

CONTACT MAGAZINE
ALL SAINTS' PARISH CHURCH
TULLYLISH



WINTER 2015

THE BIG FISHERMAN

It is interesting to note the different personalities of the men Jesus called to be His followers, “**THE 12 DISCIPLES**”. All of them played a significant part in the earthly life of Jesus and many of them became missionaries who taught and preached the Gospel as Jesus commanded them on the day of His Ascension.

Mark Ch. 16 “GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO ALL CREATION”. Peter not only obeyed this command but suffered, was imprisoned and gave his life for Jesus.

Yet these were men with weaknesses as well as strengths and Jesus knew that. Peter denied Him, Judas betrayed Him, Thomas doubted Him and Matthew was a tax collector, a profession not noted for its honesty.

The first few chapters of the Acts of the Apostles gives us an entirely different picture of Peter. He has a prominent part now, encouraging his fellow disciples.

On the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came with all its glory, it was Peter who stood up, addressed the crowd and testified for Jesus and the Gospel. He continued with believers in fellowship, prayer and the breaking of bread.

What a transformation - The Big Fisherman who denied his Master had now, with the power of the Holy Spirit become a Fisher of Men.

Living proof that JESUS SEES US NOT AS WHAT WE WERE BUT AS WHAT WE MAY BECOME.



Mission Breakfast takes place in Seagoe

Saturday 29 November 2014. Seagoe Parish hosted about 140 of us for a Mission Breakfast, which was the last of 4 such events for leaders and mission teams throughout the diocese. Bishop Ken Clarke, Tash Creaney (24–7 Prayer) and Annette McGrath (Diocesan Communications Officer) presented a mixture of inspiration, ideas and resources and we heard from the floor of some parish mission initiatives planned for 2015.

It has always been the intention that Mission 2015 will happen at the level of our churches and communities and the Mission Breakfasts were the penultimate diocesan event of 2014. ‘For Him’ is the message in the parishes as we prepare during 2014 and is now highly visible on banners in church buildings and halls throughout the diocese. On 1 January 2015 these will be replaced by external banners proclaiming that we ‘For You’.

In May 2013, Bishop Harold gathered together more than 800 Select Vestry members in four different venues, he presented 3 pictures of how he would like the diocese to be transformed in the run-up to and throughout Mission 2015.

Firstly, he said that he wanted us to be “turned inside–out,” meaning that, together, we should face outwards, rather than being consumed by our own parochial needs and preoccupations. Secondly, he urged parishes to begin to see everything through a “missional filter” – questioning all our activities, our use of money, our worship and welcome. Thirdly, the Bishop issued a challenge to the diocese to move from plateau to growth and, indeed, to believe that growth was possible. He encouraged the select vestries to lead by example and to tend the ground, creating the right environment for growth. “Let’s embrace the Year of Mission,” he said, “and allow God to transform us so that we are missional all the time and become places of transformation for others.”

Adrian Walker

“Papa Panov’s Special Christmas”

What are you going to do differently this Christmas? Are you challenged to seize the true meaning of ‘Christ’mas? This compassionate and emotive story by Leo Tolstoy is so appropriate for this time of the year and teaches us a very strong religious message. Open your bible at Mark Chap 25: Verse 31- 40 to read at the end of this story. Make yourself a cup of tea or coffee, find a comfortable spot and be touched by this moving and compelling story as it begins.....

It was Christmas Eve and although it was still afternoon, lights had begun to appear in the shops and houses of the little Russian village, for the short winter day was nearly over. Excited children scurried indoors and now only muffled sounds of chatter and laughter escaped from closed shutters.

Old Papa Panov, the village shoemaker, stepped outside his shop to take one last look around. The sounds of happiness, the bright lights and the faint but delicious smells of Christmas cooking reminded him of past Christmas times when his wife had still been alive and his own children little. Now they had gone. His usually cheerful face, with the little laughter wrinkles behind the round steel spectacles, looked sad now. But he went back indoors with a firm step, put up the shutters and set a pot of coffee to heat on the charcoal stove. Then, with a sigh, he settled in his big armchair.

Papa Panov did not often read, but tonight he pulled down the big old family Bible and, slowly tracing the lines with one forefinger, he read again the Christmas story. He read how Mary and Joseph, tired by their journey to Bethlehem, found no room for them at the inn, so that Mary's little baby was born in the cowshed. "Oh, dear, oh, dear!" exclaimed Papa Panov, "if only they had come here! I would have given them my bed and I could have covered the baby with my patchwork quilt to keep him warm."

He read on about the Wise Men who had come to see the baby Jesus, bringing him splendid gifts. Papa Panov's face fell. "I have no gift that I could give him," he thought sadly. Then his face brightened. He put down the Bible, got up and stretched his long arms to the shelf high up in his little room. He took down a small, dusty box and opened it. Inside was a perfect pair of tiny leather shoes. Papa Panov smiled with satisfaction.

Yes, they were as good as he had remembered the best shoes he had ever made. "I should give him those," he decided, as he gently put them away and sat down again.

He was feeling tired now, and the further he read the sleepier he became. The print began to dance before his eyes so that he closed them, just for a minute. In no time at all Papa Panov was fast asleep. And as he slept, he dreamed. He dreamed that someone was in his room and he knew at once, as one does in dreams, who the person was. It was Jesus. "You have been wishing that you could see me, Papa Panov." Jesus said kindly, "then look for me tomorrow. It will be Christmas Day and I will visit you. But look carefully, for I shall not tell you who I am."

When at last Papa Panov awoke, the bells were ringing out and a thin light was filtering through the shutters. "Bless my soul!" said Papa Panov. "It's Christmas Day!" He stood up and stretched himself for he was rather stiff. Then his face filled with happiness as he remembered his dream. This would be a very special Christmas after all, for Jesus was coming to visit him. How would he look? Would he be a little baby, as at that first Christmas? Would he be a grown man, a carpenter, or the great King that he is, God's Son? He must watch carefully the whole day through so that he recognised him however he came.

Papa Panov put on a special pot of coffee for his Christmas breakfast, took down the shutters and looked out of the window. The street was deserted, no one was stirring yet. No one, except the road sweeper. He looked as miserable and dirty as ever and well he might! Whoever wanted to work on Christmas Day - and in the raw cold and bitter freezing mist of such a morning? Papa Panov opened the shop door, letting in a thin stream of cold air. "Come in!" he shouted across the street cheerily. "Come in and have some hot coffee to keep out the cold!"

The sweeper looked up, scarcely able to believe his ears. He was only too glad to put down his broom and come into the warm room. His old clothes steamed gently in the heat of the stove and he clasped both red hands round the comforting warm mug as he drank. Papa Panov watched him with satisfaction, but every now and then his eyes strayed to the window. It would never do to miss his special visitor. "Expecting someone?" the sweeper asked at last. So Papa Panov told him about his dream.

"Well, I hope he comes," the sweeper said, "You've given me a bit of Christmas cheer I never expected to have. I'd say you deserve to have your dream come true." And he actually smiled. When he had gone, Papa Panov put on cabbage soup for his dinner and then went to the door again, scanning the street.

He saw no one. But he was mistaken. Someone was coming, the girl walked so slowly and quietly, hugging the walls of shops and houses, that it was a while before he noticed her. She looked very tired and she was carrying something. As she drew nearer he could see that it was a baby, wrapped in a thin shawl. There was such sadness in her face and in the pinched little face of the baby, that Papa Panov's heart went out to them.

"Won't you come in?" he called, stepping outside to meet them. "You both need to warm by the fire and a rest." The young mother let him shepherd her indoors and to the comfort of the armchair. She gave a big sigh of relief. "I'll warm some milk for the baby," Papa Panov said, "I've had children of my own- I can feed her for you." He took the milk from the stove and carefully fed the baby from a spoon, warming her tiny feet by the stove at the same time.

"She needs shoes," the cobbler said. But the girl replied, "I can't afford shoes, I've got no husband to bring home money. I'm on my way to the next village to get work." Sudden thoughts flashed through Papa Panov's mind. He remembered the little shoes he had looked at last night. But he had been keeping those for Jesus. He looked again at the cold little feet and made up his mind.

Try these on her," he said, handing the baby and the shoes to the mother. The beautiful little shoes were a perfect fit. The girl smiled happily and the baby gurgled with pleasure. "You have been so kind to us," the girl said, when she got up with her baby to go. "May all your Christmas wishes come true!"

But Papa Panov was beginning to wonder if his very special Christmas wish would come true. Perhaps he had missed his visitor? He looked anxiously up and down the street. There were plenty of people about but they were all faces that he recognised. There were neighbours going to call on their families. They nodded and smiled and wished him Happy Christmas! There were beggars too - and Papa Panov hurried indoors to fetch them hot soup and a generous hunk of bread, hurrying out again in case he missed the Important Stranger.

All too soon the winter dusk fell. When Papa Panov next went to the door and strained his eyes, he could no longer make out the passers-by. Most were home and indoors by now anyway. He walked slowly back into his room at last, put up the shutters, and sat down wearily in his armchair. So it had been just a dream after all. Jesus had not come. Then all at once he knew that he was no longer alone in the room.

This was not a dream for he was wide awake. At first he seemed to see before his eyes the long stream of people who had come to him that day. He saw again the old road sweeper, the young mother and her baby, and the beggars he had fed. As they passed, each whispered, "Didn't you see me, Papa Panov?" "Who are you?" he called out, bewildered. Then another voice answered him. It was the voice from his dream - the voice of Jesus.

"I was hungry and you fed me," he said. "I was naked and you clothed me. I was cold and you warmed me. I came to you today in every one of those you helped and welcomed."

Then all was quiet and still. All that was to be heard was the sound of the big clock ticking. A great peace and happiness seemed to fill the room, overflowing Papa Panov's heart until he wanted to burst out singing and laughing and dancing with joy. "So he did come after all!" was all that he said.

And the moral of the story? Read what it says in Matthew Chap 25:Verse 31-40: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.....'

Adrian Walker





Services of Covenant and Commitment

Sunday 4 January 2015 will be Covenant Sunday in the Diocese of Down and Dromore and that makes it a very special day indeed.

It's a day when we want you to shake off the January blues, join with your church family in worship and give yourself fully to God and his purposes.

That's a good thing to do at any time, but it's particularly significant at the beginning of a new year, and especially this year of Mission 2015.

So what should you expect when you come to church on

4 January?

We will be making covenant with God firstly by saying together a wonderful prayer that our brothers and sisters in Methodism use annually.

Secondly, with specific reference to the Year of Mission, we'll commit ourselves to playing our part using the words below:

'In this Year of Mission 2015, I willingly take my place within the welcoming, worshipping and witnessing life of this church as we commit to reaching beyond our walls with the good news of Jesus Christ.'

These words will be printed on a small card that you can sign and date and take away with you. All of this will take place within the context of your normal Sunday worship but shouldn't mean that the Sunday lunch will be overdone!

We hope that you will make every effort to be in church on 4 January. It's our prayer that as you entrust yourself to God and his purposes you and your parish will experience much joy and fruitfulness.

Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own but yours. Your will, not mine, be done in all things, wherever you may place me, In all that I do, and all that I may endure; When there is work for me and when there is none; When I am troubled and when I am at peace.

Your will be done When I am valued and when I am disregarded; When I find fulfilment and when it is lacking; When I have things and when I have nothing.

I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose.

Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are mine and I am yours. May it be so for ever. Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven.

Amen

HOLY BAPTISM

2nd November Theo
Son of Christopher and Roberta Allen

16th November Ella Grace
Daughter of Thomas and Abigail Vint

Suffer the little Children to come unto Me for of such is the Kingdom of God”

DEATHS

22nd November William McCart, 6 Locard Park, Tullylish, Gilford

4th December Elizabeth Jones, Lowtown Road, Waringstown

11th December David Moffett, 28 Banbridge Road, Gilford

“Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted”

CARING THOUGHTS

We are aware that many in our Church Family are ill, housebound, lonely and dependent on carers. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time, especially those who are in hospital. We pray you will know the presence of the Lord and find peace and healing in **HIS PRESENCE**.

For those who have lost loved ones during the year we ask God's special grace.

If you know of anyone ill or in hospital please contact William Robinson 38831343 or Noeleen Wilson 38831969.

A PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH DURING THE VACANCY

Almighty God, the giver of every good gift, look graciously, we beseech you, on our Church. And so guide with your heavenly wisdom the minds of those to whom it is committed the choice of a Minister for this parish. That we may receive a faithful pastor who will feed your flock according to your will, and make ready a people acceptable unto you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year
Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown
And he replied:

Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God,
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.

We wish all in our Church Family a Happy and Blessed New Year.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

On behalf of the Salvation Army I would like once again to thank the parishioners of All Saints' who contributed to this appeal.

The gifts were distributed at a wonderful party which the children thoroughly enjoyed on Christmas Eve.

Annie Burrell

URBAN SAINTS

So we finished another successful year of Urban Saints with our annual Christmas fancy dress party and this year the theme was the famous Frozen! We all once again had a great time, playing games singing songs and completing our food challenge which this year was a giant ice cream sundae. God has really blessed our year with a lot of fun, new members and great relationships being built, and we thank him for that! We truly are a family at Tullylish Urban Saints. So as always if anyone from P7 upwards wants to join us on a Sunday night from 7-9pm they would be made more than welcome in the New Year!

Chloe Moffatt

GIRLS' BRIGADE

In October we held a 'Pink Themed' when instead of wearing uniform the girls dressed in pink outfits and afterwards donated £100 to Action Cancer.



Night' girls presented

We had our Annual Enrolment Service in November which was very well attended and the girls in the Company all took part by singing, reading and collecting the offering.

For our Christmas treats the Explorer Section had a fancy dress party while the Company Section went Christmas Shopping to Rushmere and ended the evening with a visit to McDonalds.

Deborah Mulligan

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

October- Living with Lucy

Our October meeting was Living with Lucy.

Stephanie Park spoke about her daughter Lucy who suffers from Progeria - Premature Aging Disease.

This is a rare genetic condition which has an incidence of 1 per 8 million live births and is rarely inherited.. There is no known cure but some of the symptoms are managed with anti cancer drugs.

Lucy will age at 8 times faster than others and her life expectancy is 13 years.

November - Habitat for Humanity

Caroline Kirkwood spoke of the work of Habitat Humanity. Every minute throughout the world 20 people die from conditions related to poor housing and Habit for Humanity NI are working with the vision to bring this statistic to zero. They help build renovate, and repair homes throughout 70 countries worldwide.

The average cost of a Habitat home in the developing world is £1235.00. Habitat not only work throughout the world but also work in NI and since 1994 have been the catalyst in breaking down barriers and building social cohesion across communities.

More than 20.00 volunteers from all backgrounds have worked alongside families in need to build 100 homes in 9 deprived communities in Belfast, Downpatrick and Omagh. Every 4 minutes . Habitat serves a family in need the result a simple, decent home to plan a better tomorrow.

December

We had our Christmas dinner in the Planter's Waringstown and we would extend our best thanks to Robert Mulligan for his excellent hospitality and care which made the night a very successful and enjoyable event. We were excellently entertained after the dinner by some very witty and enjoyable monologues by Mrs Joan Newell. Our President Rachel closed with prayer and gave a little gift to all present.

Valerie Walker

THE REVIVAL 1859

Very often in conversation a subject comes up which gives us food for thought. One such subject is the Revival 1859.

1859 proved to be a year of revival and Tullylish parish felt the power of the Holy Spirit which greatly increased church attendance. The curate of the parish at the time, the Reverend B F Bewley has written:-

“Hitherto ministers had considerable difficulty in persuading people to attend public worship: now the difficulty is to find room for the multitude who press forward both on Sundays and weekdays. The badness of the weather had absolutely no effect in diminishing their numbers. The communicants in the parish have been double within the last four months”

The necessity to build a new Church was part the result of an influx of workers to the local bleach green and spinning mills.

Since church attendance had increased due to a spiritual awakening, so the desire to build a new church was assured of a committed and motivated congregation.

C.M.S. IRELAND

CMS Ireland have hosted a few festive events at which staff, friends and supporters have enjoyed a time of fellowship.

It is good to hear all the latest news and to know what is happening both at home and overseas.

It is with mixed feeling that we note that our Mission Director Ronnie Briggs is returning to Kajjado in Kenya as a Mission Partner. Ronnie has been our Mission Director for the last 5 years, before which he served for many years both in Kenya and in CMS Office.

He and his wife Maggie have been wonderful ambassadors for Mission both at home and abroad.

We have all been blessed by Ronnie's leadership and we assure them both of our love and prayers as they begin a new chapter in serving CMS.

Our annual CMS Biblical Quiz is in circulation and hopefully will be supported.

Mission boxes are in the process of being credited.

Thank you for your prayerful support.

Isabel Whiteside

POSTAGE STAMPS

Please continue to leave these in Church or give to Betty Jones for Leprosy Mission or Isabel Whiteside for CMS.

GIFT AID

The church financial year draws to a close and the accounts for the year will close on Sunday 25th January 2015. After this date no further contributions can be recorded in 2014 accounts.

The claim for gift aid will then be made and if you have been signed up for gift aid but have ceased paying Income Tax during the 2014 year can you please let the Hon.Treasurer know so that no claim will be made.

If you are paying Income tax and have not signed up for GIFT Aid,I would respectfully ask that you would consider the same. For each £1.00 contributed by a taxpayer, the church can reclaim 20p from the Inland Revenue. For example:- If you gave £100 per year through the Freewill offering envelope scheme,the church would reclaim £20. In 2013 the amount recovered in Gift Aid was £7605.53 a big thank you to all who are signed up

In 2013 , the total cost to keep the church door open was £50.410.37, almost £1000 per week, and this was without having to pay a full time stipend. Therefore with Gift Aid every little helps.

If you wish to sign up to gift aid, please speak with the Churchwardens or Hon Treasurer.

Many thanks

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CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Looking back over the Christmas Season two events stand out; the Carol Service and the Sunday School Celebrations.

Thanks to our Organist Jonathan, Choir Mistress Jean, Choir Members and Readers the Carol Service was a lovely blend of traditional and modern music which set the scene for Christmas.

How lovely to have so many young people in the Junior Praise Group who gave us a special treat with their rendition of 'Rainbow Christmas'.

The young people from the Sunday School played their part in celebrating Christmas in their own way which added greatly to the meaningful service.

This is an opportunity to thank the Choir, Organist, Choir Mistress, the Sunday School young people and their Teachers for their work not only at Christmas but throughout the year.



SERVICES

Sunday 4th January

11.30 am Family Service - Dougie Barr

Sunday 11th January

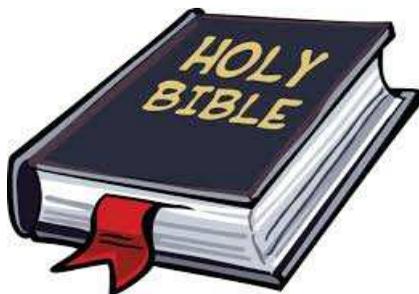
11.30 am Holy Communion - To be Announced

Sunday 18th January

11.30 am Morning Prayer - “

Sunday 25th January

11.30 am Service of the Word - “



Sunday 1st February

11.30 am Family Service

“

6.30 pm Healing Service - To be Announced

Sunday 8th February

11.30 am Holy Communion - “

Sunday 15th February

11.30 am Morning Prayer - “

Sunday 22nd February

11.30 am Service of the Word - “

SERVICES

Sunday 1st March

11.30 am Family Service - To Be Announced

6.30 pm Healing Service - “

Sunday 8th March

11.30 am Holy Communion - “

Sunday 15th March

11.30 am Morning Prayer - “

Sunday 22nd March

11.30 am Service of the Word - “

Sunday 29th March

11.30 am Palm Sunday - “

CRECHE

See Rota on Page 20

If the date you are allocated does not suit please contact:

Ray Coleman on 028 38881422 or mobile 07759494980

Are you finished with toys, books etc. (in good clean condition) for babies and pre-school children? If so would you like to donate them to our creche at Tullylish where they will be put to good use.

We are also appealing for volunteers to help out at crèche on Sunday mornings. If interested please contact Ray.

FLOWER ROTA

JANUARY

4th Mrs J Wilson
 11th Mrs J Wilson
 18th Mrs M McCracken
 25th Mrs D Mulligan

FEBRUARY

1st Harrison Family
 8th Mrs R Sinton
 15th Mrs D Acheson
 22nd Mrs B Orr

MARCH

1st Womens F/Ship
 8th Mrs K Alexander
 15th Mrs V Walker
 22nd Mrs E Hoey
 29th Mrs V Cochrane



CRECHE

JANUARY

4th Family Service
 11th Family Communion
 18th A Mulligan R Coleman 25th M
 McCracken Y Davison

FEBRUARY

1st Family Service
 8th L Moffatt J Ruddock
 15th I Grossman R Sinton
 22nd L Humphries E Vint

MARCH

1st Family Service
 8th C Moffatt L Taylor
 15th R Coleman K Aughey
 22nd S Walker McCracken
 29th Y Davison A Mulligan

