

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017

Holy Trinity Glencraig

## SERVICES

### May 7th

9am Holy Communion  
11am Morning Worship  
7pm - Holy Communion

### May 14th

9am Holy Communion  
11am Morning Worship

### May 21st

9am Holy Communion  
11am Morning Worship

### May 25th (Ascension Day)

11am Holy Communion followed by Tea at the Vicarage

### May 28th

9am Holy Communion  
11am Morning Worship  
Baptisms Walter Moore and Sybil Rea

### 4th June

9am Holy Communion  
11am Morning Worship  
7pm - Evening Prayer for Pentecost

### 11th June

9am Holy Communion  
11am Morning Worship

### 18th June

9am Holy Communion  
11am Morning Worship

### 25th June

9am Holy Communion  
11am Morning Worship

## *From The Vicar*

Dear Brothers and Sisters

As I write, we are at that point in the year when things in the world around us feel like they're changing. The nights are drawing out very slowly, the clocks having changed to 'British Summer Time', and every now and again, the sky is blue, the sun is shining, and we can almost believe that Spring is upon us!

In the Church it is also a time of change; we have just held the Easter Vestry, including the Triennial elections, and although many of the members of the various bodies within our Parish remain the same, still there is change, and there will be a certain difference in decision-making and so on as we go forward.

But there is change in our know this all too well, with me last year through illness, and surgery which for a while, but which has far, and allows me to get on also in the wake of marital things continue to change. I car on my own for the first laundry and housework on and for the very first time in all my 42 years of life, simply live on my own (when the children aren't here).

Change can sometimes be a dirty word in the Church; clergy use it, and congregations shudder. And in our own lives, while it can sometimes be welcome, it often also brings (or is brought by) unpleasant circumstances.

Change, however, is at the heart of our Christian faith. In order that we might know God better, he was born among us in Jesus Christ. The immortal one died for us at Calvary; and having died, he was raised to new life - a changed, transformed, transfigured life - on the third day. Because God has submitted himself to the change and uncertainty of this world in Christ, we who are subject to that change and uncertainty can place ourselves with utter confidence into the hands of God.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13.8)

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (James 1.17)

The Lord's plans stand firm ... His intentions can never be shaken. (Psalm 33.11)

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own personal lives too. I the changes forced upon immobility and medica-further incapacitated me proved to be successful so with life and work. But breakdown, I find that have had to acquire a new time; get used to doing my own for the first time;

## Lenten Challenge update...

The grass withers, and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever. (Isaiah 40.8)

Promises like these have supported and encouraged me in these last few months. In a world where the only certainty is that there are no certainties - God is our refuge and strength, and in his Son Jesus Christ, we are called to be like those in Noah's Ark, floating safe in the Lord's provision upon the troubled waters.

As we move through Easter towards Pentecost and Trinity, I pray that you will know that same confidence in the unchanging God, and that you will be able to live as those who have foundations unshakeable by the trials and tribulations of the world around you.

In Christ  
Simon.

With regard to Lenten Challenge this is our main fund-raising event in the year. We do not have the traditional cake sales, coffee mornings or jumble sales to raise funds as Lenten Challenge is felt to be more suited to our parishioners. Accordingly everyone's support is requested. The response this year has been slow so far, it is never too late to make your contribution even though the period of Lent is over. If you have mislaid the envelope sent to you, simply put your contribution into an envelope, mark it Lenten challenge, put your name and address on the envelope or inside it on a piece of paper and then either put your envelope on the offertory plate in church or post it to the Church Office.

To those of you who have contributed, a very big thank you and to everyone else please give this appeal serious consideration and make a donation.

## Parishioner Honoured

Pauline Carson is a long-standing member of Glencraig Parish Church, and has contributed a huge amount to the life of the Church and the Parish over the years; but she has had a huge impact on the wider community, a fact which was recently recognised in a very exciting way.

For nearly four decades, Pauline has been a linchpin of the local branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), inspired by the many volunteers that are a part of that organisation. And this involvement with the RNLI was recognised in the New Year's Honours with the award of the British Empire Medal (BEM), for her services to the RNLI in Holywood.



Speaking to the County Down Spectator, Pauline confessed her surprise and shock at having been given this honour. 'I was surprised, there are so many people who deserve it more than me, but it is lovely to be given this honour.' She continues, 'Fundraising is always something I have enjoyed, and it is very gratifying to receive this recognition.'

It was a great pleasure to share this news with friends and colleagues - but particularly with her son Paul in Malaysia. But this is only the latest in a history of recognition for service. Pauline has already been awarded the RNLI's Silver and Gold Badges, and the bar to the Gold Badge. Pauline says, 'When I think of all the wonderful people who go out in all weathers, they go whether it is Christmas or their birthday, they just drop everything, out they go and I think they are just brilliant.' She also acknowledged her fellow branch members, as well as members of the Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club in Cultra for their support. 'I have had a very good team, they have been very supportive over the years, so I have been very lucky.' In Glencraig Parish Church, we know that it is more than just luck that has brought this award to Pauline; and together with everyone else, we express our congratulations to a wonderful woman - Pauline Carson BEM.

### Rota

## Church flowers rota

- May. 7th Eva Sythes**
- 14th " "**
- 21st George Rowan**
- 28th " "**
- June 4th Vacant**
- 11th Patricia Liesching**
- 18th. Heather Dowds**
- 25th Vacant**
- July. 2nd Ann Kitson**
- 9th Ann Kitson**
- 16th Helen Mercer**
- 23rd Helen Mercer**
- 30th Vacant**
- Aug. 6th Valerie Kinnen**
- 13th Valerie Kinnen**
- 20th Pat Oswald**
- 27th Pat Oswald**



## General Vestry

The experiment of holding the Easter Vestry meeting following Morning Prayer both this year and last year seems to have produced an increased attendance. The meeting this year was attended by thirty-four parishioners with eleven forwarding apologies for their inability to attend.

The main purpose of the meeting is to enable all of those on the General Register of to attend and hear the reports from the Vicar and the Churchwardens and to review the church accounts for the previous year. It is also the purpose of the meeting to elect the Select Vestry for the coming year and to elect and appoint the main officials of the parish, namely, the Churchwardens and the Glebeswardens.

As a result of all that, the following have been appointed for the period 2017 2018:

Vicar's Warden: Frank Williams

People's Warden: George Rowan

Vicar's Glebeswarden: Richard Holmes

People's Glebeswarden: Simon Haselden

Select Vestry: Harry Blamphin, Laurian Duff, Tony Gregg, Denis Grimshaw, Phil Houston, Hazel Johnston, Derek Kinnen, Billy Mercer, Wendy McBrien, Jonny Park, Sandra Robb and Ken Wheeler. The Wardens and Glebeswardens are ex officio members of the Select Vestry.

The year 2017 is a Triennial year in which there are also elections from within the parish for Parochial Nominators and Synodspersons. The function of the Parochial Nominators is to act together with the Diocesan Nominators to appoint a new incumbent in the event of a vacancy in the parish. The Synodspersons are our representatives at the annual meeting of the Diocesan Synod. All of those elected in the triennial cycle remain in post for the next three years.

Parochial Nominators: David McIlhagger, Ken Craig, Denis Grimshaw and Richard Holmes.

Supplemental Nominators: Frank Williams, Derek Kinnen, Margaret Metcalfe and Howard Hastings,

Diocesan Synodspersons: Hazel Johnston and David McIlhagger.

Supplemental Synodspersons: Simon Haselden and Margie Deverell

## Safeguarding Trust



It is vitally important that the Select Vestry ensures each year that the parish conforms with all of the rules and regulations relating to Safeguarding Trust, in other words, Child Protection. To that end the annual checklist supplied by the diocese has been reviewed, completed and returned as required. As well as that it was felt to be necessary to carry out some formal training for child protection so that all of those who have any contact with the children and young people of the parish are aware of the full extent of their responsibilities. We are all very grateful to Mary Gregg and Wendy McBrien for arranging this training which took place at the end of March.

## Sammy Smyth Remembered

We were all saddened to hear of the passing of one of our oldest parishioners, Sammy Smyth. Sammy had been a very regular attender at Morning Prayer every Sunday. Over the past few years he had been living with his daughter, Sheena Connolly and her family in the Cayman Islands. In the local Newspaper for the islands, Cayman Compass, he was described as 'the most successful footballer on the island and the scorer of one of the best goals ever seen at Wembley Stadium.' He was in fact the last remaining member of one of the greatest Wolverhampton Wanderers teams. He was, of course, one of the most outstanding players ever to put on a Northern Ireland shirt.



Sammy died in the Cayman Islands towards the end of 2016. A memorial service was held in Glenraig at the beginning of this year, attended by a large congregation of all of those who had come into contact with Sammy over the years. By a strange coincidence at his funeral service on the island, a eulogy was given by someone who had a previous strong connection with North Down. It seems that this eulogy was given by one of the leading justices on the island, Charlie Quinn, the son of a former Rector of Bangor parish and Bishop of Down and Dromore, George Quinn.

Sammy had a good innings to the age of 91.

## Support Kilbroney

### Kilbroney Partnership

As you may know, the parish each year donates about one tenth of the income received to the needs of others. This year there was a strong appeal from the Kilbroney Partnership. Over forty years ago the Vicarage of Kilbroney and the surrounding woodland were converted to offer a residential experience for young people. The new centre, situated at the foot of the Mournes became a place of worship and adventure for young people from all over Ireland.

Nowadays, over one thousand young people and hundreds of adults stay at the centre during the year.

The whole centre has been refurbished and extensive facilities have been added. It seemed to the Select Vestry, that something like this that promotes togetherness in a secure environment right on our doorstep, represents a good cause to support. The vestry felt in this case a substantial amount should be donated out of our funds set aside for such a purpose.

## Finances

By the time you read this you will have received a copy of the accounts for 2016. Perusal of these will show a number of things:

- We have reduced the amount owing on the renovations to the church and hall by £8852
- Parishioner loans have reduced by £3250
- The amount owing on the General Fund has increased by £1506

This is largely very positive, thank you to everyone who contributed and to those who increased their contributions in the year. Going forward we are depending on receiving a good response to Lenten Challenge and continued regular giving through Freewill Offering Envelopes or by regular standing order contributions through your bank account.

