

The Parish Church of Saint George



PARISH MAGAZINE

An open door in the heart of the City



APRIL 2022

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Editorial Team: William Odling-Smee, Selby Nesbitt, Evelyn Harper, Tony Merrick.

From the Rector's Desk



Dear Friends in Christ,

We have now reached the halfway point in the season of Lent. None of us could have imagined a month ago, the death and destruction that has been unleashed on Ukraine by Vladimir Putin's brutal and illegal invasion of that sovereign nation. There are now an estimated 10 million displaced people in Ukraine, several million of whom are refugees. If you have not already done so, please give serious consideration to the call to register as a host for Ukrainian refugees. My wife and I have already done so. Could you host an elderly single person or couple, or perhaps you might be able to take in a mother and one or two children? The period of hosting is envisaged as being no longer than six months and probably a lot shorter and the UK Government is offering financial assistance to hosts. Please consider this carefully.

Could I also please draw your attention once more to the existence of the Rector's discretionary fund? This is a fund supported by the Select Vestry and donations from parishioners, which I can use to help anyone who may find themselves in difficulty. It could be something as simple as buying a meal for a homeless person or paying for a couple of nights accommodation for them. It could be assisting a mother to feed her children or putting some credit on her electric or gas metre? It could be helping an older person to both heat their home and have enough food on the table. It could be assisting a refugee with a medical bill or arranging a delivery of groceries. The Rector's discretionary fund has been used for all of these things, and many more in recent years. If you or anyone you know of in the parish or outside it, of any age or background, is struggling financially with the basic essentials of daily life, then please speak to me about it and I will endeavour to help them on your behalf.

There will be a parish churchyard spring-clean on Saturday 9th of April 2022 at 10:30 AM. Please bring a brush, gardening gloves and a strong refuse sack. The more the merrier and if 15 or 20 people show up then we should have the grounds ship shape for Easter by 12 noon.

The timetable of Holy Week and Easter services is published elsewhere in this magazine. But do please remember our Easter Eve liturgy on Saturday, 16th at 7:30 PM when the Bishop will preside and confirm candidates. The speaker at our Good Friday 3 hours this year will be the Reverend Dr Bert Tosh. Saint George's Day will be celebrated on Wednesday 27th of April with a Choral Eucharist at 7:30 PM. The preacher will be the Reverend Lynn Gibson, Rector of Ballymacash. Anyone who may want to make their confession before Easter should contact me or Fr William to make arrangements. The Anglican rule about private confession is 'all may, none must, some should'.

God willing, we will yet see a more peaceful and hopeful Easter in Ukraine and every place where violence and oppression reign. Easter is the reminder that suffering and death do not have the final say, no matter how powerful they may seem. Let us pray that the crucifixion being endured by the people of Ukraine will soon be ended and replaced by new hope and resurrection.

God be with us all this Holy Week.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Brian Stewart

HUGH JAMES ADAMS - 1926-2022



We were all very saddened to hear recently of the death of Jim Adams in Formby near Liverpool at the age of 95. When I came to Saint George's as Rector in 1994, Jim and Daisy had already made the parish their spiritual home, after the upheavals in Bangor Parish Church caused many faithful people to look elsewhere for worship. Together with the Gryphon Consort and about 15 households, Jim and Daisy made their way to Saint George's. Jim quickly became an indispensable member of the parish and volunteered for a variety of different tasks. Jim served on the Select Vestry and was for quite a number of years an excellent, thorough and very efficient Secretary in succession to the formidable Darcy Chillingworth. Darcy was a hard act to follow, but Jim was more than up to the task, making good use of his IT skills and keeping us all on our toes. I personally valued Jim's skills as a woodworker and hands-on practical abilities about the parish. The wooden Cross and candlesticks we use in Lent were made by Jim. He made tables, shelves, Aumbry liner, credence extensions, candlesticks and a host of other accoutrements for Saint George's, all of which are still in use today. He turned bowls and candle holders which adorn the Rectory. Nothing was too much trouble for Jim, and I always knew his standard of craftsmanship was of the highest order. Jim relished some of the challenges I threw his way and whenever repairs were needed in the building, Jim was the first to be there with the correct tools to hand.

Both Jim and Daisy loved music and were keen supporters of the choirs in Saint George's. Daisy was a piano teacher of some considerable repute. Their sons, Colin and Geoff, were both former choristers of Bangor Parish Church. Concerts and choir events would see Jim and Daisy attending and offering practical help with arrangements and organisation. In the years that Jim worshipped in St George's, he made a huge contribution in many different ways to the life of the parish and many of us, particularly myself, will miss him enormously. He was a fine Christian gentleman, a loving husband and devoted father and grandfather. We extend our deepest sympathies to Daisy and to Colin and Geoff.

Brian Stewart - Rector

PARISH NEWS

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE - 2022



The list is now open for the names of anyone who would like to make the pilgrimage to Walsingham this year. The dates we shall be in Walsingham are from Thursday 29th September to Tuesday 4th October. If anyone is interested in joining us on this event please contact Fr Graeme Pollock (Tel: 9065-4868) or in church after the Eucharist. A deposit of £30 will be required by the end of May. As yet I do not have the final cost but hope to do so before Easter. The next meeting of the Walsingham Group will be in church on Thursday 31st March at 1:00pm, followed by a short business meeting with a light lunch. All are welcome.

RESUMPTION OF SUNDAY SERVICES

The early service of Holy Communion has resumed with a traditional Order 1 Eucharist at 9:30 AM. Choral Evensong has also resumed at 5:00 PM, except for the last Sunday of the month when there will be a Choral Eucharist.

EASTER (GENERAL) VESTRY 2022

The Easter Vestry will be held on **Sunday, April 3rd at 12:30 PM.**

The Easter Vestry gives all registered vestry members the opportunity to participate in the running of parish business by voicing concerns, asking questions and electing church and glebe wardens and members of the Select Vestry. Please consider allowing yourself to be nominated to the Select Vestry in order to make a contribution to the smooth running of the parish – a challenging but rewarding experience!

At the General Vestry meeting, two Churchwardens are elected, one of whom is nominated by the Rector and one by vestry members. It has become customary for our churchwardens to take up post for a period of two years. The appointment of a Rector's Churchwarden normally alternates with that of People's Churchwarden. The posts of Rector's and People's Glebewardens are made similarly but these office bearers normally serve a longer term. In addition, up to 12 other registered members of the General Vestry may be elected to the Select Vestry. It is important that we endeavour to achieve this quota since the number of ordinary Select Vestry members elected at the General Vestry meeting cannot be exceeded during the Select Vestry's term of office. SV members may be replaced if they stand down for any reason. At the coming General Vestry, the parish will be seeking

PARISH NEWS

a new People's Churchwarden; do consider volunteering for this important role and speak to Eleanor Maynard for information about the duties.

The Select Vestry

The Select Vestry, chaired by the Rector, appoints an Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. It holds monthly business meetings except during the holiday months of July and August, when it sets up a smaller Caretaking Committee, usually consisting of office bearers. The business focuses on Fabric, Furnishings and Finance but also includes overall responsibility for health and safety requirements, employment and management of lay staff, and Safeguarding Trust (child protection); confidentiality may be expected. Members work collaboratively within General Synod law and civil law and are 'at the point of delivery where the ministry and witness of the parish are maintained, developed and safeguarded both legally and financially'. Working groups of parishioners with specific experience and skills may be set up for specific tasks and Safeguarding Trust would be an example of this in our parish.

So - consider nomination, come to the meeting on Sunday April 3rd, and vote! And even if you are too busy to join the Select Vestry, come to the meeting anyway and participate! In recent years, the meeting has been held on a Sunday after the Sung Eucharist to try to make the event as convenient as possible for the majority and a sandwich lunch has been organised beforehand.

HUMANITARIAN AID

'From Candahar Street to Kabul: the Belfast man in Taliban Afghanistan'

The recent appeal in St George's for **UN Crisis Relief in Afghanistan** has raised a superb £4,000 including Gift Aid. This is due to the great generosity of parishioners. Thank you so much.

A meeting has been arranged with UNA NI for **Wednesday, April 13th at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall** at which Angus Lambkin will speak on his recent experience as Civil-Military Coordinator in Afghanistan. Parishioners and friends will be very welcome.

PARISH GROUP NEWS

HELP THE CLIMATE

A small group has been considering what we as a Parish may do to help mitigate the change in the climate. This, we feel, is extremely important as custodians of God's creation and neighbours of those so badly affected already.

Perhaps some of you may also be concerned about the cost of energy and if you will be able to manage.

We have been warned that the window of opportunity to stop catastrophic change and destruction is increasingly small.

We hoped therefore to have some hints each month to encourage all of us to improve our way of living to make our futures more sustainable.

Most, if not all of us, will be reducing as much as possible the use of our cars due to the price of fuel but also this will help the planet.

What about reducing our fuel consumption in our homes?

You will have heard how much it helps to lower the thermostat a degree or two. Some of us remember days before central heating when we wore warm clothes in the house. It makes sense not to heat the entire building if you can heat your body and turn down the heating. Would you try also turning off the radiators in rooms not in use and pulling curtains and closing blinds when it is dark? What about having the heat on for a shorter time?

There are many more small things which would help reduce our use of the very expensive ways of staying warm. Would you and your family have a discussion about what you would be willing to do from now on?

The small group of concerned Parishioners is very anxious to make it a much larger group and sincerely appeals for other interested parties to join us with their expertise and/or passion to help restore nature and save as much as possible.

Comments gratefully received!

More hints to help in next months magazine!

Stay warm in a cosy sweater 🧡👍.

Contact the Rector or Treasurer (Douglas) to join please.

EARTH HOUR 2022 - SHAPE OUR FUTURE

Dear Friends of Eco-Congregation Ireland

Each year, Earth Hour provides people around the world with the opportunity to show how much they care about nature – and to help others understand its vital importance in all our lives as well as the devastating threats to people and planet.

But this year's event, [Earth Hour 2022 \(Saturday, 26 March\)](#), takes

place at a particularly crucial time. An alliance of governments and organizations, including WWF, are calling for increased ambition and urgent action to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030. And, shortly after Earth Hour 2022, world leaders will gather at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity COP15 to decide on a new global action plan for nature for the coming decade. On the night of Earth Hour - 26th March 2022, 8.30pm, people around the world are being asked to switch off in solidarity with the planet.

Learn more here:

<https://www.earthhour.org/>.

Send us photos of your events for the ECI newsletter to:

info@ecocongregationireland.com.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Kindest wishes to all,

Karen Nicholson

[Eco-Congregation Ireland](#)

HELP THE BUMBLEBEES

You might notice large bumblebees in your garden this month. These are newly emerged queens, and they will often spend time crawling around the ground searching for somewhere to start their nest this year. There are some things you can do to help:

1. Be untidy! Try not to view your garden as another room in your house. It doesn't have to be a wilderness, but avoid the temptation to make it too "tidy". Leave a couple of areas undisturbed: areas of uncut grass are particularly useful, as bumblebees can create nests in these grassy tussocks.

2. Lose the word "weed": change how you view "weeds". These are mainly pioneering wildflowers that are utilising your garden as a habitat, and many of them can benefit wildlife. Dandelions and clover in particular are important sources of pollen and nectar for pollinating insects, especially bumblebees. Try to resist the urge to cut them as soon as they appear- allow them to flower for a few weeks.

3. Ditch the sprays: avoid the use of chemicals. Insecticides and herbicides might reduce "pests", but they can be very damaging to wildlife, and generally aren't necessary in a garden environment. You will find more bees and butterflies without the use of chemicals, and yes you might have less perfect plants, but think about why you are gardening in the first place? If you want to improve your environment, and help nature, then think of your garden as a mini ecosystem.

<https://pollinators.ie/bees-are-good-for-you/>

GRIEF AND HOPE

‘Do not be afraid, you wild animals, for the pastures in the wilderness are becoming green.’ (Joel 2:22)

The extent of the climate and wider ecological crisis overwhelms me. I am challenged not to rush too quickly to hope but to stop and face full-on the suffering we are causing – to people, the wider natural world and other creatures.

It is important – vital – that we allow our sorrow and lament to be expressed. Scripture is full of these laments – times when God’s people would cry out in agony and grief, longing for a deliverance that didn’t seem to be coming. Yet through expressing it, that grief would often turn to hope.

I long for the time that Joel speaks of, when the wilderness will be restored and wild animals can flourish. Speak out the following prayer by author John Polhill and ask God to turn your mourning into active resolve.

Creator God,

Bless the tears we shed for the resources we have squandered.

Bless the sigh we breathe out for the atmosphere.

Bless the head we hang for the creatures lost and exploited.

Bless the hands we wring for the things we have broken and wasted.

Bless us as we lament.

Cradle us as we regret.

Restore us as we start afresh.

Amen

Dr Ruth Valerio

Ruth is an author and theologian and is Tearfund’s Director of Global Advocacy and Influencing.

A CONFRATERNITY MAN

by Paul McLaughlin



I rummaged through the newspaper racks in the downtown bookshop with half an hour to kill before my bus home when a headline in a local daily grabbed my attention. Set out in Times New Roman, 38 point in bold it read, “Clonard Confraternity to close after 125 years’. The headline had done what it was meant to do, so I read on. It was true. The great religious institution that was the Confraternity was no more.

A local historian said that the closure was a recognition that the expression of faith was changing, that the confraternity had provided many people with ‘a great sense of identity and belonging’ and that even people who had long since moved away from the area still considered themselves to be confraternity men. “It was something that the Redemptorists were able to do,” he wrote, “To give a source of identity, as well as a source of nourishment to men and women down through the years.”

I realised that I had inherited some of that identity and even a little of that spiritual nourishment during my short time as a member, however reluctantly, and I found myself humming a familiar tune. The round, metal shield bearing the name of our school stood proudly at the end of the pew. It marked out our section, our territory where the St Mary’s boys, now referred to as the Junior Men, joined the teenage ranks of Clonard Monastery’s Confraternity. We packed into it with our school pals, my friend Brendan and I, not so much for the religious service as the camaraderie and the promise of chips on the way home. We were thirteen and being out after dark on a Friday evening was an adventure when around 700 ‘young men’ from all over West Belfast within the body of the beautiful church listened to Redemptorist priests who actually seemed to understand them. Several years later I met Co Down man Father Michael Brown and remember him as funny, firm and a fantastic speaker. He had an accent similar to our own – a rarity among most of the clergy - and he spoke with humour and humanity on a whole range of issues affecting teenagers across strife-torn Belfast.

In 1966, however, we were more concerned with how the Beatles were doing than the war in Vietnam or the result of the UK election and faith was something that was taken for granted. We all had religious mothers, teachers and Christian Brothers to deal with that holy kind of thing, but the men of Clonard, well most of them, still managed to be interesting, humorous and engaging – no mean feat faced with an acned and hormone-haunted audience as fickle as we were.

I choked and felt sick as the acrid smoke from the small cigar hit the back of my throat. The television advertisement had called it a cigarillo, shown a cowboy with a Mexican moustache making it look an easy smoke and it had a very charming little plastic holder. I coughed and spluttered and Brendan laughed all the more because of it. He had smoked before and must have looked sophisticated as he inhaled and exhaled smoke rings into the April evening. I couldn't be sure, my head was on my chest throbbing, the knees of my good school trousers in contact with the cobbles of the muddy entry that ran behind the houses that faced the monastery.

The singing of the Tantum Ergo occurs during veneration and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the Catholic Church and other denominations that have this devotion. It is usually sung, though solemn recitation is sometimes done, and permitted. We had sung it earlier with gusto, hitting the right notes even with breaking voices and adding our own words. "Tantum Ergo, makes your hair grow". A great tune like an advertisement for a long-lost Latin hair restorer chanted by hundreds of smiling youths.

Now in the gutter among crushed cigarette ends and broken glass, I took a second to acknowledge the error of my ways and made the first, as I recall, of the many broken promises to come. There would be no more cigarillos and no more bawdy singing about hair growing. If God made me well again, I would be a Confraternity man.

(Continued from page 13)

Dr Paul Harron (Hon RSUA) wrote his doctorate on the Belfast-based practice of Young & Mackenzie and his book *Architects of Ulster: Young & Mackenzie, a Transformational Provincial Practice 1850-1960*, also published by UAH (2016), was shortlisted for the Society of Architectural Historians of GB Colvin Prize in 2018. He is Director of Operations at the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and has written and edited several books and many chapters and articles on various architectural and cultural themes. *Architects of Ulster: Young & Mackenzie* was described as 'A masterpiece of thorough, scholarly research' (*Perspective RSUA Journal*) and 'A fascinating book, full of surprises.' (*Irish News*)

David Bunting is an architectural photographer who runs his own business, Images NI, in Belfast. His recording of buildings with a commitment and passion for detail was Highly Commended by the Heritage Angels Awards for Northern Ireland in 2019.

WJ BARRE, 1830-1867: A VIGOROUS MIND by Dr Paul Harron

***WJ BARRE, 1830-1867: A Vigorous Mind* by Dr Paul Harron
Published in hardback, full-colour. ISBN 978-0-900457-84-5
Price: £28**

**Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, The Old Museum Building,
7 College Square North, Belfast BT1 6AR.**

Last November, Dr Paul Harron had arranged to launch the publication of his new book, in St George's, on the great Victorian architect WJ Barre with the Ulster Architectural Heritage. This, sadly, had to be cancelled because of Covid.

WJ Barre famously designed the Albert Clock amongst other Belfast landmarks. Most importantly, he was also a parishioner of St George's. WJ Barre is memorialised in the East window, was a great friend of the then Vicar, Dr McIlwaine, and designed the pulpit and opened up the roof in the 1860s.

The architect William Joseph Barre (1830-1867), a native of Newry, Co. Down, who moved his practice to a burgeoning Belfast in 1860, was one of Ulster's very best Victorian designers. His body of work, the product of an intense but tragically short life, is worthy of capture and is celebrated anew in this comprehensive, beautifully illustrated monograph by Dr Paul Harron – a further title by the author in the Ulster Architectural Heritage (UAH) 'Architects of Ulster' series.

Distinctive, original, eclectic, sometimes quirky and often dramatic, William Barre's building designs form some of the richest components of Ulster's built environment from the High Victorian period. From the landmark Albert Memorial Clock and the Ulster Hall in Belfast to Newry Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, St Anne's Church of Ireland Church (Drumglass), Dungannon and the Riverside Presbyterian Church, Newry, to name but a few of his many remarkable church designs, as well as extraordinarily impressive mansions for industrialists such as Danesfort House (now the US Consulate) and The Moat, both in Belfast, nearly all his surviving buildings are full of visual interest.

The volume is illustrated with specially commissioned photographs by David Bunting, and covers Barre's life and practice, his ecclesiastical, domestic, commercial, civic and memorial work, and includes a full gazetteer for those who wish to explore his buildings with fresh eyes and useful information to hand.

(Continued on page 12)



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POETRY - by William Adair

Changes are lightsome, so this month I am leaving Hymns and Psalms aside, and thinking of Poetry.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary defines a Poem as “a metrical composition concerned with feeling or imaginative description”, and Poetry, simply as the art or work of a Poet, but there is more to it than that.

Poetry should not only be read but heard, the sound of the actual words add a further dimension.

Here are four things to look out for when reciting a poem:

Number one is Poetic Licence, when a thought or idea is enlarged and stretched beyond its usual limits. A good example is in the hymn. “See amid the winter snow”. We know that shepherds were involved in the Christmas Story, but here we actually meet the shepherds, and talk to them, and they to us. That is Poetic Licence.

Number two is the effect of a repeated word. When Robbie Burns was thinking of his girlfriend, he did not. write “My love is like a red rose” (which is nice); but he wrote “My love is like a red red rose” (which is nicer). When that Irish Mystic went for a walk, “all in the April evening”, she did not see blue mountains but blue blue Mountains. When Cory was translating the lovely tribute to Heraclitus, he did not say he was “long ago at rest”, but “long, long ago at rest”. And when King David got the devastating news that the wayward son he loved so dearly had been killed, he ended his heart breaking cry: “O Absalom, my son, my son”. And that last “my son” says it all.

The third thing to look for is brevity. I have been wrestling with the long, complex metaphorical poetry of John Donne (1572 – 1631) and getting nowhere; whereas a short, simple poem like “God be in my head” is instantly understandable, and is memorable.

I knew a dear lady, the widow of a Methodist Minister, and she lived to be over 100. At her 100th Birthday Party, the President of the Methodist Church arrived unexpectedly. When he was leaving, he asked her if she would like him to say a prayer before he left. She answered “Yes - if it's a short one!”. Brevity is spice of life and of Poetry too.

Finally, look out for the Poet, who has the art of painting a picture in what he or she writes, leaving us an image we can recognise, and perhaps name. I came across such a poem: I don't know the date of it or the author, as it is not in any of my poetry books, but here it is.

AN OLD WOMAN

As a white candle in a holy place,
So is the beauty of an aged face.
As the spent radiance of the winter sun,
So is a woman with her travail done.
Her brood gone from her, and her thoughts are still
As the waters under a ruined mill.

Do you recognise her? Can you name her? Perhaps your Mum, - or mine. And isn't "As a white candle in a holy place" a lovely way to think of old age.

"Thank God for the blessing of Poetry" is a prayer each one of us should pray. Go on - pray it!

(This article was conceived on my 101st birthday - William Adair)



The Star

By George Herbert

Bright spark, shot from a brighter place,
Where beams surround my Saviour's face,
Canst thou be any where
So well as there?

Yet, if thou wilt from thence depart,
Take a bad lodging in my heart;
For thou canst make a debtor,
And make it better.

First with thy fire-work burn to dust
Folly, and worse than folly, lust:
Then with thy light refine,
And make it shine:

So disengaged from sin and sickness,
Touch it with thy celestial quickness,
That it may hang and move
After thy love.

Then with our trinity of light,
Motion, and heat, let's take our flight
Unto the place where thou
Before didst bow.

Get me a standing there, and place
Among the beams, which crown the face
Of him, who died to part
Sin and my heart:

That so among the rest I may
Glitter, and curl, and wind as they:
That winding is their fashion
Of adoration.

Sure thou wilt joy, by gaining me
To fly home like a laden bee
Unto that hive of beams
And garland-streams.

Submitted by Geoffrey May

MUSIC LIST April 2022

Sunday 3rd April

11am Choral Eucharist

Processional Hymn	It is a thing most wonderful	84
Setting	Sumsion in F	
Psalm	126	
Offertory Hymn	There is a green hill	92
Communion Hymn	90	
Motet	Sicut Cervus - <i>Palestrina</i>	
Recessional Hymn	Through the night	468

Lent 5

Parish Choir

5pm Choral Evensong

Responses	Plainsong	
Psalm	35: 1-9	
Setting	Sumsion in G ATB	
Motet	Jerusalem, convertere ad dominum - <i>Palestrina</i>	
Hymns	74, 70	

Parish Men

Sunday 10th April

11am Choral Eucharist

Processional Hymn	All glory laud and honour	509
Setting	Darke in F	
Psalm	118: 1-2, 19-29	
Offertory Hymn	Ride on	511
Communion Hymn	296	
Anthem	Hosanna to the son of David - <i>Weelkes</i>	
Recessional Hymn	Praise to the holiest	439

Palm Sunday

Parish Choir

5pm Choral evensong

Responses	Plainsong	
Psalm	69: 1-10	
Canticles	Faux bourdons - <i>Arnold</i>	
Motet	Lamentations part 1 - <i>Tallis</i>	
Hymn	84, 88	

Parish Men

Thursday 14th April

8pm Choral Eucharist

Processional Hymn	All ye who seek	63
Setting	Mathias in G	
Psalm	116 :1,10-17	
Gradual Hymn	I heard the voice of Jesus	376

Maundy Thursday

Parish Men

MUSIC LIST April 2022

Offertory Hymn	According to thy gracious word 270
Communion Hymn	280
Motet	Ubi Caritas - <i>Duruflé</i>
Hymn	268

Friday April 15th

Good Friday

Three Hour Service:

12 noon - 1:30pm **Trebles**

Hymns	There is a green hill far away 92
	O sacred head sore wounded 90 (v. 1, 4, 5)
Anthems	God be in my head – <i>Walford-Davies</i>
	My song is love unknown

1:00pm - 1:30pm **Trebles and Gentlemen**

Hymn	O Vos Omnes - <i>Casals</i>
Motet	It is a thing most wonderful 84
Psalm	Crux Fidelis - <i>John IV King of Portugal</i>
Hymns	22: 1-22
	When I survey the wondrous cross 95
	Faithful cross above all other 517 (t. 295)
	Praise to the holiest

8pm Compline

Parish Men

Saturday 16th April

Easter Eve

8pm Eucharist

Processional Hymn	Thou whose almighty word 466
Psalm	31 1-4 15-16
Setting	Merbecke
Hymn	Come down O Love divine 137
Offertory Hymn	Love's redeeming work is done 113
Communion Hymn	275,275
Anthem	I know that my redeemer liveth - <i>Handel</i>
Recessional Hymn	Thine be the glory 120

MUSIC LIST April 2022

Sunday 17th April

Easter Day

Broadcast live on Radio Ulster

Choral Eucharist

Parish Choir

Hymn	Jesus Christ is risen today	110
Setting	Sunsion in F	
Psalm	118: 1-2, 14-24	
Gradual Hymn	Lord of the dance	375
Offertory Hymn	The day of Resurrection	117
Communion Hymn	308	
Anthem	Let all the world - <i>R V Williams</i>	
Recessional Hymn	Thine be the glory	120

5pm Choral Evensong

Parish Men

Hymn	Alleluya! Alleluya!	103
Responses	Rose ATB	
Psalm	66: 1-11	
Canticles	Moore Second service	
Anthem	Rejoice in the Lord - Purcell	
Hymn	The strife is o'er	119

Sunday 28th April

Easter 1

11am Choral Eucharist

Parish Choir Holiday

Hymn 113, 114, 296

5pm BCP Communion

PANDA (1939-1954)

In the last house on the left, beside the Belfast to Newcastle railway line (what was) lived the supertom, Panda. This, a lovely place with a garden scented by tall poplar trees, a greenhouse filled with chrysanthemums or tomatoes depending on the time of year, a herbaceous border and a hen coup. This is Grand Prix Park, Dundonald, the name from the Ulster Tourist Trophy (T.T.) race which passed by at 100 mph with Fangio, Nuvolari, Pricce Bera and many others on the Newtownards - Comber - Dundonald old road circuit, long before the likes of Stirling Moss and Schumacher, and a press report of the 1928 race is more exciting than the paint drying F1's of today. Although Panda was a never in the house outsider, he was not interested in motor cars and ignored the goings on every year.

As a young pussy, Panda was trained in London as part of the enormously successful "Charlie Bissett's Cat's Opera", where 3 play tunes by sticking their paws on a dulcimer and squeaking in different keys, producing pleasing feline harmony. Panda did not take it seriously enough, so Charlie sold him to my Grandmother, to be brought to Belfast and housed in the garage - certainly a different environment from the stage life and sophistication of the capital. It was for the best, for Panda was a he-man cat, more like lion, leopard or cheetah. Mr Courtney across the railway, a greyhound breeder of note, occasionally provided a little food, but P's diet of choice was rabbits, which he caught with casual ease on the Craigtantlet Hills, brought home and ate leaving only fur and ears. Other times he just went into the hills to see some Molly with whom he had a relationship, or so the farmers from those parts tell me. He also kept mice and rats away from the poultry, and as a hobby, believe it or not, gracefully chased butterflies and moths. Granny, along similar lines, as if to copy Panda, would kill a hen, pluck, cook and eat it. Nothing wrong with that, we do it industrially all the time now and the product comes beautifully wrapped in plastic. However, Grandmother was an environmentalist at heart, disappointed with her wonder cat as he got into the habit of picking up ground nesting birds like plovers and lapwings; how he caught sparrows, I know not. So, for his last years a bell was hung round his neck to give warning and save lives, something individuals, governments and the R.S.P.B. should enforce, but don't. Why not? Millions of cats kill millions of birds (many endangered) world wide, year on year, but we prefer cats to birds, go figure.

Panda was aloof, a good looker, with no fleas, vet fees, litter box problems or travel difficulties. He was killed by a train crossing the line to see Mr Courtney's Molly called Serulia. He is buried under a new poplar tree. As far as we know, he died without issue.

Terence Mayne

ENDPIECE by Jo Calder

Humanity And Society

Humanity; a noun meaning humankind, the state of being human. I am sure there is no-one at this time unaware of the atrocities taking place in Ukraine. Every day the news just gets worse; the death toll keeps rising, the vast majority of those who have died are civilians, including children. As I write this, two million have fled their homeland. I cannot even begin to imagine the nightmare those poor people are feeling, what they must be going through. However, they have an incredible President; he may not be of tall stature, but he is a giant of a man. I hope his courage, inspiration, and resilience will be properly recognized well beyond his own people.

To think on the orders of one man such devastation and murder is taking place. I know there are so many, like myself, who are lost for words to describe Putin. Certainly, he is what I think evil is; of course there is also speculation regarding his mental health, but for me this is too “simple” an explanation; I do feel he is deranged in some way in that his actions know no bounds, though I do not have any expertise in mental health issues, but the huge majority of those with a mental health issue would never undertake the utter depravity he is instigating, and would also be utterly appalled. There are those who think he typifies what a psychopath is like, and there are also theories because of the pandemic and his isolation, it has in some way altered his mental state. Again, I don’t know whether this is true or not, but many thousands were also isolated and did not order such barbarity. He has always been, for me, simply not a very nice human being - he is the worse example of humanity.

As well as heartfelt sympathy and concern for the Ukrainian people, I do sympathize with the majority of the ordinary Russian people; for those of us who may read on Facebook and the internet some of the comments vilifying Russians I felt compelled to comment that the vast majority of decent Russian people do not want this war. Many thousands of them have gone out to demonstrate and protest; thousands have been arrested, getting beaten senseless before being arrested. Neither are they allowed to know the truth of what is happening. As in the past, those who disagreed with Putin are either in prison, have “disappeared” or assassinated. To me, those ordinary Russians are also brave, considering the fate they may face very soon.

We have also seen the very best of humanity from the surrounding countries bordering Ukraine. Poland, in particular, and its people have been the epitome of humanity. A small country, which it must be said, does not have the wealth of other European countries, has, and still is, doing their utmost; a real example of neighbourly love.

Help too, from the other neighbouring countries, who, lets face it, are also taking risks to provide humanitarian help and assistance - "Love thy neighbour".

Sadly, not all modern society cares as deeply as those helping the Ukrainian people. I recently read a very disturbing article of something that happened in London. Yes, it is a huge city with a vast population, the UK capital, and not like a small village or town. However, even for a metropolis, I found the incident truly dreadful. The story concerns a lady who lived alone in a block of 20 flats run by one of London's Housing Associations. A neighbour said they would see her leaving in the morning, dressed smartly in a suit, and occasionally see her coming home again. The neighbour admitted there was no real conversation, just "hello" or "bye". The lady herself didn't really bother a great deal with neighbours either, and so it did not immediately seem odd, after a while, the neighbour who lived on the same corridor, did not see her leaving for work every morning. The lady had an older brother, but they did not keep in touch, and her half-sister lived in South Africa; both her parents were dead. The lady had lived in her flat for several years, and paid her rent weekly to the Housing Association by debit card. When the payments had not been made for several months the Housing Association decided to instigate legal proceedings. She was eventually summoned to Court, but did not turn up for the hearing. Around the same time other utility bills went unpaid. Shortly afterwards a heating company, on behalf of the Housing Association, attempted on two occasions to call at the flat to check on her heating supply. There was no reply, so they left notices advising her they would return, and if still no reply, would forcibly gain entrance. At about the same time, neighbours noticed her mail had not been collected for quite some time, the post box overflowing, yet the postman continued to cram letters into the letterbox. Not long after this some decorators turned up to paint her outside flat door, but it did not strike them as odd when the front door could not be opened to prevent the wet paint sticking to the door frame. Over a year later after the heating company had called at the flat, the Association decided to speak to the Metropolitan Police, after trying to contact the lady, saying they could not legally enter the flat. The Association stated the Police told them they had spoken to the resident and all was well. It was not until one of the neighbour's mothers commented on the dreadful smell along the corridor finally something was done.

By that time the lady had lain dead in her flat for two and a half years. Her body was so badly decomposed the pathologist could not determine the cause of death. I know these days some people do not normally "socialise" as much with neighbours as in the past. However, in this instance, for me this was a total lack of humanity.

