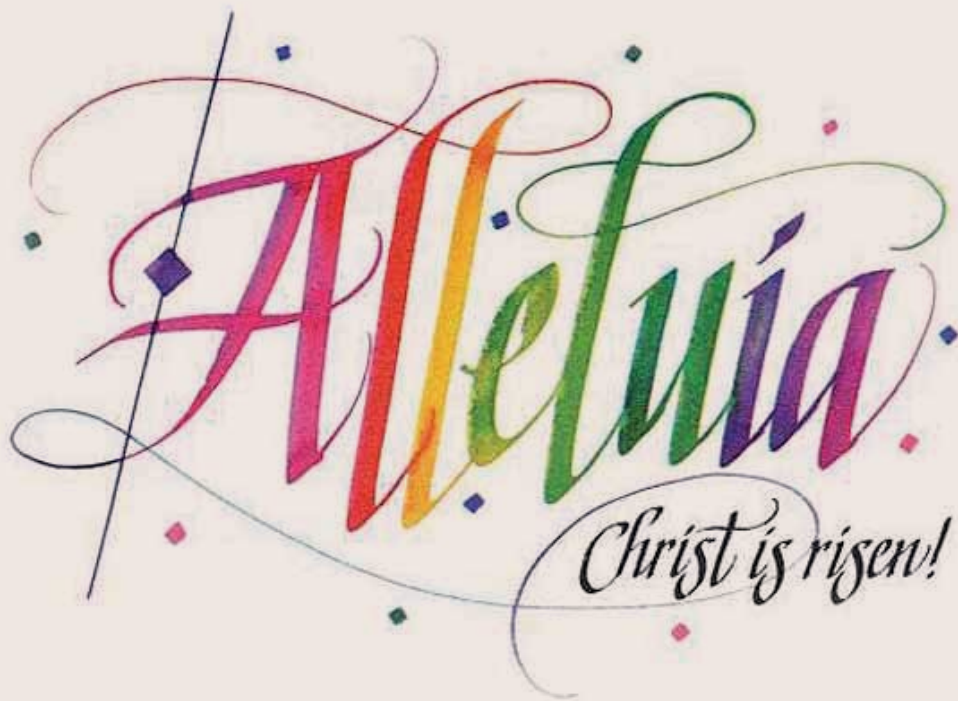


CONTACT

April 2018



www.groomsporthparishchurch.org



Parish Officials

The Rector	Revd Duncan Pollock	028 9146 4476
The Rector's Warden	Helen Parkinson	028 9147 9984
The People's Warden	Hester Kelly	028 9146 3541
R Glebe Warden	Billy McAneney	07812 042833
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
Sunday School	Maggie Townsley & Helen Carter	07748 208649
Verger/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

Church Hall bookings please contact: David McKnight 028 9127 3130 or linden.lodge@btopenworld.com

For Hall problems, please contact:
William McAneney (07812 042833) 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



Looked at in the cold light of day, you'd be forgiven for thinking that there is not a great deal wrong with our Church building. Yes, the lighting could be a bit better, perhaps. The plaster work, especially in the transepts, is a bit shabby, but surely nothing that a quick rub down and a slap of paint couldn't put right. The heating is pretty ineffective, but if we wear a couple of extra layers it isn't too bad, surely? And do we really need to buy a new organ? Stuart manages, or seems to manage with the one we have – is it really that bad?

Now is not the time, of course, to start questioning the very basis of the

feel quite satisfied in what I believe and how I declare my faith in action: I try to be nice to people, I try to be generous in my giving, I attend Church regularly and I say my prayers daily. That's enough, surely?

You and I both know that the answer is, has to be, "No! It is not enough!" Faith isn't a hobby, a matter of personal preference, a case of today I'll not love my neighbour, but I'll see how I feel tomorrow. Faith isn't a life style choice. Paul tells us that faith is God's Holy Spirit within each one of us crying out to God, "Abba! Father!" In the story of the Pharisee, it is the tax collector standing at the back of the temple, acknowledging

"No! It is not enough"

refurbishment project. The work begins in the next week; once Easter day is over, we will clear the Church and move down to the halls. Why start asking silly questions such as "Do we really need to do this work, spend this money?"

I think there is a direct link between what we are doing to and for our Church building and our personal faith, a link that bears examination in the light of Passiontide, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter. Superficially our faith, our personal Christian belief seems strong. Perhaps not quite strong enough to move mountains, but strong enough for me. Like the Pharisee in Luke's Gospel, I can

his own unworthiness, who proves to be the true man of faith. It's that we need to work on as individual Christians.

Just as our lovely building needs (not a word I use often) more than just routine maintenance, needs a whole clatter of things putting right, so our faith needs, from time to time, some serious work and loving attention. The Easter season is just the right time to do that work. If we don't do the work to the building, it won't be fit for purpose; if we don't do the work on our individual discipleship, neither will we.

Duncan



Church Services April

8 April – Easter 2, All services from hereon will be held in the Parish Halls

Welcome Team: Ian and Carol Walters

Reader: Dorothy-Anne Crawford

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Family Service*
6.00pm	Compline
* Coffee after 10.30am service in Church Hall. All welcome! Hosted by Andrea Johnson, Marian Cimmamond, Elaine Lester & Helen Kennedy	

Note:

The Office of Compline is said every Tuesday at 7.30pm

Holy Communion is celebrated every Thursday at 11.00am

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Wednesday of the month at 10.30am in the Chapel at Mt Stewart House.

Sunday 15 April – Easter 3

Welcome Team: Berry McKinney and Heather Pentland

Reader: Elaine Lester

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Service of the Word
6.00pm	Evening Prayer (sung)

Sunday 22 April – Easter 4

Welcome Team: Trevor and Rosemary Smith

Reader: Derek Parsley

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Morning Prayer
6.00pm	Holy Communion

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

Sunday 29 April – Easter 5

Welcome Team: Freddie and Susan McNair

Reader: Norma Parsley

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Morning Prayer
6.00pm	Compline



Sunday 6 May – Easter 6

Welcome Team: Freddie and Susan McNair

Reader: TBA

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Family Service*
6.00pm	Evening Prayer
* Coffee after 10.30am service in Church Hall. All welcome! Hosted by Andrea Johnson, Tara Brown, Valerie Boyd & Ken Boyd	

Announcements



Walking for Softies

February's walk was to The Dyke at the top of Strangford Lough Newtownards where we met the "Beast from The East" and the wind was bitterly cold. We actually walked 20 minutes out along The Dyke and 20 minutes back to the cars and onwards to Cloud Nine for refreshments. March's walk was by train to Cultra, walking to Hollywood

where refreshments were taken and then back by train to Bangor.

April's walk on Saturday 28th will be to Barnett's Demense, meet in the car park at 10.00am. Refreshments to be taken in Barnett's House.

Ken Boyd 91465103

The Evergreens

We have had a talk by Faith on what the different faiths of the world do at Easter, unfortunately we missed one Thursday due to inclement weather, and yesterday was the St Patrick's one with guests from Hollywood, Kilcooley and Tuesday Club Groomsport. All enjoyed themselves with the music provided and also the refreshments by The Stables. Next week will be our outing to the Abbey Centre.

If you require any more information or require a lift please get in touch with the undersigned.

Valerie Boyd (91465103)

Magazine Sponsorship

Many thanks for all those who have given and continue to give to the magazine we are so very grateful.

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

taranm@hotmail.co.uk or gpcoffice@btinternet.com or

zandrasloan@hotmail.com

or via any of the Parish Officials.

Tara Brown



CONTACT

When seeking a title for the meeting of 19 March, I suggested to Faith that a catchy title such as a take on 'The Vicar of Dibley' might do the trick. When she returned with the title of 'Draw near with Faith' it sounded just perfect. At the meeting she explained that when her father, a Rector in Northern Ireland, was conducting communion and said to the celebrants 'Draw Near with Faith' he would come home and say to his family, 'but my Faith was not present'.



In any case we were delighted to have Rev Faith Cully as our guest speaker. I don't think many of us in Groomsport Parish knew of Faith's most interesting and varied life and career. She originally trained as a nurse and midwife. She then had a calling to South America as a missionary. Faith was very honest in informing us that at this point in time she had no idea where South America and in particular, Chile, was on the world map. She went on to explain the trials and tribulations of trying to learn Spanish in an informal manner from the rural people in Chile, which made it difficult for her to be understood by some of her colleagues. However, as in everything else Faith came across, she persevered.

As a practising Christian, Faith was then encouraged to think about taking her vocation and career down a more pastoral

route. She returned to England and undertook theological training in Trinity College, Bristol, where George Carey, who later became Archbishop of Canterbury was the Principal. During Carey's time as Archbishop, the Church of England ordained its first women priests. And Faith was one of them. This was a major step for the Church of England, and Faith described the way in which the media pursued her colleagues and herself, to the extent that they had difficulty in finding a place for a retreat without being followed. After practising as a priest for a number of years, Faith then retired back to Northern Ireland. She says



she was not particularly enthusiastic about such a move, but something drew her here.

Well, we know that God works in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform... and that must be the case. We, in Groomsport Parish are truly blessed that Faith and her mother have returned to live here, and Faith is now helping out in a number of ways in our church including assisting Duncan with services.

Next Meeting:

Monday 16 April, Speaker is Angela Henderson, a paraplegic Olympian

Branch Outing:

Monday 21 May, HMS Caroline with lunch in Titanic Hotel, all members welcome, see Valerie or myself for details.

Vestry Notes March 2018

Wesley presented the Annual Accounts to the Select Vestry for approval to be presented to the General Vestry for adoption.

The current tenants will be vacating the Rectory at the end of March, but Neills' Estate Agents have reported that several people are interested in the property.

The Refurbishment subcommittee has appointed Helen Kennedy to deal with PR. The Rector clarified with the Project Manager that the sub committee was only responsible for publicity of Heritage matters and that the Events Team will continue to publicise events in the normal way. There will be a press release to announce the closing of the church. On Easter Sunday, following Morning Service, those attending will be invited to encircle the Church, holding hands, as a final act before the Church closes. The Rector will then lead us in prayer. Clearing of the Church will start on 2 April.

Colin Crozier has confirmed that storage of church items with McGimpseys may be in two units.

Duncan informed the Vestry that a friend of the Church has offered a donation of £1,000. It was unanimously agreed that this money, should the donor be agreeable, be used to

research and purchase new kneelers for the Communion rail.

Heather and Kate were congratulated on the organisation of the Raven Micks Evening which raised £1,080 and Kate was thanked for her organisation of the Pancake Party. Donations from the party will be given to Homestart.

Ladies of the Vestry will organise the lunch for the General Vestry and it is hoped the soup will be sorted by Shaun.

Duncan asked Barry to present his research on a new external noticeboard for the Church Halls to the new Vestry.

Heather is to contact David Dalzell about amplification and the loop system for Services in the Canon Tyney Hall during the Refurbishment.

It was agreed there should be music at the Evening Service on the first and third Sundays of each month.

Zandra is to check up on the Church website.

Duncan thanked the outgoing Vestry for all their hard work during a very busy year and informed the Vestry that he will be taking a week off the week beginning 16 April. Faith Cully will cover services.

Annual Easter Vestry

The Annual Easter Vestry took place on Sunday 18 March following Morning Service. The Rector appointed Helen Parkinson as his Warden and William McAneney as his Glebe Warden. The General Vestry elected Hester Kelly as People's Warden and Tony Anderson as People's Glebe Warden.

At the first meeting of the new Vestry Wesley Quinn was appointed Treasurer and Heather Pentland was appointed Secretary.

Wesley informed the General Vestry that this would be his final year in the role. The following were also elected – Kate Murray, Dorothy Anne Crawford, Bert Smith, Barry Greenaway, Freddie McNair, Andy Craig, Jenny Craythorne, Zandra Sloan, John Hand and Shaun Townsley.

Photographs and contact numbers of all Vestry members will be contained in next month's Contact.



ROTA FOR SETTING UP CHURCH HALL

8 APRIL – 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

8 April	B. McAnaney, D. McKnight, F. McNair, J. Love
15 April	Kate and John Murray, Zandra and Ian Sloan
22 April	Maureen and Noel Taggart, Kate and John Murray
29 April	Trevor and Rosemary Smith, Ken Boyd, Tony and Eleanor Anderson
6 May	B. McAnaney, D. McKnight, F. McNair
13 May	Trevor and Jenny Craythorne, Zandra and Ian Sloan
20 May	Maureen and Noel Taggart, Andy Craig, Robert Watters
27 May	B. McAnaney, D. McKnight, F. McNair
3 June	SKen Boyd, Andrea and Peter Johnston, Robert Watters
10 June	Trevor and Jenny Craythorne, Andy Craig, Robert Watters
17 June	B. McAnaney, D. McKnight, F. McNair, J. Love
24 June	Barry Greenaway, Robert Watters, Tony and Eleanor Anderson
1 July	Carol and Ian Walters, Barry Greenaway, Robert Watters
8 July	B. McAnaney, D. McKnight, F. McNair
15 July	Maureen and Noel Taggart, Mrs Brown, Robert Watters
22 July	Carol and Ian Walters, Zandra and Ian Sloan
29 July	Trevor and Rosemary Smith, Andrea and Peter Johnston
5 August	Billy and Flo McAnaney, Mrs Brown
12 August	Trevor and Rosemary Smith, Andrea and Peter Johnston
19 August	Walter and Mae Burke, Robert Watters, Mr Brown
26 August	Walter and Mae Burke, Tony and Eleanor Anderson
2 September	
9 September	Neil Adams
16 September	
23 September	
30 September	



SERVICES IN THE CHURCH HALL

8 APRIL – 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

Canon Tyney Hall	Sunday 8.30am	Holy Communion
Canon Tyney Hall	Sunday 10.30am	Main Service
Maxwell Hall	Sunday 6.00pm	Evening Service
Maxwell Hall	Tuesday 7.30pm	Compline
Maxwell Hall	Thursday 11.00am	Holy Communion

Please contact William McAneney on 07812042833 if you can assist on any of the September dates on previous page. Thank You.

William McAneney

Easter Sunrise Service On The Beach



Nearly thirty of us (you can't see some at the back!) met at 6.30 on a very cold Easter morning for a bible reading, a couple of hymns and prayers. For this we were rewarded with a splendid breakfast in the hall afterwards, cooked by Trevor and Jenny Craythorne, ably assisted by Susan. It was a lovely start to Easter Sunday.

Hope you all had a lovely Easter!

Carol

PARISH QUIZ

Yes it's nearly that time again. Our next Quiz will be on Friday, 27 April starting 7.30pm in our Halls. The fun format will continue, with spot prizes for children, a raffle, light refreshments and lots of those daft, tantalizing questions you're just bursting to answer. Bring friends or come solo. You won't be on your own for long. So, note the date NOW, and we'll see you there.

You have been WARNED.

Planned Events 2018

APR
13

Parish Dinner

APR
27

Quiz

JUN
02

Groomspoint Fun Day and BBQ

AUG
18

Craft Fair Eagle Wing Festival

SEP
28

Mr & Mrs Night

OCT
06

Book Fair

Save the Date!

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



Supported by

The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Northern Ireland Charity Number: 103258

Book Stall for April

Revelations



Revelations. Personal responses to the Books of the Bible. This is a remarkable collection of essays from a very wide range of writers. Collected from the Canongate Publishers' publication of individual books of the bible, each with an

introduction by a member of a "diverse and interesting" group of people; here we have the introductions gathered together on their own. Readers will have to use their own bible to refer to the comments in these essays. Just consider; the Dalai Lama commenting on the General Epistle of James, A. S. Byatt on Song of Solomon, Thor Heyerdahl on Genesis or Ruth Rendell on the Epistle of Paul to the Romans. Perhaps because none of the contributors have a conventional Christian standpoint their views are sometimes startling, often challenging and always thought provoking. The collection is intellectually rigorous and controversial but always aware of the profound and enduring significance of the stories and letters. There are thirty-three different contributors, in addition to the ones above, add Joanna Trollope, Meir Shalev, P. D. James, Peter Ackroyd and many more. Some few, I confess, neither enlightened nor stimulated me, but mostly I relished the challenge and the spur to reflect on my own beliefs and prejudices. I am so taken with this volume that I intend to acquire a copy for myself, but I did want to take the opportunity to share it with others.

All the Light We Cannot See

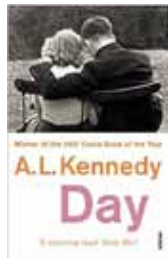
All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr. A very moving story set during World War II. Marie-Laure is a blind girl, living with her father in Paris. Werner Pfennig grows up three hundred miles away in Germany. He is



an orphan and lives with his sister in a children's home. This book is the story of how the war brings the two together in St Malo, during the Second World War. Above all this story, beautifully told and increasingly gripping as we learn more of the stories

behind Marie Laure and Werner, draws us into the personal lives of those who lived through the wars. That enemies are not always what they seem, that even in extreme circumstances people can be kind to one another. This is a very worthwhile read.

Day by A L Kennedy



Day by A L Kennedy is an extraordinary book. It tells the story, mainly in flashbacks of dramatic intensity, of Alfred Day who is only too keen to join up to serve in the RAF during World War 2. He is very protective to his mother, but detests his bullying

and abusive father. Training as a gunner on Lancaster bombers he forms intense relationships with the rest of his crew as they together experience the day to day horrors of bombing raids. During this time, whilst on a brief leave, he meets and falls in love with Joyce. All the fear, anger and distress of those times returns to him in force as he finds himself in 1949 employed as an extra in a war film. Much of the book is created through Alfred's internal monologue which is disjointed, disturbed and often strange. For this reason it is not an easy read, nor a quick read, though less than 280 pages long. I was profoundly moved by reading it and found myself very pleased to have persevered with it; I will not easily forget the experience.

Carol

Hall Usage - April

Sunday		
Every Sunday	10.30am	Sunday School Contact: Maggie Townsley & Helen Carter Mob. 07748 208649
Monday		
1st Monday of the month	7.30pm	Select Vestry Meeting Contact: Heather Pentland Mob. 07834 771075
2nd & 4th Mondays of the month	7.30pm	Chattering Needles 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	Mothers Union (Maxwell Hall) Contact: Mae Burke Mob. 07810 440492
Tuesday		
2nd Tuesday of the month	8.00pm	Groomsport & District Gardening Club Contact: Yvonne McIlmail Tel: 02891 469420 E. y.mcilmail@sky.com
Wednesday		
Every Wednesday	9.30am	You can with Ann Motivation & Exercise class Contact: Ann Parker Mob. 07854 787121
Every Wednesday	10.30am	Keep Fit Exercise Class Contact: Ann Parker Mob. 07854 787121
Every Wednesday	2.00pm	Scrabble Contact: Elaine Lester Mob. 07791 569432 E. elliewag57@yahoo.com
Every Wednesday	3pm-4pm	Tai Chi For Health Contact: Janet Wilson Tel: 028 91077948 Mob: 07703360385

Every Wednesday	5.30pm	You can with Ann Motivation & Exercise class Contact: Ann Parker Mob. 07854 787121
Every Wednesday	6.30pm	Keep Fit Exercise Class Contact: Ann Parker Mob. 07854 787121
Every Wednesday	7.30pm	Bible Study (Avril Morley Room)
3rd Wednesday of the month	7.30pm	Cookery Club Contact: Heather Magill E. mag16ill@hotmail.co.uk
Thursday		
Every Thursday	2.00pm	Evergreens Open to all over fifty year olds and new members always welcome. Contact: Valerie Boyd Mob. 02891465103
Every Thursday	2pm- 5pm	Groomsport Parish Art Class Continues to meet on Thursday afternoons. All welcome. Further information Stuart Tanner: 07411178230 or Carol Barbosa: 02891456971
Every Thursday except 1st of the month	7.30pm	Table Tennis Club This is a game for everyone whatever your age so please join us. Contact: John Hand Tel. 028 9146 8061 Mob. 07540 375785
Saturday		
4th Saturday of the month	10.00am	Walking for Softies Venues vary. Meeting at 10.00am at chosen location. Contact: Ken Boyd Tel. 028 9146 5103

Thoughts of a Blow In...

Well the Beast from the East has come and gone leaving chaos in its midst! We were very fortunate on this coastline not to get several feet of snow like further inland. However, we did have the howling gales to contend with for a few days solid. When they finally calmed down, it suddenly seemed eerily silent. Funny how you can get used to things!

Talking of which, many friends in rural areas who were snowed in, adapted to making do with what they had in their freezers for some days. In other places, friends reported that their local shops were rationing milk and bread per customer! Even a week or so afterwards there is a lack of fresh dairy products in the supermarkets. As some friends have mentioned, we are so used to having everything to hand, so this did make us be grateful for what we usually take for granted.

Now we are all back into routine, Imelda, a friend of mine at an evening class, asked me to mend a pair of jeans for her and as a thank you, kindly made a delicious-looking batch of gluten-free chocolate chip cookies. I shared them out at class

and kept a couple for myself to enjoy with a cup of tea the following afternoon. The next morning, she phoned me in a panic to say that she had used the wrong flour and they were not gluten-free at all! Having reassured her that it's easily done and that (for once) my self-control meant they hadn't yet been consumed, I took them next door for the little ones to enjoy.

Having handed over this unexpected treat, I asked them to say, "Thank you, Imelda!" I was completely ignored by Leo as he tried to wrestle his go-cart out of the front door and down the steps and Zoe, bless her, giggled at me as if I'd slightly lost the plot as she obediently repeated my words. Imelda was delighted!

Despite the severe blast of weather, spring has sprung around us, as another friend pointed out when we were walking out of class on a chilly evening and she spied buds on the trees, so these lovely words from Sunday in Spring by Marianne Poloskey seemed perfect.

*“Each leaf,
each blade of grass
vies for attention.
Even weeds
carry tiny blossoms
to astonish us.”*

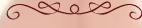
Cynthia



Prayer Room

The last of the Fish Prayers from the nets of 2017.

Dear Lord and Father; Please be with my two sons, bring them closer to you and to one another.



Dear Jesus, please give comfort to all who suffer illness.



*Peace: "First keep the peace within yourself, then you can also bring peace to others".
Thomas a Kempis. Lord help us to remember this.*



For our families. For those closest to our hearts, those whom we love and those who, inexplicably, love us! It is love that remains.



Finally, written out, but with no attribution are the following lines:-

*Help me to be
The best I can be
Truthful and loving
And be all for Thee*

*Help me to find
Complete peace of mind
To let go of the past
And leave it behind.*

*Please take my hand
As I offer You mine.
And draw me towards You
To your heavenly land.*

Amen

Carol



CONTACT

www.groomsportparishchurch.org