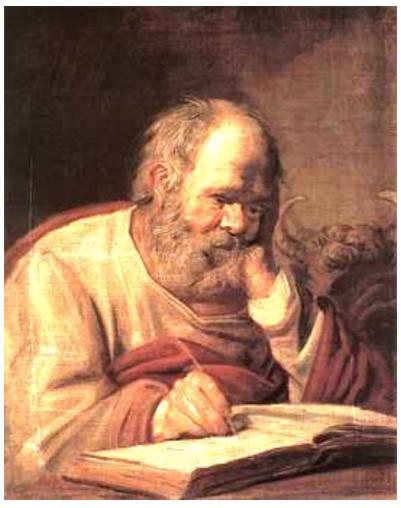
The Parish Church of Saint George



PARISH MAGAZINE

An open door in the heart of the City







OCTOBER 2023

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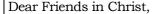
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Frontispiece: St Luke by an unknown mediaeval artist

St George's Parish Magazine is published on the Sunday nearest the first day of the month, except August and January. Please send contributions to the Parish Office - stgeorgesoffice@btconnect.com. Views expressed by contributors do not necessarily represent the views of the parish.

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

From the Rector's Desk





There has been a noticeable change in the weather and temperatures have fallen. The 'Indian Summer' has ended and autumn is definitely with us. I am very glad to see our Sunday attendances picking up again and the full musical services resuming each Sunday. David, Maeve and Daniel are doing a fine job with the choirs and the boys, in particular, are sounding splendid. Probationers will be admitted as choristers and receive their surpluses on Sunday 1st of October at 5:00PM Choral Evensong. Please do come along to welcome and support them.

Sadly, I have to report the sudden death of Mr Maurice Crooks, aged 82, at his home in Coventry. His son Neil is a medical doctor working in England and was a chorister whenever I arrived at St George's in 1994. Maurice's wife, Marlene, was a well known and very active member of St George's until a few years ago when she and Morris went to live in Coventry to be near Neil. We extend our sincere condolences to Marlene and Neil on their loss. Please remember them and Maurice in your prayers.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Service will take place on Sunday 8th October at 11:00AM. St Georges was the first church in Ireland to have such a service in the 1860s and therefore the originator of that tradition in Ireland. It is important that we continue to observe it and recall how we are still very dependent on agriculture and those who provide most of our food and so be thankful to God for the blessings of the earth and the labour of others.

The All Souls Day Requiem will be celebrated on Thursday, 2nd November at 7:30PM. Please add any additional names of those you want to be prayed for and whose names were not on last year's list to the sheets in the Narthex. Names from last year will automatically be carried over onto this year's list.

Remember to contact me on 079-0279-2080 if you know of anyone who is unwell and who might appreciate a pastoral visit or if you yourself are ill or going into hospital for a scheduled procedure.

Yours sincerely in Christ



PARISH NOTICES

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

On 3rd October there will be a group of eight pilgrims from Belfast,



probably bleary eyed, waiting to board the 7.30am ferry from Belfast Port to travel to Cairnryan and on to the shrine of Walsingham in Norfolk. We will be travelling in two cars along the A75 to Gretna and from there down the M6 to Manchester. Having skirted Greater Manchester we will climb the Pennines into West Yorkshire where we will stop at the Retreat House with the Community of the Resurrection. We will stay there for three nights sharing in the life of the Community in preparation for our pilgrimage to "England's Nazareth" While at Mirfield with the brethren we will meet up with Fr John Gribben, who is known to many in St. George's. After three nights in Mirfield we will travel on to

Walsingham. During the period that we are away from home we will be praying for you as we hope you will be praying for us, and if anyone has any prayer requests to be offered at the Shrine at Walsingham please get them to me by the 2nd October.

Fr. Graeme Pollock

LARGE PRINT SERVICE SHEETS AND ORDERS OF SERVICE.

Large print copies of the 11:00 Eucharist and Service Sheets are available on request from one of the Churchwardens.

ECO NEWS

Do you remember when the milkman delivered milk to your door in a glass bottle that was recyclable; the cream rose to the top of the bottle and you had to get it indoors before the Bluetits arrived to help themselves!

If you would like to avail yourself of this quality of product once again and live near Strandtown, please visit the Refill Quarter shop.

Janet Sandikli

THE SONNE by George Herbert



Let forrain nations of their language boast, What fine varietie each tongue affords: I like our language, as our men and coast; Who cannot dresse it well, want wit, not words. How neatly do we give one onely name To parents' issue and the sunne's bright starre! A sonne is light and fruit; a fruitful flame Chasing the father's dimnesse, carried far From the first man in th' East, to fresh and new Western discov'ries of posteritie. So in one word our Lord's humilitie We turn upon him in a sense most true: For what Christ once in humblenesse began, We him in glorie call, *The Sonne of Man*.

Submitted by Geoffrey May

LEAD ON MACDUFF

by Paul McLaughlin





Wordsmith Mark Twain showed the kind of insight that warms my heart when he wrote 'heaven is by favour, if it were by merit, your dog would go in and you would stay out'.

Wise words that popped up on social media and flooded my head with memories of our own four -legged companion who died in my arms nine years ago.

The wee bundle of canine candyfloss that greeted us after the long drive to visit my wife's brother, Billy, in the hilltop town of Rathfriland in Co Down appealed immediately, despite our reservations.

"We're both working, Billy, and we really don't have the time or patience to look after a puppy. It was very thoughtful of you to buy him with us in mind, but it's a definite **no**". We were still protesting when the black, white and bronze terrier was installed in a shoe box and set on the back seat of our car for the trip home.

"He's the runt of the litter," said Billy and that was that. Sympathy for this little doe-eyed stranger with the razor baby teeth, the high bushy tail and beautiful multi-coloured face turned to love within seconds and we drove off to the city with our new best friend sleeping soundly.

Our suburban semi became his home overnight – a night spent in our bed. Well, we couldn't leave that 'wee mite' downstairs in the cold. His stainless steel bowls were bought, his high quality blankets as well of course and a grand bed that would grace his soon-to-be bedroom.

"His name will be Hennessey", and my wife, Jools, stared at him intently. He stared back with the sweetest expression I had ever seen. "What about Macduff?", I said.

You're right, sez she, "He even looks like a Macduff." And he did! The half Cairn, half wire-haired Jack Russell with his soft, curly coat wagged his magnificent tail in agreement and became a member of our family.

Carpet was bought to be fitted in the eight feet by four feet cubby hole that would be his bedroom, sometimes. The carpet salesman looked at me with astonishment when I gave him the measurements of the 'room', but with the understanding of a dog lover when I explained its purpose.

From then on every day was an adventure. An odyssey that would last eighteen and a half golden years of many ups and the odd down. The time he ate the plastic flower pot was a real downer, the three-day disappearance after a bitch in heat a heart-breaking time for us that had the local police on his tail before he returned, covered in snow, in the middle of the night.

Cross words were never on the agenda. He was cuddled and warmed in a blanket before a roaring coal fire with words of love whispering in his big floppy ears as he slipped off into the land of nod. But a visit to the vet was arranged to curtail his future love life.

The ups were the joy of his gentle and loving personality. He simply loved everyone. Humans, all dogs, especially puppies that he licked affectionately, even most cats, although the thrill of the chase was never far from his thoughts. And everyone loved him.

His feats of walking became legendary, as would ours. He was a blend of a long-distance athlete, a sprinter, a Sherpa who laughed at mountains and a comedian-companion who smiled on demand, knew the names of all his 'relative's and was fiercely protective of my brother who had had a stroke. At the words 'lead on MacDuff' he would race for the front door while 'bath', which Jools and I would drop casually into our conversation, he would slink silently, like a cartoon character on his tip-toes, behind the sofa.

He played football every day, watched television sitting on my knee and devoted his whole life to making us happy. Holidays were spent in Donegal or the Glens of Antrim – we could not possibly leave our 'wee man' in kennels – and were all the better for it.

He celebrated his eighteenth birthday with a doggy cake and a special I'm 18' hat and continued his daily exercise right up until his final day when the pain left as he opened his little eyes for the final time to say thank you.

I once asked the late Father Des Wilson, whose Sunday Masses MacDuff attended without fail, if the 'wee man' would go to heaven. Wise man that he was, Des said, "Well, Paul, would you expect to be perfectly happy when you go to heaven?" I said 'yes'.

"And would you be perfectly happy if MacDuff was not there as well?" I said 'no'.

I had my answer. Our best pal Macduff would be there on merit. Lead on MacDuff.





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MUSIC LIST October 2023

Sunday 1st October 11am Choral Eucharist Trinity 17
Parish Choir

Processional Hymn Christ triumphant, ever reigning 613

Setting Christ triumphant, ever reigning 61
Stanford in Bb and F

Setting Stanford in Bb and Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16

Gradual Hymn Father hear the prayer 357 Offertory Hymn All hail the power 332

Communion Hymn 307

Anthem Ave verum - *Elgar* Recessional Hymn Christ is made **205**

5pm Choral Evensong Parish Choir

Installation of Choristers

Hymn Praise to the Lord **340**

Responses Rose Psalm 124

Canticles Stanford in C

Anthem And I saw a new heaven - Bainton

Hymn Angel Voices 336

Sunday 8th October Trinity 18
11am Choral Eucharist Parish Choir

Processional Hymn Blessed city **204**Setting Stanford in C and F

Psalm 19

Gradual Hymn God of mercy **366**Offertory Hymn The King of love **457**

Communion Hymn 272

Anthem Rejoice in the Lord always - Purcell

Recessional Hymn Guide me 368

5pm Choral Evensong Choral Scholars

Hymn 265

Responses Hunter ATB Psalm 136: 1-9

Canticles Moore Second service

Anthem I will lift up mine eyes - Walker

Hymn 401

MUSIC LIST October 2023

Sunday 15th October

11am Choral Eucharist

Processional Hymn Rejoice the Lord is King 443

Setting Darke in F
Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23
Gradual Hymn Jesus calls us 200

Offertory Hymn All creatures of our God 263

Communion 93

Anthem And I saw a new heaven - Bainton

Recessional Hymn Forth in the peace **361**

5pm Choral Evensong

Hymn O Christ the same 258

Responses Statham Psalm 139: 1-11

Canticles Noble in B minor

Anthem Let thy merciful ears - Mudd

Hymn As now the sun's 242

Sunday 22nd October

11am Choral Eucharist
Processional Hymn Holy Holy Holy

Processional Hymn Holy Holy Holy 146 Setting Sumsion in F

Psalm 99 Gradual Hymn 368

Offertory Hymn Immortal, invisible 377

Communion Thee we adore (plainchant) 308
Anthem Let all the world – Vaughan Williams
Recessional Hymn Praise to the holiest (Tune 1) 439

5pm Choral Eucharist BCP

Sunday 29th October 11am Choral Eucharist

Processional Hymn He who would valiant be 372

Setting Martin Shaw
Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17
Gradual Hymn Firmly I believe 360
Offertory Hymn O god our help 417

Communion Thee we adore (plainchant) 308
Anthem Thou O God - *MacPherson*Recessional Hymn We have a gospel **486**

5pm Compline Men's voices

Trinity 19
Parish Choir

Chamber Choir

Trinity 20

Parish Choir

Men's voices

Trinity 21
Men's Voices

CALENDAR October 2023

October 1 17th Sunday after Trinity

9:30am Eucharist: The Rector

11:00am Choral Eucharist: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: Exodus 17: 1-7; Philippians 2: 1-13; Matthew 21: 23-32 Sanctuary Flowers: Holly Ferres in memory of her son Ben

Reader: Wardens

Intercessor: Anne McBride

Servers: *Jonny Calder, Mark Claney, Tony Merrick* Tea and Coffee: *Brenda Claney, Judith Fawcett*

5:00pm Choral Evensong: The Rector

Lessons: Ezekiel 37: 15-28, 1 John 2: 22-29 (Eleanor Maynard)

October 4

10:30am Eucharist: The Rector

October 8 18th Sunday after Trinity

9:30am Eucharist: The Rector

11:00am Choral Eucharist: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Philippians 3: 4b-14; Matthew 21: 33-46 Sanctuary Flowers: Louise and Ian Stoupe in memory of Louise's parents

Reader: Pam Tilson

Intercessor: Fr William Odling-Smee

Servers: Laura Brannigan, Mark Claney, Agape Laoye

Tea and Coffee: Karen Brett

5:00pm Choral Evensong: The Rector

Lessons: Proverbs 2: 1-17, 1 John 2: 1-17 (Fr Graeme Pollock)

October 11

10:30am Eucharist: The Rector

October 14

Russian Orthodox Liturgy: 9:30 am – 1:15 pm

October 15 19th Sunday after Trinity

9:30am Eucharist: Rev'd Robert Henderson11:00am Choral Eucharist: Fr Keith Suckling

Preacher: Fr Keith Suckling

Readings: Exodus 32: 1-14; Philippians 4: 1-9; Matthew 22: 1-14 Sanctuary Flowers: George Woodman in memory of Donal, Flora, and

Kathleen Maude Woodman Reader: Janice Carruthers Intercessor: Janet Sandikli

Servers: Omolewa Akinyele, Jonny Calder, Agape Laoye

Tea and Coffee: Betty Flynn, Dot Lutton

CALENDAR October 2023

October 15 19th Sunday after Trinity

5:00pm Choral Evensong: Fr Graeme Pollock

Lessons: Proverbs 3: 1-18, 1 John 3: 1-15 (Janet Sandikli)

October 18

10:30am Eucharist: The Rector

October 22 20th Sunday after Trinity

9:30am Eucharist: The Rector

11:00am Choral Eucharist: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: Exodus 33: 12-23; 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10; Matthew 22: 15-22 Sanctuary Flowers: Anne and William Odling-Smee in memory of

their daughter Elizabeth. Reader: George Woodman Intercessor: Fr Tom Layden

Servers: Banji Akinyele, Tony Merrick, Steven McQuitty

Tea and Coffee: Valerie Roberts, Howard Fee

5:00pm Eucharist – Order 1: The Rector

Readings: Proverbs 4: 1-18, 1 John 3: 16 - 4: 6 (*Paddy Sloan*)

October 25

10:30am Eucharist: The Rector

October 26 Eucharist: The Rector & Fr Graeme Pollock

The Walsingham Group meets at this Eucharist – all welcome

October 29 21st Sunday after Trinity

Eucharist: The Rector

Choral Eucharist: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: Deuteronomy 34: 1-12; 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8; Matthew 22: 34-

46

Sanctuary Flowers: Valerie Roberts in memory of her husband Dai

Reader: Paul McLaughlin Intercessor: Pam Tilson

Servers: Joan Calder, Jonny Calder, Geoff Newell Tea and Coffee: Eleanor Maynard, Catherine Hunter

Choral Evensong: The Rector

Readings: Ecclesiastes 11 & 12, 2 Timothy 2: 1-7 (Fr Tom Layden)

Thoughts on Wisdom by Keith Suckling

During my time as Warden of the Society of Ordained Scientists we celebrated our 25th anniversary. As a memento of the occasion, I invited members to send me short passages (of scripture or of a spiritual work) which were important to them, and to add a couple of paragraphs explaining why. I received over 20 contributions which I compiled into a book (*Scientists and Ministers*, available as a Kindle ebook or printed version). I thought it might be of interest to see my contribution to the book, so here it is. The second text, from 1 Corinthians, is relatively familiar, but I think the verses from Wisdom are particularly striking, but we must be careful not to over-interpret apparent similarities. 'Elements' in antiquity did not mean the same as chemical elements today!

For it is he who gave me unerring knowledge of what exists, to know the structure of the world and the activity of the elements; the beginning and end and middle of times, the alternations of the solstices and the changes of the seasons, the cycles of the year and the constellations of the stars, the natures of animals and the tempers of wild animals, the powers of spirits and the thoughts of human beings, the varieties of plants and the virtues of roots; I learned both what is secret and what is manifest, for wisdom, the fashioner of all things, taught me.

For wisdom is more mobile than any motion; because of her pureness she pervades and penetrates all things. For she is a breath of the power of God, and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into her. For she is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness.

Wisdom 7: 17-22, 24-26

But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him'- these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is

within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

1 Corinthians 2: 7-12

There was surprise verging on incredulity when I visited the school group appearing to be a clergyman, but speaking as an experienced scientist. How, they wondered, could these things be possible in the same person? What could it be like to be in that apparently contradictory position? These two readings would have given them some answer. I'm delighted to read that the author of Wisdom seems to understand the excitement of discovery and understanding, and probably would appreciate the satisfaction of an experiment well planned and data interpreted. There is a link in this useful knowledge to the divine.

Yet here, as in many other places, Paul reminds us that our understanding has its limits, and he affirms with Wisdom where it all comes from and what it depends on. It is exciting to come upon new ways in which our world can be described and to devise uses of this knowledge to good purposes, such as I had done in pharmaceuticals. But it is important not to be carried away. Although there may always be questions for us to answer, science does have its limits and we must give due weight to Paul's cautionary comments. So we are caught between two extremes. It is as if we are bouncing to and fro between two poles of knowing and unknowing, to echo a later spiritual writer. As these oscillations in the life of a minister and scientist continue, I hope that the collisions are reasonably elastic and that I actually grow in a broader kind of understanding, perhaps being able to recognize more clearly where I fit. Somewhere knowing and unknowing do come together and that convergence is our destination.

SUNBLINDS

Whilst hitchhiking from Esbjerg to Copenhagen, we stopped off at Odense to call at Hans Christian Anderson's house. We viewed the memorabilia of the great man and his works which did so much for us children. On leaving, along the narrow street with houses forenenst the pavement, I noticed many houses with mirrors (sort of wing mirrors) outside the windows of many. As you know the Danes are very friendly, so these mirrors enable the curious residents to view persons walking past, their high heels, their dress, their partner, and whether they are over refreshed, for instance. Much happiness and contentment the inhabitants get for so doing. I am thinking how privileged I am to gaze at flowers from my kitchen window and at the front the trees in all their seasons, and some yards beyond, there is a busy road for Jaguars, juggernauts and Ford fiestas for further interest.

That is all very well and may appear a little smug but think about others worried about robbers pushing their noses against the window, rather than just seeing their reflection in the glass, viewing the valuables they plan to steal. So, what to do? Sunblinds, the obvious answer; the burglars will not see anything worth breaking in for. There is an added advantage, on a south facing wall the valuable Oriental carpet and unfashionable brown furniture will, if you expose it, remain unbleached.

Thinking, thinking about these matters, I see fit to visit my old friend Roy, real name Royston Buick. His nickname is Bat and occasionally Batman; very easy to understand when you learn he sells sunblinds (blind as a B--). He claims he has 15% of the market in Belfast and hereabouts. Over a cup of tea at his place, he listens carefully to my thoughts and when I finish rambling on, as one does, he surprisingly asks me to take a trip with him in his new Maserati. Interesting it was. We take in Creagh Road, Ballygomartin, Ward Avenue, Bangor, off Broadway, The Village, Dundonald, Ballycultragh, and as he drives, he talks interestingly all the time.

Bat is a very honest man, he calls sunblinds "view destroyers" (although not to his customers). As we travel from place to place he shows me the less expensive the housing facing North, South, East or West, the more we see fashionable? what the neighbours have, ugly, sun? blinds.

I learnt a lot from Bat and he's no dozer, now promoting MOONBLINDS, for as we know, Moonstroke is becoming more fashionable. Furthermore, to the gullible he offers at an extremely profitable price, Malaysian rubber planters, plantation 100% bamboo, expandable, guaranteed 50 years, blinds.

Terence Mayne