GOD IS LIGHT
in Him there is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5

Wishing you a peaceful & blessed holiday season!
Groomsport Parish Church

**Parish Officials**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Rector</td>
<td>Revd Duncan Pollock</td>
<td>028 9146 4476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Rector’s Warden</td>
<td>Carol Walters</td>
<td>028 9127 3363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The People’s Warden</td>
<td>Zandra Sloan</td>
<td>028 9145 7092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R Glebe Warden</td>
<td>Walter Burke</td>
<td>028 9145 1768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P Glebe Warden</td>
<td>Denise Dorrian</td>
<td>028 9145 2314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Wesley Quinn</td>
<td>028 9145 6472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary to SV</td>
<td>Heather Pentland</td>
<td>07834 771075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift Aid Secretary</td>
<td>Ian Sloan</td>
<td>028 9145 7092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Fellowship</td>
<td>Craig Lutton</td>
<td>07816 853373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>Lisa &amp; Tom Bell</td>
<td>07515 327628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verger/Caretaker</td>
<td>Susan Moore</td>
<td>028 9185 7509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</td>
<td>Stuart Tanner</td>
<td>028 9146 7052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Office</td>
<td>Elaine Lester</td>
<td>028 9127 1311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>07791 569432</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For church administrative enquires and all hall bookings, please contact: Elaine 028 9127 1311 or gpcoffice@btinternet.com

For Hall problems, please contact:
Denise (028 9145 2314) or Trevor (028 9145 1605)

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**Rector’s Half Hour**

Please note that the Rector will be available in the Vestry office on Tuesdays from 6.30pm – 7.00pm, for short meetings to sign passports, driving licence documents etc., or to arrange a lengthier meeting for another time.

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**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.
It occurs to me that this is a special time of year for me. Four family birthdays, one wedding anniversary and the anniversary of my ordination. In the Synod literature sent to me recently, it lists those who have “significant” ordination anniversaries – 25, 30, 40 years. I am not sure if my anniversaries warrant being labelled “significant, but I was ordained Deacon on 26 June 1983, 32 years ago, and made Priest (or Presbyter as the current vogue has it) a year later.

My ministry has taken me to many places: the neonatal baby ward in the Louise Margaret hospital in Aldershot to baptise the dying new born babes of young girls married to soldiers; the grim fields of South Armagh; the bedrooms of the elderly. I have spoken with thousands from the very young to the very old; I have laughed with the joyous, cried with the heartbroken; I have frozen at gravesides and sweltered in Nursing Homes. And so much, so much more.

Some of the opening words of the Prayer of Consecration state, “that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty Everlasting God:” If I have got other things wrong in my ministry, I can at least promise that I have fulfilled that particular injunction! I have celebrated Holy Communion, standing up to my knees in snow in Germany. I have celebrated Holy Communion in one of our great Cathedrals, as well as in the private chapel of a stately home. I have celebrated Holy Communion in a burnt out, bombed out factory in Bosnia. I have celebrated Holy Communion in a twelfth century parish church in the middle of a field in rural England. I have received/taken Holy Communion in a West Belfast Mill. And now, week by week, I am privileged to celebrate Holy Communion in our lovely Victorian building. “At all times and in all places....”

“At all times and in all places....” the words never lose their immensity for me. We are to do these things at all times and in all places “in remembrance” of Him. The very act of communion takes us back to the upper room. The room probably a little dark, a bit smoky from the oil lamps and an atmosphere you could cut with a knife; Judas trying to get away to collect his cash, Peter not having a clue as to what on earth was going on, James and John still vying for places in the new government and over all a feeling of morbid suspicion and expectation.

In this special month with its not so significant anniversaries, perhaps it is worth remembering those other anniversaries you might be celebrating; perhaps your own confirmation, when you heard those words for the first time, “at all times and in all places”.

I pray you will have a peaceful and blessed holiday season.

Duncan
Church Services July

Note:
There are no midweek services or bible study during July. Compline will resume on Tuesday 4th August at 7.30pm and Thursday Holy Communion will resume 11am 6th August, The Feast of the Transfiguration. Bible Study will begin on Wednesday 5th August at 7.30pm and we will be reading the Gospel according to Luke.

Sunday 5th July - Trinity 5
Service led by: Revd. Jim Bates
Welcome Team: Ken and Valerie Boyd
Reader: Colin Crozier

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Family Service*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Compline/Evening Prayer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coffee after 10.30am service in Church Hall. All welcome! Hosted by Maggie Townsley, Elaine Lester, Norma Parsley, Walter Burke

Sunday 12th July - Trinity 6
Service led by: Revd. Jim Bates
Welcome Team: John and Mary Wright
Reader: Valerie Boyd

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Parish Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Compline/Evening Prayer</td>
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</table>

Sunday 19th July - Trinity 7
Welcome Team: John and Mary Wright
Reader: Bert Smith

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Service of the Word with Holy Baptism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Evening Prayer with Hymns</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sunday 26th July - Trinity 8
Welcome Team: Walter and Mae Burke
Reader: Maureen Taggart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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Please note the Church is open every day for private prayer and meditation.
### Church Services August

#### Sunday 2nd August - Trinity 9
Welcome Team: Maxine Nelson and Kathleen Cree - Reader: Peter Osborough

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Family Service*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Compline / Evening Prayer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Coffee after 10.30am service in Church Hall. All welcome! Hosted by Sarah Crozier, Tara Brown, Eleanor Anderson, Tom Russell

#### Sunday 9th August - Trinity 10
Welcome Team: Dorothy Anne Crawford and Tom Russell - Reader: Dorothy Anne Crawford

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
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<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Parish Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Compline / Evening Prayer</td>
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#### Sunday 16th August - Trinity 11
Welcome Team: Barry and Caroline Greenaway - Reader: Billy Hamilton

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Service of the Word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00pm</td>
<td>Holy Baptism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00pm</td>
<td>Groomsport Orange Lodge Annual Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Evening Prayer with hymns</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Sunday 23rd August - Trinity 12
Welcome Team: Dorothy Anne Crawford and Mae Burke - Reader: Elaine Lester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
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<tr>
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<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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</table>

#### Sunday 30th August - Trinity 13
Welcome Team: Maggie Townsley and Betty McKinney - Reader: Wesley Quinn

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Compline/Evening Prayer</td>
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#### Sunday 6th September - Trinity 14
Welcome Team: TBA - Reader: TBA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>Family Service*</td>
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<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Compline/Evening Prayer</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Coffee after 10.30am service in Church Hall. All welcome! Hosted by Dorothy Anne Crawford, Tom Bell, Lisa Bell, Mae Burke
Births, Deaths, Baptisms, Marriages & Announcements

Holy Baptism

7 June 2015
John Stewart.

21 June 2015
Jake Pentland.

Holy Matrimony

Christopher & Andrea

Congratulations to Christopher Connery and Andrea McNamara on their wedding on 4th June 2015. We wish them all the best for their future lives together.

Pauline & David

Congratulations to Pauline and David Harrison on their wedding on 6th June 2015. We wish them all the best for their future lives together.

Holy Rest

8th June 2015

Helen Orr (49) Daughter of Georgie and the late Noel, also a loving sister of Noel. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.

Announcements

Thank you

Pearl Brown, Grand-daughter Lynsey, family & friends would like to thank everyone who came to their recent Coffee Morning, also to those who gave donations. The amount of £315 was raised for Diabetes NI.

Many thanks

Pearl

Sponsored Walk For Parkinson’s UK

A very big thank you to all who supported me in my walk on 21st June on the Cavehill, Belfast.

By the time you read this I will have completed the challenge, but nevertheless I wanted to pass on my personal and heartfelt gratitude and thanks.

As I write this I can report that as a result of your generosity I have raised the staggering sum of £1005.
I will forever be grateful to all in Groomsport Church, The Evergreens and Probus Club for their unselfish support.

This will go towards research into the causes and treatment of Parkinson’s.

Colin

Storehouse

We continue to give out many hampers each week so supplies run low very quickly. Particularly toiletries, cleaning products, nappies, shampoo. Anything you can pop into your trolley when shopping will be gratefully received. Items can be left in the church any time or in the hall on Wednesdays. Thank you for your continued support of Storehouse.

Mothers Union

The theme of the meeting on 18 May was ‘Autism’ which attracted a good number of members and several guests. The topic proved most interesting as some members had experience of ‘Autism’ in their families. We were informed about the nature of the condition, known as a ‘Triad of Impairments’ and of the training which exists for both parents and professionals. It was helpful to learn of the support structures which are in place of what we, in the community can do, to assist those with autism.

The final little tip from the speaker was...

‘If they can’t learn the way we teach, we teach the way they learn’.

The MU will not be meeting over the summer months but we will all return refreshed in September. Keep the following two dates in mind:

Sunday 6 September : MU Opening Service:

Monday 21 September: First meeting - Skywatch, with Paul Trimble

Everyone welcome and please encourage new members and guests to join us.
Walking for Softies
(But don’t be misled by the title)

May Walk

The final walk of the season commenced when we met at St. Saviour’s church car park in the village of Grey Abbey.

When all were ready we began with a tour of the Abbey’s Herb Garden. This was a most interesting culinary experience where we learned about Mugwort which wards off evil and is very good for the digestive system, Southernwood, to combat tiredness and expels worms! - and moths can’t stand it. We were also introduced to Elecampane… excellent for sore throats, and many more ancient herbs which had been cultivated by the brothers of the Abbey.

We then made our way to the main body of the Abbey and our friend, Tony Fleck, of St. Anne’s Cathedral, provided us a with a guided and most interesting talk on the Ancient history of the Cistercians. The Abbey was founded by Africa, wife of John de Courcy in 1193 AD.

This was followed by a walk in the private grounds of Rosemount House, with the permission of the owners of the estate, the Montgomery Family.

They have lived here since 1607 when the lands were granted to Sir Hugh Montgomery after being taken from the O’Neill’s of Clandeboye.

The grounds of the estate were looking beautiful in the spring sunlight as we walked among lots of spring flowers.

This then brought us to lunch time and we repaired to the Abbey Bistro where we had a choice, from a very comprehensive menu, where a most excellent lunch was enjoyed.

Finally we casually made our way back through the village to the Parish car park, where we met the verger who gave us a quick tour of St. Saviour’s church. The group made a donation in appreciation for the use of the car park, and tour of the church.

All in all a very interesting time was had by all, even if there seemed to be more History than walking.

But come September… who knows?….You may need your hiking boots and poles!!

Walter

Magazine Sponsorship

Many thanks to all those that have donated and continue to donate towards printing costs of the magazine.

If you would like to sponsor a page, or make a donation to the magazine please contact Jenny Craythorne on 07748580541. If you would like to contribute an article, letter or announcement, all of which are very welcome, please send it to taranm@hotmail.co.uk or gpcoffice@btinternet.com or via any of the Parish Officials.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE MAGAZINE IS STRICTLY 17TH OF EACH MONTH. THANK YOU!
The badminton courts will be marked out in the big hall over the summer months.

The new glebe warden gave a report on a number of minor jobs which have been completed since the last meeting such as unblocking drains, repairing slates, replacing church bulbs, and cleaning and French polishing the torcher (candle holder).

The decision has been taken not to spend any large amounts of money on the church organ until the major church work is undertaken in a couple of years.

The Vulnerable Adults policy will be written over the summer.

Sunday School prize distribution will be on Sunday 21 June. Consent forms will be issued to parents for authorisation of photographs of their children.

Duncan was delighted to report that Roger Cooke has agreed to preach at our Pilgrimage Service in Downpatrick Cathedral at the conclusion of our Mission Year in November. The service will take the format of Choral Evensong.

Work on protocols and organisation of church and hall keys is ongoing. All those holding keys will be notified in the next couple of months about calling in at the office to sign for their keys.

What a fabulous day out for the family! The Duck Race on 6 June was such a fun day, it has already been suggested it should become an annual event. I am sure you have all heard by now that our dear Rector’s duck, number 305, did not win, but you will find a list of all the lucky winners in Kate’s report elsewhere!

Many thanks to Kate Murray for the vast amount of work she put in to make the event such a success.

At the time or reading this report, you will all have had the opportunity to choose your favourite hymns for “Songs of Praise” on St Peter’s Day (28 June).

Hope some of your favourites made it through!

As previously stated, tickets for the Black and White Gala night will go on sale in September. I know it seems a long time away, but at the time of ticket purchase you will be asked whether or not you have a request to sit with friends at certain tables or whether you are happy to be placed anywhere.

I am delighted to inform you that following a request, The Old Inn Crawfordsburn is offering a 20% discount to anyone who wishes to stay overnight. It might be advisable to book sooner rather than later.
The Annual Mother’s Union outing of the Groomsport branch took place on Saturday 30 May, when 15 ladies, all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, caught an early train from Bangor to Londonderry (most of them travelling on a Smartpass). Elaine wishes me to emphasise that it was not ALL of them! It was a lovely sunny morning and the scenery on much of the trip was just lovely, especially on the last leg from Coleraine to Londonderry, past Castlerock and Mussendon Temple.

We arrived just in time for an early lunch at the Exchange Restaurant, which is just behind the Guildhall. Everyone was well pleased and would recommend this restaurant highly - service, food and price. After that we were picked up by the City Sightseeing Bus (where a few hardy ladies decided to go on top, despite the temperature reducing by the minute). Whilst interesting, the experience was also depressing and a stark reminder of thirty years of ‘troubles’ in Northern Ireland. However, a really positive event followed. We were guided through the fully restored Guildhall (the City’s Civic Seat) window by window by Gerry, a senior Guide. (Walter and I met Gerry a few weeks prior to our trip, when Walter and I decided to visit the City ourselves in order to make the forthcoming MU trip run as smoothly as possible. On that day, when chatting to the receptionist she informed us that if we wanted a really informed tour of the Guildhall, Gerry is the ‘man’ to get. He appeared in his uniform and after a brief discussion, told us that 30th May was his day off but that he would come up specially from Strabane and show us around. In the intervening period, he rang me and told me that he would meet us on the steps at 3pm). There are some real saints around to-day. Gerry’s presentation and passion for the job was the highlight of the day. As he addressed our group in the main ballroom of the Guildhall, the many casual tourists around the place just stopped in their tracks, and by the time he guided us out of the ballroom, there were about a hundred or more people just standing in awe of this man. His knowledge of the history of England, the Kings and Queen’s, Ireland, the battles, and how the Guildhall came into being were all covered in an hour, illustrated by the beautiful windows.

We finished off our visit to the Guildhall in the Council Chamber, which is quite modern inside with contemporary glass and seating.

With less than hour to spare before we caught our train home, some of us wandered up to the Craft Village (again a must-see), partook of light refreshments, and wandered around the little craft shops.

I believe everyone on the trip had a great day, and thankfully the rain kept off. Many happy memories to enjoy and share.
What a coincidence that they picked the same day to hold the Epsom Derby as Groomsport Parish Church's 'Duck Derby'. Much more fun was had at our derby.

Amazing to see eight grown people kick 516 yellow plastic ducks down the Burn at Crawfordsburn towards a net across the water and that was including our rector in a silly hat.

The first ten ducks to reach the finishing line received a voucher for £10 however, the one duck which swam the fastest was leased by Rosemary Smyth and she will also be presented with a little silver cup. Not big enough for her name to be engraved on it but perhaps passed on for future Duck Derbys.

After the race we adjourned to the Scout Centre where Trevor and John cooked up burgers and sausages. It would not be a church event without a ‘wee cup of tea’ accompanied by traybakes and some lovely buns with sugar ducks on top, courtesy of Carol. This was served up by a brilliant team of tea ladies.

The children enjoyed a scavenger hunt and a challenge trail.

A yearly event? Think these ducks are tired now and need a rest for a year or two.

The mission team would like to thank all who leased a duck, participated in the BBQ and most especially all those helpers on the day.
Table Quiz - Friday 19th June

OUR** Quiz** IS A SUCCESS – AGAIN!

On Friday 19 June we had a Super Duper Quiz Night in the Parish Halls. By general consent, this was a goodun’. More than forty, eager quizaholics turned up ready to strut their stuff and show the Question Master that Picture Rounds held no fear for them; that Dingbats were mere child's play in their hands; and that local history, colours of the rainbow and other factual miscellany were but minor skirmishes in the bigger battle to defeat the Question Master’s cleverest schemes and plots to confound the ignorant and expose the unknowing!

Spot prizes were awarded throughout the evening. Light refreshments were eagerly consumed at half time, sufficient to refresh the combatants before competition resumed. It was closely fought. At the conclusion, four Teams staggered across the finishing line with over a 100 points each, with the other Teams snapping at their heals. But only one could rightly claim the prize of victory. And yet again our Rector had managed to find himself on the winning side. From such happenings are local legends born!!
Forthcoming Events

**Groomsportfest**

**Sunday 23rd August 2015**

An annual event held by The Stables in their car park, which gives us an opportunity to show our presence in this community. We shall have a stall, primarily to promote our Church and activities. We shall also sell preserves and cakes. If you can supply any of these for Sunday 23rd August, we would be very grateful indeed. More importantly, we shall need help on the day so please sign up nearer the time if you can spare an hour or two. It will probably run from 1-5pm. Look out for details on the weekly sheets.

THANK YOU!

**Book Sale & Coffee Morning**

**Saturday 29th August**

Groomsport Parish Hall
10am – 12noon

**Stalls**

**Books**

**Cakes**

**Bric-a-brac**

£2.50 admission includes refreshments
For “Growing Futures Together”

A local charity, encouraging people to connect with the earth and experience the healing power of nature.

**Jewellery Making**

**Saturday 5th September**

On Saturday 5 September from 2.30pm to 4.30pm Cynthia Boyle will be hosting a jewellery-making afternoon in the Parish Hall.

For £5 including refreshments, you can, under Cynthia’s guidance, choose to make an item of jewellery – a bracelet, earrings or a necklace. These will range in difficulty, so whether you are a beginner or have some experience, there will be something to suit your taste and ability.

So come along, have some fun, enjoy the chatter and go home with an item of jewellery of your own making. You might even be inspired to take up a new hobby!
# Hall Usage for July & August

## Sunday

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every Sunday</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td><strong>Sunday School</strong></td>
<td>Tom &amp; Lisa Bell  Mob. 07515 327628</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Resumes September.</td>
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<td><strong>Contact:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Tom &amp; Lisa Bell</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Mob. 07515 327628</strong></td>
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## Monday

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<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every Monday</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Choir Practice</strong></td>
<td>Stuart Tanner  Tel. 028 9146 7052</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Stuart Tanner</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Tel. 028 9146 7052</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Monday of the month</td>
<td>8.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Select Vestry Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Heather Pentland  Mob. 07834 771075</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Mondays of the month</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Chattering Needles</strong></td>
<td>Jenny C 07748580541</td>
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<td><strong>Contact:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Heather Pentland</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mob. 07834 771075</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Jenny C 07748580541</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Monday of the month</td>
<td>8.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Mothers Union</strong></td>
<td>Betty McKinney  Mob. 07783 902356</td>
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## Wednesday

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every Wednesday</td>
<td>2.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Scrabble</strong></td>
<td>Elaine Lester  Mob. 07791 569432  E. <a href="mailto:elliewag57@yahoo.com">elliewag57@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>E. <a href="mailto:elliewag57@yahoo.com">elliewag57@yahoo.com</a></strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Every Wednesday</td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Keep Fit</strong></td>
<td>Ann Parker  Mob. 07854 787121</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Contact:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ann Parker</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mob. 07854 787121</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Every Wednesday</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>Avril Morley Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Wednesday of the month</td>
<td>8.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Cookery Club</strong></td>
<td>Maggie Townsley <a href="mailto:tyndrumhillbilly@aol.com">tyndrumhillbilly@aol.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>Contact:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Avril Morley Room</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Maggie Townsley</strong></td>
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<td><strong><a href="mailto:tyndrumhillbilly@aol.com">tyndrumhillbilly@aol.com</a></strong></td>
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## Thursday

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every Thursday</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td><strong>Artspace</strong></td>
<td>Elaine McGinn  Mob. 07933 187686  E. <a href="mailto:elainemcginnartist@gmail.com">elainemcginnartist@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>E. <a href="mailto:elainemcginnartist@gmail.com">elainemcginnartist@gmail.com</a></strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Every Thursday</td>
<td>2.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Evergreens</strong></td>
<td>Pearl Brown  Mob. 07551 992841</td>
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<td><strong>Pearl Brown</strong></td>
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I have a wonderfully varied list of books this time for the extended summer edition.

**Birdsong**

I first read Sebastian Faulks’ novel “Birdsong” nearly six years ago, having delayed reading it because I thought it would be grim and depressing. I was wrong, though much is distressing, inevitably, in a book which encompasses the Great War, there is so much more to this book than simply a war story. Faulks acute observation of people and situations draws us into the mind of Stephen Wraysford, living with a rather strange French family in 1910. Stephen has been sent from England to learn about the French textile industry; however he falls in love with the wife of his temporary employer. Strongly suspecting that she is mistreated by her husband, his confused feelings gradually overwhelm him and they embark on an affair. So we have a hundred and more pages to be drawn into the life of Stephen Wraysford before Part 2 of the book begins – in France again but in 1916. Part 3 takes us to 1978, then the remaining four sections back and forth between 1917,18 and 1978,79. This technique opens up an overview of the effects of events that happened long before the story begins. This is a magnificent book, powerful, moving, passionate and quite unforgettable.

**The Italian Chapel**

A very kind donation to the book stall has come in the shape of “The Italian Chapel” by Philip Paris. This time the setting is World War Two, but written from the perspective of a backwater of the war. The book is a fictionalised account of real events. The chapel had been built by Italian prisoners of war, who were transported from the heat of the North African desert for the freezing cold of an Orkney winter at the beginning of 1942. Around 500 were sent to Camp 60 on the tiny island of Lamb Holm in order to work on the famous Churchill Barriers, sealing the eastern entrances to Scapa Flow, harbour of the British Home Fleet. Amongst their number were several with artistic and engineering skills which, encouraged by the arrival of a priest in 1943, were employed to
create the amazing church which you see on the
cover of the book. Those who are interested may
see photographs of the interior of the remarkable
and moving monument to human resilience
on line by looking up reviews of the book. The
opening sentences grip one immediately as in
1946 a contractor goes into the site of the prison
camp with bulldozers and the instruction that
nothing of the camp was to be left standing, it
is due to these men, disobeying their orders that
the chapel remains to this day. A remarkable and
touching story, our copy is signed by the author.

Clichés

“Clichés” ‘Avoid them like
the Plague’, does exactly
what you might expect, and
will provide the reader with
a warning. Not least is the
explanation that LOL used to
mean “Little old Lady”, but
the current confusion between
“Laugh out Loud” and “Lots of
Love” has embarrassed even the Prime Minister!

Brat Farrar

The other Josephine Tey
tale novel is “Brat Farrar”. The
Ashby family lost their oldest
cild, Patrick at the age of 13,
his has long been presumed
to be dead. Now, many years
later, a young man turns up,
claiming to be Patrick. Is he?
And if not who is he, how
does he know so much about Patrick’s early life
and what did happen to Patrick? The working
out of this intriguing story brings many surprises,
and a long hidden crime comes to light. The book
is in rather worn condition but I have included
it because we have not had any Josephine Tey
before and I think we are the poorer for it. This
together with the shortness of the book make
it ideal holiday reading. It will come to no more
harm on the beach or beside the pool!

The Private Patient

Regular readers will know that
I can never resist remarking
on one of my favourite
authors, PD James. “The
Private Patient” is the 14th
Adam Dalgliesh novel and
all the classic elements of a
PD James murder mystery
are there:- a large country
house, an assembly of people from all walks of
life, but each with a secret, the disturbing history
of the obelisk in the grounds, and, of course a
body or two. Not perhaps her absolute best, but
nevertheless a good story for the summer.

The Daughter of Time

Two books by Josephine Tey have been
donated and I was delighted to add them to
our shelves. Writing in the 1940s and 50s many
of her mysteries have been
dramatized. “The Daughter
of Time” has been described
as one of the most original
pieces of historical fiction
ever written. After an injury
at work Inspector Alan Grant
is bed-bound for a significant
period of time; fascinated by
faces and what they tell the
discerning observer, upon seeing a picture of
Richard the Third he decides to investigate the
story of the murder of the princes in the tower.

Fever of the Bone

I had not read Val McDermid
before now, but was
favourably inclined towards
her after hearing her talk
about PD James with
admiration! “Fever of the
Bone” is a real thriller; serial
murders, a deeply scarred
protagonist and two engaging
police personnel with their own personal griefs. I
will read more of Val McDermid. I should warn the
squeamish reader that the deaths are particularly nasty!

Finally, I know many people listen to “Thought for the Day” on Radio Ulster each morning. Bert Tosh has put together forty of the best scripts from 1991 and the resulting small book has found its way to our shelves. Although compiled nearly a quarter of a century ago, many of the messages are timeless and I hope someone will find something on which to reflect, be thankful for or rethink in this small volume.

I hope you find something of interest for the summer, if not in the books outlined above then on the shelves, which are constantly renewed and refreshed. Have a wonderful summer, enjoy any travels you may have and happy reading.

Carol

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**PRAYERWAVE**

Whatever else we might do in 2015 the most important task we have set ourselves is to pray for our Parish. You may wish to take inspiration from one of the prayers above or use the prayer found in on page 15 of the Mission 2015 booklet, *“Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here...”*  

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<th>July</th>
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<td>Ashbury Gardens</td>
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<td>25th - 31st</td>
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<td>Towerview Avenue</td>
<td>Stricklands Bay</td>
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<td>Lynne Crescent</td>
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Prayer Room

A Few “Fish” Prayers from the Fishing Net

Given our adoption of St Peter as our guide through 2015 participators in the prayer room were invited to write their prayers on a fish and tie them to the fishing net:-

We pray for those in peril on the sea this night.

🐟🐟🐟

O God, our loving heavenly father be with all those who are hungry in the world today, all those who are lonely and all those who are sick. For Jesus sake, Amen

🐟🐟🐟

Thank you for the peace and quiet of this room.

🐟🐟🐟

I am weak and too ready to feel hurt, Lord help me to care less for me and more for Thee. Help me truly to love my neighbour as myself. Amen

🐟🐟🐟

Loving Father, Haul in our prayers for our lovely Parish For all those who are travelling by sea on a wild windy nightlike this.

🐟🐟🐟

The storm outside but Peace inside. Amen
Thoughts of a Blow In...

Three things happened this last few weeks that I have never experienced in my life before and you’d think at my age, there wouldn’t be much else that could surprise me.

First off, there I was in my wellies (well, John’s wellies) in the burn, guiding plastic ducks with my big stick! Almost up to the top of my wellies at times, the water was something to be negotiated carefully. Very slippy in parts. No bother! I took a change of clothes (which weren’t needed after all!). I cannot tell you how much fun it was! I was definitely in my element. A HUGE thank you to Kate for organising it all. She worked so hard to make it all such a success. It was my first time in Crawfordsburn Country Park too so that was a very pleasant discovery.

Second up, I attended a Creative Writing Workshop. Most of you know but for those who don’t, Leicester City survived their first season in the Premier League in quite spectacular fashion! Winning 8 of their last 9 games, they finished up almost mid table! The Great Escape! My niece is a steward at all the home games (I’m green with envy!) so I get various bits of memorabilia now and again. The foxes and their fans were indeed FEARLESS!

Having discovered there is a garden tool for clearing moss and weeds from slabs and paths, I am invigorated to try and tidy the back yard up a bit! Sandra Williams and her team are doing a great job of looking after the church and hall grounds. The village is entered into the Village in Bloom competition so we are being encouraged to tidy up our front gardens and clear pavements of weeds. If you would like to help Sandra I am sure she would welcome you.

I had no idea what I was letting myself in for and only signed up to support the woman organising it. I secretly thought it would be some airy fairy fanciful session, not really my thing at all. I was pleasantly surprised to spend 2 very quick hours sharing thoughts with friends and creating pictures I can keep and a collage we can use in our future projects. It was fun. Again, we sometimes have preconceived ideas about something and can be completely off the mark.

So what’s the 3rd thing? Well, I won some wine in a raffle! Glory be. I can’t waste it can I?

The Events Team here are working hard on several things for the autumn. Please look out for them and support them. These events are for YOUR enjoyment and for the strengthening of our Church family. If anyone would like to join the Events Team, we are always happy to welcome new help. The Team meets on the third Thursday of each month. The more there are, the lighter the load for everyone.

Have a lovely and blessed Summer

Elaine
Writing about Groomsport

Recently, I have been attending a Creative Writing workshop, funded by the National Lottery and part of a larger programme run through the School of English at Queen’s University. We have been exploring the theme of “place”. I was introduced to this by a member of the Groomsport Village Association. We hope to produce an anthology of writing about Groomsport. I thought I would share one of my contributions. I think readers will recognise the place behind the door in the following paragraphs.

The Years Behind the Door.

Leaving the tearing wind behind, I lift the heavy latch and heave open the door. All is still; in the dim light, shafts of red, gold and green cut through the dusty air, staining the red carpet with glorious otherness.

The stillness is profound; heightened by muffled sounds from outside and nesting starlings rattling under the eaves. Yet in this stillness is a Presence. Generations have worshipped here, their prayers ingrained in the plastered walls and ancient pews. I have come here to do a job, but I am drawn to a pew; to sit, reflect and listen. I will add my prayers to the countless others and together we will make our own coloured tapestry of grief and joy, pain and triumph, forgiveness and hope, a continuous thread of supplication through the years.

Carol
Our objective is to alleviate the stresses and anxieties experienced by animal owners who find themselves no longer able to care for their companion pets in a practical way. Individuals who are terminally ill, older people and those who are suffering the side effects of Acute cancer treatment often find themselves simply too weak or frail to carry out the basic tasks needed to ensure the welfare and happiness of their pet is maintained.

This can cause considerable stress and distress for both the owner and their pet. These circumstances can lead to the owner having to eventually ‘give up’ the pet and in so doing experience a tremendous loss and feeling of guilt - which can only add to their already difficult life changing circumstances.

During our time with our beneficiaries we work in partnership with the owner to support the special relationship between owner & pet and provide peace of mind for the future.

Our volunteers assist Service Users to do the practical tasks with their pets for example:

- Dog walking
- Vet visits
- Feeding
- Cat & small animal care

We are also recruiting a network of volunteers who will offer ‘foster homes’ for pets whose owners need to temporarily go to hospices or hospitals and long term adoption homes when the owner is no longer with us.

Please visit our website and Facebook page to see more about what we do and how you can help.

E: mail@rosiestrust.org
T: 07721 204 061.
I arrived at LAGOS airport on 20th November 1957 and stepped off the plane into an “oven”, having left London on a cold winters day. My first posting was in the Head Office as a young junior Assistant Accountant and I shared an apartment above the Head Office with another junior Assistant Accountant. I had a bedroom equipped with a fan and a mosquito net BUT NOT airconditioning! We also shared a servant (house boy) and a cook. The cook did the basic food shopping. We would give him say £5 and he probably paid £4 in the market. If I bought the same food it would probably cost £6. So both the cook and I benefitted!!!

Transport was a problem, as young Accountants were not provided with a company car. After a few weeks, a colleague and I bought a second hand MG TC sports car for £300 which gave us much pleasure.

I joined a cricket club called Crickets Cricket Club and I vividly recall my first match. I was asked to open the batting and after half an hour or so I was out for 19 and mightily relieved to get off the field as the temperature was nearly 90F in the shade and the humidity 80 degrees!!!

Several weeks later I was asked to bowl as the opposition had hit over 60 runs in a short space of time. The batsman hit my first innocuous ball hard to mid-on who managed to catch it. This meant that I had taken 4 wickets in 4 balls as in my last match in England in September I had closed the match with a hat-trick.

My Company had offered to send a member of Management to the Southern Cameroons to assist in the running of an “Outward Bound” course for 30 young promising Nigerians who were employed in Government organisations such as the Civil Service and the armed Forces and who showed promise for early promotion to management positions or to be commissioned officers. Their average age was in the mid twenties. As I was the newest junior Mamager (23!!!) I was chosen.. The course was held at Man of War Bay and my first job was to deal with the worries of those who had never SEEN the sea before. Another task was to lead 15 of “the pupils” on a trek to find elephants.. We saw traces of the elephants and HEARD them BUT did not catch up with them THANKFULLY!!! We camped in wooden huts with jungle behind us and the sea on our door step. I found it a challenging adventure.

On my return to Lagos I was told I was soon to be transferred to the factory in Ibadan some 90 miles north of Lagos. AT that time. 1958, Nigeria was divided into the Capital Territory of Lagos and three regions - the North, mainly HAUSA - Muslim tribe., the West (mainly YORUBA ) and the East (mainly IGBO), the West and the East were mainly Christian.
Ibadan was the capital of the Western Region. The Accountant at the factory was excellent and that was where I learnt most of my management accounting.

When I arrived in 1957 there were over 120 expatriate managers and about 10 Nigerians. The middle and junior expatriate managers, as well as doing their normal day to day work, were more and more responsible for training Nigerians. By the time I left Nigeria in 1969 (with Jenny) the number of Expatriate Managers was less than 30.

My second tour of duty began in October 1959 with a spell in Lagos before being transferred to Port Harcourt in March 1960 where I was Factory Accountant for twelve months. On the 1st October 1960 Nigeria became an independent country and my Chief Clerk, Mr Jarrett and his wife invited me to their home to mark the occasion. I was served a very very hot curry (I was in big trouble but managed to survive). There was a small Anglican Church in Port Harcourt which I regularly attended on Sunday evenings. I cannot remember the Vicar's name but some time in the 1970s I learnt that he was the Dean of Windsor.

My third tour of duty began in June 1961 and I was stationed in Lagos for a year before undertaking Internal Audit duties which took me round the country. In mid October 1962 I became very ill with Pleurisy and spent a week in a Nursing Home in Lagos. When I was well enough to fly I returned home some two weeks earlier than planned as my Wedding to Jenny was scheduled for 7th December 1962. When she met me at Aldergrove she reckoned she was getting a poor bargain as I had lost 1 1/2 stone!!

Peter
Dear Reader

This summer edition concludes our first full year of our new colour Contact magazine and we hope you have enjoyed it. We would like to thank all of you that have donated money towards the printing of the magazine and those of you that have contributed and shared information, stories and your experiences with us, as this is what makes our magazine. We would like to encourage you to continue to share information, stories and experiences with us and we will continue to print as many of them as possible. In addition we would like to request that where your family or friends are part of a baptism or wedding or other joyous occasion at our church that a photo along with a few details is forwarded to us so that we can include them in the magazine.

Have a lovely summer and we will be back in September.

The magazine team.