



KILTERNAN KLIPS

Building community, strengthening worship, growing in service

The quarterly newsletter of Kilternan Parish, Co. Dublin

The Rector on ...

Gathering at Christmas

*We gather round in this holy space,
Holy space, filled with grace,
We gather round in this holy space
To do what Jesus taught us.*

*We hear the stories of our King,
Eternal life for us He'll win;
We share His meal and pray with Him
And do what Jesus taught us.*

One of the things that always strikes me about the Nativity story is how it gathers together such a rich diversity of people. The uneducated and socially disadvantaged shepherds gather around the Child in the manger, but so do the wealthy, intellectual Magi. The foreigners are drawn to him, as are the locals. Young and old are gathered together, as Jesus is held in the young arms of his mother and later in the wrinkled hands of the elder Simeon. Even the angels gather to sing and to see what is going on.

Christmas gathers us in, young and old, poor and rich, male and

‘We gather, we tell stories, we pray for one another, we eat and drink together, we dream and we hope. We celebrate community in its fullness’

female, foreign and local, celestial and mundane. As we gather, we are reminded that deep down we are all the same—we all share the same human needs and concerns. Irrespective of our world-view, the story of Christ calls us all to worship Him.

That message is important in our world today. More so than ever, we appear polarised and estranged from one another. We are all too comfortable in our own little echo chambers, and all too quick to vilify

those who have a different perspective than our own. We drift into a fear of those different from us, often letting our fear degenerate into hate and even violence. Like Herod in the story, our capacity for cruelty can often surprise us.

We forget that when Christ came He called us to embrace our common humanity and to gather around Him.

Many of us will gather around family and friends this Christmas. Perhaps we will see loved ones who have been far away. Teenagers will leave their rooms and pull crackers with aunts and uncles. People will play games and sing songs together. We are often acutely aware of those who do not gather with us, those loved ones who are no longer able to sit with us around the table.

Christmas can be a difficult time for many.

The church is a place of gathering. It is not meant to be a weekly meeting of strangers but a place where we all gather in our diversity and in our fullness. It is meant to be a place where we get to know one another, to share in one another's joy and sadness.

Above, I included the gathering song that we use at the start of our all-age Holy Communion service. We sing it to the tune of *Here we go round the mulberry bush*. We gather, we tell stories, we pray for one another, we eat and drink together, we dream and we hope. We celebrate community in its fullness.

May Christ gather us together in His name. Every blessing,

Rev. Rob Clements



Nativity by Brian Kershisnik



Contents

Parish Notice Board	3
Young people speaking	9
Picture gallery	10
News from the school	12
Cranmer's Corner	13
Parishioner's tale	14
Family and youth ministry	15
Community and wider church	16
Book review	18
Team Hope Christmas shoebox appeal	19



Volume 23 Number 4
December 2017

Editorial: Rob Clements and
Annemarie McCleane

Design: Wordwell Ltd
Distribution: Daphne Athey
Production: Nick Maxwell
Copy-editing: Emer Condit
Printed by: Ross Print, Greystones

Published by:
Kiltiernan Church of Ireland Parish,
Kiltiernan, Dublin 18.

Rector: Rev. Rob Clements
Contact:
Phone: 01-295-5603 (H);
01-295-2643 (O);
Email: rector@kiltiernanparish.ie;
www.kiltiernan.dublin.anglican.org

CHURCH SERVICES

Communion Service at 8:30 unless noted otherwise;
10:30 services as below.

Dec. 10	All-Age Service, followed by tea and coffee in the school
Dec. 10	Ecumenical Carol Service in St Mary's, Sandyford, at 8pm
Dec. 17	Holy Communion
Dec. 24	Family Carol Service, followed by mince pies in the school
Dec. 24	Midnight Service at 11:30pm
Dec. 25	Christmas Day All-Age Holy Communion. Kids are encouraged to bring their toys and parents are welcome to wear their Christmas jumpers
Dec. 31	Morning Prayer
Jan. 7	Morning Prayer: Epiphany, with an opportunity to remember our baptism
Jan. 14	All-Age Service
Jan. 21	Holy Communion
Jan. 28	All-Age Service
Feb. 4	Morning Prayer
Feb. 11	All-Age Service
Feb. 14	Ash Wednesday, at 8:00pm
Feb. 18	Holy Communion
Feb. 25	Founders and Thinking Day
March 4	Morning Prayer
March 11	All-Age Service for Mothering Sunday

CONTACT LIST

Rev. Rob Clements (Rector), rector@kiltiernanparish.ie,
tel. 01-295 5603
Annemarie McCleane (Parish Support Worker),
office@kiltiernanparish.ie, tel. 01-295 2643
Carol Barry (Parish Reader), carolmbarry@yahoo.ie,
tel. 087 636 1530
Kevin O'Sullivan (Organist), kevin.caoimhin@gmail.com

PARISH TEAM

The Reverend Rob Clements	<i>Rector</i>
Carol Barry	<i>Parish Reader</i>
Kevin O'Sullivan	<i>Organist</i>
Una MacConville	<i>Church Warden</i>
Ann Walsh	<i>Glebe Warden</i>
Irwin Johnston	<i>Church Warden</i>
Bruce Fitzsimons	<i>Glebe Warden</i>
Jonathan Holt	<i>Secretary of the Vestry</i>
Harry Simpson	<i>Treasurer</i>

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

REGISTER

Condolences:

We mourn the passing of Evelyn Maud (Evie) Anderson (née McClaughry), who died suddenly on 1 November 2017, at home in her 98th year. Evie was well known by many in the local community and will be sadly missed.

We mourn the passing of Muriel Vivien Parnell on 16 September. Muriel was a resident at Leopardstown Park Hospital and, along with her husband Jack (deceased), would have been a regular at the mid-week Communion Service.

Baptism:

We welcome Eva Teresa Richardson, Bethany Linda de Oliveira, Matthew Brian McConville, Kerrith Fisher and Ben Patrick Laverty into the family of God's church.

Thank you:

The Keeley family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to all who sympathised with them and attended the funeral of their beloved Bill recently, making it a wonderful celebration of his life.

ROTAS

The various rotas of the church are managed by the following people:

Tea and Coffee rota: Catriona Fitzsimons (085 7181188)

Cleaning rota: Nikki Cox (087 6868693)

Flower rota: Sarah Tilson (086 8542967)

We are thankful for the work that they put into this. They are frequently looking for additional help. If you could assist in one of these areas, please let them know!

FAREWELL TO MICHELLE

We were sad to say farewell to Michelle Massey, our parish support worker. Michelle was with us from 2013 and was a much-loved part of the team. We wish her well in her new adventures.



David Moynan (above left) and Isabel (above right), pictured with friends after the Harvest Service.



VISIT FROM DEAR FRIENDS

It was lovely to welcome back David and Isabel Moynan over the harvest celebrations, and great to see them looking so well.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

By the time you receive your *Klips* this year our Messy Advent will likely be over. This was on 3 December and kicked off the festive season.

There are lots more opportunities to celebrate, though. The Community Carol Service is on 10 December. We hosted it last year, so it is the turn of our family in St Mary's Church in Sandyford. We hope for a large number from Kiltiernan as we celebrate ecumenically!

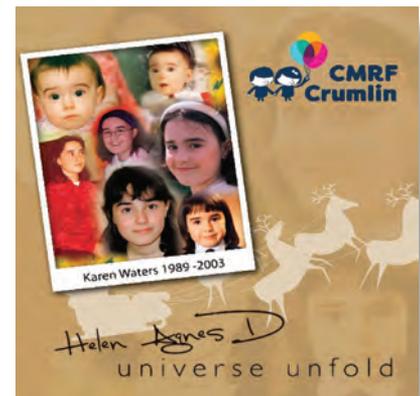
Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, so our Family Carol Service will be closer to Christmas than usual. This will make it all the more festive, as we have our Christmas nativity followed by mince pies in the school.

UNIVERSE UNFOLD

Universe Unfold is the title of a fund-raising Christmas record just released by Helen Dunne. The CD is dedicated to the memory of Karen Waters, who died of childhood cancer at the age of thirteen.

Karen's mother, Anita, is the bookkeeper in our Parish School, and since Karen's death the family

have raised funds for St John's Ward in Crumlin Hospital. Their efforts have been supported by a merry group of women, including Helen Dunne, Mandy Burgess, Carla McGuinness, Grainne Darlington and Gretchen Dawson, who take part annually in the Women's Mini-Marathon.



Helen composed and recorded *Universe Unfold*, a song perfectly suited to the time of year, to raise funds for St John's Ward. The song will be included in the Family Carol Service this year, and the CD will be available in the hall if you wish to purchase a copy. It costs €5 and all monies raised go directly to the charity.

€80,000 AWARDED TO KILTIERNAN PARISH FROM THE TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL GRANT

We were thrilled to be awarded this substantial grant from the Minister for Rural and Community

NOTICE BOARD

Development for the New Parish and Community Centre project. The village renewal plan has five principles:

Pillar 1: Supporting Sustainable Communities

Pillar 2: Supporting Enterprise and Employment

Pillar 3: Maximising our Rural Tourism and Recreation

Pillar 4: Fostering Culture and Creativity in Rural Communities

Pillar 5: Improving Rural

Infrastructure and Connectivity

The success of our application reflects our ambition to deliver a parish and community centre that will make a positive impact in the community. Once we open our new centre, it will be up to us to deliver!

We will offer a community café/resource centre, various community meeting places, lunch clubs and heritage events, as well as a variety of children, youth and family ministries. There will be a focus on social inclusion and community-building.

We were thankful to have had the application supported by Sen. Neale Richmond, Cllr Lettie McCarthy and Minister Shane Ross. We also received support from the local school and Kiltiernan Adult Education Centre.

NEW PA SYSTEM AND PROJECTION

The PA system in the church has been struggling for a long time. There are Sundays when it works, and some Sundays when it is useless. There is nothing more frustrating for parishioners and the rector than when the sound system doesn't work.

We have been working with Derek Darlington to install a new system. This includes a new PA, new speakers and new microphones (clips and free-standing). It also includes provisions for audio-visual and instrumentation. Many thanks to Derek for helping us through this process. Once the system has been put in place, we will install an effective loop system for those with hearing aids.

Much appreciation goes to Raymond Tilson for helping to fund the new system.

The next stage is to look at the visual system in the church. The pull-down screen and the projector in the pulpit are not a satisfactory solution to meet our visual needs. We are looking at putting a number of smaller screens in place throughout the church.

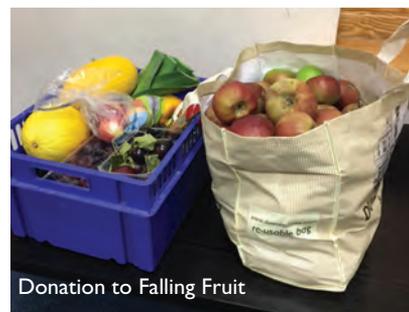
We also hope to develop an audio-visual team, trained to operate the audio-visual system on a rota basis. If you would have an interest in this area, please contact the rector. This is ideal for someone with 'tech' interests, or maybe for some of our teenagers.

WORK ON THE BELL-TOWER

Parishioners will be aware of the water damage in the stairwell of the church. This has been a problem for some time. We were pleased to receive a heritage grant from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Council for remedial work to stone and lead floor covering in the parish tower. This work has been completed, and special thanks to Bruce Fitzsimons for working with the diocesan architect and contractor on the necessary work. Water-repellent has also been applied to the church/bell-tower wall, so hopefully our water problems are over! Once the tower starts to dry, we can get to work on plastering the stairwell.

LOOKING BACK AT THE HARVEST

A big thanks to everyone who made the Kiltiernan Church of Ireland Harvest so special. Thank you to Sarah Tilson and her team, who decorated the church with fruit and food. Thank you to the school for providing us with



Donation to Falling Fruit

artwork and non-perishable food. Thank you to Msgr Dermot Lane, who preached at the Community Harvest, and to Rev. Dr Paddy McGlinchey, who spoke at the All-Age Harvest on the Sunday. Thanks to the joint Kiltiernan/Glencullen Choir and the Junior Choir, who under the direction of Kevin O'Sullivan brought such beautiful music.

Over €1,448 was raised for the Bishops' Appeal. Perishable items were donated to Falling Fruit Ireland, and non-perishables to the Bray Women's Refuge.

LOOKING FORWARD TO LENT

It seems strange to be talking about Lent when we haven't even got to Christmas! However, Easter is early this year and Lent will be upon us in no time. The following services will be held:

Ash Wednesday: 14 Feb. at 7:30pm

Lenten Compline: every Tuesday at 7:30pm (20 Feb., 27 Feb., 6 March, 13 March, 20 March, 27 March)

ARCHBISHOP'S LENTEN BOOK 2018

In *Say it to God*, Luigi Gioia provides a welcome encouragement to all those who feel the need to freshen their practice of prayer. For Gioia, prayer is not about methods or techniques, but trusting that God is truly interested in everything that happens to us and

wants to hear about it. The book leads the reader into the theological aspects of prayer and how it relates to Christ, to the Holy Spirit and to the Church. This is done without using complex theological concepts but simply through scriptural quotations. Chapters are kept brief intentionally, to make the book suitable for daily reading over the Lenten period. With a foreword by the Archbishop of Canterbury, *Say it to God* demonstrates that the everyday, even the most mundane of tasks and situations, can be applied in deepening our practice of prayer.

CHOIR NEWS

The Junior Choir has seen an explosion in numbers this year. We now have around twenty boys and girls from 1st to 6th class who've been singing for us in church on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. This Harvest, the Lionel Freeman Medal was passed from Sarah Windle to Alastair MacWilliam (pictured below). The holder of the medal is expected to be a choir leader and to help Kevin out with the Junior Choir.



In what is now becoming a tradition, the Junior Choir had a Hallowe'en Movie Night in the Rectory. The kids had great fun, with pizza, minions and lots of treats.

The Parish Choir is also back and working hard on upcoming



Junior Choir Hallowe'en Movie Night

Christmas music. It's wonderful that we can now welcome back Catriona Murray and a new chorister, Marina Holt, who came to a 'Come and Sing Sunday'. There'll be more 'Come and Sing Sundays' in the future, and they're a great way to see what we're all about. We also had a lovely visit from a past chorister, Adrian Clements, who was whisked up by the choir on entry into the church to sing with us while visiting. After a fantastic Community Harvest with a visit from Glencullen Parish Choir, we're happy to make a return visit on Sunday 3 December at 7pm for a Concert in aid of the St Vincent de Paul Society, in St Patrick's, Glencullen. We'll also journey down to St Mary's, Sandyford, on the 10th for the Community Carol Service. We're looking forward to Christmas Eve, when we'll be joined by Victoria Johnston, who'll sing solo with us at the Midnight Eucharist.

In other music news, Tom Schnittger, one of our choristers, will be singing in the newly formed Irish Doctors' Choir, who will sing Mahler's *Second Symphony* on Sunday 26 November with the European Doctors' Orchestra in Belfast. Kevin, the Parish Organist, will be making his orchestral conducting debut with the Trinity College Orchestra. Works include Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* and Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, and it will take place at 7:30pm on Wednesday 6 December in St Andrew's, Westland Row. Kevin will also be conducting the Córde Chamber Choir in a performance of Brittain's *A Ceremony of Carols* in the Whale Theatre, Greystones, at 8pm on Sunday 17 December.

Finally, we are very fortunate

to have two great choirs in our parish. However, our Parish Choir is currently seeking out men to join us. If you know someone who might be interested, do tell them to pop by the choir on a Sunday or contact the Parish Office to get in contact with Kevin. The next 'Come and Sing Sunday' in January will also be a great time to try it out.

WOMAN'S CRAFT NIGHTS

All women are welcome to the Rectory for craft nights with pot-luck nibbles. We gather to do a new craft project together and to enjoy each other's company over tasty snacks and a glass or cuppa! I hope you can make it!

- December 15th
- January 12th
- February 9th
- March 9th

Call if you have any questions—Julie (087 2039515).

FLOWER ROTA

Thank you to everyone who has helped to decorate the church over the past year; your time and creativity are much appreciated and do not go unnoticed. The church looked so beautiful at Harvest and was much remarked upon; it was wonderful to see so much bounty gathered from the local hedgerows, gardens and orchards, a true Harvest celebration in every sense.

Christmas is just around the corner, and the church will be decorated for Christmas on Saturday 16 December. If anyone would like to help decorate the tree, the windows and the porch, please come along. The church will be open from 9:30am onwards. I am planning the Rota for 2018 and, unless I hear otherwise, I will put your name down for the same date as 2017. I'm going to post everyone a copy of the Rota; there will also be a copy at the back of the church. If anyone wants to swap dates, that is no problem and will be easier to do if everyone has their own list of names and numbers. Thank you all again—Sarah Tilson (086 854 2967).

NOTICE BOARD

KILTERNAN PARISH LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Hopefully by the time you're reading this the floodlights will have been restored, and members will once again be out on court enjoying evening, as well as daytime, tennis. One casualty of the lack of lights has been the annual club championships, so last year's winners get to hold on to their trophies till next year!

Another enjoyable afternoon of tennis and refreshments was held for parents, grandparents and children on Sunday 24 September, and after-school tennis continues on Tuesday afternoons.

Men's and ladies' teams were entered in the Senior (over-35s) and Floodlight Leagues during September and October. All matches were played 'away' and the results were mixed. The ladies' Senior team got to the play-off stage but unfortunately lost to Castleknock, so no celebratory photo to share!

The AGM was held in the school on Wednesday 15 November, when reports of the year's activities and finances were given and home baking enjoyed. The committee for 2017–18 is:

President: Rev. Rob Clements

Chairman: Gordon Pullen

Hon. Secretary: Mary White

Hon. Treasurer: Noel Willis

Committee: Suzanne Storey,

Monique Tomkins, Rhoda

Bradshaw, Ethni Seymour, Liz

Vard, Gerry Doherty, Breffni

Ryan

Men's Captain: Ken Lee

Ladies' Captain: Irina Ricinschi

It's exciting to watch the parish building progress and, with improved facilities, the club looks forward to increased involvement from families in the parish and wider community during 2018. Enquiries welcome!

Mary White, KPLTC Hon. Sec., 087 99877377, famwhite@eircom.net.

MEAL TRAIN

Meal train has been mobilised five times so far, with a total of 38 hot

meals made. It has been there for parents coming home from hospital after the birth of a baby, and for others coming home from hospital after surgery.

Meal Train is organised meal-giving around significant life events. When a friend is in need, everyone asks 'What can I do to help?' The answer is always to make a meal.

When many friends make and deliver a meal, this is a meal train.

Meal train will provide meals for fellow parishioners in need (we all have times of need!). This could be following a birth or a bereavement, during convalescence after surgery or illness, or just to give someone a break.

We need volunteers who can provide a meal from time to time. The meal can be homemade, bought or ordered—no cooking expertise is needed. If you are interested, please share your email address with Julie Clements at

julieclements04@hotmail.com. If

you know of anyone who might find some food support helpful, please let Julie know, or contact the Parish Office.

GARDENING CLUB

Kilternan Gardening Club held their AGM on Monday 23 October 2017 in Rosemont School, Sandyford, next to Fernhill Gardens. This is working out very well as a temporary abode while the parish building work continues.

At the AGM, Heather Osborne and Walter Newburn joined Noreen Keane, Evelyn Richardson, Una O'Connor, Maureen Patterson, Zita Mulhern and Olivia Hayes on the committee.

The Club meets on the fourth Monday of the month to hear guest speakers on various gardening matters, and also goes on garden visits during the summer months.

TUESDAY CLUB

Tuesday Club members went to Dún Laoghaire on 10 October, arriving around midday. We lunched in McLoughlin's pub at 73 Upper George's Street and then sought out the Maritime Museum.

This was in the former Mariners' Church, which was conse-

crated on Easter Day 1843 to service some 700 members of a ship in Kingstown harbour. If invasion threatened, the ship was to be scuttled at the harbour entrance to protect the town. Services in the church were compulsory. There was a prisoners' dock in the gallery upstairs which we didn't get to see owing to time constraints.

By 1970 congregations had declined and the Representative Church Body opted to sell the church. It was purchased for use as a museum. It opened in 1974 but closed from 2005 to 2012 primarily for roof repairs.

We joined a conducted tour at 2.30pm. The highlight in the museum is the optic that was on the Bailey Lighthouse from 1902 until 1972; it now stands near where the altar stood and was in operation during our visit. There is much history on lifeboats, on ships that were lost in the area, on the building of the harbour, on sailing ships, paddle ships and steam ships and of the men who served on them.

Derek Harrington did most of the talking on the tour and was very interesting. Some of the participants on the tour were related to seamen who served on some of the ships mentioned. There is much to see and it is worthy of another visit.

Mrs Barbara Wilkie recalls attending services in this building in earlier days.

The new library—the Lexicon—is close by.

PASTORAL CARE

If you would like a pastoral visit at any time, please contact the rector directly, or leave a message with the church office. If you would like to receive communion over Christmas, please let us know so that we can make arrangements.

LETTERS OF REFERENCE AND WITNESSING OF SIGNATURES

Clergy are frequently asked to write letters of reference, to complete forms of reference or to witness signatures. Some forms (including school application forms and SEC

grant forms) are quite specific in what they ask, such as whether the person/child is personally known to the rector, or whether the person/child attends the church; or clergy are asked to confirm that the person/child is a member of the parish, etc. As I am sure you can appreciate, it is important that the information given is accurate and true.

THE RETURN OF THE DRAGON—AND THE BOY WHO INSPIRED IT

Almost a year ago we promoted a children’s book called *The Boy who Wanted a Dragon*, written by Don Briggs and wonderfully illustrated by Naomi Peppard, with all net proceeds being shared by the Cottage Home Child and Family Services and Our Lady’s Hospice in Blackrock. With a reprint of this book now virtually sold out, the two charities will have benefited by close to €13,000. The author takes nothing from sales of these books except the buzz of seeing them do well and raising welcome funds for very deserving causes.

Christmas for Don and his family last year was postponed owing to the serious illness of eight-month-old grandson Flynn, who was transported by ambulance from Tallaght to Temple Street Hospital with multiple viral respiratory infections and spent five days in intensive care on a ventilator, with a blood transfusion and specialist physiotherapy treatment. It was a scary time but, thankfully, with the superb level of care provided by the doctors and nurses in Temple Street Children’s Hospital, Flynn pulled through and has prospered since. After that incredible turn-around, Don vowed that the next book was going to be sold on behalf of the Temple Street Foundation.

For this publication Don sought support from some immediate contacts both within and beyond his local golf club and, through their generosity, secured sponsorship funding of around €15,000, which has more than

Continued on page 8

CONSERVING OUR ALTAR FRONTAL



This year we commissioned a conservationist to have a look at the parish altar frontal.

Plenty of articles have been written about much of Kiltiernan parish church, but surprisingly little on the altar frontal. Without doubt it is a beautiful piece, with fine blue silk damask and polychrome silk and metal threadwork embroidery. Our understanding is that it was made for the 50th anniversary of the building of the church. It was made by Anglican nuns based in a convent called St Mary’s Home.

As we expected, the conservationist judged the overall condition of the piece to be very poor. The object is surface-soiled throughout. The silk is abraded, with areas of loss owing to long-term use. Multiple sections of the silk have partially detached or split and are hanging loose, revealing the cotton canvas underneath. The silk damask is structurally very weak throughout.

Extensive repairs to the silk fabric had been carried out in recent years. An attempt had been made to infill some areas of loss with paint applied to the lining fabric. Sections of braid and gold threadwork are detaching and lifting from the ground fabric. In areas an attempt had been made to both stitch and glue threads into position. Gold paint had been used to infill.

The silk fringing is tangled and distorted, with sections missing. The hanging mechanism for the frontal is insufficient and causing swagging, pulling and structural

damage where the rings are attached. It does not fully support the frontal when hanging.

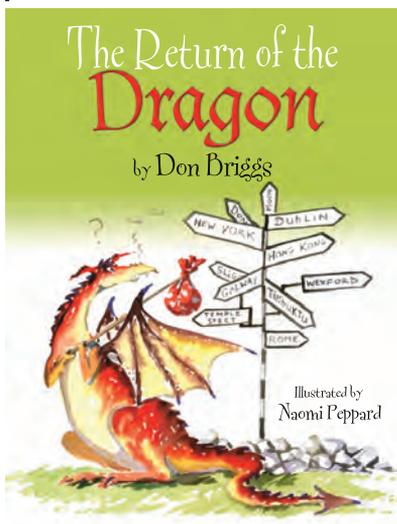
This piece is part of the heritage of the parish, and we have a duty to conserve it. In due course it will need to be taken down and repaired. The question for us is what we do with it when it returns to the church. We are currently considering ways to ensure that this dear article is well cared for and presented.



Top—The parish altar frontal pictured recently in the church.

Middle—Close-up showing how the silk is partially detached or split and hanging loose, revealing the cotton canvas underneath.

Above—Another close-up showing how the hanging mechanism for the frontal is causing swagging, pulling and structural damage where the rings are attached.



covered the illustration, publishing and printing costs, and thus every net cent from book sales will go directly to the charity. He's been doing the rounds of various outlets (both bookshops and other) to encourage stocking—many will pass on 100% of sales profits to Temple Street. Meanwhile, the Temple Street Foundation has used its social network communications to actively promote this initiative and has totally supported the fund-raising ambition of Don and his sponsors.

A recent introductory book tour has secured shelves in bookshops and other outlets in Dublin, Wicklow, Kildare and Waterford. An on-line ordering option is imminent and further (ideally generously minded) stockists are sought. 'Our minimum target for the charity is €25,000 but I think we can do much better,' says Don. Naomi, an experienced professional artist, agrees. 'The book is a perfect gift for children aged 2–8 years. I should know, with kids of that age.'

Outlet details can be found on the Facebook page 'The Boy who Wanted a Dragon'—the previous dragon book—and through Temple Street's page.

The book sells for €10 and tells, in rhyme, about the disappearance of a boy's pet dragon. As in the case of grandson Flynn, thankfully the story has a happy ending!

MEET ANNEMARIE McCLEANE —OUR NEW PARISH ADMINISTRATOR



New job, new beginnings! On 6 November, as I got into the car and made my way to Kiltarnan, I was feeling like a child on her first day of school—nervous but excited at the same time. As I walked through the door of the Parish Office, the nerves disappeared as I was greeted by Reverend Rob Clements, and soon the prospect of starting a new job did not seem so overwhelming.

For the past three years I had been working within the home. Living in Bray, married to Andrew, with one eight-year-old daughter and a fifteen-month-old puppy, life had been moving at a different pace.

Prior to being at home full-time, I had worked for DELL for nearly twenty years, primarily in Marketing and Planning roles. In 2014 the company launched a voluntary redundancy programme, and I applied and left in May that year.

When I am not working in the Parish Office, like every other parent I am busy with the school drop-offs and pick-ups and afterschool activities, but in my spare time I manage the extra-curricular activities in my daughter's school and run the annual fête in our parish church in Bray. I also enjoy reading, family walks, cinema and pilates.

I have joined your community in a time of growth and development, and over the past few weeks, working as your parish administrator, I have met many parishioners who have been extremely supportive and welcoming. I would like to express my gratitude to those whom I have met, and I am looking forward to meeting you all in the future.

MUSINGS ON 25/12/2016

On Christmas Day 2016 @ 8.30am I rose
And over breakfast listening to *Sunday Miscellany* chose.
Outside the prevailing wind blew and clouds flew quickly by
While others unconcerned in their bedrooms sleepily lie.
By eleven I was out and about in the vicinity walking;
Occasional gusts of wind my feeble frame were baulking.
Gladly to my mind came this commemoration day
And of Our Lord's birth in Bethlehem long ago upon the hay,
How in very poor conditions it happened he was born.
Marian visions, too, appeared in places quite forlorn.
I thought, for some reason, of my paternal granny's death
At the age of eighty-four in nineteen forty-eight.
Strangely, I can recall nothing of this event.
Oddly, too, in two years my dad to his own grave went.

A tall stand of teasel I passed along the way,
Clothed in winter brown, not the green of a summer's day.
Old Leopardstown Road in part by undergrowth was hidden,
Disused now completely through road-widening bidden.
Along Murphystown Way a girl stopped to stoop
To collect her white dog's output of fresh steaming poop.
No trams were to be seen today upon this Glencairn hill
For, being Christmas Day, today the traffic now was nil.
Further on another girl and dog passed quickly by
While I had to kneel down a loose shoelace to tie.
After about a half an hour at home safely again,
Thankful that there had been no descent of rain.
Looking forward now to the Christmas fare
With all of the family happily gathered there. **William D, Dec 2016**

IS THIS ALL THERE IS TO CHRISTMAS?

By Benita Murinda

December is coming, with its joys of Christmas. When we think of Christmas, many of us think of gifts under the Christmas tree, Christmas decorations, turkey dinners with the family (maybe potatoes if you're vegetarian) and stockings around the house. But is this the real meaning of Christmas? Is this all there is to Christmas

Christmas can be a time full of joy. It can be a time to strengthen one's relationship with God. Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew that this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special Child. This narrative can be read in Luke 2: 4-19. Christmas can be a great and commemorative time if we remind ourselves of its true meaning.

So much money is poured into Christmas gifts and resources, but it seems that little effort is put into understanding the meaning of Christmas. I asked my sister Roisin what she thought Christmas was about; she answered confidently, 'Food and presents, Benita'. I can't really judge her because at seven years old that would have been my response as well. On the TV there are countless advertisements claiming that Christmas will be much more special with the aid of

their products, but the truth is that Christmas is only complete with the Christmas spirit.

Christmas has become a holiday much more secular than sacred. Christmas for many families will mean huge debt until Easter. But does Jesus really want us to bust our wallets for the sake of saving face in front of our neighbours and friends? Jesus's birth is not a time for profit or for marketing schemes.

Christmas should be a time for us to morally assess who we are as human beings. Lack of social justice is prevalent in our society today, as we do not have to look far to see homelessness in Ireland. Eighty-nine families newly became homeless in September 2017. There were 3,124 children in emergency accommodation with their families. This could be your brother or your sister, or could even be you in the future. Misfortunes can happen to anyone.

For many people Christmas is a dreaded time, as it is a reminder of their financial straits. While some will have a wide range of selections of treats, others will be forced to accept the meagre objects to which their salaries can stretch. Many will also be saddened at the reality that their children will have to go without, and that perhaps many of their family members will be unable to join them in their celebrations owing to unfortunate circumstances. Presents may be only a simple desire but it is a reality that will not be realised by so many.

The privileged, on the other hand, will be able to spend freely without stress or concern about money. Maybe it is time to cut back on the spending and concentrate more on the meaning.

It is important that parents teach their children about the meaning of Christmas. We should teach them about Jesus's values, not materialism.

You don't need to be a Christian to understand the relevance of Christmas today. Jesus taught us the overwhelming power of faith, hope and charity, the importance of love. He taught us that anyone, no matter what their background, can overcome their challenges.

Benita Murinda is a parishioner and a 5th year student at St Raphaela's Secondary School, Stillorgan.



We do not have to look far to see homelessness in Ireland

MESSY CHURCH AND NO



The new parish centre is built on firm foundations; see Matthew 7:24–27!



And the scaffolding for the main structure is up.



Paul Kilgallon flew his drone over the church grounds in October to capture this spectacular view of our church and the building works in progress.

NOT SO MESSY BUILDING WORKS



Watching the walls rise.



Inside the main hall—still work to do.



Above and left—The joy, fun and concentration of the Messy Church harvest festival in the school hall.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

On Thursday 16 November we held our fourth Science Fair. It was our biggest fair yet, with over 100 pupils participating from J1 to 6th Class. The standard of projects this year was impressive, with pupils putting in lots of extra effort to record and display the work that they had done. There were so many original projects that choosing the winners from each category was very challenging. The Science Squad would like to thank all the participants for their hard work and our Judge Randolph Healy for his thorough inspection of all the projects. Congratulations to the following:

Junior category:

1st Place: Hannah S

Do we grow overnight?

2nd Place: Felicity R

Pendulum

Helena A & Pia K

Colour reversal

3rd Place:

Megan McC & Bella K

Lateral inversion

Intermediate category:

1st Place: Rachel R & Charlie O

Erosion on Eggs

2nd Place: Eva McC & Sara B

Importance of Worms

3rd Place: Kaoife O'S and Abby P

Electric motor through the principles of magnetism

Senior category:

1st Place: Lucy G & Natasha T

Water Filtration

2nd Place: Harry G, Curtis M & Benjamin F

Custard Powder as a Form of Fuel

3rd Place: Mollie D, Sarah W & Nessa C

Effects of Smoking

Overall Winners:

Laura H, Emily L, Lola W & Nicole H

Oblek, Milk into Plastic and Rainbow Water

We hope to continue to see the Science Fair flourish in years to come!

Jenny Faulkner and Katie Cawley
(Science Squad)

INFANT TRIP TO IMAGINOSITY

During Science Week, on 14 November, Junior Infants and Senior Infants were very lucky to have the opportu-

nity to go on a trip to Imaginosity, where the children partook in workshops and explorative learning through play. We had a fabulous day. The workshop involved teaching the children about their internal organs, focusing on how their bodies work, as well as making a finger using wool and straws. This tour was highly educational and lots of fun for all involved! **Ms Ruth Thorpe**

UPCOMING CAROL SERVICES

Work has begun for each of the three school Carol Services. These are a huge highlight of the school year. The dates for the services are marked in the calendar block of this newsletter, in addition to being on the school website. All services are held in the parish church. Please note that there are no parking facilities at the church. Parking will be in the Golden Ball for the two services on the Friday. Parking for the Senior service can be facilitated in the school car park.

Owing to lack of space and Health and Safety concerns, there will be no refreshments served after the Senior Carol Service or between the Junior and Middle Carol Service.

The times and dates for the services are as follows:

Thursday 21 December: Senior Carol Service (4th/5th and 6th Class) at 7:30pm

Friday 22 December: Middle School Carol Service (2nd and 3rd Class) at 9:30am

Friday 22 December: Junior School Carol Service (J1/SI and 1st Class) at 11:00am

We look forward to welcoming you to our services and to your celebrating Christmas with us.

I would just like to remind you again that there will be no assemblies during December as the classes prepare for their Carol Services.

MATHS QUIZ

I would like to thank and congratulate our Maths Quiz team from 6th Class, who represented the school at an inter-school competition in St Attracta's school, Ballinteer. Benjamin F, Sara B, Sophie C and Laura H (pictured top right) battled through



some very tricky questions, which even left some of the adult audience a bit stumped! Well done, you four! Rumour has it that you had a well-deserved McDonald's on the way home!

CHEQUE FOR THE CANCER SOCIETY

Following several fund-raisers at the end of last term, the school collected €800 and this has been sent to the Cancer Society. Many, many thanks for your support and generosity.

SHOW AND TELL IN 2ND CLASS

There was great excitement in 2nd Class during 'Show and Tell' on Friday 17 November, when Reuben K brought in a pair of Katie Taylor's old boxing gloves. Katie had worn these during a previous match and had given them to Reuben's brother, along with a T-shirt and a signed photo. The gloves were passed around for everyone to try on. Who knows? Maybe they might inspire some of the children to be a future Olympian or World Champion!

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The long-awaited Christmas cards are now ready for sale and collection. These can be collected from the school hall during drop-off any morning from the 30th until the end of term. Alternatively, they can be collected through the school office at any time during the school day.

I would like to thank all who were involved in their production, and thanks also go to our sponsors for their generosity and support.

On behalf of all of the school staff, pupils and the wider school community, I would like to wish you and yours a peaceful, safe and special Christmas and New Year.

CRANMER'S CORNER



THE GLORIA

There are, in fact, three 'Glorias'. There is the *Gloria Tibi*, used just before the reading of the Gospel in the Service of Holy Communion. Then there is the *Gloria Patri*, which is said after the reading of psalms—'Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit'.

The third is the *Gloria in Excelsis*, the great hymn of praise. 'Glory to God in the Highest' is the first Christmas carol. It was sung by the angels to the shepherds on the night when Jesus was born (Luke 2:14). The use of the *Gloria in Excelsis* in the liturgy goes back to the second century, when Pope Telesphorus mandated its use in the Christmas Eve service.

When we sing the *Gloria in Excelsis*, whether it is Christmas time or not, we are singing along with the angels who announced Jesus's birth many years ago. Just as Jesus was present in the manger in Bethlehem, so He is present with us.

I often lament when the *Gloria* is spoken or sung soberly in church. It is meant to be an exclamation. Singing the *Gloria* should make us

want to dance, to raise our hands in wonder. The *Gloria* is a burst of pure joy that declares that Christ is present with us.

The *Gloria* is omitted in the seasons of Advent and Lent. That we barely notice probably tells us that we don't express it adequately throughout the year. Omitting it is a type of 'liturgical fast', so that it can be heard with renewed vigour at Christmas/Easter.

LECTIONARY RAMBLINGS: PSALM 96

*O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless His name;
tell of His salvation from day to day.*

There are three psalms that have long been associated with Christmas: Psalms 96, 97 and 98. These psalms are handed to us as a set. As book-ends, Psalms 96 and 98 both begin with an exhortation to sing a new song to the Lord. All three psalms depict the cosmos bursting out in joyful song at the coming of the Lord. The coming King will judge with truth and righteousness.

Psalm 96 is full of imperatives to laud, praise, bless (thank) and worship God, but is curiously light on specific reasons why. Careful reading, however, can discern the reasons: God made the heavens and is surrounded by beautiful majesty; and God has firmly established the world and is coming to judge the earth and its peoples with equity and truth.

We should be careful how we approach the word 'judgement'. It's not a 'telling off' but rather references God's restoration of the good order of creation and His invitation to the people to live in accordance with that order.

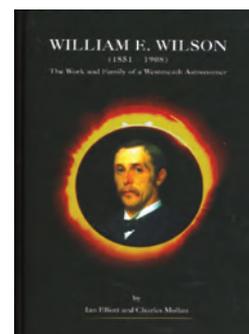
On Christmas Eve the church is fuller than usual, with parishioners longing to sing the carols of Christmas, familiar and comfortable tunes of the past. It is somewhat ironic, therefore, that the Christmas psalm exhorts us to sing a new song. In most

communities, 'new songs' on Christmas Eve might show up in the choir anthem, but the rest of the night is given over to carols known by heart. I once had a parishioner who threatened not to come back to church because we didn't sing *Hark the Herald Angels* (I might note that this was the only service of the year that he attended). What a shame for this psalm to be one more act of nostalgia—one more artifact of someone else's long-ago encounter with inspiring awe.

I hope you visit this psalm this Christmas. Christmas is filled with nostalgia, but even more it should be a reminder that God is doing something new. God is forever breaking into our world, inviting us into wonder and strangeness.

This Christmas, maybe take some time to consider how God may be breaking into your life in ways that are new.

BOOK IN MEMORY OF IAN ELLIOTT



Dr Ian Elliott, who sadly died in 2015, was a long-serving secretary of the select vestry of Kiltiernan and a greatly respected parishioner. He was a professor at Dunsink Observatory with the Institute for Advanced Studies. At the time of his passing he had been engaged in research into the work of the Westmeath astronomer William E. Wilson. His colleague Dr Charles Mollan has steered this work into the publication illustrated above. The book is published in his memory. Copies of the book (price €20) are available from his wife Dorothy at 086 355 1942 or by email: dorothy.e.elliott@gmail.com

DAUGHTERS UNITED

By Sarah Tilson

Rummaging through my desk, as one does at this time of year (pre-Christmas tidy-up), I found two copies of *Kiltiernan Klips*, dated March 2010 and April 2014 respectively. Our eldest daughter, Louise, was the subject of a 'Where are they now?' in both magazines. She moved to New Zealand in 2001 and has been living there permanently since 2008. She is married to James McGhie and they have three children, Isla, Patrick and Hamish. Our youngest daughter, Holly, left home last month and has gone to Melbourne for a year on a work/travel visa. With both my daughters living in the Southern Hemisphere and the fact that I am in touch with them frequently, I realise for the first time just how alike they are and how much closer they have become.

Louise was sixteen when Holly was born, so the age gap between the two sisters was immense. They were from different generations and had very little in common for years. Different times, indeed. Louise was never allowed to go to the Old Wes disco and was a dedicated Brownie followed by Girl Guides, where she earned her Gold Cord at the age of sixteen. None of that for Holly: she preferred Old Wes and everything that went with it! Short skirts, make-up, fake tan, high heels. I remember the first time I collected her from Donnybrook—my eyes were out on stalks. But despite the disapproval of her older sister (and her two older brothers), we all survived that particular teenage crisis, and one can now look back at the time with amusement! While Louise was busy with married life and starting a family, Holly was finishing secondary school and then went to UCD to study International



Above—Louise and Holly Tilson.

Commerce. She spent a year in Paris and a summer in San Diego during her four years as a student. Before completing her Master's in Marketing Practice last July, Holly had decided she wanted to go to Melbourne this autumn and applied for a visa. When it came through, one of the first things she did was to book her flight to Auckland for Christmas.

The gap between the two sisters seems to be getting less and less as the years go by. They are a mere three-hour flight away from each other, and the bond between them is strengthening even more. They are both so excited about being together for Christmas; this has only happened once in the last nine years, so it will be a very special time indeed. Isla, Patrick and Hamish are looking forward to having Auntie Holl to stay. Personally, I am thrilled that our two daughters are going to be together at this special family time of year. Our two sons live on this side of the world and between them they have five children. Even though we miss our three grandchildren in New Zealand, we are very fortunate to have five whom we can see regularly.

A MESSAGE TO KILTIERNAN PARISH

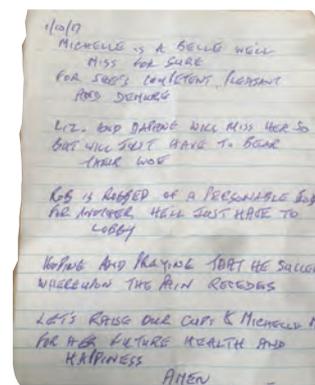
I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Rob and Julie, Ann O'Neill, Ann Walsh, Carol Barry, Harry Simpson, Jonny Holt, the Select Vestry and Kiltiernan Parish for my wonderful farewell party.

I had a wonderful time in the Golden Ball and was delighted with my present, cake and indeed my poem from Derek Higgins. (Not many people can claim to have a poem written for them!)



It was a pleasure and a privilege over the last five years getting to know and working with everyone in my position as parish support officer. I will miss the parish, not to mention Liz and Daphne, my co-workers, and Grainne, Lorraine and all the staff at the school. I hope to keep in touch and I am sure I will see everyone at various future events. May I send my best wishes to Annemarie. I am sure she will be as happy as I was during my time in the Rectory. Thank you all for your support over the past year.

Love, Michelle



FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY

DUBLIN AND GLENDALOUGH YOUTH COUNCIL

Dublin and Glendalough Youth Council has announced the appointment of Susie Keegan as the new Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan Youth Ministry Development Officer.

Susie comes to the post with lots of experience, having volunteered as a parish youth worker at St Catherine's Church before assisting with 3 Rock Youth, where she particularly focused on school retreats and confirmation events. For the past three years she has been the Lay Church of Ireland Chaplain at DIT Aungier Street, a position which she has really enjoyed.

Susie also brings many different talents in the areas of creativity and lots of contacts throughout the wider Church, as well as within the Church of Ireland. She brings a real vision to the post and is very much looking forward to working with young people again. Having had the opportunity to journey with third-level students has highlighted the importance of youth work, Susie says, adding that journeying with young people from an early age through the many issues that they face is very important.

We look forward to getting to know Susie in the years ahead and we pray for God's blessing on her ministry. One of our goals in 2018 is to increase our work with teenagers and young adults, so maybe Susie can help us to move in the right direction.

Our confirmation candidates might note that Susie is putting on a pre-Confirmation day for our area on 27 January.

ANNA AND JACK

Anna Fitzsimons and Jack Darlington have been selected along with 23 other TY students to travel to Romania with Habitat for Humanity in June 2018. Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organisation that sends people to

less-developed countries to work in partnership with local families to build decent homes for them to live in. They will be doing a presentation in church on 10 December, followed by tea and coffee in the school hall to fund-raise for the cost of their trip. All donations will be greatly appreciated!

BUILDING BLOCKS

On Saturday 18 November, members of the Sunday Club Team attended the annual Building Blocks conference, run by the Church of Ireland Children's Ministry. The conference took place in St Andrew's School, Booterstown, and was a day packed with useful resources, inspirational ideas and stimulating workshops. The initial speakers gave ideas for organising a Messy Church Science session, with a demonstration of some fun experiments, such as giant smoke rings being shot into the audience from a large black bin! There was a talk on the 'Who Let the Dads Out?' outreach ministry, which is a growing movement that encourages and supports churches to run activities specifically to reach out to dads/father figures and their children.

One of the morning sessions was on Godly Play, which is a creative discovery method approach to religious education and can be used at home, school and church for spiritually rich practices with children and adults. At the heart of Godly Play is creating a 'Sacred Space', engaging what is most exciting about religious education: God inviting us into—and pursuing us in the midst of—scripture and spiritual experience.

Programme Planning for Sunday School was explored in the afternoon, providing helpful ideas on how to plan the structure of each session to include key elements such as prayer, memory verse and Bible Blast, as well as the games and songs that children love. The curriculum 'Jigsaw', which Kilternan has adopted in planning the Sunday Club curriculum, was devel-

oped especially for the Church of Ireland and was discussed during this session.

CHRISTMAS IN 10TH KILTERNAN SCOUTS

The start of the scouting year is always a busy time for us, and this year has been no exception. As well as all our usual scouting activities, we held our AGM in November and extended an invitation to some of our local TDs and councillors. We were delighted that Catherine Martin TD and Councillor Letti McCarthy were able to attend on the night. Our focus this year was on a celebration of scouting and all the benefits it provides to the children in our community, particularly the children who find sport quite challenging and need an outlet to get them outside and active. We also wanted to highlight the work that we do and the challenges we face in not having our own Den to work from. There are now close to 400 kids on our waiting list and we can't hope to accommodate even a fraction of these without finding a place to call home. We are always open to creative solutions and suggestions, so if you think you may have one, then please get in touch with us at info@kilternanscouts.com.

As Christmas approaches, we are already organising activities geared towards the Scouts' social, character and spiritual development. Our Venture Scouts have already been actively helping the shoe box appeal by volunteering their time. Similarly, the Scouts prepared and collected lots of sandwiches, fresh fruit and bottles of water to bring into town to a group called 'A Welcome Place'. This is a volunteer-based soup kitchen that operates on Grafton Street every Thursday evening to help feed the homeless. The group are always impressed with the amount of donations the Scouts bring, and it gives them an important insight into what is happening in the city they live in.

Our younger sections of Cubs



Our Scouts collected lots of sandwiches, fresh fruit and bottles of water to bring into town for a group called 'A Welcome Place'.

COMMUNITY AND WIDER CHURCH

ADVENT PRAYER IN BALALLY

Once again this Advent, early risers are gathering in Balally Church from 7am to 7:25am to prepare for the coming of Christmas. While this may sound like an 'ungodly' hour, Advent Morning Prayer has been happening for twenty years in Balally and is still drawing those who enjoy a peaceful time of pre-dawn prayer to counteract the commercial take-over of Christmas! The service lasts for 20–25 minutes, to accommodate those who have to get on the road early. It is lay-led, based on one of the Scripture readings of the day, with plenty of quiet reflective time. There is a sense of companionship when people come together to support one another on the 'road to Bethlehem'. Advent starts this year on Sunday 3 December, and Advent Morning Prayer will take place each weekday (Monday to Friday) for the following three weeks, with the final session on Friday 22 December. All are welcome to attend, on all or any of the mornings. It is a beautiful time apart, and much valued by those who attend. An open invitation is extended to anyone who would like to drop in. Why not come along to get a taste?

DIOCESAN REFUGEE APPEAL

Dublin and Glendalough plans to raise €300,000 over three years to support the Irish Refugee Council's Transitional Housing Project. The project provides homes for people who have received refugee status to enable them to transition from Direct Provision. In this article, published on the Dublin and Glendalough website, the Irish Refugee Council gives an update on progress so far.

'Annet Mphahlele, is a mother of two who is a beneficiary of the Irish Refugee Council's Transitional Housing Pilot. Annet and her two children received their refugee status in July 2016 but continued to live in the State-run reception centres, more

and Beavers will also be doing their annual carol-singing at the Glebe Nursing Home and Leopardstown Hospital, hoping to bring their unique brand of Christmas cheer to the old folks.

Christmas also means our annual fund-raising activity—the Twelve Days of Christmas ticket raffle. There are some amazing prizes this year, so if you see any Scouts selling tickets please give them your support.

CONFIRMATION EXPERIENCE

There will be a meeting for all those enquiring about Confirmation (and their parents) after church on 7 January.

I ask those who are considering Confirmation (and their parents) to think carefully about it. Confirmation is a big deal, and it's important that we approach it sincerely. If you are considering Confirmation, please think about the following: *Whose choice is it?* The decision to be confirmed must be your own choice. It is not a decision for your parents, grandparents, friends, etc. to make. It is you who will be standing up in church declaring your belief in God, and affirming your faith in Jesus Christ. It is important that you feel that you can answer these and the other questions honestly.

Is the timing right for you?

Confirmation is not the end of the journey; it is a stage on the journey of faith where you feel that you are ready to take on the promises that

were made for you at baptism and to take responsibility for your faith development. We much prefer people to get confirmed when they are ready, rather than to do it just because you are in a particular year of school. There is no right age for Confirmation, but we do feel that candidates should be at least in 1st Year of secondary school.

What about adults? I didn't get confirmed until I was in my thirties, and to be honest I probably got more out of my Confirmation experience than most teenagers do. If you are an adult and have never been confirmed, and would like to participate in this experience, please let me know and we can see about arranging an adult Confirmation programme.

What if I start the classes, but don't feel ready to be confirmed?

Candidates sometimes feel that because they have started going to Confirmation classes they cannot 'back out' of being confirmed, even if they feel that they are not ready for it. Please do not feel that this is the case. There is no reason why you cannot postpone your Confirmation until you are ready. Equally, the rector has to stand before the bishop and tell him that you are prepared for Confirmation. It is not uncommon for a rector to tell a young person who perhaps hasn't taken the Confirmation programme seriously that he or she may not be quite ready.

widely known as Direct Provision, owing to the current housing shortage and the barriers that come with trying to secure rental accommodation after years spent in the asylum process. Just before Christmas, Annet and her family moved into their first home in Ireland. It is one of the properties under this Pilot.

To date, the Irish Refugee Council has assisted fourteen people to move out of Direct Provision and into their own homes, something they hope to build on in the coming months. Since the New Year the Refugee Council has begun the process of acquiring eight additional houses. Some of these properties need extensive work.

The process of moving a family into a new home requires some preparatory work, not only with the house itself but also with the community, local schools, employers and support services. The Irish Refugee Council engages with these stakeholders to support the needs of the people involved in the Pilot.

Last year the Irish Refugee Council worked on employment pilots and preparatory courses to ensure that people are properly supported when trying to access the labour market. One such project was done in partnership with the National Learning Network and involved peer-to-peer support and training developed to assist people to progress towards being job-ready, building their confidence and upskilling where needed. A second one involved working with the Beacon Hospital and resulted in eight people progressing on to either paid employment or a traineeship in the hospital or with other agencies that the hospital works with. The people who applied to this were given peer support to develop their resumé and interview skills before the recruitment process began.

These projects are viewed as both complementary and vital to the Transitional Housing Pilot, as for the Refugee Council housing is a first priority, but further support is needed to work towards effective and meaningful integration for the people being accommodated through it.

Navigating access to social services and housing for people exiting Direct Provision can be a difficult journey and will continue to be. The Irish Refugee Council's housing initiative will allow them to share the learning and knowledge they are acquiring with other stakeholders working in this area and with the wider asylum and refugee community that engage with their services. It will also allow them to inform policy and effect social change.

The Irish Refugee Council are advocating for an alternative to the Direct Provision system—one that is operated on a not-for-profit basis, as they believe that reception should have the care and well-being of people as its heart rather than profit.

To contribute to the appeal, monies can be forwarded by cheque to: the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough, Church House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6 (marked Housing Appeal).

VANDALISM IN LOCAL AREA

We have been horrified by a number of acts of vandalism in the local area. We are particularly sensitive to the mindless vandalism of the statue of the Virgin Mary on the Glenamuck Road. We share with the community

a disgust that a memorial to the eleven Carrickmines fire victims who died in 2015 should be destroyed in this way. We encourage people to be vigilant and speak out.

FUTURE HOUSING SITES IN THE DIOCESE OF DUBLIN

At the Diocesan Synod, the Archbishop presented a document called *Future Planned Housing Sites in the Diocese of Dublin*. The core message was that there are changes afoot and the diocese had better be ready!

The map below outlines areas of projected significant population growth. As you can see, three of those areas have a direct effect on us (areas 5, 6 and 7). Area 5 is Kilternan–Glenamuck, with a projection of 2,300 new houses; Area 6 is Cherrywood, with a projection of 8,000 homes; and Area 7 is Shanganagh–Woodbrook, with plans for 2,300. If you consider that each house may have an average of three persons, that means a population increase of over 35,000.

Of course, that is not all within our parish, but there is a duty amongst the affected parishes to identify how to serve the new communities, while also fully serving those already settled.

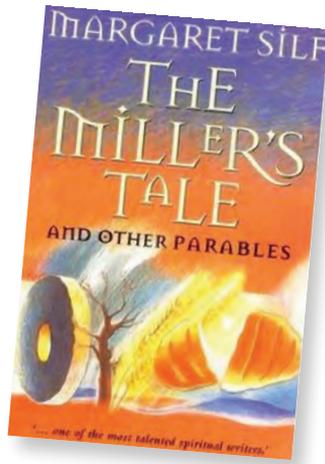


REVIEW

THE MILLER'S TALE AND OTHER PARABLES

MARGARET SILF

Reviewed by Carol Barry



When it comes to books, I can be very hard to please. If I don't enjoy the first twenty pages of a book, I am unlikely to finish it and the book may be destined for the next church fête. On the other hand, if I enjoy the first few pages and like the style of writing, I find myself unable to put the book down until it's finished.

The Miller's Tale and Other Parables fell into the latter category, and I finished the book in a matter of hours, ignoring all the chores I needed to do!

The author, Margaret Silf, is an ecumenical Christian who is committed to working across and beyond the denominational divides. She has received training from the Jesuits and works as a retreat director, devoting herself to writing and accompanying others on their spiritual journeys. Margaret is also passionate about making Christian spirituality accessible to people with no theological background, and has written several books on this and other topics.

In the introduction to the book she writes:

'The word of God in sacred scripture has two sisters—one older sister and one younger. The older sister is older than the hills, she's the created world in which we live and move and have our being. The younger sister is as young as this morning, she is our own everyday personal experience as we are living in the here and now. This collection of parables draws the siblings together in

the belief that every stone has a tale to tell, and every event or incident in our daily lives has the potential to disclose something of God and His kingdom.'

Each reflection in this book tells a story, from original blessing, through brokenness and restoration, to a new vision of an everlasting kingdom in which we are all invited to play our part.

In 'The Miller's Tale' we read the story of the river, its rising in the mountain and its journey towards the ocean with all its twists and turns, and the diversion of its course as it meets the mill-race. Part of the river becomes the thrashing waters that turn the wheel. Suddenly the thrashing ends and the water returns to the river. The wheel has turned another cycle, the stones have ground another round of grain, the world has eaten another day's bread, and the river continues on its course to the ocean to begin its cycle again.

In 'The Necessary Rice', a tired priest recalls some of the scenarios of human sin and unhealthy obsession from which we long to be liberated.

'The Pumpkin Patch' brings us back to our roots and demonstrates that in the end we have the ability to change ourselves and how we view life, from a rather unattractive pumpkin to Cinderella's carriage and everything in between. What is it that God wants? Is it just soup, space and seeds? No, not just space, Lord, but space for You and Your world; not just emptiness, Lord, but

emptiness for fulfilling; not just seeds, Lord, but seeds of transformation.

The story of 'The Pan Piper' focuses our attention on those who live on the fringes of society, those who have stepped away from the dance and no longer feel welcome, the homeless, the drug addicts, the thieves. Christ is seen as the One Who leads all back to the dance, the healer, the gatherer, the inspirer of the despairing. Christ wants us to be His eyes, His hands, His feet in this world and do His work by ensuring that all are welcome at the dance.

In 'The Wisdom of the Woods', the narrator tells of the beauty of creation. He is being guided through the woods by a tiny gold-crested bird. Journeying through the trees, his thoughts turn to prayer. Which of the trees will be the king of the woods? Will it be the mighty oak, the lilac tree with its twisted branches, the rose and the rootstock with its beautiful perfume, the rowan heavy with berries, the spruce outside the family's door which was planted 25 years ago? Finally arriving at the thorn bush, we discover who the King of the Woods is and the reason why.

'Night Crossing' is a story of salvation, as we meet a stranger travelling on an overnight boat. His concern for the other passengers sees him help a stressed couple with their children, rescue a girl from a group of young men and make an offer to a gambler at the casino, and the consequences of this action.

I have thoroughly enjoyed each of these amazing parables, all revealing the human quest for the divine and showing how these ordinary experiences can reveal shafts of God's mystery.

If you have read a book recently that has inspired you, we would love to invite you to offer a book review. Please contact Annemarie in the office, and maybe we can get you into a future edition of Klips.

TEAM HOPE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

After smashing all expectations to deliver more than 250,000 shoeboxes to children in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and Africa last year, once again people from all over Ireland have responded generously to this year's Team Hope's Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

Already, several containers and trucks filled to the brim have left for Burundi, Swaziland, Malawi, Kosovo, Albania and Belarus. Volunteers around the country are still busy checking shoeboxes to ensure that they arrive at their destination as soon as possible for Christmas!

We are very grateful to the pupils at Kiltarnan Parish National School who have enthusiastically supported the Christmas Shoebox Appeal, as have families and individuals in the parish. Thank you to everyone because every shoebox counts. Every child is important. It's great to see so many volunteers from the parish help at the local checking centre in Sandyford. This year, Team Hope are planning to send shoeboxes to children in fourteen countries; it's too early yet to know just how many children will receive a shoebox from Ireland this year!

Just in case you missed the deadline, there's still time to make a difference! Team Hope has again launched its online Christmas Shoebox Appeal, this year called IT'S A SIMPLE GESTURE. Irish people and the diaspora worldwide are well known for their generosity and supporting worthwhile causes, so Team Hope are asking them this year to buy an online shoebox for vulnerable children in Kenya. For €15 / £14 / \$18, Team Hope will buy a meaningful shoebox gift in your name and get it into the hands of a child in Kenya.

'As an Irish charity helping vulnerable children in many places like Kenya, the children we support are some of the poorest of the poor and a simple shoebox gift with educational and hygiene gifts can literally mean life and hope' says Niall Barry,



Executive Director of Team Hope in Dublin. 'It's a simple gesture' added Niall, 'it won't end poverty tomorrow but it will make a difference immediately, with children able to wash themselves and learn in school for example, as well as having some fun with a small toy'.

Mutua is 10 years old and lives in rural Kenya; he thought the copybooks were the best thing in the shoebox! He had never used a toothbrush or toothpaste before. Of course, he loved the toy and the sweets too! Copybooks can be like a passport to go to school for children like Mutua. The shoebox gifts bring these children so much joy and hope. Just to know that someone so far away cares about them to send them these gifts means the world to these children.

Anyone can get involved with our online Christmas Shoebox Appeal —IT'S A SIMPLE GESTURE. You

can make an immediate difference by donating now, sharing your Christmas to help bring some hope and joy, making a child smile.

It's a simple gesture, buying a shoebox gift through Team Hope, through their website. Team Hope's secure online donation system will process your Credit/Debit Card details as well as your email so they can send you a receipt. Really it's a simple gesture yet can mean the world to a vulnerable child.

For more about Team Hope's online Christmas Shoebox Appeal and to donate, please visit teamhope.ie or see their Facebook page www.facebook.com/team.hope.ireland/

IT'S A SIMPLE GESTURE and you'll be glad you donated. #itsasimplegesture!

Carol Hennessey – National Manager, Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

You can now buy an online shoebox gift for a vulnerable child in Kenya, Africa. Our local partner will make up this gift for you, helping make Christmas the best day of the year for a child!

IT'S A SIMPLE GESTURE



A Helping Hand to those in need

Protestant Aid aims to dispense every cent received from subscribers in grant aid, an efficiency unsurpassed by few if any charities.

Protestant Aid exists to help relieve the distress of financial hardship and deprivation on a strictly non-denominational basis, treating all calls for help equally, regardless of religious or social backgrounds.

Protestant Aid helps people throughout the Republic whose difficulties have been brought to light through social workers and clergy.

If you have a real financial problem, or know someone else who does, ask your Rector or social worker to get in touch with us.

- GENERAL GRANTS
- ANNUITIES
- HEATING GRANTS
- EDUCATION GRANT

Protestant Aid
CARE AND COMPASSION IN ACTION SINCE 1830

74 Upper Leeson Street, Dublin 4. Tel: 01 668 4298. Fax: 01 660 3292.
Email: info@protestantaid.org

www.protestantaid.org

TAXI FOR HIRE

Fintan Keogh

086 2685865

(Local Taxi Service)



Take a Taxi



ROSSPRINT.ie
GREYSTONES

Leaflets & Brochures

Branding & Stationery

Websites

Promotional Products

A VERY PERSONAL SERVICE
print signage web

ian@rossprint.ie | 01 287 6612

*Kilternan
Picture
Framing*

*Over 200 Frame Styles
Available*

- Art Framed
- Photographs Framed
- Sports Memorabilia Framed
- Documents Framed



Showroom at Willowbrook,
Enniskerry Road,
(Just behind the Kilternan Gallery)

Showrooms open: Monday to Friday 9am
to 5:30pm &
Sat 10am to 1pm.
Contact Geoffrey Willis (01) 295 5597/
086 374 5586