

I remember my mother often repeating the phrase 'You never miss your mother until she's gone'. By this I think she was hinting at how much we take for granted, those around us, and all they do for us.

Both my parents died quite some time ago and I can now agree with my mother's sentiments. I certainly miss them being around and realise just how much I took them for granted. I would imagine that all of us can relate to taking so much in life for granted; from our health to the love of those around us, our homes and possessions.

I think the 'illness' of taking life, people and things for granted is epidemic. So much we hear of our 'rights' and what we are 'entitled' to, and we see evidence all around us of a lack of respect leading to a throw away culture. I think some of this can be focused in the increasing lack of use of the words Please and Thank you. I sometimes observe children for example crossing the road whilst a patrol man or lady stops the traffic, but I rarely see their lips move to express gratitude.

Rector's Letter:

In shops cashiers sometimes ask for and take our money without much of an acknowledgement.

Holy Week and Easter can be an opportunity to draw closer to God and to contemplate afresh all that he has done for us, and as we do so the taking for granted that we often fall into is addressed and replaced with sincere gratitude. The sacrifice God made to save us, if we allow ourselves to truly consider it, cannot fail to move our hearts in response. Moving from Holy Week and Easter to Christmas reminds me of one of the moving Christmas addresses to the nation by the Queen, where in humility she quoted the verse from a much loved carol, 'What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give Him, give my heart'. We are all poor in the light of His love and sacrifice for us and none of us can offer him anything adequate in response

except a thankful response of self-offering back to Him of the life He has given us.

I remember as a boy of about 10yrs old one Good Friday watching on TV, along with my elderly Grandmother, a film that portrayed the death of Jesus. I can still remember the sense of being moved when I realized there were tears running down my Grandmother's cheeks as she contemplated what she was watching. Over the years as I have contemplated the cross I also have found, and still do find the message of the Gospel moves my heart afresh to recommit my life to God my Saviour.

Of course, like me you will have to make a decision amidst the busyness of life to decide if you will make time to allow the message to touch your heart afresh this Holy Week and Easter. Whilst some do so each year, regrettably many do not, and so miss out on this opportunity to consider afresh all

that God has done for and to allow that contemplation to move us to gratitude and thanksgiving.

In Seagoe we provide many opportunities to gather together over this period to focus on the cross. I therefore encourage you to consider coming along to as many of the services detailed on page 2 as possible and to invite God to draw you to Himself in a fresh way as you focus on His love for you. It can be a painful and moving experience, but one that provides the opportunity to then move forward with renewed gratitude to Him and along with that renewed desire to serve Him. The alternative is to lose out on so much that He wants to do in and through us.

May God therefore richly bless you and your loved ones as you draw closer to Him this Holy Week and Easter.

Terence 

Parish Centre Debt paid off

On Sunday 25th January we were delighted to be able to give thanks to God for the paying off of the remaining debt on our £1.4 million Parish Centre which was opened in June 2010. Initially the business plan was to try to pay the debt off over a 15year period, but thanks to the generosity of Parishioners, and income derived by Seagoe Ministries from the renting of the Centre, we managed to do so within 8 years.

Rodney McCabe, a past Treasurer of the Parish and the person who was central to working with the development team of the Parish Centre project had planned to make

the presentation of the work on the centre during the services, but unfortunately he was not well and the Rector had to step in using Rodney's notes.

We are so grateful to God for leading the various Select Vestries and other committees over the years in the

development of the centre. Further we are grateful for all those who have used the centre since it was built. Whilst there was some resistance to the project from some Parishioners in the development stage, now that we have the centre the recurrent phrase that is heard is, 'How did we ever manage before?!'

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way in the past to the building and the paying off of the debt, and to all who currently enable the centre to be the hub of Parish life.



Bishop Alf Cooper of Chile

Sunday 18th March 7.00pm

We are very privileged to have Bishop Alf as the guest speaker at our Rotunda



Praise Service on Sunday 18th March at 7.00pm. Alf's life story is very interesting. He began life as a postman and now is not only a Bishop, but also an advisor to the President of Chile. Bishop Ken Clarke, who will also be at the service, worked with Alf and his wife when he worked as a SAMS missionary in Chile. Alf is a gifted communicator and well worth hearing. Please plan to attend and bring others with you.



On Palm Sunday morning at 10.30am children are encouraged to bring along palm branches made of paper to wave during the service as we think of Jesus' entry in Jerusalem. In the evening at 7.00pm the Bishop will be with us for Confirmation. We are really looking forward to this year's service as there are 20 candidates from Seagoe and 5 from Ardmore, along with candidates from neighbouring Parishes who will be joining us, namely 8 from Aghalee and 1 from Knocknamuckley. Please see page 5 for further details.



Holy Week and Easter

This Holy Week we will be focusing on aspects of the build up to the crucifixion as detailed in John's Gospel. On Maundy Thursday the choir of St. Mark's, Portadown will join with our choir to help create a sensitive musical input to our service of Holy Communion. The finale of the week will be the Good Friday evening Tenebrae Service. This service will lead us from a fully lit Church becoming darker as each scripture passage is read until we will sit for a while in darkness to contemplate our Saviour's death. All Holy Week evening services at 8.00pm

Monday John 12.1-11
Tuesday John 12.20-36
Wednesday John 13. 21-32
Thursday John 13.1-17, 31b-35
Friday John 18.1-19.42

Monday Youth Service at 7.00pm

Members of the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade will join us, along with anyone else who wishes to attend, for a short service specifically geared to their age range. One of our Brigade Leaders and recently commissioned Parish Reader, Rebecca Richardson, will lead the service and our Youth Student, Josh Thornbury, will preach. Parents of the Brigade members are encouraged to attend.

Good Friday

Seagoe is a busy place on Good Friday with a range of different services and activities for all ages as follows:

10.00am A short Children's Service followed by craft activities in the Parish Centre
10.30am Walk from Church to the town centre to meet with those from other Churches
11.15am Short service outside St. Mark's and walk of witness through the town.
2.00pm Hour at the Cross-a quiet contemplative service in Church.
8.00pm Tenebrae Service. We have developed this service over the past few years. It offers an atmospheric journey from light to the darkness of the cross.

Easter

6.30am Dawn Service organised by Churches Together in Portadown. This year we are returning to Craigavon Lakes for this service. Followed by some welcoming refreshments.
9.00am Traditional Holy Communion service in Church.
10.30am All-age Easter Communion service.
7.00pm Easter Songs of Praise, organised by Churches Together in Portadown. Held this year in Seagoe, we are looking forward to worshipping together with people from other Churches in the town. A variety of much loved hymns will be introduced by members of the various churches. Please spread the word about all these services and invite others to come along with you.



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HOLY WEEK		10.00am		8.00pm
Monday	26th		7.00pm Youth Service	Holy Week Service
Tuesday	27th			Holy Week Service
Wednesday	28th	Holy Communion		Holy Week Service
Maundy Thursday	29th			Holy Communion
Good Friday	30th	Children's service	2pm Hour at the cross	Good Friday Service

Please plan to attend as many Holy Week services as you can so that you will benefit most from the journey to the cross of Good Friday. On Maundy Thursday we are delighted that the choir of St. Mark's will combine with our choir.

	March	9.00am	10.30am	6.00pm St. Patrick's	7.00pm St. Gobhan's
SUNDAY	18th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship & Café Youth Church	Evening Worship	Praise service with Bishop Alf Cooper from Chile with SAMS
PALM SUNDAY	25th	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Worship	Confirmation by the Bishop
	April				
EASTER SUNDAY	1st	Easter Communion	Easter Family Communion	No Service	Easter Songs of Praise by Churches Together In Portadown
SUNDAY	8th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	No Service	Holy Communion
SUNDAY	15th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship & Café Youth Church	Evening Worship	Rotunda Praise Service
SUNDAY	22nd	Holy Communion-Leprosy Mission	Morning Worship-Leprosy Mission	Evening Worship	Evening Worship
SUNDAY	29th	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Worship	Late Evening Office
	May				
SUNDAY	6th	Holy Communion	Family Service	Evening Worship	Holy Communion laying on hands
SUNDAY	13th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
SUNDAY	20th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship & Café Youth Church	Evening Worship	Rotunda Praise Service
SUNDAY	27th	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Worship	Late Evening Office
	June				
PENTECOST SUNDAY	3rd	Holy Communion	Family Service	Evening Worship	Holy Communion laying on hands
TRINITY SUNDAY	10th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship in Church 10.00am Children's Day Breakfast service in the Parish Centre	Holy Communion	Late Evening Office
SUNDAY	17th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship & Café Youth Church	Evening Worship	Rwanda Team Commissioning Service
SUNDAY	24th	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Worship	Late Evening Office

Alpha Course in Killicomaine Youth Centre, starting Thursday 19 April 2018 at 11am



We believe that everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view.

Alpha is a series of 10 sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome.

If you want to discover what Christianity is all about this is the place to start!

**Easter Vestry
Wednesday
18th April**

Drinks reception 7.30pm
Meeting 8.00pm

**ANNUAL
VESTRY
MEETING**



Everyone is encouraged to attend the Easter Vestry (AGM of the Church) although only those who are registered as Vestrymen can vote. Please make every effort to attend and please pray for God's guidance in the elections.

Raj's trip to Buckingham Palace

I was invited to Buckingham Palace on the 14th of February to attend a reception that had been organised to recognise the contribution of people from the Commonwealth countries to life and society in the UK. I could hardly believe my eyes when I saw the invitation and eventually realised it was for me.

People from different walks of life were invited including the Ambassadors of the 52 commonwealth nations, there were three Bishops including Archbishop Sentamu of York and a few Roman Catholic and Protestant clergy. There were some sportsmen and women and also a few who had made a name for themselves in the field of arts and culture.

We were presented to HM The Queen, Prince Charles and The Duchess of Cornwall and later in the evening I had the privilege of meeting the Prime Minister Teresa May and the Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson. It was a marvellous experience to be in the picture gallery with all its beautiful paintings and to actually meet Her Majesty, the Queen who was so gracious and kind. I returned praising God for giving me this wonderful privilege and also decided to pray sincerely and regularly for the Queen and all those in authority.



Killicomaine Outreach and Church Plant

We started the CAP Job Club in February, where we give practical help and support to local people who are looking for work. We are just over halfway through the first course and have been working on building confidence, writing applications and CVs and in the next couple of weeks we will be practising interviews.

Recently local MLA Carla Lockhart spent the morning with us at the Jobs Club.

She chatted and joined in the session on 'Writing a great CV'. Carla offered advice and shared stories about being involved with interviews, and also on the importance of volunteering.

I have also been working with other churches in the area – Killicomaine Baptist, Killicomaine Evangelical and Pillar Community. On Saturday 3 March we held our first joint events, an evening with former Northern Ireland International footballer Stuart Elliott. About 50 people braved the bad weather to come and hear Stuart share his story of how he came to faith, and the subsequent impact this had upon his life and career.

Off the back of the Stuart Elliott evening we 'kicked off' our Men's Club; the club is based in the Youth Centre and meets every Friday morning for games of pool, table tennis and darts. We drink tea and coffee, have plenty of chat and banter and investigate what it means to be a Christian man.

On Thursday 19 April at 11am we are planning to start our first Alpha Course with people who have recently come to faith and others who are investigating Christianity. If you are interested in coming along you will be most welcome!

Jim



Food Hygiene Training

Food Hygiene Training-Tuesday
15th May 7.30pm

We are delighted that Alice McAlary is able to come back to present an update evening on Food Hygiene. It is vital that anyone who prepares or serves food on behalf of the Parish or any of its organisations attends this training so that they names can be included in the Hygiene certificate.

As you are aware we were recently awarded the 5* category for our food hygiene in Seagoe Parish Centre, and so it is vital that we adhere to best practice in order to retain this.



Parish Records update

Thank you again to everyone who has completed a Parish Records update form as part of our Stewardship Campaign.

Those who have returned forms have had the information supplied added to the new Parish Database of parishioners. The information we have previously held concerning parishioners will not be transferred to the new system without the relevant forms being completed. As a result quite a significant number of people who previously considered themselves as parishioners of Seagoe are in danger of not being included on the new record of parishioners.

In addition, unfortunately a number of households only sent information concerning the head of the household and not the additional members, as a result the members of many households will not be included as parishioners.

We are therefore appealing to everyone who has not returned a completed response form, or who may not have fully completed it for all household members, to do so ASAP. If you have misplaced the form please contact the Parish Office to receive a replacement form.

If you are not sure if you made a return, or are concerned that your return may not have been complete, please contact the office for clarification.

It is essential that all parishioner details are inputted to the new system as otherwise people may find they are no longer regarded as parishioners.

Not being on the list of parishioners has many effects such as not receiving magazines in the future, not receiving any communication from the parish, a potential detrimental effect in seeking a place in Seagoe Primary School, not being able to marry in Seagoe, not being able to have a grave space allocated in our Churchyard etc.

BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

- Are you school year 10 (re JHS or equivalent)?
- Want a challenge? Try something new?
- Enjoy helping others, being outdoors, meeting friends?

SYG are recruiting for their new Bronze group, who will meet on Friday evenings 8.30 pm at Trax.

If interested call in at Trax on Friday or Wednesday (8.15 pm) to find out more or contact Edwina/Keith 02838 335279.

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

As we approach the end of CLB/CGB season, with Parents' evenings, sports events etc... and appreciate the vast amount of work done by volunteer leaders over the year for so many young people, can we also ask you... family, friends, parishioners, parents **COULD YOU BE ONE OF THESE VOLUNTEERS?**

There's time to think about this over the summer break and talk to leaders to see how you could help.

VOLUNTEERS ESPECIALLY NEEDED AT * KILLICOMAINÉ CGB SECTION – MONDAY EVENINGS but also welcome at CGB and CLB at Seagoe * Please do have a chat to a leader Pauline McCusker (CLB), Emma Gadhgadhi (CGB) Julie Ruddell (CGB @ Killicomaine) or to Edwina or one of our clergy... thanks!

SAVE YOUR 20ps!

SUNDAY LIGHT are raising money to be used for the children in Rwanda... (when our team go out in August)

- Enjoy your smarties!
- Keep the empty tube
- Keep 20ps in it
- Bring to SUNDAY LIGHT OR FAMILY SERVICE
- All the money raised will be used for the children... so please do join in our 20p SMARTIE appeal

Thanks Keith and Sunday Light PS. Everyone can join in this appeal.



Duke of Edinburgh Awards Congratulations!



Recently our Mayor, Alderman Gareth Wilson presented Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards to 19 young people from Seagoe Youth Group (13 of these also belong to CLB/CGB so thanks to leaders at CLB/CGB for their co-operation and help)

Well done to Sam, Todd, Katie, Victoria, Andrew, Jake, Eve, Grace, Lucy, Jack, David, Keeley, James, Mya, Annalise, Nathan, Luke, Cody, Maia.



FAB FIVE GET SILVER!

Congratulations to our "Fab 5" Duke of Edinburgh Group who received their Silver Awards from the Mayor.

Well don Aimee, Fausta, Lauren, Ben, Nathan!



Confirmation 2018



Confirmation is well underway and has been a successful period so far, there has been plenty of opportunity for young people to engage with material which has enabled them to connect with the bible and to consider the truths which they encounter in the pages of the bible. We have had a great group of young people who have really begun to wrestle with some of the key questions when it comes to Christian faith and what it means to be a Christian in the everyday.

This act and process of confirmation is one which has been the bedrock of many a Christian within the Anglican community for decades. So, when we embark on this journey of encouraging young people to engage with this we are so aware that we are walking along a path which many saints have trod before. We have been so thankful to God for his moving and his presence with us as we have explored his word and have explained it to the young people.

Psalm 78: 5-6 He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.

As the Psalmist encourages us to pass on the faith to younger people, we are embarking on a mission which is commissioned by God himself. So, we ask for your continued support in prayer as we finish up this Confirmation season. Pray for the weekend away, that there will be significant opportunities for young people to engage with God and that they will see their lives changed by a God who cares for and loves them deeply.

Thanks,

Josh

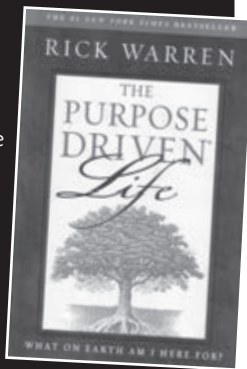


Wednesdays @ 8

In discussion with parishioners, the staff team have decided instead of Cell Groups to offer a teaching event on Wednesdays evenings from 25th April commencing at 8pm. The evenings will consist of a gathering time together to include worship, and then attendees will have the opportunity to choose options for study or training.

The Purpose Driven Life

Most people will be encouraged to follow the Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren, a course that will provide an overview of living out the Christian faith. In addition to the teaching sessions for this course there will be a devotional resource for people to use each day.



Parenting Teenagers

getting them (and you!) through

Presented by bestselling authors and international speakers **Rob Parsons** and **Katharine Hill**.



Others will be offered the Parenting Teenagers Course compiled by Care for the Family. This excellent course will provide very helpful and practical training and discussion for those who have teenagers.

The Marriage Preparation Course

The Marriage Preparation Course by HTB will also be on offer for those considering marriage over the next few years.

All these courses are available for anyone who wishes to avail of them, so please consider who you might invite to come along with you.



Volunteers' thank you meal

On 17th February the Select Vestry hosted those who volunteer within the Parish to a sumptuous thank you meal. The catering was overseen by Miriam Lavery and Phyllis Richardson, along with a few volunteers. Those who attended were overwhelmed at the variety and quality of the meal on offer. Seagoe Ministries donated funds to the Vestry to enable this event as a token of the appreciation of the large pool of volunteers we are blessed with in this Parish. Without our volunteers the Parish could not minister and reach out as it does. Again, thank you to everyone who supports our ongoing ministry.



Flowers

MARCH 2018

- 4th & 11th Flowers in loving memory of a dear husband Clive Adamson, given by his wife Marie and family.
18th Flowers given by Jean Kerr in memory of her husband, parents and sister.
25th Flowers given by Eve Zhang in memory of her son Kevin.

APRIL 2018

- 1st EASTER SUNDAY
Flowers given by Dennis and Ann Clarke, in memory of loved ones.
Flowers given by members of Seagoe Mothers' Union.
8th Flowers in loving memory of Mrs Amy Moore, given by Mr Ron Moore and daughter Janet.
15th Flowers given by Bertie and Margaret Trimble, in memory of loved ones.
22nd Flowers given by Beverley and Joe Hynes, in memory of Joe's parents.

- 29th Flowers given by Aubrey and Jean Anderson, in memory of loved ones.

MAY 2018

- 6th Flowers in memory of Tom and Sarah Hall, given by Rosemary Ridge
13th Flowers given by Paul, Barbara and family in memory of Jeffrey.
20th Flowers in memory of Cecil McVitty, Mr & Mrs Bertie Jackson, given by J. & M. McVitty.
Flowers in memory of Thomas & Agnes Dunlop, given by their son and family.
27th Flowers in memory of George, Frances & Raymond Stevenson, given by the family on behalf of the late Sam Stevenson.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Anyone who is interested in providing flowers please give your name and details to the Church Wardens or Diane in the Parish Office.



SEAGOE IN THE SNOW



Mission allocations

Every year the Select Vestry allocates funds towards mission. This year 10% of our overall income was allocated. Thank you to everyone who supports the Parish funds and thus enables this allocation to be distributed. If you would like a list of the agencies supported please contact the Parish Office.

Parish Register

Infant Baptism

- 7th January 2018 Alfie Leckey, son of Richard and Laura Carrickblacker Avenue, Portadown
4th February 2018 John William Craig Pearson, son of Christopher and Catherine, Kernan Gardens
11th March 2018 Molly Barbara Ann Erskine, daughter of Timothy and Lynsey, Ballynacor Meadows, Portadown

Christian Marriage

- 15th March 2018 Robert Sinton, Castle Rise, Tandragee and Leanne Vennard, Lyndale Grange, Portadown

Christian Burial

- 29th October 2017 Albert Jones, Tandragee Road, Portadown
1st December 2017 Florence White, Old Lurgan Road, Portadown
8th December 2017 Douglas Henry McNulty, Festival Road, Portadown
9th December 2017 Elizabeth Lynas, Seagoe Park, Portadown
3rd January 2018 Cyril John Ritchie, Ramone Park, Portadown
25th January 2018 Susan Eleanor Roney, Seagoe Park, Portadown

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KILLICOMAINÉ PARENTS & TODDLERS

Are you 0 – 3 years old?
Are you a young parent...?
Are you a single mum/dad?
Are you new to Killicomaine?



We welcome you each Friday morning 10.30am – 12.30pm to St. Patrick's Hall – Princess Way. Time to relax, chat, enjoy a cuppa while children play. Please come along and invite friends, particularly single, new parents and those from other countries who have moved to the area... we'd love to meet you! (Cost – just £1 per adult).