide to go elsewhere. At our churches I have felt welcome from the outset, (thanks to Jo, you are missed). Help us all to be more like Jo, to be mindful of the stranger and ensure that they feel welcome and glad to have been with us even if it is just for one service.
Bless you all.



Youth Fellowship Sunday Brunch

Will start again on 5 October (there will be no YF in September) and continue on the first Sunday of every month. We're really looking forward to seeing everyone again. We'd also love to see some new members. Anyone of secondary school age or young adult under 25 is welcome to join us. We take part in the first few minutes of the service in St Patrick's at 10.30 before moving into the hall for Bible study, prayer, games and fun. If you want to find out more, please come along or contact Stephen Martin (stepheneddu@gmail.com).



Wordsearch

On 3rd September, the Church remembers St Gregory the Great (540 – 604AD), one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages. He is well worth remembering, because he also changed the course of history in the British Isles. The son of a very rich Roman senator, Gregory converted as a young man, and then sold his vast estates to found six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in Rome. He gave generously to the poor and became a monk.

Christians in England owe him a great deal. When Gregory came across some English slaves for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, "They are Angles." Moved with compassion for these despised men, he replied, "They are not Angles, but angels!" He planned to go to England to evangelise the Angles, but plague broke out in Italy about 590, and during this time he was elected Pope. But Gregory did not forget the Angles. In 596 He sent Augustine to England, and so indirectly became the apostle of the English.

Gregory
History
Son
Roman
Senator
Converted
Young
Estates
Monasteries
Generous
Poor
Monk
English
Slaves
Angels
Angles
Plague
Pope
Apostle
Elected

N	G	R	A	N	G	L	E	S	A	L	T
O	A	D	O	O	G	T	E	T	D	O	E
Y	H	S	N	T	M	V	S	L	E	S	L
M	S	P	H	H	A	P	O	S	T	L	E
O	H	S	I	L	G	N	E	N	R	E	C
N	O	P	S	U	O	R	E	N	E	G	T
K	S	E	T	A	T	S	E	S	V	N	E
N	Y	R	O	M	A	N	N	G	N	A	D
S	E	I	R	E	T	S	A	N	O	M	G
E	P	O	Y	L	O	I	S	U	C	R	S
G	O	P	L	A	G	U	E	O	N	E	Y
P	P	S	D	L	R	O	E	Y	N	R	E

WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH

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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 07702431610.
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

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