

NEW LIGHT

All Souls' Church Calendar

November 2018-January 2019



**They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,**

**At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them**

Laurence Binyon



WORDS FROM THE MINISTER

This year we mark the hundredth anniversary of Armistice Day and in doing so we remember all those who died in the first World War. Despite what some commentators insist on saying, this is never done in a manner that celebrates or praises war but solemnly, and in a way that honours those who perished. On Sunday 18th November in our Downpatrick church there will be a special service at 3.00pm remembering all those who died or served from the Non-subscribing Presbyterian tradition and a Roll of Honour will be presented. We will of course have our own Remembrance day communion Service in All Souls at 11.30am on 11th November.

We have just celebrated Harvest and in the way of these things that means Christmas will soon be upon us. As usual we are planning a very special Christmas Carol Service and we hope that many of you will be able to join us on that day. We know that for many people it is just not possible to attend church regularly on Sundays but we always love to see old friends gathered together to reconnect at Christmastime.

I have been invited to be the guest speaker at the European Unitarian Universalist Retreat in Cologne, Germany from 2nd- 4th of November. It will involve speaking at the opening ceremony on Friday and giving the key note speech at the retreat on the Saturday. I will also be taking the service on the Sunday in Cologne. I am looking forward to this event as it is a great opportunity to meet again with our religious colleagues from around Europe.

As many of you know I have become a regular contributor to the BBC's 'Thought for the Day' and I receive lots of comments from those who hear them. I have been asked to include one of them here in the Calendar and I have done so below. In the mean-time I hope to see you all as often as possible in All Souls'. We are a unique community in Belfast and we are always ready to invite others to join our community.

When learning Irish at school as a young boy the word *oscailt* had a very singular meaning; it meant open. For instance ‘open the door’ in Irish is *oscail an doras* or ‘the door is open’ translates as *ta an doras oscailt*. However it is the word *oscailt* that later caught my imagination. I learned to understand the word had a greater meaning, in that it called upon us ‘to be open’. In time the Irish word has come to have a more significant meaning to me, as in *ta me oscailt*, I am open, or *ta mo croi oscailt*, my heart is open. This simple Irish word is calling upon me to be an ‘open person’, to listen to others, to have an open mind. Openness is a term with no set definition, but it generally includes some combination of friendliness, approachability, honesty, open-mindedness, and a receptiveness to others.

In the political and social context that we are presently living through there is very little respect shown to people whose views differ from our own. It seems that it has become easier than ever to shut out people we disagree with or to shout them down. But we should remember that it is so important to listen to those differing opinions. It has taken me a long time to learn that listening to others is one of the most important forces of creating change; and truly hearing their ideas, experiences, and pain is a crucial part of moving forward as individuals and as a society. That is how I have come to understand the real meaning of the Irish word *oscailt*; to learn to be open to others and listen with loving kindness. You may continue to disagree but do so with openness and a real understanding of what you are disagreeing with.

Rev. Chris

*Lord, we both live in the dark, the one cannot see the other
- but stretch out your hand and I will find it, let me
talk to you and you will hear me,
only give to my words something of that great ineffability
which makes you silent.*

*Lord, I searched for you everywhere: in the glories of the
Earth and the heavens, in the splendor of the great
Cities, at the crossroads of the ages –
while you would meekly and quietly spend the night in my
most indefinable reverie.*

Tasos Leivaditis

All Souls' News and Activities

Special Services at All Souls church

Our **Remembrance Communion Service** will be held on Sunday 11th November at the usual time of 11.30am.

The annual **Transgender Memorial Service** will take place in All Souls' church on Sunday 18th November at 3.00pm. The service will be led by Rev. Chris Hudson, Rev. Linda Ballard and Rev. Alister Bell. Refreshments will be served afterwards. All are welcome.

Our next **Family Service** at All Souls will be held on Sunday 25th November at 11.30am. Please come along and invite friends with children for a lively and fun service.

The annual **LGBTQ Carol Service** will take place in All Souls on Wednesday 19th December at 7.30pm, with music by Quire and tea/coffee and mince pies afterwards. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Our own All Souls **Christmas Carol Service** will be held on Sunday 23rd December at 11.30am. This will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies served in the Rosemary Hall. Please come along and bring family and friends to join us on this special day.

Kids First Club in All Souls

Starting Sunday 2nd December.

Why Kids First? Because we want to put kids first in our church. They are our future.

What age group? 6 months – 13 years.

When? Every first Sunday of the month so it's easy to remember.

What do we do in the Kids First Club? Have fun!

Our Mission Statement: To provide a happy, safe and stimulating environment for children to play, learn and develop freely. To help children develop responsibility for their actions, to become competent, confident and independent citizens. We will be sending out invites to parents soon.

If you know any kids who would like to join, please tell Sheena @ lsheena27@yahoo.com

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 21st November** in the church meeting room at 7.30pm when the book being discussed will be ***The Road Home* by Rose Tremain**. All are welcome to join or simply to drop in from time to time.

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 ievangelisti96@gmail.com so that you can be added to the list, thank you.

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

SERVICES ARE AT 11.30 am UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN

NOVEMBER 2018

- 04 Ms. Lynda Kane
- 11 Rev. Chris Hudson – **REMEMBRANCE COMMUNION SERVICE**
- 18 Rev. Chris Hudson
- 25 Rev. Chris Hudson – **FAMILY SERVICE**

DECEMBER 2018

- 02 Rev. Chris Hudson
- 09 Rev. Chris Hudson
- 16 Rev. Chris Hudson
- 23 Rev. Chris Hudson – **CAROL SERVICE**
- 25 Rev. Chris Hudson – **CHRISTMAS DAY, 10.30am**
- 30 Rev. Chris Hudson

JANUARY 2019

- 06 Rev. Chris Hudson
- 13 Rev. Chris Hudson
- 20 Rev. Chris Hudson
- 27 Rev. Chris Hudson



ROTA

November 2018

- 04 Opening and Closing: Ken Steele
 Reader: Alan Kirk
- 11 Opening and Closing: Isabella Evangelisti
 Reader: Isabella Evangelisti
- 18 Opening and Closing: Jim Jackson
 Reader: Jim Jackson
- 25 Opening and Closing: Charles Stewart
 Reader: Charles Stewart

December 2018

- 02 Opening and Closing: Niall Haldene
 Reader: Niall Haldene
- 09 Opening and Closing: Bryan Cooney
 Reader: Anne Stewart
- 16 Opening and Closing: Isabella Evangelisti
 Reader: Roger Courtney
- 23 Opening and Closing: Ken Steele
 Readers: Various
- 25 Opening and Closing: Isabella Evangelisti
 Reader: Isabella Evangelisti
- 30 Opening and Closing: Jim Jackson
 Reader: Errol Steele

January 2019

- 06 Opening and Closing: Charles Stewart
 Reader: Sheena Lewis
- 13 Opening and Closing: Niall Haldene
 Reader: Niall Haldene
- 20 Opening and Closing: Bryan Cooney
 Reader: Charles Stewart
- 27 Opening and Closing: Ken Steele Reader: Isabella Evangelisti

from *Advent Stanzas* by Robert Cording (stanzas I, IV)



*Are we always creating you, as Rilke said,
Trying, on our best days,
To make possible your coming into existence?
Or are you merely a story told in the dark,*

*Each year you are born again. It is no remedy
For what we go on doing to each other,
For history's blind repetitions of hate and reprisal.
Here I am again, huddled in hope. For what
Do I wait? – I know you only as something missing,
And loved beyond reason.*

As a word in my mouth I cannot embody.

*This is the night we have given for your birth.
After the cherished hymns, the prayers, the story
Of the one who will become peacemaker,
Healer of the sick, the one who feeds
The hungry and raises the dead,*

*We light small candles and stand in the dark
Of the church, hoping for the peace
A child knows, hoping to forget career, mortgage,
Money, hoping even to turn quietly away
From the blind, reductive selves inside us.
We are a picture a child might draw
As we sing *Silent Night, Holy Night.**

*Yet, while each of us tries to inhabit the moment
That is passing, you seem to live in-between
The words we fill with our longing.
The time has come
To admit I believe in the simple astonishment
Of a newborn.*

And also to say plainly, as Pascal knew, that you will live

In agony even to the end of the world,

Your will failing to be done on earth

As it is in heaven.

Come, o come Emmanuel,

I am a ghost waiting to be made flesh by love

I am too imperfect to bear.



**I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas
and a healthful and peaceful New Year,
and I hope to see you in All Souls
at some time over the coming season.**

Rev. Chris



Stained Glass

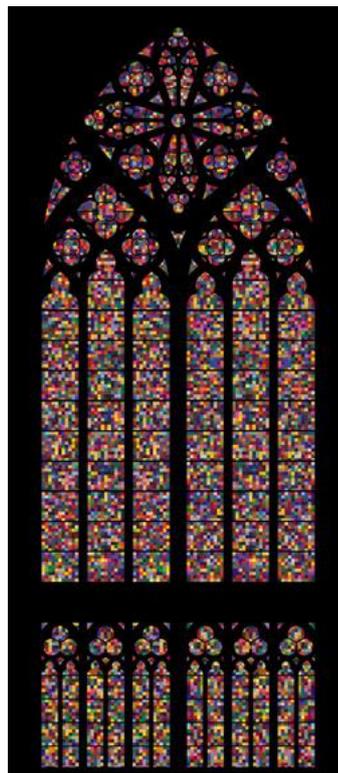
Recently in All Souls Niall Haldene spoke about stained glass windows, specifically noting the lack of them in All Souls church.

We are all familiar with the historical theological reasons why religious non-conformers rejected superfluous decoration in their churches. However, our lovely church does not in any way fit, architecturally or theologically, the strictures of those early reformers, and many churches in our denomination are already adorned with stained glass, most strikingly in First Church, Rosemary Street and the Unitarian church in Dublin which both house renowned examples of the art.

More than any of the the decorative arts employed in churches, stained glass can be an effective aid to worship because of the way it diffuses light and colour and works with and compliments the architecture of the building.

Of course stained glass windows cost a lot of money, and in these cash strapped times many would view this kind of expenditure as a waste. However, if we look around our churches

we can see many memorials and testaments to those who went before and led the way for us in liberal religion. What monument, other than a living community (in itself a proud achievement) will we leave?



Above left, David Hockney's new window at Westminster Abbey celebrating the reign of Queen Elizabeth II (2018)

German artist Gerhard Richter's beautiful contemporary stained glass window in Cologne Cathedral, (2007) above and left, a detail of the effect of its light falling on the stone mullions.

ALL SOULS NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Secretary: Niall Haldene

Treasurer: John Lyness

Stipend Clerk: Anne Stewart

Clerk of Session: Errol Steele

Gift Aid Clerk: (see Stipend Clerk)

Sunday School Superintendent: Lynda Kane

Enquiries re calendar to Isabella Evangelisti at IEVANGELISTI96@GMAIL.COM

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