CHURCH MATTERS

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

Here everyone matters

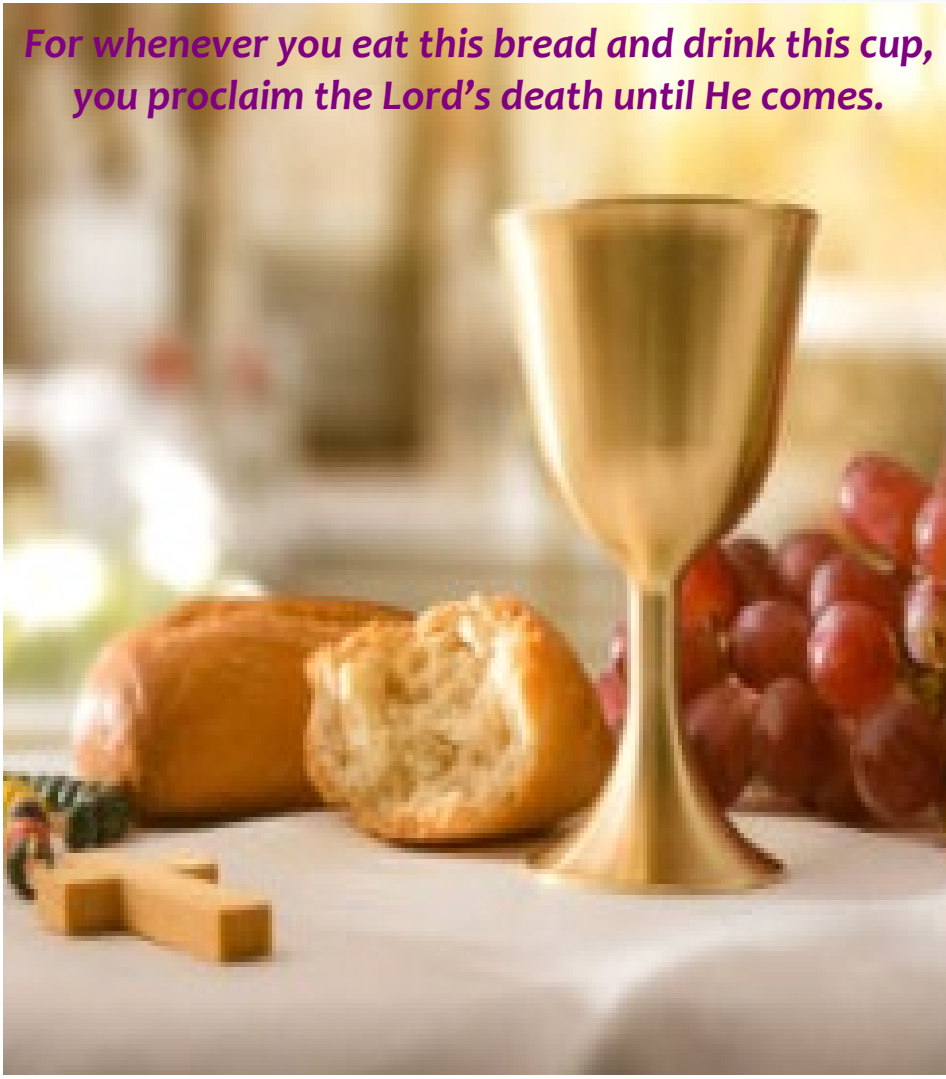
June 2026

CHURCH OF IRELAND

ST. PATRICK'S & ST. JOHN'S

UNITED PARISH OF WHITEHEAD & ISLANDMAGEE

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.



June Services & Readings

There are weekly services of worship in both Church buildings Sundays are 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One (Traditional format) in St Patrick's. Also in St Patrick's 10 30 a.m., Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month, Morning Prayer on the second and third (and fifth) and Family service on the fourth Sunday. There is the same pattern of Worship in St John's at 12 noon. (This pattern changes in July and August.) At 7:00 p.m., Compline (the traditional last service of he day) in St Patrick's.

On the Second Sunday of the month there will be either Messy Church or All Age Worship for Families. In the Parochial Hall on Edward Road.

There is also a service on a Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., using the Litany in its traditional form.

Sunday 7th June - Trinity 1

8:30 a.m.	Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion Two
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.	Morning Prayer
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 / Jim Reid

7:00 p.m.	Compline

Weekday Readings: Judges 2 - 7; Psalms 11 - 20; Luke 13:1 - 14:35

Sunday 21st June - Trinity 3

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer Two
12 noon Morning Prayer Two
Sunday Readings - Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Matthew 10:24-39
Readers for first Lesson - Colin de Fleury / Maureen Reid
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/Compline
Weekday Readings: Judges 8 - 12; Psalms 21 - 30; Luke 15:1 - 17:19

Sunday 28th June - Trinity 4

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
10:30 a.m. Family Service
12 noon Family Service
Sunday Readings - Matthew 10:24-39
Readers for first Lesson - The Rector
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer/Compline
Weekday Readings: Judges 13 - 18: Psalms 31 - 40; Luke 17:20 - 19:27

During July the main morning service will be in St Patrick's at 11:00 a.m. There will be no service in St John's during July.
There will be no evening service during July.

Sunday 5th July - Trinity 5

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion Two
Sunday Readings - Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Readers for first Lesson - Trevor Peoples
Weekday Readings: 1 Samuel 1:1 - 4:22; Psalms 41 - 50; Luke 19:28 - 20:40

During August the main morning service will be in St John's at 11:00 a.m.
There will be an 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion service in St Patrick's.
There will be no evening service during August.

There will be no Wednesday morning services during July.

A message from our Rector



I hope that you were able to listen, on the Parish Facebook Page, to the daily broadcast that took place between Ascension Day and Pentecost. In all there were eleven, and they will stay on the Facebook page for thirty days, so they will start to disappear in 13th June).

These days of prayer and reflection were about the Holy Spirit and about praying for others; specifically to pray for people whose faith we would like to see strengthened. People that we would like to see encouraged, people that we would love to see in church more often. Now that these specific days of prayer are over, that the Day of Pentecost has passed, it does not mean that we stop praying.

Prayer should be the most constant thing in our lives. Every day, as often as we can, we should pray. Pray for our families, for our friends, for the people we meet during the day, for the people whose houses we pass, for every one. Our prayers do not need to be long, a very simple "God bless ….." is enough, especially if we are praying for a lot of people each day. St Patrick wrote that he prayed a thousand times a day, and in the night almost as often. I am not expecting this much prayer; I mean, after all, he was a saint!

Prayer is massively important. Important to those we pray for as well as to us. Often there is nothing practical that we can do for others, but we can always pray. I have known people on their death beds praying for others, and receiving the comfort that they were still actively doing as much as they could for others. It has been truly humbling to witness this.

We all know people who are ill, either at home or in hospital; people who are suffering the effects of old age; people with worries and concerns. We all know people who need our prayers! So we should be praying for them. Just as Jesus did, just as St Patrick did, just as countless Christians since have done.

We can follow this example by praying for those who are sick and asking for God's healing grace for them. It is not quite the same as what Jesus did, but there again he is God and we are not. Yet it is the best that we can do for some one, to take the time and effort to pray for them, not just the one time but repeatedly until we know that they are well again.

This includes praying at home for the people that are prayed for in Church, and also making a point in adding a name to the prayer list of some one that you know needs prayed for. There are forms at the door on the way in to Church, and the "Prayer Request" box to put them in. PLEASE be sure that the person being prayed for knows that we (the congregation) will be praying for them - being mindful that asking them if they mind that we pray for them in Church may give them a lift and ALSO that not every one wants their health issues prayed for publicly and they may ask that you do not add their name on the prayer list. In this case you can tell them that we will still pray for them but under the name of "Charlie", which we have done many times before, so no one but God will know exactly who we are praying for.

Prayer for others is us, as Christians, exercising the most excellent of all the gifts given by the Holy Spirit, the gift of love, Christian charity and care for others. This is the greatest gift that we have been given and we often forget that it is a gift from the Holy Spirit, the most excellent gift. Having this gift is all the proof that we need that the Holy Spirit has come upon us and is with us. Knowing this, our prayers will be more effective as we pray for those we love and care for. And our prayers are effective! Let us not doubt that for one second. We may not always get what we want - as good parents don't always give their children, or grandchildren, every thing they ask for. We exercise our wisdom and discretion to give our children and grandchildren the things that we know they need rather than just whatever they want. God does the same with us. He wants us to ask, politely and out of love for others; and he wants us to ask believing that he can hear our prayers. But God will then make the necessary decision as to what is best, even if we don't always agree.

When you are praying, take time before hand to give thanks to God for all the good things he has already done for us, and those we love. For families and friendships that we cherish, for the ability to love others, and be loved by them. The good weather (this is written in the beginnings of a few hot days) and the chance to enjoy the wonders of creation and the beauty of nature.

I hope that the good weather continues throughout June, that we get rain at night (when we are all tucked up asleep) and that it is not too hot during the day. That we all remember to use the most appropriate sun protection (be it sun screen or hats).

Every blessing to you all for the days to come. *Mark*

Messy Church
We need some help!

What is Messy Church?

It is a form of worship for families that is activity based, with songs and readings and a Bible Story, and is followed by sharing some food.

Why do we do Messy Church?

This is a ministry to our younger children and their families. Some years ago we had difficulty with keeping Sunday School going week by week and Messy Church was started and built up to once per month. It gets our youngest members involved in learning about God in a family environment.

For the last number of years Messy Church we have run Messy Church on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 10:30 a.m. There is a lot of work that is required to organise, set up and run Messy Church. Those who have helped with this for more than the last decade need help - they are all 12 years older than when they started!

Without help we will have to make changes to how we manage and run our ministry to our children. We need to know, during June, if we have any volunteers to help us - so that we can make plans during July and August for next year (September 2026 - June 2027).

If enough people help it would only be for 2 or 3 times a year. Please contact the Rector (07719 619 286) during June for more information and if you are able to help.

Advanced Notice!

Blessing of Pets Service

3:30 p.m.

Sunday 9th August, 2026

St Patrick's, Whitehead.

Pets are the responsibility of the owners.

The service is in the Church so that the pews can hide the animals from each other - which is handy for those who are shy.



MARY BERRY SAYS HER CHRISTIAN FAITH SUSTAINED HER THROUGH TRAGIC DEATH OF HERE SON

Beloved queen of cakes Dame Mary Berry, now in the 90th year, has spoken movingly about how her Christian faith was deepened and became her anchor following the tragic loss of her 19 year old son, William, more than three decades ago. Grief transformed her spiritually giving her the strength to keep going in the face of heartbreak after William died in a car accident in 1989 during a visit home from Bristol University. He had borrowed his father's car for a short trip to buy newspapers and was accompanied by his sister, Annabel, who survived the crash.
The accident left Mary and her husband, Paul Hunnings, devastated, but it was her faith in the belief of a reunion with her son in the afterlife that saw her through.

"William's death deepened my faith. Without its support, I really would have struggled. Her Christian faith continues to shape how she lives her life and support others in mourning, and she has frequently opened up about the impact of losing William. Speaking to the *Mail Online* last year, Dame Mary urged people to reach out to those who are grieving. "I think I learned when we lost William how important it is to communicate or to talk with people who have lost one of their great family (members) or a friend. And not to walk down the street and cross to the other side of the road, but to go and just say something to get them to talk.

Recalling the day of the accident on *Piers Morgan's Life Stories* in 2014, Dame Mary described the chilling moment when police arrived at her door: "It's very strange but I knew something had happened. He said, I'm afraid to say your son has died and Annabel is in High Wycombe Hospital'. I remember thinking then, 'I just hope Annabel's alright.'"She recalled feeling "very blessed" to still have Annabel and Thomas even though they no longer had William.

Despite the tragedy, Berry has always spoken with gratitude for the years she had with William. Now, with her son Thomas aged 57,

daughter Annabel 55, and five grandchildren, reflects on how the tragedy ultimately drew her family even closer. She has been married to Paul for nearly 60 years, and credits him as her rock through the highs and lows of life. Faith, family and the simple joys of food remain central to her world but she has expressed sadness that families no longer gather at the table as they once did.

More than 35 years after the darkest chapter of her life, she continues to encourage others to reach out, support one another, and hold onto faith in difficult times. "Life is all about sharing"

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Reading about Mary made me think about my mum, I can recall her baking many cakes, buns and sandwiches and bringing them to family, friends and neighbours when they lost a loved one. She would go to see older friends do their hair and bring a cake.

The same goes on in our parish, and we can only pray that the tradition of caring and sharing through cooking and baking keeps going. Sharing our faith in a cake!

We understand and also pray for those who lose their faith when they loss a loved one. We pray that acts of kindness will help them find their way back to the shelter of his wings.

Thank you Mary for sharing your faith and bringing back memories of sharing and caring in our families and community.

Psalm 91 v 4 NIV

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

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 them, 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

19th Anglican Consultative Council to meet in Belfast this Summer

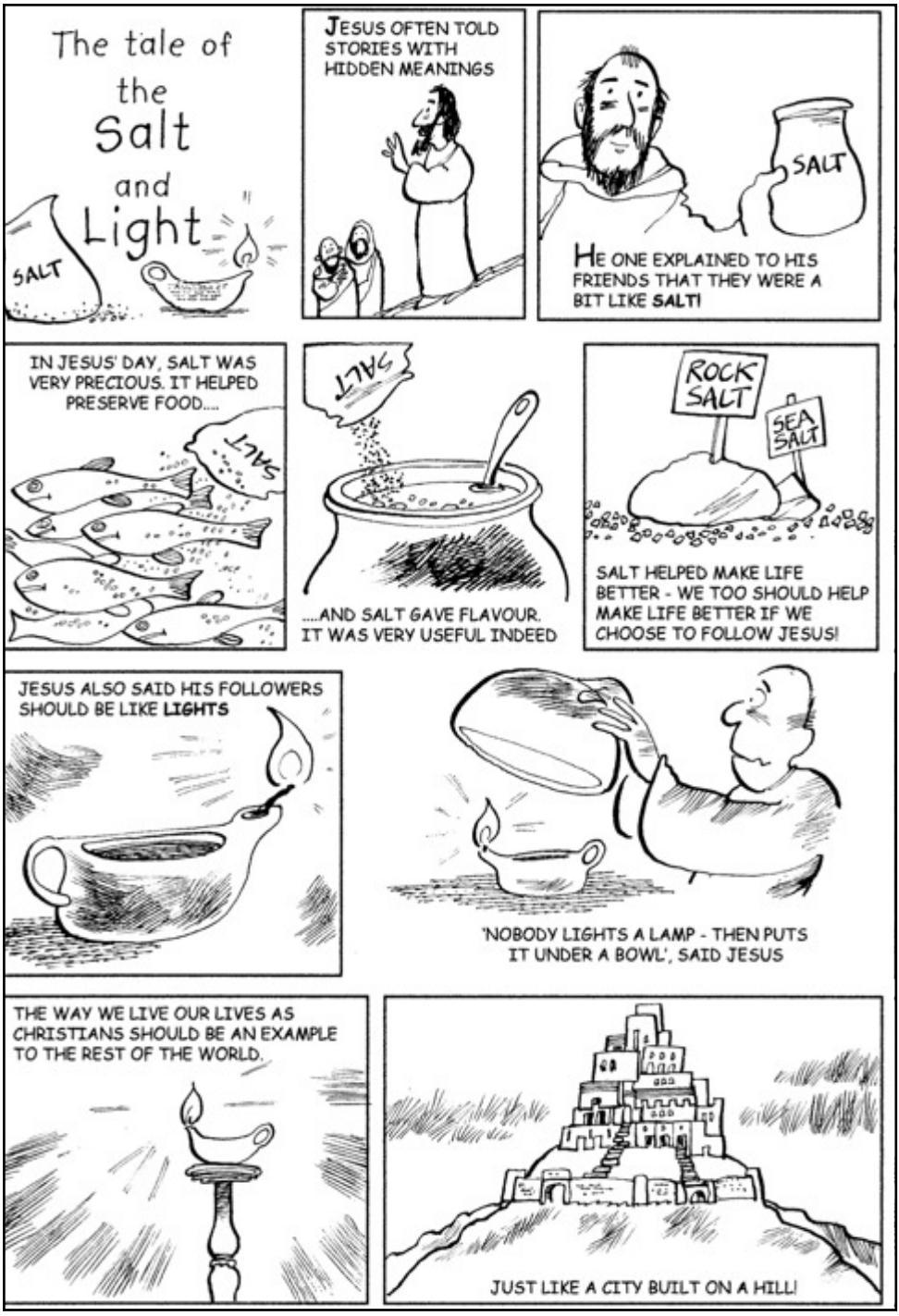
Gathering Anglicans from around the world, the 19th meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC-19) will take place in Belfast from 27th June to 5th July 2026.

Themed 'Called to One Hope' from the letter to the Ephesians, this important international gathering of Anglican bishops, clergy and laity will explore how the Church can share the reconciling love of Christ in a fragmented world.

Supported by the Anglican Communion Office and hosted by the Church of Ireland, ACC-19 will also be the first official Anglican Communion meeting attended by the new Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd and Rt Hon Sarah Mullally DBE.

Meeting every three years, the Anglican Consultative Council is one of four 'Instruments of Communion', alongside the Lambeth Conference, Primates' Meeting, and Archbishop of Canterbury. Every member church is entitled to send up to three representatives, which include both clergy and lay people, as well as bishops. The last ACC met in Ghana, in 2023.




The tale of the Salt and Light
SALT
JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS
SALT
HE ONE EXPLAINED TO HIS FRIENDS THAT THEY WERE A BIT LIKE SALT!
IN JESUS' DAY, SALT WAS VERY PRECIOUS. IT HELPED PRESERVE FOOD....
SALT
SALT
....AND SALT GAVE FLAVOUR. IT WAS VERY USEFUL INDEED
ROCK SALT
SEA SALT
SALT HELPED MAKE LIFE BETTER - WE TOO SHOULD HELP MAKE LIFE BETTER IF WE CHOOSE TO FOLLOW JESUS!
JESUS ALSO SAID HIS FOLLOWERS SHOULD BE LIKE LIGHTS
'NOBODY LIGHTS A LAMP - THEN PUTS IT UNDER A BOWL', SAID JESUS
THE WAY WE LIVE OUR LIVES AS CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.
JUST LIKE A CITY BUILT ON A HILL!

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

A Simple Prayer for our Rector and his Team



Heavenly Father

Summer has arrived and this simple prayer is that Rector Mark and his family have time to enjoy the sunshine, and a new baby.

That all who work behind the scenes also get the opportunity to be in the sun when it comes out between helping keep both churches going.

We give you thanks for all they do and pray for their well being.

Amen

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Which Way to Heaven? Laugh lines - Parish Pump

The evangelist Billy Graham told of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to post a letter before the service that evening, he asked a young boy in the street where the post office was.

When the boy had told him, Dr Graham thanked him and said, "If you'll come to the Baptist Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven."

The boy replied, "How can you do that? You don't even know your way to the post office."

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

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Sudoku

Pencil and rubber to hand, your favourite cuppa or a nice glass of wine and few nibbles.

Little more challenging to get those brain cells working.

Answers page 31

Sunday Evening Praise

Sunday 14th June

Starting at 7:00 p.m.
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.

4th June - Corpus Christi, Giving thanks for Holy Communion From Parish Pump

How do we understand the significance of the Eucharist or Holy Communion? Paul in 1 Corinthians 11: 23-32, points us in three directions.

A Past Commemoration:
The Eucharist *looks back* as we remember the Passover meal Jesus shared with His disciples (Luke 22:14–20). Jesus broke the bread and took the cup to signify that His atoning sacrifice on the Cross delivers us from the bondage of sin and death. As we remember His broken body and shed blood, it becomes personal: Christ died for *me*, suffered for *my* sins that *I* might live. It is truly a *eucharist*, a thanksgiving: *'Do this in remembrance of Me'* (1 Corinthians 11: 24,25).

A Present Communion:
The Eucharist speaks of the communion we enjoy with a living Christ, because our sins are forgiven. Paul encourages us to *look in* at the state of our hearts: *'Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.'* (28). We should also *look around* acknowledging the communion we have with other believers. Holy Communion expresses our unity together: *'Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.'* (11:17). Paul is expressing his concerns here about the divisions in the Corinthian Church.

A Future Certainty:
The Eucharist is also a place where we *look forward* to Christ's return: *'For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.'* (26). It declares that the reign of Christ has already begun, as we look forward to Jesus' return. He will unite earth and heaven under His rule and sin, death and Satan will finally be defeated.

So, when we next take Holy Communion, let's reflect on the past, present and future implications of what this meal means for us.

Christian Faith in Action NI - Belfast City Mission (BCM)

BCM is a charity with its roots in Christianity and particularly Methodism – an expression of faith defined by it's readiness to counteract the injustices of poverty and exclusion in the world – directly inspired by the words and actions of Jesus Christ.

Those teachings have underpinned much of civil society's modern understanding of justice and compassion. We recognize that regardless of whether any one person has a faith of any type, or indeed none, the Christian response to the social issues of our time remains one that is worth pursuing.

As has been the case for 136 years in Belfast and beyond, our work has been underpinned by the Christian message of hope. Throughout that time, countless lives have been changed, either physically, spiritually or in many instances both.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40

Interested in supporting BCM, by spreading the news about their services, donations or volunteering. To find out more go to
www.belfastcentralmission.org/support-our-work/

Letter from St James the Least of All

Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James-the-Least in the county of C- 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 Parish Pump



On the struggle for life in a rectory
The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Ah, the joys of June! At last, I can return to the Rectory without putting on my overcoat before going inside. For the next four months, all windows and doors are left open, in order to let the heat in. If anyone else tells me how lucky I am to live in a 10-bedroom Queen Anne house, I shall have them excommunicated.

You will soon stop complaining about your one-bedroom flat should you ever have to live in a rural rectory; the days of wandering about your home in shirtsleeves will become a distant memory. In my first winter here, I had the central heating on full blast 24 hours a day. The house was almost warm, even if the boilers sounded like the Queen Mary coming into port. But that quarter's gas bill needed a substantial grant from the International Monetary Fund to cover it, so ever since, for six months of the year, I live in the kitchen. Parishioners find it either touching or sad that I sleep with my Labrador. It never occurs to them that I need her for extra heat.

It does mean that evening meetings at the rectory on winter evenings can be un-Christianly satisfying. Watching committee members fighting – with infinite politeness - to get nearest to the one-bar electric fire is highly entertaining. They hold on to their coffee cups less for refreshment, more for a little extra warmth. At least it means that meetings are short.

My predecessor was a model railway enthusiast and so several bedrooms were taken up with a system of such complexity that it made Crewe Junction seem trivial. He also found it helpful to put his teenage son in the turret bedroom, where he could play his drums without anyone else in the house being able to hear a thing.

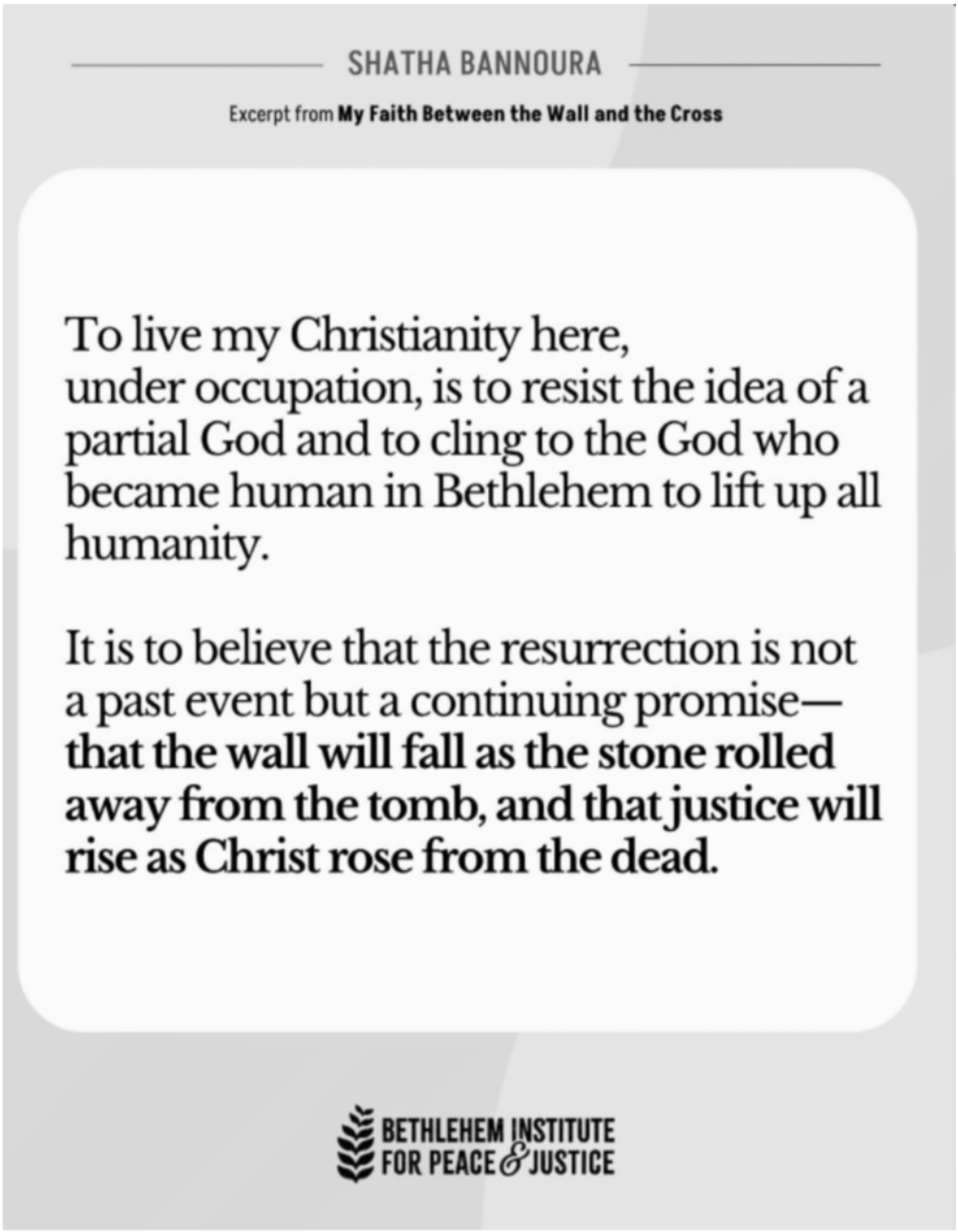
Nowadays, all these extra rooms are filled with cribs and nativity play costumes, Easter gardens and spare choir cassocks. It is remarkable how all these things used to be stored quite satisfactorily in the church vestry until the parish acquired a single priest; now the empty rooms in the rectory have become vital storage space. I so hope my successor has a plethora of children, so that the parishioners have to find alternative accommodation for all the detritus vital to church life.

No, dear boy, cherish your centrally heated, dry, draft proof, mice-free, bat-less, modern-plumbed accommodation. It will not be ever thus.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits–
– PSALM 103:2 NIV



Lord we lift up our Palestinian Christian Brothers and Sisters in prayer

SHATHA BANNOURA

Excerpt from **My Faith Between the Wall and the Cross**

Yes, we Palestinians
carry the cross twice:

The cross of faith and the cross of identity.

Yet we carry it with hope,
because we know the cross is not the end
of the story but the path to resurrection.

And in the face of silent churches, we will remain the voice of the land where God once spoke a word of love that has not been extinguished:

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

BETHLEHEM INSTITUTE FOR PEACE & JUSTICE

Keep them safe from persecution. Help us share in their hope and pray for peace in the Holy Land

Celebrating Fathers



Parish Pump Editor: Canon Hardingham considers Father's Day

'If you want to know how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much they make of the thought of being God's child and having God as their Father.' (J I Packer, *Knowing God*)

This month we celebrate the importance of fathers on Father's Day. This doesn't have a distinctly Christian origin. However, it does provide an opportunity to celebrate God's Fatherhood and what it means for us.

At His baptism, when Jesus came out of the water: *'heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.'* (Matthew 3:16,17). What do we learn about Jesus' relationship with His Father, our relationship with God and the role of fathers?

The Father's presence

When Jesus was baptised, the Father was present in the Holy Spirit. It's the Spirit who enables us to address God as daddy (*'abba'*, Galatians 4:6) in an intimate way. God is present with us and understands our joys and sorrows, fears and trials, how Dads should relate to their children.

The Father's love

The Father described His Son as *'beloved'*; like us, Jesus was the subject of God's unconditional love. Dads should assure their children of their constant, undeserved love.

The Father's pleasure

The Father tells Jesus that He is '*well pleased*' with Him, as He embarked on His public ministry. We need to hear this as well, especially when we feel that we are disappointing God or letting Him down. We should also be aware of the effect of our words spoken on our children. Dads should be using every opportunity to demonstrate their pleasure in their children, especially when things go wrong.

A Prayer for Fathers

Father in Heaven, we pray for our fathers here on earth
For their faithfulness in loving their children and their mother
For their patience when their children annoy them
For their ability to listen and hear their children
For taking time to wipe away tears and comfort their children
For strength to forgive and forgive and forgive
For being their with their children when they are sick or injured
For the time spent with their children to play to read with them
For encouraging their children through words and example
For teaching and discipline on the way
For strength to do one of the most difficult jobs on earth
For children to pray to God your father, for your father
To love and care for him showing your love to him
To check he is ok and be there for him when he needs you
To forgive him when he gets it wrong and he will
And as he gets older to keep him close and care for him until he goes to His father.
Amen.

The Story behind the Hymn
I the Lord of Sea a*nd Sky*

We sang this is Church in May and it was so uplifting, calling me in every chorus to recommit to the Lord. So I decided to find out more about it's history

Hymnist Dan Schutte never thought this tune would become as popular as it is today The lyrics, which describe a Christian answering God's call, are based on Isaiah 6:8 and 1 Samuel 3. We can thank our Catholic Christian brothers for this hymn. Regardless of whether we are Protestants or Catholics Jesus is calling us and we need to respond to God's call. It is a call for service. A call for spreading the word and love of God to the people around us.

No wonder this is a song that young and old have fallen in love with. Surveys have shown that it is the second most loved song in the United Methodist Church, especially among the youth. In a survey (2013) conducted by Songs of Praise named it the 5th most popular hymn in Britain.

The hymn's composer, Dan Schutte, was 31 years old, he was a Catholic Jesuit studying theology in Berkeley when a friend asked him to write a song for an upcoming diaconate ordination Mass. Mr. Schutte told America Magazine, "I sort of had to catch my breath, because he was knocking on my door on Wednesday and I knew the ordination was on Saturday."

He was instructed to make sure that the song contained imagery of the word of God, the light of Christ, and the bread and wine. At this Schutte, who had been suffering through a bad bout of the flu, thought, "Gosh, I don't know what to do with that." The feverish songwriter sat at his desk with guitar in hand and no idea where to begin. That's when he did the only thing he could: he said a prayer. He petitioned the Lord, "God, if I'm going to do this for my friend, you're going to have to help me."

Mr. Schutte said , he turned to the stories of the prophets, like Jeremiah, who asked God to give him the right words to say. Mr. Schutte said "In all those stories, all those people God was calling to be prophets expressed in one way or another their humanness or their self-doubt,".

Feedback from a group of young Jesuit songwriters who popularized folk-influenced liturgical music in the 1970s meant a change in the original chorus of "Here I am, Lord; here I stand, Lord" to "Here I am, Lord; is it I, Lord?". All said and done, it took just 2 days for the hymn we all know and love to be completed. Schutte delivered the song to his friend, still scribbling edits along the way. "At that point," he told American magazine "I really had no sense that the song would be any good, and I was actually very nervous."

Schutte notes that he does not remember much from the ordination, except that people were praising his song by the end. "I couldn't figure it out," Mr. Schutte said. "If only they knew the story of the last two days of my life trying to make this work!

The Hymn

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save

Chorus
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

2. I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

3. I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away

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

Mindfulness in the Bible

In the bible there are many references to the mind, being present in the moment and to how to improve our mental health. These are favourites of mine which have helped me when working with Christian clients who want to bring their faith into their counselling sessions. In all that is going in on in our government and across the world we do need to find some peace of mind.

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Colossians 3:2

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Isaiah 26:3

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Matthew 6:34

Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Psalm 46:10

Be still, and know that I am God.

Philippians 4:13
I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.
John 16:33
I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.
Philippians 4:8
Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Openbible.info/topics/mindfulness)

****

EASY PEANUT BUTTER AND OAT COOKIES

1/2 cup (128 g) unsweetened natural peanut butter

1/4 cup (59 ml) pure maple syrup

1/2 cup + 2 tbsp (50 g) quick oats

Preheat oven to (180°C).
Line a large cookie sheet with parchment paper

Add peanut butter, maple syrup and oats into a large mixing bowl. Stir until Ingredients are fully incorporated. The mixture should resemble a thick cookie dough.

Portion the dough into 1 tbsp pieces and roll between palms until it forms a round ball.

Place it onto your prepared cookie sheet and flatten with a fork until it becomes a round disk (about 1/4 inch thick).

Space cookies about 1/2 inch apart. Bake cookies for about 9-10 min (colour golden).

Let cookies cool completely before removing from tray.



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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: Thank you for all you do.

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

How did you get on?

Lighthouse YARNS



Lighthouse Yarns is a luxury high-end wool shop, housed in the old part of The Bank House, in Whitehead. A treasure trove for anyone who loves Yarn, Knitted goods, Crafting, Sewing & Haberdashery. We offer a wide range of brands - from hip Hand-Dyed, locally spun skeins, to traditional brands... Cashmere, Marino, Recycled, Lambswool... you will find something special and unique for any project. Lighthouse Yarns also stocks a lovely selection of Gifts, Patterns, Accessories and Kids Crafts.

The social power of Crafting and Knitting, and it's ability to bring people together, is something that owner, and keen crafter Louise Williamson holds at the heart of her business. Lighthouse Yarns runs many classes and events. Call in, to find out what we're working on now!

Email enquiries to lighthouseyarns@yahoo.com

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Spirituals
in the
Summer
Performed by
The Abbey Singers
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CATHEDRAL
8th June
at 7:30pm
Admission:
£15 Donation
Director:
Jack Wilson
Accompanist:



We would love to see you.
Why not join us at 10.30am on Sunday

You Are Welcome Here

No matter:

- Where you've come from or are going;
- What you believe or doubt;
- What you are feeling or just not feeling;
- What you have or don't have; and
- No matter whom you love!

CHANGING ATTITUDE IRELAND

Parish Announcements June 2026

The Select Vestry

meets on second Wednesday, 10th June at 7pm
in Boucher room, St Patrick's church

Counters Rota

01/06/2026 Colin de Fleury
08/06/2026 Scotty Heyes
15/06/2026 Valerie Kincaid
22/06/2026 Trevor Peoples
29/06/2026 Sandra Thompson

Refreshments Rota

07/06/2026 Paddy Rogers
14/06/2026 Judith deFleury
21/06/2026 Heather Cupples
28/06/2026 Inez moore

Many thanks to all who have helped provide refreshments from September 2025. A new rota will begin in September 2026.
In July, all refreshment donations will go to 'Brighter Whitehead' and in August all will go to St John's Churchyard fund.
Priscilla
Refreshments coordinator Priscilla Carlisle - Tel 07787561517

Game On Meeting

Meeting in the Library usually second and fourth Wednesday
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 first and third Mondays in the month at 7.30 pm
Dates subject to change .
Meet in the Boucher Room, Parochial Hall
St Patrick's Church.

Book Club

Meets once a month
Contact Paddy Rodgers tel 07720 404071

Wednesday Morning Fellowship

Second Wednesday in the month

Next meeting 10th June in the Boucher Room from 10.45 am.
Starts with refreshments

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

Youth Fellowship Sunday Brunch

Now closed until September 2026 when 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).





...well you cannot fault the efficacy of the new 'Planned Giving' scheme...

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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

FWO & Gift Aid Sec: Sandra Thompson 07912478331

Distributors: C of I Gazette: David Robinson 9338248
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A Note From Janet



A Review of Church Matters

This month's note introduces a review of the magazine. First I am no editor, hence the change of title for this page. I wonder if the content is what the congregations wants to read. It takes at least five days work to put it all together so we should make sure it is good for both church congregations and our community.

I really appreciate when members of the congregations share content with me to include as content. I really appreciate the feedback from a few of you and a more extensive review would be helpful for developing Church Matters. You can help in two ways.

1. More content from you - Thank you for those who have done this.
2. Constructive feedback - simply complete the back page by noting an ✗ or ✓ in each box . Then cut out the page and return to me -

Give to me in church; leave in the yellow folder on desk at the back of St Patricks. In St Johns - give to Rev Mark or someone in the Select Vestry to pass on to me; or take a photo of completed form and send to me by whatsapp 07581031915 or email jem.matthews2@gmail.com.

Local community who read the magazine are welcome to participate in the review. This will help us in delivering what the parish and our wider community wants to read and focusing my searching for content. I will publish the results and possible changes for discussion in the magazine.

According to Rev. Mark and other friends, a church magazine is rare these days, so I want to make sure Church Matters continues to work for all of us.

If one of you would like to take editing over from me, I would be pleased to help in the transition, ensuring a good handover. A fresh perspective is always good, just get in touch with me/Rev. Mark for more information.

Every Blessing and thank you for participating in the review.

Love and Blessings



Feedback on the Magazine

If you are happy reading each section below, put a ✓ in the box.
If you skip reading a section in the magazine, put an × in the box

- ☐ Readings, and service information
- ☐ Rectors letters
- ☐ Information about the wider church world
- ☐ Articles, stories of hope amid tragedy in the world
- ☐ Letters from St James the least of All, Rectory
- ☐ Prayers
- ☐ Poetry
- ☐ Joke fillers
- ☐ Puzzles (suduko or crossword)
- ☐ Comic style bible story
- ☐ Word search
- ☐ Story behind the hymn
- ☐ The recipe
- ☐ Church notices and rotas,
- ☐ What is going on in church
- ☐ What is going on in the community
- ☐ Who is who in the parish
- ☐ Content shared by members of the parish.
- ☐ Information from parish pump
- ☐ Parish announcements
- ☐ A note from Janet (editor)

Your brief overall comment about the "Church Matters" magazine.

Please cut out this page and return it to Church, or give it to someone going to Church. Thank you for your participation.