

ST. COLMAN'S CHURCH - LARNE ROAD CARRICKFERGUS

www.stcolmanschurch.org.uk



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SEPTEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear parishioner,

A number of years ago we ran a series of Alpha courses which helped us to think together about the basics of the Christian faith. They were very helpful and enjoyable. I have been aware recently that a new series of questions are emerging for Christians. How can I know more of God in my life? Although I am a Christian why can't I seem to make the progress in my faith that I feel I should? It seems to have taken me a painfully long time to mature spiritually, why is this? I often feel "stuck" with the negative effects of the past, can this be remedied?

Most of us who have believed in Christ often haven't resolved the personal and spiritual conflicts in our lives and so we can't take hold of the truth of who we are in Christ. Jesus view was that "You will *know* the truth and the truth will set you free."

It is my conviction that we all, myself included, need to find this full "Freedom in Christ". To this end I have planned that from September 2007 until to March 2008 we will tackle this issue.

There is a 13 session course which has been developed for this purpose called, not surprisingly, "Freedom in Christ". My intention is that we will run 2 sessions a month, one as part of our Sunday evening service at 7.00pm and one on a Thursday night from 8pm until 9.30pm. There is also a day way. For those who might not be able to make the Thursday night, or perhaps the Sunday night, I will work through the material at a mutually convenient time for those affected. This may be a daytime slot if that proves best. I want to make this as accessible as possible to people so I will work around to fit whatever people's needs are. For example if just three of us meet at another time that will be fine. The Sunday and Thursday dates and the date of the day away are set out below.

It has been found that this course has enabled people to break out of this cycle of not being able to make progress simply by hearing the truth presented systematically and reflecting on it deeply. I believe that we all need to make this step. So please give serious thought to attending. Put the dates in your diary and do your best not to miss. If you would like to do the course but the times scheduled are difficult then speak to me and we will arrange another time. I don't want anyone to miss out on this opportunity.

May God bless you,

Mike McCann

Sunday	09/09/2007	"Where did I come from?"
Thursday	27/09/2007	"Who am I now?"
Sunday	07/10/2007	Choosing to believe the truth
Thursday	25/10/2007	The world's view of truth
Sunday	04/11/2007	Our daily choice
Thursday	22/11/2007	Demolishing strongholds
Sunday	02/12/2007	The battle for our minds
Thursday	13/12/2007	Handling emotions well
Saturday	12/01/2008	Away day - Forgiving from the heart
Thursday	31/01/2008	Walking in freedom every day
Sunday	10/02/2008	Relating to others
Thursday	28/02/2008	Where are you heading?
Sunday	09/03/2008	Staying on the right path

HARVEST 2007

Harvest services this year are as follows:

Sunday 14th October at 10.15am - Morning Prayer for which the choir will be preparing some special musical pieces for us to enjoy
Sunday 21st October at 10.15am - All-age harvest service which will allow the children to participate in the harvest celebrations

Decoration of the church for harvest will take place from 10.00am on Saturday 13th October. All gifts of materials for decorating the church and any help with the decorating will be much appreciated.

PARISH RETREAT/HOLIDAY – EASTER 2008

Many parishes have found that it is a great help in developing parish life if parishioners can spend some time away together reflecting on their faith and also enjoying social activities together. So to enable this to take place we have booked “Barholm” in Portaferry for Easter week 2008, Monday 24 March to Friday 28 March 2008. Barholm has accommodation for 45 people in various sizes of rooms along with meeting rooms, a dining room and conservatory. It overlooks Strangford Lough. We plan to keep costs as low as possible so it will be open to anyone who would like to attend. Children are very welcome but parents will be responsible for them. If you might like to attend please indicate this to the rector as soon as possible. Until the end of November we will keep bookings limited to our own parishioners and then we will open it to others we know. Indicating an interest doesn't involve any financial commitment. If people have to drop out we are confident we can fill the places at a later stage so go ahead and sign up. Barholm's website is www.barholmportaferry.co.uk if you would like to know more about its accommodation and facilities.

KIDSZONE

Kidszone, the Sunday morning Children's work, will begin again on Sunday 9th September at 10.15am. Children who will be going into their final year before school and those in P1 to P7 are welcome. Those in secondary school will go to youth fellowship on a Sunday evening.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The Youth Fellowship will recommence on Sunday 16th September at 7.15pm in the church hall. All secondary school age young people are welcome.

PARISH AUCTION AND CAR BOOT SALE

The parish Auction will take place this year on Friday 7 September with viewing from 6.00pm and the auction at 7.00pm. A car boot sale will run alongside the auction. Please support this event.

LADIES GROUP

The Ladies' group meets monthly on the 1st Wednesday of each month. The 1st meeting of the new season is on Wednesday 5th September at 8.00pm. All ladies welcome. For further details contact Katie Love (93355985) or Freda Latimer (93365727)

HIRE OF HALL

The Select Vestry has put in place a policy to allow for the rental of the main church hall and the minor hall to outside organisations. We already have a number of organisations that have agreed to take up this opportunity. If you hear of others who are looking for premises please tell them to contact us. Our existing organisations will continue to have their normal time slots. If they should wish to use the facilities at other times they should consult the list which will be placed on the notice board in the church hall and contact Ailsa McVicker (93365972) to book any additional time.

CHOIR AND PRAISE GROUP

Music in our worship is shared between the choir and the praise group. Both of these would be delighted to have new members. If you would like to join the choir the practices are on Wednesday nights at 7.00pm in the church. Contact Heather Rea if you would like more information (93382508). Praise group practices are on Thursday nights at 7.00pm. If you would like to sing or play with the group contact Mike for further details (933362387).

PRAYER GROUP

The prayer group meets every Thursday morning in the minor hall from 10.30am until 11.30am. We pray for all that happens in the church buildings: our worship, organisations which meet in the halls, their leaders and members. We pray for our church members particularly those who are ill or are facing difficult situations. We pray our parish and the town of Carrickfergus. We pray for the needs of our nation and the wider world. All are welcome to join us in this time of prayer.

NORMAL PATTERN OF SERVICES

Every Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP form 1 - traditional language)

Sunday mornings

Every Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion (BCP form 1 - traditional language)

1st Sunday of the month 10.15am Holy Communion (BCP form 2 – modern language)

2nd Sunday of the month 10.15am Morning Prayer

3rd Sunday of the month 10.15am All-age service

4th Sunday of the month 10.15am Service of the word

5th Sunday of the month 10.15am Morning Prayer

Sunday evenings (September to June)

One Sunday a month 7.00pm Contemporary Service