

# NEW LIGHT

All Souls' Church Calendar

*February -April 2019*



Vincent Van Gogh, *Almond Blossom*, 1890



## WORDS FROM THE MINISTER

Since our last “New Light” we have welcomed and departed the Christmas Festive Season, which for us is a very busy period. It was wonderful to see so many new faces at all our events, where attendance was up on previous years.

On Wednesday 19th we held our annual LGBT Carol Service and it was wonderful to see such a high attendance. We are indebted to Gareth Johnson, organist for the evening. The evening was made extra special by the performance of Quire.

There was a great turn-out for our Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, with over 200 attending. The congregational singing was wonderful. Our gratitude is due to Rev. Trevor, director of music and to All Souls’ choir. We are all greatly delighted and amused by the Choir’s rendition of the “Cowboy Carol”.

What an absolutely wonderful night was had on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January as we commemorated Robbie Burns with our annual Burn’s Night supper. It just seems to get better every year, and the level of talent in our community is outstanding. We are already thinking about next year and how we can make it even better.

Once again, we marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day with our Holocaust Memorial Service on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January. A sincere thanks to all who took part and, in particular, Rev. Trevor Gillian and the All Soul’s Choir for their hard work with the music. We really appreciated the cellists Andrew and Cecily’s haunting rendition of the theme from *Schindler’s List*. The theme for the event was leaving home and I spoke about the rising tide of anti-Semitism throughout Europe. This is a terrible thing to contemplate and I pray that we can end it.

As with all Presbyterians the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian church acknowledges just two sacraments, baptism and communion. We take the view that we will never reject any child presented for baptism and our communion table is open to all. We are delighted with the number of couples seeking to have their children baptised in All Souls’. It is a great sign of growth and hope in our community. Equally it is wonderful to see the diversity of individuals and couples coming forward to partake of communion at all such services.

It was with sadness and yet a great sense of a life well lived that we said our final farewell to Peter Woods on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January. Peter’s legacy will live on in the influence that he had on his family and many friends. He passed on his love of nature and adventure to his children David, Kevin, Sheena, Andrew and Vera and

indeed continued with the next generation of grandchildren, Rosie, David, Aurora, Aaron, Rachel, Adam and Ryan, and even the great grandchildren Charlie and Austyn. Our thoughts and love are with Isobel and his family and friends.

Grateful thanks are due to those who recently made extra contributions to the income of the Church. Our annual costs have increased and there are also so many small jobs to be carried out in order to maintain the fabric of our buildings. We also want to improve our infrastructure so we can enhance services and events in both the church and the hall.

A number of people told me how much they enjoy my *Thought for The Day* slots on BBC Northern Ireland and in particular one where I suggest we discuss and debate with a certain level of mutual respect, which I have included in this issue.

*Rev. Chris*

### **TO PLAY GRACEFULLY WITH IDEAS**

Some time ago I was watching Stephen Fry on Youtube taking part in a debate in an American University. It was quite clear, at least to me, that he was genuinely disturbed with the tone and manner that some participants were adopting. By this I mean rudeness, personal abuse and interruptions. Fry quoted Oscar Wilde when Wilde suggested that one should “play gracefully with ideas”.

A very poetic intervention and a wise rallying call, asking us to apply a level of decency to our discourse. It has been suggested that our method of discussion has become toxic. Some would suggest this is because good TV debates are dependent on hostile and extreme reactions, pitching one hard liner against another. But it becomes nearly impossible to hear any ideas or to be able to make an informed opinion when all you are hearing are people trying to shout over each other. Maybe I am old-fashioned but I still think listening to those we fundamentally disagree with is the only way out of our toxic political or social present. Am I also old-fashioned to believe that faith in people is the basis of real progress and not the enemy of it? Whatever our view on a major social or political conundrum facing us there has to be compromise to arrive at a solution.

You only have to watch people defriend each other on Facebook because they disagree with some comment. I know social media is difficult to nuance language in the way we can over a coffee or a glass of wine but to judge a person on some simple disagreeable political or social comment is very sad indeed. There is more absolutism, in my opinion, in the secular world as there ever was in the religious world. It is really sad to watch some people when they are confronted by something they don't like take absolute umbrage. We just keep reciting our most hardline battle worn mantras as if we are deluding ourselves that we are making a difference. Could we all take a moment, take a breath, and approach each other gracefully with ideas. It is worth a try.

## All Souls' News and Activities

### Installation of Rev. Simon Henning

The installation of Rev. Simon Henning as minister of First church Rosemary Street, will take place at 3.30pm on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March. All are welcome to attend. We at All Souls wish Rev. Simon the very best in his new ministry.

### Special Services at All Souls church

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day in a service taken by Rev. Alister Bell.

Our Good Friday evening service will be on 19<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm.

The Easter Sunday communion service on 21<sup>st</sup> April will be at the usual time of 11.30am.

### Kids Club

Kids First Club will continue on the first Sunday of every month, so the dates for this period are February 3<sup>rd</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 7<sup>th</sup>

### Church Readers

Our list of readers needs augmenting, so if you would like to read in church occasionally please give/send your name to Isabella for inclusion in the next rota, beginning in February 2019.

### Book Club

The All Souls' book club meets about monthly. The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February** in the church meeting room at 7.30pm when the book being discussed will be *Erebus* by Michael Palin. All are welcome to join or simply to drop in from time to time. The following meeting will take place on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March** and the book discussed will be *Ordinary Thunderstorms* by William Boyd.

## **Sunday Coffee**

Every Sunday we enjoy tea, coffee and treats after our service, and it's a fun way to get together and stay in touch. If you feel you can contribute to this experience in any way, by baking or bringing goodies, by serving the drinks, or by tidying up afterwards, please put your name on the list on the noticeboard behind the coffee table. Another way to help is to contribute financially if baking is not your thing!

In an effort to play our part in cutting down on the use of single-use plastics, we have ceased using disposable coffee cups in the church and have reverted to using mugs. This involves a little more work clearing up every Sunday, so we would appreciate any offers of help.

## **Email Addresses**

By now most of you receive the church calendar by email, saving the church time and money. If you are still receiving a copy by post and you have an email address please send your contact details to [jevangelisti96@gmail.com](mailto:jevangelisti96@gmail.com) so that you can be added to the list, thank you.

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## **A Note on Pastoral Visits**

As minister of All Souls I am always aware that we have members of the congregation who are suffering illness and are unable to come to church or are in need of some pastoral care. However, it is important, if you are that person, or know of someone in need of a visit, that you bring this to my attention. I cannot intuit that someone needs my attention. In general, what happens is that people approach me in the church or contact me by telephone or email and advise me of their situation and need for pastoral care. My response is, if they are unable to make it to church, to visit them at home, but I also take the opportunity to meet people in my office at the rear of the church. Not a week goes by without several such meetings taking place. These are often related to pastoral matters but also deal with other issues including advice about help available through statutory bodies and even some welfare support. At general synod ministers are advised not to make cold calls to members of their congregations but to call by appointment only. Therefore, it is considered best practice for the person in need of a visit to contact the minister to make an appointment. To avoid any misunderstanding, I would gently advise those in need of a visit to contact me directly and I will happily oblige. Although the calendar always carries my contact details on the back page, I include them here also for your convenience – 07969059993 – [HUDSON351@btinternet.com](mailto:HUDSON351@btinternet.com)

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**SERVICES ARE AT 11.30 am UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN**

**FEBRUARY 2019**

- 03 Rev. Chris Hudson**
- 10 Rev. Chris Hudson**
- 17 Rev. Chris Hudson**
- 24 Rev. Chris Hudson**

**MARCH 2019**

- 03 To be announced**
- 10 Rev. Chris Hudson and Rev. Michael O'Sullivan**
- 17 Rev. Alister Bell**
- 24 Rev. Chris Hudson**
- 31 Rev. Chris Hudson – followed by church AGM**

**APRIL 2019**

- 07 Rev. Chris Hudson**
- 14 Rev. Chris Hudson**
- 19 Rev. Chris Hudson – Good Friday service 6.30pm**
- 21 Rev. Chris Hudson – EASTER SUNDAY**
- 28 To be announced**



## ROTA

### February 2019

- 03    Opening and Closing: Isabella Evangelisti  
      Reader: Isabella Evangelisti
- 10    Opening and Closing: Jim Jackson  
      Reader: Jim Jackson
- 17    Opening and Closing: Charles Stewart  
      Reader: Charles Stewart
- 24    Opening and Closing: Bryan Cooney  
      Reader: Anne Stewart

### March 2019

- 03    Opening and Closing: Niall Haldene  
      Reader: Niall Haldene
- 10    Opening and Closing: Ken Steele  
      Reader: Monica Burns
- 17    Opening and Closing: Jim Jackson  
      Reader: David Linton
- 24    Opening and Closing: Isabella Evangelisti  
      Reader: Roger Courtney
- 31    Opening and Closing: Charles Stewart  
      Reader: Sheena Lewis

### April 2019

- 07    Opening and Closing: Bryan Cooney  
      Reader: Errol Steele
- 14    Opening and Closing: Niall Haldene  
      Reader: Sue Warner
- 21    Opening and Closing: Ken Steele  
      Reader: Jim Jackson
- 28    Opening and Closing: Charles Stewart  
      Reader: Anne Stewart



**GETHEMANE**, by Mary Oliver

The grass never sleeps.

Or the roses.

Nor does the lily have a secret eye that shuts until morning.

Jesus said, wait with me. But the disciples slept.

The cricket has such splendid fringe on its feet,  
and it sings, have you noticed, with its whole body,  
and heaven knows if it ever sleeps.

Jesus said, wait with me. And maybe the stars did, maybe  
the wind would itself into a silver tree, and didn't move,  
maybe  
the lake far away, where once he walked as on a  
blue pavement,  
lay still and waited, wild awake.

Oh the dear bodies, slumped and eye-shut, that could not  
keep that vigil, how they must have wept,  
so utterly human, knowing this too  
must be a part of the story

**ALL SOULS NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**5 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast, BT9 6AZ**



**Minister: Rev. Chris Hudson M.B.E.**

**20 Myrtlefield Manor, Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 6NE**

**02890663830 (home), 07969059993 (mobile)**

**Email: [HUDSON351@btinternet.com](mailto:HUDSON351@btinternet.com)**

**Hon. Secretary: Niall Haldene**

**Treasurer: Finance Committee**

**Stipend Clerk: Anne Stewart**

**Clerk of Session: Errol Steele**

**Gift Aid Clerk: (see Stipend Clerk)**

**Kids First Club Coordinator: Sheena Lewis**

**Enquiries re calendar to Isabella Evangelisti at [IEVANGELISTI96@GMAIL.COM](mailto:IEVANGELISTI96@GMAIL.COM)**

**Website address: [WWW.ALLSOULSBELFAST.ORG](http://WWW.ALLSOULSBELFAST.ORG)**