



KILTERNAN KLIPS

Building community, strengthening worship, growing in service
The quarterly newsletter of Kilternan Parish, Co. Dublin

The Rector on ...

Mission mind-set

I preached a version of this story one Sunday morning and, as I did so, I thought that it might be a good introduction to the winter *Klips*, especially as we highlight the opening of the new Kilternan Centre.

On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur, there was once a little lifeboat station. The building was primitive and there was just one boat, but the members were committed and kept a constant lookout over the sea. They were not just committed to themselves, although their love for one another was strong. They were committed to those lost at sea.

When a ship went down or fell into rough seas, they unselfishly went out, day or night, to help. The lifeboat station grew in reputation and consequently many people wanted to be associated with it and to give their time, talent and money to support it.

‘The Centre’s primary mission is to seek and save that which is lost.’

As the membership grew, some of the members became unhappy that the building was so primitive; they wanted better facilities, so they invested in a state-of-the-art lifeboat station. The venue became a popular place for its members to spend time with one another. They met regularly and shared with one another. They began to look less and less for those out at sea.

About this time a large ship was wrecked off the coast, and the crew brought into the station boat-

loads of cold, wet, dirty, sick, diverse and half-drowned people. The plush carpets got dirty and some of the exquisite furniture got scratched.

At the next meeting, most of the members agreed to stop the club’s lifeboat activities, for they were unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal fellowship of the lifeboat station. From that point on, the station would be members-only. Shipwrecks are still frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown.

This is actually quite an old parable. It was written in 1953 by the Revd Dr Theodore Wedel, a canon of a large National Episcopal Cathedral. It’s a warning parable, a reminder of how easy it is for churches to lose sight of their original mission and, over time, to evolve into something very different from the church God intended.

We should keep the warning in mind as we celebrate the opening of our new Kilternan Centre. We are thankful for everything that has been achieved in building this amazing facility. The photographs in this edition reflect a sense of joy and celebration. Thanks be to God!

But we have not built a state-of-the-art facility to make our own lives more comfortable. The Kilternan Centre needs to go right back to its primary mission: to seek and save that which is lost. That means holding fast to a ‘mission’ mind-set rather than a ‘club’ mind-set as we move forward in faith.

Blessings,
Revd Rob.



The Gathering Grounds: holding fast to a ‘mission’ mind-set rather than a ‘club’ mind-set as we move forward in faith.



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CHURCH SERVICES

Midweek Service

There will be a short service of Holy Communion using the traditional form in the Meeting Room of the Kiltiernan Centre every Tuesday at 11:30am.

Sunday Services

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

Dec. 16	Holy Communion Messy Church at 4pm Community Carol Service at 8pm
Dec. 23	Family Carol Service
Dec. 24	Midnight mass at 11:30pm
Dec. 25	Christmas Day All-Age Holy Communion
Dec. 30	Service of the Word
Jan. 6	Morning Prayer—Epiphany—Baptism of Jesus
Jan. 13	All-Age Service
Jan. 20	Holy Communion
Jan. 27	All-Age Service Sunday Night @ the Gathering Ground at 8pm
Feb. 3	Morning Prayer
Feb. 10	All-Age Service
Feb. 17	Holy Communion Messy Church at 4pm
Feb. 24	Founders' and Thinking Day Sunday Night @ the Gathering Ground at 8pm
March 3	Morning Prayer
March 6	Ash Wednesday at 8pm

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Parish Reader
Youth and Children's Ministry
Organist
Church Warden
Glebe Warden
Church Warden
Glebe Warden
Secretary of the Vestry
Treasurer

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

REGISTER

Baptisms

We welcome Annabel Elsie Rose Shine, Charlotte Rose Simpson, Wolfe Alexander Lloyd Tennyson and Ivy Maud Tempest Tennyson into the family of God's church.

Christian burial

We were all saddened by the death of Cherry Faeste (née Myerscough) on 10 September 2018. Cherry had been resident in Waterford, but the Myerscough family have a long-established history with the parish. We remember all the family in our prayers.

We also mourn the loss of Albert Sutton, a dearly loved parishioner and friend to many in Kiltiernan. Albert died suddenly on 8 October 2018. His services to country and community were fondly remembered at his funeral. We remember the family in our prayers.

Fondly remembered by the Holocaust Education Trust Ireland

It is with much sadness that we learned of the death of Albert Sutton, who passed away on 8 October, aged 96 years. Albert served in the British army in World War II and his unit participated in the liberation of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945. Recounting his memories at Holocaust Memorial Day two years ago, Albert said:

'I was in Germany at the end of the war when we were asked by other British forces to assist in opening some of the concentration camps in the region. As we approached Bergen-Belsen, we were assaulted by an indescribable stench which reached us a few miles away from the gates. Once inside the camp, we saw piles of corpses, the emaciated survivors and the ghost-like victims dying in front of our eyes. On confronting the horrors of the camps, we were glad to be of help, even at this late stage, and all of us felt our

military service had been worthwhile. On meeting survivors like Suzi and Tomi, I would do it all again!'

We extend to his family, relatives and wide circle of friends our deepest sympathy. We were pleased to inaugurate the Albert Sutton Scholarship Fund in 2016 to support members of the Defence Forces and the Gardaí to undertake the Certificate in Holocaust Education.

Rotas

The various rotas of the church are managed by the following people: Flower rota: Sarah Tilson (086 854 2967)

Tea and Coffee rota: Cathriona Fitzsimons (085 718 1188)

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!

REVD GRAHAM JONES ORDINATIONS

Between the last edition of *Klips* and this one, we celebrated two ordinations of the Revd Graham Jones, though one was very unexpected.

Graham was ordained as deacon on 23 September in Christ Church Cathedral. A huge crowd of family, friends and well-wishers from many areas of his life packed the cathedral to support and celebrate with Graham as he embarked on this new stage of his ministry.

The Archbishop noted, 'The fact that the cathedral is packed almost to capacity is a testament to Graham's instinct in outreach and mission'. It was my honour to be one of his sponsors.

As the parish has been aware, Graham's health deteriorated badly after his ordination. Graham was with us in Kiltiernan for only a short time, but he had an impact on many of those he met. We are thankful for his ministry among us, and for all that we are continuing to learn from him and his family.

In November the Archbishop offered to ordain him priest. Normally a deacon is not ordained until he or she has completed his/her studies. Considering Graham's illness, and owing to his evident gifts in ministry, Graham was ordained priest on 11 November in St Catherine's in Thomas Street.

This was a more intimate gathering of family and friends, with a small gathering of clergy. The service was celebrated by Arch-bishop Michael Jackson and the sermon was preached by the Revd Dr Maurice Elliot, Director of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.

In his sermon, Dr Elliott said that the Book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that 'there is a time for everything'. He said: 'Even though it may therefore feel on occasions as if things are happening at the wrong time, always under God's sovereign providence it is the right time'.

This was a day with some sadness but mainly a day of great joy. At a personal level, I found the service to be one of the most Spirit-filled that I have ever attended. God was there, and it was impossible not to be held in His love and His mystery. I was filled with awe at the example of Christian living embodied by Graham, his wife Louise and their three girls, Rebecca, Amelia and Romy. I learned more about God that afternoon than I have from a thousand books and a thousand sermons.

We acknowledge that many of us are confused and conflicted by what is happening to Graham and his family, yet we are reminded of the words from scripture that power is not perfected through strength, but through weakness and even vulnerability (2 Corinthians 12: 9).

We continue to hold them in our prayers.

[Graham, supported by Louise and his brother Rob, was the subject of an inspirational interview on RTÉ's *Miriam Meets* (Sunday 2 December) which can be heard on the playback function via the RTÉ website or app.]

NOTICE BOARD

HARVEST

We gave thanks to God this harvest for His blessings.

During the Community Harvest the congregation welcomed back Canon David Moynan and Isobel. This was the first time that David had taken the pulpit since he left. He offered a challenging sermon, reminding us of our obligations to those on the margins of our society. We who are blessed are challenged to share those blessings. We thank David for his insights.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the church so beautiful, and all who contributed through music and ministry.

Over €900 was raised for the Bishop's Appeal, and all non-perishable items were donated to the Bray Women's Refuge.

PET SERVICE

The church was filled with all creatures great and small in October, as we gave thanks for our pets and animals. We were particularly blessed by having three ponies in attendance, though not actually in the church!

NEW PLAN FOR TEA AND COFFEE

What a pleasure it is to make and serve tea and coffee after service in our beautiful new centre! Everything works properly, it's not damp or cold, the dishwasher is a dream and the congregation are so appreciative. Thanks to all who have helped so far—Junior Choir Parents & Bishops Gate, take a bow. By sharing the load widely, we should be able to continue to provide tea and coffee after every service for at least ten months of the year—what a treat that would be for all of us! Below is a suggested rota by area or 'tribe'; Rob and I will be in touch with you. If you are not broadly in any of these areas and would also be happy to help, then just drop either of us a line.

December:

Blackberry Hill / Glenamuck Road

January:

Belarmine

February:

Stepaside / Cruagh / Wingfield

March:

Gallops / Ballyoghan Rd

April:

Youth (including confirmation group)

May:

Rectory Estate / Aikens Village

June:

Other

Here's to many lovely Sunday mornings of gathering and fellowship.

Cathriona Fitzsimons
(brucencat@hotmail.com / 085 718 1188).

NEW KILTERNAN PARISH TABLE TENNIS CLUB

What a great start for the table tennis club! On 22 November over 30 eager people of all ages and ability turned up, many with bat in hand, ready to play.

The goal in the table tennis club is social play—and fun! A few didn't even make it as far as the table, happy to have a cup of coffee and a chat.

We hope to see good numbers attend on Wednesdays at 8pm. Drop by and see if it's for you.

For more information contact Irwin Johnston:
irwincjohnston@gmail.com / 086 607 5357.

MIDWEEK SERVICES

If you are around on Tuesday mornings, come and join us for a short service of worship from 11:30am till 12:00pm in the

church. This will be a service of either Holy Communion or Matins, depending on who might be available to lead it.

This will be a reflective service, and we hope that people will join us for soup and bread and a chat in the Gathering Grounds afterwards.

SUNDAY CRÈCHE

In September we started to operate a morning crèche for pre-school children in the Kiltiernan Centre on the first and third Sundays of the month. It does not operate during the All-Age services, where we would expect them to be able to participate in their own special way in the service.

The crèche runs from 10:15am till 11:30am and is staffed by Andrea Mclean, a parishioner and child-care professional, who runs it with great care and organisation. We've been pleased with the number of children who have been using the crèche, but there is room for more. Please consider coming along and giving yourself some peaceful time in worship while your child is well cared for.

ALTAR TABLE IN MEMORY OF DEREK CARROLL

Derek Carroll was a much-loved member of Kiltiernan parish for many years, serving the faithful in the Select Vestry. Derek died in October 2017, and in honour of his memory his wife Adrienne has donated an altar table that will be used during communion services in the parish centre in the New Year. We are thankful for this donation,



The new parish table tennis club.

as we seek to deepen our worship in the parish and to develop a liturgical presence in the Kilternan Centre. We expect the table to be with us in January.

LANDSCAPING

Many thanks to Joseph McMahon of Scalp Wood Nurseries, who offered to donate a tree towards the landscaping in the new centre. A donation was also given by the Bowen family for landscaping.

DRY ROT IN THE BELL-TOWER!

Those at church this October/November will have noted extensive work going on. What began as another effort to arrest water ingress turned into a pursuit of the dreaded dry rot. Hopefully we got it before it spread and caused even greater damage.

Thanks to Bruce Fitzsimons, who worked so diligently. It has been a costly process, but hopefully this will put an end to our church leaks. Once the stairwell walls dry out (and we are sure that the leaks have been fixed), we can begin to replaster.

SAFEGUARDING TRUST

This year the Church of Ireland has updated its safeguarding trust regulations to be consistent with new legislation. I've had a chance to review the policy. The good news is that, as a document, it is more 'user-friendly' than the 2008 document that we have been working with to date. However, there are certain legislative changes to which we will need to adapt. We will be talking about this more in the months ahead. What is evident is that there will need to be training for volunteers in this area.

A significant step is that the Church of Ireland now has an Adult Safeguarding Code of Good Practice which applies to all bishops, clergy, staff and volunteers, but especially to those who have regular contact with adults who may be more at risk of harm or abuse because of their personal or life circumstances. This is something to which churches



The Junior Choir at St Anne's.

will need to pay greater attention.

Part of this involves updating the parish's Grievance Procedures and Complaint and Disciplinary Procedures. These will be reviewed by the vestry in December, and will be updated on the website in the New Year.

MUSIC NOTES

So much is new with music in the parish. We've our new piano in our new centre. Junior Choir have new choristers and new hoodies. Even the Parish Choir has new members—welcome, Áine and Nick. And we've had our first concert.

Starting with the Parish Choir, who are now looking forward to a busy Christmas: we'll lead you in singing for the Community Carol Service with our friends from Glencullen and Sandyford Parish Choirs. There's also one of our biggest highlights of the year—'O Holy Night' at the Midnight Christmas Eve Eucharist. Our friends from Glencullen joined us for a wonderful Harvest Service, which went down very well.

Nevertheless, our long-standing tradition of leading our congregation in song and performing beautiful anthems needs help. Owing to various reasons we are now in need of new singers, women and men, but particularly men. All are welcome, no matter what your experience or lack thereof. You need only yourself and to be eighteen or older. Meet Kevin

after a service to find out more or come along to the Kilternan Centre at 8:00pm on Tuesdays.

The Junior Choir have new, up-to-date hoodies with the snazzy new parish logo. We're proud to congratulate Eva McCraith as the new Junior Choir Leader and holder of the Lionel Freeman Medal. She follows on from Alastair McWilliam. They're now preparing for the Family Carol Service and have recently sung at a Charity Concert in aid of St Peter's Special School, Rathgar. They led the audience in a few songs at the concert in St Anne's on 24 November.

Finally, the Kilternan Centre had its first concert, in which Kevin was joined by Aoife Moran and the Córde Chamber Choir. Kevin opened the concert with a selection of songs, including the comedic 'Vatican Rag'. Aoife enraptured the audience with virtuosic playing of the centre's new piano. Córde treated us to several choral pieces, and afterwards the Gathering Grounds team kindly provided tea/coffee for all, along with several cakes/treats brought and baked by some of the choir. We're proud to say that over €500 was donated in aid of the Parish Music Fund.

This is hopefully the first of many concerts and artistic events that will come to the parish and the Centre. To keep up to date, follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/KilternanParishMusic

NOTICE BOARD

KILTERNAN PARISH LAWN TENNIS CLUB

The club championships were played during September, culminating in the finals over the weekend of 13–14 October. A very enjoyable and well-attended prize-giving supper was held in the Gathering Grounds on the Saturday evening—hopefully the first of many tennis club events in the wonderful new centre. Prize-winners this year were:

Men's Singles:

Christian Kraeft

Men's Doubles:

Gary Colclough and John Ryan

Ladies' Doubles:

Gertie Hamill and Wendy Vard-Ryan

Mixed Doubles:

Gordon Pullen and Wendy Vard-Ryan

Ladies' Singles:

'Round Robin':

Mary McCluskey



Pictured at the prize-giving supper :
Etna Willis and Evelyn Richardson.

The AGM on 14 November heard reports from the honorary secretary and treasurer and from the ladies' and men's captains, Irina Ricinschi and Ken Lee. There had been mixed results on the tennis courts but lots of compliments recently about the new facilities! The rector attended as club president and thanked Gordon Pullen (chairman) and Noel Willis (hon. treasurer), who were both retiring from office after many years. The following were elected to the committee for 2018–19:

Club Chairman: Ethni Seymour

Hon. Secretary: Mary White
Hon. Treasurer: Richard Lombard
Committee members:

Rhoda Bradshaw, Gary Colclough, Gillian Fleming, Breffni Ryan, Suzanne Storey, Monique Tomkins, Liz Vard.

Tennis continues through the winter months, so if you're interested do get in contact with us or call in some Tuesday evening!

Mary White, Hon. Sec. KPLTC
(087 987 7377)

MEN'S STEAK NIGHT

Emerson is the head of the men's hospitality team at Messy Church. He is a trained chef. As we chatted over drying dishes, he had an idea. 'Rob,' he said, 'I'd like to teach the men how to cook the perfect steak.' I should mention that Emerson is Brazilian, and they take their meat seriously.

We are looking at a possible date in February aimed at the men in the parish. Keep a lookout for an email with more information.

THE GATHERING GROUNDS

Community, belonging, growth and healing—things we all need, and things that cannot happen in isolation. That is why I feel so passionate about the Gathering Grounds. It offers a space to gather, to come together, and in these encounters God is present and good things happen.

In the past two months, the Gathering Grounds has worked with over 30 volunteers and served over 2,000 visitors. The commitment of the volunteers has blown me away. Everyone is so willing to pitch in and give it everything. We have volunteers of all ages, abilities and interests, and this makes each day exciting. Some volunteers bake, others make tea and coffee, serve hot chocolate and scones, wash dishes with 'Betsy' the dishwasher, restock shelves and find time to chat with those around them. Young volunteers arrive before school and clean tables and floors with great enthusiasm. Everyone brings their own flair to

the job, and I am so thankful.

As for visitors, the Gathering Grounds has served many purposes. It has been a place to study for exams, a place to work away from the office, and a place to sit in solace with a hot drink and scone at hand. Groups meet for meditation, groups meet after tennis and art classes, and parents and carers meet during the play café. Bible studies and prayer gatherings find a quiet space, and the lovely Emma finished off her 105 knitted hats for the Shoebox Appeal while sipping pumpkin spice lattes. People are constantly meeting and reconnecting with people they have not seen in years. I have heard people say, 'I haven't been to the Gathering Grounds once where I haven't met someone new or learned a new fact'.

The Gathering Grounds is and continues to become a place for community and belonging where all are welcome. Everyone has a story to tell and deserves to be heard. I hope that volunteer and visitor alike find a listening ear and nourishment for their soul.

Julie Clements

SUNDAY NIGHTS @ THE GATHERING GROUNDS

A good Anglican knows that sharing faith tends to happen around coffee, tea and cake!

The first Sunday Night at the Gathering Grounds started in November. It is a new initiative of the parish, looking to develop a pattern of worship in the Gathering Grounds for those drawn to a more contemporary or informal style of worship. We explore the idea of 'where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there among them' (Matt. 18:20). Julie shared a bit about her life and faith, and her vision for the Gathering Grounds.

From the initial vision of Archbishop Rowan Williams and the Mission Shaped Church report (2004), a growing movement of practitioners have formed 'fresh expressions' of church. Sunday Nights at the Gathering Grounds follows this pattern. We gather, we drink and eat, we worship, we



RMS Leinster: subject of a talk by Philip Lecane to the Soup Group.

share. We experience teaching and seek to know God and one another.

Sunday Nights at the Gathering Grounds is on the fourth Sunday of the month at 8pm. The next one will be on 27 January.

SOUP GROUP @ THE GATHERING GROUNDS PRESENTATION BY PHILIP LECANE

On 20 November the people of the Tuesday Soup Group enjoyed a presentation by Philip Lecane. Philip's subject-matter was the disaster of the RMS *Leinster*, which was torpedoed in October 1918, only one month before the end of the First World War.

We were pleased by how many people turned out for this; I'm sure there were between 40 and 50 for lunch. We even ran out of seats.

Philip's presentation was tremendously engaging. We look forward to more soup and chat in 2019.

MINDFUL MONDAYS @ THE GATHERING GROUND

A faithful group have met every Monday at 9:00am for 30 minutes of silent mindful meditation. Starting this group was a bit of a leap of faith. We had a sense that this might be something good for us as a community, but none of us had any formal experience of leading mindfulness.

Then, on the first day, in

walked Helen MacWhite. Helen is a trained Mindfulness Practitioner and, with the help of a few other interested people, has been leading the group ever since.

It's a good, healthy way to start the week. Drop by if you feel it might be useful.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

A large number of volunteers pull together to make the Gathering Grounds happen. There are people who consistently bake and those who take regular shifts to act as barista, to clean, to serve and to offer a welcoming smile to all who visit. One of our goals is to make sure that the work of our volunteers is appreciated. On 24 November a roomful of volunteers and their families (around 50 people!) tucked



Opening hours,
Monday to Friday,
8am–3pm.

*A place for community,
belonging, growth, healing
and good coffee.*

into a Thanksgiving turkey lunch, with all the trimmings. Many, many thanks to the Gathering Grounds team!

PLAY CAFÉ AT THE GATHERING GROUNDS

The play café meets every Wednesday from 10am till 12 noon. The main hall is filled with soft toys for tots, while the Gathering Grounds hosts prams and coffee. All are welcome.

HATS FOR HOPE

I few weeks ago I sat with a lady called Emma who was busily knitting hats in the Gathering Grounds. I asked her what she was doing. She told me that she had set herself a target of knitting 100 hats for Hope International. She was over halfway done at the time! She officially stopped knitting when she had completed 105 hats. Well done, Emma!



OPENING OF THE NEW PARISH CENTRE

Revd Rob describes a great day for parish and community.

A new chapter in the life of our parish began in September with the opening of the new Kiltiernan Centre. Designed to be a hub of the parish and the community, the building was dedicated by Archbishop Michael Jackson in the presence of a huge crowd of parishioners, friends of the parish and community and state representatives, including two government ministers and local councillors.

This was the fruit of many years of vision and persistence, and a great many thanks must be given to parishioners over many decades who contributed time and resources towards its completion.

Our church was packed to capacity for the service of dedication, with over 100 people watching from the parish centre, where the service was streamed live.

In his sermon, Archbishop Jackson said that for a church to build a facility designed for both parish and community use was wonderful. 'It recognises that a parish is part of a community and a community gives energy to the life of a parish. The parish is that which lies alongside the house, the House of God. The parish has a great connection with the activity and the worship of the church, and so the work and the life of God, through God's people, flows into the life and work of the community. It is the duty of the people of the parish to know what they are talking about, what they are doing and why they are doing it in God's name. The community cannot be expected to have ready-made the same values and purposes as the parish. But you now have a most attractive place where both can meet and each can meet,' he stated.

He said that the centre would

be a place of meeting and gathering, friendship and conversation, and a place of safety and relationships.

At the end of the service, members of the parish carried four objects from the church to the Kiltiernan Centre: a Bible as a symbol of the Good News, a rock as a reminder that Christ is the rock on which the church is built, a candle as a reminder of the light of Christ within us and our mission to be the light of the world, and an apron as a reminder of the call to service.

Speaking in the new parish centre, architect and parishioner Stephen Newell detailed the construction of the centre, which comprises two main elements: the refurbished parish hall and the new building. He thanked the select vestries over the years for their support and said that there had been a great team at the helm to bring the project to fruition. Rob Clements paid special tribute to Stephen for the many hours he spent on the project.

Johnny Holt, Secretary of the

Select Vestry, said that the parish had undertaken a long and agonising journey to get to the opening day and that there had been many ups and downs, with successive rectors leading the way. He thanked both the building committee and the finance committee for their commitment to the build.

There are many people to thank for the opening. The flower team under Sarah's leadership did an amazing job. Monique, Kerrith and their team organised catering and logistics. Kevin and the choirs had the music beautifully prepared. Members of the Select Vestry helped with parking, and our church wardens ensured the smooth running of the service. I'm grateful also for all the support offered by Annemarie in the parish office.

You can see from the images on pages 10–12 that it was a day to celebrate!

Archbishop Michael Jackson, Revd Rob Clements, Stephen Newell and Sonja O'Shea at the opening of our new centre.



WHO COMES AT CHRISTMAS?

Agnes Tóth and Csaba Sarkadi focus on the original Christmas message.



According to Wikipedia and other sources, the figure of Santa originates from traditions surrounding Saint Nicholas, a generous fourth-century Greek bishop. In some European countries children still receive gifts in his name on the night before the morning of his feast-day, 6 December.

Last December we had a conversation about Christmas with a couple of people at the Ladies' Craft Night in the Kilternan rectory.

'Do you have Santa in Hungary?', someone asked me.

'We do, but he comes on the 6th of December and delivers sweets and/or birch in kids' boots if they are cleaned and placed on the windowsill.'

'And then who comes at Christmas?', followed the logical question.

'Well, Jesus ... He brings gifts to everyone.'

Our son turned five that year. Experiencing non-stop Santa appearances everywhere for weeks before Christmas, he seemed a bit confused and started asking

practical questions about how reindeer fly, how Santa finishes all deliveries globally within a day and whether the smoke detector is really Santa's hidden camera. Then he approached us with the ultimate question (you can guess what that was!).

After some consideration, we decided to admit the truth. As he had figured it out himself, we did not want to deny his discovery. We wanted to keep our credibility regarding the boundary between truth and imagination. This way we encourage him to see the difference between man-made stories (as kind as they may be) and God's word. And he does. We also made him promise that he will not reveal this to his peers but will let them find it out on their own when the time comes.

This year I was going to buy a Nativity-themed Advent calendar well before December. I was planning to teach our children the preparation, anticipation and excitement of the Advent season. While strolling through the Christmas section of stationery and book stores, I was shocked by how challenging it was to find anything related to the biblical story.

Advent calendars are available in all shapes and forms. There are different Advent calendars offered for kids, ladies and gents. You may even find special Advent calendars for pets, with reward bites in them. Besides the usual chocolate filling, they might also be filled with cheese, beer, liqueur, jewellery, perfume samples, stationery items or toys. Their design may resemble Santa, reindeer and all species of polar animals, cartoon characters, winter scenes—basically anything but the Nativity.

After my disappointing day of attempted shopping, I started planning a home-made interactive Advent calendar, with characters from the Nativity scene approaching Bethlehem day by day from different directions—some from Nazareth, some from the East, some from the meadows and some from Heaven. As they are making their progress, we will continue to count down and have daily activities related to the approaching celebration. In the midst of all the overwhelming sales, advertisements and commercialism we are planning to help our children focus on the original message of Christmas.

And yes, the night before 6 December we will clean our boots and put them on the windowsill, winking at one another. Because you never know ...



A Hungarian Christmas Santa by Lynn Haney (Lynn Haney Collection).

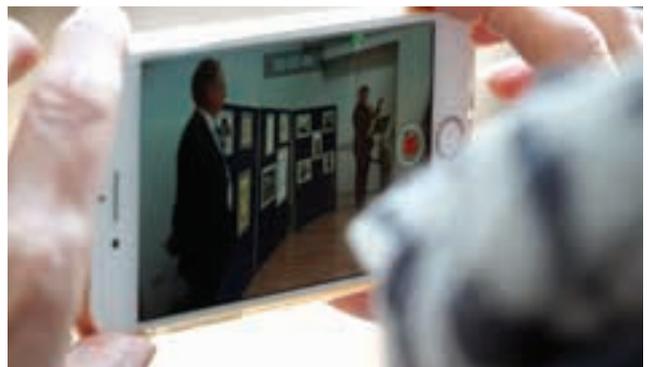
THE CENTRE OPENS—I



IMAGES FROM THE DAY



THE CENTRE OPENS(cont.)



NAVIGATING THE 'WORSHIP WARS'

The Rector discusses the importance of embracing new and old forms of worship.

Last year there was an article in the *Church of Ireland Gazette* on the 'Worship Wars'. This is a concept familiar to all clergy and leaders of worship. It names a reality that leading worship is a challenge today, perhaps more so than ever, as people's expectations of what worship should be like becomes increasingly diverse.

Some churches will commit wholeheartedly to one type of worship. Some see themselves firmly rooted within 'traditional' Anglican worship, although even within this category there is a diverse range of opinion on what traditional Anglican worship looks like. Others embrace 'emerging' forms of Anglican worship, perhaps with an emphasis on 'all-age worship' or 'contemporary' worship. All are perfectly valid expressions of worship affirmed within the Church of Ireland.

Most churches, including ourselves, aim to offer 'blended' approaches to worship, by which I mean that we seek to offer a range of worship styles to meet the breadth of spiritual expression within the parish.

If the church is God's family, made up of all different kinds of people, all ages, all generations, all backgrounds and social classes, then the reality is that there will be a range of preferences. Part of this has to do with our own learning styles, but a large part of it is simply what we are used to.

How do we navigate that in Kiltarnan? The first step is to recognise that there is a preference for a wide range of experiences of worship within the parish. As your rector, this is a challenge. I find myself often caught between those who feel that worship is too traditional and those who claim that it is not traditional enough. It



has been observed that those who seek to offer blended approaches to worship often end up pleasing no one. Nevertheless, if we maintain a theology of the family of God, then it is incumbent on us to affirm and embrace one another, even if the other's taste is very different from our own. This strikes me as an authentic manifestation of the church.

The second step is to consider how those preferences can be met within the context of the local church. Currently, we offer the following.

For those who identify with traditional forms of church, we seek to ensure that there are opportunities to worship using more familiar forms. The first and third Sundays at 10:30am use the much-loved order of Morning Prayer and Holy Communion, using traditional hymnody. The 8:30am service is consistently traditional. Recently we have reintroduced the midweek service every Tuesday at 11:30am using the traditional rite, followed by soup and bread in the new centre. We have introduced the order of Compline during Lent, and we run a number of traditional seasonal services, such as the service to remember those who have died during All Saints.

For those who favour services that are more 'child-friendly', we have introduced all-age worship twice monthly on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, as well as a Messy Church service at 4:00pm on the third Sunday.

Those who identify with contemporary or more casual/spontaneous styles of worship are slightly short-changed in the parish currently, but we hope that the Sunday Nights at the Gathering Ground will help to address that to some extent. This is certainly an area in which we can grow.

This is all part of what it means to strengthen worship. For me, the term 'worship war' is problematic, as it assumes that there is a winner. There is no winner in the worship war, but there should be no losers. No one group will have everything their way. There will be a need for all of us to share liturgical space with those who like things that we don't. That's what it means to live 'in community' with one another.

The purpose of worship is not to assert a style or maintain a tradition, but to bring glory to the Father and to enable us to grow in the knowledge and likeness of Jesus Christ.

FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY

THE CONFIRMATION EXPERIENCE

There will be a meeting for all those enquiring about confirmation (and their parents) after church on 13 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 questions.

1. 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.

2. 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 they 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 the first year of secondary school.

3. 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 they may not be quite ready.

The current date for confirmation this year is 13 April, and it will be in our church.

MESSY CHURCH



Messy Church has now gone monthly. We continue to explore Messy Church with excitement and anticipation. Families continue to gather for worship and fellowship as we celebrate God's goodness.

To facilitate the monthly schedule, we have added a second hospitality team. We now have a men's team and a woman's team in the kitchen. Competition can only be a good thing! We have also added a soft playroom for the toddlers.

In October we reflected on Jesus as our lighthouse based on the calming of the storm, and in November we thought about listening to and learning from Jesus as He invited the children to come unto Him. In December we thought about the question, 'What gift does the world need today?'

Thanks to everyone who helps with Messy Church. It's a lot to do, but it's a wonderful ministry to families.

KILTERNAN YOUTH MINISTRY

Under one roof: KYM

I have had a few months to observe what has been happening regarding youth work here. I noted that, although youth work was happening, it was very much separate strands

of youth work. There was nothing bringing them together; they were separate entities that had their own mission to achieve. Well, this is going to change. Anything that has to do with youth and children's ministry in Kiltiernan is being brought in closer together under one roof.

We trust that something new is on the horizon; we are literally on the verge of seeing an explosion of activity within Kiltiernan and the surrounding areas, with many young families coming to live here.

Sunday Club

The first Sunday Club this term took place in the school. We had 30 kids present and it was complete chaos, as you can imagine! Sunday Club in the past has utilised resources for how the programme would run. We have since moved into the Kiltiernan Centre, which has been great! While the books and material used were fantastic, amongst the leaders we felt that the teaching and activities of Sunday Club needed to mirror that which happens within the church. How this will be done is by following the Church of Ireland Lectionary. The scripture that will be used within the church will be used in Sunday Club. This way everyone is on the same page. It is a helpful way to create conversation in the car on the way home, or at the dinner table about what was learnt.

Since we have begun this I feel that it has worked quite well. All the kids come together in the main hall to hear a talk; then they are divided into two groups, junior (Jnr Infants-2nd Class) and senior (3rd Class to 6th Class), to do an activity based on the text. I am grateful to the wonderful volunteers who make this happen. They are far more creative than I will ever be and are a constant reminder that I couldn't do this by myself.



KILTERNAN YOUTH
MINISTRY

Senior Youth

So often within churches, ‘youth groups’ and the ‘church’ have been seen to have a strained relationship. It becomes an ‘us and them’ mentality. I personally don’t buy that way of thinking at all. We’re all one! That’s what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:20, anyway. I like Paul; I have a tendency to listen to what he says.

Youth work in Kilternan has not been consistent. Doing an activity here and an activity there has been the way things have been done. That isn’t a criticism; the truth is that the work was plentiful but the time available to the workers was already stretched thin. This is why I am now here! Youth ministry will become consistent. We meet every two weeks on Sunday evenings to play games, hang out and have fun. If you have/know any teenagers (2nd Year–6th Year) who you think would be interested in joining up, please get them in contact with me. We are always looking for new people.

Junior Youth

If you noticed that I called the other youth group ‘senior’, you might be wondering whether there is another group for younger kids. Well, yes! There is going to be one. In January we will be kickstarting a new Junior Youth group here in Kilternan. Rob and I have been working behind the scenes to get together a group of leaders who will be able to help with this.

The Junior Youth group will be made up of kids in 6th Class and 1st Year. At a time when Kilternan is growing, with a number of younger families, we want to make sure we have something available for these kids. There will be more details to follow on this, so watch this space!

Brian Hickey

KILTERNAN SCOUTS

We have had an incredibly busy start to the year. We had a very successful registration night and BBQ, and we would like to thank all parents who showed up and paid their subscriptions so quickly.



We also had a great turnout for our AGM, where we got to show off all the amazing works the kids did last year.

We are very excited to have moved all sections into the new parish centre. This is a much more suitable space, with better acoustics for the sound-sensitive kids and space for our Scouts and Venture Scouts to meet.

Beavers

Beavers started the year with a nature scavenger hunt in Fernhill. October saw the annual Beaver Hallowe’en ball, with disco and a fancy dress parade. There were amazing costumes all round. The Beavers then reignited the tradition of a slumber night at the start of the year. They hiked up Bray Head before setting up camp in the Bray scout den. Some of them may have gotten their shoes wet at the seafront, but that was purely by accident.

Cubs

Cubs started the year with a night hike around Fernhill gardens, getting to see all the beauty of the gardens by the light of a head-torch. They also went foraging in Katie’s garden and made their own beautiful jam. We hope the parents enjoyed it.

The Cubs also did a hike around Glendalough and held their annual Best Hallowe’en Costume event, and then started November with a hike up Killiney Hill.

Scouts

The Scouts spent the first few weeks of the year out in the field, learning to light fires and do some backwoods cooking. They raised over €800 for the Simon Community by taking part in the annual Home Run in the Phoenix

Park in September.

With some beautiful weather in October, they managed to hike up Lugalla and slept out in the Adirondack shelters in Larch Hill. They started November with a hike to the top of Maulin.

Venture Scouts

The Ventures have been busy planning for the year ahead but also had time to get out and be active in the community. They did a night hike to the top of the Sugarloaf and then spent the bank holiday weekend in Killarney, hiking to the top of Mangerton. They will also spend two weeks volunteering at the Team Hope depot, helping with the annual shoebox appeal.

KILTERNAN GUIDES RE-LAUNCH

Kilternan Girl Guides are re-launching with a set of ‘taster’ evenings for all girls aged 10–14 years. We would like to invite you to try something NEW and for Free! We meet at the new Kilternan Parish Centre on a Tuesday night after Brownies.



Guides are a group specifically for girls and young women. Guiding offers the chance to learn new skills, to participate and explore, to develop confidence and to reach personal potential. There is a huge opportunity to travel, as Guiding is worldwide. Our evenings include information, games, learning and, of course, FUN!!

Guides develop life skills and Guide skills and aim to be the best they can be. My Assistant Leaders and I are looking forward to the new adventure.

Heather Burnett Niland
(087 264 6053)

COMMUNITY AND WIDER CHURCH



GARDA PAT'S SEND-OFF

We were delighted to be able to facilitate one of Garda Pat Cullen's retirement parties in the Gathering Grounds on 2 November. Garda Pat has also been a Community Garda in Stepside, Glencullen, Kiltarnan and surrounding areas, and formally hung up his badge on 6 November.

Pat has been a wonderful friend of the parish. His calm and jolly presence brought great comfort to the local community. Pat spent a lot of his personal 'off-duty' time helping the community, and he was frequently at the local schools giving talks to the children.

The event was attended by a number of elected officials: Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross TD, Sen. Neale Richmond, Cllr Lettie McCarthy and Cllr Kevin Daly.

We wish Pat the very best in his retirement and we offer his replacement, Garda Eibhear Donnellan, our support and prayers.

BLASPHEMY LAWS AND THE ASIA BIBI CASE

The following case was brought to my attention by Victoria Johnston, a parishioner who also works for Spirit Radio. It is based on an interview with Paddy Manning.

Last month blasphemy was removed from the Irish Constitution, and now the government have been presented with an opportunity to demonstrate that this was not a mere cosmetic or populist exercise.

The Church and Society Commission of the Church of Ireland acknowledge that the current reference to blasphemy in the Constitution of Ireland was largely obsolete. It recognised that there was grave concern at the way in which blasphemy laws have been used to justify violence and oppression against minorities in other parts of the world.

It also stated that the church cannot reflect on these questions without expressing solidarity with all those throughout the world who are experiencing persecution, and human rights abuses, because of their faith or beliefs. It urged the government of Ireland to make our country a leading example of protection for freedom of religion, freedom of conscience and the human rights of minorities.

In view of this, how can we respond to the situation with Asia Bibi, a Pakistani Christian mother of five and farm labourer whose life is in imminent danger because she has been accused of blasphemy?

Ms Bibi spent the last nine years in jail and on death row because of a blasphemy charge, before having her conviction overturned by Pakistan's Supreme Court on 31 October. Huge protests organised by Islamic extremists led to violence across the country. Protestors demanded that Ms Bibi be executed, along with the judges who had ordered her release. They also called for army officers to rise up in mutiny against the government.

The Pakistan government have



moved quickly to appease protesters and have slapped a no-fly-list ban on Asia Bibi. Having been saved from execution, Asia Bibi now faces being murdered by the mob, by a paid assassin or—as is the case of many accused of blasphemy in Pakistan—by those guarding her.

Although no one has been executed in Pakistan under the 1992 mandatory death sentence for blasphemy, at least 65 people have been murdered in blasphemy-related instances, and twenty of these murders were carried out by prison guards. That's why placing Asia Bibi on a no-fly list is widely perceived as an extra-judicial death sentence.

If our objection to the blasphemy law is more than token liberal change, our government should seize the very likely cost-free way of demonstrating its commitment to freedom, equality and modernity by offering Asia Bibi and her family asylum and safety here.

What can we do? Those who write may wish to take the opportunity to contact Charlie Flanagan (Fine Gael Minister for Justice and Equality) and Simon Coveney (Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade). We can also choose to keep ourselves informed. More information on the Asia Bibi case can be read on the Church in Chains and the Aid to the Church in Need websites.

CRANMER'S CORNER



*A time of waiting, watching, listening.
A time of remembering, anticipating.
A time of renewal and wonder.
The beginning of a new year.*

By the time you read this, we will probably be well into the season of Advent. What is Advent? Surely it's more than an excuse to eat Advent calendar chocolate for breakfast?

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in His incarnation and looks ahead to His final advent as judge at the end of time. Each year we celebrate the season of Advent in the weeks leading up to Christmas. We read the words of the prophets, and we tell the stories of Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the angels, the Magi.

The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent. The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appro-

priate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha'—'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22).

Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour. In the northern hemisphere the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas.

The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported from northern Europe in the nineteenth century and is now a common practice. The Moravian custom of the Christingle has similarly enjoyed great success in the latter part of the twentieth century, with the encouragement of the Children's Society.

The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (*Gaudete* or 'Rose Sunday'), and the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations. *(The above is taken from the Church of England, Common Worship)*

LECTIONARY RAMBLINGS

According to our cycle of readings, this is Year C. We might note that it is the year of the Gospel according to Luke (although we dip into John during Lent and Easter).

One of Luke's preoccupations is the significance of minorities and the forgotten. Perhaps owing to his background in the Greek culture, he had more exposure to the changing cultural attitudes of the day. It is his compassion towards the vulnerable that has identified him as a physician.

In particular I might encourage you to look out for the role of women in Luke. He includes many details in his writing that the other Gospels do not, and some of those bring women into the mix. He provides more passages about women than any other Gospel, including

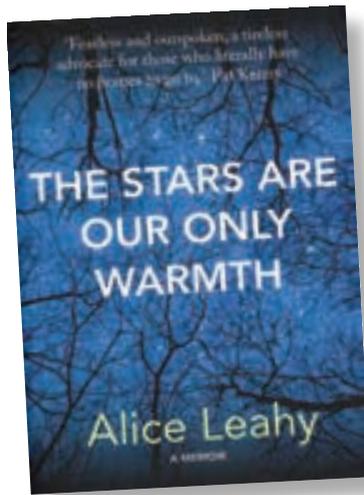
23 unique stories. Without the inspired writings of Luke, we would not know about the miraculous conception of Elizabeth, the prophetess Anna, Mary's Magnificat, the woman anointing Jesus' feet with her tears and costly oil, and of the women who accompanied Jesus in His travels and supported His ministry. The inspired writings of Luke describe the prominence of women in Christ's ministry, as he consistently portrays them as true examples of faith.

It is significant that Luke pays so much attention to women in a culture dominated by its focus on men. Luke mentions thirteen women not spoken of elsewhere in the Gospels, including two who formed the subject of parables. Luke, as a Gentile, would have known much of the degradation of women and would have been concerned to emphasise all he had heard of the Lord's attitude towards them.

There are many women in the Gospel, and there seems to be a tendency for Luke to highlight and praise them.



A 16th-century representation of Mary Magdalene, also mentioned in Luke's Gospel.



The stars are our only warmth: a memoir, Alice Leahy. The O'Brien Press, Dublin. ISBN 978-1-78849-025-2. Hardback, 368pp, €20.

Pat Kenny has described Alice Leahy as 'fearless and outspoken, a tireless advocate for those who literally have no homes to go to', and that is absolutely the case, but this wonderful book is not a litany of grim realities and difficulties. It is so much more.

The stars are our only warmth is a wonderful, warm memoir not just of all the tireless advocacy work which Alice Leahy has relentlessly undertaken for over 50 years but also of growing up in the grounds of Annesgift, a 'big house' in County Tipperary, where her father worked for the owner, Major Hughes, and his Dublin-born wife, Olivia Cruickshank. Now in her seventies, Alice describes her early memories flaring 'like matches in the dark—bright and brief', but how bright they are and what a picture they paint: of reading by oil lamp or candlelight; of rainwater-harvesting; of Sunlight soap; of milk still warm from the cows; of a world of fairy forts and nettle soup and river swimming.

Memories, too, of strong and formidable women like Mrs Hughes, who set up the first branch of the Country Markets in Ireland in Fethard in 1947, or Muriel Gahan, a friend of Mrs Hughes from schooldays at Alexandra College in Dublin, who set up the Country Shop in St Stephen's Green

in Dublin, trading as a cooperative from 1930 until 1978. Like me, many will remember the miniature thatched cottage which used to hang outside the building on the Green. Wonderful memories, too, of her own mother, Johannah (known as Hannie) Leahy, who worked as the Country Market secretary and treasurer for more than 30 years, becoming part of the network of women running Country Markets—just like our own in Kiltiernan.

Alice writes about arriving to train as a nurse in Baggot Street Hospital in 1961. She describes a rigorous training, both terrifying and exhilarating, and her journey over the years through training as a midwife, working in Germany and England, and her return to work in the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin. It was here that she got to know the families living in Benburb Street and started down a road that she still walks today—from working with Voluntary Service International (VSI) to the Simon Shelter on Sarsfield Quay, and eventually to the Alice Leahy Trust in Bride Road, Dublin.

The stars are our only warmth is a wonderful social history of Dublin, and Ireland, from the mid-twentieth century. Alice captures people and places now probably forgotten, such as the Dublin Working Boys' Club and Harding Technical School; built as a lodging house for Protestant boys and providing lodgings for 'suitable boys' who could provide a 'certificate of good character' from a clergyman, it is now a tourist hotel on Lord Edward Street. Alice recounts the work of those who were committed to making life better for people, from the very many doctors, nurses, social workers and journalists—like Michael Viney writing in the *Irish Times* in 1966 on the reformatory system—to decent, hard-working public servants like Fred Donohoe in the Eastern Health Board. Fred met Alice at the Simon Stand in the RDS in 1975 and was thinking of employing someone to provide medical care for homeless people; he took Alice on to do just that, but

there is a long story in that too!

Alice's understanding of vulnerable people—vulnerabilities brought about by a variety of life's circumstances—is deep, very deep. She has a profound understanding of the history of the asylums, industrial schools and magdalen laundries and an institutional culture of control which set in train a tsunami of devastation for many people, a tsunami that still affects us today.

This is a hard read but it is also a wonderful read, not just for the warmth of her memories of rural Ireland and the potted social history—fascinating as this is—but also because we need to know the reality of what life is like for too many people on the streets of Dublin today. In Kiltiernan we support the work of the Alice Leahy Trust and I am glad of that, but this book will deepen our understanding of what's needed and what more we can do.

Una MacConville



The Alice Leahy Trust extends a big thank-you to Kiltiernan Parish for toiletries and clothes received this year.

Demand for the services of the Alice Leahy Trust remains very high, with over 400 showers per month. All donations of unused toiletries for men and women are very welcome. A box for donations is located at the back of the church.

- Shower gel
- Hair products
- Perfume/after-shave
- Deodorants (*only aerosols*)
- Shaving cream/gel
- Disposable razors
- Sanitary products
- Hair brushes and combs

Warm clothes and sleeping bags are also welcome but arrangements need to be made for collection.

Tel. Una MacConville
(086 817 5530)

‘FOR THOSE IN PERIL ON THE SEA’

In 1828 Mr Felix Mendelssohn sat down and composed one of his best overtures, *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage*. This theme kept running through my mind when I was bobbing up and down recently on my own voyage across the Bay of Biscay heading towards Lisbon; it was calm on the return crossing.

It brought back memories of another voyage, when some of us of this parish were crossing the Sea of Galilee from Tiberias to visit the kibbutz on the far shore of the lake (also called Lake Kinneret).

The waves were decidedly choppy, so in jest I suggested that we should sing *Will your anchor hold in the storms of life*—the hymn of the Boys’ Brigade. This was heartily taken up by a group of Scottish fellow travellers, who had a number of ex-Boys’ Brigade members amongst them.

It must have worked, for on the way back the lake was much smoother. You never know when you might need a good hymn! We were only repeating the experience of the disciples on another occasion.

It was notable that the water-level of the lake was low; it is fed by the snow and water from Mount Heron (9,000ft high) and sprays to the south. It is the main reservoir for Israel, feeding the main agricultural areas. However, the fact that it is 600ft below the level of the Mediterranean means that the salt-water springs rise into the fresh water. When the lake is up to normal level the pressure of the fresh water is sufficiently high to keep the salt at bay.

The salt-water springs had to be captured and piped away down to the Dead Sea. Too much water was being extracted, so it just shows that it does not pay to upset the cadence of nature, which mankind often does!

N.C.

KLIPS GOES GLOBAL

I received this humorous image on the right of Irwin, our church warden, reading a copy of *Klips* while sunbathing in the Dead Sea in the Holy Land. It made me think of our emphasis on reaching out. We have good news; let’s take it to the ends

of the earth!

For a bit of fun, we would love you to take an edition of *Klips* on holiday with you and send us a photo of you reading it in an exotic or interesting place!



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