

# PUZZLE CORNER

## Sudoku

4				6		5	7	
	8	7	3				4	9
5				4	7		3	1
7				2			9	
			9		8			
	9			3				2
9	7		6	1				3
6	1				4	9	2	
	5	2		9				6

Each letter in this puzzle is represented by a number 1-26. Can you crack the code and solve the crossword? Every letter of the alphabet is used at least once. Three letters are already in place to get you started.

If you really need help, the solution is shown on Page 9

A  
B  
C  
D  
E  
F  
G  
H  
I  
J  
K  
L  
M  
N  
O  
P  
Q  
R  
S  
T  
U  
V  
W  
X  
Y  
Z

10	20	26	18	9		19	11	16	1	14	26	17
20		4		1		13		26		14		1
1	4	23	11	21	25	6		15	21	11	4	23
11		5		18		7		26		4		25
15	8	26	15	25		20	4	2	5	11	12	1
6		17				14		14				8
	15	21	26	17	12		7	1	26	12	17	
3				13		2				1		1
1	4	23	13	8	1	5		11	17	17	1	24
23		14		25		13		15		1		1
11	4	11	22	1		17	13	15	21	5	20	4
5		22		5		22		1		26		23
21	5	11	23	1	22	1		21	11	18	26	21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

# PASSWORDS



THE MAGAZINE FOR ST MARY MAGDALENE PARISH  
DONEGALL PASS

**Clergy:** In case of emergency, contact Archdeacon Barry Forde,  
tel: 02890 828872 mob: 07824 643113

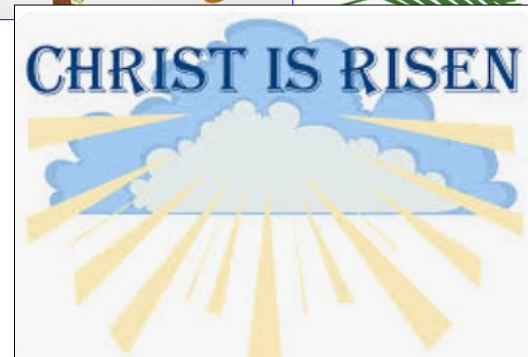
**Family Worker:** Mrs Alison Shaw tel: 07483884507 (Mon, Wed, Fri)

[www.st-marymagdalene.org.uk](http://www.st-marymagdalene.org.uk)



Charity No: XN69978

# EASTER 2023



Easter 2023



# SERVICES



SERVICES	CHURCH/CLERGY
<b>2nd April— Palm Sunday</b> 11.30 am Holy Communion	Rev Robin Moore
<b>6th April—Maundy Thursday</b> 7.30 pm Holy Communion	At St Simon's
<b>7th April—Good Friday Tenebrae</b> 7.30 pm—Good Friday Reflection	At St Aidan's
<b>9th April—Easter Day</b> (united service) 11.30 am Holy Communion	Ven Barry Forde
<b>16th April</b> 11.30 am Holy Communion	Rev Robin Moore
<b>23rd April</b> 11.30 am Morning Prayer	Ven Barry Forde
<b>30th April</b> Due to the annual Belfast Marathon, there will not be a church service on this date.	—



*Our friends from St Aidan's and St Simon's will join with us on Easter Day to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.*

### SERVICES AT ST AIDAN'S AND ST SIMON'S PARISHES:

**TRANSPORT:** Transport to services in St Aidan's and St Simon's will be provided when we are having joint services. Parishioners are asked to meet outside St Mary Magdalene 20 minutes before the service time.(i.e. 11.10 am. on Sunday mornings and 7.10 pm when there is an evening service). We are grateful to those who have offered to provide transport.

**FREE WILL OFFERING:** Please bring your FWO envelope to services in the other parishes. A collection plate will be provided at the entrance to church and will be marked with each parish name.



## Flower Rota ~ April-June



2nd Apr	.....	Palm Sunday
9th Apr	.....	Mrs R Buchanan—in memory of loved ones
16th Apr	.....	Mrs D McDowell—in memory of loved ones
23rd Apr	.....	Vacant
30th Apr	.....	Vacant
7th May	.....	Mrs L Garstang—in memory of Aunt Lily
14th May	.....	Vacant
21st May	.....	Mr & Mrs R Luney
28th May	.....	Mrs L Garstang—in memory of my dear friend Betty
4th Jun	.....	Mr & Mrs N Stephenson
11th Jun	.....	Mrs F Kelly—in memory of her mother & birthday memories of
18th Jun	.....	Miss J Stewart
25th Jun	.....	Mrs S Davey—in memory of her father



### Christian Burial



John Edward Ussher  
49 Lindsay Street  
2nd March 2023 (died 21st February 2023)

We offer our deepest sympathies to John and the entire family circle

**Nunc Dimittis**



for our younger readers—

How pretty  
can you make  
these Easter  
Eggs?

Have a go at  
colouring  
them in



~ Prayer for healing ~



Dear Lord

We pray for all those in our parish who are ill, either in  
body or mind, and ask that they may find comfort in  
your healing presence.

We remember the Ussher family in the loss of John.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

From the Venerable Barry Forde . . .

Dear parishioner

The 19<sup>th</sup> century theologian and philosopher, Soren Kierkegaard, is attributed as having said “Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards”. That has the ring of truth to it doesn’t it? There are many things in life that we live through that only seem to make sense once we’ve had the time and distance to reflect upon them. In the immediacy of the moment all we can do is make the best decision we can with the wisdom and experience and knowledge open to us at the time. And oftentimes, we don’t even make the best decision at all! We muddle through, try our best, or sometimes barely try at all.

Holy Week is a week filled with moments ‘lived forwards’ that could only be understood with the benefit of hindsight. I’m quite sure the disciples were perplexed to find the colt tied up in the manner that Jesus said it would be. How could he have known? I’m sure when Jesus was riding into Jerusalem it was exhilarating to have crowds of people wave palms and cry ‘hosanna’. Yet I’m also pretty sure his disciples did not know what this truly meant at the time. I’d venture that even Jesus’ closest friends were shocked when he overturned tables in the temple. Peter sure didn’t understand why Jesus would want to wash his feet. All gathered in the upper room must have wondered what Jesus meant when he inferred one of them would betray him. They must have wondered where Judas had gone and what was he up to and even more confusing was when he returned to kiss Jesus on the cheek. In the moment I’m quite sure Peter was just protecting himself when he said he didn’t know Jesus, until he heard the cock crow three times. Then somehow, inexplicably, the crowds that cried ‘hosanna’ turned their chants to ‘crucify’ in choosing a convicted criminal to be set free instead of Jesus. Ultimately, frightened to death and scattered in fear, Jesus’ closest followers must have wondered what on earth they had been doing with the last few years of their lives when the man they followed ended up murdered on a cross. No-one was expecting that.

Yet all the while God was ahead of them. All the while, every twist and every turn would soon be made straight once an even more amazing ‘lived forward’ moment happened – when the man they watched die came back to life just three days later. Even then it took a while for the penny to drop, the scriptures opened up, and for their hearts to burn as Thomas’ doubts were eased, Peter’s guilt was wiped clean, and those same disciples were once again scattered, not in fear, but on mission to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth.

We all live life forwards, but God is constantly ahead of us. Not everything makes sense now, but every twist and turn is being worked out in God’s timing, not ours. All we have to do is to listen, to follow, and to grow in understanding along the way. We do not have all the answers in the here and now, but God is

in the here, the now, in what was, and in all that is to come. Whether it's in the personal moments of our lives, or whether it is as part of this journey we are on as a church, we are to live forwards, and God will help us make sense of it all. Along with St Aidan's and St Simon's we are learning to follow Jesus forward together. We don't have all the answers as to what the 'Inner South Belfast Mission Area' is to be, or to look like, or what it will become. We do not have all the pieces to the puzzle. Sometimes we will have doubts, sometimes we will have fears and not act the way Jesus wants us to. Yet God goes ahead, ready to show us His will, calm our fears, restore our faith, and lead us in His ways.

This Easter week, allow the journey of the disciples along a path they could not understand to help us walk along paths we do not fully understand. Following Jesus forward whatever the cost, because understood backwards, that first Easter week makes sense of all that we are, all that we are to do, and all we must become.

Join with us on the journey. On Maundy Thursday at St Simon's, Good Friday at St Aidan's (both 7.30pm) and on Easter Sunday at St Mary Magdalene at 11.30am. I look forward to travelling the road with you,

*God Bless  
Barry*

**ANNUAL GENERAL VESTRY MEETING**

Are you a member of the General Vestry? If so, then we issue a personal invitation to **YOU** to attend the Annual General Vestry meeting which will be held on **Sunday 23rd April** after the morning church service.

At this meeting, you will hear various reports from the Ven Barry Forde, the church treasurer and the wardens in relation to everything that goes on 'behind the doors' in keeping this magnificent church of St Mary Magdalene alive on Donegall Pass. You will also have the opportunity to vote for who you would like to represent you on the Select Vestry.

We're all human and sometimes we don't quite like or agree to what's going in the church, so why not take is opportunity to voice your opinion, or better still, agree to being proposed for the Select Vestry, where you can actually make a difference.

*Please think about it—your help and support is valued and needed.*

The Church of Ireland "Safeguarding Trust" Policy operates in this church. Panel Members are Archdeacon Barry Forde, Mr Cecil Dunwoody and Mr Peter Ainley. Notices to this effect have been placed in the church and halls.

**THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

*Don't judge someone's attitude until you've felt their pain.*



*Page 12 Word Code solution—no peeking!*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
E	B	D	M	R	Y	F	W	K	Q	A	G	O
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
L	S	V	N	C	J	U	T	Z	P	X	H	I

*Family worker  
update*

Wednesday Women's Group

Our last meeting for this term is on 5th April as we continue with our fitness and healthy eating programme. We will be off on 12th April and will recommence on 19th at 10.00 am. We hope to go walking during the next few months, weather permitting of course!



We meet from 10-12 noon each week and welcome any new members

Thursday Baby Cafe 9.30 - 10.30 am & Thursday Parent and Toddlers 11 - 12.15 pm

Both these groups will be off on the 13th and 20th of April and will recommence on Thursday 27th at 9.30 am for Baby Cafe and 11.00 am for Parent and Toddlers.

*Alison*



**The following article appeared on the Connor Diocesan Website regarding the appointment of the Rev Ross Mungavin**

The Rev Ross Mungavin, youth pastor at St James' Church, Gerrards Cross with Fulmer, Buckinghamshire, has been appointed Associate Minister for the South Belfast Inner Mission Area, Connor Diocese.

This is a new position. The Inner South Belfast Mission Area comprises the three parishes of St Aidan, St Mary Magdalene and St Simon with St Philip, all located in the Donegall Road/ Donegall Pass area of South Belfast. St Aidan and St Mary Magdalene are formally grouped, but over the last number of years, each of the parishes has been under the care of different clergy on a part-time basis.

The new Associate Minister will be supported and overseen by the Archdeacon of Belfast, the Ven Barry Forde, as Priest-in-Charge of the Mission Area

For Ross, this will be something of a homecoming.

The 32-year-old grew up in Jordanstown. He was baptised and confirmed in St John's Parish, Whitehouse, but came to faith through St Patrick's Parish, Jordanstown, where he attended youth ministry.

A past pupil of Belfast High School, Ross began a Degree in Law with Criminology at the University of Ulster, but later switched to the Open University, graduating with a Degree in English Literature in 2015.

He worked as a classroom assistant at Ashfield Girls' High School and in a daycare nursery in Ballyclare, before joining BCMS Crosslinks as a ministry apprentice where he served from 2011-2013, focusing on youth ministry and in particular summer camps.

Ross married Emma in 2011, and in 2013 they moved to St John's, Downshire Hill, in Hampstead, where Ross worked in youth and children's ministry for four years before he entered training for ordination at Oakhill College, North London.

Following ordination, in 2020

and in the midst of the Covid-19 lockdown, Ross was appointed youth pastor in St James', Gerrards Cross.

He and Emma have three boys, Ben aged eight, Alex aged six and three-year-old Tom. He said the family is looking forward to coming to Northern Ireland.

"When we moved to England it was always our plan to come home. We came to explore the working of churches and ordination training and were wondering where God wanted us to go next. We felt that should be back in Northern Ireland and South Belfast felt like the right place.

"We really are looking forward to coming and are excited to see what God wants us to do. It will be a challenging role, but I am looking forward to getting stuck in and to loving the people in the parishes."

Outside of church and his family, Ross enjoys rugby. He formerly played for Instonians when in Belfast, and for Saracens Amateurs in England. He still takes to the field occasionally, but admits these days he mostly watches the game.

Ross will take up his new role in mid-2023.



The Rev Ross Mungavin with his wife Emma and sons Ben, Alex and Tom

## COMMUNITY LOTTERY FUND

Rain! Rain! Rain! We seem to have had a lot of it recently. So much that the kitchen and ladies' toilets in the church hall have been flooded a number of times during the past six months. This was due not only to the rainfall but also because the chimney stack rendering has fallen off and the chimney brick has become detached from the wall leaving a gap where rain water seeps in. Temporary repairs have been carried out but nothing keeps the rain from falling!

We received an estimate of £10,000 to have the repairs carried out – money that we do not have. An application was made to the Community Lottery Fund and thankfully, we have been awarded £10,000 (the maximum amount of their grants) to help fund the repairs. The Select Vestry is very grateful to the CLF for this award. Of course, with building costs having increased since we received the estimate we need to find more funds. Running costs for the up-keep of the church and hall have increased just as much as every household in the parish. We ask you to continue to support our efforts to keep the church and halls in a reasonably good condition – no more flooding! During 2022 the monthly offerings to the Restoration Fund did not cover our repairs and insurance. However, we are grateful to everyone who supports the church both financially and by giving of their time during a time when costs are rising for everyone. Thank you for your support.

Please, if you can, support our fundraising events. Details will be in the magazine, on the notice board and web site.

*Thank  
you*

*The Select Vestry is indebted to Libby for her hard work in applying for this funding. We are lucky to have such a hard-working treasurer looking after our finances so expertly. Thank you Libby.*