

ST DONARD'S CHURCH OF IRELAND

Church News Issue No 68 May 2021 www.stdonards.com



From the Rector ...

A few thoughts from the Easter General Vestry

Looking back over the last twelve years, since coming here as Rector of St Donard's, we have journeyed together through the ups and downs of parish life, but I think everyone would agree with me, that 2020 and beyond has been the most difficult time for us all.

Our church has been closed for worship for almost seven months between 2020/2021, but thankfully we were able to switch to an online presence which kept us in touch as a congregation. Our organizations were all closed and are still unable to meet.

For me personally, it has been painfully frustrating not to be able to visit people in their homes, hospitals and nursing homes and hard to minister as one would like at times of bereavement.

We have also lost our Wednesday Afternoon Club as John and Joan Bell retire from this ministry. And also our Rainbow, Brownie and Guide group will no longer be meeting as leaders have stepped down from their roles. We thank them all for the work they have faithfully done over the years.

But in faith we look to the future as we begin to plan and rebuild our parish activities

At this present time, we are in the final stages of trying to appoint a Family Worker to build up ministry amongst our children, young people and young families. This is an exciting appointment and we believe, under God, it will help to grow God's kingdom in this place.

At present, under Covid-19 restrictions, worship continues to be limited. We can only have one service in the church and we have an evening service in the parish centre. Wearing masks, sitting metres apart, not being allowed to sing heartily or share time together over a cup of coffee means that our sense of fellowship and togetherness has been diminished. However, this is how we must continue for the time being until restrictions are lifted and we can mix and mingle again.

I want to say how thankful I am to the faithful people of St Donard's who have continued to worship together or online; continued to give consistently as they are able; and have continued to serve even in limited capacities and to uphold us all in prayer.

We look with confidence to the future for all that God has yet to do amongst us and through us.

Ken

Members of the Select Vestry 2021/22

Rector's Churchwarden – Carole McClenaghan – People's Churchwarden – Fiona Duff

Rector's Glebewarden – John Gilmore – People's Glebewarden – Ken Conlin

Vestry members – Michael Carson (Hon. Treasurer), Graeme Smyth (Secretary), Heather Boyd, William Moore, Trevor Robinson, Diane Vaughan, Trevor Matthews, Caroline Fox, Keith White, Rhonda Moroney, Nev McCormack, Hilary Whiteside.



“WALK FOR WATER”

This year Christian Aid is focussing on the desperate need for water in Kenya following a severe drought under the theme “EVERY LAST DROP”

There will be no door-to-door collections this year but Billy and Jane have come up with a fun way of raising money for this vital project.

Saturday 15th May they're inviting as many as possible to **Walk for Water** – by joining in a local walk. To avoid crowds gathering together, you can do the walk on your own or with friends or family at any time of the day that suits you. It won't be too far and there will be things to do along the way.

CONTACT – Billy 07874 004912 or Jane 07952 853663

Or email – janeremie@yahoo.com or

webillymc@hotmail.co.uk for details of the route!!

Services in May 2021

in Church following
Covid-19 restrictions and guidance

2nd May

11.00 Morning Service in Church
19.00 Evening Service Parish Centre

9th May

11.00 Morning Service in Church
19.00 Evening Service Parish Centre

16th May

11.00 Morning Service in Church
19.00 Evening Service Parish Centre

23rd May

11.00 Morning Service in Church
19.00 Evening Service Parish Centre

30th May

11.00 Morning Service in Church
19.00 Evening Service Parish Centre

Sunday School is back!

We look forward to welcoming our children and young families back at 11am. Children go straight into the main hall 11am



From the Registers

Burial/Cremation

MARCH 2021

19TH Ian Preston, 42 Irwin Crescent, Belfast

30th Alastair Bell, 4 Lisavon Parade, Belfast

APRIL 2021

7th Annie (Nan) Blair, 75 Orangefield Rd., Belfast



“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord”

Aged 86 years

Aged 46 years

Aged 89 years

Baptism

April 2021

20th Amelia Vitor Collins, daughter of Neal & Hyacinth Collins, 333 Castlereagh Rd., Belfast

Rector: Rev Ken Higgins

Telephone – 028 9065 2321 Email – revkenhiggins@hotmail.com

