

The Parish Church of Saint George



PARISH MAGAZINE

*An open door in the heart of the City
A place of prayer and peace*



JANUARY 2023

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

From the Rector's Desk



Dear Friends in Christ,



Brian Stewart

PARISH NOTICES

Sanctuary Flowers 2023

8 January	Richard & Helen Crowe	In memory of loved ones
15 January	Carol Ward	In memory of Ron Abell, Ellen Connolly & Lil Annesley
22 January	Mina Kelly	In memory of her husband Rev Richard Kelly
29 January	Erina McIlldoon	In memory of her sister Geraldine & brother Stephen

Register of Vestry Members: 2023

The next annual review of the Register of Vestry Members will take place soon. This is a reminder of the registration process. First, if you are already registered, then there is nothing more you need to do; you can check for your name on the 2022 list of Vestry Members, which is in the narthex. However, if you are not registered and would like to be 'signed up', Forms of Declaration will be available from our Churchwardens during the month of February. Membership of the Vestry entitles you to participate and vote in the elections, which are held at the Easter General Vestry meeting. Please kindly note that 2023 is a Triennium year and so there will be more elections at the Easter Vestry than usual.

The 'terms' for those who can be included on the Register of Vestry Members are that they must be a resident or accustomed member and subscribe to the funds of the parish by a receiptable collection. The Free Will Offering (FWO) scheme is an ideal way to subscribe to parish funds and satisfy this requirement; for further information on the scheme please consult Selby Nesbitt, FWO co-ordinator or Douglas McIlldoon, our Treasurer. If you have any general queries about the Register of Vestry Members, please speak with the Rector or Peter Hunter, Hon. Secretary.

FWO Envelopes

If you subscribe to St George's by weekly FWO envelope, please collect your FWO envelopes for 2023 from the box in the Narthex.



TOP TIPS FOR FOOD

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BUY LOCALLY PRODUCED, SEASONAL PRODUCTS. DOING SO REDUCES THE ENERGY SPENT GROWING FOODS OUT OF SEASON OR SHIPPING FOOD TO THE UK.

KNOW YOUR LOGOS



WHEN SHOPPING FOR FOOD, LOOK FOR UK PRODUCE TO REDUCE FOOD MILES. SEARCH FOR SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATIONS SUCH AS **RSPO-CERTIFIED PALM OIL** AND **MSC-CERTIFIED SEAFOOD**.

THE WHITE WORLD

by Paul McLaughlin



Sixty years ago this month, the Emerald Isle turned white as the Big Freeze brought an unwelcome taste of Siberia.

Christmas had come and gone. The crib had been put back in its box, its little figurines, once centre stage, swaddled sadly in the last daily newspaper of 1962 to keep them safe for another year in the attic. The tree, stripped of its brilliant baubles and beads, looked naked and neglected as it waited to join them.

The New Year had arrived with my Mum and Dad hosting a small get together for their neighbours and I remember well the sound of Mister Arbuckle's accordion drifting up the stairs to our bedroom. 'Danny Boy' and many voices struggling to reach the high notes of the chorus after an ambitious start.

It has remained a favourite of mine all these years and echoed on those stairs as my father's coffin was carried from his home. My brother Jimmy's guitar and fine singing voice doing it and him justice.

Now as the Wise Men had said their farewells on old Christmas Day as my mother called it, the festive package was dismantled, and the direction of our excitement took an unexpected turn. Overnight the world had gone white with powdery snow already freezing in the school grounds opposite our house. Only one set of unidentifiable paw prints left its calling card on a cold and chaste landscape.

My father had lit the coal fire in the living room at least an hour before we left our cosy beds, bellowing two huge pages from the Irish News to encourage the flames, the bottoms of his pyjama trousers peeping from beneath those of his navy suit.

The gas fire he had had installed just weeks before, "Just in case we get a severe winter" he reckoned, hummed a warm song in the dining room as the teapot on the scullery stove bubbled from strength to strength.

We had tea and heavily buttered Belfast bap, it was just called **bap** in those days before the marketing men got to it, with two bowls of hot porridge left untouched. My brother and I shared a dislike for the stuff that my mother called the 'inside lining'.

We also shared Balaclavas and mittens hand-knitted in bottle green for Jimmy and me, overcoats buttoned to the neck and socks pulled high to knees that would be bare to the elements.

Our whole district came alive as the street lamps went out and a very distant sun crept gingerly over the east of the city, making diamond valleys of terraced streets and lighting the top of the Black Mountain

like a beacon.

A white start to the new year for the adults, an Antarctic trek for us on our first day back to school as we slipped and slid along freshly dug pathways on our ascent of the treacherously steep Whiterock Road.

Our school, the recently built St Aidan's CBS, stood at the brow of that road like a hilltop fort in the foothills of the great mountain that dominated our skyline. Its Gaelic football pitch, the envy of every primary school in the city, was three feet deep in virgin snow, its white lines just a memory, until hordes of Kamikaze pupils hurled themselves across it.

I had promised my mother that I would look after my soon-to-be-six-year-old brother, but the great whiteness turned our heads and we gambolled and frolicked in a crazy circus that knew it had only 10 minutes before the school bell would call time. That deadline made mad men of us all and we were soaked within seconds.

Brother McDermott called for order when the entire school was assembled in the main hall, its newly-laid parquet floor, on which the good brother himself had laboured, dripping wet.

"I have news for you all", he said in a soft brogue that came from somewhere in Connaught, "It is bad news for our school, but good news, I suppose, for *ye*." And he actually said '*ye*'.

"We are having problems with the boiler, so the school will be closed for a couple of days."

I couldn't hear myself think with the cheering and clamour that answered his words. Reluctant learners we may have been, like most boys of that time, but, more bad weather permitting, we would have this new white world all to ourselves.



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"TELL ME A STORY" by William Adair

"Memory holds the door": we go back about nine and a half decades. My brother and I are heading off to bed, but in duet we ask, "Daddy, tell me story," and bless him, he always agreed. He would select a tale from "The Arabian Nights", or a grim story from one of his own school books, "The Last Days of Herculaneum", which inexplicably was one of our favourites.

Three decades later the process was repeated with our own children: "Daddy, tell us a story". They preferred the jewelled prose of Oscar Wilde: "The Selfish Giant" would send Stephen into fits of laughter, whilst "The Happy Prince" would have Gill in tears.

Every child loves to hear a story, and of all the story books, doesn't the Bible have a wealth of wonderful tales, and all of them true!

It is extremely difficult to write a really good children's hymn that tells a story which the child can fully understand, appreciate and accept. Mrs C.F. Alexander was supreme in this, so good that adults can sing her children's hymns with profit. Another gifted children's writer was the American, Emily H. Miller (1833-1913), and it is her hymn "I love to hear the story" I am looking at this month.

Emily Huntington was born in Connecticut USA, the daughter of the Rev'd Dr Thomas Huntington. She had quite an academic career, graduating at Oberlin College in 1857, and three years later she married Professor John E. Miller. In 1891 she became Dean of women students at North Western University, a post she held for the next seven years. In addition, she was joint editor of a children's magazine "The Little Corporal", so she was familiar with the type of thing children liked to read. She included poems in this magazine, and in 1867 one appeared, beginning "I love to hear the story", probably her best. She was recovering from a serious illness when she wrote this, and in about fifteen minutes.

This is a personal hymn seen through the eyes of a child, all three verses in the first person - "I". It is a hymn which can present problems - you either like it or you dislike it. It sings well to the tune "Angels Song".

1. I love to hear the story
Which angel voices tell,
How once the King of Glory
On earth came down to dwell.
I am both weak and sinful,
But this I surely know,
The Lord came down to save me,
Because He loved me so.

A typical opening - the child loves to hear not **a** story, but **the** story: the story which occurred only once in the history of the world, and never again - the Gospel story which divided time from B.C. to A.D. and was announced from the lips of angels. The child goes on, "I know I am in myself weak and full of Sin, but I also know that all that happened in that wonderful story was for me, and for love of me". Throughout this verse are echoes of John 3 v 1 6.

2. I'm glad my blessed Saviour
Was once a child like me,
To show how pure and holy
His little ones might be;
And if I try to follow
His footsteps here below,
He never will forsake me,
Because He loves me so.

This child realises that the Baby Jesus grew up like him or her; grew up to be an example for all who followed Him: "a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Notice the change in tense in the last line - from "loved" in the first verse, to "loves", present tense.

3. To tell His love and mercy,
My sweetest songs I'll raise,
And though I cannot see Him,
I know He hears my praise;
For He Himself has promised
That even I may go
To sing among his angels,
Because He loves me so.

'Following' involves service, and a good story is worth sharing, so the child says he must pass on the good news, confident that the Lord is present all the way. Then in the fullness of time the call to higher things will come, and the singer will join the angelic host, continuing His praise. This is our destiny, seen through the eyes of a child. And here is a thought for today and tomorrow and for many tomorrows:

The Lord came down to save me,
Because He loved me so.

Nothing childish about that!

MUSIC LIST January 2023

Sunday 1st January

11:00am Said Eucharist

Hymns **39,21,48**

Psalm 8

Christmas 2

Choir Holiday

Sunday 8th January

11:00am Choral Eucharist

Processional hymn

As with gladness **47**

Setting

Stanford in Bb and F

Psalm

29

Gradual hymn

Bethlehem of noblest **48**

Offertory hymn

While shepherds watched **42**

Communion hymn

307

Anthem

What child is this? - *Hewitt-Jones*

Recessional hymn

The first noel **36** (omit *)

Epiphany 1

Parish Choir

Epiphany Carol Service

See separate booklet

Chamber Choir

Sunday 15th January

11:00am Choral Eucharist

Processional hymn

Come let us join our cheerful songs **349**

Setting

Stanford in C and F

Psalm

40: 1-12

Gradual hymn

Hail to the Lord **55**

Offertory hymn

Crown him with many crowns **352**

Communion hymn

280

Anthem

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day
Gardner

Recessional hymn

Thou whose almighty word **466**

Epiphany 2

Parish Choir

5:00pm Choral Evensong

Responses

Rose

Psalm

96

Canticles

Sumsion in G

Anthem

Sussex Carol - *Ledger*

Hymns

46, 74

Chamber Choir

MUSIC LIST January 2023

Sunday January 22nd

11:00am Choral Eucharist

Epiphany 3

Parish Coir

Processional Hymn	Alleluia sing to Jesus	271
Setting	Jackson in G	
Psalm	27: 1, 4-12	
Gradual Hymn	Firmly I believe	360
Offertory Hymn	King of glory	391
Hymn at Communion	302	
Motet	Beati quorum via - <i>Stanford</i>	
Recessional Hymn	Son of God	498

5:00pm Choral Eucharist

Choral Scholars

Setting	Merbecke
Motet	Ecce Advenit - <i>Byrd</i>
Hymns	27, 244

Sunday 29th January

11:00am Choral Eucharist

Epiphany 4

Parish Choir

Processional Hymn	Be thou my vision	339
Setting	Ireland in C	
Psalm	15	
Gradual Hymn	New every morning	238
Offertory Hymn	Immortal, invisible	377
Hymn at Communion	280	
Anthem	O taste and see - <i>RVW</i>	
Recessional Hymn	Son of God	498

5:00pm Compline

Parish Men

CALENDAR JANUARY 2023

Jan 8

1ST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

9:30 am Eucharist: The Rector

11:00 am Choral Eucharist: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: Isaiah 42: 1-9, Acts 10: 34-43, Matthew 3: 13-17

Sanctuary Flowers: *Richard & Helen Crowe*

Reader: *Brenda Claney*

Intercessor: *George Woodman*

Servers: *Mark Claney, John Callaghan, Tony Merrick*

5:00 pm Epiphany Carol Service: The Rector

See separate booklet

Servers: *Joan Calder, Tony Merrick, Jonny Calder*

Jan 15

2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

9:30 am Eucharist: The Rector

11:00 am Choral Eucharist: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: Isaiah 49: 1-7, 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9, John 1: 29-42

Sanctuary Flowers: *Carol Ward*

Reader: *James Dingley*

Intercessor: *Karen Brett*

Servers: *John Callaghan, Joan Calder, Mark Claney*

5:00 pm Choral Evensong: The Rector

Lessons: Ezekiel 2:1 - 3: 4, Galatians 1: 43-51 *Janet Sandikli*

Jan 22

3RD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

9:30 am : The Rector

11:00 am Choral Festival Eucharist: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: Isaiah 9: 1-4, 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18, Matthew 4: 12-23

Sanctuary Flowers: *Mina Kelly*

Reader: *Howard Fee*

Intercessor: *Carolyn Rhodes*

Servers: *Laura Brannigan, Joan Calder, Jonny Calder*

5:00 pm Choral Eucharist: The Rector

Epistle: Romans 12: 16b-21

Gospel: Matthew 8: 1-13

CALENDAR JANUARY 2023

Jan 26

TIMOTHY AND TITUS,

1:00pm Eucharist: The Walsingham Group meet at this service – all welcome.

Jan 29

4TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

9:30 am Eucharist: The Rector

11:00 am Choral Eucharist: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: Micah 6: 1-8, 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31, Matthew 5: 1-12

Sanctuary Flowers: *Erina McIlldoon*

Reader: *Eleanor Maynard*

Intercessor: *Meisam Khalili*

Servers: *Agape Laoye, Geoff Newell, Tony Merrick*

5:00 pm Compline: The Rector

Miracle

Not the one who takes up his bed and walks
But the ones who have known him all along
And carry him in –

Their shoulders numb, the ache and stoop deeplocked
In their backs, the stretcher handles
Slippery with sweat. And no let-up

Until he's strapped on tight, made tiltable
And raised to the tiled roof, then lowered for healing.
Be mindful of them as they stand and wait

For the burn of the paid-out ropes to cool,
Their slight lightheadedness and incredulity
To pass, those ones who had known him all along.

Seamus Heaney

Submitted by Geoffrey May

