

September 2021

Dear friend

There's a lavender plant outside my office window at the Church Hall. During the past few days, a multitude of bees have been drawn to the lavender, attracted by the aroma and bright purple colour, they flitted from flower to flower collecting nectar.

Focussing on the lavender plant was the starting point of a journey down memory lane. I thought of the garden at home as I was growing up, and among other things my mum's gladioli. Then my thoughts moved to the curatage in Dromore and the yellow potentilla, planted a short distance from my study window, which often was bathed in sunshine.

**A Journey Down
Memory Lane!**

The journey down memory lane continued to the garden at Carrowdore and Moira. Finally, my thoughts moved to the garden in Banbridge which includes the ruby rose bush we were given two years ago on our fortieth wedding anniversary, as well as plants Joan brought from her Mum and Dad's garden, which evoke particular memories for her.

All sorts of things can cause us to go down memory lane, and all of us have memories that are different and unique. Some of them are bright and beautiful, pleasant and positive, and others are not. Whatever our memories or our experiences, may we celebrate the good things and ask God to bring healing to our disappointments and to our difficult memories.

As I travelled down memory lane thinking about the flowers, plants and shrubs, I thought of the gardens where they were planted. Some of them had been established many years ago and others were more recent. No matter when they were established, gardens need ongoing care and nurture.

**Care And
Nurture!**

Like gardens, our spiritual lives need care and nurture. Sometimes we do that well, but sometimes they slip down our list of priorities. We've come through so much during the past eighteen months and as we begin a new season it's a good time to do what gardeners do at this time of the year.

Autumn is a time to do some tidying up in the garden, a time for weeding because weeding in the autumn will pay dividends in the future, a time for cutting back and pruning to encourage growth and fruitfulness, a time for preparing the soil for the new season, a time for planting pots for winter blooms, a time to plant spring bulbs, to prepare and look forward to the future.

As we begin a new season, please think and pray about the tidying up that's necessary in our spiritual lives, of recognising the importance of knowing a living relationship with God, through faith in Christ as our Saviour, of connecting and reconnecting with God, of knowing the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Ask God to help you perceive and know the things that you should weed from your life and ask him to help you as you do the weeding. Think and pray about the cutting back and pruning that's necessary to encourage and promote growth and fruitfulness. Prepare the soil for this new season as you read the Bible, pray, and worship the Lord, and be intentional in planting the things that will produce a rich spiritual harvest.

**Connecting And
Reconnecting
With God!**

In John 15:1 Jesus says, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.' A few verses later, Jesus refers to His followers as the branches of the vine and speaks about the importance of bearing fruit, much fruit. Let's place ourselves fully and wholeheartedly in the hands of 'The Gardener', asking him to work in our lives so that we produce a rich spiritual harvest, that we bear much fruit.

Wishing you every blessing

Roderic

Please see overleaf & the other enclosures for information about Church Services, Fun Afternoon & BBQ, and more ...

Anna Williams (New Curate)

We are looking forward to welcoming the Revd Anna Williams as our new curate this month. Anna will be ordained presbyter at a service in Down Cathedral on Sunday 5th September at 4.00pm. Attendance at this service is by invitation only, but you can watch the Ordination Service online at <https://www.downcathedral.org/services>.

Anna was with us for almost two years as a Ministry Intern before going to the Church of Ireland Theological College, and has been a deacon intern in Ballybeen Parish during the past year. Please pray for Anna as she prepares to join the ministry team in the parish.

Join Us For Worship As A New Season Begins

As a new season begins, we'd love you to join us for worship. At the moment, in order to keep people as safe as possible, we will continue to observe 2 metres social distancing at the services. People attending services are asked to wear a face covering, unless exempt. Everyone is requested to hand-sanitise at the entrance and fill up designated pews/seats, starting at the front.

People attending services are requested to bring a piece of paper with their name, contact number, and the names of anyone from their household who attend the service with them.

Changes in Holy Trinity Sunday Service Times

Service times will change at Holy Trinity on Sunday 12th September. Both services will be in the Church.

Sundays

9.45am Service in Holy Trinity Church | 11.30am 'All-age' contemporary service in Holy Trinity Church

10.00am Service in St Patrick's Church | 10.00am 'All-age' contemporary service in St Patrick's Church Hall

Wednesdays

10.30am Morning Prayer in Holy Trinity Church

Our pattern of services will be kept under review, and further changes made when circumstances allow.

Sunday Space/School

Sunday Space will resume at Holy Trinity on Sunday 12th September. Children come to Church with their parents and then leave partway through the service for Sunday Space/School.

The 'All-age' contemporary service in St Patrick's Church Hall will continue for the time being.

Online Sunday Services

Our online Sunday services will continue to be available from 10.30am on the parish website (bchurch.co.uk), Facebook, YouTube, and the 'dial-in' number 028 4040 0345.

Prayer Walk As A New Season Begins

As a church family, we want to be faithful in prayer, always looking to the Lord and His strength, and seeking His face always (1 Chronicles 16:11). At the beginning of this new term, we're setting time aside to pray together for our local community and for the mission and ministry of our Church.

On Sunday 19th September at 3.30pm, you're invited to join us on a Prayer Walk. Beginning at Holy Trinity at 3.30pm, we'll walk to St Patrick's, stopping at various points to pray along the way. After praying at St Patrick's, we'll walk to the bottom of the town, before returning to Holy Trinity for tea and coffee.

If you aren't able to do the whole walk, you're welcome to join us at any point along the way! Having left Holy Trinity shortly after 3.30pm, we'll be at St Patrick's at approx. 4.30pm; and at the bottom of the town for approx. 5.15pm, with tea and coffee outside Holy Trinity at around 5.30pm. We'd love to have you join us for all or part of our Prayer Walk, as we seek God, pray for His Kingdom to come, and enjoy fellowship together as His people.

Pastoral Care and Support

Please contact me or the Parish Office (028 4062 2744/info@bchurch.co.uk) if you, or someone you know, need help or support, or phone me (028 4062 2612 or 07933096720) if you would like to talk or would like someone to pray with you.

(All our services and activities will be subject to Covid 19 regulations and guidelines.)