

# Puzzle Corner

How quickly can you complete the Sudoku challenges?



	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	

	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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Family Worker: Mrs Alison Shaw tel: 07547030451 (Mon, Wed, Fri)

[www.st-marymagdalene.org.uk](http://www.st-marymagdalene.org.uk)



**He died that we might be forgiven**





# SERVICES



SERVICES	READER
<b>6th Mar—4th Sunday in Lent</b> 11.00 am Holy Communion	Peter Ainley <i>Colossians 3 –v- 12-17</i>
<b>13th Mar—5th Sunday in Lent</b> 11.00 am Morning Prayer	Jennifer Smyth <i>Isaiah 43 –v- 16-21</i>
<b>20th Mar—Palm Sunday</b> 11.00 am Holy Baptism	Ann Sheppard <i>Psalms 13 9 –v- 3-18</i>
<b>27th Mar—Easter Sunday</b> 11.00 am Holy Communion	Jane Stewart <i>1 Corinthians 15 –v- 19-26</i>
<b>3rd Apr—2nd Sunday of Easter</b> 11.00 am Holy Communion	To be arranged <i>Revelations 1 –v- 4-8</i>
<b>10th Apr—3rd Sunday of Easter</b> 11.00 am Morning Prayer	To be arranged <i>Revelations 5 –v- 11-14</i>
<b>17th Apr—4th Sunday of Easter</b> 11.00 am Healing Service	To be arranged <i>Acts 9 –v- 36-43</i>
<b>24th Apr—5th Sunday of Easter</b> 11.00 am Family Service—Spring	—
<b>MID-WEEK LENTEN &amp; HOLY WEEK SERVICES</b>	
<b>Wed 2nd Mar—Lenten Service</b> 7.30 pm Theme—The Lord’s Prayer [3]	
<b>Wed 9th Mar—Lenten Service</b> 7.30 pm Theme—The Lord’s Prayer [4]	
<b>Thurs 17th Mar—St Patrick’s Day</b> 12.30 pm Holy Communion ( <i>followed by lunch in the hall</i> )	
<b>Thurs 24th Mar—Maundy Thursday</b> 7.30 pm Holy Communion (Old)	
<b>Fri 25th Mar—Good Friday</b> 7.30 pm The Good Shepherd	



## Flower Rota ~ March-April



Mar 6th	.....	Mrs N Reilly/Mrs R White—in memory of their mother
Mar 13th	.....	Mr & Mrs B McMillan
Mar 20th	.....	Palm Sunday
Mar 27th	.....	The Irvine Family—in memory of Charles & Agnes Irvine
Apr 3rd	.....	Mrs C Irving
Apr 10th	.....	Vacant
Apr 17th	.....	Mrs M O’Rawe
	.....	Mrs H Bowes/Mrs R Buchanan (nee Baird)
Apr 24th	.....	Mr & Mrs D G Sheppard

### ~ 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.

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

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.



## Christian Burial



Martha Fitzsimmons  
6 Vernon Court

1st June 1920 - 8th February 2016

Martha passed away on Monday 8th February in the City Hospital, surrounded by many members of her family. Her last battle with ill-health ended peacefully and calmly. She had said her farewells and passed into the nearer presence of her Lord and Saviour after a full and long life. Whilst her passing was not unexpected, it was still a great blow when it came, and many of us, family, fellow parishioners and neighbours feel a profound sense of loss. Her funeral service in the parish church she loved took place on Friday 12th February, with the committal following at Roselawn. Martha herself had meticulously planned all the finer details of her own funeral and all those who attended were moved by the account of her life presented by Canon R.W. Jones. One of the sources of the oral history of Donegall Pass is no longer with us. A visit to Martha was not only entertaining, but highly informative. Her knowledge of the parish of St Mary Magdalene and the people who lived in this part of South Belfast was encyclopaedic. Martha was not only interested in everybody, but she loved to talk and a good listener was always welcome to her. Not for her a quick chat, but she relished a wide-ranging reminiscence about the things she had done, the people she had met. Rarely was she stuck for a name or a detail. Her mental sharpness put all of us to shame, whatever our age. Her faith was central to her identity, as shown by her choice of hymns for her funeral service. There is nothing half-hearted or hesitant about the sentiments expressed in 'Blessed assurance 'Jesus is mine' or in 'Safe in the arms of Jesus'. Martha loved her Lord and is now at last freed from the bodily frailty which had limited her activities in recent years. She had hoped to return to her little home in Vernon Court, but it was not to be. Instead she had been called home to be with the Lord. She must be dancing with joy!

*'I am the resurrection and the life' [John 11: 24]*

It is also with sadness that we have learned of the death of Mrs Mary Leslie on Friday 19th February. Unfortunately at the time of going to print, no further details are available.



## The Rector writes . . .

*Dear Parishioner*

This year, since Easter is early, it seems as if the Church Year is hurtling onwards at breakneck speed. The same sense will be apparent when we celebrate St Patrick's Day on March 17th and then, just ten days later, celebrate Easter, on 27th March. The danger is that we will not give the same attention to either great festival, because we might feel we are being rushed off our feet!

We all lead such hectic lives nowadays, that the pace of life just gets quicker and quicker if we allow it to. Modern technology encourages us to divide our attention in several directions at once. We might be having our TV dinner whilst watching the news, taking a phone call or sending a text between mouthfuls!

Social media are insistent in their demand that we interact with them. If we have neglected to go to Facebook for a few days, it sends us little reminders of all that we have missed. If we do respond to the prompt, we discover that there was nothing so exciting after all that we would be the worse for neglecting.

One of the great opportunities that Lent should present to us, is the time to re-define our priorities. What adds real value to our lives? Is it a hastily grabbed snack on the move? Is it taking time to read, to think, to pray, to be with people, to savour the little pleasures in life?

Is all our busyness often just an evasion? We can so easily find ourselves defined by what we DO, rather than what we ARE. In fact, it may be scary to take time to contemplate the direction our life is going. It is simpler, less demanding, just to go with the current that is driving us - and everyone else - forward. It can take courage to get off the treadmill, to climb onto the bank of the river, and, after pausing for breath, to admire the scenery.

As the Church Year moves inexorably forward, so our lives seem to have an unstoppable momentum. Our daily routines almost come to define who we are. An occasional holiday or trip is all we ask for. The rest of the time we are seemingly content to do what we have always done.

Patrick the teenager was minding his own business when he was one day

captured by pirates and taken to that strange country we know as Ireland. A carefree existence as the son of a respected official was rudely ended and he found himself forced to look after someone's sheep on the inhospitable slopes of Slemish, or some other Irish mountain.

He stuck doggedly to his task but prayed and prayed for deliverance. Years later he managed to escape and later came to sense that God was calling him to a new task. He was to return to the land of his captivity, to bring the redeeming power of the Gospel to the Irish people, steeped as they were in their pagan ways. In that way he was walking in the footsteps of Joseph, sold into slavery in Egypt and prepared for a great task that God had marked him out to accomplish. So too Moses, rescued from the bullrushes as a baby, found himself brought up as an Egyptian, so that he might later be God's instrument to bring his people home to the Land of Canaan.

The pattern reaches its high point in the life of Jesus, whose parents fled with him to Egypt, that he might be preserved by God for a great task, a task that only he could accomplish. In his case it was to prove the costliest task of all. He was to bring his people back to God, in fact to open up a new way to God for all peoples. Only through his death and resurrection could this most universal salvation of all be brought to fruition. In his cross, in his pain, is our gain. Hallelujah!

*Rev Bob Cotter*

## ANNUAL GENERAL VESTRY MEETING

This will be held

on

**Monday 11th April 2016**

at 7.30 pm

*Please make every effort to attend this important meeting*

**Your** input is valuable and you will be very welcome.

*Please show your support and interest by attending.*



### THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

*Who gossips with you  
will gossip of you.*

*An old Irish Saying*



For your diary

#### March

**Select Vestry** Mon 14th Mar 7.30 pm

**Ladies' Guild** No meeting in March

#### April

**General Vestry** Mon 11th Apr 7.30 pm

**Ladies' Guild** Wed 13th Apr 7.30 pm

#### Ongoing Weekly

**Snooker Club** Tuesdays 7.00 pm

**Midweek Services** Thursdays 12.30 pm

**Parents and Toddlers** Thurs 10-12 noon

**BB** Thurs 6.30 pm onwards



**27 March**



*"It's St Patrick's Day Ms Jones. If anyone wants me, I'll be on the greens."*

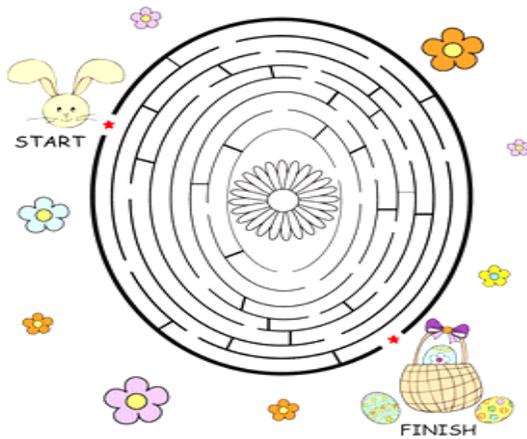


for our younger readers ....

How many eggs of each type can you count?



### Easter Bunny Maze



Can you help the bunny find its way to the Easter egg basket?

# SUPPORTER Conference

for supporters, collectors and organisers

**BELFAST - Saturday 5 March 2016**

Low Memorial Presbyterian Church, BT10 0LL

**COLERAINE - Saturday 12 March 2016**

New Row Presbyterian Church, BT52 1AF

**Speaker: Rosamond Bennett,**  
Chief Executive of  
Christian Aid Ireland

**Start: 10am** with coffee  
**Finish: free lunch at 1pm**

**Please RSVP:**  
belfast@christian-aid.org  
or 028 9064 8133.



Sunday 6th March 2016



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

## Doesn't it look well?!

It's great to be back in the main church building again for regular worship. Church attendees will have noticed how terrific it is all looking. Thank you to our painter/decorator David Heasley and his able assistant, Matthew Smyth.



We are also hugely indebted to Hugh, Ronnie and David who undertook the major clean-up required after all the work was finished. This was no mean task, but they ensured everything was once again in ship-shape condition. Thank you guys!

### Thank You

(Martha Fitzsimmons)

We would like to thank everyone who sympathised with us during our recent bereavement. Thank you for your prayers, cards, letters, flowers and to those who attended the funeral service. To those who prepared the church for the service and hall for refreshments, the dishwashers and people who tidied the hall or helped in any way and those who sent donations for the Church Restoration Fund in lieu of flowers. To our organist and choir, the Revd. Bob Cotter who organised the services and Canon Robert Jones for his address. 'Team Magdalene' pulled out all the stops for us and we appreciate it very much.

Thank you all.  
Jean, Jack, Libby and David

There will not be a magazine issued in April due to the fact that Sandra, our printer, will be enjoying herself in sunny Florida. Lucky her!

Articles for the May (*can you believe it?*) magazine should be with Kate Irving by Sunday 17th April 2016.

THE BOYS  
BRIGADE  
the adventure begins here



It's been all go in the Anchor Boys and Junior Section over the last number of weeks, with baking buns and making pancakes. The boys enjoyed icing the buns along with themselves. As for the pancakes covered in chocolate spread— some boys' pancakes never made it home.....yummy!

### COMPANY SECTION

The Company Section boys will be heading to the Rocky Mountain Centre near Newcastle Co Down, the weekend 11-13 March. Let's hope for dry weather. Pictures of the weekend can be seen later in March. Happy Easter everyone.

William McMillan



Pancake and bun making—more photos on our Facebook page

## Ladies' Guild



Unfortunately due to a family bereavement, our February speaker was unable to attend and we had to quickly arrange an alternative programme for the evening. Our thanks to Kate for stepping in and instructing us in the making of Easter egg bunnies! We had a lot of fun, even though the pom-pom making turned out to be a bit of a challenge!

The evening was nonetheless marred with sadness on learning of the death of our friend and former member Martha. Martha was a member of the guild for many, many years, right up until her failing health made coming to meetings too difficult. Our thoughts and prayers are with the whole family and especially Libby and Jean, both members of the guild.

As agreed, there will not be a meeting in March as the date coincides with the mid-week Lenten service. We will next be together on Wednesday 13th April when we look forward to the Members' night.

Joan Rodgers—President