CHURCH MATTERS

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

Here everyone matters

April 2026

CHURCH OF IRELAND

ST. PATRICK'S & ST. JOHN'S

UNITED PARISH OF WHITEHEAD & ISLANDMAGEE



April Services & Readings

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

HOLY WEEK 2026

Our Holy Week evening Services will be at 7:30 p.m. in St Patrick's
Come and share with us as we worship together and read from the story of Jesus last week on earth. We will be reading from, and learning from, St John's story of Jesus last days - to be found in the Gospel According to St John chapters 12-13; and on Good Friday chapters 18-19.
Please feel free to read St John chapters 14 - 17 through this week. These chapters contain Jesus last instructions and his prayer for his followers after the Last Supper, on the night before he was arrested and put to death.

Monday 30th March Irish Vigils
John 12:1-11 - Jesus Anointed at Bethany

Tuesday 31st March Compline
John 12:20-36 - Jesus Predicts His Death

Wednesday 1st April The Litany
John 13:21-32 - Jesus Predicts his Betrayal

Thursday 2nd April Holy Communion
John 13:1-17, 31b-35 -Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet and Gives a New Commandment

Friday 3rd April The Three Hours - 12noon to 3:00 p.m.
John 18:1-11 - Jesus Arrested
John 18:12-18 - Jesus Taken to Annas, Peter's First Denial,
John 18:19-27 - The High Priest Questions Jesus , Peter's Second and Third Denial
John 18:28-40 - Jesus before Pilate,
John 19:1-16 - Jesus Sentenced to be Crucified by Pilate,
John 19:17 - 27 - Jesus Crucified,
John 19:28-37 - The Death of Jesus

Friday 3rd April - Late Evening Office
John 19:38-42 - Jesus Burial

Sunday 5th April - EASTER DAY (1st Sunday of Easter)

The celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

6:30 a.m. Dawn Service in the lower Car Park, Old Castle Road
Dress warmly as it is often cold and windy.
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Holy Communion Two
Sunday Readings - Epistle Acts 10:34-43; Gospel John 20::1-8
Reader for the Epistle - Colin de Fleury / Ann Thompson

No Evening Service on Easter Sunday evening

Weekday Readings: Exodus 12 - 14; Psalms 60 - 70; 1 Corinthians 15

Sunday 12th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m.& 12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; John 20:19-31
Reader for first Lesson - Jack McKinney / Joy Kerr
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Exodus 15 - 18; Psalms 71 - 80; Colossians 1 - 4

Sunday 19th April - 3rd Sunday of Easter

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m.& 12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings: Acts 2:14a, 36 - 41; Psalm 116:1 - 3, 10 - 17; Luke 24:13-35
Reader for first Lesson - Bobby Herron / Jim Reid
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Exodus 19, 20, 24, 25, 28, 30 ; Psalms 81 - 90; Luke 1:1 - 2:40

Sunday 26th April - 4th Sunday of Easter

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m.& 12 noon Family Service
Sunday Readings: John 10:1-10
Reader for first Lesson - The Rector
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Exodus 32 - 35, 40; Psalms 91 - 100; Luke 2:41 - 4:37

Sunday 3rd May - 5th Sunday of Easter

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Holy Communion Two
Sunday Readings - Epistle Acts 7:55-60; Gospel John 14::1-14
Reader for the Epistle - Corrine Logan / Maureen Reid
Weekday Readings: Numbers 9 - 14; Psalms 101 - 110; Luke 4:38 - 6:26

Sunday 10th May - 6th Sunday of Easter - Rogation Sunday

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m.& 12 noon Morning Prayer Two
10:30 a.m. Messy Church in the Parochial Hall
Sunday Readings: Acts 17: 22 - 31; Psalm 66:7 - 18; John 14:15 - 21
Reader for first Lesson - Geraldine Scott-Hayes / Sara Henderson
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Numbers 16 - 21; Psalms 111 - 120; Luke 6:27 - 7:35

Thursday 14th May - Ascension Day
Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:44-53

Messy Church

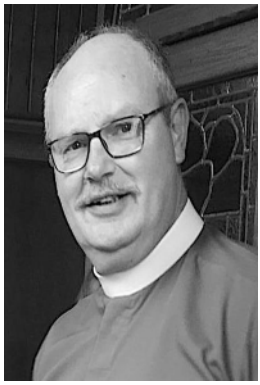
Sunday 10th May

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.

If you want to know more about Messy Church, or are willing to help (on a occasional basis), please contact
Revd Mark Taylor
mark205@btinternet.com
Text or phone mobile - 07719 619286

The Rector writes



Easter is almost upon us. By the time you are reading this it will be Holy Week. The Easter Eggs will have been bought and be waiting ready to be eaten.

Now days Easter is a bit of an odd season. Traditionally (up to about 100 years ago) Easter was the major festival celebration in the year, especially in what was a much more Christian culture and society. A society that marked the whole year based on the recurring Christian festivals. So much so that to this day the term dates for the legal year, and certain of the older universities, which apply to sittings in the High Court and Court of Appeal and are fixed in accordance with practice are named Hilary (January to March - named after St Hilary of Poitiers), Easter (mid April to late May), Trinity (June and July) and Michalmas (October to mid December - named after St Michael); all Christian festivals.

As I stated Easter was the major Christian festival and as a result the major annual celebration. Christmas was a far and a way a much simpler celebration, no putting up decorations or other "Christmasy stuff" until Christmas Eve. Then it was celebrated on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, and for 12 days after, although most people were back to work on the day after Boxing Day. It was during the reign of Queen Victoria that things changed and Christmas became a more celebrated festival.

In recent years Easter has been 'demoted' as the society we live in has become more secular. Other than Easter Eggs there is not a lot of commercial advantage attached to Easter.

In the past more people made a greater effort during Holy Week to attend the various Church services, in preparation for Easter. The Good Friday 'Three Hours' service was well attended. (All much less so after Covid).

The thing is that the meaning of Easter has not changed. We still celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. A death and resurrection that has freed us from our sins and opened the doors of heaven for us, so that we can grasp the promise of redemption and salvation. It is just that we don't seem to celebrate it as we used to. We

eat the Easter Eggs, well they are chocolate after all, we take the holiday from work or school; but we do not do much to make it a religious celebration any more.

The season of Lent is about the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness and is a time for us to consider our own lives in relation to our faith in Jesus. Palm Sunday and Holy Week, when we remember the arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem prior to his arrest, death and resurrection, draw Lent to a close and prepare us for Easter.

Holy Week is an important part of the Easter celebration. All those services and readings that focus on the death of Jesus are not just a morbid recalling of his death. They are more than a recalling of the last week of his life, his final teaching. Holy Week and Easter are a reminder of the cost of our sins, a cost that was paid by Jesus even though it was owed by us.

We used to take time to remember and consider the meaning of Easter, now it all seems to be just a case of getting it over with. We need to change this. To take the time we need to consider, to remember and to celebrate. If some one gave you a wonderful gift, some thing that you could not afford - even if it was not some thing that you were specifically wanting or saving for - you would take the time to thank them; properly. If they told you that they wanted you to use the gift properly and responsibly, you would.

We may not, on a daily basis, be looking for redemption and salvation; and even if we were we could not ever pay the price for it. Yet Jesus gave us this gift, freely and without cost. He wants us to accept the gift and use it properly and responsibly. This does not mean a daily reading of a chapter of the Bible, or half and hour of prayer every day. It does not mean attending Church 48 out of 52 weeks a year (or anything like that). All Jesus wants us to do is to try our best to follow him. There is no score that we need to reach, just that we honestly try. He knows that we will fail, from time to time, and he is willing to accept that, and let us start again - as if it is the first time.

We will never get a better offer than that. Never get a better gift. Best of all, we will never have to pay the price of our faults and failings, our sins.

I hope that you have a blessed Holy Week and a happy Easter. Try not to eat too much chocolate. Know that you are loved and valued most highly. God bless you all, and all whom you love. *Mark*

Easter General Vestry

Wednesday, 15th April 2026, 7 pm,

St Patrick's Church Hall,

Whitehead

This is our annual general meeting, to present the accounts, look at how we are doing and elect a Select Vestry to manage the Parish for the coming year. This year we also elect two people to represent us on the Diocesan Synod, and four to be Parochial Nominators, who will be responsible for helping choose a new Rector in the event of a vacancy (we do this every three years and have not used them since 2002)

****

A huge thank you to all who have been involved,
in any way, with the **Lenten Lunches**.
To date (with one week to go)
we have raised £5,600-00.
A fantastic effort by all involved.

****

Nice

The nice thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs.

The Story Behind Easter Eggs and Bunnies

The Origins of Easter Eggs

The tradition of Easter eggs dates back centuries and carries rich symbolism within the Christian faith. Eggs have long been associated with new life and rebirth, making them a fitting emblem for Easter. In Christianity, the egg is seen as a representation of Jesus' resurrection from the tomb, symbolizing the promise of new life through His sacrifice. The hard shell of the egg represents the sealed tomb, while cracking it open signifies Jesus' triumph over death.

Historically, eggs were also a forbidden food during Lent, the 40-day period of fasting and penance leading up to Easter. As a result, eggs became a prized treat when the fast ended, and their abundance was celebrated in various Easter traditions.

The Easter Bunny: A Symbol of Abundance and New Life

The Easter bunny, also holds symbolic meaning within the context of Christianity. Rabbits are known for their prolific breeding and are often associated with fertility and new life. In the Christian tradition, the Easter bunny can be seen as a symbol of the abundant life that Jesus promises to believers. The idea of the Easter bunny delivering eggs further reinforces the themes of new beginnings and the joy of the resurrection.

Christians have adopted and reinterpreted these symbols to align with the message of Easter. In Christian culture, the symbolism of Easter eggs and bunnies goes beyond their charming and festive exterior, embodying profound meanings that resonate deeply with the themes of Easter. The Easter egg, for instance, is not merely a decorative item but a powerful symbol of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Its hard shell represents the sealed tomb, and the act of cracking it open is akin to the miraculous event of Jesus rising from the dead. This act of opening an egg serves as a tangible reminder of the new life and hope that comes with the resurrection, reinforcing the promise of eternal life for believers, reminding us of the promise of new life and the joy of the resurrection.

https://www.guidingcross.com/blogs/news/

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke 22:24, John 13:3-17

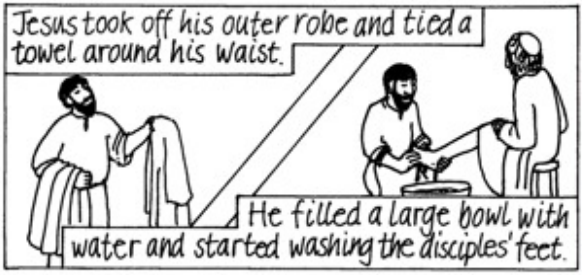
Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the Passover with the special meal. The disciples were bickering again.



There was a reason why no-one wanted to be the least important - the roads were mud and everyone's feet got very dirty.







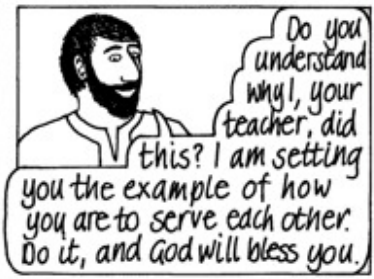












Alcoholics Anonymous Ireland

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

Fosters Fruit & Flowers

15 Kings Road, Whitehead

For a wide range of personally selected Fruit & Vegetables

Fresh Cut Flowers and Fruit Baskets made to Order

Tel : 93372755 for orders

Free delivery in town

STEPHEN HENDERSON JOINERY



Domestic & Commercial

Qualified

All Interior & Exterior Joinery

General Building Maintenance

Roofs, First & Second Fix, Decking,
Stair Refurbishments, Bespoke Projects

Tel: 028 9338 2868

Mob: 077 1774 5369



WHITEHEAD HOME & HARDWARE STORE - Tel 028 9337 2656

Open Mon-Sat 9am-5.20pm We stock just about everything you may need!

Tools, paint, pet supplies, stationery & cards, fire grates & wood, batteries, key cutting service & so much more

16 Balmoral Avenue, Carrickfergus, County Antrim, BT38 9QD. Email: hugh@anythinggoesni.com

Anglican Communion, Lutheran World Federation, World Communion of Reformed Churches, and World Methodist Council issue joint statement (Church Times 7th March 26)



The sun sets behind a plume of smoke rising after a US-Israeli military strike on Tehran on Tuesday

Peace is not for sale' but requires justice and dignity, Church leaders write of Middle East war.

FOUR global Church networks, representing hundreds of millions of Christians, have issued a joint call for peace in the Middle East as the conflict continues. The death toll across the region is reported to have reached at least 1100 people. The Christian groups expressed their "deep sorrow" and called for multilateralism and "the peace the world longs for".

A statement from leaders of the Anglican Communion, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, and the World Methodist Council said: "We are profoundly dismayed at the international community's failure to prevent these tragedies. Instead of pursuing the difficult but necessary paths of diplomacy and dialogue, nations have increasingly resorted to military solutions, pouring vast amounts of resources into arms rather than into peace processes and humanitarian assistance for the vulnerable."

It continued: "Justice demands that perpetrators of violence and the individuals and countries responsible for atrocities and violation of

international law must be held accountable for their actions. The victims of their actions must be heard, and their dignity, rights, lives, and livelihoods must be protected."

The statement came as tensions continued to rise in the region following the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader at the weekend after joint strikes on Iran by the Unites States and Israel with "firepower over Iran and over Tehran is about to surge dramatically". Israel launched major strikes on Lebanon this week and ordered the evacuation of 500,000 people from southern Beirut.

It stated: "We are witnessing the devastating impact of violence and war on countless individuals and communities around the world. In response, through our ongoing work and the ministries of our churches and partners on the ground, we are engaged in concrete actions of solidarity, humanitarian aid, and peace building. The world is approaching a dangerous tipping point - a time when violence becomes the norm and death and suffering of people and communities condoned."

The leaders reaffirmed their "strong commitment to peace, in a world increasingly amassing arms, and accepting destructive conflict as inevitable" and hoped for a peaceful world in which every person and nation acted "with justice and respect for international law".

"The peace the world longs for is not only the absence of wars, nor one which is enforced by coercion and dominance. It is a peace which includes justice and which transforms our collective culture. Peace is the presence of justice, dignity, and flourishing for all God's children."

"Our Christian faith teaches us that such times can be faced with courage and integrity; the way is not easy, but renewal and recreation are possible. We call on national governments, regional intergovernmental bodies, the United Nations, international organizations and all stakeholders to invest in peace, not war."

Source-https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2026/13-march/news/worldpeace-is-not-for-sale-but-requires-justice-and-dignity-church-leaders-write-of-middle-east-war

Equilibrium

I only hope and pray by the time you are reading this in April there is a cease fire, so that the people of Lebanon, Tehran, Gaza and also Ukraine, Sudan find peace. I don't know how to pray and that is why I turned to the United Christian Churches statement to help me get a Christian perspective on all of this. More than ever I feel the the need to find Equilibrium. In a Book, Bill shared, I found this blessing helpful.

For Equilibrium, a Blessing:

Like the joy of the sea coming home to shore,
May the relief of laughter rinse through your soul.

As the wind loves to call things to dance,
May your gravity by lightened by grace.

Like the dignity of moonlight restoring the earth,
May your thoughts incline with reverence and respect.

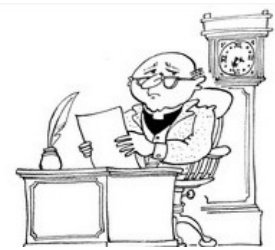
As water takes whatever shape it is in,
So free may you be about who you become.

As silence smiles on the other side of what's said,
May your sense of irony bring perspective.

As time remains free of all that it frames,
May your mind stay clear of all it names.

May your prayer of listening deepen enough
to hear in the depths the laughter of god.
(John O'Donohue, Benedictus)

Letter from St James the Least of All



Editor: The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'…

On the perils of small study groups
The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are about to run an Alpha course in your parish; I am sure your bishop will be delighted. I remember him from my Oxford days. He was just starting his course as a gangly undergraduate when I was finishing my doctorate on Eusebius.

I recall him as a keen rugby player who took early morning dips in the Isis, who led intense discussions on Saint Paul's theology of 'the body' over cups of cocoa in the evenings in his rooms and who spent his holidays laying paths for the National Trust in the Lake District while lodging in Youth Hostels. He's exactly the sort of person who will empathise with your ministry – hearty, enthusiastic and overflowing with compassionate intensity. We were not close friends.

We tend not to go in for those sort of things, here at St James the Least of All, preferring matters a little more relaxed and understated. If we ever do hold discussion groups (and they are a regrettable necessity during Lent), they always start with a good lunch, finishing with coffee and one of Mrs French's excellent Madeira cakes. Once we have removed from the table, those who manage to stay awake will start to tackle the chosen topic.

However, we always seem to veer off to discussing more interesting matters, such as why Colonel Chorley is never allowed to sing solos in the choir anymore, or who moved Mrs Cholmondeley's flower

arrangement from the font the previous week. Apparently, she has given notice that her weekly contributions on the plate will be much reduced unless an appropriate apology is received.

These matters may not seem as important to you as deciding what the 'white stone' in Revelation 4 is all about, but let me assure you that to members of our congregation, knowing why the second verse of the National Anthem is no longer sung at our Remembrance Services is of pivotal importance.

At 2.30pm we wake up those who have enjoyed an hour's slumber and totter off home, knowing we have once again done our bit for faith in the parish.

I am sure your own group will also return home after your sessions - even if a digestive biscuit and weak tea is all that has been offered – invigorated and braced to tackle the heathen in the parish. We all take our pleasures in different ways.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



Sunday Evening Praise - Different/Favourite Hymn Service.

Alternate months / churches

26th April in St John's

14th June in St Patrick's.

Starting at 7:00 p.m.

No service in July or August.



The Donkey By G. K. Chesterton 1874-1936

When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears,

Thank you Christine for sharing this great poem, and it got me thinking, while I was looking for an image of Jesus on the donkey, in all images that came up a donkey also carried Mary and Jesus before He was born. The humble donkey played such an important role at the start and end of His life on earth. Thank God for that.





A Simple Prayer for our Rector and his Team



As Lent draws to a close we give thanks for the hard work of Rev Mark and the team in the complex operation that is Lenten Lunches in house and delivery .
We pray that as they finish off they will have a sense of achievement and joy at bringing so many from the community into St Patrick's and feeding them with delicious and nourishing food.

We give you thanks for the income for the church and for the many donations that came in beyond the cost of the meal.

Now as lent has ended, help Rev Mark as he writes multiple sermons, plans many services to lead us through the sadness of Holy week, Good Friday into the joy of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday when we will sing our Hallelujahs, Christ is Risen.

Sowe pray that all involved in Lent and Easter services get the opportunity of a well deserved rest and the chance to enjoy the better weather over the Easter holidays

Amen.

****

Some 'special' hymns for people over 50

Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up

Just a Slower Walk with Thee

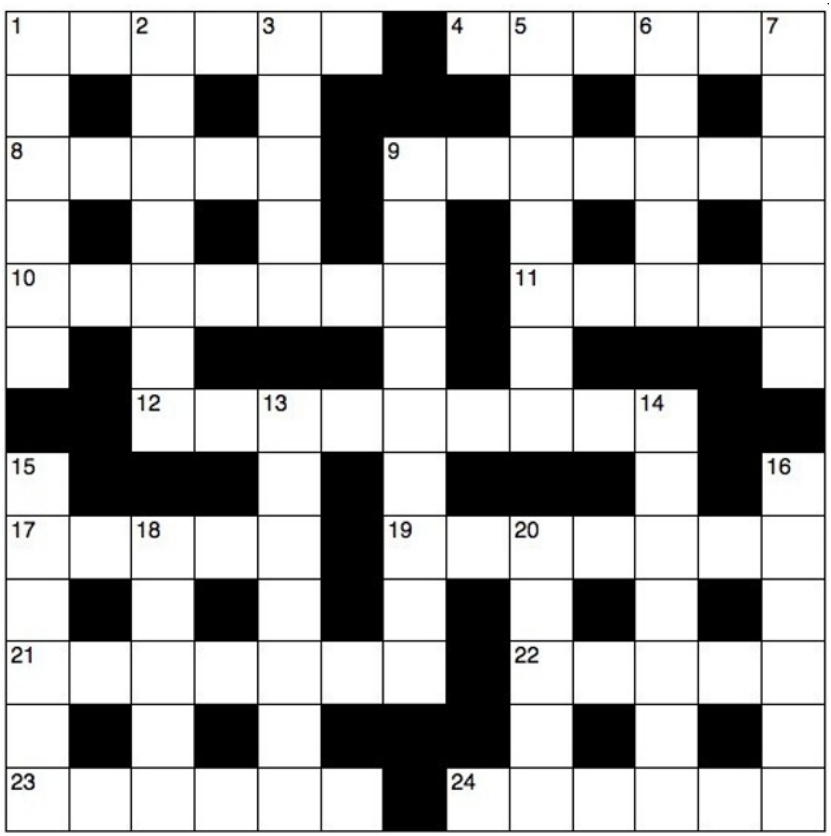
Go Tell It on the Mountain, But Speak Up

Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah, I've Forgotten Where I've Parked The Car

Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them One By One

For this crossword you need a pencil, rubber and a bible



Across

1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)

17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
7 He reps (anag.) (6)
9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
15 The human mind or soul (6)
16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)

How did you get on check crossword solution on page 23

From a church notice-sheet



"This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our church warden, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar".



Loving people in later life

Nearly one in six people in Northern Ireland are aged 65 and over, with more than a quarter of the population expected to be above 65 by 2065. These figures illustrate why UK churches need to keep a focus on out-reach to older people. To ignore them is to miss out on a major mission opportunity.

And so current initiatives include lunch clubs, exercise sessions, singing classes, tea and coffee times, outings and a broad range of social activities open to the community.
But 'later life' or 'retirement years' is a catch-all term that says little about the fast-growing number of people in these age groups. A fit-and-well 65-year-old is very different to a 95-year-old person living in a care home.

One – hopefully helpful – way of describing ministry to older people focuses on their health and ability. My proposed categories would be:

The 'go-go' people: Men and women, often new to retirement, who are physically and mentally active and often looking for opportunities for voluntary service in areas, perhaps very different to their previous paid work. This age group is often the backbone of many churches, providing the voluntary support for all kinds of church activities – from staffing the church toddlers' group to membership of the church council.

The ‘slow-go’ people: Men and women who are no longer as active, perhaps because of illness, adjusting to life following bereavement, or needing to care for a family member.

Here the mission opportunity may be around inviting them to join in church social events, such as lunch clubs or drop-ins, where they can meet new people and be drawn into the life of the church.

The ‘no-go’ people: These are older people who are now home-based or living in a care setting. Visits from church members, services held at care homes, and ‘live-streaming’ of church services can also be a link for them to the worshipping community. Many churches have adopted care homes in their area.

And then, at the end of life, churches can also provide sensitive funeral services, tailored to the wishes of the bereaved, and their families. Ministering to men and women in later life can be richly rewarding, both for the people concerned, and for the churches who take on this important ministry. We ignore it at our peril…

****



How did you get on

Now that I’ve gotten older, everything’s finally starting to click for me. My knees, my back, my neck …

What's orange, sticky and worth preserving?

This month sees National Marmalade Week (18th – 25th April). If you really want to celebrate, go to Dalemain Mansion and Gardens in Cumbria, where they hold the World Marmalade Awards & Festival. It celebrates, preserves and promotes artisanal marmalades, with thousands of entries. (Even Paddington Bear will be in attendance!)



If you like marmalade, ever wonder where it comes from? One tradition traces it to a storm-damaged Spanish ship which took refuge in Dundee Harbour in 1700. It was full of Seville oranges that the captain was desperate to sell before they went mouldy. A local down-on-luck merchant, one James Keiller, bought the lot. He didn't know what to do with the oranges either, but fortunately he had a resourceful wife. She set about turning a shipload of Seville oranges into a preserve, and so the first marmalade factory was born.

Marmalade has been at the heart of British breakfasts for centuries. Winston Churchill fought the Second World War on it (washed down with a flute of Pol Roger each morning). DH Lawrence wrote novels on it. Paddington Bear's sandwiches were all marmalade. If you also want to get your fingers sticky, visit: www.marmaladeawards.com.



Marmalade drizzle Cake



Ingredients

175g self-raising flour; 1 tsp baking powder

175g softened butter; 175g caster sugar

3 large eggs; 2 tbsp milk

2 tbsp orange marmalade

Grated rind of half an orange zest (optional, for stronger flavour)

For the drizzle

2 tablespns of marmalade

half an orange grated rind juice of the orange (additional sugar to taste

Instructions

- Line loaf / cake tin greaseproof paper, leaving overhang for easy lifting out.
- Preheat your oven 160°C (fan) or 180°C (conventional)
- Combine all cake ingredients in bowl. Beat until the batter becomes smooth, pale, and lump-free. Pour the batter into the lined loaf tin and level the top gently for an even rise
- Bake for 45–55 minutes, until golden and a skewer inserted into the middle comes out clean. Do not remove from tin at this point

The drizzle

- In a pan warm to soften marmalade stir in juice of the orange and remaining zest. Add sugar to taste and stir until sugar is melted. Prick the cake all over. Spread /drizzle over the warm cake.
- Let cake cool completely in the tin before gently removing .

Delicious with cup of tea or warm with custard as desert
Mary Berry recipe with adaptations for Lenten Lunch

TWEEDIE PIES
HOME BAKERY

Tweedie Pies Home Bakery

28a Kings Road, Whitehead

To place an order call 028 9337 2429

Jason Tweedie and his team extend a warm welcome to new & existing customers

Traditional home bakery with freshly baked breads, buns, cakes , hot snacks and pies everyday.

At Tweedie Pies Home Bakery, all our breads and produce are freshly made in store each day and we are continually dedicated to supporting our community.

Orders taken for parties or celebrations

Lilyscape at Whitehead

NI Tourism Certified

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.

A great place for family & friends to stay on their visit

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

HOME FARM MEATS
McMASTER'S
BUTCHERS

Beef, Poultry, Lamb, Pork Roasts and Barbecue Meats

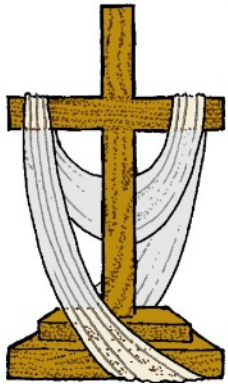
Order now from your local family run butchers in Whitehead

McMaster's Homefarm Meats believes that great tasting meat begins with naturally fed, hormone free animals that are bred on our farm just minutes from our shop in a healthy, natural free-range environment.



34 King's Road. Whitehead BT38 9PT Tel: 028 9335 3313

The Cross of Jesus



The cross is a picture of violence, yet the key to peace;
a picture of suffering, yet the key to healing;
a picture of death, yet the key to life;
a picture of utter weakness, yet the key to power;
a picture of capital punishment, yet the key to mercy and forgiveness;
a picture of vicious hatred, yet the key to love;
a picture of supreme shame, yet the Christian's supreme boast.

The cross really is the key to everything! Although a horrifying instrument of torture and death, it is also a symbol of God's love and peace. On the cross Jesus died to deal with the problem of our sin and defeat the powers of death and evil. He identified with our sufferings and set us an example of self-sacrificial love.

As Peter writes, *'He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed'* (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus died in our place on the cross and took away our guilt, to pay the full penalty for our sin. Access to God's presence is now open to all, symbolised by the Temple curtain being torn in two from top to bottom. The barrier between us and God was torn down in order *'to bring us to God'* (1 Peter 3:18).

The idea of substitution lies at the heart of understanding what Jesus did on the cross: *'For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting Himself for man. Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be; God sacrifices Himself for man and puts Himself where only man deserves to be.'* (John Stott).

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers the crucifixion…

As the Deer Pants for the Water written in 1984

Marty Nystrom , a 24-year-old schoolteacher in Seattle, WA, wanted to get to know a young woman a lot better, so he enrolled on a 6 week course she was taking in Dallas TX in the summer. But, after arriving he discovered things were not going to work out with the young woman, and he was stuck in a program he didn't want to be in during a very hot, Dallas summer. Marty was both broke and heartbroken, and was encouraged to fast to get his priorities straightened out again. During that fast, all he ingested was water. He admits, "To be honest, I could not say my soul thirsted for more of God."

But, as he fasted, he noticed his earthly desires and physical lusts wane. His spirit became more and more hungry for communion with God. After fasting for 19 days, he sat down at a piano in the men's dorm. A Bible was open on the piano at Psalm 42, so Marty began to sing through that psalm. He remembers: "God gave me a melody for Psalm 42:1. I just began to sing right off the page… literally."

10 years later, Marty was in Seoul, Korea, attending a worship conference that had attracted 100,000 Koreans. To open the conference, that huge audience sang Marty's song… this song.

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after Thee; You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship Thee

Chorus You alone are my strength, my shield; to You alone may my spirit yield. You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee.

You're my friend and You are my brother even though You are a King. I love You more than any other; so much more than anything.

I want You more than gold or silver; only You can satisfy. Your alone are the real joy giver and the apple of my eye

Chorus You alone are my strength, my shield; to You alone may my spirit yield. You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee.

(We sang this in church 8th March and it was my highlight of the service - Janet)

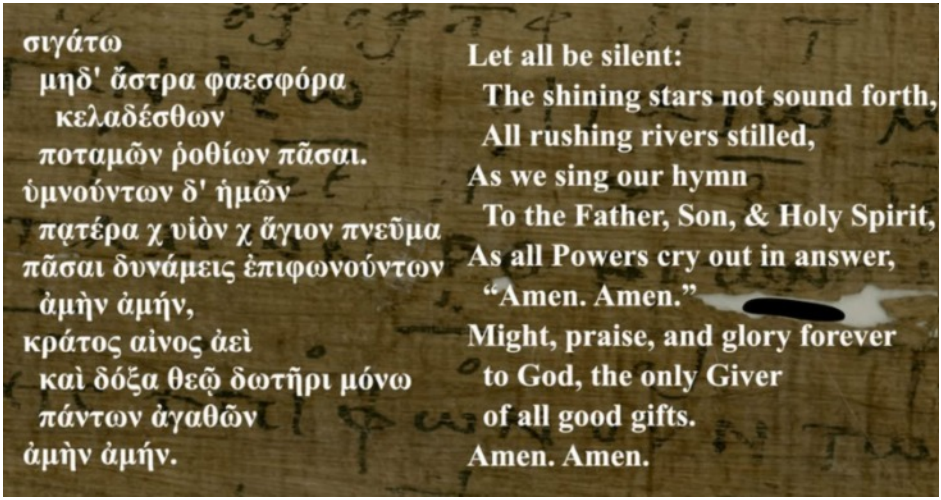
The First Hymn Documentary film

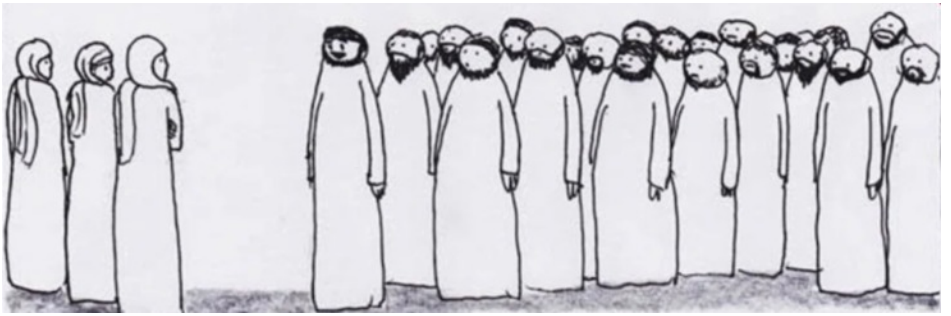
In the ancient ruins of Oxyrhynchus, Egypt, archaeologists unearthed a papyrus scrap containing the earliest known Christian hymn, complete with both its lyrics and musical notation. Analysed at Oxford University, this discovery challenges traditional views of church history by revealing the rich musical practices of early believers. Hosted by Australian historian John Dickson, With the help of world-renowned Christian composers, Chris Tomlin and Ben Fielding, Professor Dickson sets out on an epic journey to record the First Hymn as a modern worship song for the new millennium leading to a live concert performance. The First Hymn is a feature-length documentary that follows an ancient song from its desert origins to its rediscovery today.

There have been one night showings in some cinemas end of March and it is available to download in the US with hopes to extend this to other platforms to include their website. Comes highly recommended from those who were able to see it on the big screen - *"A must see"*

Updates of viewing options will be shared as they are released.

Read more about the story https://www.thefirsthymnmovie.com/





So Ladies, thanks for being the first to witness and report on the resurrection, your job's done -we will take it from here



Tweeds



Your trusted home heating fuel supplier for over 75 years
Delivering Home Heating Oil, Solid Fuel,
and Calor Cylinder Gas 5 days a week
Do you know we also offer:
Boiler servicing
Oil tank and boiler replacement
Contact our office: 028 9338 2502 or Visit: www.tweeds.co.uk

Quote "StPatricks" and receive £5 off your next boiler service



SALES & SERVICE
JACK REID
CARS
QUALITY & CHOICE

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

If you want the best, you are in the right place! We are a family run business bringing you only the best cars.

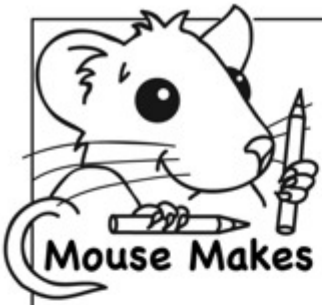
SALES & SERVICING AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

111 Belfast Road
Whitehead
Carrickfergus BT38 9SU

Tel: 02893 373 600

www.jackreidcars.co.uk



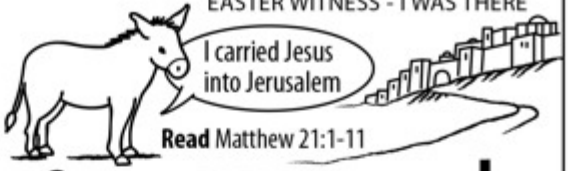


Mouse Makes

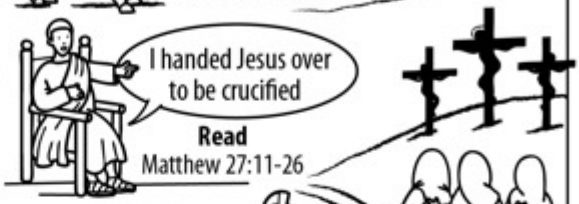
G	O	O	D	N	E	W	S
O	H	O	S	A	N	N	A
D	E	A	T	H	Q	B	V
V	N	C	O	E	E	U	I
U	A	H	N	A	A	R	O
M	I	R	E	V	S	Y	U
A	L	I	V	E	T	D	R
R	I	S	E	N	E	O	K
Y	O	T	H	O	R	N	S
P	A	L	M	S	Q	K	A
R	P	I	L	A	T	E	N
C	R	U	C	I	F	Y	G
R	H	I	Q	U	A	K	E
O	C	J	E	S	U	S	L
S	T	O	M	B	V	D	Y
S	R	Y	E	M	P	T	Y

JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS
HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS
CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS
QUAKE • DEATH • BURY
TOMB • STONE • EMPTY
ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN
RISEN • ALIVE • GOD
GOOD NEWS • CHRIST
SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY

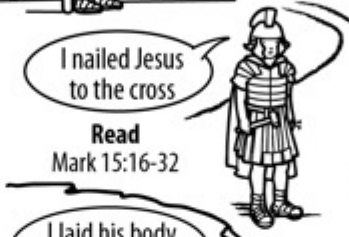
EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE



Read Matthew 21:1-11



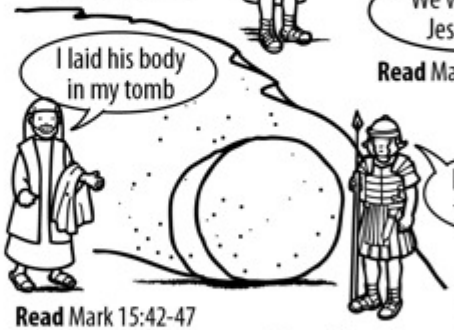
Read Matthew 27:11-26



Read Mark 15:16-32

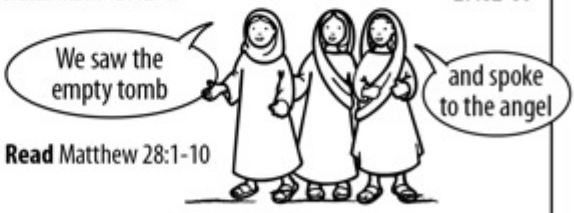


Read Mark 15:33-41

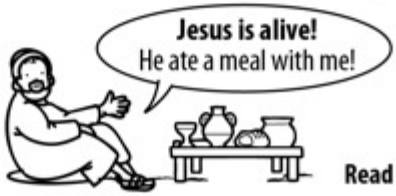


Read Mark 15:42-47

Read Matthew 27:62-66



Read Matthew 28:1-10



Read Luke 24:13-35

Apr26 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

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



ISLAND MILL
TILES & FLOORING

We're a family business based in Islandmagee and our speciality and passion is tiling and flooring.

We stock a broad range of wall and floor tiles for home or commercial space. Whether you want porcelain tiles that look like wood or natural stone, laminate flooring that emulates tiles, luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) that mimic both; all in classical, traditional and modern designs, you will find them all at Island Mill.

Ordering is simple, with goods ready for collection usually within a few days. Local delivery can be arranged free of charge. Call us or visit our website today



13 Lough Road Islandmagee, BT40 3RA
0289 335 3335
info@islandmill.co.uk
Website: islandmill.co.uk

SPAR

There for you

Shop at the 'Wright' Place!
26 Edward Road, Whitehead, BT38 9RU

Spar always there for all your daily essentials.

We're a friendly neighbourhood store, convenient and always open when you need us.

Free delivery service Tel : 028 9337 2344

Parish Announcements

The Select Vestry

meets on Wednesday, at 7pm
in Boucher Room, St Patrick's Church Hall
April meeting is the Easter General Vestry meeting

Counters April

6th April	Sandra Thompson
13th April	Colin de Fleury
20th April	Scotty Heyes
27th April	Trevor Peoples

Refreshments Rota

5th April	Priscilla Carlisle
12th April	Frances Taylor
19th April	Sheila Mason
26th April	Heather Cupples

Refreshments coordinator Priscilla Carlisle - Tel 07787561517

Game On Meeting

Meeting in the Library usually second and fourth Wednesday
Dates
Time 1.30 pm

Some members play Mexican Train, others Backgammon.
New participants always welcome. Come and join us for tea and biscuits, even if you don't want to play.

Church Activities

Together in Faith Group

Usually 1st and 3rd Mondays in the month at 7.30 pm.

6th and 10th April

Dates are subject to change and agreed each meeting
Meet in the Boucher Room, Parochial Hall
St Patrick's Church.

Book Club

The last Wednesday of the month 7.30 pm.
(Contact Paddy Rodgers tel 07720 404071)

Wednesday Morning Fellowship

Second Wednesday in the month-

Next meeting **8th April** in the Boucher Room.
We start with refreshments and then fellowship from 10.45 am.

Circus Skills Class

Come along and try some light exercise and may be learn a few manual dexterity skills on Tuesdays 10.30 am - 12 noon - every week
Parochial Hall
St Patricks Church

Indoor Bowling Club

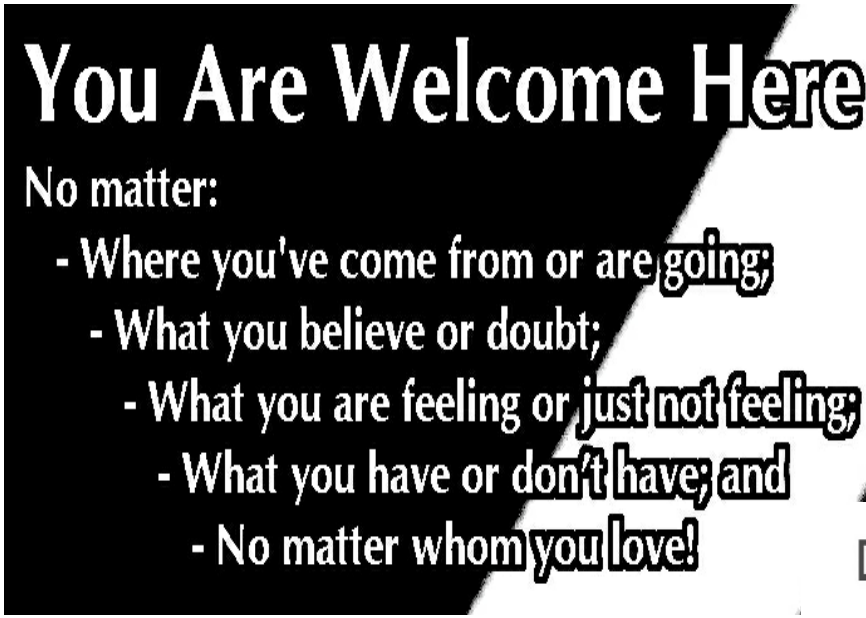
Tuesdays from 7pm every week - Parochial Hall
St Patricks Church

New people always welcome to join in all the groups

Youth Fellowship Sunday Brunch

5th April for Easter celebration
This is the last Youth Fellowship until early September.
Anyone of secondary school age or young adult under 25 is welcome to join us.
We'd love to see some new members.

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).



CHANGING ATTITUDE IRELAND

Brasso Club

Keeping our brasses in tip top shape Thursday 16th April

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:

Thank you for all you do.

VICTORIANA FLORAL







The Language of Flowers

- At Victoriana Floral we offer unique and individual floral arrangements for weddings, events and special occasions when you just want to show someone you care.
- With unsurpassed attention to detail, we are one of the Antrim Coast's more sought- after florists.
- Kim Davies the Creative Director offers a comprehensive floral service from her home studio in Magheramorne for you to enjoy.
- Contact Kim for all your floral needs: for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, farewells, tributes, as well as for Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, and Easter.
- Delivering to doorsteps in the local area .

To place an order or to make enquiries contact Kim or visit her website

Phone 07740721799.

Website: www.victorianafloral.com

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 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

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,

Registered with NI Charity Commission NIC102649

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



My experience of volunteering at the Lenten lunches. I arrived about 10.30 as a keen volunteer. I offered to do certain jobs, but they were all done. The rolls were filled, the tables were set, everyone was geared up for service. I felt displaced 'oh I shouldn't be here'. I left the kitchen and went into the hall and just sat at a table doing the puzzle in the church magazine. Felt bit lazy sitting there but I am not good at standing. I became aware in awe wonder at it all going on, a well oiled machine, everyone had a key role year after year. Anne felt sorry for me suggested I help at the welcome and payment desk as Evelyn on holiday. So all through Lent I worked with Anne and enjoyed every minute, recognising the importance of Anne's community knowledge, she knew everyone and they knew her.

I remember Rev. Mark saying at end of church drop in and see what you can do for an hour or so. I think that is the best strategy as we don't all need to be in the thick of it. The well oiled machine works producing a top notch lunch for the community. Thank you Anne for having me and Evelyn for letting me stay for few weeks in your job.

So what did I learn, you don't always need a leader when there are seasoned workers who know their job and work so well together. I stopped being concerned about fitting in, if I was needed I would just enjoy lovely lunch and go. I remember all the team workers behind the scenes, baking and buying lunch ingredients, giving off their time and money. These verses reflect what I observed - 1 Corinthians 12:14 (NIV): "Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many."

Philippians 2:2 (ESV): ".being in full accord and of one mind"

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NIV): "The whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament … as each part does its work".

The quote of the year from a visitor ***"I'd change my denomination for a lunch like this"***

Well done to the Team, Many blessing for Easter



You came to Suffer and Die for us - What did we do for you

You turned water into wine.
And blessed the little children.
And they made you carry your cross in the hot sun.

You fed the hungry
Reached out in tenderness to those in need.
And they fell asleep as you wept in the garden.

You befriended the lonely
And touched the souls of the unlovable
And Judas betrayed you for 30 pieces of silver.

You made the blind to sea, the lame to walk.
And brought Lazarus back to life.
And before the cock crowed three times Peter denied you

You bridged heaven and earth.
Bringing us closer to God our Father
And we hung you on high and watched you die.

You love us, you died for us.
And you still forgive us when we fail you.
And you overcome death so we could be forever with you.

How can we thank you,
And you ask nothing from us.
But to love you, trust you, pray to you and walk beside you.

(Janet Matthews)

Colouring in a great way to relax for kids and adults

