

# CONTACT

June 2017

*Jesus bids us shine with a clear, pure light.  
Like a little candle burning in the night,  
In this world of darkness, we must shine.  
You in your small corner, and I in mine.*

[www.groomsporthparishchurch.org](http://www.groomsporthparishchurch.org)



# Parish Officials

The Rector	Revd Duncan Pollock	028 9146 4476
The Rector's Warden	Hester Kelly	028 9146 3541
The People's Warden	Helen Parkinson	028 9147 9984
R Glebe Warden	Walter Burke	028 9145 1768
P Glebe Warden	Tony Anderson	07803 282200
Treasurer	Wesley Quinn	028 9145 6472
Secretary to SV	Heather Pentland	07834 771075
Gift Aid Secretary	Ian Sloan	028 9145 7092
Youth Fellowship	Craig Lutton	07816 853373
Sunday School	Maggie Townsley & Helen Carter	07748 208649
Vergar/Caretaker	Susan Moore	028 9185 7509
Organist	Stuart Tanner	07411 178230
Parish Office	Elaine Lester	028 9127 1311 07791 569432

Administrative enquiries please contact: Elaine 028 9127 1311 or [gpcoffice@btinternet.com](mailto:gpcoffice@btinternet.com)

Church Hall bookings please contact: David McKnight 028 9127 3130 or [linden.lodge@btopenworld.com](mailto:linden.lodge@btopenworld.com)

For Hall problems, please contact: Walter (028 9145 1768) or Tony (07803 282200)

## Rector's Hour

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

## Rector's Recess

Whilst our Rector is always available to his congregation at all hours of every day, it is hoped that, where possible, the period between lunchtime Friday and Sunday Services may be void of contact so as to allow him family time, quiet reflection and preparation for the week ahead; emergency requirements and visits excepted.

# From the Rector



Forty three years ago in the Royal Memorial Chapel Sandhurst, I was confirmed by the then Bishop to the Forces, the Bishop of Croydon, The Right Reverend John Hughes. There weren't many of us there; I think about ten candidates and a congregation of about fifty. I don't remember much about the evening, the hymns, the address, the order of service. And afterwards I don't remember there being any kind of bun fight or reception. In any event I was a young Officer Cadet and I expect I had to dash off to get my kit ready for the next day. (For me, the whole time at the Royal Military Academy was characterised by one long rush, from one task to the next). What I do remember is that confirmation classes were confined to the Academy Chaplain's dining room, where we drank copious amounts of his home brewed beer. I don't remember learning much about the Church, that's for sure, and in any event, confirmation classes were not high on the list of priorities. I do remember being a little underwhelmed by the whole business. There was a little bit of me that hoped that as the Bishop laid his hands upon my head, the heavens would be torn open and I would see the Holy Spirit descending on me, either as a dove or in tongues of fire, I wasn't particularly bothered which! Of course it didn't happen, or if it did I wasn't alive to it.

But, but, but ... Confirmation was not for me an ending, but the beginning of a startling journey that has taken me from Sandhurst to heaven and hell and back. What I didn't learn or pick up in confirmation classes, I've discovered since. The journey continues and I am still learning – learning of the grace of God the Father, the extraordinary love of God the Son and the guiding strengthening presence of God the Holy Spirit.

Five of our Parish family were confirmed on Easter evening. I wonder if they realise that the journey they have embarked upon might be dangerous, challenging; at times a joy, at times a nightmare. I wonder if they will continue to learn and through that journeying and learning have their faith deepened? And I wonder if, as you read this, you will be remembering your own confirmation and the subsequent/ consequent journeying. I wonder, too, if any of us, especially John, and Gary and Helen and Kate and Paige, realise that the journey continues?

Confirmation is not an ending, of course, but the beginning of a life changing journey and adventure.

*Duncan*

A Rector's PS: Not long ago we launched our refurbishment project. Most of our members and others will have received a brochure detailing the aspirations and plans. Those plans and aspirations are well on the way to being fulfilled. But there is a "but"! Part of the project was the desire to raise £100k, not just to augment the HLF grant, but also to ensure that we have a reserve to maintain our extraordinary Church for years to come. In the folder with the brochure were standing order mandates to help the Select Vestry plan responsibly for the future. To date, of the 150 or so brochures that have been handed out, less than twenty standing order mandates have been returned. Many generous one off donations have been received, for which many, many thanks. But if you have a brochure, and if you could consider a regular monthly donation, it would be an enormous help. Thank you ever so much.

(If you can't find a standing order mandate, do ask Wesley the Treasurer, or John the "Folder Manager" or any member of the Select Vestry).

*Duncan*



# Church Services May

## Sunday 4 June - The Feast of Pentecost

Welcome Team: David and Dorothy McKnight

Reader: Colin Crozier

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	A Family Service for Pentecost
6.00pm	Evening Prayer (said)

\* Coffee after 10.30am service in Church Hall. All welcome! Hosted by Andrea Johnston, Tara Brown, Craig Lutton and Ian Sloan.

## Sunday 11 June – Trinity Sunday

Welcome Team: Susan and Freddie McNair

Reader: Dorothy Anne Crawford

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Parish Communion on the Feast of The Holy Trinity
6.00pm	Compline

## Sunday 18 June – Trinity 1

Welcome Team: William and Florence McAneney

Reader: Stuart Tanner

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Service of the Word with Holy Baptism
6.00pm	Holy Communion (please note change of service)

## Sunday 25 June – Trinity 2

Welcome Team: William and Florence McAneney

Reader: Norma Parsley

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Morning Prayer
6.00pm	Choral Evensong for Petertide. This evening we welcome the Choir of Cregagh Presbyterian Church and their Director of Music John Dallas

## Sunday 2 July – Trinity 3

Welcome Team: David and Dorothy McKnight

Reader: Maureen Taggart

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	A Family Service for St Thomas' Day
6.00pm	Evening Prayer (said)

\* Coffee after 10.30am service in Church Hall. All welcome! Hosted by Andrea Johnston, Tara Brown, Craig Lutton and Ian Sloan.

### Note:

Mid-week services

Tuesday evenings  
7.30pm Compline

Thursday mornings  
11.00am Holy  
Communion

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

# Births, Deaths, Baptisms, Marriages & Announcements

## Holy Baptism

Charlie Baker Armstrong

23 April - Charlie is the young son of Neil and Nicola. It was a joy to welcome Charlie's family into Church once again for this happy occasion

(even if the Rector was a little confused in with as to who he was baptising!)

---

## Confirmation

John, Gary, Helen, Kate & Paige

Easter Evening, 16 April, by the Bishop of Down and Dromore, in Bangor Parish Church.

John Hand, Gary Keenan, Helen Kennedy, Kate Murray, Paige Pleasant

---

## Holy Rest

Maureen Crawford - 21 April

Dear Maureen was a daughter of the village, born as she was in Harbour Road over 80 years ago.

We hold her daughters Julie and Mandy especially in our prayers

Ian Beattie - 2 May

Well known and much loved, Ian's home was the bungalow behind the Church. The last year of his life was spent in Kingsland Nursing Home. Please remember Joyce, Kieran, Garth and Adrian in your prayers.

May Maureen and Ian, rest in peace and rise in glory.

## Announcements

Our Prize Winning Parish Magazine

Those who receive our Parish Magazine, "Contact", remark on what a great little publication it is. Few small Parishes like ours produce such a professional publication. We know it is an excellent production, but it is gratifying to have official recognition. "Contact" was placed first in the Church of Ireland's Parish Magazine competition in the North and runner up in the Church as a whole. We should be rightly proud of this achievement and grateful to the contributors, the proof readers, and most of all Mark and Tara who put the magazine together month by month. Thank you all!

*Duncan*

Congratulations to our Parish Magazine!

We always thought our magazine was very good, but now we know it is one of the best in Ireland.

In May, it was Runner-Up in an all Ireland Parish magazine competition. The award was announced at the General Synod in Limerick. We are officially the best Parish magazine in Northern Ireland.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone who has contributed to the magazine over the past few years. Special thanks must go to Mark and Tara Brown for their skill, expertise and patience in putting it all together each month.

*Zandra Sloan*

## A note from the Editor

Whilst we are very chuffed to have received official recognition from the Church of Ireland on our little monthly magazine, it must be said that the magazine would not happen each month without the help of all of the congregation, all the articles and contributions are the stuff that makes the magazine. Many thanks to our regular contributors, Carol Walters, Cynthia Boyd, Duncan (of course!), Ian Sloan, Barry Greenaway, Colin Crozier and many others, however our special thanks must go to Zandra Sloan who keeps us right EVERY month, and without whom we would be lost. The magazine is by all of us, for all of us. Let's continue to enjoy it!

*Tara & Mark*

## Trip to Israel

Wednesday 18 – Thursday 26 October 2017

Cost: £1,585 per person sharing

Single Supplement £365

Escorted by Rev Jim & Eppie Bates

This trip is organised from St Galls Church, Carnalea extends a warm invitation for others to join them. We are accompanied throughout by a local guide and travel in a modern air conditioned coach.

We will start in Tiberias (Galilee) and visit Sites in and around that area – including a boat trip across the Sea itself to the places where Jesus conducted his early ministry.

After four nights we head south to Jerusalem along the Mediterranean coast stopping at Meggido and the Roman sites at Ceasarea.

From our base in the city we will visit the places of Jesus final Passion, we will walk along the Via Dolorosa and the Holy Sepulchre and have a service at the Garden Tomb. We will make a visit to: Bethlehem; Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found; ascend to Masada by cable car; and have a float in the Dead Sea.

Everyone who visits finds their faith enriched just to be in the places Jesus knew and all come away with memories for a lifetime.

Please come and join us. For further information, a brochure and booking form contact

Aldor Escorted Holidays

Tel 028 9022 2240

[www.orrstravel.com](http://www.orrstravel.com)

[joyce@orrstravel.co.uk](mailto:joyce@orrstravel.co.uk)

*Dear Friends,*

*If you would like further information or for me to come and speak to your folk please contact me at Rev Jim Bates, 166 Donaghadee Road, BT20 4PB. Tel: 9147 3068 [bates289@btinternet.com](mailto:bates289@btinternet.com)*

*Thank you and best wishes*

*Jim Bates*

## Maudy Thursday

Please see below pics from the Maudy Thursday service. The write up was in last months Contact however we didn't receive the pics in time for going to print and wanted to include it for those of you who may not recognise Rev Faith Cully



## Wedding Pictures

Some pictures were sent into us of the Wedding of Aaron Morrow and Emma Navan who were married on 8th April.



*We wish the all the best in their future together.*

## Evergreens

At the end of April we lost another member, Maureen Crawford, who will be missed by all. We have gained two new members recently Violet McNinch and Charlotte Cully (Rev Faith Cully's mother who will be 95 in July). 1 June will Boccia and we all have fun at that. The outing on 8 June will be to Harrisons for lunch and then across on the Portaferry ferry and on to Newcastle, and the final date is 15 June for a cup of tea and a chat. So come on all ye who are over 50 - man or lady - have a bit of craic and a cup of tea and a biscuit - or maybe a bun or cake.

*Valerie Boyd* (91465103)

## Magazine Sponsorship

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

**THANK YOU**

Contacts:

[taranm@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:taranm@hotmail.co.uk)

[gpcoffice@btinternet.com](mailto:gpcoffice@btinternet.com)

[zandrasloan@hotmail.com](mailto:zandrasloan@hotmail.com)

or via any of the Parish Officials.



# CONTACT



# Walking for Softies

The April walk was a good day and a very pleasant walk at Island Hill, Comber, there were 17 persons and tea and scones at Spring Cottage Crafts on Ballyhenry Road, Comber. Our final walk of the season will be at Bangor Castle's Walled Garden on the 24 June, please meet at the Museum's lower car park. Looking forward to seeing you there

*Ken Boyd* (028 91 465103)

---

## May Vestry Notes

As this was the first meeting of the new Vestry, Duncan welcomed the new members and outlined their responsibilities.

Wesley gave a detailed report on the up to date finances. Barry explained the current Church refurbishment plans and proposed that the building project should be architect led.

The overgrown ivy and shrubs behind the hall have been trimmed. A baby changing unit was fitted in the ladies' cloakroom in the hall. New LEDs have been fitted to the leaded panels in the hall and the brass rails in the church have been repaired. Duncan reminded everyone that it is the responsibility of all parishioners to speak to the Glebe Wardens if they notice that something needs done around the church or the halls.

Barry reminded Vestry members that the Visitors Book in the porch is worth a look.

Kate informed the Vestry that we will be

involved in the Eagle Wing Festival in August.

William sought confirmation that the Church is unable to cater for gluten free.

Permission was given for Susan McNair to book the hall for an Art Exhibition 18 – 21 May.

Permission was also given for Groomsport Parish Art Club to meet in the hall each Thursday afternoon and for the Women's World Day of Prayer Committee to meet in the hall throughout the year.

Walter reminded everyone about the Dementia Day on 22 June.

Zandra informed Vestry members that they would be needed to deliver Refurbishment brochures to Parishioners who have not yet received them.

Heather provided Vestry members with a list of dates of meetings for the year.

Named photographs of Vestry members will appear in the next Contact.

# Forthcoming Events

## Dementia Friendly Day

Thursday 22<sup>TH</sup> June 2017 - Groomsport Parish Halls

9.30am

On this special day, Groomsport Parish Church is working with the Alzheimer's Society to help create a dementia friendly community in Groomsport, Ballyholme and Donaghadee. With support, it is possible for people to live well in their community for as long as possible.

Get involved by attending this Dementia Friendly Communities workshop.

The aim of the workshop will help you to:

-  Develop your knowledge of dementia
-  Increase your confidence and skills to help you relate, communicate and support someone with dementia
-  Become a Dementia Friend

2.30pm

A short service of worship dedicated to those living with dementia, their carers, family and friends. We welcome anyone from the local Groomsport, Ballyholme and Donaghadee community who would like to attend. Afternoon tea and an opportunity for sharing and conversation will follow the service

If you have any queries regarding this event, please email [gpcoffice@btinternet.com](mailto:gpcoffice@btinternet.com) or telephone Mae Burke, phone 02891451768. If you are planning to bring a group from a Care Home then we would particularly like to hear from you in relation to meeting your needs.

Attendance is Free. Refreshments will be served on arrival and the workshop will finish at 12 noon



Supported by  
**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Northern Ireland Charity Number: 103258



The Eagle Wing Festival returns to Groomsport Village on Saturday 19th August. We will be contributing to the Festival by providing a COFFEE DAY from 1pm – 4pm. We will be serving Tea, Coffee, biscuits and perhaps something for the kiddies, perhaps face painting. More details to follow closer to the time but for now keep the date for your diary.

# Planned Events 2017



- JUN 03** Groomsport Family Fun Day & BBQ
- JUN 22** Dementia Friendly Day
- AUG 19** Coffee Day as part of the Eagle Wing Festival
- OCT 06** Quiz
- OCT 20** Fashion show
- NOV 04** Book Fair and Coffee morning
- NOV 17** Dinner (Bangor Golf Club)
- DEC 02** Christmas Fair
- DEC 03** Archbishops Visit

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



Northern Ireland Charity Number: 103258

# SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE



# IT CALLS

# SUMMER

OPENS  
1.00PM



YES WE CAN!



**BOUNCY CASTLE**  
**GIANT INFLATABLE SLIDE**  
**POPCORN ICE CREAM CANDY FLOSS**  
**CAKES MASSIVE PLANT STALL PADDYS MARKET**  
**BRICABRAC TOY STALL HOT DOGS & BURGERS**



**FREE BUS FROM/TO BANGOR**  
**FREE PARK AND RIDE**

# FREE ENTRANCE

## SUPER PRIZE DRAW

**OVER £750 worth of FANTASTIC PRIZES**

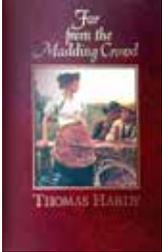
# Hall Usage - June

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

Every Wednesday	5.30pm	<b>You can with Ann Motivation &amp; Exercise class</b> Contact: Ann Parker Mob. 07854 787121
Every Wednesday	6.30pm	<b>Keep Fit Exercise Class</b> Contact: Ann Parker Mob. 07854 787121
Every Wednesday	7.30pm	<b>Bible Study</b> (Avril Morley Room)
3rd Wednesday of the month	7.30pm	<b>Cookery Club</b> Contact: Heather Magill E. mag16ill@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Thursday</b>		
Every Thursday	2.00pm	<b>Evergreens</b> Open to all over fifty year olds and new members always welcome. Contact: Pearl Brown Mob. 07551 992841
Every Thursday	7.30pm - Late	<b>Chess Club</b> Contact: James O'Fee Tel. 028 9147 0232 E. jamesofee@gmx.com
Thursdays except 1st Thursday in the month	7.30pm	<b>Youth Fellowship</b> Contact: Craig Lutton Mob. 07816 853373
Every Thursday except 1st of the month	7.30pm	<b>Table Tennis Club</b> This is a game for everyone whatever your age so please join us. Contact: John Hand Tel. 028 9146 8061 Mob. 07540 375785
<b>Saturday</b>		
4th Saturday of the month	10.00am	<b>Walking for Softies</b> Venues vary. Meeting at 10.00am at chosen location. Contact: Ken Boyd Tel. 028 9146 5103

# Book Stall

Far From the Madding Crowd" by Thomas Hardy



I make no apologies for starting once more with a classic! "Far From the Madding Crowd" by Thomas Hardy is a glorious book, deeply evocative of the rural landscape in which the drama unfolds and peopled with many and varied characters, all victims of one or other weakness. Independent

and spirited Bathsheba Everdene has come to Weatherbury to take up her position as a farmer on the largest estate in the area. Her disturbing presence draws three very different suitors: the gentleman-farmer Boldwood, soldier-seducer Sergeant Troy and the devoted shepherd Gabriel Oak. Each, in contrasting ways, unsettles her decisions and complicates her life. Naturally, being Hardy, tragedy ensues, threatening the stability of the whole community. It's a wonderful read and the layout of the story in relatively short, clearly headed chapters makes it an easier read than might be expected. On balance, though not without periods of real darkness, this is one of Hardy's more cheerful stories.

Don't: A Manual of Mistakes & Improprieties  
More or Less Prevalent in Conduct and  
Speech



This pocket sized book, first published around 1880 is a delightful reminder of what "proper" behaviour should be. Some advice still very definitely holds today:

*Don't talk when your mouth is full-never in fact have your mouth full. It is more healthful and in better taste*

*to eat by small morsels.*

However some advice may well be considered less relevant today:

*Don't remove your glove when you wish to shake hands, or apologise for not doing so. It is proper to offer the hand gloved.*

Written as it was, by an American for "Americans of the better class" it deals with a wealth of social situations from "In the Drawing Room", through "Speech" to the final chapter "Affectionately addressed to Womenkind"

I smiled at this one:

*Don't give yourself wholly to the reading of novels. An excess of this kind of reading is the great vice of womenkind. Good novels are good things, but how can women hope to occupy an equal place with men if their intellectual life is given to one branch of literature solely?*

I should perhaps add that this is a very small book and it is not expected that the usual donation is appropriate.

The Street Bible" by Rob Lacey



This is an attempt to put the Bible into readily understood street language. The forward argues that historically the Hebrew Bible passages were read aloud and translators would immediately translate it into Aramaic, the language of the common people. Here is a taster:-

Genesis/Stuff starts up

*First off, nothing. No light, no time, no substance, no matter. Second off, God starts it all up and WHAP! Stuff everywhere! The cosmos in chaos; no shape, no form, no function – just darkness...total. And floating above it all, God's Holy Spirit, ready for action.*

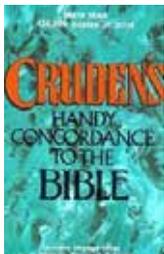
And from John's Gospel Chapter 14, vs 1-4:-

*'Don't look so stressed! You rely on God. So rely on me! Dad's place has thousands of vacancies. I'm going to ahead to get your apartment suites ready, to book you in. Would I lie to you? No, you know it. When it's all sorted I'll come and pick you up. I'll be desperate for you to be with me. You know the route.'*

I can well believe that many may struggle with this approach but I would commend it to be read alongside a "conventional" translation to provoke deeper reflection

and a more questioning approach about our routine assumptions.

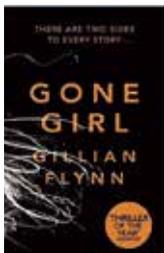
### Cruden's Handy Concordance to the Bible



Cruden's Handy Concordance to the Bible is a really useful little reference book if you ever want to look up a particular passage or individual from the bible but, like me, find it difficult to remember which book it appears in. It is an alphabetical list of important words and

phrases in the bible referring the reader to where they occur in the bible.

### Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn

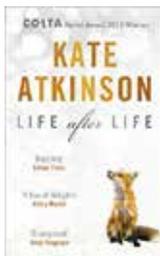


"Gone Girl" by Gillian Flynn was a much talked about novel when it came out in 2012 and it certainly is one of those books which stay in the mind for some time to come. On the morning of his fifth wedding anniversary, Nick Dunne finds his wife has disappeared. Suspicion falls on Nick, a situation not helped by the suspicions

of his neighbours, though he swears his innocence. As the evidence mounts we are party to Nick's thoughts and experiences, interspersed with diary entries from Amy from several years previously in order to help us build up a picture. The tension mounts and the reader really does not know quite what to believe. The final twists are totally unexpected and, for me profoundly disturbing. I was not less disturbed by reading this recently, only to discover, over half way through that I had read it before! It is a deeply compelling book, but one which, in retrospect, I do not like – and rather feebly for a book review, I cannot tell you quite why! I would love some feedback from other who have read this and can give me their opinions.

### Life after Life by Kate Atkinson

"Life after Life" by Kate Atkinson, has been reviewed before by me, over two years ago, but it is so good that I thought that as a new copy has come in I would repeat the review for those who missed it the first time. Described variously by critics as



"Truly brilliant", "Deliriously inventive" and "A dizzying and dazzling tour de force" this novel attempts to answer the question 'What if you had the chance to live your life again and again, until you finally got it right?' I find this intriguing and having really enjoyed her novels "When will there

be good news?", "Case Histories" and most particularly "Started Early, Took My Dog" I really looked forward to reading this one. I particularly enjoy Atkinson's humour and her ability to get inside the head of each of her characters, speaking in what seems naturally real but distinctly different voices.

### A Wayne in a Manger



Retired school inspector and raconteur Gervase Phinn writes wonderfully funny books of events from his experiences in the Yorkshire Dales. Here is one of my favourites, better if you can imagine the Dales accent (think "All Creature Great and Small")

As I approached a Dales school one December afternoon, I found all the children heading for home. I stopped a small boy loaded down with Christmas cards, calendars, decorations, presents and all manner of boxes and bags as he tried to negotiate the narrow gate.

*'Where's everyone going?' I asked. 'There's a Nativity play here this afternoon, isn't there?'*

*He stopped for the amount of time it took to tell me bluntly, 'It's off!'*

*'It's off?' I repeated.*

*'Aye,' he replied. 'T'Virgin Mary's got nits!'*

I hope you find something to interest you this month.

CAROL

# Thoughts of a Blow In...

After a wintry end of April, the first part of May smiled upon us, and how! It was a delight (as well as a huge surprise) to have two full weeks of sunshine. It seemed almost like a mirage to wake up day after day to blue skies!

One of the bonuses of the glorious spell of weather was seeing so many people around and about to take full advantage of the sunshine. It really was a delight to meet so many friends unexpectedly, some I hadn't seen in a year or more, and to get the chance to have a relaxed catch-up. The other advantage was to be able to hang out the washing in the garden without a second thought, knowing it would get dry!

Now we are back to our usual springtime sunshine-and-showers, but everyone is all the brighter for that extended spell of clement weather, even if it did coincide with the run up to exams for schoolchildren and students!

As well as bumping into folk on the off chance, it has been a joy to see so much of next door's little ones playing outside. The

other evening, the two youngest, Emma and Leo, were playing in the front garden and I heard a sudden howl, so I dashed out to see if anyone had fallen over and hurt themselves.

I found Emma, all forlorn and on her own, with tears still on her eyelashes. She explained that her wee brother had been sent indoors for the dire crime of eating her portion of ice cream!

It was so nice to get a chat with her (as well as a hug,) listening to her talk away, telling me all about her day and commiserating with her on her recent bout of chickenpox. She seemed to appreciate the little bit of one to one attention and after a few minutes, she skipped back indoors smiling!

Since we had a Shakespeare poem last month, we are staying with the Elizabethan poets with a verse on the month of May by Thomas Dekker. I do hope you are all enjoying the late spring, with its sunshine and showers!

*Cynthia*



*O, the month of May, the merry month of May,  
So frolic, so gay, and so green, so green, so green!  
O, and then did I unto my true love say,  
Sweet Peg, thou shalt be my Summer's Queen.*

# Prayer Room

This year in the Prayer Room we had a line of flags on which to write prayers for different regions of the world. We live in such troubled times, worldwide, there is no shortage of places which could benefit from our prayers and these of course are augmented by specific places known to our parishioners:-

*Prayer for*

*All the children in Flamingo Crèche in Plettenburg Bay S. A.*

*All persecuted people*

*All the people of the Middle East, especially the children. May we find a peaceful solution to war.*

*For Canada; for Niall, Maryann, Zoe & Eleanor*

*Chile, especially Maquélive/Temuco & Santiago de Chile*

*Groomspoint*

*Nepal*

*For the people of Yemen facing famine; Lord have mercy*

*Syria*

*East Africa and all those starving*

*Turkey, sheltering refugees in their thousands*

*Christians in Egypt*

*God bless all who suffer persecution and give them peace.*

*The Homeless and unloved in North Down, sleeping rough and/or in a room alone.*

Try to remember some of these in your own prayers. There is little we can do to solve the problems of Syria, Christian persecution or Yemen, but we can pray.

*Carol*



## **Belfast Marathon – A Runner’s Tale.**

Dear Duncan, Janice, Billy and congregation of Groomsport Parish Church.

I feel privileged to write and thank you for supporting me to complete my home town (Belfast) marathon on 1st May 2017, in a time of 4:44:13.

As I stood at the start line in beautiful sunshine (yes I did say that) surrounded by people from diverse backgrounds, many in fancy dress, including six smurfs, I said a short prayer. Selfishly, I included myself but I also prayed for the many people living with breast cancer, including my beautiful wife Carolyn, who in some small way I was running to support and the many people who had very generously donated to my chosen charity.

My challenge started immediately as the smurfs set off at a blistering pace. Not wanting to be embarrassed, I kept with them for the first five miles, only to discover they were part of a relay team. My heart sank when, having thought I had outpaced them, the first six dropped out with a further six fresh legged smurfs starting the second leg, again at a blistering pace. You really can go off smurfs!

I was at 13 miles in 2:01 hours and feeling great. That was before a four miles 85 meter elevation kicked in called the Antrim Road. I wasn’t feeling so great after that section.

Duncan, Janice and Billy will testify this marathon had truly taken its toll my 53-year-old body. Seeing a Reverend at the finishing line was at first worrying, given how I felt, but with spiritual intervention including water, physical support to the massage table and words of encouragement, I will be forever indebted to Duncan and of course Janice and Billy.

I previously ran two London marathons and without bias, this was the most enjoyable. The pain, humour and weather were all amazing in equal but different measures. A suntan from Belfast is unbelievable.

My short-lived pain is of course irrelevant compared to those living daily with breast cancer. I am therefore truly humbled that I have far exceeded my sponsorship target of £1000. The total amount donated is £2818.60 with a further £565.90, which can be claimed via gift aid.

The congregation of Groomsport Parish Church collectively made a significant contribution of £340 plus gift aid to my total amount. I will never forget your generous donations, support, thoughts and prayers, which were all relayed to me by Duncan and Janice.

Thank you and god bless.

*Terry xxx*



## Groomspport Parish Church Freewill Offering Envelopes Totals for Jan-Dec 2016

01	120	31		61	130	91		121	210	151	104
02	298	32	300	62	260	92	640	122	270	152	75
03	100	33	50	63	385	93	305	123	510	153	75
04	1210	34	400	64	200	94	490	124	122.2	154	55
05	480	35	609	65		95	140	125	85	155	210
06		36	165	66	265	96		126	110	156	55
07	196	37	203	67	280	97	95	127	106.5	157	40
08	245	38	45	68	140	98		128		158	20
09	205	39	255	69	1225	99	240	129	21	159	280
10	175	40	116	70	420	100		130	40	160	140
11		41	120	71	127	101	280	131	10		
12	270	42	47	72	260	102	340	132	390		
13	250	43	266.2	73	248	103	325	133	225		
14	20	44	246	74		104		134	1000		
15	360	45	470	75		105	490	135	69.25		
16	30	46	540	76	123	106	132	136	500		
17	100	47	2870	77	190	107	240	137	44		
18	380	48	1020	78	60	108	310	138			
19	178.5	49	250	79	85	109	60	139	980		
20	179	50	950	80	15	110	430	140	355		
21	515	51	615	81	1000	111		141	385		
22	850	52	240	82	80	112	130	142	321		
23	51	53	90	83	220	113		143	55		
24	300	54	165	84	87	114	950	144			
25	525	55	205	85	490	115	154.5	145	490		
26	510	56	80	86	20	116	224	146	400		
27	450	57	70	87	947	117	212	147	150		
28		58	35	88	910	118		148	38		
29	150	59	660	89	204	119	0.45	149	180		
30	250	60		90	2	120	29	150	60		



[www.groomsportparishchurch.org](http://www.groomsportparishchurch.org)



Supported by

**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Northern Ireland Charity Number: 103258