



Puzzle Corner

Can you find all
the trees?

J	U	F	H	C	M	A	S	P	E	N	B
K	A	O	C	H	A	E	O	P	I	N	E
T	S	D	R	E	E	L	M	L	C	N	E
S	H	N	A	R	B	I	R	C	H	M	C
P	A	N	L	R	N	V	I	X	E	A	H
R	W	E	R	Y	R	C	O	L	S	E	O
U	O	P	F	O	O	B	D	T	T	B	L
C	L	E	Z	A	H	E	N	R	N	E	L
E	L	P	P	A	R	T	A	N	U	T	Y
Q	I	R	R	L	H	E	W	A	T	I	Y
C	W	I	B	A	P	S	O	A	G	H	E
A	F	P	O	P	L	A	R	M	H	N	W

- OAK
- BIRCH
- ELM
- ELDER
- POPLAR
- FIR
- BOX
- HORNBEAM
- HAWTHORN
- ASH
- CHESTNUT
- BEECH
- JUNIPER
- CHERRY
- PEAR
- ASPEN
- YEW
- WHITEBEAM
- SPRUCE
- HAZEL
- HOLLY
- WILLOW
- APPLE
- LARCH
- PINE
- ELDER

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

**Sudoku
challenge!**

PASSWORDS



THE MAGAZINE FOR ST MARY MAGDALENE PARISH
DONEGALL PASS

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February

*Thirty days hath September,
April, June and November.
All the rest have thirty-one,
with February's 28 to make it fun.
Leap Year happening once in four,
Gives February one day more.*

Feb 2016



SERVICES



SERVICES	READER
7th Feb—Sunday before Lent 11.00 am Holy Communion	Yvonne Mitchell <i>2 Corinthians 3-v-12-4 –v- 2</i>
14th Feb—1st Sunday in Lent 11.00 am Morning Prayer	Valerie Ireland <i>Jonah 3</i>
21st Feb—2nd Sunday in Lent 11.00 am Holy Communion	Bill Jeffrey <i>Philip 3 –v- 17-4 –v- 1</i>
28th Feb—3rd Sunday in Lent 11.00 am Family Service—Sport	—
ASH WEDNESDAY AND MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES	
Wed 10th Feb—Ash Wednesday 7.30 pm Holy Communion (Old)	
Wed 17th Feb—Lenten Service 7.30 pm Theme—The Lord’s Prayer [1]	
Wed 24th Feb—Lenten Service 7.30 pm Theme—The Lord’s Prayer [2]	

Thursday Lunchtime Services

The Thursday services continue as normal, with the exception of the following dates:

11th February—no service (following Ash Wednesday)

25th February—no service. This is replaced by a ‘Community Information session on Home and Personal Security’ at 12.30 pm, by PSNI and Alternatives. A light lunch will be served afterwards.

Everyone welcome

The Church of Ireland “Safeguarding Trust” Policy operates in this church. Panel Members are the Rev Bob Cotter, Mr Cecil Dunwoody and Mr Peter Ainley. Notices to this effect have been placed in the church and halls.

Flower Rota ~ January—February



Jan 3rd	.....	Mrs M Porter & Mr D Boden
Jan 10th	.....	Miss E Lennon
Jan 17th	.....	Mr & Mrs B McDowell
Jan 24th	.....	The Winters Family—in memory of mother, father and brother Bertie
Jan 31st	.....	Mr T Reilly
Feb 7th	.....	Mrs S Davey—in memory of mother and son John
Feb 14th	.....	Mr & Mrs P Copley
	.....	Mrs A Crawford—n memory of mother Peggy and brother Tom
Feb 21st	.....	Mrs L Smyth—in memory of Jim, loving husband, Dad, Grandad & Great-Grandad and loved ones
	.....	The Ingram Family—in memory of loved ones
Feb 28th	.....	Mr & Mrs J Taylor—in memory of Betty Taylor



Christian Burial



Doreen Smyth
4 Vernon Court

4th December 2015 (died 1st December 2015)

Doreen passed away just after midnight on the morning of Tuesday 1st December in the RVH. She is mourned by many, especially her son Shaun, daughters Connie and Florence, grandsons Matthew, Michael, Jonathan and Christopher as well as granddaughters Catherine and Anna. She had suffered a stroke on 6th November and never recovered. Since contracting Parkinson’s about ten years ago Doreen had not enjoyed a great quality of life. This was particularly true in the last few years – a time of many challenges.

Doreen was 82 years old, having been born on April 19th 1933. She was a woman of undoubted energy and vitality with a real zest for life. She worked in a number of sectors: as a weaver in the Sandy Row mill, in bar work, as a school dinner lady, and she contributed to ‘Care in the Community’.

She relished the role of granny in particular and loved her grandchildren [and great grandchildren] to bits! By all accounts they returned that love in generous portions, for in this life those who give also receive.

‘I am the resurrection and the life’ [John 11: 24]

~ Parish Prayer List ~



You are asked to include the following in your daily prayers. Take 4 or 5 names per day and ask for God's blessing on each one. Some of our parishioners will remain on the list permanently, especially those who are in homes of one kind or another, housebound or suffering from chronic and ongoing conditions. If you know of someone whose name should be added, please inform the Rector or one of the church wardens. No name has been omitted intentionally.

NH = Nursing Home; CH = Care Home;	John Burns	David & Emily Mason
RH = residential home]	Ann Crawford	Brian & Jean Matthews
Martha Armstrong, <i>Masserene NH, Antrim</i>	Warren Crawford	Tom Reilly
David Baird, <i>Fairhaven RH, North Rd</i>	Martha Fitzsimmons	Jim Shields
Ena Belton, <i>Hollygate NH</i>	Jim Garstang	Laura Smyth
Margaret Clarke, <i>Redburn, B'Hinch NH</i>	Victor Gourley	Stella Spackman (<i>BCH</i>)
Mina Henry, <i>Arlington House, North Pde</i>	Gloria Graham	David Stephenson
Annie Jenkins, <i>Carryduff NH</i>	Edna King (<i>Meadowlands</i>)	Roy and Ena Taylor
Mary Leslie, <i>Arlington House, North Pde</i>	Frances McClean	Greta Wilson
Eileen Ross, <i>Beechill House CH</i>	Elizabeth Mark	

Christingle

£190 was donated during the Christingle appeal in December. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



This money goes to aid the work carried out by the Children's Society who work to improve children's lives. Did you know that 3.7 million children live in poverty in the UK? A sobering thought, isn't it?

Due to printing difficulties in April, there will be a joint March/April magazine next month. Articles for this should be with Kate Irving by Sunday 14th February 2016.

The Rector writes . . .



Dear Parishioner

The year hurtles onwards. After the seemingly endless celebrations and feasting of the Christmas and New Year periods we now begin to feel that 2016 is properly underway. At last we see increasing evidence of the days becoming a little longer. Even though January and February are often our coldest months the wintry chill is offset by the prospect of Spring just around the corner.

In the Church year also there is a sense of movement. The momentum that impels us towards the great Christian festival of Easter is by now unstoppable, not least because this is one of the earliest dates for Easter – on 27 March. A few years from now – in 2019 – it will be nearly a month later, on 21 April. That inevitably means that we are now on the very threshold of Lent. Just as Advent prompted us to prepare ourselves spiritually for the coming of the Christ child at Christmas, so too Lent encourages us to return to the devotions and reflections that we have perhaps neglected somewhat during the festivities. By the end of February we will be half-way through Lent, so that now is a good time to pause and consider the foundations of our faith.

Consequently I would encourage you to join me on Wednesday evenings during Lent to reflect upon two fixtures of our worship experience – the Lord's Prayer and the 23rd Psalm. The former is said on virtually every occasion that we come together on a Sunday or at other times. Most of us know it by heart from our Sunday School days and it will be instructive for all of us to explore its meaning and implications for our lives. Psalm 23 is, of course, the best-known and perhaps the best-loved psalm of all. Whether sung as a hymn or chanted in the Anglican manner it is part of the bedrock of our liturgy, as well as being the most popular choice for funeral services. Both the prayer and the psalm are short and our additional services in the build-up to Easter enable us to give them more thoughtful attention than we normally accord them.

At Christmas we consider the wonder of the incarnation - the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us. At Easter we see the completion of

the work that Jesus was sent as a human baby to begin. At all points between Bethlehem and Calvary we see the love and the power of God in operation. No matter how many times we have returned to the manger or the cross, we still gaze in wonder at the costliness of the Jesus project. It was no 'walk in the park' for the Creator to subject himself in the form of Jesus to the dangers lurking on all sides in the Roman province of Palestine over two millennia ago. In many ways it was like walking a tightrope. We in turn are invited to respond with the kind of faith that walks the narrow way of the tightrope of faith on a daily basis, trusting that God is in control and will lead us in safety to the other side.

John's Gospel reminds us that faith needs to be personalised. We can speak about the faith of the Church, but in reality that it is merely the aggregate of the faith of each believing member. We recall the famous words of John 1: 12-13, part of the Christmas Gospel: 'But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God'.

What does it mean to 'receive' the Lord Jesus? John says it means to 'believe in' him. Believing in Jesus is more than an intellectual activity. It involves the activity of the will also. It involves 'putting our trust in' the Lord Jesus. The difference between believing and trusting is well illustrated in the story of Charles Blondin, the famous tightrope walker. One fine day in June 1858 he crossed the Niagara Falls by walking 1100 feet along a tightrope stretched from the American to the Canadian side. On arriving at the Canadian side Blondin turned and issued a challenge to the watching crowd. He said he wanted to re-cross the Falls with a man on his back. 'Do you believe I am able to carry you across?' he asked one in the audience. 'I certainly do,' replied the man. 'Then will you let me do it?' Blondin asked. 'Not on your life!' came the quick reply. He believed, but he did not trust. It cost Jesus his life to carry a cross. Do we trust him enough with our lives who lost his for our sake? Lent gives us all the opportunity to find out what our faith really means to us. Does it help us to 'walk the walk' or simply to 'talk the talk'?

Rev Bob Cotter



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

God himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?



A teacher was testing the children in her Sunday school class to see if

they understood the concept of getting to heaven.

She asked them, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into Heaven?"

"NO!" the children answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven?"

Again, the answer was, "NO!"

Now she was smiling. Hey, they're getting it, she thought! "Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my husband, would that get me into Heaven?" she asked.

Again, they all answered, "NO!"

She was just bursting with pride for them. "Well," she continued, "then how can I get into Heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted out, "YOU GOTTA BE DEAD."



For your diary

Select Vestry	Mon 8th Feb	7.30 pm
Ladies' Guild	Tues 9th Feb	7.30 pm
Ash Wednesday Service	Wed 10th Feb	7.30 pm
Community Info Session	Thurs 25th Feb	12.30 pm
Snooker Club	Tuesdays	7.00 pm
Midweek Services (see Page 2)	Thursdays	12.30 pm
Parents and Toddlers	Thurs	10-12 noon
BB	Thurs	6.30 pm onwards



...cooking a pancake on a primus stove in the pulpit seemed a good idea at the time...



for our younger readers



A SISTER

St Scholastica (whose feast day is 10th February) was the twin sister of St Benedict and they established communities five miles apart. The Rules under which they lived meant that neither of them could enter the other's monastery but they met once a year to talk together about spiritual matters.

At their very last meeting, Scholastica and Benedict spent the day in the talk and prayer but with night coming on, Benedict prepared to leave. His sister asked him to stay; Benedict refused rather than break his own rule by spending a night away from the monastery. Scholastica prayed that God would keep him there and as she did so, a sudden storm began. The rain came in such a torrent that Benedict and his companions were unable to leave. "I asked a favour of you," said Scholastica, "and you refused. I asked it of God, and He has given it!"

Scholastica died three days after the meeting and Benedict saw a vision of her soul ascending to heaven in the shape of a dove.

BIBLE SISTERS

All the answers to this Bible quiz are sisters.

1. They lived at Bethany with their brother Lazarus (John, chapter 11).
2. Her brothers were Moses and Aaron (Exodus, chapter 15).
3. Ruth's sister-in-law (Ruth, chapter 1).
4. Laban's sister who drew water for camels at the well (Genesis, chapter 24).



5. Job had three daughters: Jemimah, Keziah - what was the name of the 3rd sister? (Job, chapter 42)



My three sisters all work in the same restaurant.

What do they do?

One washes up, one dries up, and the third one picks up the pieces.



Answers: 1. Mary and Martha 2. Miriam 3. Orpah 4. Rebekah 5. Keren-happuch

Family Worker update ...

Our Wednesday morning group has resumed after the Christmas break with a "Cook it" course, focusing on healthy eating - much appreciated after all our indulgences in December! During January we have made a stir-fry, lasagne, an authentic Indian curry and baked apples. We will continue with this course during February culminating with a talk from a nutritionist on 24th February 2016.

We will not be meeting on Wednesday 17th February due to half term school holidays.

Our parent and toddlers also continues on Thursday mornings. We have a lovely, and lively, group of pre-school children and their parents and are always glad to welcome new members. The group will not meet on Thursday 18th February due to half term school holidays.

Both groups meet from 10am - 12noon.

Alison - 07547030451

REGISTER OF VESTRYMEN

It's not too late to 'sign up' for the General Vestry. The register will remain open until Monday 8th February.

Anyone who wishes to vote or be voted for at the Easter General Vestry, must have signed this register. Please speak to one of the church wardens if your name is not already recorded.

This year, the Easter General Vestry meeting will be held on Monday 11th April—more details next month.

Gift Day Envelopes

A huge thank you to all who so generously contributed to our annual gift day. £530 has been raised.

As you know, the church has been undergoing painting and decorating during recent weeks and this money will help towards the cost and other works which are constantly being carried out on our behalf.

The Select Vestry

Pancake Day has been celebrated by Britons for centuries. Known also as Shrove Tuesday, its exact date, rather confusingly, changes every year, because it is determined by when Easter falls. But it is always the day preceding Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent), and always falls in February or March. This year, you'll need to get your pans ready for Tuesday, February 9. Everybody likes pancakes, but did you know the following:?



- 1: The largest pancake in the world was cooked up in Rochdale in 1994, weighing in at 6,614 lbs (that's three tonnes!) and measuring 49 ft and 3in long.
- 2: If you feel guilty about using readymade pancake mix, don't worry - people have been doing it forever. Aunt Jemimas was invented in St Joseph, Missouri in 1889 and is claimed to be the first ever readymade pancake mixture to be sold.
- 3: The world's largest pancake breakfast was held in Springfield, America, in 2012. The breakfast saw 15,000 people get together in Main Street to enjoy a huge number of pancakes and raised \$10,000 for a local charity.
- 4: Pancake races happen all over England throughout Shrove Tuesday. The tradition is thought to have originated in Olney in the 15th century, after a woman lost track of time while cooking pancakes. When the bells for mass rang, she ran out of her house with the pan and pancake still in hand. Olney still holds a pancake race every year.
- 5: The largest number of pancake flips in the shortest amount of time is currently 349 flips in two minutes, a record achieved by Dean Gould in Felixstowe, Suffolk, in 1995.
- 6: While we in Britain tend to keep our pancake ingredients nice and simple, in Newfoundland, Canada, objects with symbolic value are added to the batter to be cooked. These items are then used to interpret different messages about the future - for example, a pancake served with a ring inside may signify marriage.
- 7: In France, it is traditional while flipping a pancake to hold a coin in one hand and to make a wish.
- 8: The largest stack of pancakes ever cooked was made up of 60 pancakes and was an impressive 76cm tall.
- 9: It is estimated that an impressive 52 million eggs are used in Britain each year on pancake day - that's 22 million more than every other day of the year.
- 10: The French call pancake day Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday. This originates from the ancient ritual of parading a large ox through Paris to remind people that meat was forbidden during the Lent period.

Ladies' Guild

It's good to see all the boys back after the Christmas break as we get back into the swing of things.

We welcome Anna Smyth as a helper, for the next 12 weeks, with the Anchor Boys and Junior Section. This is the volunteering part of the bronze badge of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. We wish Anna well over the next 12 weeks.

*William McMillan
Captain*

Our annual New Year lunch to 'La Mon House Hotel' delivered its usual excellent repast! We enjoyed some lovely time together and it was nice to relax in each other's company.

This month, we welcome a guest speaker, Mrs Linda King, who is coming along to talk about 'God's Perfect Wardrobe'. We're all a little intrigued as to what this entails and are looking forward to the evening very much. Please note that this meeting will be held on **Tuesday 9th February** at our usual time of 7.30 pm.

Although slightly belated, I wish all parishioners a very happy and peaceful New Year.

Joan Rodgers—President

FLOWER LIST 2016

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Flower Fund for this year. As usual, the generosity of parishioners is overwhelming. There are still one or two vacancies if anyone else would like to subscribe. Please see Kate if you are interested.