CHURCH MATTERS

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

Here everyone matters

October 2025

CHURCH OF IRELAND

ST. PATRICK'S & ST. JOHN'S

UNITED PARISH OF WHITEHEAD & ISLANDMAGEE



Services & Readings October

Sunday 5th October - Trinity 16 Harvest Thanksgiving and Lunch
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
11:00 a.m. United Harvest Thanksgiving - St Patrick's
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
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: 2 Chronicles 9-15; Psalms 127- 133; Mark 14:1-72

Sunday 19th October - Trinity 18 Harvest Thanksgiving and Tea
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
11:00 United Harvest Thanksgiving - St John's
Followed by shared refreshments in St John's.
Sunday Readings - Deuteronomy 8:7-18; Psalm 65; Luke 17:11-19
Reader for the First Lesson- Sarah Henderson
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: 2 Chronicles 17, 18, 22, 24; Psalms 134 - 141;
Mark 15 - 16.

Sunday 26th October - 5th Sunday before Advent - Bible Sunday
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Family Service
12 noon Family Service
Sunday Readings - Isaiah 45:22-25; Luke 4:16-42
Readers for first Lesson - Heather Cupples / Maureen Reid
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: 2 Chronicles 26-30; Psalms 142- 150; Mark 13:10
-14:11

Sunday 2nd November - 4th Sunday before Advent - All Saints

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Two
12:00 noon Holy Communion Two
Epistle Reading - Ephesians 1:11-23 ; Gospel Reading - Luke 6:20-31
Reader for first Lesson - Colin Defleury / Ann Thompson
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Romans 11 - 16; Psalms 1-7; Luke 14-16

Sunday 9th November - 3rd Sunday before Advent - Remembrance

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Act of Remembrance - Note Time change so people can attend the Civic Act Of Remembrance at 10:50am
12 noon Morning Prayer and Act of Remembrance
Sunday Readings - Micah 4:3-5; Psalm29:1-4, 9-10; Matthew 5:43-48
Readers for first Lesson - Trevor Peoples / Alan Hayward
2:30 a.m. MESSY CHURCH - Note the change of time due to Act of Remembrance on this Remembrance Sunday
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Isaiah 5 - 8; Psalms 8-14; Matthew 4 - 6

Messy Church

Dates for your diary up to for October and November 2026
Being there and ready to start 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 12th October at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 9th November ay 2:30 p.m. The time is changed to the afternoon due to the morning civic Act of Remembrance

A message from our Rector

The following is an extract from the "St Patrick's Church, Whitehead, Jubilee 1908-1958 Year Book. *It is a true now as it was in 1958!* *Mark*

YOU AND YOUR CHURCH

Some Hints to Church Members

You want to be a good Church member? You feel it involves something more than taking an offertory envelope, or looking in occasionally at a service, or establishing a right to the minister's offices at a baptism, a wedding, a funeral? Well, here are a few simple questions if the church is in need,

BEFRIEND IT!

No state can be run without a dependable revenue; no home without a steady income; no church without the regular contributions of its members. In this business of giving, take note of two points: they are both from the Bible. One is that the steady systematic tortoise beats the spasmodic hare every time. The other is that though the Income Tax people do not care whether you smile or scowl, so long as you pay up, "The Lord loves a cheerful giver."

Of course, money is not the only thing that you can give your Church. THere is also your time - perhaps a more precious gift.

There may be a Sunday School Class that is in danger of scattering for want of a teacher. It is a worthwhile job. Could you spare it one hour a week? There may be a youth club or class that could do with a helper. Or the management of your church may be looking for one or two folk to help them with the burden of the church's business. Here is a saying of Henry Drummond's: "A need, a need known, and the power to meet that need constitutes a call."

But secondly (as they say in the pulpit) when your church meets for worship,

ATTEND IT!

It is depressing for everybody when the area of the church looks like a timber yard, and the only family well represented is what Mr. J. B. Priestly calls "the Wood Family." Just as your contributions do not amount to much if you only go when you feel like it. Here, too, system, habit, regularity would make all the difference. You want ot liven up the congregation? To brighten up the service? To ginger up the preacher? The best way to do that is to see that you and those for whom you are responsible are in your places on the Lord's Day.

Another thing - when the church is doing you or your children good,

COMMEND IT!

Human nature is an odd mixture. When the average member is not pleased with something in his church, he tells the world. But when something does strike him as pretty good, he keeps mum about it as if it were covered by the Official Secrets Act. Teachers are teaching away, preachers are preaching away, workers are working away in far too many churches without a word of appreciation. That kind of thing was too much even for the Apostle Paul. "I ought to have been commended of you," he once wrote to his church members. He felt his generous spirit choking in an atmosphere of indifference. The remedy? A pat on the back.

But the good member's instructions are not finished at that. Here is another thing. When you church is defamed,

DEFEND IT!

That is, of you conscientiously can. A good deal of criticism may be warranted, and no body expects you to stifle that. It is not your job to argue that black is white. But it is your job to meet and silence mere detraction, and the kind of talk that springs from pique, or ignorance or ill will. With the professed enemies of the church you know where you are. It is the professed friends, who really have no love for it, who are really dangerous. Look out for the fifth column - the carpers, the cranks, the chronically discontented, the back biters, and firmly defend the church from their attacks.

A further point. If you feel your church is getting too small,

EXTEND IT!

Our older ministers used to urge this on us when preaching from the text, "Come thou with us and we will do thee good." The sentiment of that text, they said, is exactly what we should try to get across to the non-church-goers of our acquaintance. We ought to let them know they are missing something. What about bringing your influence to bear on just one non-church-goer or lapsed member? Cultivate his acquaintance with the single-mindedness you see in those who cultivate the acquaintance of a farmer who has eggs to sell. And do not let go until you have got him. The church should be a "win-my-pal" movement. IT is a mistake to leave all the missionary work to be done by proxy.

A last counsel. Do not be one of those folk who are always complaining of bad feeling in the church. If you see that the Christian fellowship has been broken.

MEND IT!

A difficult and delicate business, it is true; and you must not rush in where angels fear to tread.. Perhaps the best thing to do is to follow the advice of Paul, to the members of the splitting chuirch in Corinth. Cultivate Christian Charity. Let it sweeten your thoughts, govern your speech, guide your behaviour. It would be worth your while to read that thirteenth chapter of 1st Corinthians again, just to refresh your memory and soften your heart. Then living in the spirit of it, you will create an atmosphere in your church in which broken fellowship will mend itself.

And now it is high time to bring this preachment to a close, or should I say

END IT!



Giving Thanks for the Harvest

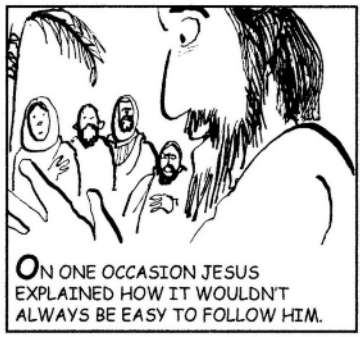
St Patricks - Sunday 5th October at 11:00 a.m. followed by Lunch in the Hall

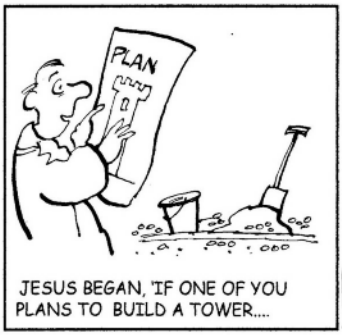
St Johns - Sunday 19th October at 11:00 a.m. followed by refreshments in the Church

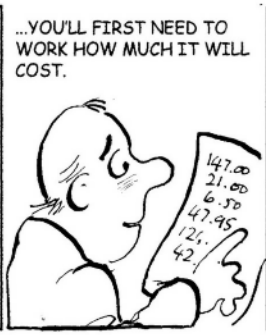
The tale of the Tower Builder





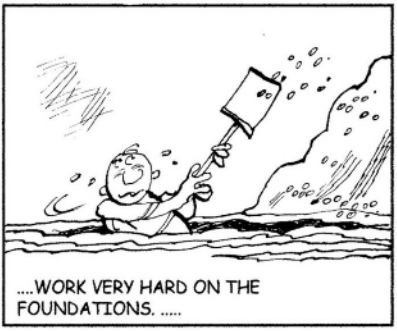


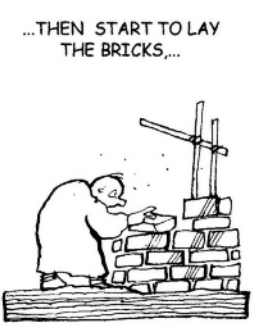


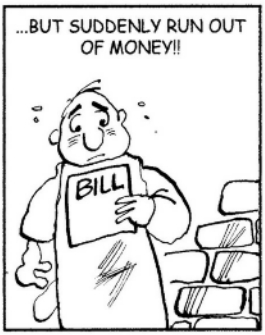


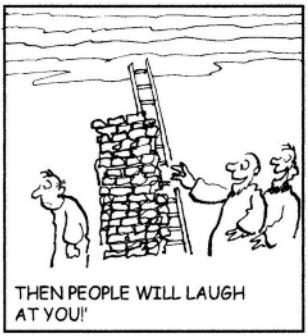














Judge Gently - also titled Don't Judge to Hard

Pray don't find fault with the man who limps
or stumbles along the road,
unless you have worn the shoes he wears
or struggled beneath his load.
There may be tacks in his shoes that hurt,
though hidden away from view,
or the burden he bears, placed on your back
might cause you to stumble too.

Don't sneer at the man who's down today
unless you have felt the blow
that caused his fall or felt the shame
that only the fallen know.
You may be strong, but still the blows
that were his if dealt to you,
in the selfsame way, at the selfsame time,
might cause you to stagger too.

Don't be too harsh with the man who sins
or pelt him with word or stone,
unless you are sure, yea, doubly sure,
that you have no sins of your own -
for you know perhaps if the tempter's voice
should whisper as softly to you
as it did to him when he went astray,
it might cause you to stumble too.

*Matthew 7 v 5 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while there is still a beam in your own eye? **Y**ou hypocrite! First take the beam out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

This is taken from St Marks Parish Church, Glasgow copied from their church magazine - Author unknown

A simple Prayer for our Rector and his team



Heavenly Father

We pray for our Rector Mark in his specialist role enabling families to prepare for the funeral of their loved ones you

Give him the words to say and at the right time. We pray that you help him move sensitively through the challenges that often present when someone dies, the tensions and also the high emotions and the tears.

Lately he has had to travel far and near in this important ministry. Help us to give him up freely to work with those in need outside our churches.

Keep him safe as he travels and bless Frances as she waits for his return.

Thank you for the difference he has made to those who have lost loved ones as they say their final goodbye.

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.

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

First Day at School



A million billion willion miles from home
Waiting for the bell to go. (To go where?)
Why are they all so big, other children?
So noisy? So much at home they
Must have been born in uniform
Lived all their lives in playgrounds
Spent the years inventing games
That don't let me in. Games
That are rough, that swallow you up.

And the railings.
All around, the railings.
Are they to keep out wolves and monsters?



Things that carry off and eat children?
Things you don't take sweets from?
Perhaps they're to stop us getting out
Running away from the lessins. Lessin.
What does a lessin look like?
Sounds small and slimy.
They keep them in the glassrooms.
Whole rooms made out of glass. Imagine.



I wish I could remember my name
Mummy said it would come in useful.
Like wellies. When there's puddles.
Yellowwellies. I wish she was here.
I think my name is sewn on somewhere
Perhaps the teacher will read it for me.
Tea-cher. The one who makes the tea.

Roger McGough

We Plough the Fields and Scatter the Good Seed on the Land

This well-known harvest hymn might appear to come from the English countryside, but it has rather different origins. It is the "Peasant's Song" from a sketch by Matthias Claudius in Paul Erdmann's Fest (Hamburg, 1782), depicting a harvest thanksgiving in a North German farmhouse. It was based upon a peasants' song which he heard sung at the home of one of the farmers. Claudius was for some time an atheist, but later renewed his Christian faith. At the time of writing this hymn he was editor of the local paper in Hesse Darmstadt, where he was also a Commissioner of Agriculture. The hymn was originally ***seventeen*** verses long, each followed by a refrain, and was translated into English by Miss Jane Montgomery Campbell. This translation, though not very literal, does preserve the spirit of the original. It first appeared in Rev Charles S Bere's 'A Garland of Songs' (1861) and subsequently in the Appendix (1868) to Hymns Ancient and Modern, where verse 3 was revised to the present text

This alteration was probably introduced to make the hymn suitable for services where harvest produce was on view or offered by the worshippers, although the English Hymnal continues to use the original words. From the original:

line 5 – 'No gifts have we to offer' revised to 'Accept the gifts we offer'.

line 7 – 'But that which thou desirest' revised to 'And, what thou most desirest'.

There are several Biblical references. Verse 1, Acts 14:17; refrain, Matthew 7:11, James 1:17. Verse 2, line 5, Psalm 65:7, Matthew 8:27; line 6, Matthew 6:26; line 8, Matthew 6:11. Verse 3, line 3, Genesis 8:22; line 8, Psalm 51:17.



The Hymn We Plough the Fields and Scatter

1. We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand:
you send the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.

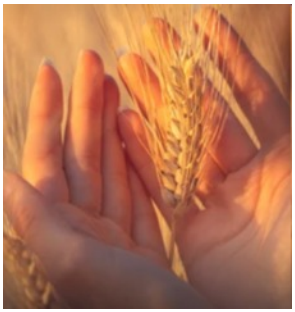


Refrain:
All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
we thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord
for all your love.

2. You only are the Maker
of all things near and far;
you paint the wayside flower,
you light the evening star;
the winds and waves obey you;
by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children,
you give our daily bread.



3. We thank you, our provider,
for all things bright and good,
the seedtime and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
for all your love imparts,
but that which you most welcome:
our humble, thankful hearts.



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 what those adverts from parishes wanting clergy REALLY mean…

My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are being encouraged to look at adverts for parishes for that happy day when you will have charge of your own church. You wonder if you should look to moving to another part of the country; I suspect it may be better if you look to moving to another planet, as your reputation may not yet have travelled that far.

Reading the specifications that parishes provide, giving a picture of life in their community, need to be read in the same way as estate agents' specifications for houses for sale. Both demonstrate a triumph of optimism over reality. Let me help you decode some of the statements you will find:

"We look to grow our Sunday School" – We do not have a Sunday School.

"We have an enthusiastic choir" – We have a choir totally out of control.

"Our youth group is always eager to learn" - Our youth group experiments with some strange substances.

"The new incumbent should be sympathetic to our musical tradition"- The new incumbent must be able to play the organ as well as lead the Services.

"While cherishing our traditions, we see the need for change" – We always see the need for change, but alter anything at your peril.

"Plans for church renovations are in hand" – The building is in imminent danger of collapse.

"We have a large range of church groups" – You will have to run a large range of church groups single handedly.

"The vicarage is being refurbished" – The vicarage is a death trap. Its rising damp and dangerous electrics will not be fixed for many months yet.

"There is opportunity for developing ecumenical relations" – No one in living memory has ever spoken to clergy of other denominations in our town.

"The new incumbent should have a sense of humor" – He or she will need it when reading this specification.

My dear nephew, remember the cry '*caveat emptor*'.

Let the buyer beware!

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Gaza, My True Home:
A Palestine refugee's story of hope and return

By Amjad Shabat [*https://www.unrwausa.org/voices-of-unrwa/gaza-my-true-home*](https://www.unrwausa.org/voices-of-unrwa/gaza-my-true-home)

Amjad Shabat, a former freelance content producer for UNRWA USA, reported from Gaza before she was evacuated in 2024. Now residing in Texas with her husband and young daughter, she contributes as a guest writer for the Voices of UNRWA blog. Through her writing, she reflects on her identity as a refugee and her longing to return home.

When I bought my apartment in Gaza, my beloved mother gifted me a Palestinian tapestry with the words *No Place Like Home.* She had stitched it decades ago, around the time she and my father got married. The embroidery depicts a house, an olive tree, and roses, intricately woven in vibrant shades of green, red, and yellow.

Palestinian embroidery, known as *tatreez falahi*, is a cross-stitch pattern that was practiced by village women. After the 1948 Nakba, it became an important symbol that reflects the rich culture of the Palestinian people. I grew up watching my mother and grandmother weaving *tatreez falahi* to express their belonging to their village, which was destroyed during the Nakba.



Amjad's tapestry, 'No Place Like Home'

The phrase "no place like home" has echoed a lot in my family. I remember my late father saying it the moment he stepped through the door after a long day at work. To keep the tradition, I hung the

tapestry at the entrance of my apartment. This simple phrase is deeply rooted in my consciousness now. No matter where I live, if I'm away from Palestine, I can't feel home.

As refugees, we move around while remembering our homes are temporary, until we return back to our rightful, ancestral land. And yet, despite its challenges, life as a refugee has taught me resilience and profoundly shaped my identity.

Growing up in Gaza's Jabalia refugee camp, I remember the winters were the most difficult. Our metal-ceiling houses and narrow streets used to sink and float each time it rained. We never had a playground to play in. Our most joyful games took place in the alleys. Gaza has been under an illegal blockade since 2007, and at one point early on in the siege, our resources were so limited that we could not even get paper or pencils to write down our lessons. I went to UNRWA schools where classes were crowded. This pushed me to work hard so I could stand out. My passion for writing emerged, and with the encouragement of my UNRWA teachers. I felt proud of myself as I heard my classmates' applause after winning first and second place in writing competitions. Their little hands clapping is a memory I cherish as the true sound and image of success.

Appreciating the value of education is a core concept in our lives as Palestinians and as refugees. My parents always told me that education would lead us toward a better future—a lesson I now strive to pass on to my own young daughter. Through education, our generation can tell our narrative in different languages, playing a major role in the growing global solidarity movement for Palestine.

Like the headmaster, I wanted to use my skills to help my people and be around my family, but Israel's genocidal war forced me to leave so I could save my daughter's life and future. As I was evacuated and on the Egyptian side of Rafah Crossing, I took a moment to look back at Gaza. I waved goodbye and thought, "until we meet again, home".

I learned other lessons watching my people find creative solutions to life under siege. I admired the countless female nurses and doctors who treated injuries with scared and shaky hands under fire. In devastating conditions, UNRWA workers continued their efforts to deliver life-saving aid while trying to survive themselves. They arrived at our makeshift tents and camps under the continuous massive bombings. My daughter, who was two and a half years old at the time, would have an egg every three days delivered by UNRWA. During these days, this single egg was her only source of protein.

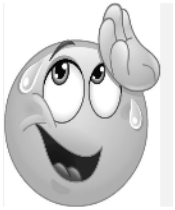
I know one day I will return to Gaza—where I was born and grew up. Gaza is more than a place on a map; it is where my identity was shaped, where I fell in love, and where I once dreamed of a home overlooking the endless blue of the Mediterranean Sea.

Gaza is a land of resilience, where its people rise against injustice and occupation, steadfast in their struggle until justice and freedom are won.

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The cookery book fund raising idea update

By the time the Select Vestry meeting took place in September, my teaching work load had doubled. Having talked through the level of commitment with someone who has undertaken this task, I realised for smaller congregations like ours, it would be very difficult to take it forward. The Vestry shared my reservations. Rev Mark had some valid points, e.g., 'what do you do if you get 8 recipes for scones from 10 people?' He was quite right so for now my recipe book idea is archived. While it was a good idea, not for us at this time. I am the first to recognise my limitations and I need to think those ideas through more before offering them up. Thanks for your understanding and patience with me.



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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 25

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Managing costs for the graveyard at St. John's Church



I am sure all of you remember the great storm earlier this year. Many trees throughout the country were blown down and tree surgeons were at their busiest, just keeping our roads clear!

Well, the trees at the graveyard of St. John's also sustained damage, as I am sure many of you noticed when you attended church during the summer. I am also sure that many of those involved also wondered what was taking so long in getting the graveyard area sorted? By way of explanation, it's always more complicated than you think!

Firstly, we were advised to have a specialist survey of all the trees in the graveyard. Most of them being a similar age, it was decided to approach a contractor to carry this survey out. As with most of these surveys, payment for them is in advance of receiving the report. Cost =£432.00

Secondly, the initial quotation for the work to be undertaken was in excess of £20,000. This, of course concerned the select vestry members greatly! Two further quotations were then requested. In June, all three quotations were examined by the select vestry and the contractor M. Large was chosen. Their work involved communicating with N.I. Electricity and our neighbours to gain access. Work was completed in line with the tree survey on 21/08/2025. The invoice amount came to £12,708.00.

As treasurer, the upkeep of St. John's graveyard gives me concern. The storm damage has made us focus on our costs. Annually we have grass cutting which amounted to £1320.00 last year. I have asked other churches about graveyard maintenance fees and there is an expectation in churches that families do have some responsibility to help with these costs. Currently there is no record of any formal arrangement at the moment. We rely on ad-hoc envelope giving. There had been in the past, but this has lapsed. We have formed as small group to undertake to contact all the family members who still have associations with the church. We would hope to contact them before Christmas this year. The select vestry will consider what is a fair annual cost; and we would hope to request payment from the families involved. I hope that people understand why we have to be open and honest about these costs. Our ability to do fund-raising activities is becoming more difficult with our ageing congregation. If anyone has any further comments to make, I am happy to listen. Please pray for the smooth handling of this tricky situation.

Sandra Thompson



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

12 Edward Road, Whitehead BT38 9QB Tel: 02893 372888



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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! Thank you for all you do.

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

Suduko answers

How did you get on



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Very Many Thanks.

Please accept my personal thanks and those of the volunteers of Brighter Whitehead for supplying and supporting the after Church teas during July 2025.

The donation of £120 is very much appreciated and will greatly assist in the purchase of plants for 2026.

We hope that you have enjoyed the display of flowers around Whitehead this Summer.

From Bill on behalf of Brighter Whitehead



Bible References to Halloween

<u>Ephesians 5:7-15</u> – Living in Darkness and Light

Within this section of Ephesians, the Apostle Paul discusses the negative effects of "worthless deeds of evil and darkness." Paul compares sin and our harmful decisions to living in darkness. But there is a way to live in the light and walk in obedience with God.

When it comes to living within our modern world, our decisions and obedience to God still operate in the same way. With Halloween, what matters is how you interact with others, your decision-making, and how you represent Jesus to others.

<u>Acts 8:9-24</u> – A Magician is Converted to Christianity

One of the Bible's primary accounts involving supernatural magic follows an interaction between Simon the Magician and the early Apostles. Simon the Magician was a popular figure throughout Samaria. The local people were often amazed at his magic saying, "This man has the power of God that is called Great." One of the apostles named Phillip visited the city. After preaching and living among the Samarians for a while, dozens of men and women were baptised and converted after hearing the Gospel. And one of those men was Simon the Magician.

Following his conversion, Simon had another interaction with the Apostle Peter and John. Simon witnesses the duo lay hands on townspeople to receive the Holy Spirit. Despite his previous conversion, Simon the Magician offers

money to Peter and John for the secret to their trick. Peter quickly admonishes Simon and tells him to "Repent of this wickedness of yours and pray to the Lord that the intent of your heart may be forgiven." Peter corrects Simon in saying, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!"

More than ever, Halloween reminds Christians that people are searching for answers. Part of our inherent human nature craves attention. But for Christians, we can help guide others to the true source of power and supernatural works, just as Peter did for Simon. So, how can we mirror Peter and John's interaction with Simon, especially on a spooky night like Halloween?

Part of the answer rests in how well you love, listen, and respect those you might not agree with. On Halloween, just as the case with any other night of the year, the Lord values our behaviour and interactions with others, especially those who are not yet Christians.

So, can Christians celebrate Halloween? The answer is a bit more complex than maybe you originally thought. The Lord' desires faithful obedience for you and your family. Whatever your decision, make it for the glory of God!

Pray for opportunities to reach out to unbelievers and strengthen current believers in a way that builds the foundation of faith in Jesus.

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AND SO LET YOUR LIGHT FOR JESUS SHINE IN THE DARKNESS

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St. Francis - and the Life of Simplicity

Just about the only thing most people know about Francis of Assisi is that he talked to the birds. Church-goers also know the popular hymn based on his famous prayer, 'Make me a channel of your Peace', which was sung at the funeral of Princess Diana. However, Italy's patron saint, whose feast day is this month (the 4th) was a more complex, and some would say controversial character. His life spanned the end of the twelfth and beginning of the thirteenth centuries. He was born into a very wealthy family, but after what he called his 'conversion' standing before a crucifix. He renounced all his possessions. In fact, he stripped himself of his wealthy garments in a public square in his home-town, Assisi.

For the rest of his life he and his followers, including his feminine counterpart. St Claire longed, prayed and worked for a life of simplicity – a lifestyle without luxury or privileges. For the Franciscan brothers and the Poor Claires. This meant no private possessions at all. Francis saw that many poor people without these things, actually seemed to live happier and more fulfilling lives than the ambitious rich. He spoke of a simple life not shaped by money or power but by love and mutual concern. As his hymn says, 'it is in giving of ourselves that we receive'.

Of course, poverty; in our modern western world is seldom a matter of blissful simplicity, as present-day Franciscans recognise. For too many it is a matter of poor diet, over crowded rooms, rough sleeping and unemployment. The call of today's followers of Francis and Claire is that those who are better-off should 'live more simply, so that others can simply live'. Christians follow a Master who said that he came with 'good news for the poor'. Can we today be that good news.

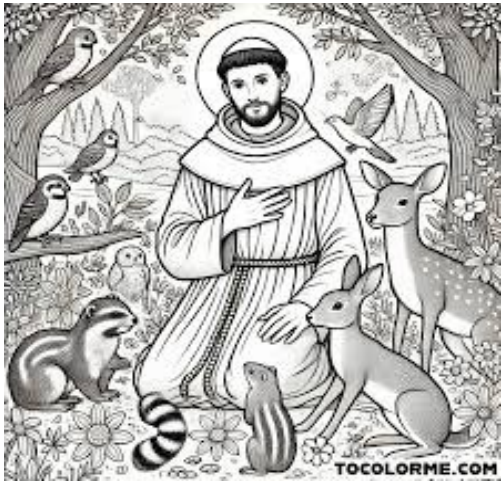
Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.



O Divine Master, grant that I may
not so much seek to be consoled as to console.
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen





St Francis of Assisi, is the patron saint of animals due to his devotion to all creatures, viewing them as brothers and sisters created by God. There are stories of him talking to animals, like the wolf of Gubbio and preaching to birds. He believed that all living things are part of God's creation. On his is feast day,animals are celebrated as special.

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No matter:

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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!

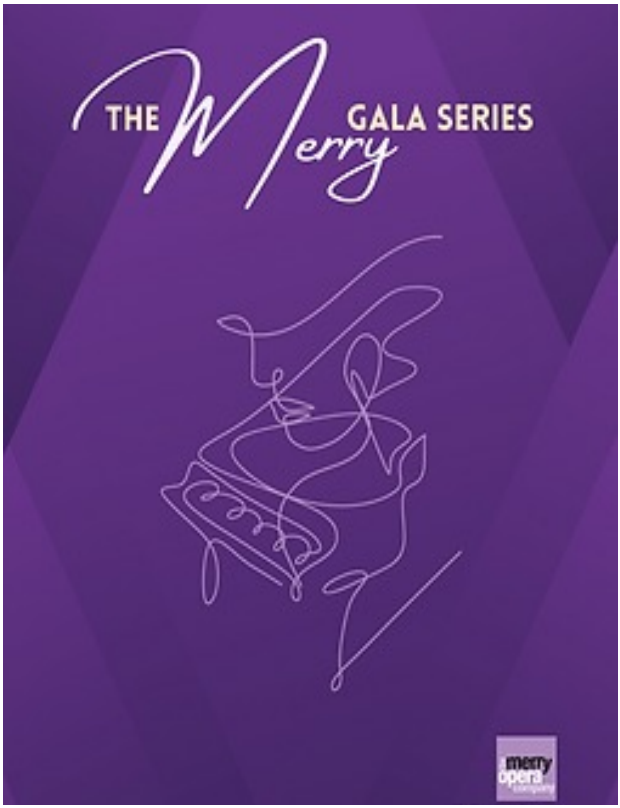
CHANGING ATTITUDE IRELAND

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St. Patrick, Whitehead
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Coffee and biscuits in the interval.

Church Activities

Together in Faith Group

Due to the Alpha course running this month we will meet at 7.30 PM on Wednesday 1st & 14th October in the Boucher Room, St Patrick's Church.

Book Club

Book Club meets on the last Wednesday of the month (29th) (Contact Paddy Rodgers tel 07720 404071)

Wednesday Morning Fellowship Group

(Second Wednesday in the month) 8th October at 11am in the Boucher Room.
Refreshments and fellowship from 10.30 am .

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

Game On Meeting

Meeting in the Library on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month 8th and 22nd at 1.30 pm
Come and join us
for Tea and biscuits, even if you don't want to play.

New people always welcome to join in all the groups

Parish Announcements

The Select Vestry meeting

There will be a change of day for Select Vestry meetings. Members will be contacted to arrange this.

Counters for September

05/10/2025	Sandra Thompson
12/10/2025	Colin de Fleury
19/10/2025	Scotty Heyes
26/10/2025	Brian Joyce

Refreshments Rota

5th October - Harvest Lunch

12th October - Messy Church

19th October - Inez Moore

26th October - Heather Cupples

1st November-Joan McKinney

Refreshments coordinator Priscilla Carlisle
Tel 07787561517

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Galatians 6:10 - So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Thanks to all those who work in both churchs.

Youth Fellowship Sunday Brunch

Will start again on 5 October 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).





I am thankful for all your contributions to the magazine, Some included others will follow in the next editions. *Janet*

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Hi everyone,
Don't know how you are feeling as it is notably colder, I have put the heat on, reluctantly. I look out and it is often wet. 'A new season Janet', I remind myself, it is fresher, less humid and I am sleeping better. Autumn is harvest season, time to be grateful for the fruits of the summer sun on our crops, apples and pears and Autumn colour.

Being grateful is not a natural disposition for a lot of people, who are more likely to focus on what they have not got, often missing the joy of the little things we take for granted. I identify with that. Then I remember Jesus speaking in Matthew 6 from verse 28.
"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?"

I do know that for many, considering the Lilies is not likely to put clothes on the backs of children and food on their plates. But does God expect us to do this on his behalf - share what we have to feed the hungry? It is for each of us to work out what we can do, even for one person.

Father help us to count our Blessings and be mindful of those who have very little and think how can I help or could I do more?

Bless you all and hope you can stay warm and safe this Autumn.



WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH

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Twitter: @Whitehead_CoI
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People's:	Mabel Allen	John Hall

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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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Registered with NI Charity Commission NIC102649