

How quickly can you complete the
Sudoku challenges?

Puzzle Corner

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

Happy St
Patrick's
Day!



May you live as long
as you want and
never want as long
as you live.

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

PASSWORDS



THE MAGAZINE FOR ST MARY MAGDALENE PARISH
DONEGALL PASS

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www.st-marymagdalene.org.uk



March 2014



CHURCH SERVICES



SERVICES	READER
2nd March—Sunday before Lent (<i>Transfiguration Sunday</i>) 11.00 am Holy Communion	Sally Cotter <i>2 Peter 1 –v- 16-21</i>
9th March—1st Sunday in Lent 11.00 am Holy Baptism	Ann Sheppard <i>Isaiah 43 –v- 1-7</i>
16th March—2nd Sunday in Lent 11.00 am WOW Service—Theme: St Patrick	—
17th March—St Patrick’s Day 12.30 pm Service followed by lunch	—
23rd March—3rd Sunday in Lent 11.00 am Morning Prayer	Joan Rodgers <i>Exodus 17 –v- 1-7</i>
30th March—Mothering Sunday 11.00 am Service of the Word	Jacqueline Stephenson <i>Exodus 2 –v- 1-10</i>

Mid-week Lenten Services are listed on Page 5

Thursday Lunchtime Services

These continue to take place in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit at 12.30 pm followed by lunch in the church hall. Please note that there will not be a service on Thursday 20th March—instead there will be a St Patrick’s Day service held on Monday 17th at 12.30 pm. Lunch will follow

All 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—March



- Mar 2nd Mr & Mrs J Taylor—in memory of Betty Taylor
- Mar 9th Mrs N Reilly/Mrs R White—in memory of their mother
- Mar 16th Mr & Mrs B McMillan
- Mar 23rd The Irvine Family—in memory of Charles & Agnes Irvine
- Mar 30th Mrs C Irving



Christian Burial



Leila Webster

2 Virginia Way

10th February 2014 (died 6th February 2014)

We were all greatly saddened by the death of Leila Webster, who passed away on 6 February. She never really rallied from her recent stroke and heart attack and spent a while in the RVH before spending her final weeks in Movilla House, Newtownards. A woman of incredible and diverse talents, she had given enormous pleasure to many people through a lifetime’s performance, working with some of the other greats in the entertainment field, including Bob Hope and James Young. In her long life she showed spirit, energy and courage and refused to be cowed by ill health or the darkest days of the troubles.

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to her son Jim and grandsons Mark, Chris and Jamie. Her committal took place at Roselawn Crematorium on 10 February at 11.00 am, prior to a Service of Thanksgiving in St Mary Magdalene at 12.30 pm. My thanks to the Rev Eddie Smith and Rev Jim Rea for their role in these services and also to Alfie Birch and the musicians of the 1st Old Boys’ BB Band for their crucial part in the church service.

Anne Purvis

2 Pakenham Street

21st February 2014 (died 17th February 2014)

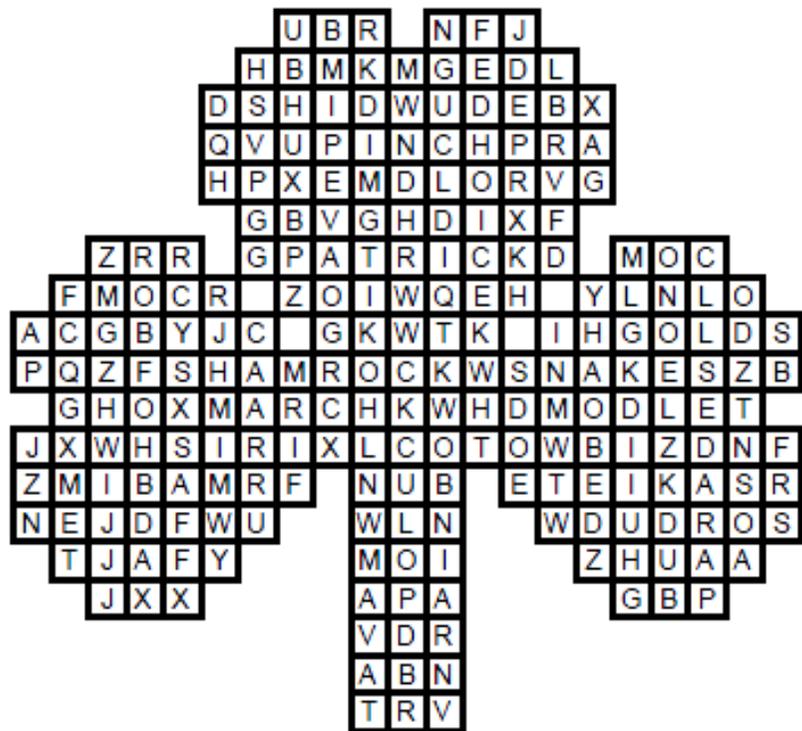
Our sympathies are extended to Ernie and the rest of the Purvis family following the death of Hannah (Anne) on 17th February. Her funeral took place from her home in Pakenham Street prior to cremation at Roselawn.

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live.” [John 11: 25]



Here's a wordsearch for St Patrick's Day. See how many of the words below you can find in the shamrock!

for our younger readers



- | | | | | |
|----------|-------|-------|---------|--------|
| Luck | March | Green | Rainbow | Irish |
| Shamrock | Gold | Pinch | Patrick | Snakes |
| Parade | | | | |



The Rector writes . . .

Dear Parishioners

‘See the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them’ [Isaiah 42: 9]

Our lives are poised between a remembrance of the people we were, the people we are now and the people we hope to become. As adults we often feel the same inside. Our minds recall fondly what we used to do, but now find more difficult. Perhaps we don't have as much breath as we had when children, perhaps we don't move as fast as we used to. When we look in the mirror we see someone staring back at us who seems unfamiliar. ‘Where has all that white hair come from?’ we ask ourselves.

Biologically, we are not the same people we were even a few years ago, for our bodies' cells are constantly being renewed and replaced. There are between 50 and 75 trillion cells in the body and each cell has its own life span. White blood cells live on average more than a year. Skin cells live about two or three weeks. Those of you who enjoy dusting [mostly dead skin cells] will know that it is an endless task. Brain cells typically last an entire lifetime, even though they don't always work as well as they should.

Our sense of who we are is intimately tied up with our brain activity and the memories we activate. I still find it astonishing how much information and how many images and memories can be stored away in our minds. Often, older people can recall in great detail events that happened 60, 70, 80 years ago. What we have experienced makes us the kind of people we are. Our challenges and struggles mould us – for better or for worse – into the kind of people we become.

Each of us has a choice of how to behave in all facets of our lives. We decide what we eat, how much television we watch, how much exercise to take, how often we pray or read the Bible. As a result of our habits and routines we can influence to a marked degree the kind of people we become. If we only eat fast foods and cakes, the spectres of obesity, diabetes or strokes may be hovering in the background unless we are blessed with an amazing metabolism.

If we are students who never seem to pass exams or to get high enough grades to get where we want to go, we either adjust our working or thinking routines or prepare for a similar outcome as before. If, as a church, we find ourselves caught in a downward spiral of declining attendance, it is unlikely to improve matters if we just keep doing what suits us and hope for the best. Creativity and energy are needed if we are to respond to the challenges. New thinking is needed if we are to keep pace with changing patterns in our society.

I have been at St Mary Magdalene since 30 June last year. Many of you will be aware of certain changes I have introduced. I will not enumerate them now, but it might be interesting [and hopefully encouraging] for you to think what they are. There will necessarily be more in the months to come. Change, whilst a necessary part of life, becomes more threatening as we get older. Too much change too quickly can be unsettling. We all need time to adjust to adjustments.

It's important to achieve a balance between familiar and the novel. Tradition is a vital part of our identity. It is our link with the past. It can define us but it should not confine us. Any business that does not allocate a sizeable proportion of its profits to Research and Development risks being put out of business by the opposition. As a church we must be mindful of our great traditions whilst deciding where and when to innovate. We retain the best of the past whilst seeking out the best of the present to enable us to respond to the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Rev Bob Cotter

Don't forget your Songs of Praise list!

On Sunday 27th April at 7.00 pm, we will be having a Songs of Praise service led by the 1st Old Boys' Association Band. We will be singing the favourite hymns of this congregation and would really like, if possible, to have YOUR special favourites included. Please take one of the cards available at the back of the church and write your Top 5 (or less) hymns in the spaces provided.



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

A sharp tongue can cut your own throat.



For your diary

Ash Wednesday	Wed 5th Mar	7.30 pm
Select Vestry	Mon 10th Mar	7.30 pm
Ladies' Guild	Tues 11th Mar	7.30 pm
St Patrick's Day Service	Mon 17th Mar	12.30 pm
Snooker Club	Tuesdays	7.00 pm
Midweek Services	Thursdays (not Thurs 20th)	12.30 pm
Lenten Services	Wed 12th, 19th 26th	7.30 pm
Mothers and Toddlers	Thursdays	10-12 noon
BB	Thursdays	6.30 onwards

*Spring is coming...
Clocks forward*



30 March



"I'm enrolling in seminary college so I can learn about miracles, like how to pay off my student loans."

~ 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;
RH = residential home]

Martha Armstrong, *Masserene Nursing Home*
David Baird, *Fairhaven RH, North Road*
Ena Belton, *Malone RH*
Edith Booth, *Carryduff NH*
Mina Henry, *Arlington House, North Parade*
Mary Leslie, *Arlington House, North Parade*
Annie McCully, *Belmont CH*
Sadie Parker, *Belmont CH*
David Sampson, *Park Manor NH, Dunmurry*
Desmond Spratt, *Park Manor NH, Dunmurry*

John Burns (*City Hospital*)
George and Margaret Clarke
Warren Crawford
Barbara Drysdale
Martha Fitzsimmons
Jim Garstang
Victor Gourley
Gloria Graham
Annie Jenkins
Edna King
Frances McClean
Jean McCurrie
Elizabeth Mark
David and Emily Mason
Brian and Jean Matthews
Tom Reilly
Jim Shields
Doreen Smyth
Laura Smyth
Stella Spackman
David Stephenson
Roy and Ena Taylor
Greta Wilson

We also remember Eileen Ross and May Kelly, recovering from their recent trauma. We trust that God will surround them with his love and keep them in his care and protection.

Annual Report & Accounts

The Annual Report & Accounts for 2013 will soon be prepared for presentation at the Easter Vestry. Some parishioners prefer to be listed anonymously and if you too would like this, please complete the sheet at the back of the church.

The closing date for this is Sunday March 16th.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

These will take place each Wednesday evening at 7.30 pm in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit

5th March Ash Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Service (BCP p 338) incorporating Holy Communion
12th March	Service of Compline (BCP p 154)
19 March	Late Evening Office (BCP p 162)
26 March	Celebration of wholeness and healing (BCP p 457) - Service with laying on of hands

To all mums



Mothers
hold their child's hand for a moment
and their heart for a
lifetime

Articles for the April magazine should be with Kate by Sunday 16th March 2014.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS 2014

MAKE LENT COUNT

Christian Aid has again launched its 'Make Lent Count' campaign. The idea behind this is to encourage people to make Lent count in a different and more positive way, so that rather than giving up treats for Lent, you can be inspired to give thanks for the blessings in your life and at the same time help change the lives of poor communities around the globe.

The way it works is to use the Christian Aid Lent calendar, (*copies at back of church*). For each day there will be a short reflection and an invitation to pledge an amount of money. For example, the reflection for Friday 7th March reads, 'At the current rate of deforestation, the world's rainforests could completely vanish in 100 years'. Give 20 pence for every sheet of paper you write on today. Some days you will not be asked to pledge money, but rather to pray for a particular situation. At the end of Lent, you can tot up the money you have pledged and send it to Christian Aid directly (*all details on calendar*), or if you prefer, you can give it to me and I will pass it on to Christian Aid on your behalf.

For those of you who own smart phones, iPads, or tablets, you can download the app for free and play along each day.

Free app

Forty daily reflections and actions, complete with inspirational photos from our partners around the world, delivered straight to your smart phone, iPad or iPod touch. Available for free from the Apple Store or Google Play.



Go on—let's make Lent count!

Kate Irving
Christian Aid Secretary

THE BOYS
BRIGADE
the adventure begins here



It is very encouraging to be able to report that there has been an increase in numbers over this past month and we welcome all the new members into the company. Hopefully this trend will continue—the greater the numbers the more extensive programme we can actually plan and this improves the BB experience for everyone.

During February we enjoyed a range of activities ranging from various craft nights with the Junior section to G3 football with the senior boys.

Remember, The BB runs on a Thursday as follows:

Anchor Boys (5-8 yrs) -
6.30 pm - 8.00 pm

Junior Section (8-11 yrs) -
6.30 pm - 8.00 pm

Company Section (11-18 yrs) -
7.45 pm - 9.30 pm

If your son or grandson isn't already a member, why not let him come along and give it a try?

William McMillan
Captain 1st Irish Company

Ladies' Guild



Thank you to everyone who supported our 'Crawford Bell

Concert' - we had a really good night and were astounded to raise £300 in aid of Macmillan Nurses. As usual, the generosity of the Magdalene people and their friends came to the fore in support of this excellent cause. Crawford himself commented that we were all in fine singing voice! Some of the songs certainly took us down memory lane!

This month, we look forward to hearing about the work of the 'Deborah project' - a charity set up to help abused young girls in Romania. Ladies are reminded that this month's meeting will take place on Tuesday 11th March.

It was of course with immense sadness that we learned of the death of our member and friend Leila Webster. How will we ever forget the hours of entertainment she provided for us over the years? We will miss her and trust that now, reunited with her beloved Tom, she is resting in peace.

Joan Rodgers—President