

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Summer 2016

Holy Trinity
Glencraig

SUMMER SERVICES

June

Sunday 5th

*Holy Communion 9.00 am
Family Service 11.00 am
Evening Prayer 7.00 pm*

Sunday 12th, 19th

*Holy Communion 9.00 am
Morning Prayer 11.00 am*

Sunday 26th

*Holy Communion 9.00 am
Holy Communion 11.00 am*

July

Sunday 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st

*Holy Communion 9.00
Morning Prayer 11.00 am*

No Evening Prayer

August

Sunday 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

*Holy Communion 9.00
Morning Prayer 11.00 am*

No Evening Prayer



A service to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme will be held in Hollywood Parish Church on Sunday evening 3rd July

From The Vicar

Dear Friends

As you read this, we will have passed into the season that the Church calls 'Ordinary.' The whole cycle of feasts from Advent to Christmas to Epiphany, through Lent, Easter and onward to Pentecost ends on Trinity Sunday – and until we get to Advent again, the Church's focus is on the quiet growth in our spiritual life that we should experience in the 'ordinary', quieter times of life. That's one reason why the colour of the various cloths around the Church changes to green – to remind us to tend to our spiritual growth.



One of the ways in which I hope to grow is during my recovery from surgery. I'm not looking forward to it! But I'm hoping for some relief from the pain I've been in since September, and getting back to full power as your Vicar. And although I will not be seen for a few weeks, I will be praying for you, for the Parish, and for wisdom in how we shall grow, not just in depth, but in numbers, and in our witness to the wonderful love of Jesus.

And I am sure that you will grow, as another shepherd cares for you in my absence. I am most grateful to the Revd Alan Parkhill, normally to be found in our choir, who has agreed, most happily, to look after the worship. He will bring his own wisdom and love of the Lord into leadership and preaching, and I have no doubt that Glencraig will be all the better for it.

As I contemplate surgery, I am aware that each one of us bears our own pains and sorrows. I invite you to immerse yourself more in God's Word, in prayer, and in service to each other, and love for one another, so that you become ever more open to what God would do in your lives.

And I wish each of you a happy and wonderful summer – and every blessing in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Simon

A Choral Tradition

Fewer and fewer churches today have managed to maintain their choirs . At Glenraig, although members are shrinking we have been blessed with the return of Eve Parkhill, our former organist, who stepped in to keep things going on the departure of Peter Harris.

You may also hear a choir referred to as a chorus the history of which is quite ancient. The Greeks used a chanting chorus to accompany stage performances, for example, and the medieval church also chanted plainsong to accompany religious services. Gradually, the concept of a polyphonic or “many voiced” choir began to emerge, with musical compositions featuring multiple parts which could be sung together or individually, and modern choirs typically perform polyphonic compositions which showcase a range of voices.

Do you remember the BBC television series Boy’s Don’t Sing which was on our screens back in 2008? In it Gareth Malone went to work as a teacher at an all-boys’ school, a school which had no previous tradition of choral music making, and most of the boys who

attended thought that singing was something which was definitely best left for girls. Gareth’s mission was to found a school choir and by doing so, hopefully dispel the myth that boys don’t sing. Faced with a school of unwilling teenage boys who had no interest in choral music, Gareth set himself the



Glenraig’s Junior chorists (14 one missed the photoshoot) at the dedication of their new robes: January 1989

goal of forming a 100-strong all-boys’ choir performing on stage at the Schools’ Prom concert in the Royal Albert Hall, alongside the best school choirs in the UK.

Boy’s don’t sing, well that isn’t entirely true as the Cathedral churches of England still trestify. The most famous choir is the Cambridge University Choir of King’s College, which comprises 16 boy choristers, aged between nine and 13 years, and 14 male undergraduates. Singing at daily Chapel services is the Choir’s primary duty, and has been since the foundation of King’s College in 1441, when King Henry VI envisaged that the Choir would provide music for the daily offices and celebrations of the Mass in his new Chapel. The choir are best known for Christmas Eve festival of nine lesson and carols which has been broadcast by the BBC since 1928. With a great choral tradition, today people are discovering the joy of singing together.

Hon. Secretary Tony Gregg gives an update on finance

First the good news then....

I am pleased to let you know that Lenten Challenge has raised £8767 so far this year. This compares with £9486 raised in 2015. Sadly this represents only 47% of families who contributed this year; just think how much would be raised if all those families professing to belong to our church made a contribution! A very “big thank” you to all those who did contribute. Please remember that if you have overlooked making a contribution you can still do so, either use the Lenten Challenge envelope sent to you or simply put your contribution in an envelope marked Lenten Challenge with a note of your name and it will be assigned appropriately.

Following my appeal to Parishioners to make their Freewill Offering contributions by Standing Order through their bank account I am delighted that a number have done so. If you would like to contribute in this way then Standing Order forms can be obtained from me or the Churchwardens.

It is also pleasing that a few Parishioners have told me that they are increasing their giving. This all helps as our costs never seem to go down! Over the next period we are going to have to meet some costs in connection with the Quinquennial Inspection Report. At the time of writing there are no major costs but every time we have a qualified person carry out an inspection or service into something we have to pay their costs and no specialist comes free these days! So please keep on giving.

After 18 years taking Sunday Club Laurian Duff and her home grown team are standing down. She reflects on her time with the young people.

What is the biggest change you have seen in that time?

The biggest change is certainly the reduced numbers of children attending church but having said that there are some strong families who have been with us throughout. We also get a lot more visitors now than we did.

What have the numbers been like?

When I started we ran three classes with approximately 30 children but today it varies from between three and thirteen. So that’s the total but if we were to have individual classes it would be difficult because we would have 2 or 3 little ones , the same in a middle group and one or two in an older pre-conformation group so in recent years we have all worked together with the older ones helping the little ones.

How do you account for the smaller numbers?

There are it seems fewer children in the Seahill area and so many other things happen now on Sundays. The other day I was looking back at the recording of a Christmas pantomime from 1989 and I was struck by the fact that all of the parents and adults around then, the people who were involved, the shakers and movers if you like, are still the same ones as now and there haven’t been very many younger mums and dads coming along to take their place.



I think it is so important to go to church as a child to as you will be more inclined to go when you grow up. With the pattern of church attendance as it is now I am not sure where the future will lie.

Are children not being brought because it will be boring?

I totally disagree with those who say that children must have the kind of immediate gratification and attention grabbing that television provides for them. Learning to enjoy , experience and cope with stillness and quietness is as important as many other experiences. Its called self-discipline and its not in much evidence today in the wider world.

In this Internet age does Church for children need to become more media savvy?

No I think there is plenty of time for all of that, that’s not saying I don’t use little videos and other visual aids to help understanding, but children all really enjoy making things and getting hands on experience – from a model of a house form the time of Jesus to a making a candle on a theme around the light of the world.

What has given you most satisfaction?

Being in Sunday Club for this long time has given me the chance to see so many of the children grow up and become young adults. To see them come to confirmation particularly in the last two confirmations just about all of the young people had been through Sunday Club and that was a great pleasure to see them through to that stage in their lives.

What has been your funniest experience?

I recall we were doing a lesson on the Trinity on Trinity Sunday some years ago and we were using some balloons. We filled these with air trying to illustrate the idea of the Holy Spirit but one of the little boys went down to his Granny afterwards, who hadn’t been party to the background of these balloons and something happened to this precious balloon to which he said “ Granny be careful that’s the Holy Spirit in there” I will miss the chat from the children which keeps me in touch with that generation especially now that my boys have grown up.

You probably couldn’t have kept going in Sunday Club for so long it not for the help of your two sons.

Yes I am so grateful to them. Adam for example for three years after leaving University was working Monday to Friday, then in lectures for his professional qualifications on Saturday and was here every Sunday to help me. I am also so grateful to Linda Aitcheson and Caroline Duncan have been ready to lend a hand.

Saying It With Flowers: Pat Oswald

“For many faiths, arranging flowers in a place of worship is the giving back of beauty to the One who created us”
(Judith Blacklock)

For many years flowers have been used to beautify Glenraig Church. They can be a way of celebrating a special occasion in our Church calendar, a way of marking a personal anniversary, or remembering a loved one or just simply someone with a love of flowers and their Church.

Sometimes people say to me, “I would love to put flowers in Church, but I’m not a flower arranger”. Believe me you do not have to be an expert - just a willingness to give it a go! Flowers are beautiful in whatever form they come: a container filled with daffodils or pussy willows in Spring or bunches of gladioli in Autumn is just as beautiful as a formal arrangement. The most rewarding experience is to see someone putting their name on the Flower List, for them to arrange their flowers (in whatever form that is) and then having that sense of satisfaction seeing their flowers light up a Sunday morning so why not have a go. I know one lady who did just that. She has a love of white daisy-like flowers and now arranges her own flowers and they are beautiful.

I have been looking after Church flowers for over 30 years and over those years I have arranged flowers for a lovely lady who always requests pink carnations as they were her late husband’s favourite flower. I read a little book recently which suggested the meaning and language of each type of flower. Pink carnations represent ‘gratitude’ which I think is a wonderful message to add to her flowers.

Incidentally, the following are the suggestions for some of the most popular flowers which can be bought from any Supermarket:-

Alstroemerias - friendship.

Freesia - innocence/friendship.

Lily - magnificence and beauty, purity.

Sweet pea - pleasure.

Daffodil - regard.

Gerbera - cheerfulness.

Chrysanthemum- optimism/joy.

Rose - love.

Gladioli - strength of character/remembrance.

Hydrangea - thank you.



Although I do not know how the book assigned the meaning/language to a flower, I must caution anyone arranging yellow tulips (hopelessly in love) with bright pink roses (meet me at midnight) as this might be a little too revealing!!!

We are very privileged at Glenraig to have a group of amazing and loyal ladies who come to help decorate the Church at Easter and Harvest and many who kindly donate towards the cost of the flowers. Laurian and the Sunday School always add their creative touch. Together, we have a team who work hard (and always joyfully) to make our Church very beautiful and for that we owe thanks.

So, in closing, my final thoughts are twofold: firstly, encouragement to those who may wish to give flower arranging a go, but also a sincere thank you to each of you for your support in providing flowers for our Church each Sunday.

See the flower rota for the weeks ahead on page 6 and please add your name to any empty slot on the list in the Church porch

North Down Food Store Bangor: Richard Holmes



It used to be said that many people in our community were within three pay cheques of homelessness. That is no longer the case. Now it is two pay cheques.

We live in a very unforgiving society in which many people are actually quite close to the edge and when a really serious problem strikes, they can be in a situation in which they literally have no food for themselves or their families or any means of getting any. 25 to 30 individuals and families in the Holywood - Bangor area find themselves in this situation each week. The most frequent causes are redundancy; serious illness including mental illness, bureaucratic slowness in paying benefits; the breakdown of a relationship and domestic violence.

The North Down Foodstore located in Bangor is a Christian initiative set up and supported by local churches in the Holywood – Bangor area and some local supermarkets.[Newtownards has a separate food bank].It works very closely with all of the statutory and voluntary agencies in the area and its referrals mostly come from them and from local GP’s.

The Food Store provide hampers to those in real need. It helps people get through a crisis and become re-established. It does not provide long-term support limiting hampers to 6 in 6 months, although there can be exceptions, and it carefully assesses each claim.Last year it gave out over £100,000 worth of groceries, cleaning materials and toiletries.

Glenraig has proved itself to be a warm and caring Church and this is an opportunity for us to reach out and be part of the wider community, to provide support for this initiative and help to meet real local need..There will be a basket in the entrance to the Church and if you are able to contribute any tin, bottle or package of food [no perishable produce please], cleaning materials or toiletries when you come to church, these will be taken each week to the Food Store for distribution on your behalf.

The North Down Food Store is a wonderful example of Christianity in action so please look out for our collection basket in the porch in the coming weeks. There will be a Storehouse leaflet to guide you on what to offer.

1916 - 2016 One hundred years: a celebration.

On 11th June we will reach a unique milestone in having a parishioner celebrating her 100th birthday.



Eva in the choir September 1988

Mrs Eva Sythes was born in 1916 and has been a member of Glenraig Church since moving to the Seahill area in 1961. Eva’s husband, Rev. W M H Sythes, had been the rector of the Parish of Billy on the North Antrim Coast from 1944 to 1955. She reflects on the stark contrast of a vicar’s life in those days with the requirements of a modern Vicarage today. “

It was a very happy life but could be a hard one especially in the winter with a water supply from a pump in the garden, intermittent electricity from a two stroke generator and a two handed saw left for us to cut our own firewood while keep the trees in the church grounds in a tidy condition”.

Eva for many years immersed herself fully in the life of Glenraig singing in the church choir, playing the organ for services and supporting its events and societies as she approaches her century...

We wish her a very happy birthday.

News from the Select Vestry

It is catch-up time! It has been almost a year since you had any news from the Select Vestry. You can be assured that the vestry has not been idle over the last twelve months.

- Handrails at the entrance to the church. We have Ken Craig to thank for undertaking this project that has been so welcome on entering and exiting the porch. Ever since the rails were fitted there have been nothing but compliments for this addition to the church, of benefit to everyone, and in tone with the church building.
- Handrails have also been fitted at the steps up to the new Vicarage.



• As you will know, the microphones in the church have become so intermittent that they have had to be switched off every now and again. The only solution has been to bite the bullet and purchase a new sound system. We have also found that the loop system is not working and this will also have to be renewed. On checking up we find that the sound systems have been with us for at least fifteen

years and are now probably rather beyond repair. Perhaps by the time you read this, the system will be in full working order.

- Through the generosity of one of our parishioners we have been able to buy new covers for the hymnbooks. It was a bit of the luck of the draw as to whether you got a cover which remained on or one that slipped around..
- The planters separating the back and the front of the church near the Hall have been a success in preventing traffic from going into that area. Not only do they do that job well, but are now becoming decorative as the plants sprout forth. And on the same decorative theme, the bed at the side of the driveway now looks so much tidier with the beech planting. Not only that, but it will be easier to maintain and keep free from weeds.
- We heard recently that Frank Brownrigg, who has been cutting our grass regularly for the past fifteen years, has had to call it a day with a hip problem. Fortunately we have been able to secure the services of Michael Bell, Craigantlet Landscapes, who will be keeping our grounds tidy.
- Work on our new website continues. Look for the *Archive* section to see our beautiful windows in all their glory.
- During one of the many storms over the winter, we lost one of the birch trees in the lawn. We are glad to be able to report that the two mature trees now have a younger sibling to keep them company.

Crèche Rota

Sunday June 5th

Family service

Sunday June 12th

Pamela Smyth

Sunday June 19th

Patricia Craig

Sunday June 26th

Debbie Park

July

No Crèche

August

No Crèche



Flowers rota

Sunday June 5th

Ann Kitson

Sunday June 12th

Ann Kitson

Sunday June 19th

Patricia Leishing

Sunday June 26th

Heather Dowds

Sunday 3rd July

Hazel Johnston

Sunday 10th July

Hazel Johnston

Sunday 17th July

Helen Mercer

Sunday 24th July

Helen Mercer

Sunday 31st July

Clare Haselden

Sunday 7th August

Valerie Kinnen

Sunday 14th August

Clare Haselden

Sunday 21st August

Joan Carmody

Sunday 28th August

Joan Carmody

Vestry Notes (continued) : Billy Mercer

Some other matters that keep the Vestry on their toes are such things as the new legislation concerning the Charities Commission (NI). Glenraig, through the diocese is already registered with the Commission, as we have to be. The regulations require a reference to the Commission along with our official reference number on all letter headings, cheques and other written orders. You may have noticed the reference number at the foot of our service sheets. Our Honorary Treasurer keeps us all up to date with the rather complex legal requirements.

Another matter requiring the attention of the Vestry has been the so-called Quinquennial Inspection report on the church building and the vicarage. This is carried out on behalf of the diocese and provides a report every five years. Fortunately the Vicarage is still in its youth and the report had nothing particular to say about it.

The church building is now almost 160 years old and naturally there are a several suggestions, more than suggestions, of various bits and pieces that need to be taken care of. Most of the suggestions, which are of a relatively minor nature, cover the five-year period up to the next Quinquennial report, so do not need to be undertaken right away. Others need more urgent action and the Glebewardens are planning the next stages. Unfortunately it all means money which we can ill afford.

The Vestry has also been considering how best to make provision within the church for any wheelchair parishioner. Several solutions have been mooted and it is really a matter of seeing how to carry out this project with the minimum of disturbance to the church building.

As you will know, the Church Hall is available to hire out for parties and other gatherings. The Vestry has been reconsidering the charges for the hire of the hall and has agreed to fix these at £30 per morning, afternoon or evening session. This will also include the use of the kitchen should that be required.

We have also been in contact with the Council to acquire a green bin and waste food caddy. We will all be agreed that we would not wish the church to be breaking the new requirements and regulations!



It is now almost ten years since the old vicarage was demolished and the prospect of selling some of the ground for housing was first aired. Now that the new vicarage is there, the Vestry is now giving some thought to selling some of the sites, after the uncertainty of the property market in the worldwide period of financial distress.



Church Officers

Who's who

Vicar's Church Warden

GEORGE ROWAN

People's Church Warden

FRANK WILLIAMS

Hon. Secretary

BILLY MERCER

Hon. Treasurer

TONY GREG

Organist

EVE PARKHILL

Safe Guarding Trust

WENDY MCBRIEN

Envelope Recorder

PHIL HOUSTON

Gift Aid Secretary

KEN CRAIG

Prayer Line

SANDRA ROBB



Also on Facebook
 holytrinityglenraig
 and the Internet
 www.holytrinityglenraig.org

Vestry Notes (continued) : Billy Mercer

The idea had been at the time to use the funds to pay off our debt and to use the remainder for good works. Things appear to be brighter now, though nothing has been finally decided as yet.



In Remembrance

During the past year we have sadly lost two of the stalwarts of the parish.

Peter Johnston, our Parish Administrator, was the person who dealt with many of the day-to-day matters of the church. It was Peter who put our *Parish News* to bed with the printers and he is sadly missed in that respect. He always ensured that the Choir Room was set out for the Select Vestry meeting, providing a copy of the agenda and minutes for each member. This was, of course, quite apart from his role in looking after so many things to do with the everyday running of the parish, including correspondence, phone calls etc – even to the extent of remodeling our computer system. He is sorely missed.

Walter Moore had been a member of the choir from time immemorial, and had only within the last few years had to give up as a member because of eye problems. Walter had also for many years been a member of the Select Vestry and had been one of those elected to attend the annual diocesan synod. We all miss his presence in the church.

And now for something completely different

For all the computer experts out there:

An employee asked why so much time was spent typing a password, until it was revealed what his password was: MickeyMinnieGoofyDonaldHueyLouieDeweyParis.

The employee replied, “ It said the password must contain 8 characters and one capital.”

And for all parents: If you are having trouble in getting your children’s attention. Just sit down and look comfortable.