

GROOMSPORT PARISH CHURCH

# CONTACT

MARCH - APRIL 2022

[GROOMSPORTPARISHCHURCH.ORG](http://GROOMSPORTPARISHCHURCH.ORG)



*And God raised the Lord  
and will also raise  
us by his power.*

1 Corinthians 6:14

## Church Officials



### Rev Duncan Pollock

Rector of Groomsport Parish Church  
028 9146 4476

#### Rector's Hour

There is no Rector's hour at present due to social distancing rules. It will resume as soon as it is safe to do so.

#### Rector's Recess

Whilst our Rector is always available to his congregation at all hours of every day, it is hoped that, where possible, the period between lunchtime Friday and Sunday Services may be void of contact so as to allow him family time, quiet reflection and preparation for the week ahead; emergency requirements and visits excepted.



## From the Rector

I am beginning to understand that I'm not as young as I was. Really understand. The things that I used to take for granted, once upon a time, don't happen either as easily as they once did, or they don't happen at all. Late last year I took out annual membership for Aurora, our local gym. I know I cannot run any longer, but I thought I could work out on the treadmill, and perhaps do some weight training and just tone up my muscles a bit. I thought I might have a bash at some of the great long distance footpaths we have in GB, the

Pennine Way, the West Highland Way, the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path, for example. I wanted to get fit for something like this, and I didn't think it was too ambitious a plan. But ...! In my enthusiasm I overdid it, and somehow I "popped" a disc, and not for the first time I am plagued by intense lower back pain and struggling at times to put one foot in front of another. Will I ever learn?!

I know what's happened, because the same thing happened twenty years ago.

A little piece of disc in my lower back has popped out and is now resting against the nerve that controls my right leg. It is a tiny thing, hardly discernible to the untutored eye on the scans. But there it is, and it is making my life miserable. You will doubtless have your own tales of woe, as to how a piece of your body failed, or was injured in some way, (a hip or a knee, or maybe a cataract), which severely curtailed your everyday life. In my father's case, it was in-growing toe nails.

St Paul, writing to the Corinthians, makes great play of the idea that we are the "Body of Christ". Paul tells the Corinthians that we all have different gifts and different roles to play as members of the Body of Christ – The Church. Just as one part of the human body is no more important than another, so in the Church each member is vital to the health of the whole, vital to the Church's divine mission. When one part of the Body of Christ fails, the whole enterprise is put in jeopardy, just as in the human body: my back is damaged, and now walking is very difficult.

Here in Groomsport, every one of us has a particular gift or ability or talent. Many of you are already using those gifts to enhance what we do in Church; lesson reading, singing, flower arranging, silver

cleaning, money counting, for example. We all have something to give, other than money, to the life of our Church and therefore to the life of the wider Church. Perhaps, sometimes, we are reluctant to put ourselves forward for any of the jobs in the Church; we don't think we're good enough, or we don't want to offend anyone.

The Church cannot operate smoothly without you! If you think you can contribute in any way to our corporate life, do say. Tell me or the Church Wardens and we'll try and find the right place for you and your God given talents within the life of our Parish Church. No-one is too old, too young, too unworthy, too male, too female. If I was to stop and think about how unworthy I am to serve God in my particular way, I'd never get out of bed in the morning. Yet God has called me into the sacred ministry and I strive to serve Him to the best of my ability.

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."

We, here in Groomsport, are part of the Body of Christ, and we are called to play our part in the life of the Church. See you at the General Vestry?!

*Duncan*



## Contact Us

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*Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing you have made  
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent:  
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may obtain of you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*



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**Communities**  
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## Announcements

### The Christmas Appeal (and others!)

Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to send a donation of £850 to the Northern Ireland Hospice. Thank you so much.

We continue to support CMSI through our "Smartie Tube" appeal. We give you a tube of smarties, you eat the sweets and then fill the empty tube with 20p pieces. It's surprising how quickly the tube fills up! Through the "Smartie Tube" Appeal we were able to send £1000 to CMSI last year. And we still collect used stamps for CMSI. The funds raised are not quite as dramatic, but it does generate a steady income flow.

### FWO Envelopes

We are carrying out an audit of Free Will Envelope usage. We are aware that during the height of the pandemic, many people decided to make contributions to the Church through the direct debit scheme or by standing order. However, we are not quite sure whether those who are now giving through the bank still require envelopes. Boxes of FWO envelopes cost around £1.27, so it soon adds up if these envelopes are not being used.

If you have had envelopes in the past and no longer require them, do please let Amanda in the office know. Thank you.

### The General (Easter) Vestry

The Annual General (Easter) Vestry will take place on Sunday 20th March in the Canon Tyney Hall. The meeting will take place after morning worship and is set to begin at 12.15. This is an important meeting; the annual report and accounts will be presented, an account of the work of the outgoing Select Vestry will be given and the Select Vestry for the forthcoming year will be elected.

It is hoped that as many people as possible will attend the meeting. Light refreshments will be served.



The Parish Office  
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BT19 6JR

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028 9127 271311

# Services For March and April

Wed  
**02**  
March

Lent 1

7:30 pm A Service of Communion to mark the beginning of Lent

Sunday  
**06**  
March

Lent 1

8:30 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Service of the Word  
6:00 pm Evening Prayer

Sunday  
**13**  
March

Lent 2

8:30 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Parish Communion  
6:00 pm Compline

Thursday  
**17**  
March

St Patrick's Day

11:00 am Holy Communion

Sunday  
**20**  
March

Lent 3

8:30 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Morning Prayer  
6:00 pm Evening Prayer

Sunday  
**27**  
March

Lent 4  
Mothering Sunday

8:30 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am A Family Service for Mothering Sunday  
6:00 pm Holy Communion

Sunday  
**03**  
April

Lent 5  
Passion Sunday

8:30 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Family Service  
6:00 pm Evening Prayer

Sunday  
**10**  
April

Lent 6  
Palm Sunday

8:30 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Blessing of the Palms  
11:30 am A Service for Palm Sunday at Groomsport Presbyterian  
6:00 pm An Evening Service for Palm Sunday joined by our friends from Groomsport Presbyterian

Monday  
**11**  
April

Monday in  
Holy Week

7:30 am Morning Prayer  
7:30 pm Evening Prayer (sung)

Tuesday  
**12**  
April

Tuesday in  
Holy Week

7:30 am Holy Communion  
7:30 pm Compline

Wed  
**13**  
April

Wednesday in  
Holy Week

7:30 am Morning Prayer  
7:30 pm Evening Prayer (said)

Thursday  
**14**  
April

Maunday Thursday

7:30 am Morning Prayer  
7:30 pm Parish Communion - With the tradition of feet washing and the stripping of the Sanctuary

Friday  
**15**  
April

Good Friday

7:30 am Morning Prayer  
1:30 - A Good Friday Vigil  
3:00 pm

Sunday  
**17**  
April

Easter Day

6:30 am A Sunrise Service (meet at the Halls at 6:15 am, followed by breakfast)  
8:30 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Parish Communion for Easter  
6:00 pm Evening Prayer

Sunday  
**24**  
April

Easter 2  
Low Sunday

8:30 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Morning Prayer  
6:00 pm Holy Communion

Sunday  
**01**  
May

Easter 3

8:30 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Morning Prayer  
4:00 pm A Service of Confirmation, led by our Bishop (there will be no evening service)



## From The Registers

### Holy Rest

Robert 'Wilson' Adams

After a distinguished career in the library service in Counties Tyrone and Fermanagh, Wilson retired early to tend his particular patch of heaven in the Clogher Valley - five acres of rhododendrons and azaleas. His move to Bangor didn't rob him of his gardening skills, nor his desire to find that elusive first edition! After struggling for some time, Wilson died quickly and peacefully at home with his beloved Rosemary alongside him.

Margaret 'Peggy' Smith

Depending where you stand, Peggy was a Lancashire or a Cheshire lass, from Warrington. As a young woman, Peggy spent the war years working on Lancaster bombers. It was during that time she met and fell in love with a Groomsport lad. After the war they moved back to Groomsport, and the village became her much loved home. Peggy was, until quite recently, a spry, feisty much loved member of our village community.

*Our thoughts and prayers go out to Wilson and Peggy's families.  
Our prayer for Wilson and Peggy is that our Lord will grant them  
rest eternal and that his light will shine upon them.*



Sunrise on Easter Sunday

## Spotlight On Maurice Drury



We asked Maurice a few questions, this is what he told us.

### Tell us something about your musical life.

My musical life began 68 years ago at the age of seven. I joined the Choir of Bangor Parish church as a junior chorister following in the footsteps of my brother and sister. I also started piano lessons, but they proved unsuccessful, frequently ending my lesson with sore knuckles. Eventually, a new teacher was found with a different approach and a more enthusiastic pupil. By 11, I was head chorister, occasionally singing solos in anthems. It was a wonderful experience singing 'Zadok the Priest', 'The Heavens are Telling' and many more over the 12 years that I remained in this choir. My voice had broken by the time I was 13; I was now learning Tenor. Harry Grindle was appointed our new organist and choirmaster. He was a significant influence in my musical life. I learned so much from being in the choir and watching him train the choir. He was an excellent musician.

It was necessary to have good piano skills before learning the organ. At the age of 15, I started to have organ tuition on the three manual pipe organ in the Parish Church with Harry Grindle. The organ was always part of everything that we did in the choir, so it was a privilege to play this magnificent instrument. After two years, Harry was appointed to the same role in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. I remember him saying to me at the time that he would like me to continue my tuition with him in the cathedral. Unfortunately, I declined due to my work situation, something I have always regretted.

At 19, I was ready to make my way as a church organist. Up until then, I would have played at occasional services in various churches. My first service was in Groomsport Parish Church back in approximately 1964. I even remember accompanying the choir as they sang 'Lead me Lord'. Lady Merriman was the organist.

### What special events stick in your mind?

Auditioning for an organist post, while stressful, they are clear in my mind. While I have had numerous organist posts, I only ever applied for three and was successful on each occasion. Bearing in mind, in those days, you had numerous applicants. In 1966 I was appointed to be organist and choirmaster in Townsend St Presbyterian Church, Belfast. In 1968 I was appointed to be the organist and choirmaster in

St Nicholas Parish Church, Belfast. Then in 1986, I was selected to be the organist and choirmaster at Bangor Abbey, which I declined. Other organ postings included Bangor Parish, St Gall's Parish, Queens Parade Methodist, and Groomsport Parish from 2008 to 2012.

I was the organist and choirmaster at St Gall's Parish Church in the early eighties. In 1987 the choir gave two performances of John Stainer's 'The Crucifixion', one in Greyabbey Presbyterian Church and the other in St Gall's. Then in 1988, the 35 voice choir took part in the annual Limerick International Choral Festival in St Mary's Cathedral on St Patrick's Day. The next Sunday, the choir led the morning service in Adare Parish church, just outside Limerick. That same year we had a special service in St Gall's when we welcomed the Belfast School of Music String Training

Orchestra and their conductor, Barbara Uprichard, to lead our service and the church choir adding the anthem. I decided to take some time to study for my associate London College of Music Diploma A.L.C.M., which I completed in 1989.

In 1990, while Organist and Master of the Choristers in Bangor Parish, I organised a Sunday Evening series of one-hour organ recitals over July and August. Harry Grindle, Ian Barbour, Edwin Gray, Michael, McCracken and myself were some of the Organists who took part. In 1996 Bangor Parish Choir sang two Sunday services in St Anne's during the summer.

#### **Do you play any other instruments?**

I play just two instruments, the piano and the organ. I have played the piano for 68

#### **What drew you to play the organ?**

I was drawn to the organ simply because it was the dominant instrument involved in the music of the Church. Whether the organist was accompanying, leading the singing or giving a recital, it was a magnificent instrument to hear being played. I remember as a young chorister watching the organist, not only play with his fingers but also his feet. The organ in Bangor Parish had at one time a proper 32-foot pedal stop, which was used mainly at the end of a voluntary or hymn. I remember smiling when this stop was used as the whole organ casing groaned and shook so great was the depth of this pedal stop.

#### **Who are your favourite and least favourite composers?**

I don't have a favourite or a least favourite composer. However, while singing in a

choir to learning to play the organ, I have encountered many composers writing in different styles. Over the years, I have taken them all on board and know that when a composer's name is mentioned, I associate a writing style to that composer. J S Bach, Eric Thiman, Alan Viner, John Rutter, Malcolm Archer are some whose writing both vocally and organ I appreciate, but there are so many others. Music that I play on the organ or present to a choir has to be tuneful, meaningful, pleasing to the ear and inspiring. Generally, I would look for interesting, easy to listen to music. I detest discordant music, sometimes classed as modern music. One such voluntary I had to play for my A.L.C.M. diploma.

*Thank you Maurice for giving us interesting insight of your musical career. We enjoy having you to play for us every Sunday and appreciate everything you do.*



*St Gall's Parish Choir, Christmas 1982 (Maurice on the right)*



*St Gall's Parish Choir, Hollywood Music Festival, May 1983 (Maurice on the right)*



# Tales From The Archives

March - April 2022

To begin, a couple of questions.

First, what links our Parish with the Lord Deputy of Ireland under King James VI and I; and second, what links our Church with the Russian Imperial Army and Czar Nicholas? Surprising questions, aren't they? Can't answer, well read on.

One of our Parish Archives gems is an unassuming little booklet entitled "The Parish Church, Groomsport, County Down. 1842 – 1934" It was written by CD Patterson in 1934 and contains a wealth of historical material and some wonderful old photographs. It is an easy read and is well worth a browse if you have a spare half hour or so.

Among all the fascinating stuff it provides, for me, the most intriguing part of the Patterson history is the list of 268 Subscribers who donated to the then Church Building Fund. The Fund ran from 1930 to 1934, and it helped to pay for the two new Transepts opened and dedicated by the Diocesan Archdeacon in 1932. It is an absorbing and cosmopolitan list. There were subscribers from across the United Kingdom and Ireland; the United States; Canada; South America; Cyprus and local names like the Kinghans, Perceval-Maxwells, Wattersons, Kers of Portavo, the de Lacherois family of Donaghadee, as well as three Col Bishops no less! Other notable subscribers were Sir Walter Smiles MP, who tragically drowned when the

Princess Victoria sank sixty-nine years ago. Also Sir Thomas Dixon, who gave his south Belfast house and demesne to the City, and which still bear his name today.

But there are two named subscribers in particular, who caught my attention, whose appearance on the list was surprising, simply because their circumstances seemed far removed from the quiet shores of a small fishing village on the North Irish coast.

The first name was Colonel The Lord Templemore, of Upton House, Alresford, nine miles NE of Winchester in Hampshire. Arthur Claud Spenser Chichester was the 4th Lord Templemore. He was educated at Harrow and attended Sandhurst. Commissioned into the Royal Fusiliers, he fought in the Boer War and later served as a Major in the Irish Guards during World War 1. He came to the title in 1924, was appointed Lord in Waiting to George V, and was Conservative Chief Whip in the Lords for a while. He married Clare, daughter of Viscount Powerscourt in 1911 and died in 1953.

But Arthur's family history is even more captivating. One of his ancestors was Sir Arthur Chichester, who served as Lord Deputy of Ireland under King James VI and I from 1605 to 1616. From our Irish history of this period, we will know that Chichester oversaw widespread persecution of Roman Catholics and was

a leading figure during the Plantation of Ulster when the native lords lost their lands to wealthy English and Scottish landowners. The family later assumed the title of Marquis of Donegall and was instrumental in Belfast's early development.

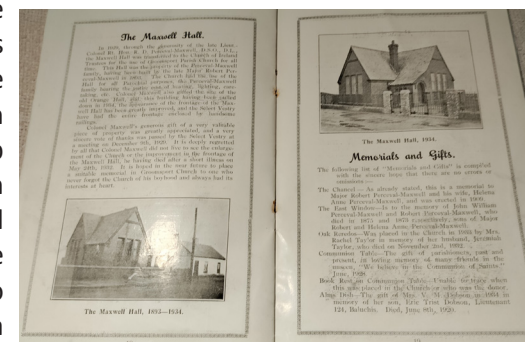
So what led Lord Templemore to donate to our Church Building Fund back in the 1930s? Fact is, we simply don't know. What little evidence there may be, is entirely circumstantial and open to debate. Both Templemore and David Perceval - Maxwell were commissioned officers in Irish Regiments, albeit different ones, during WW1; the latter served initially in the Royal Irish Rifles and subsequently as Lt. Colonel in the Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1918. Could their paths have crossed at some point, whether professionally or socially, in the London party scene, or maybe they shared friendships with other Irish Regimental officers? We don't know, but somehow, somewhere, Arthur Claud Spenser Chichester got to know about Groomsport Parish's building plans and chose to contribute.

The other name that stood out from the long list of Building Fund subscribers was Colonel Peter Malevsky – Malevitch, Late of the First Russian Foot Guards with an address of the Royal Thames Yacht Club in London. Count Malevsky – Malevitch was a former officer in the Imperial Russian Army and served in the elite Preobrazhenskii Regiment. He was also an eminent historian and contributed to a biography of the Russian poet and novelist Alexander Pushkin, published in New York

in 1937. His father was Ambassador of Czar Nicholas II to Japan and Master of the Imperial Court. Therefore, it is quite possible that the young Peter would have been known to and met Nicholas and other members of the Imperial Russian Family. Count Malevsky – Malevitch died in 1974.

Without further research, it would be impossible to establish how and when the Count became aware of Groomsport Parish Church's building plans, and why he had chosen to subscribe financially. His personal circumstances and social connections seem far removed from ours, so why did he get involved? We may never know, but his name is recorded, along with those of Lord Templemore and others. It is a permanent reminder of all those who subscribed to the building of the Transepts, in which we have met and worshipped together as a Parish for the last ninety years. To them, we will be forever grateful.

*PWS*





## God in the Arts



The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at 'Ecce Ancilla Domini' by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. It hangs in the Tate Gallery.

### Behold the handmaid of the Lord

'Ecce Ancilla Domini' (Behold the handmaid of the Lord) is the title of the painting of the Annunciation by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. We hear those words in the Gospel for this feast on 25th March, when Mary responds to Gabriel's message

that she is to be the mother of our Saviour.

It is a scene that has inspired artists throughout the history of Christianity. Over those years, certain traditions emerged: in many paintings, Mary was often shown at prayer, dressed in blue, in a room that was filled with elaborate furnishings of the period, all opening out onto the wider world.

Rossetti's painting of 1850 is very different. He was a founding member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, and as both a poet and a painter, he soon became its recognised leader. But the work of the Brotherhood was not without its critics. When Rossetti's painting was exhibited, it was dismissed as 'absurd, affected, ill-drawn, insipid, crotchety and puerile' because it was such a contrast to the more traditional portrayals of this scene in Luke's Gospel.

Here there is a claustrophobic feel to the painting. Mary and Gabriel fill the tiny, cell-like room. There is a window, but it does not open out to scenery and nature: just a solitary tree. Rossetti called 'Ecce Ancilla Domini' his 'white picture.' The colour dominates the robes of Mary and the angel, the stones of the floor, the paint on the walls and the flowers that Gabriel offers. Blue, Mary's traditional colour, is relegated to the screen behind and the sky outside. Other colours are provided by the yellow flames of Gabriel's feet and the tapestry in the foreground on which Mary has embroidered lilies. These

flowers, like the whiteness, are symbols of purity.

The model for Mary was Christina, his sister, the author of 'In the bleak mid-winter', and in portraying her, Rossetti has captured the adolescent vulnerability of Mary. A small dove linking the two characters is a sign of God's spirit coming to bring new life to this young girl. How does she respond? What is the expression on her face? Does she see the adult world of responsibility and motherhood opening up before her? Is it anxiety or wonder or awe? Or are all of these responses

captured in her expression?

The stillness of the scene, the whiteness of the room – they are like a blank canvas on which God can paint His Gospel, His Good News of life and hope. Just as it opened up a new world for Mary, so the Gospel can open up a new world for all of us. We may respond with anxiety and worry or wonder and awe to that invitation. Or those feelings may be transformed into trust and service like Mary in Luke's Gospel: 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord: let it be with me according to your word.'

## Bishop's Big Bike Ride



Six Days. 83 Stops. 350 Miles. Bishop David will be cycling round the diocese in March to raise funds for the Down and Dromore Lent Appeal. He's supporting two projects in partnership with the Bishops' Appeal, Christian Aid and Tearfund. The Christian Aid project is in Honduras, working with their local partner organisation in eight communities that are particularly vulnerable to climate change.

The Tearfund project is in Jordan, helping mobilise the Anglican church there to work amongst Jordan's poorest communities. The Bishop will arrive in Groomsport, on his bike, on Monday 7th March at approximately 1:10 pm. Can we help by cheering him along? Find out more about this wonderful opportunity to help by visiting <http://www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give/>





On 2 February 2022 in Dromore Cathedral, Mavis Thompson was commissioned as our Diocesan President and Revd Duncan Pollock as Diocesan Chaplain. The MU Diocesan Trustees were also commissioned at the service at which Bishop David gave the address.

MU is a Christian organisation with more than 3.6 million members in 79 countries worldwide. The backbone of the organisation is its worldwide network of grassroots volunteers. Whatever their individual backgrounds, members are united in their commitment to supporting marriage and family life. They give their time to generously help others, whether by running local projects, supporting international campaigns, or fundraising.



Mrs Mavis Thompson and Revd Duncan Pollock

MU is also involved in campaigning and lobbying on a number of worldwide issues such as parental rights, international debt relief and child poverty.

The MU began in Ireland in 1887. Like the Church of Ireland, which embraces Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, the MU operates in two jurisdictions, north and south of the border in all 12 dioceses.

The MU members in All-Ireland represent a wide range of age and interests and membership offers fellowship and prayerful support through regular branch meetings, worship and occasional seminars and conferences.



## Mothers Union



'A Trip Down Memory Lane' was the title of the February talk at our MU on 15 February - and indeed it was just that. Leanne Briggs from North Down Museum provided a wonderful visual display and commentary of 'Old Bangor' and 'Old Groomsport'. Some buildings are still recognisable whilst others have passed to a bygone age. Think of the women bathing in the Bangor pool in their knitted swimsuits. Think of the sheep being walked down the main street of Groomsport, the farmer simply taking the shortest route from one field to another. Fond memories of the Tonic Cinema and Caproni's left many of our ladies blushing and bashful as they recalled the smartly dressed young men who caught their eye. And we could go on! Moreover, we were truly mesmerised by the crowds of people visiting Bangor - the town obviously held much more excitement then than it does now. Leanne informed us that most of the pictures were taken from postcards and photographs which are tucked away in drawers in the Museum - so it is lovely that she is sharing them with us now. Once more the Maxwell hall was packed from door to door, with most of our members plus a few guests and potential members. In a nutshell, our MU is thriving.

Our next meeting will take place on Monday 14 March at 8 pm, when Lesley Moreland, a pastoral assistant in Knock Methodist

Church will relate her experiences of living and working in a community of New Age People in a caravan community outside Cork. This should be another very interesting meeting and everyone even if you have never been to an MU gathering.

### Other dates for your diary:

**Friday 4 March** is the Women's World Day of Prayer which will take place in Ballyholme Presbyterian Church at 7.30 pm, followed by supper. Please support this important event.

**Holy Monday 21 March.** Service in our Church at 7.30 pm. All members and visitors are welcome.

**Monday 4 April.** Festival Service in Bangor Parish Church at 7.30. All members and visitors are welcome.

**Saturday 23 April.** 'Victorian Afternoon Tea' to be held in the Main Hall. This is a fund-raising event for our Church Building Fund. Cost will be £10 per head and full information and tickets will be available mid March.'

Mae

We thought it might be fun to look back, here is an article from the Contact in March 2016.



## A Visit to Perga

Perga was an ancient Greek city in Anatolia, which is now known as Antalya and situated on the Southern coast of Turkey.

In October of 2021, I took a short break to the area and stayed in a little boutique hotel in Antalya. Interestingly, the hotel was just across the road from a newly discovered, ancient necropolis that dates back 2500 years. So far, over 1000 tombs have been unearthed; some of those tombs hold 400 bodies. The necropolis was discovered by accident whilst building a community area. Now it is being transformed into a living museum with glass walkways all round.

When I visited Perga itself, the thing that struck me was the size of the city ruins. The apostles, Paul and Barnabas, preached to a large number of people in the city stadium, strengthening new believers and appointing Church Elders.

Under the stadium's terraces were the 'shops', the little rooms where traders would be selling their goods. Close by was the gymnasium and a pool. 75% of Perga has still to be excavated, yet the exposed parts still took me a whole day to explore.



In the photograph above you can see the archways that were the shops, where the traders would sell their produce.

There were rows and rows of marble columns and thousands of artifacts laid out on the ground.

The amphitheatre was a hard climb to get to the top, but worth it for the view. The acoustics were such that you could hear talking reverberating around the whole theatre. Could you imagine sitting in the amphitheatre with 1000s of people all shouting and cheering?

The day I visited Perga the temperature was close to 30 Celsius, and that was October when you would expect things to be cooler and more breezy. Before my visit, I thought that Perga would just

The amphitheatre



be 'some old ruins' you walk round in an hour or two, how wrong I was! Regardless of me being too warm, a little hungry and jaded afterwards, it was a day I will remember.

*Amanda*



The pool



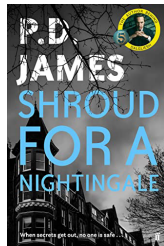
## Book Corner

May I wish you all a Happy New Year! Let us hope and pray that this year will see us emerging finally into a time when Covid, while something we have to live with and be aware of, will not dominate our thinking and behaviour to the extent that it has.

Regular readers of this column will be aware that I have long been a great fan of P.D. James and of course, the recent dramatisation of three of her novels was of great interest for me. It inspired me to reread those novels, something that I have done regularly since they were written. What I particularly like about her writing is its quality; her language, vocabulary and understanding of a great many topics gives her writing a depth, vision and sense of place often lacking in many crime novels. She understands the importance of place, weather, architecture, art, music, the Anglican Church and interior design, so one has a very clear image of everywhere depicted in her books. Added to that, Ms James has a wonderful ability to create three-dimensional characters. Her novels are peopled with characters not simply good and bad but well rounded and flawed, making second-guessing 'who done it?' particularly tricky. Furthermore, her early career as a civil servant, working particularly with forensic science in the police department and later in the criminal policy department, give her a

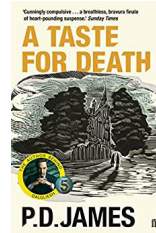
realistic insight into the complexities of policing. I accept that her novels are "dated" to some extent, but only because they are all set in the relatively recent past. We do not say that of Conan Doyle, Agatha Christy or Dorothy L. Sayers. I have decided to commit several copies of her books to my E readers and pass the the ones recently dramatised on to the Book Stall.

### *Shroud for a Nightingale* P D James



The nightingale of the title refers to the name given to student nurses at the Nightingale training college. During a routine demonstration of feeding by intra gastric tube, the "patient" in fact, one of the nurses dies, obviously from some toxic substance in the feed administered to her. Believed to be suicide, suspicions are raised when a second nurse dies. Complexities in the lives of many of those working in the hospital and school mean that identifying a potential suspect is fraught with difficulties. As with many classic murder mysteries, not least those of Ms Christie, we are faced with a closed community where suspicion rests on multiple people. The dénouement is as surprising as one might expect.

### *A Taste for Death* P D James



This is one of my favourite Dagliesh novels. A truly shocking opening chapter plunges the reader into an intriguing story involving the death of a senior politician from a very privileged background and, in the same room a tramp. The characters in this story are particularly interesting, a small, neglected schoolboy, befriended by an elderly lady who meets him regularly as she visits the church where she does the flowers. The Berowne family of the politician, his imperious mother, his self-centred and pregnant widow. Her brother something of a 'ne'er do well', A gynaecologist who who runs an exclusive private hospital and Various members of the household, all of whom have interesting back stories. Unravelling the mystery involves more characters amongst Dalgliesh's team and once again, social class plays an important role. There is friction, not just amongst the family of the deceased but also among Dalgliesh's officers. Littered with red herrings, aggrieved individuals and murky pasts, I think that this is a great story as well as an excellent tale of detection.

### *Stoner* John Williams

Stoner is a 1965 American novel, describing the life of John Stoner. Born in describing

1891 on a small, impoverished farm, his future is apparently mapped out in that he will grow up to assist his parents toil in the unforgiving soil of their farm. A county agent suggests that Agricultural College would be a good start for him but during his first year the required course in English literature lights a fire in his imagination and without telling his parents, he switches courses.

His life on the surface is not happy. The novel is beautifully written and love shines throughout; not only romantic love, but Stoner's love of language and literature. He marries the wrong woman, a fragile creature with serious emotional problems and cannot participate in a proper relationship. Although rather a 'loner', Stoner is kindly and does his best but his wife drains him and increasingly he works from the university. Initially he has a good relationship with his daughter but his wife exerts control over her and draws them apart. He finds a wonderful relationship later in life with a younger member of staff.

This all sounds grim but prospective readers should not be put off. There are moments of real joy for Stoner and the writing alone makes it worth reading. There is much that I have omitted in this review, but I write it from hospital and cannot remember which other books I had intended to include. I will try to make up for it next time! Enjoy your reading and keep safe,

Carol

# Letter Of Thanks



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13<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2022.

To: Revd. Duncan Pollock,  
Groomsport Parish Church,  
Northern Ireland.

REF: EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE.

Dear Revrand Duncan,

Let me take this opportunity to thank you and the members of Groomsport Parish Church for the Christmas gift you blessed us with. I can't begin to express what your gift means to us. The 400 pounds is most definitely helpful and will go to extremely good use. I was really touched by your care and concern towards us. I would like to tell you that we always wanted to have something that would help us sustain some of the project within OMA Foundation. Through your generosity, you have made it able for us to start the goat project. We are building up their house and we will be able to get one or two goats for a start. It's been a difficult time as we all know it, but am so touched by your kindness, knowing we have the support of a family of Groomsport standing with us in prayer and financially.

Thank you once again. May the good Lord continue to richly Bless you

Yours Sincerely,

Chris Dima,  
C.E.O / CO - FOUNDER  
OMA FOUNDATION.

# Thoughts of a Blow In...

Well, we've come through another long dark, dreary January, and whatever the weather flings at us in the next few months, the season is rolling inexorably towards spring. Those slightly lighter mornings and that definite stretch in the evenings are all positive signs that winter won't be here forever! When I'm looking out of my window in the late afternoons, instead of darkness and an empty pavement, it's so nice to see people enjoying the last of the daylight on a seaside walk.

Due to blasts of wind, rain, and occasional hail, plus the ongoing outward circumstances, many people are sticking fairly close to home, understandably. So the odd interaction at a weekly class or a regular group meeting feels like a splash of much-needed sunshine in our lives. It's also lovely to accidentally meet people when out and about. During a walk down the road the other day, I met a friend's grown-up daughter who was telling me all about a recent trip to Venice she and her mum had taken together. She showed me a spectacular video of a beautiful Venetian

sunset, which made me feel as though I was there. Talk about vicarious travelling! Unexpected visits can also be a source of fun. Last Sunday afternoon, there was a knock at the door accompanied by a good deal of giggling which gave away the fact that next door's children had come to call. When I got outside, I could see they were introducing their brand new puppy (only brought home the day before) to all the neighbours. They are absolutely thrilled with her, and from now on, she'll be showered with love and have plenty of playmates! Amongst the celebrations, Leo was also clutching three swimming medals he'd been awarded that day. He was almost as proud of them as he was of the new pup!

Although spring is on its way, it still feels very much like winter, so I thought these lovely words by Barbara Winkler imbued the promise of the season to come - and not just for the gardeners amongst us.

*Cynthia*

*Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ...  
a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light,  
a bud straining to unfurl.  
And the anticipation nurtures our dream.*



# Walking For Softies

Mountstewart National Trust was the venue for our January walk. It was a glorious sunny but crisp Saturday morning. Everyone was in high spirits as we set off round the lake. Bulbs were pushing up through the autumn leaves and new buds were showing on the trees. The swans were swimming gracefully on the lake. It felt good to be alive.



We made a detour and visited the Red Squirrel Hide. There we learnt that the dominance of the Grey Squirrel has reduced the native Red Squirrel species. Rosemary then informed us that Pine Martens had been introduced in the Clogher Valley and they appeared to be having a positive effect on the Red Squirrel as the greys were disappearing.



If you are interested in joining us, please contact Zandra 0796 8401386 or Ian 0796 8401387.

After completing the walk around the lake, we went into the cafe for our customary coffee and scones. The craic was great and Pixie enjoyed a rest on Robert's knee after her big walk.



*Spring Came Walking (by Annette Wynne)*

*Spring came walking through the grass;  
I heard her happy footsteps pass;  
I went outside and took her hand,  
And followed her across the land.  
And everywhere we took our way,  
The flowers called a holiday.*



## GOOD FRUIT OR BAD FRUIT?

Jesus said:

"No good tree does not produce bad fruit,  
nor does a bad tree produce good fruit. Each  
tree is known by its own fruit..."

...Good people bring good things out of the good  
they stored in their hearts. But evil people bring evil  
things out of the evil they stored in their hearts.  
People speak the things that are in their hearts."

- Luke 6: 43-45

## Mouse Makes

During LENT ask God to help you through His Holy Spirit to turn your hate to **love**, your  
impatience to **patience** and your unkindness to **kindness**, so we can be like a good tree that  
grows good fruit.



READ  
Luke  
6: 27-45

How did Jesus  
say we should  
treat others?

Look up  
Luke 6:31

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

Do

to everyone  
who asks you  
Luke 6:30

for those who  
are cruel to you

Luke 6:28

those who  
curse you  
Luke 6:28

to those that  
hate you  
Luke 6:27

and you will be  
forgiven

Luke 6:37

Find these words from **Luke 6** in the word search above.

GOOD • BAD • FRUIT • TREE • HEART • EVIL • EACH • OWN • STORED  
PRODUCE • BRING • SPEAK • REPENT • FORGIVE • LOVE • BLESS • PRAY • GIVE

## Bible Bite

### A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Luke 15:11-32

Jesus told stories about a lost sheep and a  
lost coin, then one about a man with two  
sons. The younger son said to his father...

I want my share of what  
I'll inherit from you now!



So the father divided his  
property between his sons.

The younger son took  
his money and went  
to another country.



Then his money ran out  
and there was a famine.



The only job he could  
get was feeding pigs.

He was so hungry he would  
have eaten their food.



Then he came to his senses -

I'll go to my father,  
say sorry, and ask him  
for a job as a workman!



He set off for home.

His father saw him  
coming, ran to him  
and hugged him.



Father, I am so sorry.  
I am not good enough  
to be your son..



But his father  
sent servants  
to get clothes  
for his son  
and prepare  
a feast  
to celebrate  
his return.

The older son came back from  
work and heard the noise.



Your brother has returned  
and your father is having a feast

The older son was  
so angry he wouldn't  
go into the house..

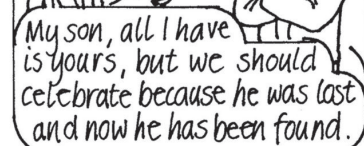


so his father  
came out to see him.

For years I've slaved for you  
and you've given me nothing.  
He returns after wasting  
your money and you give  
him a feast!



My son, all I have  
is yours, but we should  
celebrate because he was lost  
and now he has been found.



The background of the entire page is filled with numerous arrows of various sizes and orientations. Each arrow has a different fill pattern, including solid black, white, cross-hatching, diagonal stripes, and circles. All arrows point towards the central text.

# DRAW NEAR TO GOD

and He will draw near to you

*James 4:8*

**CONTACT**

[groomsportparishchurch.org](http://groomsportparishchurch.org)