



Saint Malachy's

Outlook

Curate's note:

Business as usual ... now YOU can help



Simon has left Hillsborough; we will miss him and wish him well for the next stage in his ministry in Hollywood. However, we need not be downhearted. People have worshipped in Hillsborough for over 300 years; this is just another chapter of the ongoing story of this parish.

He reminded us last week that we were all chosen by God, from before the beginning of time. Now, this is one of those moments when each one of us can choose what happens next.

Already, I have been blessed with offers of practical as well as prayer support, to help maintain and hopefully enhance our worship life.

However, particularly now, as we come back after the summer break, there is a renewed focus for every member of the parish – that is you – to think again about how you can serve, to give your time, skills, knowledge and enthusiasm to build up and enhance the quality of life within

our church family.

The bible is definitive on this issue: - "What good is it my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds ... As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead" (James 2: 14 & 26 NIV.)

Everyone wants something in the parish to be done better or more often. You can be part of the solution!

You may ask "What can I do?" You could help out one of our many parish groups and organisations, all of which would welcome you with open arms, be it the Brownies or helping Dani on a Friday evening with the teenagers. Then there is The Open Door Club a group which provides a meeting place for all the older members of our village community, who urgently need help.

Maybe, you would be more interested in something different, like help making us a more welcoming parish by making a point of talking to an unfamiliar person in your

pew, or one near you, and introduce them to the wardens or the Welcome Team.

You could invite a friend or neighbour to come to Back To Church Sunday on 25th September or get involved in 24/2 Prayer as we pray for a new rector and for the community as a whole. More on these later.

I know that nobody wants to be committed to give up every week some of the little free time you have. However, if everyone offered to do ONE thing in the coming year, our parish and all our lives would be transformed.

Paraphrasing the late President J F Kennedy: *Think not what your church can do for you, but what can you do for your church.*

Brothers and sisters, the choice is yours. The future of your parish is in your hands.

Mike Dornan

As we reflect on Simon's last Sunday, and begin to look towards a future without him, it is probably worth us reflecting on the words of the writer of Hebrews; just because our leader has left, does not mean that we should give up hope; nor does it mean we should sit around and wait for his replacement, as Mike was saying in his most recent sermon.

There is a great synergy between the situation we find ourselves in, and that of the early church: the leader has left; the people are in an interregnum; there is the promise of a leader to come but no known date.

It is incredibly encouraging to notice that in the book of Acts the disciples wrestle with the same issues, such as how best to support their community and how best to serve each other and further God's good news about freedom in Christ. The disciples were no different to you and I, ordinary people in ordinary situations attempting to live a life of faith in a community of differing or no faith at all.

We can draw great strength by looking at their example and seeing how they went about things on a practical level.

So, what can we do? Acts 2 v 42 shows us the disciples:

- learning together
- meeting together
- having communion together
- praying together

Our modern versions of this could be interpreted as:

- housegroups
- church meetings (both on Sundays and in preparation for Sundays)
- our combined Holy Communion service on the first Sunday of every month,
- 24/2 Prayer Room Mike spoke about on Sunday.

That's not to say it's limited to these specific things, however I believe the above are just a few practical examples of how we can act in the image of the disciples in the early church.

In that spirit, and particularly with reference to meeting together, a few meetings have been held by different organisations, each attempting to work out how we can help to fill in the void left by Simon's departure and support Mike, particularly on Sundays. The musicians met last week and anyone who missed out on that meeting and would like to find out about how they could get involved would be warmly welcome; contact details can be found at the foot of this piece.

A wider Parish Support Group meeting has been held on a couple of occasions since the start of June, and this is open to all who are interested in what we do on a Sunday morning, whether it be volunteering, or ideas for the content of services, or indeed anything at all!

The general idea is to have an open forum for people to share their thoughts and reflections on what we do as a church, to hear what is being planned, and to pray that what we do here in Hillsborough would be an image of the early church, where:

"... all the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

The most recent meeting was on the 24 August and the next will be advertised in Pew News and on the website once a date is agreed.

Music/Band: Jane McCullough (07809 381698)

Choir: Julie Bell (07973 840628)

Parish Support Group: Rev. Mike Dornan (07858 597416), or feel free just to turn up!

Matt Flenley

Return to Iona

Have you ever noticed the oar and pennant hanging in the north transept and wondered at their place in Hillsborough Parish church?

In June 1963, a group of men set out to re-enact the voyage of St. Columba from Derry to Iona in 563. Three of those intrepid sailors were members of this church – the then rector Canon John Barry, his son Jonathan and Alistair Jameson.

Some time ago Alistair gave an illustrated talk to the Mothers' Union on that journey and at the time we thought that it would be of interest to a wider audience.

Alistair has kindly agreed to this and it has been decided to hold this in the Downshire centre on Friday 21 October at 8pm. Tickets costing £5 can be obtained from the church office or from Jeanette Shannon Tel. 9261 1054 or Barbara Small Tel. 9268 3774.

Supper will be served and all proceeds will go to Mothers' Union projects overseas.

Denis Small

BELLRINGERS

As many of you will know, the church bells have been a part of village life for generations, and have rung for weddings, funerals, baptisms and royal occasions. Some of you may notice them ringing as you go into church, others may not. However, how many people realise what is up those winding stairs which disappear out of the church porch? How many people think the bells are rung by the flick of a switch, or are rung in the style of that awful Mars bar advert?

In reality, bell ringing is a fascinating group activity, and for a number of years we have been in the happy position of having a large and active team of bell ringers. Of recent times, however, this has not been the case and we now need to train new ringers as a matter of urgency. There are people in the parish who have been ringers in the past, but who have not rung



for some time, and we would love them to come and help us. We also need new people to come forward and help us to maintain this ancient tradition before it disappears. Ringing in lots of churches is already struggling, and our ringers have worked hard to train new ringers in some of these places, but we now need to do this in Hillsborough.

On lots of occasions we have used Outlook to appeal for new members, and no doubt people have seen this and think that someone else will do it. Please don't assume that someone else will do it, come up to the tower

before service any Sunday or to our practice on a Wednesday evening. You do not need to be rippling with muscles or musical – I have been a ringer for nearly thirty years and I can't read a note of music! The bells have a long and interesting history of service to the church and community and we really want to safeguard this heritage: so please when you read this have a think about – you might find yourself with a new hobby which contributes to the life of the church.

And besides, how many skills can you be taught nowadays which come with totally free tuition?

If you are interested – and I hope you are – contact Simon Walker on 02892 689033 or Alistair Jameson on 02892 683742.

Simon Walker

Inspiring Quote: What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Back to Church Sunday 2011 will be taking place on Sunday 25th of September and is now the largest single local-church invitational initiative in the world. It is based on the simplest and shortest step in evangelism - that we should invite someone we already know to something we love; invite our friend to our church. The initial focus was to invite 'back' those who used to attend, but we want to ensure that anyone who doesn't currently attend Hillsborough Parish Church can be guaranteed a specially warm welcome.

The invitation cards are now available at the back of the church, and if you haven't already done so, give one to a family member, friend or neighbour or someone you know hasn't been to church for a while.

In a recent survey, it was stated that of all those who currently not attending church, 50% would accept an invitation to go to church if someone asked them.

Mike Dornan

Who are you inviting?

Choir sing for Simon



Organist & Musical Director Julie Bell and the Choir performed Fauré's Cantique de Jean Racine, to mark Simon's last Sunday as Rector. It had also been sung at his Institution at the church. More pictures inside.

HILLSBOROUGH PARISH CHURCH

Contact

Rector: To be appointed
Tel/Fax: 028 9268 8839
email: rector@hillsboroughparish.org.uk

Church Office

Opening times: weekday mornings
9:30am — 12:30pm
Tel/Fax: 028 9268 8839
email: sec@hillsboroughparish.org.uk

FLOWER ROTA

September -	4	Mrs L. Lockett
	11	TBC
	18	Mrs E. Walker
	25	Mrs E. Walker
October -	2	Mrs M. Williamson
	9	Mrs M. Williamson
	16	Mrs P. Polley
	23	Mrs P. Polley
	30	Mrs D. Jameson
November -	6	Mrs D. Jameson
	13	Mrs B. Howe
	20	Mrs B. Howe
	27	Mrs A. Bellentine

CHESS THE MUSICAL – ABBA HITS THE ISLAND!

Chess the Musical, written by Tim Rice and Abba's Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson will be performed by the talented young performers of Fusion Theatre at the Island Hall, Lagan Valley Island from September 7-10, 2011.

Fresh from their success at the award ceremonies of the Association of Irish Musical Societies in Killarney, and the National Operatic and Dramatic Association in Wales, the local youth theatre group has set itself yet another challenge.

They were nominated by AIMS as Best Chorus, and Director and Musical Director Ian Milford won Best Musical Director, after being nominated by NODA as Best Show in NI Region, and winning Best Youth Show in NI Region!.

Anne McCleary was proud to attend both awards ceremonies and says that her head is still

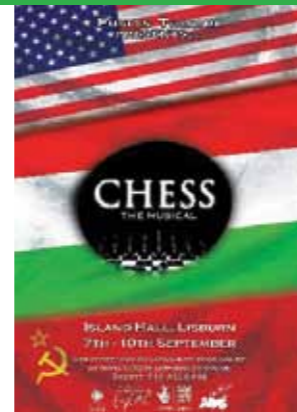
spinning from all the excitement. Despite any lingering headaches, she is however now immersed in preparations for CHESS.

She assures us that you don't need to know anything about the game of chess to enjoy the show!

Chess, or rather the World Chess Championships are merely the backdrop to the age-old eternal triangle of boy with girl, girl meets another boy and ...

The show has lots of familiar music, such as *I Know Him So Well*, which was made famous by Barbara Dickson and Elaine Paige, and Anthem, the song about patriotism and duty.

However Anne assures us



that there is lots of humour as well as drama, and in particular, lots of the superb choreography that has become the hallmark of choreographer Rebecca Leonard.

The production promises to be meaningful, emotional, tuneful and spectacular, and fundamentally true to the Fusion ethos of high artistic standards and inclusion.

While the group is heavily dependent on grant aid to continue its work, they also need to sell tickets, which are now on sale at the Island Centre Box Office (Tel 92509254; online www.tickets.lisburncity.gov.uk or in person.

Anne says: "Book early, book often!"

However Anne assures us

YOUR PREACHING HELD US ABOVE THE WATER AND ENCOURAGED US TO REACH OUT OUR HANDS

Address by Rector's Churchwarden Stuart Harvey to the church congregation on August 14, Simon's final Sunday as Rector

I didn't think that when Simon asked me to be his Warden that I would actually have to raise a posse and hijack a Sunday Service. I suppose it's a measure of the Rector's essential modesty that he didn't want us to make a fuss about his leaving.

The Select Vestry just wouldn't allow him to go without proper recognition. The number of people in church this morning and your full-voiced participation in this special service backs that up.

Today has seen the entire Richardson family in action. In a generation where some minister's wives keep their distance, Moyra and the children have been intimately involved in parish and village life. I was going to say that God gave us a two-for-the-price-of-one deal at St Malachy's but, in fact, he gave us a four-for-one deal. We have been privileged to share with this very young/modern/busy family where the kids go to the local school, and are actively involved in the life of the church.

I am sure that you all have your own memories of the children as we've watched them grow up here, but two of mine are:

Listening to Erin act, sing and really nail the part of Mary in the Nativity

Watching the strain on Boy Scout Paddy as he attempted to stand still for the two-minute silence at the annual Remembrance Parade

I sometimes couldn't wait to see what they would be wearing to church as they pushed the limits of Church of Ireland fashion. Oh, and how we shared the children's frustration

as Dad ignored the raised hands when they tried to answer the questions during every Children's Talk.

Erin and Paddy we will really miss you here but we wish you a happy time at your new church and school in Hollywood.

I sometimes joke with Moyra that if I am to be known as the Rector's Warden then she should be known as the Rector's Wife. She's OK with that as long as the definition is broad enough to include Working Mum, Counsellor, Worship Leader, English Teacher, House Group Leader, member of book club and genuine friend to many people.

Oh yes, and Hillsborough's only bespoke button jeweller.

About a week ago I asked a bunch of people in the church to give me a word each for Moyra and Simon (just one word) that would sum up the person as they knew them.

Some of the words that I received for Moyra were: True; Bohemian; Passionate; Listening; Open and – strangely – Andrex (I think that means soft AND strong). Moyra, we will really miss you. You always have the loudest laugh in the room. Your deep and profound Christian faith means that you are genuinely interested in people whatever their age and whatever their situation. You opened your home and your heart to us here. The community in Hollywood is very fortunate to be getting you.

I also received a list of words for Simon but, unfortunately, many of them can't be repeated at a family service. Honourable; Real; Faithful; Genuine; Life-Changing are all words that I've been given by people who are sitting in this church today. Humble is one that I'd add to that.

I asked Simon a while back about what he felt his greatest achievement had been at Hillsborough. He said that the calling of Colin Darling/Graham Spence/Richard Treacy and Julie Bell from St Malachy's to Ministry and his part in mentoring them had been a high point of his time here.

Relevant was another word. We have benefited from a vicar who grew-up with Facebook as well as The Book. His interest in the modern world informs his theology and helps him to bring the Bible to life.

And I believe that it is your exceptional ability as a communicator from the pulpit that is perhaps the single thing that we will miss the most.

Simon – as individuals – where ever we were along the path to saying that "yes" to Jesus – whatever our doubts or failings - your preaching always held us above the water and encouraged us to reach out our hands.

You have an honesty that regularly brings you (and many of us) to tears. Sometimes when you talk about the scriptures I feel like a child again – hearing a gospel story for the first time in all its wonder and mystery and power.

It feels like you are going way too early but as you leave us to become a curate in Hollywood and study for your PhD we are more open as a congregation - to new ideas, to new people and to the calling of God's Spirit here and now.

And so all of us in St Malachy's thank you for all that you have given us as an individual and as a family and we wish you blessings, many blessings, on your new life in Hollywood.



Friends and well-wishers joined Simon, Moyra, Erin and Paddy Richardson for tea and tray bakes in the Downshire Centre after Morning Prayer on Sunday 14 August. The refreshments were kindly provided and served by members of the Mothers Union.



Simon and Moyra Richardson with their children Erin and Paddy

