

CONTACT



October 2018

Give us this Day our
daily bread

Matt 6:11

www.groomsportparishchurch.org



Parish Officials

The Rector	Revd Duncan Pollock	028 9146 4476
The Rector's Warden	Helen Parkinson	028 9147 9984
The People's Warden	Hester Kelly	028 9146 3541
R Glebe Warden	Billy McAnnenev	07812 042833
P Glebe Warden	Tony Anderson	07803 282200
Treasurer	Wesley Quinn	028 9145 6472
Secretary to SV	Heather Pentland	07834 771075
Gift Aid Secretary	Ian Sloan	028 9145 7092
Sunday School	Maggie Townsley & Helen Carter	07748 208649
Verger/Caretaker	Susan Moore	028 9185 7509
Organist	Stuart Tanner	07411 178230
Parish Office	Elaine Lester	028 9127 1311 07791 569432

Administrative enquiries

Contact: Elaine 028 9127 1311 or gpcoffice@btinternet.com

Church Hall bookings

Contact: David McKnight 028 9127 3130 or
linden.lodge@btopenworld.com

For Hall problems

Contact: Walter (028 9145 1768) or Tony (07803 282200)

Rector's Hour

Please note that the Rector will be available in the Vestry office on Tuesdays from 6.00pm – 7.00pm, for short meetings to sign passports, driving licence documents etc., or to arrange a lengthier meeting for another time.

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 saw my first Christmas advert on TV yesterday. At tea time, just in time for all the three and four year olds in the country to be leaping up and down, "Mum! Can I mum, mum, can I, I

want that, mum!!" And I hear of youngsters already compiling their lists for "Santa". Of course, I could, and normally would, get all harrumphy and grumpy old man about it. As Kim Lenihan said about Christmas on Sunday morning, "It seems to get earlier and earlier every year!"

Well this year, I have some empathy for those waiting for Christmas with huge excitement and expectation. I feel like a young lad waiting for Santa to drop down the chimney and bring me my new train set. You'll have guessed that I'm thinking about the day we get our Church back. 15 October, not long now, and like a Christmas present train set, we'll have to do a little bit of preparation and setting up before we can use it properly. 28 October, DV, is the great day when we hold our first service in our refurbished Church building.

Christmas is a fraught time for parents: have we done the right thing? I know they wanted that toy, but this one is just as good isn't it? When do we tell them that Uncle John's coming – you know they think he's "stinky"? Turkey, beef or goose this year? John doesn't like Turkey. Can we afford it? Well I'm having the same kind of feelings and doubts about people's reaction to the work we've undertaken on our lovely building. Will people like the lights? Can we live with not having a "proper" organ? Is the new boiler making too much noise? And what if they walk in and ask "Where did all the money go? I can't see much difference."

Like Christmas expectations, none of these questions can be answered until the day, and until we've lived with the results of the refurbishment for a little while. But before we get to the first day back I want to express my confidence in what has been done. I want you to know that it will be wonderful. I want you accept that a huge amount of money has been spent wisely and with great thought. And most of all I want people to know that the work has been undertaken with and in prayer. None of what we have been doing has been done on a whim, or as a kind of vanity project. The work had to be done and I believe that it has been done well.

There will be a time for formal "thank you's", especially at our "Service of Re-dedication and Thanksgiving". But I want to put on record, now, before we take the Church back from the builders, just how hard the Select Vestry has worked, on making sure that the work we have undertaken has been done to your satisfaction. Over the past six months, hardly a week has gone by when the Select Vestry has not had to think about, pray about the work on the building. Hardly a week has gone by when the Select Vestry has had to make adjustments in the Halls so that the Halls would be available for other users, yet be ready for worship. And Select Vestry meetings, routine as well as the many extraordinary meetings we have had to convene, have been dominated by discussions over the refurbishment. This has all been done with a wonderful sense of fellowship and a desire to get it right for now, for future generations and most of all for God's glory.

I hope you will be as excited as I am when the great day comes and our present for the present and the future will be unveiled in all its glory.

Duncan

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our needs before we ask, and ignorance in asking; have compassion on our weakness, and give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and in our blindness we cannot ask; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.



Church Services October

Sunday 7 October – Harvest Thanksgiving

Welcome Team: Kate Murray and Joan Haddick

Reader: Joan Haddick

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	A Family Service for Harvest (with Holy Baptism)*
6.00pm	Evening Prayer (sung)
* Coffee after 10.30am service in Church Hall. All welcome! Hosts Carol Walters, Joan Haddick, Marian Cinnamon and Elaine Lester.	

Sunday 14 October – Trinity 20

Welcome Team: Kate Murray and Pauline Harrison

Reader: Dorothy Anne Crawford

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Parish Communion
7.00pm	We join our friends in Groomsport Presbyterian Church for their Harvest Thanksgiving.

Sunday 21 October – Trinity 21

Welcome Team: Ian and Zandra Sloan

Reader: Colin Crozier

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Service of the Word
6.00pm	Evening Prayer (sung)

Sunday 28 October – The Fifth Sunday before Advent

Welcome Team: Ian and Zandra Sloan

Reader: Norma Parsley

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Morning Prayer
6.00pm	Holy Communion

Sunday 4 November – The Fourth Sunday before Advent

Welcome Team: Trevor and Jenny Craythorne

Reader: Mae Burke

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	A Family Service*
6.00pm	The Village Service and Act of Remembrance at Groomsport War Memorial
6.00pm	Service of the Word – Cockle Island Boat Club Annual Service

* Coffee after 10.30am service in Church Hall. All welcome! Hosts Kate Murray, June Walker and Helen Hall.

Note:

The Office of Compline is said every Tuesday at 7.30pm

Holy Communion is celebrated every Thursday at 11.00am

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Wednesday of the month at 10.30am in the Chapel at Mt Stewart House.

Please note the Church Hall is open every day for private prayer and meditation.

Births, Deaths, Baptisms Marriages & Announcements Holy Rest

Holy Matrimony

Jonathan Little and Tanya Cheeseman

Jonathan is the son of long time Groomsport resident, Heather Little. Tanya will be recognised as one of the faces of Hughes Insurance TV ads. We wish them well in their new life.

Holy Rest

14 September – Albert Kirk of Windrush Groomsport

Dear Albert and his late wife Joan used to sit at the back of the left hand transept in Church. Since Joan's passing Albert has been more or less housebound. He died peacefully in his sleep at the Ulster Hospital. Our thoughts are with his sons Philip and Colin and the wider family.

Announcements

Christmas Carols Groomsport

It seems ridiculous to think about Christmas in September, but we would like to be putting together a group of willing volunteers to sing at Christmas. In years past we always relied upon our hardworking choir, but for all sorts of reasons we don't have a Choir at the moment. So a plea! If you would like to join a band of enthusiastic and willing volunteers to sing Carols at our Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols this year, do let the Rector know. Previous experience is not necessary, but a sense of humour is essential!

Advance Notice

Annual Shopping Trip to Newbridge Silver Outlet and Kildare Village Outlet - Saturday 2 February 2019

This event is designed for parishioners, villagers, family and friends and seats are allocated on a first come first served basis.

The bus has been booked with McAvoy's (toilet on board) and the annual shopping trip will take place on Saturday 2 February 2018.

Further details later in the year.

Heather Pentland

Magazine Sponsorship

Many thanks for all those who have given and continue to give to the magazine we are so very grateful.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE MAGAZINE IS 17TH OF EACH MONTH. THANK YOU

taranm@hotmail.co.uk or gpcoffice@btinternet.com or

zandrasloan@hotmail.com

or via any of the Parish Officials.

Tara Brown



CONTACT



Walking for Softies

A big thank you to Ken for leading last month's walk along the Strangford Dyke in Newtownards, which was followed by delicious scones and coffee at the Cloud Nine cafe. Everyone enjoyed it and the craic was great.

Our next walk is on Saturday 27 October at Antrim Castle Gardens, followed by refreshments in the Garden



Coffee Shop. Meet in the Castle car park at 10am. This will be an easy, level stroll on gravel paths. It shouldn't prove difficult for anyone, regardless of ability or fitness. So if you haven't yet tried your hand (or is it foot?) at walking with us, why not give it a go this month? Or if you prefer, simply join us in the cafe afterwards about 11am for refreshments. You will enjoy yourself.

If you are intending to go or need a lift, please let us know.

Ian and Zandra 028 91457092

COOKING CLUB



The cooking club started again in September when Lee made a celebration Brownie. It was delicious! And so easy to make! We welcomed 2 new ladies too. Please come along if you like good company, good food and a good laugh. Third Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Church Hall Kitchen.

Elaine

A Day Of Prayer



Vestry Notes September 2018

All gardening work around the Rectory has been completed. The lighting in the stained-glass window in the Hall has been fixed.

Ian Jones' grand-daughter, who was married in the church recently, was delighted to see the new Preachers book, donated in memory of her grandfather.

Wesley reported an increase in the last few months of Parishioners donating to the Church Building Fund both by monthly direct debit and one-off payments. It is hoped that some more Parishioners may consider donating when they see the completed Church.

The scaffolding around the church is due to be removed during the week.

Agreement was reached on the Church internal lighting.

HLF has authorised the Vestry to purchase new panel screens for the Canon Tyney Hall.

Phoenix Gas and NI Water have been contacted about the drain problems caused during their work earlier this year and will work

together to resolve it.

Guided tours of the church will be advertised in September and will begin in November.

Duncan informed the Vestry again that we have been so fortunate to have had East Down Construction as our contractors, as they have worked so well with us and have done us so many favours.

Plans are well in hand for our Rededication Service and Lunch on Advent Sunday. The 2018 Paschal candle will be used as our "logo."

Barry was thanked for the incredible amount of work he has done behind the scenes as our Project Manager.

GDPR will be at the top of the agenda at the next Vestry meeting.

It was agreed that once again we should send a Christmas card to each household in the Parish

Faith has been organising the Prayer Day on 4 September. This will be led by the Bishop

Planned Events 2018



NOV
03 Book Fair

DEC
02 Rededication Service

DEC
08 Christmas Fair

The following are the Planned Events so far for 2019

FEB
02 Kildare Shopping Trip

FEB
16 Ladies Breakfast

MAR
05 Pancake Party

MAR
15 Bangor Grammar Orchestra

You will notice La Treeno Italiano musical night has been ommited as this will now not happen

ALL proceeds from the above events will contribute to the Renovation Project.



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The National Lottery[®]
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Hall Usage - October

Sunday		
Every Sunday	10.30am	Sunday School Contact: Maggie Townsley & Helen Carter Mob. 07748 208649
Monday		
1st Monday of the month	7.30pm	Select Vestry Meeting Contact: Heather Pentland Mob. 07834 771075
2nd & 4th Mondays of the month	7.30pm	Chattering Needles Chattering Needles is a craft group whose interests include knitting, crochet, cross stitch card making etc. If you want to learn come along. £2 includes supper. For more info please contact me. Jenny 07748580541
3rd Monday of the month	8.00pm	Mothers Union (Maxwell Hall) Contact: Mae Burke Mob. 07810 440492
Tuesday		
2nd Tuesday of the month	8.00pm	Groomsport & District Gardening Club Contact: Yvonne McIlmail Tel: 02891 469420 E. y.mcilmail@sky.com
Every Tuesday	10.15am	Tai Chi for Health 10.15am - 11.15am Contact: Janet Wilson Tel: 028 91077948 Mob: 07703360385 Beginners
Wednesday		
Every Wednesday	9.30am	You can with Ann Motivation & Exercise class Contact: Ann Parker Mob. 07854 787121
Every Wednesday	10.30am	Keep Fit Exercise Class Contact: Ann Parker Mob. 07854 787121
Every Wednesday	2.00pm	Scrabble Contact: Elaine Lester Mob. 07791 569432 E. elliewag57@yahoo.com
Every Wednesday	3pm-4pm	Tai Chi For Health Contact: Janet Wilson Tel: 028 91077948 Mob: 07703360385 Improvers

Every Wednesday	5.30pm	You can with Ann Motivation & Exercise class Contact: Ann Parker Mob. 07854 787121
Every Wednesday	6.30pm	Keep Fit Exercise Class Contact: Ann Parker Mob. 07854 787121
Every Wednesday	7.30pm	Bible Study (Avril Morley Room)
3rd Wednesday of the month	7.30pm	Cookery Club Contact: Heather Magill E. mag16ill@hotmail.co.uk
Thursday		
Every Thursday	2.00pm	Evergreens Open to all over fifty year olds and new members always welcome. Contact: Valerie Boyd Mob. 02891465103
Every Thursday	2pm- 5pm	Groomsport Parish Art Class Continues to meet on Thursday afternoons. All welcome. Further information Stuart Tanner: 07411178230 or Carol Barbosa: 02891456971
Every Thursday except 1st of the month	7.30pm	Table Tennis Club This is a game for everyone whatever your age so please join us. Contact: John Hand Tel. 028 9146 8061 Mob. 07540 375785
Every Thursday	7.30pm	Chess Club Further information Mark Seidman: 028 91467950 mark@patientendurance.co.uk
Saturday		
4th Saturday of the month	10.00am	Walking for Softies Venues vary. Meeting at 10.00am at chosen location. Contact: Ian and Zandra Sloan Tel. 028 91457092

Book Stall for October

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood



In a dystopian world this is a chilling example of how damaging attempts to put right the errors of society can become. Set in the United States in a post nuclear era, a theocratic and totalitarian state reduces the status of women who are known to be fertile, to “handmaids”

for childless Elite couples. They are not permitted to read, befriend others, go out except in pairs or speak to any men except the man to whom they are allocated. Before the war prostitution, pornography and other ills of society were rampant and a new society is created where women are subjugated and life is based on a very literal interpretation of the Bible.

June, our heroine, is paired with Fred, husband of Serena Joy and so becomes “Offred”. Offred’s role is to produce a child for the childless couple in the way that Bilbah became with child on behalf of the childless Rachel in Genesis 30 vs 1-3. This passage is indeed quoted by Margaret Atwood at the beginning of the novel. A ritual coupling occurs every month until a child is conceived. Any attempt to avoid this results in execution or evacuation to the radiated world outside Gilead. Although this will sound very grim it is brilliantly written, witty and extremely perceptive of human nature. Not everyone’s choice admittedly, but a rewarding read in my opinion. Some of you may remember the recent television adaptation of the book but I would warn those interested that the second series is not part of the book but created to advance the story line.

Elizabeth is Missing by Emma Healey

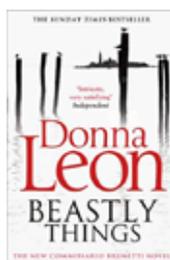
Elizabeth is Missing by Emma Healey. If you read this, I am sure you will find, as I did, that it is deeply poignant, funny, compelling



and intriguing. Maud, who is our storyteller is lovable and has dementia. Told, it seems to me, very convincingly from her perspective, we hear, in fragments of her concern for her friend, Elizabeth, who she cannot find.

Gradually we come to realise that, despite her apparently random and confused thoughts, Maud may be right, Elizabeth IS missing. We are dealing, amongst other things with an unusual detective story. This book was rightly popular when it came out, if you have not read it I urge you to try it, I doubt you will regret it.

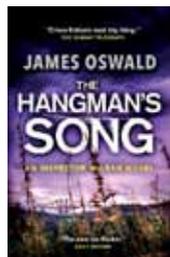
Beastly Things by Donna Leon



Beastly Things by Donna Leon. I had not read a Donna Leon book before this one, but thought that I would try a new crime writer for me. A detective story set enchantingly in Venice, with an unusual plot, it does not disappoint. Commisario Brunetti is the police officer charged

with identifying a body found floating in a canal. The emerging horror of the story is intermingled with Brunetti’s delightful home life, a little reminiscent of a Maigret story. A tremendous tale for any fan of the detective story.

The Hangman's Song by James Oswald



The Hangman’s Song by James Oswald. I started to read this for the curious reason that I discovered a distant family connection with James Oswald who is described in many reviews as “The new Ian Rankin”. The story centres

around Detective Inspector Tony McLean that classic invention, loved of crime writers from Colin Dexter onwards, of the maverick cop, who won't let go of a theory, despite pressure from his superior officers. What everyone clearly believes is a suicide, then two suicides; McLean believes that they are not what they seem. I thoroughly enjoyed this story, which is number three in a longer series of Tony McLean stories. So much so that despite being all too aware of the many detective conventions that James Oswald employs, during the summer I read five other books in the series! They are often gruesome but peopled, particularly among the police, with characters with whom one can become really engaged.

Finally a reminder that November 3rd is the date of this year's Book Fair, please put it in your diary and bring family and friends, I hope it will be as fun and rewarding as ever. I have now a great many books in store which I am hoping will go during the fair. Although the uptake of books has increased significantly during the time that our services have been held in the hall, so too have the contributions! I would ask that you leave

any donations of books beside the book case please and not on the shelves. Often I find random books in the wrong place. I do try to keep all the books in alphabetical order by author's name in order to help you find what you are looking for. That is not the case with the religious books on the top of the bookcase, the children's section at the end of the bookcase lower shelf or the "New releases" which are those recently reviewed in these articles.

I am always grateful for contributions but please ask if you want to donate a great many – there is a limit to available space sadly. I would also ask that you do not, as people have done in the past, bring donations on the morning of the fair! There simply isn't time to allocate them to their appropriate table.

Thank you again for your interest and contribution to the Book Stall, it is greatly appreciated. Happy reading, I hope you find something to interest you here.

Carol

The following have all appeared in church magazines so thank God for church people with typing skills.



- Next weekend's Fasting & Prayer Conference in Whitby includes all meals.
 - Sunday morning sermon: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'. Sunday evening sermon: 'Searching for Jesus.'
 - Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
 - For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
 - At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.
 - Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled.
- Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
 - Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
 - The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
 - Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.
 - The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
 - Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 pm. Please use the back door.

Thoughts of a Blow In...

Well, what a marvellous summer it has been weather-wise. June and July were positively Mediterranean, even if August did become much more 'normal' and how we would it expect it to be. That is, unpredictable with plenty of rain!

Of course, now we are into September and the children are back at school, the weather has (generally) become more even and sunny again. It can be such a lovely month and often better than our actual summer, but we have been exceptionally lucky with our summer months this year, so more sunshine and fair days is just a pleasant bonus.

During the first week of term, as many schools were on half days, the little ones next door were at a loose end and regularly at my door wanting to be distracted for at least a few minutes. One afternoon, I had them all in my living room, crafting away with various quickly thought-up projects. Although Emma's idea seemed to mainly consist of accidentally spilling as many beads as possible onto the floor.

Every time she picked up a bead, at least ten of its fellow crashed off the table. This gave Zoe terrible giggles and I couldn't help but laugh too, so we had to reassure Emma (in between more beads falling on the floor) that we weren't laughing at her really, it was just the situation we couldn't help but find funny.

Eventually, they all had something to take home to show Mummy, or actually sooner than that, as she came looking for them after a while, reckoning my home was the likeliest place they had disappeared to!

One thing to look forward to this autumn is returning to our newly refurbished church building, although the church hall has made a very welcoming temporary home for us all. It is lovely to see the scaffolding finally removed and the outside of our lovely church looking as good as new.

When thinking of a poem about this time of year, these lovely words by Helen Hunt Jackson seemed to encapsulate my thoughts on the month of September.

Cynthia



*“By all these lovely tokens
September days are here,
With summer’s best of weather
And autumn’s best of cheer.”*

Prayer Room

Here are some of the thoughts from the "Visitors' Book"

Lord, teach us to listen and thus to learn:

Teach us to look and thus to see:

Teach us to love and thus to speak.

What a blessing to have this time of peace in a troubled world, Time to reflect and trust in God.

At the end of my first hour the words "Let go and let God" have come into my mind. It is a lesson I need to learn. I thank God for this time of reflection and beg forgiveness that I don't practice it as often as I could



Thank you for this quiet space for us to reflect....We need to take time every day to talk and pray for each other and resolve to love, not find fault.

Amen

Carol



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