

Rector's Letter

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25:40)

People often say 'Christmas is really for children'. By that they usually think of the excitement of children in receiving presents. I think we can all remember from our own childhood the excitement of receiving gifts at Christmas. Often it was not the abundance of gifts that mattered, but the special gift that meant so much to us; perhaps the gift we had pleaded for, or perhaps the unexpected gift that we got so much pleasure from.

Of course, it is not just the recipient of a gift who gets pleasure; the gift giver also derives pleasure when the recipient genuinely appreciates the gift. The reverse of that however is when a gift is not received with gratitude and is simply cast aside or ignored. Sometimes that unfortunate

scenario arises as the gift is not valued by the recipient or is not appropriate to them. If only we could match our gift to the actual need of the recipient so that both parties would be happy.

As Christians we know that the ultimate meaning of Christmas is about a loving God who knows our need more than we do, providing the ultimate gift that meets our deepest need perfectly. Jesus, the love gift of God, is the only gift that can meet our needs fully. We may not realise it, but each of us has the same basic need to have our broken relationship with God mended. As Rom 3. 23 tells us, 'For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God'. That is the bad news, but it is immediately followed by the Good News of God's loving provision: v24 'And all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus'. Further Rom 6.23 tells us 'the gift of God



is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord'. Justified means being treated just as if we had not sinned. So God's loving gift of Jesus heals our broken relationship with God for eternity. The gift of a restored relationship enriches our lives with a deep satisfaction that nothing else can give. In His wisdom God provides the perfect gift for us. Nevertheless, it is unfortunate that some people do not realise how perfect the gift of Jesus is for them and so they discard Him, losing out on the blessing He brings, and bringing heartache to God. Let us be sure to receive with gratitude the wonderful Gift of God's love that is Jesus.

Mt. 10.8 'Freely you have received; freely give'.

Love received leads to love being offered. This is a basic principle in life that we see in children. When a child is loved it grows up to show love. When a child is shown generosity, it offers generously. Well, sometimes that principle is not demonstrated perfectly and needs to be encouraged!

When we truly receive the Gift of God that is Jesus our hearts respond, like those of a child to a loving parent, with love towards him. But as we do so we find that He redirects some of our love to those around us and He puts a desire in our hearts to show love to them. The more we allow His love to overwhelm us, the more showing generous love to other becomes second nature to us. The Scriptures

teach us that loving others is in fact loving Christ: Matthew 25:40, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

In Seagoe the Select Vestry, motivated by the love of God, distributes 10% of our Parish income to a range of Mission Organisations and Charities each year. In addition, our parishioners respond very generously to the additional appeals that arise throughout the year. Often God puts a desire in our hearts to help others, but we are at a loss to know how best to help them; we want our gifts to match their needs. By channelling our funds through trustworthy organisations, we recognise their expertise in matching gifts to situations of need both at home and overseas, and so we are encouraged that our gifts can make a real difference. On pages 5 & 6 of this magazine you will read of some of the appeals that have been generously supported by parishioners recently; you will also read of our Christmas appeal.

Of course, Matthew 25.40 is not just about giving our money or material items, rather it speaks about all that we offer others, our time, a listening ear, practical and spiritual help; and so the list continues. As we have received so much so we have the opportunity to give in so many ways.

This Christmas may we take time aside to truly receive the amazing gift of Jesus who alone meets our deepest needs. And as our hearts are overwhelmed by His love may we allow him to direct our loving response to Him and those around us.

God bless you this Christmas time and throughout the year to come.

Terence 2





Parish Finances

As the end of year approaches we again thank most sincerely everyone who has contributed towards Parish funds over the past year. Without the generous giving of Parishioners the life and work of the Parish could not be sustained.



has provided this following useful summary of our position at the end of October:

Accrued Income from January to October 2021 was £220,867.95 Accrued Expense from January to October 2021 was £224,249.04 Therefore there was a deficit of £3.381.09.

(Using accruals more accurately represents the financial position by excluding what has been reported in the 2020 accounts and including what will be received next year but relates to this year.)

We are very fortunate to have got to this point in the year with only a £3.000 overspend. We encourage parishioners, where possible, to try to make up any outstanding contributions before the end of the year.

As the New Year approaches we are asking Parishioners to please review their giving. Whilst aware that some will not be able to increase their giving, and in fact some may need to reduce it, there may be significant numbers of people who can contribute more. In addition to the escalating costs of running the Church we would like to try to add to our reserves as we anticipate work that needs to be actioned on the Church building.

A number of people have changed the way they contribute from envelopes to Standing Orders with their bank. The Select Vestry encourages the use of Standing Orders as they not only make giving easier and more regular for the contributor, but they also reduce the amount of administration in preparing envelopes, distributing them and also counting and banking the money. Anyone can set up a Standing Order directly from their online banking to the following account: Ulster Bank Limited, Portadown Seagoe Parish Sort Code 98-12-90 Account Number 33191057 Alternatively they can set up a Standing Order at their Bank using a form that is available from the Parish Office.

Tax payers can increase the value of any contributions by signing a simple Gift Aid form, the Parish can then claim back the tax already paid on the contribution. Eg £100 contributed and be increased to £125 at no additional cost to the donor.

Seagoearchives.uk
Since the last magazine was issued, some of the vestry minutes from

Since the last magazine was issued, some of the vestry minutes from the 1890 -1910 period. This period is when the chancel and transept of the church were built. There is also a short history of the parish written on 23rd May 1890. Articles from the period have been typed by some parishioners and others thereby deciphering some indistinct writing! Comments to Philip Holland at philip@hi-systems.co.uk



The bend in the road

Sometimes we come to life's crossroads and we view what we think is the end, but God has a much wider vision and he knows that it's only a bend—the road will go on and get smoother and after we've stopped for a rest, the path that lies hidden beyond us is often the path that is best. So rest and relax and grow stronger, let go and let God share your load and have faith in a brighter tomorrow—you've just come to a bend in the road.

Poem supplied by a parishioner

DWANDA LINK

Some of our parishioners may remember a number of years ago we had a visit by four people from our link Diocese of Shyogwe in Rwanda. A mission team from Seagoe visited Rwanda the following Summer and



were delighted to reconnect with these people, in addition to meeting so many other people. We delighted recently to learn that one of the visitors to Seagoe, Viateur Ntarindwa, has been ordained as Deacon to serve in the Church there. We wish Viateur God's richest blessing for this new phase in his life and ministry.

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Christmas Service Times

	DEC	9.00am	10.30am	6.00pm St. Patrick's Except Seagoe in bold
SUNDAY	12th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Evening Worship
SUNDAY	19th	Holy Communion	Nativity Service	7.00pm Seagoe Carols by Candlelight
CHRISTMAS EVE Friday	24th			11.00pm Seagoe Christmas Communior
CHRISTMAS DAY Saturday	25th	Holy Communion	Christmas Family Service	No service
SUNDAY	26th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	No Service
NEW YEAR'S EVE Friday	31st			11.30pm Seagoe Watchnight Service
2022	JAN			
SUNDAY	2nd	Holy Communion	Family Service	Evening Worship
SUNDAY	9th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
SUNDAY	16th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship Café Church in Quiet Room	Evening Worship 7.00pm Rotunda Praise Service
SUNDAY	23rd	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Worship
SUNDAY	30th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
	FEB			
SUNDAY	6th	Holy Communion	Family Service	Evening Worship
SUNDAY	13th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
SUNDAY	20th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship in Church Café Church in Quiet Room	Evening worship 7.00pm Rotunda Praise Service
SUNDAY	27th	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Worship
	MAR			
Ash Wednesday	2nd	10am Holy Communion		8.00pm Ash Wednesday Service
SUNDAY	6th	Holy Communion	Family Service	Evening Worship
SUNDAY	13th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
SUNDAY	20th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship Café Church in Quiet Room	Evening Worship 7.00pm Rotunda Praise Service
MOTHERING SUNDAY	27th	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Worship
	APR			
SUNDAY	3rd	Holy Communion	Family Service	Evening Worship
Palm Sunday	10th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion

Virtual Prayer room

A huge thank you to Beth Howell and her family for all the work they have put in to produce virtual prayer rooms each month. Only those who have tried to put together a video presentation will truly comprehend how much work is involved in the process. Beth and her family have dedicated so many hours to these productions each month. Many people have found these virtual prayer rooms to have been such a blessing during this difficult period when we have not be able to offer our monthly prayer room in the Parish Centre. The videos are posted on the second Friday of each month on the Parish You Tube and Facebook pages. The

links are https://www.youtube.com/c/SeagoeParish/videos and https://www.facebook.com/seagoeparish

A wonderful December Nativity Prayer room will be posted on Friday 10th December at 7.00am. Please like and share these posts with your friends. May they be a source of blessing to many.





Thinking of others

Seagoe Parish is noted for its generosity, in particular for the response of its Parishioners to the various special appeals we have throughout the year. Despite being a difficult year, Parishioners have responded very generously to a variety of appeals over the past few months, as

MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Thank you to Eileen Holland for organising our recent Mission to Seafarers' Appeal.

Eileen writes:

One day in 1856 a young boy asked, "How do the islanders get to church? This question inspired his father, the Rev John Astley, to meet the fishermen and farmers of Steep Holm and Flat Holm, two islands in the Bristol Channel.

So began the work of the Mission to Seamen, later renamed Mission to Seafarers.

The Mission is now present in 260 ports in 71 countries, and ministering to over 1.3 million crewmen and women.

In N. Ireland there are centres in Belfast, Warrenpoint and Foyle where, as in other ports throughout the world, practical, emotional and spiritual support is offered to seafarers. Seafaring is a tough life, absent from family, community and culture for long periods of time. Please pray for God's blessing on the Senior Chaplain, Rev Colin Hall-Thompson, staff and volunteers as they work together to provide this valuable ministry.

The pandemic has brought many difficulties and challenges. Recently staff in the centres have worked closely with health authorities to roll out a vaccination programme for seafarers. Some of these brave men and women have been asking for vaccines for nine months.

The winter air is chilly, but my heart is warmed by the enthusiasm and kindness behind every Christmas gift received each year. Often people approach me before I have launched the appeal! Knitted woolly hats and scarves, warm socks and gloves, toiletries and chocolate are all greatly appreciated by the seafarers spending cold days and nights in the open seas.

These last words are from the captain of one of the ships. - "The seafarers are always very grateful for your generosity. When they are at sea for a long time they feel forgotten and alone, and so to receive a gift when they arrive in port, particularly at this time of year, is a wonderful boost to morale."

Thank you! Eileen Holland





Rwanda Covid Appeal

Following a presentation about how Shyogwe Diocese in Rwanda is responding to the Covid pandemic in supporting its various Churches and the wider community, we had an amazing response of £7,793.25. This money will help the Diocese to install washing facilities at a number of their premises, and also provide vital aid to many people in the area. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed so generously.

Salvation Army Present Appeal Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, we have over the years

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, we have over the years been able to supply a wide range of gifts to be distributed through the Salvation Army to those in need at Christmas. This year's Christmas Family Appeal was held on Sunday 5th December and as in previous years, the response from the Parish was magnificent. The past year has been a difficult one for so many in our community, but once again thanks to parishioner's donations, the Salvation Army will be able to spread some joy and love to children and families this Christmas.

If you missed the appeal and still wish to donate, the Salvation Army



Portadown Salvation Army Edward Street, Portadown. BT62 3LX





McMillan Coffee morning

A huge thank you to Edwina and her team of volunteers who organised the McMillan Coffee Morning for us. Edwina writes:

Once again, we hosted our 'Take home' coffee morning for a cause very close to many of usand once again Seagoe Parish rose to the challenge and raised an amazing £1250!!

Thanks to our hands on team, those who gave homemade treats, Kitchen Bakes and all of you for your generosity.

May God bless the Macmillan nurses and teams and all those who benefit from their care.



Christmas Appeal

This year Seagoe's Christmas Appeal will be launched by Terence at our services on Sunday 12th December. The appeal will be divided between two important organisations which help to provide for people in need both in our own country and overseas

Simon Community

On Sunday 12th December Terence will be making a presentation about the work of the Simon Community in Northern Ireland and their vital work in supporting those who are at risk of becoming homeless, or who have already become homeless, and enabling many to move forward into a more positive situation. Simon provides accommodation for a wide variety of people including dedicated units for young people and families. It is staggering to learn that on average 50 people become homeless in Northern Ireland every day last year. 67% of those supported by Simon are between 16 and 35yrs old. One of Simon's projects is to provide Move On packs for people who are moving into housing from homelessness. These packs provide vital basic items such as mugs, plates etc. Larger items such as beds can also be provided, and all with ongoing support from trained workers and



volunteers. Some ways money can help are as follows: £10 will provide a Christmas dinner for someone in one of Simon's hostels. £15 provides emergency food, heat and clothes for someone in need. £250 can provide all the items for someone moving into a home of their own.

Barnabas Fund

Recently we had a visit from Timothy Tai, Barnabas Fund's Director in the Northern Ireland. Timothy gave an excellent presentation on the work of Barnabas with the Persecuted Church in various parts of the world. In addition to bring us up to speed on the work of Barnabas over the past year, the very clear presentation brought us up to date with some of the Fund's current opportunities for giving to support those in need. For example, a special porridge mix called Epap is made from maze and soya beans and is further enhanced with vitamins and minerals to help to bring vital nourishment to people who are malnourished. In Madagascar Barnabas is providing 284 tons

of Epap as part of its two-year programme to help feed over 80,000 malnourished Christians. £1.25 can purchase a 500g pack of Epap which will provide 10 days of nourishment for a child. £7.50 could buy 6 bags of Epap to restore a child to health over a two month period. £17 will provide nourishment for a family of 5 for a month. £1.200 could cover the cost for one day of Barnabas' major project in Madagascar.

Donations can be GiftAided by using Seagoe's Gift Aid envelopes. Gifts will be equally divided between Simon Community and Barnabas Fund unless an individual states otherwise.

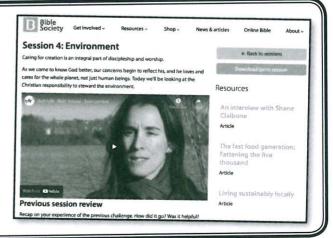




Fellowship Groups

Following the half-term break we recommenced the Lyfe Course from the Bible Society. We have been meeting in the Rotunda. We start the evening with a review of the previous week, then we have an introductory video of the topic for the evening, followed by an introduction to a Bible passage which sets the scene for the passage. After having spent some time reflecting on the passage on our own, we join together in small groups to explore the passage together. The evening is rounded up with some challenges for the week ahead and some prayer. Those who have taken part have enjoyed the opportunity to learn from one another.

The Fellowship Group will start again on Wednesday 12th January at 7.30pm. This will allowing us another round of 6 weeks leading up to the start of Lent in March. Please come along and join with us.



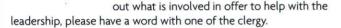




Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade.

We are delighted that our excellent leadership teams have worked hard to get the organisations up and running again. On Thursday evenings the Boys stagger meeting times by age so that

they can accommodate as many boys as possible. On Monday evenings the Girls meet in Killicomaine again with staggered meeting times for the various age ranges. Unfortunately the CGB in Seagoe has as yet not restarted due to insufficient leaders to enable them to meet safely. We are really keen to try to get this branch up and running again and so we are appealing for people to please consider offering themselves as potential leaders or helpers. If anyone would like to find





Richard Smyton presenting Philip Morrison, Northern Ireland President of the Royal British Legion, with a donation made to the Portadown Branch of The Royal British Legion on behalf of Seagoe Church Lads Brigade. Lest We Forget.

SYG - Guide Dogs and BBC Children in Need

Now that most of Seagoe Youth Group's youth activities are back

to normal, the Friday night Youth Club at Trax has been busy raising money to help others. Our junior youth club did a 10,000 step walk in the dark around Seagoe Old School grounds and raised £360 for Guide Dogs. We hope to sponsor a new puppy as Oscar our previous one is now a working dog!

Likewise our Teen Club at Trax, raised £240 on their night walk to Rushmere for the BBC Children In Need appeal...... We like to encourage young people to be aware of the needs of others.



MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO TOOK PART OR MADE DONATIONS Edwina



Church Organisations

We are delighted that most of our organisations are now up and running again, albeit in a reduced capacity. Every organisation is very careful in working within Covid guidelines in order to keep people as safe as possible when meeting. If anyone has any concerns about coming along to any of the organisations please feel free to have a chat with one of the clergy.

Help at Christmas

While many people are anticipating a joyful celebration of Christmas for others it is a time of great concern. Household budgets are very tight for some people and the added pressure



of Christmas causes great concern. Thanks to people's generosity the Rector has some funds available to him to distribute to those who are in need of some support at this time. In addition we may have some food hampers available just before Christmas. If you, or anyone you know, would appreciate some support please contact Terence on 02838332538 as soon as possible.



Covid Clinics

We are delighted to have been able to partner with the Southern Trust to provide vital Covid Vaccination Clinics in the Parish Centre. Initially clinics were held twice weekly for the Southern Trust staff members, however recently the clinics have been open to the general public to simply drop in for vaccination. The staff have been so helpful in working with our staff in addition to offering such an essential service to the community. Once again, thank you to our NHS Staff for all they do for us.







CRAIGAVON AREA FOODBANK

Parishioners make regular contributions to this local project. Gifts of toiletries and nonperishable food are most welcome.

At present the centre has an adequate supply of cereals, pasta, tinned soup and tinned beans.



USED POSTAGE STAMPS, OLD AND FOREIGN CURRENCY & INK CARTRIDGES

Thank you to the members of Seagoe Parish for donations of used stamps, coins and cartridges. It was obvious a lot of time and effort had gone in to collecting these. In 2018 this raised £5481.00 from the sale of stamps and £618.40 from recycled cartridges, to help those affected by leprosy in India, Nigeria, Nepal and Tanzania.

This money really does make a difference to people's lives for example, by providing simple things like protective footwear. Protective footwear can help stop feet developing cuts and ulcers which can lead to more serious long term disability.

The Leprosy Mission is an international Christian medical charity, working in over 30 countries. 2,300 field staff are caring for the needs of some 200,000 people affected by leprosy in TLM's own hospitals and programmes, or in partnership with international

SEEKING THE LIGH

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER BY HENRI NOUWEN

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Christian Baptism

27th October 2021

Robin James Sinton, son of Steven and Rebecca, Carbet

Road, Portadown

25th November 2021

Callum Blake Cosgrove, son of Aaron and Kirsten, Drum

Meadow, Portadown

Finn Blake Cosgrove, son of 25th November 2021 Aaron and Kirsten, Drum

Meadow, Portadown

Thanksgiving for the birth of a child 30th October.

Princeton Liggett, son of Duncan and Emma, Bachelors

Park, Portadown

Christian Burial 28th September 2021

26th October 2021

7th December 2021

29th September 2021

Stanley Kane Savage, Birch Hill Park, Portadown Norah Johnston, Lisnisky PNH,

Portadown

1st October 2021 Thomas Webb, Ulsterville Park,

Portadown 13th October 2021

Benjamin (Benny) Partridge,

Seagoe Park, Portadown 17th October 2021

Peter (Pete) Brown, Springfields, Portadown Sidney Basil Maginn,

Clanbrassil Drive, Portadown William Frederick 'Freddy'

Watson. Enniscrone Park,

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