

# CONTACT

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## The Rector's Letter

I hope you managed to have a good summer break this year.

Well, it's great to be back and already we're into what looks like a very engaging autumn programme and yes indeed, it's that time of year again! The autumn leaves have started to fall, the evenings are becoming cooler and darker and the farmers are working hard to finish gathering in the remainder of this year's crops before sowing again. We have much to be thankful for as we prepare to celebrate at our Harvest Thanksgiving Services.

We indeed continue to give thanks to God for more and more people coming to church. We have felt God shaping us, shaping our relationships and shaping our future. The strong friendly community feeling which characterises All Saints' Parish Church has intensified. We continue to cement real and lasting relationships amongst us and are really experiencing what it is to be the 'church' - the people. Our regular worship experience has become more vibrant and relaxed. We continue to sow the seed of God's word and continue to see the fruit which it is bearing both in people's lives and also in numbers attending various organisations right throughout the church family. I am filled with gratitude, not only to see all this take place, but also for the hard work and dedication of so many people throughout the church family that makes it all possible. For all of these strengths and opportunities we give thanks to God.

The Harvest Weekend begins with the decoration of the church on Friday, 7th October, then on Saturday 8th we will be having a Square Dance in the Parish Hall which indeed promises to be a fun evening.

Harvest Services begin on Sunday 9th with our own choir leading worship at the Morning Service and the Reverend Brian Martin from Newtownbreda Parish Church preaching. The evening will again see our choir leading the praise and the Reverend Tom Keightley from Belvoir Parish Church will preach. On Monday 10th at our Evening Service we will have Glengormley Youth Methodist Choir and the Reverend Jack Moore from Antrim Methodist Church will be the preacher. Please do invite and bring along family and friends to what will be a very worthwhile weekend.

Our Harvest Collection this year will go towards the redecoration of our church which will include plastering some walls and painting of the whole interior of the church.

Again I hope that you will feel free to come along to our Harvest Weekend and reap the benefits of Harvest Thanksgiving in God's House.

God Bless,

## WEDDINGS IN ALL SAINTS

The marriage of Helen Robinson and Edward Campbell took place in All Saints on Friday 22nd July 2005.

The marriage of Gillian Humphries and Derek Proctor took place in All Saints on Friday 29th July 2005.

We wish Helen and Edward and Gillian and Derek every happiness in their future lives together.

### Liturgical Colours

*Our church interior has been enhanced recently with the addition of pulpit falls, bookmarks and Communion Table runners in the seasonal colours of the church year.*

*The colours in use are WHITE which is associated with purity, RED with blood and fire, PURPLE with dignity and GREEN with growth.*

*WHITE is used on the major festivals – Christmas and Easter and may also be used at marriage, baptism and confirmation.*

*RED is used at Pentecost/ Whitsuntide and is symbolic of the tongues of fire which descended on the Day of Pentecost. (Acts 2)  
Red is also used at Saints' Days as a reminder of their bloodshed.*

*PURPLE is the colour associated with Advent and Lent, times of fasting, penitence and preparation. It is also used at funerals.*

*GREEN is used during the long period of Trinity and symbolises the three in one as illustrated in the shamrock.*

*The colours have been greatly admired and much interest taken in their seasonal interpretation. So great has been the interest that some parishioners have chosen to fund a set as their gift to the church. The Communion Table runners have been paid for from the sponsorship money raised by the Rector and the Relay Team from the Church which took part in The Belfast Marathon back in May.*

*We look forward to next year when it is planned to redecorate the Church interior and to include these colourful and meaningful accessories in the rededication service.*



May the  
peoples praise you,  
O God, may all the  
peoples praise you.  
The land has yielded  
its harvest; and  
God, our God has  
blessed us.

Psalm 67:6

## Autumn

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run.*  
John Keats

*Autumn is the mellower season, what we lose in flowers, we more than gain in  
fruit.*  
Samuel Butler

*For man, autumn is a time of harvest, of gathering together. For nature, it is a  
time of sowing, of scattering abroad.*

*No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace, As I have seen in one Autumnal  
face.*  
John Donne

*Once more the liberal year laughs out.  
O'er richer stores than gems or gold,  
Once more with harvest song and shout  
Is nature's boldest triumph told.*

## Something to think about

Do something bad and regret it  
Do something good and forget it.

Respect cannot be learned, purchased or acquired-  
It can only be earned.

When you get to your wit's end,  
You'll find God there.

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and THE  
BACK OF THE CHURCH!

We are called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges!

The task ahead of us is never as great as the POWER behind us.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever!

We teach some by what we say.  
We teach more by what we do.  
We teach most by what we are.

No one can predict the height you can soar.  
Even you will not know until you spread your wings.

Treat everyone with politeness, even those who are rude to you -  
Not because they are nice, but because you are.

## The Heavens declare the Glory of God

When we look around, filled with wonder at the beauty of our world, our thoughts invariably return to the creation story in Genesis. So also on a moonlit night when the stars are shining in all their glory, we might find ourselves reflecting on Psalm 19 – "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth His Handiwork."

In the 1st Chapter of Genesis, we read that on the fourth day God put lights in the sky to separate night from day and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years. God made two lights, the greater to rule by day and the lesser to rule by night. The lesser light, the moon, is one of nature's most beautiful and romanticised creations and has inspired many compositions in words and music. Everyone, no doubt, has heard of The Moonlight Sonata, Moonlight Serenade, Moon River etc.

The most amazing feature of the sun, moon and stars is their orderly place in the heavens. Scientists can predict eclipses of the sun and moon hundreds of years in advance and every month without fail we have a new moon, first quarter, full moon and last quarter.

Hundreds of years ago Native Americans of the Northern and Eastern United States kept track of the seasons by giving names to each recurring full moon. These names may vary among different tribes. Below is an example of such names:

January	Long Night Moon
February	Snow Moon
March	Lenten Moon or Pascal Moon
April	Grass Moon or Egg Moon
May	Planting Moon or Milking Moon
June	Rose Moon or Flower Moon
July	Thunder Moon or Hay Moon
August	Green Corn Moon or Grain Moon
September	Harvest Moon
October	Hunters' Moon
November	Frosty Moon
December	Yule Moon

The Moon Cycle repeats itself every 29.5 days which is the time taken for the moon to orbit the earth and is known as a Lunar Month. This means that every 2 to 3 years a month can have two full moons. In modern folklore the second full moon of a Calendar month is often called "A Blue Moon". So now when someone says "Once in a Blue Moon", they are talking of an infrequent or rare event. The next "Blue Moon" will be in June 2007.

*When I admire the wonder of a sunset or the beauty of the moon,  
My soul expands in worship of the Creator.  
Mahatma Gandhi (1869 – 1948)*