

CONTACT

*All good gifts
around us, are sent
from heaven above:
then thank
the Lord*



From the Pulpit

During the interregnum, a number of ministers are leading our services. In this issue we share a little about Reverend Faith Cully, who you all know, and Reverend Tim Wright.



"I am going to South America," I told the visiting preacher, who declared he would take me on the next plane to Africa or was it India?

Many years after working in Belfast and Edinburgh I did indeed end up in Hospital Manquehue in the South of Chile. During my second term in Chile, I changed from nursing to pastoral work in Santiago, the capital.

A Planned year's theological training in Bristol became three and I was not to return to Chile.

I was ordained to the Diaconate in 1988, serving in Filton and Fishponds, Bristol. In 1994 the Church of England admitted women to the priesthood and I became one of the "Bristol 32", the first female priests in England.

During all the hype and media interest a television station paid for me to travel to Argentina, where I appeared on the same programme as Fidel Castro's daughter who had escaped from Cuba (perhaps I should have got her autograph)!

I served in Southwell Diocese, Nottingham before semi retirement in South Devon, finally coming back to live in Northern Ireland where I found home in the Parish Church.

With a "Permission to officiate" I was able to assist our Rector, Duncan on numerous occasions and share in special festivals and moments in our history. I was the first woman to officiate in the Parish. It is a privilege to minister during the interregnum.

Faith



It's my pleasure to have been asked to lead public worship some of the Sunday's during the vacancy. Karen and I have had our house in Groomsport for nine years and it's home. When Bishop David suggested that I might be able to help I was happy to.

In March I began working as Ministry Director of the Soldier's and Aviator's Scripture Readers Association (www.sasra.org.uk). SASRA is a long established home mission agency working alongside military chaplains, 'behind the wire' on

Army and RAF Units. I also Chair the Church of Ireland Council of Mission and am on the Council of the Intercontinental Church Society (www.ics-uk.org).

Prior to that I was Dean of Kildare and Incumbent of the Kildare and Newbridge Group of Parishes in the Dioceses of Meath and Kildare. Before that I was an RAF Chaplain for twenty years. My last role was a Deputy Chaplain in Chief, based in High Wycombe and Honorary Chaplain to HM the Queen.

Karen and I have three grown up sons, two small dogs and are looking forward to getting to know you better over the coming months.

In Kildare our parish motto for 2022 was Romans 15:13. 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' May this be true of Groomsport Parish as we journey with God through this vacancy.

Tim

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September & October

Trinity 12

4th September

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

Trinity 13

11th September

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

Trinity 14

18th September

8:30 am Holy Communion
10:30 am Service of the Word
6:00 pm Mothers' Union

Trinity 15

25th September

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

Trinity 16 - Harvest

2nd October

8:30 am Holy Communion
10:30 am Family Service
6:00 pm Harvest Service joined by our friends from the Presbyterian Church and Cockle Island Boat Club

Trinity 17

9th October

8:30 am Holy Communion
10:30 am Parish Communion
7:00 pm We join the Presbyterian Church for a Harvest Service

Trinity 18

16th October

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

Fifth Sunday before Advent

23rd October

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

Fourth Sunday before Advent

30th October

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

All Souls

2nd November

7:30 pm Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Tuesdays 7:30 pm - Compline
Thursdays 11:00 am - Holy Communion
10:30 am on the first Wednesday every month -
Holy Communion is celebrated in the Chapel at Mount Stewart.

Vestry Minutes

The August meeting was chaired by the Area Dean, Canon Simon Doogan who has been invited by the Bishop, to chair meetings of our Select Vestry during the vacancy.

The meeting was attended by two Diocesan visitors – Alison Adams from Banbridge and Dean Henry Hull who are members of the Permanent Commission on Parochial vacancies, which visits every vacant parish. They had a free and very open and positive discussion with the Vestry about the Church and went away more than satisfied about the viability of Groomsport Parish for a new incumbent. The matter of the Rectory was discussed, and it was confirmed that we are not currently able to appoint a new minister until we have a new Rectory. However, Dorothy was able to reassure everyone that the Rectory is sale agreed and things are progressing well. The Commissioners went away to report back to the full Commission, and in turn the Diocesan Council who will speak with Bishop David, who knows our Parish very well. In addition Bishop David has invited Rev Colin Taylor to ensure continuity of all our services.

Gas prices are up again, and we have received another donation from Ashley Medical Centre.

Some organisations are putting heat on too early so it was agreed the Wardens would write to them as organisations

begin to reopen after the enforced Covid closure.

The original date stone has been mounted in the Church. The kitchen has been deep cleaned.

It was agreed that nothing should change regarding mask wearing and using shot glasses for Holy Communion. The policy will be reviewed monthly.

The Rector's Warden reported that numbers at services had continued to be healthy and a good relationship had been built up with visiting ministers.

We have been asked by the Presbyterians to take on Christian Aid, but they will continue to provide volunteers. William was thanked for a successful family fun day. The first fund raising meeting since Covid will happen at the end of August. Zandra and Ian will host a Quiz in October. Maureen will meet with the Ulster Scots organisation to discuss their plans.

Sunday morning Coffee mornings will resume on the first Sunday in September with a new rota.

Kate will contact Andrew Brannigan in Church House about training for the Safeguarding Team.

The importance of faith and prayer were emphasised in our search for a new Rector.

Solar Panels

On 30th June 2022 the process by which 36 solar panels were installed on the roof of the Canon Tyney Hall was completed. The installation of storage batteries will take place in September. This project was initiated in November 2021 and the installation means that the Parish Halls are now self-sufficient in electricity. In addition, any surplus energy will be sold to the national grid. Equally as important as reducing the cost of our power usage is the contribution we now make to reducing the Parish's carbon footprint and to energy conservation in the interests of the entire village community.

Our outlay on this project was more than halved by being awarded grants from the National Lottery Community Fund and the Benefact Trust (formerly the All Churches Trust), both of which we have acknowledged and to which we are most grateful. The installation was carried out by Solarfix NI. Ltd. The Company has been most supportive in follow-up matters and liaising with Power NI Renewables and NIE.

Barry



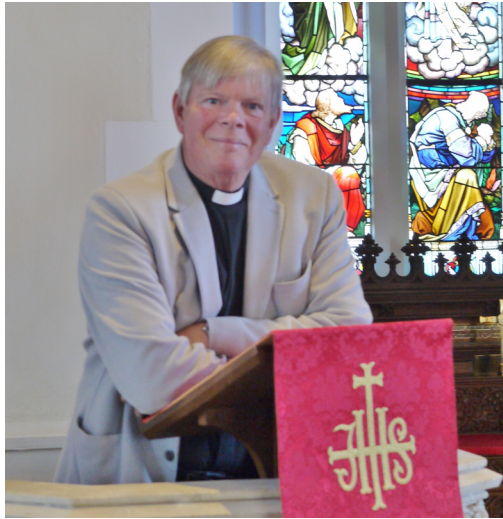
The solar panels on the Canon Tyney Hall

The Retirement of Rev Duncan Pollock

The Service

It was the day of Duncan's final service in Groomsport Parish Church – the day of his retirement. His emotions will have been very mixed, after twenty-one years of ministry with us. During this time, he demonstrated so clearly a passion and commitment to his calling as he threw his heart and soul into the life and work of the parish and its people. As a congregation, we are happy that Duncan will now have more time to enjoy life in a different way, sad that he is leaving us, reflective as we recall his positive witness, including personal memories, and of course, uncertainty about the future. The Church was packed to capacity. Duncan's wife Janice and son Billy were in attendance, providing support on this bitter-sweet day. Guests included Rev Paul Dalzell and his wife Catherine and Bishop David McClay and his wife Hilary.

As has been the case since lockdown, the service was being streamed to a much wider congregation, many of whom had sent in messages of goodwill. We know that there are people in England, Canada, Australia, and Uganda who follow our services on a regular basis. The floral display at the Altar was primrose yellow and black to represent the colours of the Gloucestershire Regiment in which Duncan proudly served for several years before entering the Ministry. Thank you, Pat, for creating such a beautiful display. Jubilate, our little choral group provided special music for the service.



When he entered the pulpit for the final time, Duncan colourfully described the day, over twenty-one years ago, when Peter Osborough, the Senior Trustee brought him to the village and the church. It was cold with a fierce gale blowing, the kerbstones were painted red, white, and blue and there were flags fluttering like rags in every direction. The front door of the church was secured with a bungee rubber. Despite this, as he entered the church, Duncan described experiencing a deep sense of peace within it and knew he had 'come home'. The selection process went extremely well, and the rest is history. We will always be grateful that Duncan made the decision to move over from England with Janice and their young son Billy and spend the remainder of his Ministry in our Parish.

Duncan's final sermon, profound as always, was interspersed with autobiographical reflections of significant and life-changing

Sunday 26th June 2022

incidents. He reminded us that the service was taking place during the season of St Peter's Tide - St Peter's Day falling on 29th June – and the day thirty-nine years ago when he was ordained by Archbishop Robert Runcie in Canterbury Cathedral. As the great hymn of St Patrick 'I bind onto my myself to-day', resounded throughout the Cathedral, and Duncan walked up the nave, he spoke of the fear which gripped him, but he knew he had been called by God to serve him as a minister of the gospel, and was reassured by God's words.

From the pulpit we were reminded of two great men in scripture with whom Duncan empathised. Jeremiah, a prophet of the Old Testament, experienced the kind of fear which Duncan had experienced on the day of his ordination. Jeremiah who complained to God at having to go to the kings of the time and inform them that what they were doing was all wrong. Jeremiah was frustrated and questioned God as to why these guilty people seemed to flourish and his words were all in vain. Then there was the Centurion, a soldier who agonised about his role when overseeing his men carrying out executions - was it peacekeeper, executioner, bodyguard to Pilate? As a former soldier, Duncan movingly spoke of the dread and pressure in Belfast and South Armagh during the worst times of the 'troubles' in the 70's and 80's, when he and his colleagues were being shot at and bombed, and yet not permitted to retaliate. When the Centurion realises that he has been part of a state-sanctioned

murder of God's Son, an innocent man, he is utterly ashamed of his calling and of his country. From the bitter experience of both Jeremiah and the Centurion, Duncan reminded us that humankind cut off from God is lost. The plea from the pulpit was to give ourselves over to a loving God in humility. Humankind is a spiritual being. Our only hope is to kneel before our Lord in humility and repentance, and to recognise that power, politics, and prestige are ephemeral. If we give ourselves over to God, how much better our lives will become.

The special message which our Rector passed on to us in his final sermon, was to care and to love, not to worry about what other people think but above all to 'to keep our side of the street clean'. Duncan's closing words were those from 'Through all the Changing Scenes of Life' which read:

*O make but trial of His love
Experience will decide
How blessed are they, and only they,
Who in His truth confide.*

Bishop David then paid a warm tribute to Duncan. He thanked him for his Ministry, his preaching, his pastoral care and spoke of many stories which people related to him, of lives being touched by Duncan. He thanked Janice for standing by Duncan throughout the years of his Ministry, providing more support than people recognise. Bishop David said he observed in Duncan a man of great personal faith in Jesus – a man who communicated in his

preaching a deep care for others. He taught his people much about hope, endurance, new beginnings. He acknowledged that like all of us Duncan had his good times and bad times. But through this we have all learned much, and that what we are and have, is because of the goodness of God.

Our Bishop then prayed for Duncan, and his ministry beyond retirement, including his appointment as Diocese Chaplain for the Mother's Union. He prayed for good health and happiness for Duncan in this new chapter of his life where he will be able to spend more time with family, friends and explore new interests.



At the end of the Service Duncan presented the Church with a beautifully carved wooden cross which he had specially commissioned from a local master craftsman, Philip Steele. The cross will sit on the Holy Table, and it will be a loving reminder of the many years of dedicated service and ministry which Duncan has given Groomsport Parish Church.

The Farewell Party

Those who know Duncan will be aware that he does not like a fuss being made of him or being complimented. When he got wind that the Vestry Secretary was planning a 'do' in his honour, he would have none of it. He expressed his wish as 'tea and biscuits in the Church Halls'. Well, he got his wish in one aspect, the 'do' did take place in the Church Halls, but not quite in the style which he had requested.

The congregation made their way down to the Halls after the service, followed a short time later by Duncan and the Church Wardens. On entering the Canon Tyney Hall, he was faced with tables which were adorned in Primrose Yellow and Black, the colours of Duncan's former Regiment, and a room full of people looking forward to their three-course meal but not sure what would follow.



Following the delicious spread, a special cake was presented. With nothing left to chance, the icing was crafted with depictions of Duncan's life and interests – including a motif of Arsenal Football Club! After the ritual of cutting the cake we all faced an afternoon filled with tributes and some surprises.

Whilst a considerable number of parishioners participated in specific aspects of the event, no one, I repeat no one, except Heather Pentland, our Vestry Secretary, knew exactly what was ahead. She had spent months of research, consulting with Duncan's family and friends in order to put together an afternoon which unveiled the life story and illustrated the many layers of Duncan. It was planned with military precision. In many respects it was a 'This is your Life' afternoon. From boyhood through to university, Sandhurst, officer, rector – the vignette's kept coming. She had organised an event which was informative, with entertaining cameos, and honest, emotional tributes. There was laughter but also a few tears. Our sincere thanks go to Heather, assisted by Helen, for putting together such a professionally executed event.

Appropriately, the speeches commenced with the interesting account of Duncan's appointment to our Parish. Peter Osborough, the Senior Trustee described how he 'found' and brought Duncan to Groomsport. We heard about how he received a call from a young ex-soldier, now rector in a church north of Southampton who was married to a nurse from Northern Ireland. Peter invited him over and told us how star struck Duncan was with our lovely church. Equally the trustees did not need any persuading that Duncan was 'our man'. Thank you, Peter.

This was followed by Mae Burke, the Rector's Church Warden who described the Duncan she got to know so well. She spoke of his passion, humanity, and conviction for his work, and of his influence which stretches well beyond the boundary of our parish. She also spoke of his amazing achievements as custodian of the Church Estate, including extensive work to the church including a new roof, heating system and organ. Likewise, the Church Halls with the most recent addition of solar panels. All these improvements were accomplished with generous donations from the congregation and support through grants. Duncan has left our church in a superb physical and financial condition. Leaving this aside, Mae spoke of the impact of Duncan's ministry and the positive impact which it has had. Sermons were topical yet spiritually sound, challenging and always with a lesson. Not forgetting the humour which was never far away. In illustrating the humour Mae described some of the fun times and the laughter which she

shared with Duncan – his lightning sense of fun and snappy retorts. She finished by saying what a joy and privilege it was to serve as his Church Warden and wished him every blessing. He had served his country and his Lord with all his energy, his heart and soul and now richly deserved time with Janice with a life filled with new plans and experiences.

Heather then shared some of her research with us. Family life from childhood, through to school, university and Sandhurst was illustrated with a gallery of photographs shown on the large TV screen. We learned that Duncan's first posting after Sandhurst was a four month tour in Northern Ireland. At the tender age of twenty he was awarded the Queen's Gallantry medal. Some years later he was awarded an MBE for Services in Bosnia.

Never one to shy away from the bad times as well as the good times, Duncan in response spoke of his own mental health issues in the past and how he came through them with the support of his friends, some of whom are not with us anymore, and a military charity. He said he felt a new sense of holiness within our worship and an increased professionalism in all our activities. This included a gentle shift towards technology and the recording and streaming of services which was a godsend during the period of lockdown. Appreciation was extended to our administrator, Amanda McWhinney who has helped our church take this leap in a new direction. Most of all Duncan thanked Janice for her total support and commitment throughout his

his ministry, despite having her own health challenges. He also spoke of his pride in Billy whose graduation ceremony he and Janice would be attending in the following week. Billy gained a good medical degree and has been head-hunted by a leading pharmaceutical company and joined its workforce as a virologist.



The love and respect with which Duncan is held was in evidence by the extent of generous donations made and the gifts which were then presented to him. These included a watch for both Duncan and Janice, a Limited Edition Plate from 1974 to recognise his time with the Glosters, travel vouchers and theatre tickets to name but some. A very special book of tributes from family, friends, and individuals whose lives have been touched by Duncan's ministry and love had also been created for him to peruse in the privacy of his home.

A fitting end to this part of the proceedings was the musical tribute by Jubilate who sang the beautiful – 'Irish Blessing' and when the words 'until we meet again, may the Lord hold you in the palm of his hand', were sung, there were more than a few tears in the room.



Perhaps two of the biggest surprises for everyone in the gathering, but especially Duncan, was when the big TV screen on the wall lit up with Alistair his younger brother. He introduced us to aspects of Duncan's life before we in Groomsport got to know him – the positive influence of his mother on his life of service was one of the key messages. This was followed by another face on the screen, Malcolm Nurick, known to everyone as Bear, Duncan's friend and fellow officer from army days. Bear on the other hand, shared stories of a different kind, funny but no doubt tongue-in-cheek.

Some light-hearted music followed with the People's Warden and his friend Trevor, both dressed to kill, and impersonating the Wurzels, a west-country folk group, in a song composed by Bert's wife Maggie.

On a serious note, Bert then paid a final tribute to Duncan. Like Peter, Bert was one of the first people to welcome Duncan

when he first came to Northern Ireland all those years ago. He spoke of the strength of Duncan's moral and spiritual leadership, of his capacity for pastoral work within the parish and beyond. He made special mention of Duncan's dedication in visiting hospitals, care homes and the comfort which he gave many at difficult and sad periods in their lives. Bert added that our gratitude will never be sufficient for how Duncan has led us as a parish through the years, even during the pandemic when he constantly thought of creative ways to keep the congregation together. Bert spoke on behalf of us all when he finished by stating that the Hall was resounding with respect, admiration and most of all, love, for our Rector.

Duncan then closed the event with a special prayer and the Grace.

It is a well-known saying that people never know what they have lost until it is gone. Dear Duncan, we certainly do know what we have lost – a uniquely caring, spiritual, funny, compassionate man – sent from God into our village and our lives. We have been so blessed. Thank you from the very bottom of our hearts.

Mae Burke



Book Stall

Since the last article I have spent some time transferring books from the store to the shelves which now house many fresh titles. There are also a significant number of new thrillers, which continue to be a very popular genre on these shelves. I hope you can find something to enjoy.

I am delighted to have received a book review from Ian Sloan. Unfortunately there will not be a copy of the book, as is usual, on the shelves but Ian has explained where it can be read. I live in hope that there will be more to come, I do appreciate that not everyone enjoys my taste in literature!

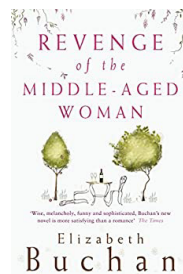
Rain on the Wind Walter Macken

Amongst friends in my reading group are several who were dismayed to know that I had never read, or even heard of Walter Macken. They remedied that by giving me a copy of this book for our church book stall so I was honour bound, to read it! It is beautifully written, tragic, poignant and revealing about the life lived by fishing communities in the west of Ireland.

I loved Mico, the big, simple, loving, kind hearted young man at the heart of this tale. Surrounded by his fisherman father and grandfather and a mother who clearly favours his good looking and highly intelligent brother; made deeply self-conscious about a large, disfiguring birthmark on his face and always outshone by his arrogant brother, he nevertheless retains a simple dignity and nobility in his treatment of others. His teacher, "Pa" despairs of being able to teach him much but still cares about the person he is.

His grandfather, Gran, teaches him as a child how to manage a boat, read the weather and catch fish and he can't wait to leave school and join him, for this is one lesson he learns well. I have to confess that this is just a genre that I do not really enjoy although I would not have stopped reading this gentle, sad, Irish story. The joy for me was in the ending! I dare not say more.

Revenge of the Middle-Aged Woman Elizabeth Buchan



I don't think that I need to explain the genre to which this book belongs, the title says it all! However, I do not believe that it should be dismissed as "Chick Lit", this is a well written and intelligent exploration of how one woman deals with the humiliation of being passed over for a younger model. For Rose, apparently happily married for twenty-five years, not only has her husband Nathan decided that he wants to leave her for Minty, but Minty is/was a friend and work colleague.

They all work for the same publishing group and Minty is Rose's assistant; that too is about to change as the editor decides, simultaneously, that the book review pages for which Rose is responsible, need a fresh look and in one sweep, Rose is removed from her role and replaced by.... Minty. Initially hoping that their marriage was retrievable, Rose now realises that she has nothing left with which to fight. The answer she discovers is simply to live well despite all. This is an enjoyable look at one aspect of human relationships.

The Maid Nita Prose



Described as a gripping and heart-warming whodunnit this is quite an unusual story. Molly is a maid in a very smart hotel. She lives alone since her grandmother, who brought her up, died, but she misses her desperately and lives her life by the standards taught her by her grandmother.

Molly is a strict observer of rules and regulations, it becomes clear, early in the book that she is on the autistic spectrum, taking literally the manager's dictums such as returning every room she services to 'perfection'. However, when she finds the body of a regular guest at the hotel she is without the rules and guidelines for a situation and is obliged to think on her feet. How she responds and the consequences of that behaviour form the plot of the book. Sadly, she is taken advantage of by others in the hotel, both staff and guests but she is not without friends. An intriguing book which many will enjoy.

Tomorrow Graham Swift

I have read and enjoyed many books by Graham Swift, about this, I would be more cautious. The entire book is the internal thinking of Paula, as she lies awake beside her husband of twenty-five years, while her teenage twins Nick and Kate are also sleeping in nearby rooms. Paula is reflecting on the following day when she and Mike have agreed to explain a

significant part of their family history to their children. As the night slowly passes Paula reflects on the preceding years before their children were born. She reflects in terms of a conversation with her children, speaking directly to them. However she is speaking of things in a way which no parent would ever express to their children. Further, the explanation itself is a long time coming and the reader, progressing through the book will wonder what exactly this vital piece of information is. There is a stable happy family, beautifully depicted without sentimentality, but the next day may change all that and we wonder what on earth can be going to happen. When the reader finally does discover, it is perfectly possible that he or she may think that the whole disclosure has been given massive over-importance.....or not. I leave it for those of you who read this short novel to decide!



My Antonia Willa Cather

Review is by Ian Sloan

This American author may be a new name to you. Yet in her day she was highly, winning numerous international literary awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for her 1922 World War 1 novel "One of Ours". Her book "My Antonia" (1918) has been compared with Thomas Hardy, in its intimate depiction of a changing rural community, in her case, the untamed prairies of Nebraska of the 1880s and the farming communities who settled there. Her novel is based on the memories of a "Bohemian" immigrant from Eastern Europe who had been a childhood friend. Cather turns her recollections into the

story of Antonia Shimerda, beginning with the Shimerdas' arrival in Nebraska and miserable first years on the land, the girl's longing for learning, her father's suicide, her experiences as a "hired girl", in the nascent prairie town of Black Hawk. The story is vividly depicted with Antonia's friendships with other immigrant girls, her romantic entanglement with the deceitful Larry Donovan, subsequent mothering of an "illegitimate" child, and her eventual destiny as the mother of a large immigrant family on their thriving farm.

I found the novel very human in its depiction of the hardships faced by the newly arrived families. The interplay of different cultures, nationalities, languages and religions all play their part in this

moving account of those early years of the American Dream, that period of the new nation's history which has since become romanticised and idealised, untarnished by the hard realities. It is a gentle, empathetic, loving, beautifully written tale, of good people and their hard but ultimately successful, struggle against a landscape of endless skies and windswept prairies. This novel is not on our Parish bookshelf but can be borrowed from Bangor Library. I would recommend you do so.

Thank you to those who continue to contribute to our funds by using the book shelves, it really is appreciated. Who knows we may even manage a book fair later this year!

Carol

Thank you to everyone who supported and still are supporting me, Joan and the family over our recent bereavement. The cards and messages were all very much appreciated. The funeral was uplifting, so again thanks for attending and for the live streaming. The Mothers' Union did us proud with the refreshemnts. A big thank you. Faith

When Life Gives You Lemons...

Having decided at the last minute to visit Scotland, we toured around. While we were staying on the John O'Groats Caravan Site we decided to visit the Castle of Mey, which was the late Queen Mother's only Scottish Residence.

The Castle is in a remote and exposed spot and had beautiful views of the area.

On entering the Castle, we were met with her famous blue raincoat and a pair of size 5 Wellingtons. Upstairs the guide showed us various rooms, which included thread bare carpets and an old TV which she rented.

The Queen did come for dinner every August while she was cruising on the Royal Yacht Britannia. On one occasion the Queen Mother sent a telegram requesting lemons as they were running short. The nearest shop is 10 miles away.

There was a beautiful silver and white Norman Hartnell dress on display with a pair of shoes, complete with 3inch heels. There is a photograph of the Queen Mother wearing them while dancing, aged over 80 years.

The Castle gardens were beautiful, where I noticed the slugs had visited and eaten the Brussel Sprouts!

I could say more, but wouldn't want to spoil things for anyone who might like to visit this fascinating place.

A final comment. It is a small world. One evening while Trevor was waiting for me, he ended up talking to a man, who recognised his accent. After further discussion, it transpired the stranger had a padre friend, who just happened to be our Duncan!

Jenny Craythorne



Trip to South West Turkey

For our honeymoon we were invited to stay with my sister in law and family, who live in a little Turkish mountain village called Uzumlu, located close to the coastal resorts of Oludeniz, Fethiye and Calis. This is an area that is rich in history and a joy to explore!



Cadianda, an ancient city, located in the mountains near Uzumlu, is just 10 minutes away from their home. I braved the climb to see this breathtaking area and will never regret the effort it took to get around!

We went to Fethiye, a local working town situated on the Mediterranean coast, which has a long harbour, lined with a great selection of cafes and restaurants, perfect to take a leisurely stroll along, day or night. We stopped for a lovely coffee and a slice of cake at one of the local cafes. Fethiye also has a lively and colourful Old Town with shops, restaurants and bars. We had a wander through and stopped for an ice cold Efes, the local Turkish beer.

One thing that is a must to visit in Fethiye, is the Lycian Rock Tombs, which are only a short walk from the centre of town. These impressive tombs were built by the ancient Lycians in 4th century BC. The rock tombs are carved into the cliff face, the largest and most important tomb of which is the Tomb of Amyntas, which can be seen from Fethiye. You can climb the steps up to the tomb for a great photo opportunity, as well as amazing views over the whole of Fethiye.

Approximately 10km from Fethiye sits Oludeniz with its gorgeous long beach and world famous Blue Lagoon. Oludeniz beach stretches out to create a natural lagoon with beautiful crystal clear waters. If you really wish to see the Blue Lagoon at its finest, try paragliding over it from the nearby Baba Mountain, but we didn't dare! This is one of the most popular activities in Oludeniz, and seeing the Blue Lagoon and surroundings from above is said to be simply breathtaking. We stopped so that Dave could take some great photographs and admire the views from the cliff tops of Butterfly Valley, a popular stop for local boat trips. Just after Butterfly Valley we stopped at a little Lokanta, which I found online, perched beautifully on the top of the valley with amazing views and where we enjoyed lovely Turkish food.



Bee and family are fortunate to live close to the ghost town of Kayakoy, also known as Levissi. Once a thriving Christian community, the town was abandoned in 1923 by over 600 residents. Now the homes and churches stand empty. We had a great hike around the village, along with refreshments and Turkish pancakes (Gozleme). It was a wonderful day out.

After a few day's rest, including some sunbathing of course, we were ready for another adventure and set off to the Kalkan coast. Kalkan is a summer resort that has a lovely marina. The promenade along the harbour is lined with smart cafes and restaurants, as well as boutique shops and villas.



Bee said the town has retained the original traditional charm she remembers, despite the real estate development and building which fortunately has taken place mainly in the hills. The old town has remained untouched, and its narrow alleyways are adorned with Bougainvillea on whitewashed houses and fishermen's cottages. We strolled along cobblestone streets looking in shops and trying out the local food.

We have since returned and have got to know the area very well and of course, explored the area even further.

Pauline Harrison



If you would like to know more about the area or renting the apartments, please contact Pauline Harrison through the office.

Walking For Softies

Our July walk took us along part of the Ulster Way, starting at Helens Bay, and headed in the direction of the main Belfast to Bangor Road. It was a pleasant morning and we enjoyed listening to the bird song. It was very peaceful – no traffic noise. We noted that the railway bridge was under repair, held up by scaffolding, so we didn't linger under that! Returning to the cars, we drove to "19" Coffee House at the nearby Blackwood golf centre. Naturally, we had the usual delicious scones and coffee, and took time to help celebrate Andrew's birthday. It was a good day.



If you would like to Join Walking for Softies then contact Zandra or Ian Sloan.

The following month we opted for one of the new trails at Cairn Wood. The car park has been improved and there was no difficulty finding spaces. There was a small group of us, but as usual the craic was great, and it was another fabulous weather day. What everyone remarked upon, was the noticeable absence of birdsong! Lots of trees, but no birds – apart from William impersonating one -



which someone momentarily mistook for a genuine bird! Afterwards, we drove to the famous SD Bells in East Belfast, where the coffee and scones were, of course, quite delicious.

Perhaps we should consider renaming our group "The Coffee and Scone Connoisseurs", given our experience of the best local eateries!

Chattering Needles

Chattering Needles are a group of enthusiastic members, who knit, crochet etc and are happy to pass on their skills to others.

We meet in the parish halls on the second and fourth Monday of each month from 7:30 pm. (£3.00 includes a cup of tea or coffee) Everyone is welcome.



Jubilate

Jubilate is a group of men and women who enjoy singing. Each week, for an hour, Jubilate meet in Church and would love to have some new members and are especially looking for male voices. If you enjoy singing please contact Maurice, Vanessa or the Parish Office (028 91271311) for more information.



Morning in The Riesengebirge

“The artist should not only paint what he sees before him, but also what he sees within him.” These are the words of a German romantic painter, Caspar David Friedrich, who lived from 1774-1840.

The inspiration for most of his paintings was the countryside and the world of nature around.

At the age of 34 he painted a cross in the mountains as an altarpiece for a church in Dresden: the first time a pure landscape had been used for an altar. Later in 1811 he painted a similar, but more profound and more moving work: ‘Morning in the Riesengebirge.’

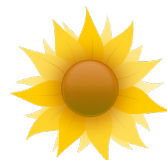
Friedrich was a great walker and climber, and he loved the mountains of East Saxony depicted here. The first rays of the sun are coming over the horizon to illuminate both the beauty of the hills, and the tall crucifix placed on the mountain top. Friedrich looked at the glory of nature at sunrise and saw there a sign of God the Creator, and God the one who sent His Son to redeem that Creation.



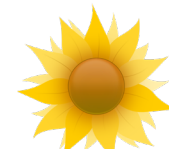
Like Caspar David Friedrich, and like the psalmist, we can look to the hills and see the glory and greatness of God. This will be the theme for many of us this month with Harvest celebrations. But we give thanks for creation and the bounty of the world at a time when we hear reports of glaciers melting, water levels rising, greenhouse gases warming up our planet, and resources of food and fuel wasted and depleted. It is too easy to take this world for granted and imagine it is here solely for us.

Caspar David Friedrich invites us to look at the world, its beauty and greatness, as a gift to cherish, not to manipulate and exploit for our own use. As we look at this earth with eyes of wonder and gratitude, then we shall find the God who created and redeemed it, and ask what service and stewardship we can offer Him in the world.

The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series with a look at 'Morning in the Riesengebirge'. It now hangs in the Schloß Charlottenburg, Berlin.



Thoughts of A Blow In...



Although it has been changeable weather-wise this summer (as we say here, four seasons in one day), we can only be thankful we've escaped the intense and often destructive heat suffered by friends and family over the water and in parts of southern Europe.

It makes us very grateful for our relatively mild and damp climate, though we have to be wary of reservoir levels running low. But at this stage towards the end of the summer, the grass is still greenish and the ground healthy rather than brown and cracked. And I'm sure it's preferable not just for gardeners but for our local farmers, too!

However, perhaps I'm sounding so upbeat as the weather forecast for this week is sunny and hot, so I'm looking forward to getting some winter washing on the line (always good to refresh those woolly hats and gloves). I might go as far as sitting out in the sun with a good book for an hour or two!

Since there is much more freedom of movement compared to this time last year, it has been relatively quiet here at home as so many people are quite rightly taking advantage of the ability to travel again. I'm looking forward to catching up with next-door's family and hearing how the children enjoyed their holiday!

Talking of getaways, my godson and his brother in England recently enjoyed a

family holiday touring around the Scottish Borders and Northumbria and their mum reported that the boys braved swimming in the chilly North Sea. Daredevil teenagers!

I am looking forward to catching up with friends at a few local outdoor events before the end of the summer and even have some friends all the way from Switzerland who are travelling around Scotland and Northern Ireland who promised to drop by for some tea and cake – so I'd better start to get organised with my baking!

These lovely words by Sarah Helen Power Whitman seem to sum up the bounty of summer, especially in this short-lived sunny spell, while we prepare for the gradual change of the seasons into autumn. I hope you've all enjoyed a lovely summer!

Cynthia

When summer gathers up her robes of glory, and like a dream of beauty glides away.



Evergreens - Final Meeting 30th June

The Reverend Moore had asked Masie and Jack Stewart of Springwell Drive to canvas the elderly in Groomsport with the idea of forming an over 60s club. So The Evergreens was formed and that was 1975. There were approximately 60 people attending, both men and women of all denominations. Dues were 10p, then 10p for a cup of tea and 10p for a ballot ticket. We all brought along items of groceries to enter as a ballot prize.

As time went by, it was decided to charge 50p which included a cup of tea, then once a month the ballot was held for 10p a ticket and the prize was usually supplied by a club member. Speakers were invited to give a talk e.g. the Council explaining what goes into each bin, the police talked about safety and fraud, and the fire brigade would come along too.

At the end of 2022 there were 11 members in the club and dues were £3. Every year the group enjoyed Christmas lunch in a variety of venues, Groomsport House Hotel, Adleboden, Bangor Golf Club to



name a few. During the months of May and June each year the club would go on trips all over Northern Ireland, Newcastle, Portrush, Mountstewart etc.

In 1975 members had to be 60 to join the Evergreens, but in 2000 the age was reduced to 50. Unfortunately membership numbers have slowly decreased, mainly because of members being ill, old age, and fewer younger people joining.

The Club decided to close its doors recently due to it not being feasible to continue. The end of this club was marked with a lovely day out to Coleman's Garden Centre, where everyone enjoyed a feast for lunch and spent a few hours browsing and shopping. Many lasting friendships have been formed because of the Evergreens and memories of those special days out will last a lifetime.

Thank you for your support over the years.

Pearl Brown.

Cook's Corner

Carrot Cake

Pauline Harrison

Heat the oven to 150c
Grease and line a 2lb load tin

Cake Ingredients

150g/6oz Butter
150g/6oz Soft Brown Sugar
150g/6oz Plain Flour
100g/4oz Chopped Walnuts
50g/2oz Sultanas
100g/4oz Grated Carrots
3 eggs
1 tsp Vanilla extract
1 tsp Baking soda
1 tsp Baking powder
1 tsp Cinnamon
1 tsp Mixed spice

Topping Ingredients

100g/4oz Butter
1 tub soft cheese
1tsp Vanilla extract

Method

Cake

Cream the butter and sugar together

Add the eggs

Sieve in the dry ingredients and stir well

Place the mixture into the prepared 2lb load tin

Bake at 150c for approximately 50 minutes

Test to see if the cake is fully baked

Allow the cake to cool fully

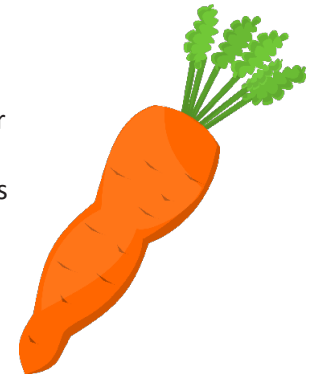
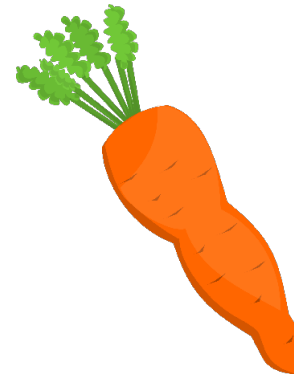
Topping/Frosting

Cream together the butter and icing sugar

Mix in the soft cheese

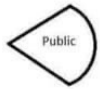
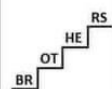
Add the frosting to the top of the cake

Decorate as desired



Just for Fun

Tea Break Teasers

1	2	3	4
A 	Often Often Often Not Often	KNOWN FACT	STRIKE STRIKE STRIKE
B LABRADOR COLLIE BEAGLE POODLE	T M A U H S W T	DREAM CHASING	BEND UUUU DRAW
C HOUR	RO TO	CONVERSATION X2	LO HEAD HEELS VE
D LOVE SIGHT SIGHT		L H O A V T E E	IT'S DIE DIE 4

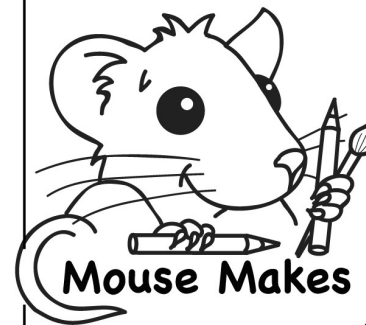
		3	4		8	9
		9	5	1		2
	7	8			3	1
					5	
3	2				4	5
7	6				9	1
	5	1			8	3
2	1	6			3	
8			1	4	9	
5	4		7		6	

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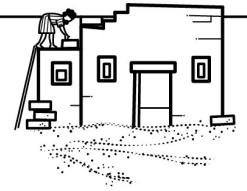
- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| Autumn | Jesus |
| Gold | Son |
| Night | fearless |
| Dark | School |
| Pumpkin | Exams |
| Sweets | Half term |
| Saints | Coal |
| Goodness | Leaves |
| Saving | Bonfires |
| Prayer | Sneeze |
| Protection | Scarves |
| Light | soup |

Word search grid:

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



Everyone who hears Jesus' words and **does** them will be like a



Everyone who hears Jesus' words and does **not** do them will be like a

The _____ fell,
The floods came and the _____ blew.

Matthew 7:25



_____ man.
On what did he build his house?

Matthew 7:24

_____ man.
On what did he build his house?

Matthew 7:26



Matthew 7:24-27
and
Luke 6:46-49

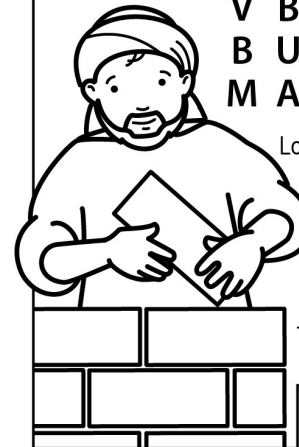
What happened to the houses?
Read
Matthew 7:25 and 27

Word search grid:

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



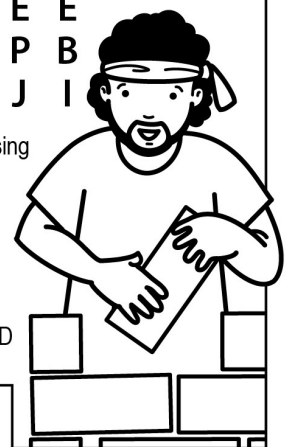
What was the reaction of the crowd to Jesus' teaching?
Read
Matthew 7:28-29



Look up the Bible references to find the missing words then look for them and the words below in the word search

JESUS • HEAR • LISTEN • WORDS
 DOES • BUILT • FOUNDATION • MAN
 DUG • DEEP • SOLID • GROUND
 STREAM • RIVER • BURST • FLOODS
 TORRENT • HOUSE • FELL • COLLAPSED
 RUIN • DESTROYED

How many other words can you make from the word
FOUNDATIONS



Sep22 © deborah noble

Jesus said:

I AM
THE
WAY
THE
TRUTH
THE
LIFE

No one comes to the Father
except through me.

John 14:6

Groomspport Parish Church

CONTACT
groomspportparishchurch.org