



Sudoku Competition Corner

Here's another Sudoku to keep you busy these cold evenings! Go ahead and try this month's entry. Remember, there is only one rule and it is that every row, column and box of 3 x 3 cells must contain the numbers 1 through 9 **only once**. A prize will be awarded to the first correct answer opened and the winner notified in the March magazine

				1	2		6	
2	5					9		
1	7				6		5	8
				8		1		
5	1		3		4		9	6
		2		6				
9	2		4				8	7
	4	3					2	1
	6			7	1			

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*Place your completed entries in the box at the back of the church by **Sunday 21st February**.*

The winner will be announced in the March magazine.

If you don't want to tear this page out of the magazine, just draw the grid out on paper and don't forget to include your name and address

Good Luck!

Name:

Address:

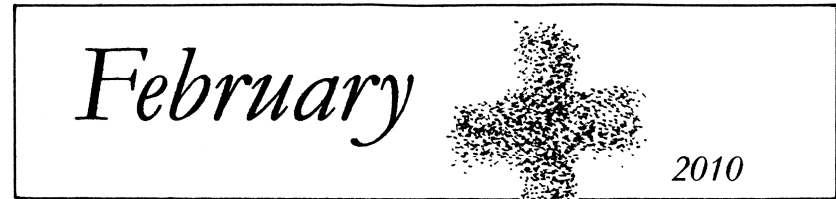
PASSWORDS



THE MAGAZINE FOR ST MARY MAGDALENE PARISH
DONEGALL PASS

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FEBRUARY SERVICES



SERVICE	MINISTER	READER (Morning Service only)
Feb 7th—2nd Sunday before Lent 11.00 am Holy Communion 6.30 pm Evening Prayer	Rev T P Ker Rev T P Kerr	Raymond Hamill <i>1 Corinthians 15 -v- 51-58</i>
Feb 14th—Sunday before Lent 11.00 am Morning Prayer 6.30 pm Holy Communion (<i>St Aidan's</i>)	Rev T P Kerr Rev T P Kerr	Libby Garstang <i>1 Kings 18 -v- 20,21,30-39</i>
Feb 21st—1st Sunday in Lent 11.00 am Holy Communion 6.30 pm Holy Communion	Rev A McCartney Rev T P Kerr	Dawn McDowell <i>Romans 10 -v- 8b-13</i>
Feb 28th—2nd Sunday in Lent 11.00 am Family Service 6.30 pm Evening Prayer (<i>St Aidan's</i>)	Rev A McCartney Rev T P Kerr	Selected readings

*Readers read the First Lesson of the Day.
All readings are to be taken from the Pew Bible.
Readers should confirm their reading with the Rector/Minister*

Ash Wednesday & Lent dates—all at 7.30 pm

Wed 17th Feb	Ash Wednesday Liturgy	Rev T P Kerr	St Mary Magdalene
Wed 24th Feb	Lenten Liturgy	Rev A McCartney	St Aidan's
Wed 3rd Mar	Lenten Liturgy	Rev A McCartney	St Mary Magdalene
Wed 10th Mar	Lenten Liturgy	Rev T P Kerr	St Aidan's

Thursday Lunchtime Services

These take place at 12.30 pm in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit
all welcome

The Church of Ireland "Safeguarding Trust" Policy operates in this church. Panel Members are Rev Terence Kerr, Mr Cecil Dunwoody and Mrs Catherine Irving. Notices to this effect have been placed in the church and halls.



Flower Rota—January—February



Jan 3rd	Mrs M Porter & Mr D Boden	Feb 7th	Mr & Mrs G Stewart <i>(birthday memories of their daughter Elizabeth)</i>
Jan 10th	Miss E Lennon		Mrs S Davey (<i>Pedestal</i>)
Jan 17th	Mrs A Jenkins	Feb 14th	Mr & Mrs P Copley
Jan 24th	Mr T Reilly	Feb 21st	Mrs J Matthews <i>(in memory of her father Bertie Winters)</i>
Jan 31st	Mrs M Leslie	Feb 28th	Mr & Mrs J Taylor <i>(in memory of Betty Taylor)</i>



Christian Burial



Tom Mercer
2 Virginia Way
10th December 2009

Tom died on 7th December 2009 after a long illness. He is missed by his family and wife Leila Webster. Tom will be remembered in many ways but especially by the world of brass bands and music. The eulogy at the funeral was delivered by Alfie Burch and the music provided by the 1st Old Boys Brass Band and other musicians.

Elizabeth Eileen Ussher
49 Lindsay Street
17th December 2009

Eileen died on 14th December 2009. William Corbett, of Apsley Hall, reminded us in the eulogy of the value of family life and of how devoted and faithful Eileen had been to her family and friends. Eileen's death came as a huge shock to husband, John, and son, John, as Eileen had been recovering well from a spell in hospital last summer.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown.*

*No eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor has the heart of man conceived
What God has prepared for those who love Him. (1 Cor 2 -v- 9)*



CANDLEMAS

Bet you thought that Christmas ended ages ago – well Candlemas on 2nd February marks the real end of the season of Christmas and the beginning of preparation for the next festival, Easter.

It is the traditional time for a good clean up. All Christmas decorations had to be taken down by this day. Can you imagine how scruffy and dusty they would have been by now? Churches had to be cleaned too.

Candlemas celebrates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple 40 days after he was born. It is called Candlemas because candles are lit to remind us that when Jesus was presented Simeon, an old servant in the Temple, said that Jesus was the Light that God had sent to the Gentiles (Gentiles are all the people who are not Jews). Read about this in St Luke's Gospel, chapter 2.



LIGHT & BRIGHT

There are lots of words to do with light and lights in the Bible. Can you find the answers to this Bible Light quiz?

1. What did the woman light when she lost a silver coin? (Luke, chapter 15)
2. What God created on the first day? (Genesis, chapter 1)
3. What light did the wise men follow? (Matthew, chapter 2)
4. According to St Luke, what is the lamp of the body? (Luke, chapter 11)
5. What Moses found in the desert? (Exodus, chapter 3)
6. What the soldiers carried to search for Jesus in the garden? (John, chapter 18)

Answers at the bottom of this page.



What kind of lights did Noah have on the Ark?

Floodlights.



What did the little lightbulb say to its mother?

I wuv you watts and watts.



Answers: 1.lamp 2.light 3.a star 4.eye 5.burning bush 6.torches & lanterns



Dear Parishioners

What Is Lent?

We don't know much about how the first-century Christians treated the forty days before Resurrection Sunday. The Bible itself mentions nothing about it. But by the second century, the church was starting to use that season as a time for training new believers about how to rightly think, live, and believe as Christians. This was done, in part, by reliving the Scriptural accounts of Christ's final time before He was killed. It was done with the whole church community as they, too, relived it, and fasted together. The end of the training period was Holy Week, and Easter would be the day that the new believers would be baptised into the Church. As the Roman world became mostly Christian, the season began to shift meaning in a way which would be of great value for new and long-time Christians alike. It would become a time for looking at the depth of one's own sin, and turning away from them. A time for learning what it means to follow Christ, and to listen to the Spirit. A time for actually going about changing one's ways to be more as Christ would have them be.

Lent is a time when many people turn their gaze toward Good Friday and ask themselves, 'How dare I force someone who loves me this much to go through something this awful?' Perhaps they see the Cross and ask, 'How can I love you better?' Many times in the Gospels, Jesus called on people to repent, to turn away from doing evil. So the first impulse of love is to try to do things that Jesus would want of you.

But then no matter how hard we try we still fail. One of the things we learn in Lent is how inescapable our sin is, how far we are from being complete. When we struggle like mad to give some tiny aspect of our lives over to God, we discover how maddeningly out of reach a whole life of godliness is. We can't do anything to fix our relationship with God. All we can do is bow at Jesus' feet and trust Him. We can't get back to God in our own strength, but as we allow Jesus to have his way in our lives we *can* love God better and know His Spirit.

Lent is the season for the experience of giving your life over -- in each moment, bodily, deliberately, to Christ and to what the Spirit is showing you. God wants you to surrender yourself, and let the Spirit work in you. In Lent, we take responsibility for our acts and thoughts. Lent is self-discovery of the parts of ourselves we don't want to discover, through prayer, fasting, and other disciplines. It is the opening up, the turning over to God, the repenting of our sins, the turning away from that which does not please God. Yet there is just a glimpse of Easter through the heavy clouds of Good Friday -- that Christ has taken the burden, and you don't have to carry it anymore. Don't you want to follow that kind of a God?

May Jesus Christ give you the grace at this Lenten Season to follow Him

The Rector.

Lenten Seminars - "Equipping the Saints"

Our Bishop, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy will deliver this his third series of seminars during Lent. Anyone interested in attending these should contact the Rector.

Details of the seminars which take place in St Peter's Church Hall, Antrim Road, from 7.30 pm–9.30 pm are:

Monday 15th February - *Jesus' Life & Teaching*
 Tuesday 16th March - *Jesus' Mission & Ministry*

We welcome back our Rector after his recent spell of illness.



all who are ill or in need:

- Betty
- David
- Laura
- Lizzie
- Moya
- Ruth
- Ronnie
- Sadie

those who have been bereaved:

- the Mercer family on the death of Tom
- the Ussher family on the death of Eileen

If there is anyone you would like to add to our Prayer list, please let the Rector know or fill in one of the Prayer request cards available in church.

Penny Jars



There has been a great response to the appeal for the Penny Jars and thank you to everyone who has collected pennies and given these to the church for funds.

For recording purposes, it would be very helpful, if in future you would enclose your name with any jar being submitted.

Thank you



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

It's easy to be an angel when no one ruffles your feathers.



"What about spelling?"

Do you remember the three R's we learned as children—reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic? Well, now that we're older these have been replaced by the following:

at age 25: Romance

at age 45: Rent

at age 65: Rheumatism



For your diary

Select Vestry	Mon 8th Feb 7.30 pm
Ladies' Guild	Wed 10th Feb 7.45 pm
Antiques Fair	Sat 20th Feb 12.30-4.00 pm <i>Teas rota: Jacqueline & Kate</i>
Ash Wednesday Liturgy	Wed 17th Feb 7.30 pm
Snooker Club	Tuesdays 7.00 pm
Midweek Services	Thursdays 12.30 pm
BB	Thursdays 6.30 pm



It was bad enough your mobile ringing half-way through his sermon, without the ring-tone being the 'Christians Awake' tune!

Articles for the March magazine should be with Kate Irving by Sunday 14th February 2010



... and with Valentine's Day in mind

National Marriage Week – 8th to 14th February

Marriage Week UK celebrates the diversity and vibrancy of marriage as the basis for family life in the UK. It is timed to include Valentine's Day (8th –14th Feb 2010) and has been held every year since 1997.

Marriage remains incredibly popular – over 90% of young people in the UK aspire to be married at some point in the future, and the large majority will achieve this. Although many people fear that marriages don't last, two out of every three first marriages will last until one partner dies, and one in two second or subsequent marriages will also last a lifetime.

If you would like 25 ideas of how to strengthen the romance and love in your marriage, visit the website: www.marriage-week.org.uk/ and click on 'get involved'.



Thinking about Haiti The 5 Minute Meditation

No-one can have failed to be moved by the devastation that has hit Haiti. Even before the recent devastating earthquake, Haiti was a country in crisis.

The poorest country in the Americas, Haiti has a very turbulent political history and since an armed coup in 2004, a UN stabilisation force has been helping ensure security.

Poverty and hunger

Four-fifths of Haiti's 10 million people live in poverty. Infrastructure is fragile and hunger was widespread even before the earthquake struck.

Disaster after disaster

Haiti is no stranger to disaster. The country is regularly struck by hurricanes, floods and landslides. Two years ago, Haiti was left reeling after being hit by four massive storms in just four weeks. One million people were left homeless.

Disaster preparation and response

Two of the missionary societies supported by this church, Christian Aid and Mission Aviation Fellowship are at work in Haiti focusing direct aid to those affected and by helping disaster-prone areas. This work focuses on protecting people from seasonal threats such as storms and floods, and on post-storm relief activities.

An overwhelming challenge

Any country would be struggling to cope with death and destruction on this scale in and around its capital city. But Haiti is particularly vulnerable.

Even before this catastrophe, the country was facing a huge range of complex social, economic and developmental challenges.

Over the past few weeks, parishioners have made generous donations in aid of Haiti. The amount raised has reached just over £220 - the final amount will be announced in church.

Let us continue to pray for all lives touched by this disaster.

A prayer for Haiti

Loving God of creation, at this time of devastation we hold before you the people of Haiti. When the damage is unimaginable, and the suffering seems overwhelming, remind us that every person affected is loved, honoured and precious in your sight. We remember all those who have been hurt; all who have lost their homes, livelihoods and loved ones. Work through us to bring healing to broken and distorted lives, peace to those who have been thrown into despair, light to those in darkness, and hope to those who fear. We ask this in the name of Jesus in whom all life and grace is found. Amen

Crosslinks God's word to God's World



I want to thank personally all those who have contributed to the above Missionary Society. The amount raised this year was £730.00. It was a generous effort by all concerned.

Please pray for our newly appointed Ireland Team Leader, Rev Trevor Johnston, for wisdom as he settles into this new role and for safety as he travels around Ireland.

Please pray for Rev Robert Heaney and his wife Sharon and their son Sam, just turned 4 years of age, who hope to leave in January 2010 for St John's university, Tanzania.

Thank God for missionaries who are prepared to leave family and friends to obey God's command to preach the Gospel to every nation.

Lena Lemon
Hon Secretary

'consider the lilies of the field . . .'



flower fund

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Flower Fund for 2010. The list is now complete and can be seen on the notice board at the back of the church.

Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Worth thinking about

If after church, you wait awhile,
someone may greet you with a smile.

But, if you quickly rise and flee,
We'll all seem cold and stiff,
maybe

The one beside you in the pews,
perhaps a stranger too.
All here, like you, have fears and cares

All of us need each other's prayers.
In fellowship we bid you meet
With us around God's Mercy Seat



They're Back!

Those wonderful Church Bulletins! These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:



The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off let the church help.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 pm—prayer and medication to follow.

The Rector would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Ladies' Guild



We were glad to eventually have our

annual auction after a 'snow delay' on our usual night. Our auctioneer was in her usual fine form and managed to get a total of £200 out of us! This included generous donations from members. Well done Betty and thank you for your huge effort.

Our February meeting will see us returning to the 'gym' in the form of our 'Armchair Aerobics', so for all those who are having a titter at this, let us remind you that it is quite hard work!!

We remember two of our members who have recently been ill—Lizzie and Sadie and of course our thoughts are with Leila on the recent death of her husband Tom. We assure them of our prayer support during these difficult times.

Joan Rodgers—President