



www.stcolmanschurch.org.uk

Rector: Rev Mike McCann 93362387
Curate: Rev Billy Stewart 93362145
Hon. Secretary: Angela Cole 28277551
Hon. Treasurer: Alan Hibbert 93329160

RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioner,

I want to thank you for your support as we commence another year. In particular I want to thank those who worship regularly at the traditional service at 10:15am. I know it has been less than ideal that I have only been able to be present at this service about once a month. However I am working away to address this problem and if things work out I should, all being well, be able to be in St. Colman's at 10.15am for at least 2 Sundays a month from next May onwards.

However all this is dependent on our parish being financially viable. At present we face a shortfall of £4000 per year. This will use up our reserves this year and then create an increasing debt in the future. This is unsustainable, so if giving doesn't increase we will have to open discussions with the diocese about how the future of the parish will develop.

At the same time there is many valuable things going on, not least the new all age service, and much that we can do, but it must be done on a secure financial footing. If you can increase your giving that would be a great help, but be assured that I am committed to finding a way through our current difficulties that will enable us to continue to be effective in proclaiming the good news of Jesus in this part of Carrickfergus well into the future. Given the present situation our harvest appeal this year will be for our own church funds and will be in lieu of the gift day we normally have had in late November.

God bless,

Mike McCann



HARVEST 2010

Our Harvest Sunday this year will be Sunday 17th October when we will have a special service of Morning Prayer with Choir anthems and a selection of favourite harvest hymns.

Decoration of the church for harvest will take place from 4.00pm on Friday 15th October. *Please note this different time as many people have commitments on the Saturday morning.* All gifts of materials for decorating the church and any help with the decorating will be much appreciated.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

We will have our traditional Morning Prayer with “Act of Remembrance” on Sunday 14th November.

MEDITATIVE WORSHIP

There will be a series of evenings of meditation and gentle worship at St. Colman’s church on the following Sundays at 7pm.

October 17
October 24
November 7
November 14
November 21
November 28



This will be led jointly by Mike and by Lorna McIlwaine who is trained, experienced and gifted in guiding people in encountering God in a deeper way using meditation. Primarily on these evenings we will use Lectio Divina as our meditative method. All are welcome.

ADVENT PRAYER

During Advent we want to facilitate people in being able to pray together each day through Advent. Using the Celtic Daily Prayer of the Northumbria community we will share in evening prayer at 9pm each day in our homes but with others who are doing the same at the same time. Once a week at 9pm on Friday we will gather at St. Colman's church to say evening prayer together and to have the opportunity to share any spiritual insights we have gained during the week as we have prayed in this way. Details of the origins of this book of prayers can be found at www.northumbriacommunity.org/. The book we will use can be purchased at Amazon. www.amazon.co.uk/Celtic-Daily-Prayer-Northumbria-Community/dp/0007199074 for £8.57. However we will provide resources for the 1st week on the 1st evening and we can arrange purchase of the book for people after that.

PRAYER GROUPS

There will be a prayer group meeting on Thursday mornings from 10.30am to 11.30am in the minor hall and a prayer group will meet on Wednesday evenings from 8.30pm to 9.30pm, initially in the home of Mrs. Ina Pye, 18 St. Colman's Crescent. All are welcome to these meetings.

STUDY GROUP

The Bible study group in the home of Alan and Gina, 13 Downshire Drive, will recommence on Thursday 7th October at 7.00pm.

This session we are hoping to study the relation between Science and Faith. This topic is in the news as a result of the books written by such as Richard Dawkins and Stephen Hawking suggesting that Science has all the answers and there is no need anymore for God.

Everyone is very welcome to join us. Don't be put off by the word 'Study'. We do look at what the bible has to say, but have lots of discussion in which all views are respected and valued, much laughter and some refreshments afterwards for those who can stay.

BOWLS

Anyone out there – can you help us!

Can you play bowls? If not, now is your chance to enjoy Friday nights. Come and learn, and like many others, you will wonder why you never did this before. We have teenagers playing – there is no age limit. We meet in St Colman's halls every Friday night at 7.30pm. Spare bowls available.

Joan Walker phone 9336 7340

LADIES GROUP

Ladies Group started on Wed 1st Sept. Our evening began with a short devotional led by Sarah McCann. We then had a time of guessing who each person was in the photos we brought of our youth and childhood. The evening ended with a great supper.

Meetings this term:

6th October -. We are looking forward to 'Crafts with Ada'.

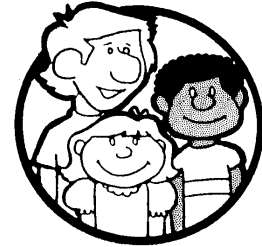
3rd November - Thailand Craft and Sale.

All ladies are welcome to come and join us for fun and fellowship the first Wednesday of the month at 8.00pm in the minor hall.

Audrey Alexander – chairperson

CIRCUS HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB.

The week of Circus was a very exciting week. We had over 200 children registered. Over 50 young people in secondary school attended. More than 150 primary school children came and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Up to 30 leaders were involved in running the work with the children and teenagers. Many others were involved with backing up the leaders by feeding them, running the BBQ and other tasks. There were also those who could not help physically but gave financially or provided back up with prayer. There was worship, teaching, water fights, crafts, entertainment and the BBQ. Circus is one of the biggest holiday bible clubs run in Carrickfergus – I believe this is because we work on it together with Mt St Nicholas and Gateway. Most of the leaders come from churches in Dunmurry with 8 or 9 leaders coming from Carrick. This gives our young people training and experience in running a holiday bible club, and the chance to build friendships with other Christians.



The BBQ on the last night is always a great opportunity to let the parents see what their children have been up to over the week. It is also a chance for our parishioners to meet and chat to the parents, many of whom have no church connection. This year there were more than 300 people at the BBQ and the weather was perfect.

So a huge ‘Thank you’ to everyone who helped in any way with Circus. It is a great event and one our parish can be very proud of.

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 taken up this opportunity. If you know of anyone who are looking for premises to hire please tell them to contact us. Our existing organisations continue to have their normal time slots. If you wish to use the facilities at other times when it is not already in use please 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 so that there is no double-booking.

PARISH RECORDS

Baptisms

12 September 2010	Joshua Allen Ferreira Hogsett	19 Trailcock Road
12 September 2010	Luke Weston Ferreira Hogsett	19 Trailcock Road
12 September 2010	Lahija Avril Ferreira Hogsett	19 Trailcock Road

We offer our congratulations to the family of these children.

Funerals

11 September 2010	Alwyn Connolly	19 Knights Avenue
16 September 2010	Ella McCoubrey	39 Rathmoyle Park West
17 September 2010	Marina Shenoy	9 Bradford Gardens

We extend our prayerful sympathy to those who are bereaved.



Glebe Wardens Report October 2010

Last time we wrote our church maintenance report we identified some problems with the roof now thankfully resolved. We also talked about the continual weed problem at the back and side of the church which despite some spraying does not seem to have hindered the weed population as much as we had anticipated. We also mentioned that we were seeking a more permanent solution to this problem. To this end we sought quotations which met with depressing results. One landscape contractor came, took photos, discussed, measured and disappeared. No quote ever having been received. Yet another came, did much the same and after a bit of chasing up said, "You're not going to like this". And we didn't! The quotation was comprehensive, extensive and very expensive. Now I know that some people think that "The Church" has lots of money but we, at least at St. Colman's, have no money but your money. So we politely declined. But that still left us with the weeds. So we are now thinking of a more modular approach to this problem. We have a set of proposals to put to the Select Vestry on how we progress by doing the job a bit at a time, several smaller bites rather than one big bite. A contractor has looked at what we suppose could be called phases one and two of our ideas and returned very reasonable quotations. These will be presented to the Vestry in October and as careful stewards of church funds we will progress as funds allow.

We are also thankful to see the new church sign erected on the opposite side of the entrance gates from the original. This type of sign will let us change the contents which will allow us to, for example, to let passers-by know of any special events. There remain a couple of minor bracing tasks to be finished off to complete the job but we think you will agree that the new sign is an asset to the church and helps raise our profile on the Larne Road. We are also planning to update the information and tidy up the original sign as this has now become much more visible following the cutting back of the hedge in the adjoining property.

Again in the entrance area the gates themselves are starting to look a bit scruffy. One of the roundels containing a cross has become detached. This has however been retrieved and will be put back in place when the gates are being refurbished, we hope, in the not too distant future.

Inside, have you noticed our Rector's forethought in getting the covers for the door gaps on most of the doors within the area of the church halls? This followed a couple of incidents where young children almost got their fingers caught in the gap between the door and the frame. Irrespective of any claim which could have been mounted against the church we would not want to see any one, let alone a child, attending our church injured in this type of accident.

In the last report we mentioned summer work parties of which there were a few and to all who helped in this and any other work around the church we offer on behalf of all the congregation our heartfelt thanks. Some of this work is virtually invisible, such as weed killing, whilst other tasks are much more noticeable like the fresh coat of paint on the church doors but all is invaluable and all adds to maintaining a building to be used for the glory of God and the extension of His kingdom.

Harold & George
Church Wardens.

A TRIBUTE TO BILLY AND ISABELL ON THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING
by their granddaughter Kirsty

50 Yrs all in.

This is an Anniversary Tribute
to show how much I care
for my Grandparents,
Billy and Isobel, a very special pair.

On September 7th in 1960
This pair said "I do"
Joined together for all those years
Oh how the years just flew

Sep 60 to Sep 10,
that's 50 years all told,
if marriage was an Olympic sport
they'd of got themselves a gold.

Once wed they soon had troubles,
Gary and Heather to name but two
Lisa made it triple trouble
So they quit.... well wouldn't you?

Proud parents to three children,
Grandparents to 3 more,
Who visit the "Stewart Bakery"
Its Gran's cooking they all adore.

Isobel likes to shop in Tescos,
and loves the sales that's true
While Billy slopes off snoring,
to catch a Z or two.

They both love Church and Praying
A match that couldn't be better
While Isobel slogs to keep the place clean,
Billy's happy to let-her.

Such a lovely couple,
and rarely seen apart,
They're teenage Geriatrics,
They're still just kids at heart.

I can reveal that Billy is 72,
That's a well known fact,
Telling Isobel's age would be a breach,
of the Official Secrets Act

This is a very silly Tribute,
But comes right from the heart,
Congratulations Granny and Granda,
Toast "Here's to never being apart!!"

Kirsty 07/09/2010

1ST EDEN GUIDES

Guides meet on a Monday night from 7 to 9pm. We follow a varied programme both in and out of the hall, and currently have a membership of 18 girls ranging in age from 10 to 15 years.

In June 2010 Katie Branagh retired as Guider in Charge, and we had a party to mark the occasion. Katie had been a Guider for over 40 years, and Guider in charge at 1st Eden Guides for over 30 years.

We hope Guiding in St Colman's will continue to thrive as it has in the past, but in order to do this we need leaders.

We would ask anyone who would like to come along to help Marion and Elaine, on either a regular or occasional basis, to contact either of them for more information.

Marion Magill 028 9336 5182
Elaine Branagh 028 9336 9023



40 and still going strong!

Not me you understand I'm long past that but our DCFI branch celebrates its fortieth anniversary this month. That's 40 years of serving God in South Belfast among people with a wide range of disabilities.

Over the years we have seen many changes in our branch and it only through God's guidance and blessing that the branch has not only survived but prospered. It is great how people and organisations have helped us down through the decades. At present we meet on the third Saturday of each month in Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church on the Ormeau Road and they have been more than helpful in providing the facilities which we need for our monthly rallies. However several years ago they gave us notice to quit. But only because they were pulling down the hall in which we met. During this time both the local Baptist and Parish churches were extremely accommodating in offering facilities and we would have been very happy to make a new home for ourselves at Knockbreda Parish. However during our absence Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church had replaced the old with a new and very impressive suite of halls, coffee bars, toilets, etc.. On completion of these they issued a warm invitation for us once again to take the third Saturday back with them for our meetings. With such an offer we felt we couldn't refuse and so about two years ago we returned to "St John's" as it is known locally. So it is with praise that we celebrate our 40th in such comfortable surroundings with a great band of helpers some of whom, as you probably know come from St. Colman's.

But all is not rosy on the horizon. As with many other organisations both secular and faith based who use Health Service buses we have been told that in the present financial climate these will not be provided free indefinitely. We had quite a job persuading the people involved in the decision making process to let us have the transport this year as in previous years at no cost to us. And for this we praise God. We are fortunate as I am aware that other branches throughout Northern Ireland have been told that they will not get transport unless they pay. These costs place a heavy burden on these branches and may ultimately force their closure to the detriment of the people they serve.

Yet another point for praise is of course the success of our Annual Branch Holiday down at Newcastle during July. This success was in no small part due to the help, through your prayers and practically, of you the people of this Parish for which we offer our thanks and pray that God may richly bless you for your concern for us as we seek to reach out to those with disabilities in the community.

So as we face the future within both DCFI and our branch we give thanks for all that God has done for us in the past and please remember to pray for our future survival.

George Moore

Chair South Belfast DCFI

SCIENCE AND CHRISTIANITY – ARE THEY OPPOSED TO EACH OTHER? Some thoughts from Prof Alan Hibbert



The newspapers have headlined the declaration by Stephen Hawking that the universe was created, not by God, but by the random fluctuations of a quantum field, bringing about, spontaneously, the Big Bang.

Hawking and I have both recently retired as professors of Applied Mathematics, from Cambridge and Queen's respectively. His is obviously the more prestigious position, the Lucasian Chair of Mathematics, once held by an Ulsterman (Joseph Larmor) and by the even more famous Isaac Newton. Hawking's research field is Cosmology, mine is Atomic Physics and the two are sufficiently diverse that I haven't read his latest book or studied his equations from which his conclusions are drawn. He argues, on the basis of gravitational theory (bread and butter to the cosmologist) that the universe could have come into existence out of nothing, without any need for a God to intervene.

Hawking is not the first to have declared that Science does not need to invoke the existence of God in order for its theories to explain physical (and biological) phenomena – the French mathematician Laplace did so two hundred years ago as he presented his latest book (on celestial mechanics) to Napoleon Bonaparte. And by and large, that's how Science works. Its job is to explain phenomena by the use of natural laws and principles, which mostly are derived from an analysis of experimental or observational data.

But it is a huge step from Hawking declaring that he does not need God to explain how the universe came into existence (and it is not yet determined whether Hawking's equations and the consequences he draws are mathematically sound) to declaring that God does not exist. In fact, it is just as impossible to prove from Science that God does not exist as it is to prove that He does. Hawking falls into the same philosophical trap as does his biological science counterpart Richard Dawkins of setting up a caricature of God and then debunking the image. He thinks that religious people imagine God as setting the universe in motion and then ignoring it, in the sense of 'lighting the blue touch paper and standing clear'.

There are many scientists who are Christian, or Jewish, or Moslem. They do not subscribe to such a caricature, but have a quite different belief in God and his involvement with the universe. And in particular, it is not the God who is revealed in the Bible and supremely in Jesus Christ. Isaiah puts it very well: “Thus says the high and lofty One, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite’” (Isaiah 57, v 15, RSV). Hawking (and others like him) forgets the second part of this statement. For God is not remote from this universe, but rather is intimately involved in its creation and in his people here on earth. Why else would Jesus have come to earth to live and die for us, except to bring us back into a restored fellowship with the God who is creator and sustainer of the world?

Science seeks to answer the ‘How?’ questions – how does the world work? But the ‘Why?’ questions – why is the universe here at all (rather than how did it come into being), what are the purpose and meaning of our life? – are beyond the remit of Science. They are the domain of the theologian. Science does not lead to the conclusion that God is not creator. It is the Christian belief that God was instrumental in creation: that the universe was created for a purpose – His purpose, and this is demonstrated by the amazing order of the universe.

The existence of God is proved to my satisfaction when I look to Jesus, ask who He is, and draw the only conclusion that makes sense to me, that He is the Son of the Living God, and ever lives and intercedes for us. To me the resurrection of Jesus is the determining factor. If/since Christ is risen, God exists, and through that event, unique and therefore not attestable by Science, He demonstrates his love for each one of us. It is in the resurrection that I look for and find the proof of God’s existence, not in the laws of Physics. And there are many other scientists who see it that way too.

There is no real gulf between Religion and Science, when they are properly understood. They are complementary viewpoints of our universe. Difficulties only arise when scientists try to use Science to make unjustifiable pronouncements on matters theological, or indeed when theologians argue for a particular interpretation of the Bible that flies in the face of scientific evidence. We need to listen to each other, and to learn from each other, so that we may more fully understand the wonder of God’s creation.

Alan Hibbert

If you would like to discuss these issues further, do join us on Thursday evenings at the study group in our home in October and November.

SMILE FOR YOU

By special request we are reprinting this poem seen on the back of the treatment room door at the Health Centre

Smiling is infectious; you catch it like the flu.
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realised I’d passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile then I realized its worth;
A single smile, just like mine, could travel round the earth.
So if you feel a smile begin, don’t leave it undetected,
Let’s start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!

THE CARRICKFERGUS FRIARY

A One-Day Conference
Saturday 16th October 2010
Carrickfergus Town Hall
10am - 4pm
Donation: £5 (includes light lunch)

Payment will be at the door on the day of the conference, but due to limited space and to assist with catering arrangements, the organisers would ask you to let them know in advance if you are planning to attend. Please see Alison Inch who is handling bookings for St Colman's

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

In 1232AD, just six years after the death of St Francis of Assisi, a Franciscan Friary was founded in Carrickfergus. During the next three hundred years that friary played a key role in the life of the town.

You are invited to a morning and afternoon conference aimed at exploring this important, if some what overlooked, aspect of the borough's rich cultural heritage. The Town Hall venue for the conference is significant, as it is the site of the former friary, of which sadly nothing remains.

We will learn from archaeologists about the friary itself and the medieval town of which it was a part. This will include a short walking tour. We will learn about the various events which happened in Carrickfergus during the friary's existence, including King John's stay at the castle and the arrival of the Black Death.

We will hear about the life of St Francis, and about the Franciscan Order within the Anglican and Catholic traditions and we will ask if the Franciscan ethos has a relevance for today's world, particularly in relation to environmental protection and inter-faith dialogue. For those who wish to take part, the day will conclude with a short meditation.

For booking: Contact Alison Incg, or
email: carrickferguschurchforum@hotmail.co.uk
or Tel: 07815081714

Visit www.carrickferguschurchforum.org

THE SOLDIER'S DECK OF CARDS

During WW2, a group of soldiers had been on a long patrol and they arrived in a little town called Cascina. The next morning being Sunday, several of the boys went to Church. After the Chaplain had read the prayer, the text was taken up.

Some of the soldiers who had Prayer Book took them out, but one young soldier, a private, produced a deck of cards, and spread them out in front of himself. The Sergeant in charge saw the cards and said, "Soldier put away those cards." After the service was over, the soldier was put under arrest and brought before the Commanding Officer.

The CO said, "Sergeant, why have you brought the man here?" "For playing cards in church, Sir." The officer looked at the soldier and said, 'I hope you have an explanation. If you haven't you will be in trouble. Now what have you got to say for yourself?

The soldier said, "Sir, I've been on the march for about six days, and I had neither Bible nor prayer book, but I had these cards.

...You see Sir, when I look at the "ACE", it reminds me that there is but one God;
...And the "DEUCE" reminds me that the Bible is divided into two parts; The Old and the New Testaments;
...And when I see the "TREY", I think of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost;
...And when I see the "FOUR", I think of the four Evangelists who preached the Gospel. There was Matthew, Mark, Luke and John;
...And when I see the "FIVE", it reminds me of the five wise virgins who trimmed their lamps. There were ten of them, five were wise and were saved. Five were foolish and were shut out;
...And when I see the "SIX", it reminds me that in six days, God made this great heaven and earth;
...When I see the "SEVEN", it reminds me that on the seventh day, God rested from His great work;
...And when I see the "EIGHT", I think of the eight righteous persons God saved when He destroyed this earth. There was Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives;
...And when I see the "NINE", I think of the lepers our Saviour cleansed. And nine out of the ten didn't even thank Him.
...When I see the "TEN", I think of the Ten Commandments God handed down to Moses on a tablet of stone;
...When I see the "KING", it reminds me that there is but one King of Heaven, God Almighty;
...And when I see the "QUEEN", I think of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is Queen of Heaven;
...And the "JACK" or "KNAVE" is the Devil;
...When I count the number of spots on a deck of cards, I find 365, the number of days in a year;
...There's 52 cards, the number of weeks in a year;
...There's 4 suits, the number of weeks in a month;
...There's 12 picture cards, the number of months in a year;

...So you see, Sir, my pack of cards serves me as a Bible, Almanac and Prayer Book.

The charge against the soldier was dismissed

PARISH ORGANISATIONS CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Time and Day	Contact Person	Phone
Bible Study Group	Thursday Night 7.00pm	Alan & Gina Hibbert	93329160
Prayer Group	Thursday 10.30am-11.30am	Billy Stewart	93362145
	Wednesday 8.30pm-9.30pm		
Friendship Group	Wednesday 11am-12 Noon	Isabel Stewart	93362145
Choir	Wednesday 7pm	Heather Rea	93382508
Ladies' Group	1st Wednesday of the month 8pm	Audrey Alexander	93368428
Indoor Bowling Club	Friday 7.30pm	Joan Walker	93367340

Youth Organisations

Name	Ages	Times and Day	Contact Person	Phone
<u>Guides</u>				
Rainbows	4-7	Thursdays 5 to 6pm	Naomi Allen	93369212
Brownies	7-10	Mondays 6.30 to 7.45pm	Gillian Wilson	93363783
Guides	10-15	Mondays 7.00 to 9.00pm	Marion Magill	93365182
<u>Scouts</u>				
Cubs	8 – 10	Tuesdays 6.30 to 7.45pm	David Branagh	93369023