CHURCH MATTERS

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

Here everyone matters

May 2026

CHURCH OF IRELAND

ST. PATRICK'S & ST. JOHN'S

UNITED PARISH OF WHITEHEAD & ISLANDMAGEE



May 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.

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

Sunday 17th May - 7th Sunday of Easter - Sunday after Ascension Day
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 & 12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; John 17:1-11
Readers for first Lesson - Alison Higginson / Alan Hayward
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Numbers 22 - 27; Psalms 121 - 130; Luke 7:36 - 9:17

Sunday 24th May - Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. &12 noon Family Service
Sunday Readings - Acts 2:1-21
Readers for first Lesson - The Rector
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Joshua 1-6; Psalms 131 - 140; Luke 9:18 - 10:24

Sunday 31st May - Trinity Sunday
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - Genesis 1:1- 2:4a; Psalm 8: Matthew 28:16-20
Reader for first Lesson - Jane Robinson / Joy Kerr
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Joshua 7-10; Psalms 141 - 150; Luke 10: 25 - 11:54

Sunday 7th June - Trinity 1
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. &12 noon Holy Communion Two
Sunday Readings - Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
Reader for first Lesson - Heather Couples / Ann Thompson
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Joshua 14, 22-24; Psalms 1 - 10; Luke 12:1 - 59

Sunday 14th June - Trinity 2
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m.& 12 noon Morning Prayer
Sunday Readings - Genesis 18:1-15; Psalm 116:1, 10-17; Matthew 9:35 - 10:8
Readers for first Lesson - Judith de Fleury
7:00 p.m. Compline
Weekday Readings: Judges 2 - 7; Psalms 11 - 20; Luke 13:1 - 14:35

Messy Church

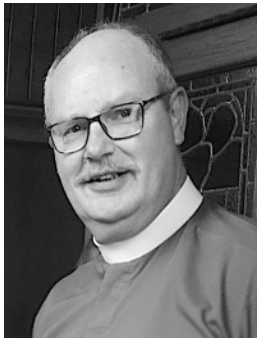
Sunday 10th May

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 . . . . . .



The constant changing of the seasons is an integral part of our life. Year on year it is the same, we look with eagerness for the longer, brighter days, more sunshine, less rain, more warmth. We see it in the skies, the birds, the flowers and trees in bloom, the growing grass, the sheep and cattle in the fields; in so many ways we see and recognise the changing seasons. As it is now, so it has always been; for our parents and grandparents and theirs before them.

This constant changing of the seasons is part of the foundation of our daily lives. It is measured by the calendar that marks our birthdays, our holidays, our high days and low days, as it moves inexorably on, year after year.

In the past we measured time differently, as was noted last month. We measured the changing of the ecclesiastical seasons and marked our lives and activities by them. Advent, Christmastide, Epiphany, Lent, Eastertide, Rogationtide, Ascensiontide, Pentecost, and so on it went. We recognised these church seasons and marked our lives by them. As a youngster the first Scout camp of the season was Easter, then Ascension or Pentecost (depending on the year and the weather) then the glorious longer summer camp.

We also marked these religious festivals with our gathering for worship and thanksgiving to God our loving Father. A sharing of our lives and our faith with each other as we marked the passing year and God's goodness to us. In those days the Church played a greater part in our daily lives, as did our faith.

During one of the Covid Lockdowns - May 2021 - we celebrated Ascensiontide - those 10 days between Ascension Day and The Day of Pentecost with a short, online service of Compline. Some of your remember those ten services, one per evening. You may not remember the content of the services, what you may remember is that the Rector was wearing a different Hawaiian shirt each evening! These services were guided by a ten day programme called "Thy Kingdom Come" and its purpose was two fold:-

1 to use those ten days between the celebration of Jesus ascension into heaven and the celebration of the first Pentecost to prepare ourselves, and the whole community of the Church for the coming of the Holy Spirit upon us at Pentecost.

2 to use those ten days to pray for our Parish and Community but specifically to pray for five people that we know, every day during each and every one of those ten days, that they would come to know Christ and accept his gift of salvation.

The theme for "Thy Kingdom Come 2026" is 'God with us'; a reminder to us of God's daily presence with us and with those whom we love and care for. I ask that again this year you will make a special effort to set aside a little time each day to pray fort those we love and care for, and to focus our prayer on five people that you know. We can pray for family members, friends or neighbours. Ideally it should be some one that we know and who has some link to our lives.

Our prayers do not need to be lengthy, a simple *"Lord God, protect and care or your servant ……. So that they may come to know and love you. Amen."* is enough. Ideally this will be like a prescription - three times a day with meals - which will make it easier to do and easier to remember. We can tell the people that we are praying for them, and even ask if there is something specific that they want us to pray for. It is only ten days, Thursday 14th May to Sunday 24th May. Well actually 11 days if we pray for our five people all together in Church at our Family Service on Pentecost (we will not pray their names out loud in church).

To help with these ten days of prayer there are small prayer journals available. They will assist with your prayers and guide you through these ten days. These journals will be available (at no cost to you - though donations are always accepted) in both Churches and in the Parochial Hall. You can take one for yourself and as many as you need for anyone else that you know who would appreciate and use one to guide their prayers.

These ten days, and it is only ten days, between Ascension Day (14th May) and Pentecost (24th May) are a short, but very powerful, opportunity to serve and help build up our Parish and the kingdom and community of God where we are. Please take this opportunity and pray.

In these coming days I will be praying for all of you,
every blessing to you and all whom you love and care for. *Mark*

Report from The Easter General Vestry Meeting 2026

There was not a great turn out at the Ester General Vestry Meeting - which is disappointing for those who did turn up and who have agreed to serve on the Select Vestry and in other positions.

The Rector gave a brief report that thanked those who had done so much for the benefit of all in the Parish over the last year. The office holders and Select Vestry members, the Choir, Organist and all who clean and tidy the Church buildings, arrange flowers, work with young people, or help in any other way. Without the efforts of these people the Parish would not be able to function.

There were the usual appointments and elections,

Church Wardens - Rector's Church Wardens

St Patrick's - Mr Colin de Fleury. St John's - Mr Alan Hayward

People's Church Wardens

St Patrick's - Mrs Mabel Allen. St John's - Mr John Hall

Glebe Wardens

ST Patrick's - Mr Trevor Peoples St John's - Mr Jim Reid

Select Vestry Members

Those named above plus: Geraldine Scott-Heyes, Sandra Thompson, Bill Pollock, Pauline Riddle, Paul Heyes, Janet Matthews, David Young, Terry Waugh, Inez Moore, Austin Jenkins and there are two "casual vacancies" that can be filled by the Select Vestry during the coming year.

Diocesan Synod's Persons

Mrs Corinne Logan, Mr Terry Waugh

Supplemental Diocesan Synods Persons

Mr Alan Hayward, Mr David Young

Parochial Nominators

Paul Heyes, Sandra Thompson, Geraldine Scott-Heyes, Alan Hayward

Supplemental Parochial Nominators

Priscilla Carlisle, Pauline Riddle, Inez Moore, John Hall

The Diocesan Synod's Persons and Parochial Nominators are elected for a three year term. The Diocesan Synods Persons to represent the Parish on the Diocesan Synod, (the dioceses version of an Ester General Vestry Meeting which elects people to serve on the Diocesan Council and to fill other diocesan roles) The Supplemental Diocesan Synods Persons are there to fill in in the event that one of the first two are no longer able to serve in that capacity.

The Parochial Nominators (with the Supplemental Nominators taking up their role in the event of one of the first four is unable to carry out their role) have the responsibility of being involved in the appointing of a Rector for the Parish in the event of a vacancy, usually due to either the Rector resigning (being appointed elsewhere) or on retirement. The Nominators would be called to work as part of the Diocesan Board of Nomination in making this appointment. Those elected to this role have had nothing to do for the past 24 years!

The Financial Report 2025

The Parish financial report was prepared and audited by MBS Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors.

We began the year with £59,456 in our bank account, this is after a number of years actively saving so that we would have a reserve of funds in case of emergencies or urgent repairs to the buildings. Our total income for the year was £98,482. Our total expenses were £105,764 and our closing balance in the bank at the end of the year was £52,017.

Most of our income comes through the Free Will Offerings made by parishioners either via the Envelopes or through direct giving through a Standing Order with their bank.

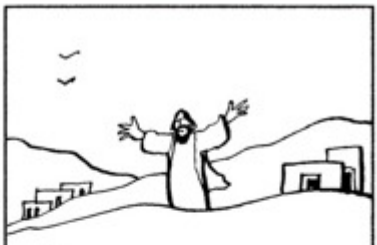
Added to this is the Gift Aid, where the Parish is able to claim back, from HMRC, the income tax that people have already paid on their donation to the Parish. This increases our income by 25% on eligible donations, with no cost to the person who has already paid the income tax. It is the only way that we can have a say in how our tax money is spent.

A huge thank you to Sandra Thompson for all her hard work as Treasurer over the past five years.

The tale of the Mustard Seed & the tale of the Yeast

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS





SOME OF HIS STORIES WERE VERY SHORT, BUT THEY MEANT A GREAT DEAL

ONCE JESUS EXPLAINED HOW THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN WAS LIKE A MUSTARD SEED





IT IS ONE OF THE SMALLEST OF SEEDS....



BUT WHEN IT GROWS UP IT IS THE BIGGEST OF ALL PLANTS

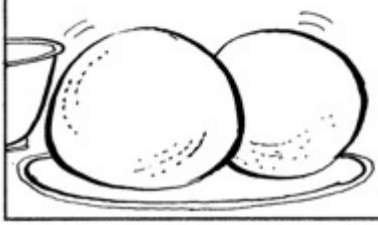
IT BECOMES A TREE, SO THAT BIRDS COME AND MAKE THEIR NESTS IN THE BRANCHES





JESUS ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE YEAST.

EVEN THOUGH IT'S A TINY INGREDIENT, WHEN IT'S MIXED WITH THE FLOUR, THE WHOLE BATCH OF DOUGH RISES





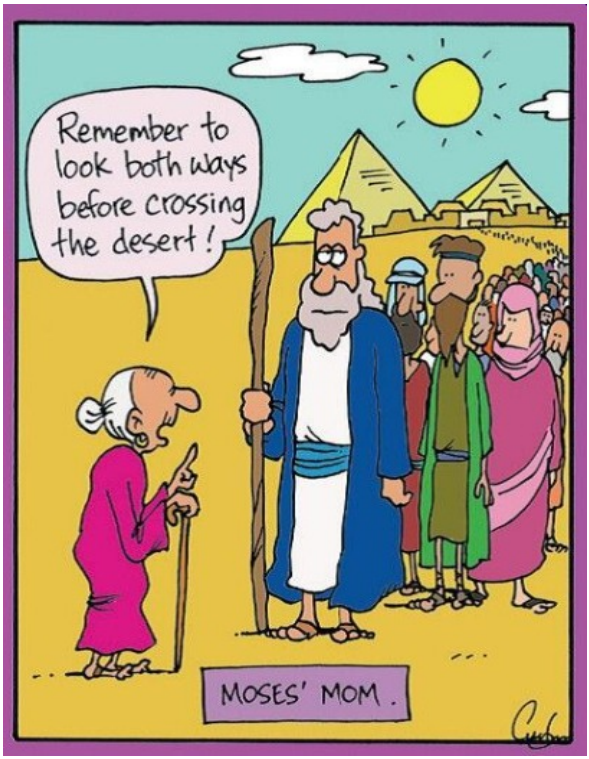
THIS WAS JESUS' WAY OF SAYING THAT EVEN IF WE HAVE A SMALL AMOUNT OF FAITH... IT CAN MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE TO OUR LIVES, AND TO THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

Sunday Evening Praise

Sunday 14th June

Starting at 7:00 p.m. in St Patrick's
Parochial Hall,
Edward Road., Whitehead.

Come and join us for an evening of music and praise, singing hymns together and sharing in fellowship.



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

The May Fair, Dances, and lots of Houzledoo



A Typical Ballyclare May fair scene from the 19th century

A large crowd always comes into Ballyclare for the annual May fair especially for the evening festivities and socialising. Many buses brought folk in from the surrounding districts even as far away as Antrim and Belfast. There was often confusion and excitement at the end of the evening when the buses filled up to head off for local and distant destinations. Very night just before departure time an old fellow emerged from John Baird's public house and made his unsteady way to the bus station. He stumbled on to one bus after another in the vain attempt to locate the correct vehicle. Eventually he was led by someone who knew him well and placed in a seat where he promptly fell asleep. A clergyman sitting at the back of the bus was appalled at his state and behaviour and as the bus headed off, he got up and approached him and, putting his hand gently on his shoulder, addressed him 'my good man, do you not realise that you're on the way to eternal perdition?" Opening one eye the old fellow replied, "Dang it, am I on the wrong bus again? (Jack McKinney, 2022, Rhymes and Ructions: Ballads and Banter from Ballyclare)



Kitchen Maid with the Supper at Emmaus by Diego Velázquez 1599 - 1600 (www.nationalgallery.ie)

A reflection By Angela Burke

It was on a long retreat at St. Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre in North Wales that I became interested in praying with art, a practice that is related to St Ignatius' method of prayer known as "imaginative contemplation." Ignatius encouraged his followers to use their imagination to make the Gospel come alive in their own personal situation. No doubt, any artist who painted an image of a scene from Scripture would have spent time in contemplation before picking up a paintbrush.

It was also at St. Beuno's that I discovered both the painting "Kitchen Maid With the Supper at Emmaus" by Diego Velázquez and a related poem written centuries later by English/American poet Denise Levertov.

In the Gospel story (Luke 24:13-35), two men, one of them identified as a man named Cleopas, were walking to Emmaus on the afternoon of Easter Day when Jesus joined them. They did not recognize him, even when he retold to them the prophecies of his death and resurrection in an attempt to draw them out of their doubt. They invited

the stranger to share a meal and — according to the painting by Velázquez — were served by a young, dark girl, possibly a Muslim.

The atmosphere of the painting is somewhat dark — wouldn't many of us still be in a mood of "we had hoped"? The darkness is relieved by the white of the girl's cap and sleeve, the jug that she is holding, the napkin, crockery and other items. The haphazard arrangement of the items suggests disorder and chaos.

Jesus and his companions (seen over her right shoulder) are seated in the next room and one of them is almost totally obscured. The focus is on the slave girl, the kitchen maid working in the servery, but clearly distracted by a sudden awareness of something different about the guests, and one guest in particular.

Velázquez shows us her intense concentration, and in her poem Denise Levertov draws us into her deep thoughts.

I put myself into the girl's place and ask:

Where did I see this man? Was it just two days ago,

when I was caught up with the crowd heading for Calvary?

How could any human being endure such brutality and still notice me

and look at me with such love as no one had ever looked?

Why did he pick me?

That man was crucified, died and was buried!

How is it that he is here in this inn?

In the next room? Perhaps it is the same man,

but his two companions don't seem to know him.

Did they not see the holes in his hands that I noticed when I took in the platter of bread?

I really think it is the same one who was scourged and mocked

when he said he was the Son of God and would rise again.

She concludes her poem by echoing a theme of St. Paul (1 Corinthians 1:27-28):

Those who had brought this stranger home to their table.

don't recognize yet with whom they sit.

But she in the kitchen,

absently touching the wine jug she's to take in

a young Black servant intently listening,

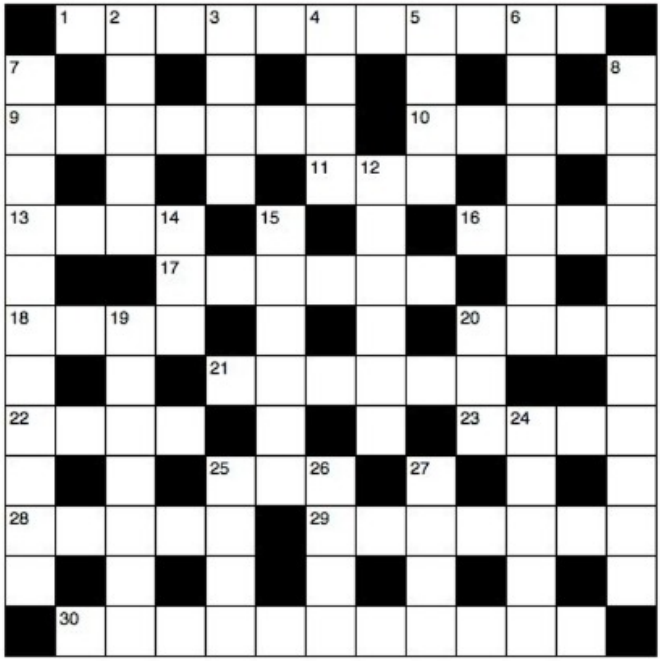
swings round and sees

the light around him

and is sure.



You will need a pencil, eraser and your bible



Across

1 Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11)
9 'The — are mantled with corn' (Psalm 65:13) (7)
10 'Each man—a sword to his side' (Exodus 32:27) (5)
11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from—to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3)
13 Stagger (Isaiah 28:7) (4)
16 'Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought——and doesn't do it, sins' (James 4:17) (2,2)
17 Stir up or provoke (Acts13:50) (6)
18 Burden (Luke 11:46) (4)
20 'As far as the east is from the—, so far has he removed our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103:12) (4)
21 Sign (Luke 23:38) (6)
22 'After that, Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' (John 13:5) (4)

23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)
25 Has (anag.) (3)
28 'This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, —sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5)
29 'I will...make them drunk, so that they...sleep for—and— awake' (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)
30 Paul said of him, 'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains' (2 Timothy 1:16) (11)

Down

2 Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)
3 'A bruised — He will not break' (Matthew 12:20) (4)
4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4)
5 Slip (anag.) (4)
6 'Take an awl and push it through his — — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)
7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)
8 'Therefore, as we have —, let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11)
12 Acquire (2 Timothy 2:10) (6)
14 Container cover (Numbers 19:15) (3)
15 'He...became obedient to death, even death on——!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)
19 Refrain (1 Peter2:11) (7)
20 'She began to—his feet with her tears' (Luke 7:38) (3)
24 One who worships Brahma, Vishnu or Shiva (5)
25 'Give to everyone who—you' (Luke6:30) (4)
26 'I lift up my eyes to the hills; where does my—come from?' (Psalm 121:1) (4)
27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)

Check how you got on - page 18

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How did you get on?

Brasso Club

Keeping our brasses in tip top shape

This small, merry band meets on the third Thursday of each month at 10 am, usually for an hour or so. New folks are welcome to join the chat and the cleaning. We aim to keep the shiny things in Church bright and beautiful!

Enter at the front of the Church by the smaller door on the right-hand side. Cleaning supplies are provided but if you can, bring rubber gloves, cloths, and an old toothbrush for little corners Next date: 7th May

Thank you for all you do.

A Simple Prayer for our Rector and his Team



Giving thanks for a wonderful Easter and praying now for time for space for our Rector and families to rest and recuperate.

We pray for Rector Mark and his select vestry members for the coming year. We pray for all who have stepped aside giving thanks for their work in the last year/longer. We pray with thanks giving for Sandra as she leaves her roles as Honorary Treasurer and for Terry as he takes the role on.

We give thanks and pray for all out with the vestry continue to work tirelessly in both parishes, in so many different ways

Amen.



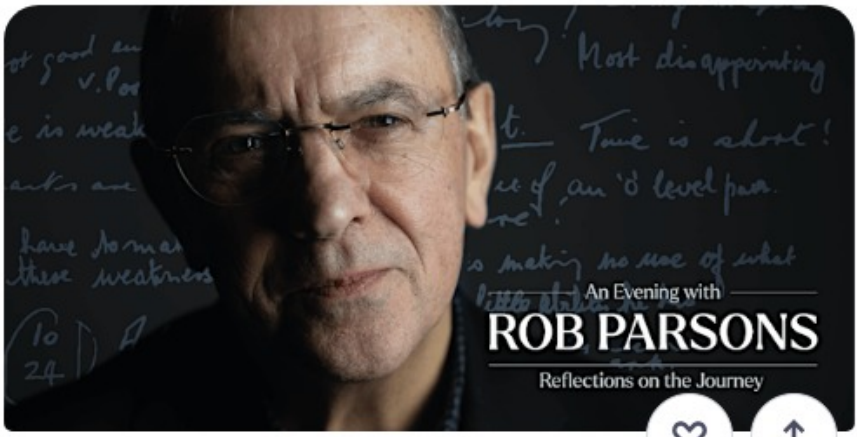
Friday 22nd May
10.30am - 9.00pm
Saturday 23rd
10.30am - 9.00pm
Sunday 24th
2.00pm - 6.00pm

Fund raiser In aid of Air Ambulance

Designs Greenisland Floral Arrangement Society

Magheramorne Presbyterian Church
Ballylig Rd, Magheramorne, Larne BT40 3HZ

AIR AMBULANCE
NORTHERN IRELAND
CHARITY



An Evening with Rob Parsons - Belfast

Wed 10 Jun, 19:30

Orangefield Presbyterian Church

From £6.00

Rob is the author of many books .
His Christian Focus is Care for the Family

Step into the untold stories from Rob's lifetime of overcoming obstacles and discovering that the past doesn't have to define us.

From the boy described as 'making no use of what little ability he has', to an international best-selling author and speaker, Rob Parsons has a lifetime's experience of overcoming obstacles.

He recalls the time when his father told him, 'People like us don't become lawyers', and the teacher who said even his best wasn't good enough. Yet with the help of the people who believed he could be more, he learnt how to grow through the challenges of life.

Join Rob on a journey through the decades as he reflects on a life mixed with laughter and tears, and draws on vivid stories from childhood, right through to the present day.

He'll tap into a wealth of experience to help us make the best of our circumstances, gifts, opportunities – and perhaps most of all – our relationships.

We invite you to pull up a chair and settle in for a poignant night of storytelling that will reawaken your purpose and stay with you long after you head home.

You'll hear about:

Building confidence to move past the labels others put on you

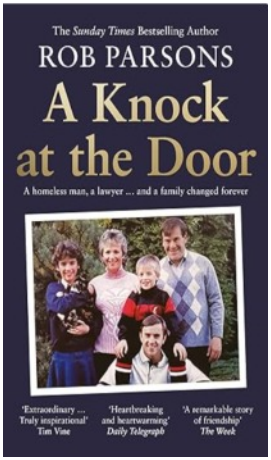
Finding hope beyond shattered dreams

Enduring the hard times you just can't fix

Being inspired to take on new challenges

Why tomorrow doesn't have to be like yesterday

Find out more and book tickets by typing "An evening with Rob parsons Belfast" into Google. Only £6



Paddy recommended this book to me - **A Knock at the Door**, A true story of Rob's family, which I would highly recommend to you.

'An incredible read. I laughed, I cried and my heart was truly touched by this beautifully written true story of hope and humanity at its best.'

Rosemary Conley CBE

Speaking out for Peace and Justice



The Archbishop of Canterbury Dame, Sarah Mullally, during the Enthronement Ceremony on March 25, 2026, said that she stood with Pope Leo's "courageous call for a kingdom of peace". She urged 85 millions Anglicans worldwide to speak out for peace and justice.

The comments from Mullally, the first woman to lead the Church of England, come after repeated attacks on the pope by U.S. President Donald Trump.

"As Christians, we are called to stand in solidarity with all who suffer, and to respond with compassion and love. Christ's self-giving life, lived for the sake of others, reminds us that the command to love God with all our heart is inseparable from the call to love our neighbour as ourselves, especially the neighbour who suffers, who is displaced, who lives in fear, and who longs for peace.

It is the calling of every Christian – and of all people of faith and goodwill – to work and pray for peace. We must also urge all those entrusted with authority to pursue every possible peaceful and just means of resolving conflict."

https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/

People suffering in war are far away, easy to forget about them while in fact "they are our neighbours".

Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James-the-Least in the county of C- for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained… by the Revd Dr Gary Bowness

On dealing with summer fetes



The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are beginning to plan your first Summer Fete in your new parish. That you appear to be looking forward to it shows how little you know about them.

Parishes hold Summer Fetes so that their clergy can preach more meaningfully on purgatory. Their ostensible purpose is to raise money for the church - which is wholly illogical. The parish could double the money raised if the Fete were dropped, none of the endless preparations made, if everyone spent a pleasant afternoon in their own gardens and each person simply donated £20 to the church instead. But we still feel obliged to go to endless trouble, making ourselves miserable so we can show each other what a good time we are having. That it generally pours seems to make the entire event even more grimly satisfying.

No, the real reasons for a Summer Fete are twofold. First, it gives the entire parish the chance to inspect the Rector's garden. Whatever state it is in, it will cause disapproval. If it is poorly kept, then I am clearly being ungrateful for having three acres of lawn to enjoy. Mowing it each week should be one of my delights; what else would I do with a whole day off each week anyway? The hand mower, kindly given by Colonel French is assumed to be quite adequate - and rumour has it that I need to lose weight anyway. The mower was presented to me when the Colonel bought his own gardener a sit-on motor mower - which is of a size and

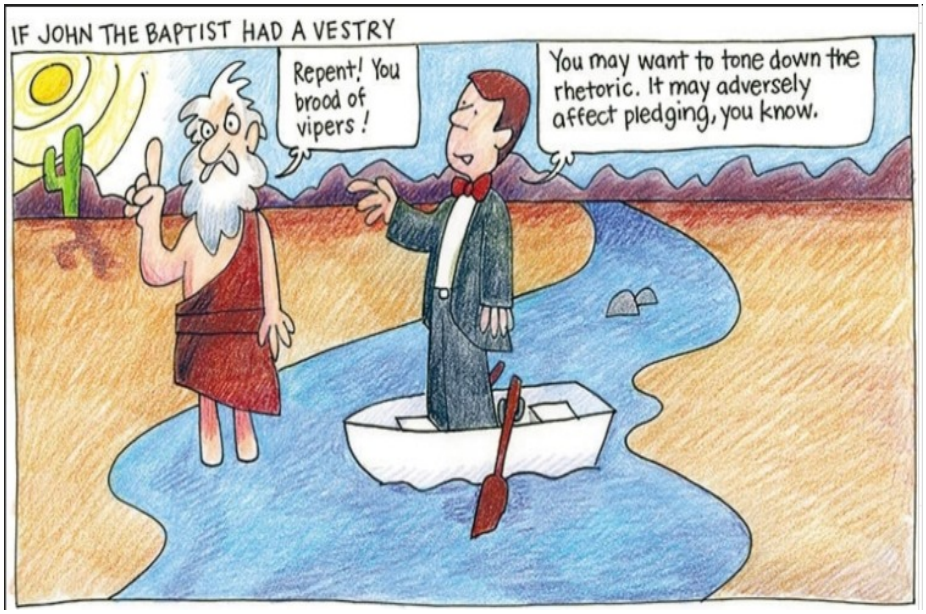
opulence that makes me assume it has a drinks cabinet and satellite navigation.

The second reason for a Fete comes as a special perk for the organisers. It gives them a chance to inspect the inside of the Rectory. Under the pretence of looking for a little more sugar, they can systematically inspect all the kitchen cupboards and comment on their contents. By the end of the day, the whole parish will know what marmalade I spread on my toast, that I use unnecessarily expensive washing powder, and where I have unsuccessfully tried to hide the gin.

The details of what then happens while the Fete is in progress must wait until my next letter, when we will have had our own. It is now time for Evensong, drinks with Major Mallet and his wife, and then a quiet evening with a good book, while I toy with other possible hiding places for the gin this year.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



Breathe on Me, Breath of God

The story behind the hymn, often sang on Pentecost Sunday

By Taylor Brantley

The Bible is full of theological issues ripe for debate. Breathe on Me, Breath of God was written by a man who studied such issues in great depth, yet always needed a reminder that at the Bible's core is a message of simple truth.

Edwin Hatch was born in Derby, England, 1835. From a young age, Edwin stood out for his work ethic and intellect. While attending King Edward's School – a highly prestigious school both of past and present – Edwin's personal teacher made note of Edwin's independent efforts in education. Whereas most children were eager to finish their lessons for the day, Edwin soaked in all he could, then pursued furthering learning in his own time.

Edwin went on to study at Pembroke College in Oxford. Prior to Edwin's admission, the college was home to a group of men who called themselves the Birmingham Set. Within the campus library, the Birmingham Set discussed poetry, art and literature from classic authors. The group was known to venture across Europe, visiting notable churches and medieval sites. They were well established when Edwin joined the college, by 1856 Edwin had become the group's most dominant figure.

Beyond college, Edwin's intellectual pursuits burned ever on. College professor, high-school rector, university vice-principle; Edwin was all of these and more.

Being a man of God, Edwin was drawn to the study of deep theology, for it combined God and learning. Naturally, he became so well versed in theology that he became a religious lecturer. Of his lectures, he is most remembered for his Bampton lectures; lectures known for profound

theological discourse. These lectures, were published and translated into various languages. However, the most famous publication of this highly educated man ended up being a prayer of simplest and most humble nature: Breathe on Me, Breath of God.

Edwin wrote Breathe on Me, Breath of God in 1878 and kept it private for many years. It was originally meant only for Edwin and God. As much as Edwin loved complex thoughts and theologies, he understood that at the core of Christianity is something incredibly simple: faith in God. It is not too far a stretch to assume Edwin wrote the hymn as a reminder to never get bogged down in complex theology.

It reached new ears over the years, and in 1886, Breathe on Me, Breath of God was published by Henry Allen in The Congregational Psalmist. Since then, Edwin's private prayer has become a prayer of the many.

"Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit."-John 20:21-22, hence it's association with Pentecost

https://hymncharts.com/2022/05/11/breathe-on-me-breath-of-god/

The hymn

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure;
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.

3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine;
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.

4. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity



see also Page 40

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The Forgiveness of Corrie Ten Boom (Matthew Crocker 2021)



One of the most difficult things a Christian will face is offering genuine forgiveness to those who have deeply hurt us. When Jesus commands us to love our enemies he means it. Yes, he does understand, which is why he expects it of us. Jesus knows that even the deepest wounds can heal through him. Which is why I love the story of Corrie Ten Boom's encounter with the forgiving love of Jesus in her book *The Hiding Place.*

Corrie Ten Boom worked against the Nazis in World War Two hiding Jews successfully in their home. On 28th February 1944 the family was betrayed to the Gestapo. At 12.30 pm, the house was raided the family were captured leaving the Jews in their hiding place undiscovered. She was sent to a concentration camp where she was stripped of her dignity, saw her father and her sister (Betsie) die, and suffered more at the hands of other people than we could possibly imagine. This is precisely why her encounter with forgiveness is so memorable: Corrie survived and went on to write and spread God's word worldwide.

Corrie writes "It was at a church service in Munich that I saw him, the former S.S. man who had stood guard at the shower door in the processing center at Ravensbruck. He was the first of our actual jailers that I had seen since that time. And suddenly it was all there – the roomful of mocking men, the heaps of clothing, Betsie's pain-blanched face. He came up to me as the church was emptying, beaming and bowing. 'How grateful I am for your message, Fraulein.' He said. 'To think that, as you say, He has washed my sins away! 'She continues "His hand was thrust out to shake mine. And I, who preached so often to the people in Bloemendaal the need to forgive, kept my hand at my side. Even as the angry, vengeful thoughts boiled through me, I saw the sin of them. Jesus

Christ had died for this man; was I going to ask for more? Lord Jesus, I prayed, forgive me and help me to forgive him. I tried to smile, I struggled to raise my hand. I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity. And so again I breathed a silent prayer. Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me your forgiveness. As I took his hand the most incredible thing happened. From my shoulder along my arm and through my hand a current seemed to pass from me to him, while into my heart sprang a love for this stranger that almost overwhelmed me.

And so I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that the world's healing hinges, but on his. When he tells us to love our enemies, He gives, along with the command, the love itself", (Corrie Ten Boom).

Forgiveness can be hard, but it is not in our forgiveness "that the world's healing hinges, but on his." We are given the opportunity to participate in the love that Jesus extends to the world with our forgiveness. I find this a great encouragement: that Christ gives us the love we need to forgive as we practice forgiveness.

I don't know what's going on in your life, I don't know who you are struggling to forgive, but I pray that you might find encouragement in Corrie's story to see the forgiving love of Jesus in your life. (Crocker 2021.

(https://ca.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-forgiveness-of-corrie-ten-***boom***/

"What wings are to a bird and sails are to a ship, so is prayer to the soul".

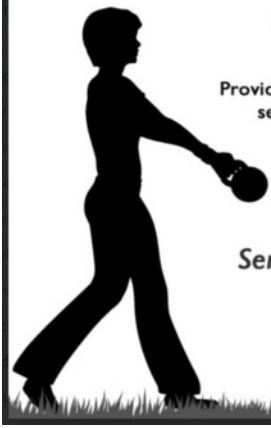
(Corrie Ten Boom)

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For Someone Who Did You Wrong

Reflection - John O'Donohue - A Book of Blessings

Though its way is to strike
In a dumb rhythm,
Stroke upon stroke,
As though the heart
Were an anvil,
The hurt you sent
Had a mind of its own.

Something in you knew
Exactly how to shape it,
To hit the target,
Slipping into the heart
Through some wound-window
Left open since childhood.

While it struck outside,
It burrowed inside.
Made tunnels through
Every ground of confidence.
For days it would lie still
Until a thought would start it.

Meanwhile you forgot,
Went on with things
And never even knew
How that perfect shape of hurt
Still continued to work

Now a new kindness
Seems to have entered time
And I can see how that hurt
Has schooled my heart,
In a compassion I would
Otherwise have never learned.

Somehow now
I have begun to glimpse
The unexpected Fruit
Your dark gift had planted
And I thank you
For your unknown work.

(ponder a while and pray for the person who hurt you)

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We would love to see you.
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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

Parish Announcements

The Select Vestry

Second Wednesday of the month,

13th May at 7pm

in Boucher room, St Patrick's church

Counters

04/05/2026	Sandra Thompson
11/05/2026	Bert Thompson
18/05/2026	Sandra Thompson
25/05/2026	Valerie Kincaid

Refreshments Rota

03/05 /2026	Inez Moore
10/05/2026	Messy Church
17/05/2026	Priscilla Carlisle
24/05/2026	Anna Rollos
31/5/2026	Scotty Heyes

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

1st and 3rd Mondays in the month at 7.30 pm
Dates. (Subject to change)
Meet in the Boucher Room, Parochial Hall,
St Patrick's Church.

Wednesday Morning Fellowship

Second Wednesday in the month-

Next meeting 13th May in the Boucher Room.
We start with refreshments and then fellowship from 10.45 am.

Book Club

The last Wednesday of the month
(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 10.30 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

Now closed until September 2026

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).



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
Terry Waugh Hon Treasurer
Bill Pollock; Sandra Thompson
Pauline Riddle; Paul Heyes;
Janet Matthews; David Young;
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

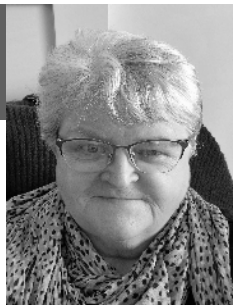
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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Summer time is upon us and we as a church are at point of annual change, which is not easy. It is often some time after change that we can only evaluate the positives. This requires patience and openness, two attitudes I need to work on . Change in our world is inevitable and at the minute the positive changes are lost in the middle of the impact of war in so many places. I remind myself at the petrol pumps that this change for me is minor compared to what the innocent face in Ukraine, right across the Middle East and Sudan. I struggle to think how I can make a difference. I join thousands across the world every day 3.30 pm to stop and spend one minute to pray for those living in the horror of war, those who are trying to help them and for an end to war. This happened in world war 2 and across the world this prayer movement is happening again. It so little but we know prayer does bring light and hope in the darkness.

After a harsh winter we need the light and longer sunny days we have enjoyed are great. I hope you are getting a chance to get out in the sun. If you are not able to get out I am sure others join me in praying that somehow the sun comes inside in some other way. Help us to be the sunshine to each other in some small way.

Recently I went to a WI talk by Chill, Carrickfergus. All volunteers and two of them with little support from PSNI go out on the streets on weekend nights rescuing young people who are injured, hypothermic or unconscious - alcohol drugs and abuse all part of it. Chill is the light in the darkness for young people at risk in Carrickfergus. There talk was light for me. I give thanks for their work and pray for their safety on their rescue missions. https://www.facebook.com/people/CHILL-Carrickfergus-Hub-Improvinglives locally

Have a great summer



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08:00 - 16:30