

## Rector's Letter

#### **Christmas traditions**

This year during Advent, on Tuesday evenings, we are running the series by Max Lucado entitled Because of Bethlehem (see page 2). As part of the first video Max helped us to think about our Christmas traditionswhat we do as individuals, families, friends, church etc that helps to make Christmas Christmas for us. In the discussion groups it was fascinating listening to people answering that question! For many it was family gatherings, eating particular food, doing certain things. I mentioned that in our house I 'demand' that everything stops at 3pm so that we can gather round

the TV to listen to the Queen's Christmas message!!!

But is it all as it seems?

In thinking about Mary's expectations about the birth of her baby we realised that in reality

things were so different for her than she might have expected, or than others around her might have been assuming. Likewise for many of us, or for those around us, Christmas may not be what we or they imagine. Perhaps family have moved on and there is loneliness or loss; or there isn't enough spare cash to buy the presents that we think we need to give and so we avoid people.

### God has a face

Into the reality of Mary's 'different' situation God was born in human flesh. As she gazed upon him her 'ideas' about what God was like changed forever as she started to experience him as Emmanuel, God with us. As he grew up she saw how God lived among human beings sharing his life with them. But there was the other side of that experience also, God experienced first hand what life was like for Mary. He saw the real Mary, the highs and lows, the frustrations, the laughter, the tears, and everything else. Mary learned that God understood her situation and was there for her loving her and guiding her.

Although Jesus is not physically present with us, we can still know what God is like by reading about Him in the scriptures, experiencing through other people, by experiencing Him in our lives as we allow Him in. And alongside that, just as He came to be with Mary to share her life, so he comes by His Spirit to be with us, experiencing our lives and lovingly reminding us that He is with us, Emmanuel.

#### Emmanuel, God with us

So this Christmas, no matter what we are doing or not doing, God has come among us to be with us in every situation. That is the reality of the greatest gift to us; not a God who is remote

and does not understand us, rather a God who has come among us to share in our lives. This Christmas let us be sure to receive Him warmly and to live in the knowledge that nothing will ever separate us from His loving presence with us.

#### For us, for others

At Christmas, as we give thanks for and receive the Greatest Gift, we are also called to be like Him, willing to enter into others' situation allowing Him to bring His presence to them through us. The sayings 'Freely you have received, freely give, and 'He has no hands but our hands....' help to summarise our response to the gift of Jesus to us. So this Christmas, as well as focusing on all that He brings to enrich our lives, let us respond by asking Him to show us what he wants us to do in making Him known to others.

Terence &





Christmas Present Appeal

### Salvation Army Toy Appeal-Sunday 1st December

Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to the Salvation Army Toy Appeal at the December Family Service. The abundance of toys will now be forwarded to the Salvation Army for distribution.



## Christmas Appeal



This year the Select Vestry has decided to share the Christmas Appeal between Charlene's Project 2020 vision and Care in Crisis.

Charlene Barr. daughter of Dickie and Janice Barr of Magheralin Parish, died in 2010 of Cystic Fibrosis whilst awaiting a double lung transplant. During her final illness she had a vision of raising enough money to fund the building of a primary school in Uganda. Not only did she do so, but since her death her family have kept fundraising and to date have built 8 primary schools in her memory. To mark the 10th anniversary of Charlene's death they are seeking to raise £450,000 to build a secondary school into which children from the eight primary schools will feed.

Care in Crisis. a charity based in Lurgan, originally established by Dickie and Janice Barr, provides a Christian based counseling service to help people with a variety of needs including: bereavement, depression, relationship issues, teenage pregnancies, eating disorders

Dickie and Janice will be with us on Sunday 15th December to provide further information on these projects.

If you pay income tax the Church can claim back the tax you will have paid on any gift you make, which can increase the value of your gift by 25%. In order to make this possible please complete the detail on the white Gift Aid envelopes.

Services at which the offering will be received are: Carol services, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. New Year's Eve Services.

### **Because of Bethlehem**

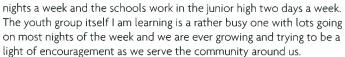
During Lent we held services on Wednesday evenings using a DVD by Max Lacado entitled 'He Choose the Nails'. People responded well to Max's engaging delivery, and really appreciated the opportunity to discuss together some questions.

As a result of the success of the experience at Lent we are now running Max's Advent course entitled 'Because of Bethlehem'. The course began on Tuesday 26th November and will run for four Tuesdays at 7.30pm in the Rotunda. The first session was well attended and response has been so positive. Please try to come along to the remainder of the course as each session stands alone.

## Gareth Campbell

By now I hope I've at least had a chance to say hello to everyone in Seagoe Parish and thank you for the warm welcome I have received.

If I have not let me introduce myself. My name is Gareth Campbell and in September I started working with Seagoe Youth Group as head of extended provision. Quite simply all that means is I look after the outreach in the youth centre four



By now the eagle eyed among you will have noticed I've managed to get "welcoming, growing, encouraging, serving" into two very short paragraphs.

These, just like in all church activities, remains our 4 goals as we try to find new ways to minister to the young people in our community without always using the word minister. Please do keep Boyd, Josh and myself, as well as the rest of our staff team we lead in your prayers as we shepherd and teach our young people and try to point them towards Christ through our actions and compassion.

My second role in the parish has been my involvement with leading services and being given opportunities to teach in church as I myself go through training in Dublin to explore ordination. Thank you again for your patience with me as I am only in my first year of studies and still reacquainting myself with the Book of Common Prayer. All productive feedback is greatly appreciated as I am here to learn and welcome any tips or advice you all may have. My official time in placement comes to an end just before Christmas but if you would be as kind to have me back again I hope to still keep in practice from time to time elsewhere in the year.

If we are yet to meet, or if you would like more information on how you could specifically pray for the work in Seagoe Youth Group, then please do speak me to soon on a Sunday morning or contact me via email gareth@seagoe.co.uk

Many thanks Gareth Campbell

## Contacts

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## Service Times



	DEC	9.00am	10.30am	6.00pm St. Patrick's	7.00pm St. Gobhan's
SUNDAY	lst	Holy Communion	Salvation Army Toy Appeal Family Service	Evening Worship	Holy Communion
SUNDAY	8th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship - Habitat for Humanity	Holy Communion	Evening Worship
SUNDAY	15th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship - Christmas Appeal Launch Café Church in Quiet Room	Carol Service	No Service
FRIDAY	20th				<b>8.00pm</b> Ardmore Carol Service and refreshments
SUNDAY	22nd	Holy Communion	Children's Nativity	No Service	Carols by Candlelight
CHRISTMAS EVE Tuesday	24th				<b>11.00pm</b> First Communion of Christmas by Candlelight
CHRISTMAS DAY Wednesday	25th	Holy Communion	Christmas Family Service	No service	No service
SUNDAY	29th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	No Service	No Service
NEW YEAR'S EVE Tuesday	31st				<b>11.30pm</b> Watchnight Service by candlelight. Also in Ardmore
2020	JAN				
SUNDAY	5th	Holy Communion	Family Service	Evening Worship	Holy Communion
SUNDAY	12th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
SUNDAY	19th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship- Love for Life Café Church in Quiet Room	Evening worship	Churches Together Unity Week Service in Epworth Methodist Climate Change Our Response
SUNDAY	26th	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening worship	Rotunda Praise Service
	FEB				
SUNDAY	2nd	Holy Communion	Family Service	Evening Worship	Holy Communion
SUNDAY	9th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
SUNDAY	16th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship in Church Café Church in Quiet Room	Evening worship	Rotunda Praise Service
SUNDAY	23rd	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening worship	Evening Prayer
Ash Wednesday	26th				8.00pm Ash Wednesday Service
	MAR				
SUNDAY	1st	Holy Communion	Family Service	Evening Worship	Holy Communion
SUNDAY	8th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
SUNDAY	15th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship Café Church in Quiet Room	Evening worship	Rotunda Praise Service
MOTHERING SUNDAY	22nd	Holy Communion	Mothering Sunday Service	Evening worship	Evening Prayer

### **Ardmore Services**

Ardmore: Sundays at 12noon.

Carol Service followed by refreshments Friday 20th December at 8.00pm. Christmas Day 10.30am. New Year's Eve 11.30am Watchnight Service

## **Duke of Edinburgh Award**





CONGRATULATIONS......to the 20 young people who recently received their award form Lord Mayor Meela Campbell. 10 were from the CLB/CGB and 10 were SYG members. Well done Aimee, Ellen, Emma, Eve, Grace, Jessica, Lucy, Mya, Sam, Suzanne, Victoria, Andrew, Billy, David, Jack, Jake, James, Luke, Nathan and Todd.



The autumn term has been a busy one at Youth Fellowship this year. As well as our regular meetings, members of YF went away in October for their residential. This time we visited the Kilbroney Centre in Rostrevor. The guest speaker for the weekend was Gareth Campbell, who works in Seagoe Youth Group and is currently on placement with Seagoe Parish as part of his ministry training through



the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. Our theme for the weekend was the book of James, and Gareth helpfully guided us through the book over each session. As well as time for reflection and discussion, there was plenty of opportunity to relax and to enjoy the activities at the centre.

On arrival on the Friday night we completed a night line and after many screams, jumps and scares everyone made it back inside for some homemade pizzas for supper. On Saturday afternoon, we participated in a paintballing activity which was enjoyed by all. Everyone took part fully and got into it, which filled our Saturday afternoon, and everyone was well ready for their dinner that night. To round off the weekend we had a campfire and some marshmallows together. This was a great chance to have conversations about what we had looked at over the weekend and to have time together. Many thanks to all who helped us over the weekend-Phyllis Richardson, Miriam Lavery, Gareth Campbell, Stuart and Judith Paulin, Rebecca Richardson and Stuart Moles. Also, thank you to Seagoe Vestry for their continued support and investment in our young people as we seek to disciple them for Jesus.

Youth Fellowship is open to all young people in first year upwards. It meets each Sunday (except the third Sunday of each month) and there is a mix of games, food and teaching. New members are always welcome and we would encourage all young people in the Parish to come along and join in! If you'd like to find out more information, please contact Josh Thornbury or Stuart Moles.

## Seagoe 'Give as you Live' programme

Imagine if you could shop in a number of your favourite stores, and as you spent your hard earned cash on your groceries, gifts or little treats to yourself you could earn money for Seagoe Parish. It sounds almost too good to be true, and yet it's what the Give as you Live programme promises for its users. Once you set up an account, it's as easy as starting from the Give as you Live website or app and accessing one of the participating stores. With over 4400 to chose from, you're likely to find a store you regularly shop with. To sign up go to www.seagoe.co.uk and click on the 'Give As You Live' icon and you will be directed to the Give As You Live' sign up page, then simply follow the directions. If you need any help please contact Rev Stuart Moles.





Heating System replacement?
For many years the Select Vestry has been aware that the heating system in Church is no longer capable of heating the Church adequately. The main reason is that the system was designed as a pressurised steam system, but at some stage this changed to a hot water system due to health and safety issues. The long and short of it is that the system of pipes with hot water rather than steam cannot radiate sufficient heat for our needs. Many opinions have been sought over recent years, however there has been on consistency of opinion about upgrading the current system. The conclusion is that the best option is to replace the system completely.

In recent years the Church roof was replaced, and now that the work on restoring the bell tower has come to completion the Select Vestry is in the process of addressing the heating system. Members of the Vestry met with a heating consultant on 6th November to discuss

options for a new heating system and his report is expected in the coming weeks.

It is anticipated that the replacement of the current system will involve extensive work to the interior of the building and so Vestry will also consider a number of other renovations that may be advantageous as part of a larger project. For example it may be advantageous to replace the current suspended floor with an insulated solid level floor, this would not only help with draughts, but also allow for easier access and the avoidance of trip hazards. Additional work may involve addressing the plastering of the interior walls prior to repainting; work on the electrics and audio visuals; and possible alteration to and extension of the Chancel area.



Refurbishment and development

A trawl through the Seagoe Church magazine archives www.seagoearchives.uk reveals a long history of commitment on the part of parishioners to both renovate and enhance Seagoe Church buildings. The fascinating record helps us to gain a greater understanding of how the original humble Church building has evolved over the years to become the beautiful building in which we now worship. Standing in this long tradition the current Vestry realises its responsibility not only to preserve what we have received, but also to play our role in the ongoing process of development for current and future generations of worshippers.

The timeline below, chronicles the main changes that have taken place since work began on the 'new Church' in 1814. Major refurbishments took place from 1890 onwards and involved almost the entire reconstruction of the church.

1st June 1814 -Foundation stone of Church laid

Church completed and consecrated for worship 28th June 1816 -

11th April 1890 -Foundation stone of new Chancel laid

7th August 1891 -Church re-opens for public worship after major reconstruction

6th March 1896 -Dedication of Great East Window

December 1912 -Three ventilators inserted in church roof 19th June 1921 -Dedication of War Memorial pillars and gates 4th May 1936 -Church closed for painting and renovations

5th July 1936 -Church re-opening service

16th August 1936 -Dedication of pulpit balustrade and brass handrail

8th October 1937 -Dedication of bronze mural tablet in memory of Stewart Blacker

4th January 1938 -Seagoe Rectory sold £1105

25th May 1938 -Tender to build new Rectory accepted by Vestry £2095

26th June 2010 -Seagoe Parish Centre opened

December 2014 -Church roof replaced

Easter Sunday 2019 - Church tower restored and bell rang for first time in 30 years

In the next few editions of the magazines we are planning to include some extracts from past magazines detailing some of the work above.

## Virtual Tour of Seagoe Church

Have you ever wanted to climb up to the top of Seagoe tower to see the bell? With the internet anyone in the world can now move virtually around Seagoe church on a computer, mobile or tablet with a mouse or touch screen display.

Eight high resolution 3600 images were shot on 22nd October 2019. They are linked together via hotspots and a thumbnail menu system. The tour has full VR Headset compatibility with the Oculus Go headset and others.

The tour begins at the recently restored war memorial pillars. (You can read all about their dedication on Sunday June 19th 1921 at www.seagoearchives.uk/publications/june-

The hotspot to the right of the tower moves to a view of the graveyard. On the tower can be seen the inscription "1814 SB-RO" This refers to the clergy when the church construction was begun, in 1814. Rev Stewart Blacker and Rev Richard Olpherts (who married Barbara Blacker).

The hotspot on the left of the tower provides a good view of the Parish centre rotunda.

The hotspot in the tower takes you to the tower entrance with a view into the church.

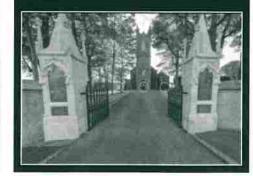
The hotspot in the church takes you to the church with the magnificent East Window and acclaimed carved angels.

Moving back into the tower the hotspot in the ceiling takes you to the second floor of the tower. The floor, ceiling and ladder were recently replaced. This walls are of the original stone with two brick arches - one adjacent to the door which contains the window into the church have the other may have been the entrance to the gallery which existed in the 19th century.

The hotspot in the ceiling takes you to the third floor of the tower. The bell, installed in 1860, and the bell wheel and rope can clearly be seen.

Visit www.virtualvisittours.com/seagoeparish-church

The tour is also embedded on our parish





# CHARITABLE STATUS FOR SEAGOE YOUTH GROUP

Nearly two years after making application, Seagoe Youth Group has entered the final phase of securing charitable status. The group is currently working through the formal registration process after being recently 'called forward' by the NI Charity Commission. Attaining charitable status has a number of benefits, including greater access to certain funders, some tax reliefs and being eligible to claim gift aid on donations. Once submitted the process can take up to four months before charitable status is secured; a long journey, but one which should help the work of SYG in the years ahead.

# Tea / coffee after church - Thanks

We all appreciate the time to have a cuppa and a chat after our 10.30 service or to quote Stuart the curate 'the liturgy after the liturgy'!! It is a good opportunity to meet others from our Parish family. Thankfully we have a great team of helpers who work on a rota basis to provide refreshments, so as I say a really sincere 'thank you' for all their help in 2019, can I also please ask if there is anyone else who would

like to help in this way? (female, male, younger or mature, families - all welcome.)

Please contact me on **38335279** or see me on Sunday's with thanks Edwina



## Tearfund Cycle for Freedom 2019

Back in August this year Ruth Koch, NI Director of Tearfund preached at our morning service, during which she told us about the work of Tearfund using examples from the Bible where God took what people gave and multiplied it for His work and glory. Ruth reminded us of the woman who gave a home to Elijah and shared what she thought was the last of her floor and oil with him, only to find everyday thereafter that there was just enough to feed them for another day, as the jars still had enough for another meal. Ruth also reminded us of Jesus feeding the 5000 using the gift of the young boy's lunch containg 5 loaves and two small fish. The sermon was so uplifting as it reminded us just how great our God is and to be reassured that if we place our trust in Him for all things he will provide, no matter how small our offering or our part might be in His work.

Following the service I signed up to learn more about the work of Tearfund and a few weeks later I received an email about Tearfund's Cycle for Freedom 2019 . The event was first started back in 2017 with Ruan Pienaar (Ulster & International rugby star) championing the cause. Tearfund's target then was to raise £90,000 by asking cyclists to ride 90km and raise some sponsorship for vulnerable children. The event has been held annually since then, and Tearfund are now over the half way mark to reaching that goal. Recently a shorter 50km route has been added to allow less experienced cyclists to participate.

The following Sunday at our Family Service I announced that I had entered the ride and said that it would be great to have some company (I knew we had a few cyclists in the congregation) That simple invite inspired seven others to sign up, namely Alistair Stevenson, Keith Livingstone, Luke and Richard Nichol, Rodney Johnston, Scott Paulin and Stuart Paulin.

On 26th Sept we travelled to Portstewart, the starting point of the cycle. We couldn't have asked for better weather, the sun shone the whole day and there was just a gentle breeze that helped to kept us cool. Stuart was the first man home in just over 3 hours.

The following Sunday we held a coffee morning after church and combining all the donations and sponsorship we managed to raise



£914.86 (final count) which, when gift aid is added, came to an impressive total of £1112.95. Not bad for a few lads deciding last minute to head out for a ride on their bikes.

It just goes to prove that it really is amazing what God can with our little when we trust in Him and place it in His hands. On behalf of all eight of us, thank you for your support as it will mean so much to so many vulnerable children.

#### **Seagoe Cycling Group**

Since the ride we have set up a cycling group and so far we have held three rides (coffee runs) which have been well supported considering the time of year. As spring comes back around we hope to increase the frequency of these spins.

Looking forward to next year, we hope to enter Tearfund's Cycle For Freedom ride again, only next year it would be great to have a few more cyclists, and in particular we'd like to encourage some of the lady cyclists in our congregation to join us.

Once again, on behalf of Team Seagoe, thank you for all your practical support and prayers that blessed us and those vulnerable children in need.

Trevor Mk 9:37



**Flowers** 

Flowers in loving memory of Mr Jim Porter, given by his wife 5th Margaret and family.

Flowers in memory of Thomas and Emma Stewart and their son 12th

Eric, given by their family.

19th Flowers given by Rodney and Marion McCabe in memory of

both of their mothers.

26th Flowers given by Mrs Doreen Hughes and family, in memory of her husband Roy and loved ones.

**FEBRUARY 2020** 

23rd

2nd & 9th Flowers given by Seagoe Masonic Lodge No. 851, in memory of

past members.

16th Flowers in memory of George Marks, given by his wife and

Flowers in memory of William and Margaret Best, also Brian and

Pat, given by their family.

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 Harvest Celebration Praise Night

On Saturday 5 October we had the pleasure of Kerygma Good News Choir leading our harvest praise night. This was an excellent evening in which we were blessed with the word in song and musical items from the choir. We had 150 people in attendance on



the evening and the congregation had an opportunity to sing some old favourites such as What a Friend we Have in Jesus, Amazing Grace as well as some of the more modern hymns such as In Christ Alone and Cornerstone. The evening concluded with When the Saints go Marching In.

Thank you to all who came along and supported our concert and gave donations. The final amount raised in aid of Shyogwe Diocese, Rwanda projects was £1636, to God be the glory!

**Harvest Appeal** 

Thank you very much to everyone who generously contributed towards this year's Harvest Appeal towards the Leprosy Mission and our link with Shyogwe Diocese in Rwanda. Unfortunately the appeal was not published on the notes and so the amount contributed this year was less than in previous years, nevertheless £168.18 was raised for the Leprosy Mission and £138.18 for our link Diocese in Rwanda



### THE LEPROSY MISSION

We are keen to continue our support for the Leprosy Mission. We would welcome your old/foreign currency, also used postage stamps – especially the Christmas issues. Please cut stamps from the envelope leaving a margin on all sides of 1/4 inch (5 millimetres) so that the serrated edges are not damaged.



### **'OLD SPECS'**

Please continue to bring your old specs and leave in box in church porch. With your assistance we are able to ensure that the Methodist Container Ministry receives a regular supply for use overseas.

### CRAIGAVON AREA FOODBANK

Parishioners make regular contributions to this local project. Gifts of toiletries and

non-perishable food are most welcome.

foodba

At present the centre has an adequate supply of cereals, pasta, tinned soup and tinned beans.

## Register Christian Burial

15th October 2019 Margaret (Daisy) Callister, Shomberg Estate, Portadown

19th October 2019 Pamela Gail (Sharon) Mackay,

Tates Avenue, Belfast

20th October 2019 Doreen Florence McGonigle,

formerly Kernan Park.

Portadown

24th October 2019 Ina Best, Princess Way,

Portadown

23rd November 2019 Richard Ambrose Elliott,

Mullalelish Road, Portadown

25th November 2019 William (Willie) Arthur

Gribben, Killicomaine Gardens, Portadown

1st December 2019 Jean Turkington, The Glade,

Portadown

4th December 2019 Ivy McKenna, formerly Lurgan

Road, Portadown

Ashes Buried

7th September 2019 Charles Magee, Gosport,

Hants, England

Cremation

11th September 2019 Mabel Margaret Leonard,







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