



KILTERNAN KLIPS

Building community, strengthening worship, growing in service

The quarterly newsletter of Kilternan Parish, Co. Dublin

Vol. 26 No. 1 Kilternan Klips | Spring 2020

www.kilternan.dublin.anglican.org



NOTICE BOARD

News and notices from around the parish

WHAT'S ON

Keep up with forthcoming events in the parish

FEATURES

Articles and features of interest to the church

MINISTRY

Youth, family and liturgy, articles and more

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

Demand for the services of the Alice Leahy Trust
remains very high. All donations of unused/unopened
toiletries for men and women are very welcome. A
box for donations is located at the back of the church
and at the entrance to the Kilternan Centre.

- 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 8175530)**



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Cover image: Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty" John 6: 35. Rachel O'Sullivan with fresh bread from the Gathering Grounds.



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The Rector says ...

Faith is not a hobby

At clergy conference this year the keynote speaker was Bishop Stephen Cottrell, the current bishop of Chelmsford, soon to be appointed archbishop of York.

Bishop Stephen shared a story of being approached by a woman in a coffee shop at a train station in England. 'Are you a priest?' she asked him (I think the collar was the clue). They engaged in a conversation about the church today. She said something to him that he felt was incredibly insightful:

The problem with you people of faith is that you tend to come in two types. You are either people for whom your faith is a hobby but it makes little difference in how you live your life the other days of the week. Or you are people who hold onto your faith so tightly that it scares everyone else away.

Bishop Stephen said that every instinct in him wanted to say, "There is a third type; drop into your local church some Sunday and you will see another type of faith in action". But he didn't, because he feared that it might not always be true.

It is very easy for faith to become a kind of hobby, a cultural interest, a bit like golf or Rotary or miniature railways. It's a healthy interest, but ultimately it's a private thing that has little impact on how we live our lives publicly. But authentic faith is not a hobby. Our belief in God and in the saving power of His Son, Jesus Christ, is not an interest that we can pick up or lay down as the feeling takes us. Nor can we treat our faith like rugby supporters who only attend a game when they feel like it. Our faith involves determination and commitment. It demands a constant programme of prayer, reflection and worship, a hunger to give ourselves more and more in the service of Jesus and to show God's love in a world that often appears to have lost its way.

As we move towards Easter, I challenge us to reflect on the type of faith that we are presenting. Is it simply a hobby, does it scare people away, or does it point to the life-affirming and transformational power of God? Let's try our best to be the third type.

Every blessing,
Revd Rob Clements

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Jonny Holt, Jane Newell

PARISH TEAM

The Reverend Rob Clements
Rector
Carol Barry
Parish Reader
Brian Hickey
Youth and Children's Ministry
Kevin O'Sullivan
Organist
Jackie Robinson
Church Warden
Christian Kraeft
Glebe Warden
Gary Colcough
Church Warden
Bruce Fitzsimons
Glebe Warden
Carol Barry
Secretary of the Vestry
Harry Simpson
Treasurer

WHAT'S ON IN KILTERNAN

Since we opened the new centre, the life of the parish has become much busier. We've made a list of those programmes in this edition of Klips. Some are run by the parish, and some are external groups that you might be interested in.

Sunday Services

8:30am: A traditional said Holy Communion

10:30am: Services

1st Sunday—Morning Prayer

2nd Sunday—All-Age Worship

3rd Sunday—Holy Communion

4th Sunday—All-Age Worship

5th Sunday—Holy Communion from somewhere else in the Anglican Communion

Sunday Crèche

The crèche runs from 10:15am till 11:30am and is staffed by Andrea McLean, a parishioner and childcare professional. Andrea runs the crèche with great care and organisation. 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.

Sunday Club

This meets on the first and third Sundays for all children of primary school age. The children start in the church and make their way to the centre for age-appropriate worship after the first hymn.

Messy Church

Messy Church is a fresh expression of church for families on the third Sunday from 4:00 to 6:00pm. It's based on the three pillars of creativity, celebration and hospitality.

Sunday Nights @ the Gathering Grounds

Sunday Night at the Gathering Grounds is usually on the 4th Sunday of the month at 8pm. It's a unique venture for Kiltiernan. We meet in the Gathering Grounds for coffee, cake, worship and an interview with someone with something to say! It's an informal gathering and open to everyone.

Tuesday Communion in the Parish Centre

A short traditional service of Holy Communion in the meeting room every Tuesday at 11:30 am.

Thursday morning prayer

A small group meets every Thursday morning at 9:00am in the centre to pray for the needs of others. You are welcome to come along and join them or make them aware of a prayer request.

Junior Choir

The Junior Choir meets on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:15 till 8:45am for children aged 7–12. They also sing at the all-age service on the second and fourth Sundays. Contact music director Kevin

at music@kiltiernanparish.ie for more information.

Parish Choir

Aged 18+, the Parish Choir meet on Tuesdays at 8pm and participate in Sunday services. Contact music director Kevin for more information.

Mindful Mondays @ the Gathering Ground

Mindfulness from 9:15 to 9:45am in the meeting room.

Play Café @ 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.

Senior Soup Group @ the Gathering Grounds

This is a weekly soup and bread lunch every Tuesday for seniors. Soup and bread don't quite do justice to what is regularly served. There are two types of soup freshly made every week, and fresh bread prepared that morning, not to mention the sweet treats that appear after.

Thursday Lunch @ the Gathering Grounds

Rob Pierce, our chef, again creates delicious food for all on Thursdays, with a number of vegetarian choices.

Craft Nights @ the Gathering Grounds

A craft night meets on the first Friday of the month in the Gathering Grounds. All are welcome, irrespective of ability!

Kiltiernan Parish Table Tennis Club

Wednesdays at 8:00pm. The emphasis is very much on having fun and a social night out through the game of table tennis for adults aged 18+. If you have any questions or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me, Irwin Johnston, email irwincjohnston@gmail.com; tel. 086 607 5357.

Kiltiernan Parish Lawn Tennis Club

We welcome enquiries for the Kiltiernan Parish Lawn Tennis Club. If you'd like to find out more, please get in touch or call in some Tuesday evening between 7:45 and 10:00pm. For enquiries contact Mary White, tel. 087 987 7377.

Kiltiernan Gardening Club

The popular Gardening Club has a monthly Monday night meeting with a very interesting variety of speakers. Enquiries: Noreen Keane (087 259 2766) or Evelyn Richardson (087 240 6410).

Girl Guides, Ladybirds and Brownies

For more information check out the Kiltiernan Church of Ireland website.

Beavers, Scouts and Cub Scouts

For more information check out the Kiltiernan Church of Ireland website.

Senior Youth group

This is an informal youth group developing for young people (2nd year plus) that meets fortnightly on Sunday evenings. If you would like to be part of our youth group, contact our Youth Ministry Coordinator, Brian Hickey.

Junior Youth Group

Junior Youth Group meets fortnightly on Friday evenings for young people in 6th class and 1st year. If you would like to be part of our youth group, contact our Youth Ministry Coordinator, Brian Hickey.

Highfield Academy of Music

Highfield Academy of Music provides individual piano, singing and theory lessons for all levels and ages. Victoria is a multiple-award-winner in piano performance and composition. She also has extensive singing experience, having sung with several of Ireland's leading chamber choirs, and has previously received a vocal scholarship from Trinity College Dublin. For enquiries call Victoria on 083 875 2277.

Zumba and Zumba Gold

Contact Louise on 087 674 1444 or lheatherwick@gmail.com for more information.

Pilates with Sinéad

For details of classes, look at www.pilateswithsinead.com or contact Sinéad on 089 480 9219.

Motion 2 Motion

Hip Hop dance for children aged 3–10 from 6:00 to 7:00pm. Contact Sadhbh on 086 074 4511.

Jolly Boppers

Fridays at 10am. Music, movement and merrymaking for children aged 1–3 years. Call Aoife on 086 821 1079 or see facebook.com/jollyboppers.

Stretch and Grow

Parent and Me fun fitness classes every Monday at 10:00am. Contact Jenna on 087 949 3059.

Chatter Parrot—Baby Sign

Have fun singing and signing with your baby! Visit www.chatterparrot.ie, email helen@chatterparrot.ie or call 085 144 3825.

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

CHURCH SERVICES:

Midweek Service

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

Sunday Services

Communion service at 8:30am. Services at 10:30am unless otherwise noted.

- Mar 15 Holy Communion
Messy Church at 4pm
- Mar 22 All-Age Mothering Sunday
- Mar 29 Holy Communion using the Methodist Liturgy
Sunday Night @ the Gathering Grounds at 8pm
[Anglicanism 101]
- April 5 Palm Sunday
- April 12 Easter Sunday
- April 19 Service of the Word
- April 26 All-Age Worship
Sunday Night @ the Gathering Grounds at 8pm
[Anglicanism 101]
- May 3 Morning Prayer
- May 10 All-Age Worship
- May 17 Holy Communion
Messy Church at 4pm
- May 24 All-Age Worship
Sunday Night @ the Gathering Grounds at 8pm
- May 31 Holy Communion from somewhere else in the Anglican
Communion

the older children at Sunday Club. He will be with us on two Sundays of the month, and in Greystones two Sundays.

WISHING LEONARD WELL

Leonard Madden was with us for ten Sundays from November to the end of January. We wish him well as he continues his studies for ordination.

INTERN DEACON 2020

I'm delighted to say that we have been offered an intern deacon by the Archbishop for a year, starting in September 2020. We will be joined by Alistair Doyle, who many of you will remember from a short-term placement last year.

Alistair is a member of St Matthias Parish, and currently the Messy Church Coordinator for Leinster and Connaught. We look forward to having him join us.

PLUGGING THE LEAK: CHURCH TOWER APPEAL

In this edition of *Klips* you will find an additional document outlining our needs as regards plugging the leaks in the church tower. This has been an area of concern for decades. We feel that we have eventually got to the bottom of the issues, which are many! In order to plug the leaks, we are committed to



REGISTER

Baptisms

We welcome Ethan, Lochlan and Juniper into the family of God's church.

Christian burial

We mourned the death of Sylvia Huet and Joan Barlow-Graham this quarter. The prayers of the community of Kilternan are with all of their family and friends.

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

KILTERNAN ON FACEBOOK

Kilternan Church of Ireland now has a Facebook presence. Search for us at Kilternan Church of Ireland and follow us for updates about what's going on in the parish. You might note that the Gathering Grounds has a busy Facebook presence also.

LEARNING TO SHARE

Brian continues to be our part-time Youth Ministry Coordinator, but we are now sharing him with St Patrick's, Greystones. We wish him well in his ministry there. We will keep him in our prayers as he juggles his work in both parishes. Brian continues to run our various youth groups and will work with

NOTICE BOARD

a series of works that are expensive but necessary. The total cost will be €62,000. These works would seriously deplete church reserves, so we would like to encourage parishioners to consider donating to a Church Tower appeal.

Over a series of three Sundays (15 March, 29 March and 5 April) there will be 'Plugging the Leak!' envelopes in the church. We would like to encourage you to place a one-off donation in the envelope for the church tower. If it doesn't suit you to contribute on a Sunday, perhaps you would consider dropping a contribution into the Parish Office, with an envelope clearly marked for the Kiltiernan Church Tower Appeal.

COTTAGE UP AND ACTIVE

The Church Cottage has been many things over the years—a sexton's cottage, a residential home and a Montessori. After a serious piece of renovation, it has recently been turned into a suite of offices. Two offices will host three charitable organisations who will be renting the space: the Protestant Orphan Society, the Glorney Foundation and the Incorporated Society. Two of the rooms will be held back at this stage for parish purposes.

We look forward to seeing the Church Cottage in regular use.

LIGHTING UP THE CHURCH

During the building of the Kiltiernan Centre major work was carried out on the electrics of the entire campus. As a result, we lost the external lighting of the church. The car park is lit, the Centre is lit, but the church has been in darkness.

Thanks to a kind donation from Ann Walsh, we are commencing work on lighting up the church. We reflect on those lovely words from Matthew 5: 16: *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

CLEANING PARTIES

James, our TUS caretaker, gives a couple of hours a week to keep the church clean. However, we have felt that there would be value in having a more thorough clean once a month.

Una MacConville has agreed to organise monthly cleaning work parties to give the church a deeper clean. What Una needs is a list of people who are willing to volunteer. If you feel that you can give this time to help keep the church building and furniture in good condition, contact Una MacConville (086 817 5530 or una@wordwellbooks.com) to make arrangements.

LENTEN PLANS

By the time you get this we will be well into our Lenten season, a special season in the cycle of our community life. The dates of Lent are defined by the date of Easter, which is a moveable feast, meaning that it falls on a different date each year. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and its observance (although not its liturgical period, as Sundays are not fast days and therefore are not counted) lasts for 40 days, mirroring the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before starting His ministry.

Some people may give up something or fast as a spiritual tool to tame the body and 'sharpen the spirit' for prayer and contemplation in preparation for the celebration of Easter. In an age when we can have pretty much everything at the click of our fingers, a little bit of self-denial is good for both body and soul. Others may choose to take something on during Lent, a daily act of kindness or additional prayer or spiritual study.

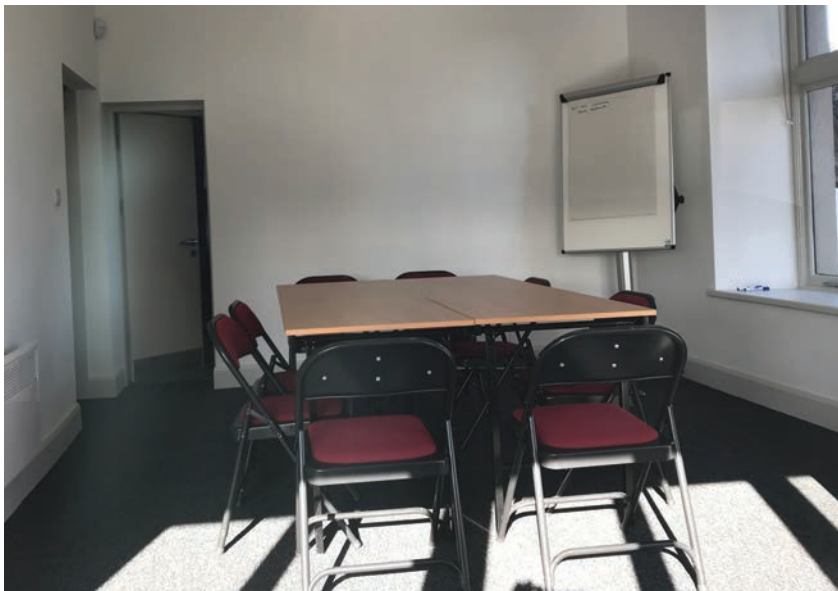
There are a few things that we plan to do:

Tuesday Compline: 'Shall we say Compline tonight?'

The ancient office of Compline (also known as the order for Night Prayer) derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (*completorium*). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. Every Tuesday during Lent, Compline will be spoken and sung from 7:30 till 8:00pm in the choir stalls of the church. All are welcome.

Saying Yes to Life: the archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book

Every year the archbishop of Canterbury selects a book as his Lenten book. This year's choice is *Saying Yes to Life* by Ruth Valerio. It explores how we can view big issues facing the world today through a Christian world-view (see more in our book review section). There are a number of copies available in the Gathering Grounds.



One of the rooms for parish use in the refurbished Church Cottage.

If you would like to use it as part of your spiritual reflections during Lent, you might consider purchasing a copy from us.

Anglicanism 101: An Introduction to the Church of Ireland

I frequently get asked the question, ‘What do Church of Ireland people believe about ...?’. There is rarely a straightforward answer.

As religious life in Ireland has changed over the years, there has been a much greater fluidity amongst the different Christian traditions. Generally, this is affirmed as a positive thing, certainly better than the religious ‘silos’ we once found ourselves in. However, there is often a lack of understanding about what makes the Church of Ireland the Church of Ireland. I am planning to deliver two short lectures on who we are and what we believe. This is open to everyone, those new to the Church of Ireland and those ‘cradle Anglicans’ who would like to know more about the church in which they grew up.

We will be holding these during the Sunday Night at the Gathering Grounds. The first is on 29 March, the second on 26 April, at 8pm.

WOMEN’S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

‘Rise, take your mat and walk’
This was the theme for our annual Women’s World Day of Prayer, held in Kiltiernan Church of Ireland on Thursday 5 March. Each year the service is prepared by women from a different country and this year it was the turn of the women of Zimbabwe.

The artwork adorning the front of our service book was painted by Zimbabwean artist Nonhlanhla Mathe and portrays the transition from darkness into light, representing the transition from a dark and difficult past as a nation to a more prosperous and promising future.

It’s always a pleasure to meet with the representatives from St Mary’s, St Patrick’s, Wayside and

Balally churches, as we work together to organise this ecumenical service, which has become a highlight in the church calendar.

We were delighted when Gráinne Prior agreed to lead us in our meditation and we thank her for her wonderfully moving and inspiring address. Our thanks also to Kevin O’Sullivan and the choir for providing the music for this event.

The Gospel reading was from John chapter 5, verses 2–9, and was the focus for our service. It tells the story of Jesus’ encounter with a man who had been ill for 38 years. He was sitting at the Sheep Gate (Beth-zatha) in Jerusalem, where the sick gathered to soak in the waters there, hoping for healing. When Jesus approaches him, He asks whether he wants to be healed. The sick man is desperate to be healed and explains that without help he cannot get into the healing waters and others push ahead of him. Jesus responds by telling him to ‘Rise, take your mat and walk’. Immediately the man is made well, takes up his mat and walks.

This year a special candle bearing the logo of the Women’s World Day of Prayer was commissioned. The logo shows four figures, representing North, South, East and West, kneeling in prayer for our world. The candle was lit at the beginning of our service and at the end was passed on to Alice and Brid from Ballally, who will host next year’s service from the women of Vanuatu.

A retiring collection was made for the invaluable work of Brother Kevin of the Capuchin Day Centre, which provides meals and food parcels for the homeless.

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make the evening such a success, those who participated in the service, and those who provided and served the refreshments in the Parish Centre.

We thank God for all the times that He has responded to our prayers for healing and for giving us the strength to ‘Rise, take our mat and walk’.

BLESSINGS TO GRÁINNE PRIOR ON HER RETIREMENT

By Carol Barry

We were sorry to hear the news that Gráinne Prior was to retire in February after eight years of pastoral ministry in St Mary’s Church, Sandyford.



I first met Gráinne through my work in St Mary’s National School in 2012. She regularly visited the children in the First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes, and I was struck by her gentleness and kindness as she guided and inspired the children on their faith journeys. Her work in St Mary’s Parish saw her set up many successful outreach groups, including the Parent & Toddler group and the ‘Visiting the Wise’ group.

She possessed a true spirit of ecumenism and enjoyed the many opportunities to display this through involvement in the Women’s World Day of Prayer, the Guided Prayer Week and the Christmas and Harvest community services.

She has touched many with her infectious enthusiasm and her deep spirituality and we are the better for having had such a wonderful friend.

We were absolutely thrilled when Gráinne agreed to lead the meditation in this year’s Women’s World Day of Prayer, and a presentation was made to her on behalf of the people of Kiltiernan Church of Ireland.

We ask God to continue to guide and bless Gráinne as she begins a new and exciting chapter in her life.

NOTICE BOARD

METHODIST/ANGLICAN JOINT SERVICE

On a 5th Sunday we normally celebrate Holy Communion using a rite from an Anglican Church beyond the familiar services of the Church of Ireland prayer-book. We have used the Kenyan rite, the liturgy from the Episcopal Church USA and the liturgy from New Zealand.

It was suggested by John Davey, a Gathering Ground barista and member of Dún Laoghaire Methodist church, that we might consider a Methodist service. I checked with the archbishop to ensure that such things were 'above board', and he suggested that it might be an interesting experiment as part of our international panoply of orders of service. His suggestion was that a Methodist minister might come and officiate if I was to preach. He also suggested that it would be lovely to reciprocate at some point in the future.

On 29 March we will be joined in the spirit of the Methodist/Church of Ireland covenant by the Revd Des Bain.

EASTER 2020

We are making a few changes this Easter to how we conduct our Holy Week services.

8 April—Wednesday Seder

Meal: 7:00pm

See Article section for more on the Seder Meal.

9 April—Maundy Thursday:

8:00pm

Maundy Thursday is the Christian holy day falling on the Thursday before Easter. It commemorates the washing of the disciples' feet and the Last Supper of Jesus with His Apostles. At this service we experience the stripping of the sanctuary in preparation for Good Friday.

10 April—Good Friday

10:00am: Walk pilgrimage. More info to follow.

8:00pm: Good Friday Liturgy. The Tenebrae

Tenebrae is described as the reversal of the Advent wreath: starting Lent with the brightness of six candles, the darkness grows as each candle is extinguished in anticipation of Jesus dying on the cross on Good Friday.

12 April—Easter Sunday

6:30am: Easter Sunrise Service

Every Saturday of Holy Week I complain about having to wake so early on Easter Sunday. Then, as I watch the sun rise, I reflect on how there is nowhere else I'd rather be. There is something special about being at the lead mines chimney early on Easter morning. I invite you to wrap up, bring the flask and join us!

8:30am: Holy Communion

10:30am: All-Age Holy Communion

The Happy Easter Eggs

Last year we sold the Happy Easter Eggs at the Gathering Grounds. These were a great success (we actually ran out). We are planning to see them again this year.

The Happy Easter Eggs are a local project based in County Wicklow and endorsed by our own Archbishop Michael Jackson. As well as delicious fair-trade chocolate, each box contains the Happy Easter Story booklet, which tells the Easter story in easy-to-read rhyme and with great illustrations. For every Happy Easter Egg purchased, a 10c donation is given by the manufacturer to the Hope Foundation.

Eggs are available for purchase in the Gathering Grounds for €8 each from 23 March.

THY KINGDOM COME

Thy Kingdom Come is a prayer initiative for evangelisation. It was last held between Ascension and Pentecost, 30 May to Sunday 9 June 2019. You may remember that we ran a few prayer initiatives, including prayer walks and prayer stations in the Gathering Grounds.

The next dates are 21 May to 31 May 2020. We want to support

this call to prayer. More information to follow.

MARRIAGE COURSE BEGINNING IN MAY

The official date for the start of the marriage course has now been set—5 May. The first course in Kiltiernan will be led by Alan and Diane Morris. You may have heard them speaking at February's Sunday Night at the Gathering Grounds. Alan and Diane have led the marriage course before and are experienced hands in leading us through it.

Several couples have signed up already and spaces are limited, but if you would like to participate please let Julie know at gatheringgrounds@kiltiernanparish.ie

HOT PRESS NEW ARTIST TO WATCH 2020

Victoria Johnston is set to release her double debut single on Friday 13 March 2020. Her original solo tracks are titled *You Are The Peace* and *Tar Liom*, and were recorded and produced by Grammy-nominated producer Denis Woods.



These debut songs will be available to download on iTunes on Friday 13 March and it would be brilliant if the parish could support this release by downloading the songs and helping Victoria to make the Irish music charts.

Hot Press magazine recently double-featured Victoria Johnston as 'New Artist' and 'New Music' to watch for in 2020.

'The tunes turn out to be as impeccable as her credentials'—Hot Press (February 2020 issue). 'She hasn't even released a single yet ... but is already being hailed as the next Enya'—Hot Press (February 2020 issue).

You can keep up to date with Victoria's music by following her social media accounts:
Instagram: @victoriajohnstonofficial
Facebook: VictoriaJohnstonOfficial
Twitter: @victoria_jmusic
www.victoriajohnstonofficial.com

Victoria is a regular singer in the worship group at Sunday Night at the Gathering Grounds.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Every year the parish sets aside donations for other charitable bodies. Some of these contributions go towards charities or initiatives highlighted by the diocese. Others go towards charities that may benefit members of the parish, or charities in which members of the parish may be involved or for which they advocate. This year the select vestry felt able to contribute €12,550 to the following:

- Diocesan Appeal for Asylum and Refugee Accommodation,
- Protestant Aid,
- Mothers' Union,
- Alice Leahy Trust,
- Dublin & Glendalough Diocesan Board of Education,
- Mission to Seafarers,
- Church Missionary Society Ireland,
- Cowper Care,
- Laura Lynn Children's Hospice,

- Leprosy Mission of Ireland,
- POS Children's Education Fund,
- Glorney Foundation,
- St John of God Hospital,
- RNLI,
- Country Air Association,
- Samaritans,
- Alzheimers Café,
- Bray Women's Refuge,
- Christ Church Cathedral,
- Clergy Widow and Orphans Fund,
- Peter McVerry Trust,
- Solas Project,
- Church in Chains,
- Church's Ministry of Healing,
- Harding Trust,
- Church of Ireland Association of Deaf People,
- DUMCN,
- Eco Congregation Ireland,
- PACT/Here to Help,
- Royal British Legion,
- Team Hope,
- SPCK,
- Kirwan House.

MUSIC NOTES

Sunday Night at the Gathering Grounds music:

Victoria and Kevin lead a small group of amateur singers and musicians for our worship at the Gathering Grounds. All are welcome to join to sing or play. Contact Kevin for more information.

What's coming

This Lent sees the return of Sung Compline on Tuesdays at 7:30pm. Please join the Parish Choir for a short service of reflection with

song. The Parish Choir are preparing for Holy Week and look forward to singing music that will strengthen our worship during this time of reflection.

What's happened

After a busy Christmas, the choirs took a nice break. Santa's visit to Kiltiernan had the Junior Choir singing Christmas carols in the Gathering Grounds and several choristers treated us to carols on their musical instruments. Maybe a band is forming?

The Junior Choir will be competing on 6–7 March 2020 in the Wesley Interschools Music Festival. No doubt they have done their school and parish proud.

Find out more

Kevin O'Sullivan, the Parish Organist, can be contacted at any time via music@kiltiernanparish.ie for any queries about participating in the music of the parish or to find out about other musical events.

KILTIERNAN PARISH LAWN TENNIS CLUB

The Monday morning tennis ladies organised a Christmas party for all lady members in the Gathering Grounds on Monday 15 December. We had a most enjoyable night, with great food and good fun.

On 27 December we held our usual Christmas tennis at midday, with mulled wine and 'pot luck' refreshments with a hint of festive fare. The weather was fine and we brushed off the cobwebs with some



The Senior and Junior choirs pictured after the parish carol service.

NOTICE BOARD

energetic play.

The Winter league is in progress as we write these notes. Currently the Men's team have won two out of two matches and are top of Class 7. The ladies in Class 6 have won one, lost two and are in fourth place.

We hope to resume Junior coaching on Saturday afternoons in March. Details will be sent out to members shortly.

The new season begins on 1 April, when subs will be due again, and the good news is that there has been no increase since last year.

New members are welcome (Senior or Junior). For information please ring 086 809 2211 or email kiltiernanparishlhc@gmail.com.

CELEBRATING A 100TH BIRTHDAY IN THE GATHERING GROUNDS

We celebrated with David Rowe as he hit the big 100. David is a regular in the Gathering Grounds, and his wife Veronica is a faithful volunteer on Monday mornings. We wish him and his family God's blessing!

VERONICA ROWE RECEIVES HER COMMUNITY AWARD

Limerick lace is the most famous of all Irish laces and one of Ireland's most important art industries. In the summer of 2018, Veronica agreed to give her grandmother's historic lace collection on long-term loan to the Limerick museum. Veronica was this year's winner of



Veronica Rowe being honoured as this year's winner of the Community Service Awards in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.

the Community Service Awards and was honoured in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, on 16 February.

Pictured above with Veronica is Helen O'Donnell, Professor Eugene Wall, Mayor Sheahan and the Very Revd Niall J. Sloane, Dean of Saint Mary's Cathedral. Well done, Veronica!

EASTER VESTRY

The Parish Easter Vestry—its AGM—will take place in the Kiltiernan Centre on 21 April at 8:00pm. Refreshments will be served.

The Easter Vestry is an

opportunity for the parish at large to hear something of the life of the parish—its mission and vision, as well as a review of the past year.

FÊTE DATES

This year's fête is on 9 May, so save the date. As always, we will be looking for people to volunteer or donate. More info to come.

DAFFODIL DAY COFFEE MORNING



Daffodil Day Coffee Morning
In Aid of
The Irish Cancer Society
Friday 27th March 9.30 – 12.30

At 22 Glenbourne View,
Leopardstown Valley, D18.

All Welcome
& bring a Friend!

Monique & Billy Tomkins

Below: Celebrating David Rowe's 100th birthday



THE GATHERING GROUNDS

A Gathering Grounds note from Julie Clements

Events occurring around the world, in Ireland, and in our own homes can be overwhelming at the best of times, we are not meant to live our lives in isolation. We all need places where we can be with other people when life gets out of control. We hope that anyone who finds themselves overwhelmed can find a safe space and someone to talk to at the Gathering Grounds. Always remember the following:

- *Step out of the darkness*
- *Allow yourself to be vulnerable*
- *Make contact with others*
- *You are precious and loved by God*
- *Sometimes a moment feels like it is going to last a lifetime, but it won't*
- *When you feel dark clouds coming, reach out to someone*
- *Prayer is powerful*

Fundraising at the Gathering Grounds

We had several successful fundraisers in the Gathering Grounds over Christmas. At Santa's Grotto, €440 was raised for St Vincent de Paul, and €800 was raised at a wreath-making craft night for the Solas Project!

Craft night at the Gathering Grounds

In February we had our biggest craft night yet, with 26 people attending for a night of needle felting (pictured above). We also introduced



a new section called 'a bite of inspiration', where we listened to a Brene Brown's TED talk on vulnerability. The craft night is a lovely gathering of women of all ages on the first Friday of the month.

Epiphany Tea

In celebration of the wise men meeting Baby Jesus in awe and with gifts, the Gathering Grounds held an Epiphany Tea on 6 January (pictured below). Live celebratory music was brought to us by Michael and Michael, and by our own Ann Walsh alongside her student, Kate, who delivered a beautifully reflective presentation on the harp. Food on the afternoon was prepared by chef Rob Pierce, and sweet treats by our home bakers. A

huge thank-you goes out to the young people who served attentively on the day. With gratitude to the musicians, chef, bakers, servers, and to those of you who came out to enjoy the experience, all money raised went to parish funds.

Coffee morning for Australia Day

Australia Day was on Sunday 26 January. The school organised a fundraiser on Monday 27th to raise funds for Australian charities who are counteracting the devastating effects of the fires. Also, in support of the school's chosen charities, the Gathering Grounds held a coffee morning on the 27th and heard a presentation by a recent fire evacuee who had been in Australia over Christmas. We were delighted to have raised over €1,200 together with the school. Many thanks to all who contributed to this morning.

SPIRIT Radio coffee morning

The Gathering Grounds hopes to support SPIRIT Radio and Tearfund in March by taking part in their National Coffee Morning to raise funds for Tearfund's programmes in places like Ethiopia, Cambodia and Lebanon. Keep an eye on the Gathering Ground Facebook page or parish announcements for a date.



SCENES FROM



Clockwise from top left:

The Kiltiernan Centre under a rainbow;

Kiltiernan Table Tennis Club winners Noel, Georgina, Suzanne and Irwin;

Communion Service in the Gathering Grounds;

Emily Naylor-Jones holding a wreath at the Craft Night;

Two Transition Year students help out at the Gathering Grounds;

The Epiphany Tea;

The refurbished Church Cottage.

I PARISH LIFE



WHAT IS THE SEDER MEAL?

Rob Clements

The background

Passover is the great Jewish feast of redemption and liberation, the memorial of the Israelites' deliverance from their bondage in Egypt. The word Passover means 'deliverance', since in the story of the Exodus Yahweh 'passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt' (Ex. 12: 27). Passover is a festival of great rejoicing, which reveals how God 'led us from captivity to freedom, from sadness to joy, from mourning to feasting, from servitude to redemption, from darkness to brilliant light'.

The ritual meal that commemorates the events of the Exodus is called the Seder meal. The primary aim of the Seder is to transmit to future generations the story of the Exodus, the central event in Jewish history. Ideally, a family gathers around a table to celebrate the Seder. The Exodus story pertains to all persons, since it tells of the right of all persons to be free.

In the Christian tradition the Passover Seder is also believed to be when Jesus broke bread with His disciples just before He died. He was at a Seder meal when He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to His disciples. Holy Communion celebrates not only our tradition of Christ's last supper but our own Jewish heritage, which provided the context.

The Four Questions

The Seder ceremony begins in earnest with the questions of a small child, traditionally known as the 'Four Questions'. These questions serve as an introduction to the Scripture.

The questions are asked by the



youngest, because each generation is obligated to make the Exodus its own and because the parent is obligated by Scripture to recount for his or her children what the Lord has done for them. The four questions follow an introductory question, *Why does this night differ from all other nights?* They are:

- On all other nights we eat leavened bread; why on this night only *matzah*?
- On all other nights we eat all kinds of herbs; why on this night only bitter herbs?
- On all other nights we do not dip our herbs at all; why on this night must we dip them twice?
- On all other nights we eat in an ordinary manner; why on this night do we dine with special ceremony?

Roles to be performed

The Seder meal is designed as an act of all-age worship, in so far as all ages are involved and seen as essential to the success of the ceremonial meal. Ideally, the role of leader is filled by a parent. One of the participants should be designated as server. Often a guest is asked to assume a role such as commentator. Usually a woman (preferably the mother) begins the service by lighting the festive candles. Traditionally the youngest person present poses the Four Questions. Everyone is encouraged

to participate fully in the meal, in prayer, conversation and music.

Since the Seder is a commemoration of the Exodus story, it is strongly recommended that prior to the celebration all participants read and reflect on the scriptural account of this event, which is found in chapters 7–13 of the Book of Exodus. This account serves as an excellent family Lenten reading programme, and reflection on it will greatly enhance the celebration of the Seder.

Components of the Seder Plate

There are at least five foods that go on the Seder plate: a lamb shank bone (*zeroa*), egg (*beitzah*), bitter herbs (*maror*), vegetable (*karpas*) and a sweet paste called *charoset*, a mixture of apples, pears, nuts and wine, which resembles the mortar and brick made by the Jews when they toiled for Pharaoh. Many Seder plates also have room for a sixth, *hazeret* (another form of the bitter herbs). There would also be unleavened bread and wine. All of them are meant to remind us of the primary theme of Passover: the Jewish people's transition from slavery to freedom. There is generally only a small, symbolic amount of food on the Seder plate, with additional dishes of *karpas*, *maror* and *charoset* set out for people to eat from during the Seder.

What can we learn from the Seder meal?

You may wonder why we are discussing the Seder meal; after all, we are not Jewish. However, there is a lot we can learn from the Seder meal, particularly as we reflect on the Jewish origins of our faith and the nature of our family meal, Holy

Communion.

Anyone who has joined in this 'covenant' meal has probably recognised that it is almost entirely geared, from beginning to end, towards the children of promise and the grace of God. It is meant to teach them their identity as children of God, to impress upon them their obligations, and to educate them in God's story throughout history. Does our celebration of Holy Communion not do the same?

The Seder may also remind Christians of the inseparability of food and sacrament. While the Jewish Seder uses tokens of bread and wine in portions roughly equal to our communion rite, we should note well that they are part of a meal! How much damage have we done to our understanding of the sacramental meal by our arbitrary separation of elements from the preceding banquet? At its heart Holy Communion is a family table around which the people of God gather.

There are many other lessons that we may learn. And we might note that the New Testament suggests that it is quite easy to transpose the significance of the *Pesach* elements into the Christian tradition. In fact, Paul broadly applied several of these elements to Christians in a way that suggests the transposition is obvious. 'Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us keep the festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth' (1 Cor. 5: 6–7, NIV).

During Holy Week we are going to have a Seder meal. Yes, this will be a real meal, accompanied by commentary, prayers and songs. We will sit around tables and eat the same ritual foods that would have been eaten at the Passover. This will be in the Gathering Grounds and we hope for a full house. More info nearer the time.

MAINTENANCE OR MISSION?

Some time ago I received a short article, adapted from Canon Harold Percy's book *Good News People*, which makes a contrast between 'maintenance' and 'mission'. Canon Percy is of the Anglican Church in Canada and a regular contributor across the church on questions of growth and evangelism. It's a provocative article, designed to make us think about how we 'do' church. He asks the question: are you a maintenance church or a mission church? The answer, he suggests, might be found in considering the following points.

- (1) In measuring its effectiveness, the maintenance congregation asks, 'How many pastoral visits are being made?' The mission congregation asks, 'How many disciples are being made?'
- (2) When contemplating some form of change, the maintenance congregation says, 'If this proves upsetting to any of our members, we won't do it'. The mission congregation says, 'If this will help us reach someone on the outside, we will take the risk and do it'.
- (3) When thinking about change, the majority of members in a maintenance congregation ask, 'How will this affect me?' The majority of members in the mission congregation ask, 'Will this increase our ability to reach those outside?'
- (4) When thinking of its vision for ministry, the maintenance congregation says, 'We have to be faithful to our past'. The mission congregation says, 'We have to be faithful to our future'.
- (5) The pastor in the maintenance congregation says to the newcomer, 'I'd like to introduce you to some of our members'. In the mission congregation the members say, 'We'd like to introduce you to our pastor'.
- (6) When confronted with a legitimate pastoral concern, the

pastor in the maintenance congregation asks, 'How can I meet this need?' The pastor in the mission congregation asks, 'How can this need be met?'

- (7) The maintenance congregation seeks to avoid conflict at any cost (but rarely succeeds). The mission congregation understands that conflict is the price of progress and is willing to pay the price.
- (8) The leadership style in the maintenance congregation is primarily managerial, where leaders try to keep everything in order and running smoothly. The leadership style in a mission congregation is primarily transformational, casting a vision of what can be and marching off the map in order to bring the vision into reality.
- (9) The maintenance congregation is concerned with their congregation, its organisations and structure, its constitutions and committees. The mission congregation is concerned with the culture, with understanding how secular people think and what makes them tick. It tries to determine their needs and their points of accessibility to the Gospel.
- (10) When thinking about growth, the maintenance congregations asks, 'How many Anglicans live within a twenty-minute drive of this church?' The mission congregation asks, 'How many unchurched people live within a twenty-minute drive of this church?'
- (11) The maintenance congregation looks at the community and asks, 'How can we get these people to support our congregation?' The mission congregation asks, 'How can the Church support these people?'
- (12) The maintenance congregation thinks about how to save their congregation. The mission congregation thinks about how to reach the world.

HOW IS THE CHURCH GOVERNED? UNDERSTANDING THE SELECT VESTRY

Good governance is important. We live in an age where charitable organisations are under the microscope. That's not a bad thing, as it moves us towards transparency and consistent practice.

Someone recently asked me to explain what the Select Vestry is. It's a good question, and perhaps churches have not been clear enough over the years, especially to new members, about how we are governed. It's useful to underline what the role of the Select Vestry is, what it isn't, and how its role has changed over the years.

At the Easter Vestry we elect a Select Vestry. The Select Vestry exists to manage church money and buildings as effectively as it can, so that the church's ministry and outreach are well resourced. Quite simply, the Select Vestry is the trustee and steward of the parish's resources. The people who make up the Select Vestry are: the member of the clergy who is officiating in the parish; two churchwardens (one selected by the rector and one elected by the people); two glebewardens (one selected by the rector and one elected by the people); and up to twelve additional elected parishioners from the list of General Vestry persons. At its first meeting after the Easter Vestry, the Select Vestry appoints from among its members a secretary and a treasurer.

The Select Vestry normally meets monthly, with the rector in the chair. A typical meeting will decide how any building maintenance issues should be dealt with, will look carefully at the finances for the year to date and will be consulted by the rector on his/her plans for the next period. The Select Vestry's responsibilities include the employment of lay people, providing the infrastructure to support worship and ministry, looking after the exterior and interior of the church, glebe, other buildings and

graveyards, and ensuring compliance with State and Church legislation and regulations. The responsibilities of the Select Vestry can be summarised into the following categories:

- **FINANCE:** to ensure that all parish funds and assets are used appropriately and that the parish is able to meet its financial responsibilities.
- **FABRIC:** to maintain the church, glebe, other buildings and graveyards. Although the Select Vestry has a duty to manage the buildings, this duty is subject to the control of the diocesan council and of the Representative Church Body (RCB) where the property is vested in it.
- **FURNISHINGS:** to maintain the furnishings inside the buildings.
- **COMPLIANCE:** to comply with State and Church legislation and regulations. Legislative compliance includes reporting and compliance requirements under charities law, listed/protected buildings and building regulations, disability access, equality legislation, health and safety, copyright compliance, child and vulnerable adult protection, employment and tax legislation, data protection etc. It is also essential to arrange insurance.

Since 2014 churches are subject to charity legislation. We have our own charity number and are bound to the same reporting standards as other charitable bodies. While there is little change to how the Select Vestry is elected, Select Vestry members are now trustees of the organisation. It must report to the charities regulator under charity law and be subject to good practice.

What are the roles of the church- and glebewardens? Glebewardens are appointed to assist the rector and the diocesan glebes com-

mittee in the care and management of the rectory and lands. Practical tasks involved in a glebewardens' role usually include routine maintenance, repairs and inspections. As buildings have become more technical over time, some of the tasks undertaken by the glebewardens have now been subcontracted to technical specialists, although these would always be under the governance of the Select Vestry.

Churchwardens are responsible for ensuring proper use of church property and maintaining peace and order during services. The specific duties of churchwardens will vary from church to church, depending on tradition and practice. Traditionally the rector's churchwarden was expected to assist the rector in all practical matters relating to the service, and the people's churchwarden to assist members and visitors attending the service, ensuring that they have books, are suitably seated etc. Generally, that distinction has lessened over time; indeed, many churches now have 'churchwarden teams' with multiple members, or churchwardens distinct from the 'welcome team' who receive people at the door.

What the Select Vestry is not: the Select Vestry does not have authority regarding worship and mission, which sits with the rector. That being said, it is important that the Select Vestry understands the vision of the parish in order to ensure that it is adequately resourced, enabled and, indeed, compliant. It is also misleading to refer to the Select Vestry as the 'leaders' of the church. The church has many leaders in many areas of ministry. The Select Vestry are leaders in the areas identified above, but there are many people who exercise leadership in many areas of church life.

A vibrant Select Vestry is a wonderful asset in any church. A Select Vestry with a vision for ministry and mission is key to a parish's success. We are always looking for people of vision and expertise to put themselves forward for the Select Vestry. Perhaps for you the first step might be to sign up on the General Vestry list and come along to the Easter Vestry.

YOUTH MINISTRY

by *Brian Hickey*

Confirmation 2020

It has been such a joy to be part of Confirmation this year. I really have enjoyed every minute of it. Being given the opportunity to hand these young people their first Bible and help them to navigate it is literally one of the proudest things I have ever done. The group (*picture below after Confirmation on 22 February*) we have had this year has been a real blessing. As the majority of them were part of our youth group it was easy to settle into a routine with them. We already had a base of knowing each other, which is great because awkwardness is removed completely.

My hope and prayer for this group is that they will continue on their journey and keep learning. Just because you have been confirmed doesn't mean you know everything about the faith. That's not the purpose of Confirmation. Confirmation is the opportunity to learn the basics of our faith. You spend the rest of your life trying to learn more. Our faith is a marathon, not a sprint.

To the boys, Louie, Ashton, Andrew G, Sam and Andrew O'B,

what a pleasure it has been to have been given the chance to teach you. Your investment in the classes was extremely impressive and very encouraging for Rob and me. Keep going! To the girls, Ellie, Juliette, Natasha, Grace, Juno, Laura, Lucy and Sophia, you've driven me nuts over the past few weeks, but it's been a real joy being part of this with you, and having spent this time with you all is something I'll treasure in my heart.

Confirmation is the beginning of your own journey, stepping out and taking the reins of your own faith. So, as Paul says to the Colossian church, I would encourage you to 'let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way'.

Youth Groups—a call for leaders

We took the decision to move the 1st years out of the junior youth and put them in with the senior youth after a trial in December. With that, the opportunity to bring 5th class into the junior youth group became a possibility. To my very great surprise, we had a massive turnout to our first junior youth group meeting. And I thank



The Confirmation class pictured during their preparation—making their leader proud!

God for that ... although having to drink a can of Sprite through my own sock wasn't enjoyable. Chat to me if you need further information on why it came to that!

My leaders are fantastic; I couldn't ask for much more from them. They give up their time and energy to help lead the youth group. Mostly working in the background, I would be lying if I said I could do this without them. This group of leaders literally keep the show moving. It is impossible to run a programme without them. As numbers have grown in the ministry, the need for new leaders has become apparent.

It has gotten to the stage that, if we are not adequately hitting the ratios from a child protection point of view, I will have to send young people away. It is not something I want to do, but children's and teenagers' safety while in the parish centre is my top priority, and if I am unable to meet that it will be the young people who miss out.



The scene post-Confirmation with the Rector and the Archbishop of the Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough, Most Reverend Michael Jackson.

FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY

So, I am asking for help. If you have one Friday evening free a month to be able to help out at youth group, please get in contact with me.

Adventures in Greystones

It has been a bit of a whirlwind 2020 for me. At the end of 2019 I accepted a role in St Patrick's, Greystones, as their Youth Worker. Since completing college I have had a lot of time on my hands and have been keen to fill that with something. So, when this post showed up, Rob encouraged me to go for it and I got the job! I won't lie; the level of work I am doing now is exhausting! I'm just tired all the time. It wouldn't be like us Millennials to complain, would it?!

The community there are great! They have really made me feel welcome and are on board to give support in whatever shape youth ministry will take in the future, which is encouraging. A shout out to Mel Reed, who always asks me about them. We joke that I prefer Greystones, which couldn't be further from the truth. I'll nip it in the bud now—I do not have a favourite church, so please stop asking me! When I'm in Kiltiernan I am 100% focused on Kiltiernan, and when I'm in Greystones I'm 100% focused on Greystones.

Greystones have a similar but slightly different set-up for Sunday mornings. Their teens go out for their own 'Sunday School', so everyone from junior infants right up to 6th year is looked after in some way, shape or form. I will be helping to lead their junior youth group, which meets during the week, and have also been taking part in their Confirmation classes. They do the classes a bit differently from how I have been used to doing them in Kiltiernan. I've already been in the primary school many times, taking part in assemblies, teaching 6th class and probably annoying their principal. Some things never change!

I'd love for you to pray for me as I begin this journey with two jobs. Pray that I can maintain the two posts and do them with energy.

Pray for my relationships with my new staff team, with the new teenagers I will encounter, with the school and with the church as a whole. Pray for our staff team in Kiltiernan; even organising meetings has become difficult. Pray that they don't miss me too much ... I'm sticking to that last one!!! And encourage me. Ministry can be a difficult road and a lot of the time you are actually there doing it on your own. At this moment of writing I am sitting in an empty office and parish centre because everyone has gone home! I may need a lift every now and again, and an encouraging word can go a long way.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

by Lynn Storey

Holy Week Easter Lego Brick Challenge

Looking ahead to Holy Week and Easter Sunday, I have a challenge for all the family to enjoy. You are all invited to take part in the Kiltiernan Holy Week Easter Lego Brick Challenge, which will be fun for all the family, as you share and explore the story and events of Holy Week at home together. The Lego Challenge will keep everyone busy and learning more each day about the journey through Holy Week to Easter Sunday.

The challenge lasts eight days, starting on Palm Sunday and finishing on Resurrection Sunday.

Each day of the challenge there is a Scripture reading. You can read the passage from a children's storybook Bible or straight from Scripture. The children in Sunday Club will be given a booklet which will include all the instructions and the Bible readings, all ready to go! We would love for as many people as possible to get involved in the challenge, however, and the booklets will be available in the Gathering Grounds from Sunday 29 March.

Use Lego to respond to the Bible passage you have read to



create a different scene each day. Depending on your age, you can use the easier or the more difficult challenge. You can use a children's Bible or look up pictures online for inspiration on how to build the challenges. Above all, have fun and use your imaginations!

No Lego? Don't worry! We will have an assortment of Lego in the Gathering Grounds each day during Holy Week for you to use and take part in the challenge. It will also be an opportunity for us to gather together and for you to bring your creations to display. You will find all the times and details in the booklet.

If you are unable to come to the Gathering Grounds, you are invited to take pictures of your finished product to share with friends and family! You can also send your photos each day to Lynn on 087-695 7061 using WhatsApp, or email them to lynnstorey14@gamil.com.

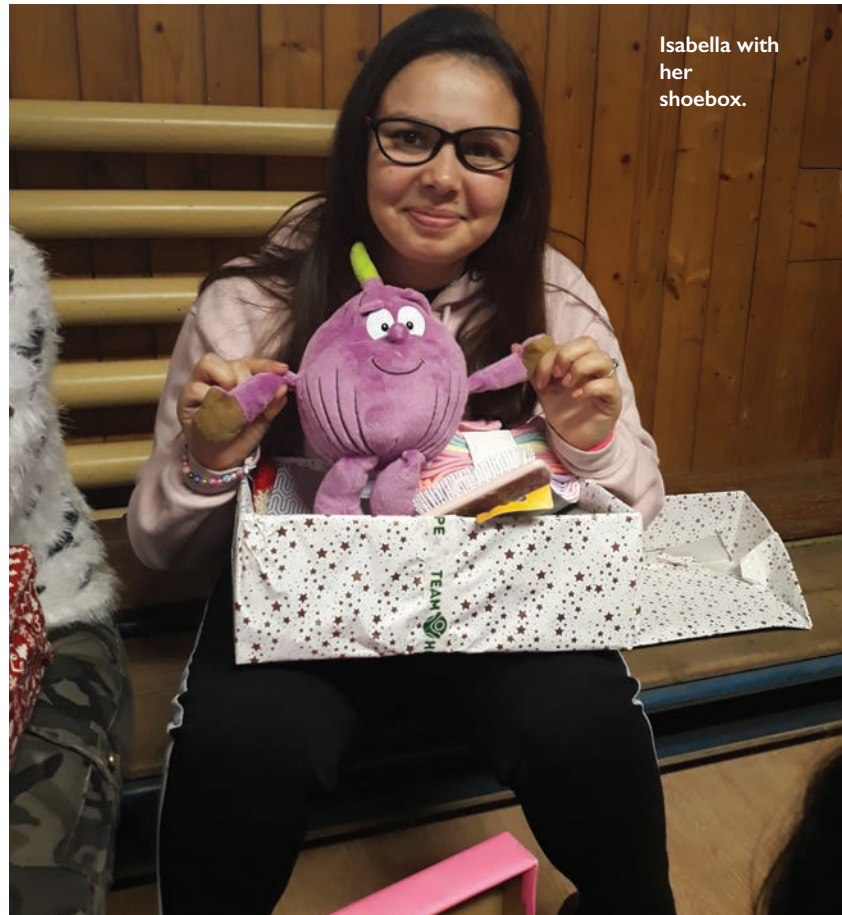
The challenge is not just for the children; the whole family can get in on the action. For anyone wanting to share the challenge with family, grandchildren or godchildren, please do take a copy of the challenge or get in touch with Lynn to receive an electronic version that you can send on. Let's see how far the Kiltiernan Holy Week Easter Lego Brick Challenge can travel! We do hope you will enjoy it.

A BIG THANK-YOU FROM TEAM HOPE!

Last year, 2019, was a big year for Team Hope, as we celebrated the 10th Annual Shoebox Appeal since our founding. We also had another landmark moment—delivering our two-millionth shoebox. With your help, that’s two million smiles that we have been able to put on children’s faces!

We are delighted that we received a record-breaking 270,488 shoeboxes in 2019! These have been delivered to children in thirteen countries across Africa and Eastern Europe: Albania, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Burundi, DR Congo, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), Kenya, Kosovo, Lesotho, Malawi, Romania, Transnistria and Ukraine.

In December I travelled with a team of volunteers to a very poor area in the south of Romania. Our first visit was to an orphanage, which was home for 40 children ranging in age from ten to eighteen years. They were really happy to see us and sang some Romanian songs, as well as joining in with us in singing ‘Jingle Bells’! The first boy to whom I gave a shoebox was Ioan, who was sixteen years old. Ioan goes to school and admits that he needs to work harder if he wants to fulfil his dream of becoming a businessman! He loves football, Barcelona is his favourite team and Messi is his favourite player. Ioan loved his hat as well as the school supplies in his shoebox. He found two small boxes with Lego-type figures inside and he immediately called his little brother, Razvan, and gave him the boxes, much to Razvan’s delight! Isabella is fourteen and lives in an orphanage. She and her friends were delighted to find really good hairbrushes in their shoeboxes, as well as some make-up of course! Isabella especially loved the seven pairs of pastel-coloured socks in her shoebox; she counted on her fingers and went ‘Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday’ etc.! During our few days in Romania, so many children told us that the toothpaste was



Isabella with her shoebox.

their favourite thing in the shoebox, and we saw that the simplest gifts brought the biggest smiles!

Delivering our two-millionth shoebox was a very special moment for me. I gave it to a lovely six-year-old girl called Aline, who lives with a foster family in Romania. Aline loved her shoebox, which was filled with colouring pens, hats, sweets and a flamingo—she smiled from ear to ear! Receiving the two-millionth box made Aline feel special, and that feeling is one that has been shared by all the children who have been gifted a shoebox over the years. Every shoebox has counted—thank you!

Early in January, I travelled with another team of volunteers to Transnistria, which is a small communist country between Moldova and Ukraine. It is recognised officially by Russia and Moldova. Moldova is the poorest

country in Europe and Transnistria is even poorer again. Nine volunteers joined me on this trip and we had a wonderful and extremely busy time visiting homes and community centres in more than twelve villages, giving children shoeboxes. One teacher called from a school to thank our partners and the Irish team for coming. Since our visit, the children at school had begun learning Geography and English diligently, whereas before our visit they had no motivation to do so! The teacher was very impressed and told us that ‘this is the lasting influence which your visit had’.

On a cold Saturday morning in Transnistria, we visited some families who lived in villages. It could have been Ireland over 100 years ago; there were no tarred roads, and looking at some of the homes you wondered how did the walls stay up and the ceilings not

COMMUNITY AND WIDER CHURCH

cave in! It was obvious that these families lived in abject poverty. Nathalie, a social worker, lives and works in these communities and brought us to meet many families.

Olga is a mum whom we met and she was wearing a green dressing gown; she has one child but looks after three nephews/nieces after their mum left for a better life. Their dad went to Russia years ago and has not returned to visit his family. Olga's brother and father live with them. They drink a lot and don't contribute to the household bills.

The mother of the three nephews/nieces is still registered as their legal guardian and so Olga cannot claim any help from the government for them. Child allowance is only paid to families for the first eighteen months and then stops. Neighbours help each other and desperate parents do menial tasks to earn a few roubles. In order to make some extra money, Olga goes round the houses in the village and does odd jobs like painting fences and rooms, cleaning, gardening etc., and sometimes in the summer farmers need help.

One of the girls, Nadia, is ten years old. Her eyes just lit up when I gave her a shoebox. She sat on the steps outside her home, quite overwhelmed that this beautiful box containing all these gifts was just for her! She loved the cuddly toys, the leggings, the socks and the notebooks and stationery.

Nadia told me that she loved everything! She goes to school and loves Russian and maths, and she wants to be a policewoman when she grows up.

So, thank-you to everyone who packed a shoebox or helped in other ways. For many of the children, it's their first time ever to receive a present. Every shoebox is special, and over the years you have helped make a huge difference to millions of children living in very difficult conditions across the world. Thank you!

Carol Hennessey,
Christmas Shoebox Appeal
National Manager



'TALKING CLIMATE: WHY FACTS ARE NOT ENOUGH'

This event is being promoted by the Church and Society Commission on 13 March.

When we hear people objecting to climate change, they often use science-y or even religious-y arguments. 'It's just a natural cycle', some say, or 'God is in control, so humans can't affect something as big as our planet'. Yet if the conversation continues a few minutes longer, it rapidly becomes apparent that the real objections have nothing to do with lack of

information or knowledge or belief. Our attitudes towards climate change are primarily the result of where we fall on the political spectrum, and our corresponding aversion to what we perceive to be the only solution: allowing the government to destroy the economy, impose unfair regulations and rob us of our personal liberties.

Is there solid evidence that climate is changing and that humans are responsible? Are there solutions that are economically viable and appealing across the political spectrum? And why would any of us even care? Join Dr Katharine Hayhoe as she untangles the complex science behind global warming and highlights the key role our values can play in shaping our conversations on this crucial topic.

Katharine Hayhoe is an accomplished atmospheric scientist who studies climate change and why it matters to us here and now. She is also a remarkable communicator who has received the American Geophysical Union's climate communication prize, the Stephen Schneider Climate Communication award, and been named to a number of lists, including *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People, Foreign Policy's 100 Leading Thinkers, and *FORTUNE* magazine's World's Greatest Leaders.

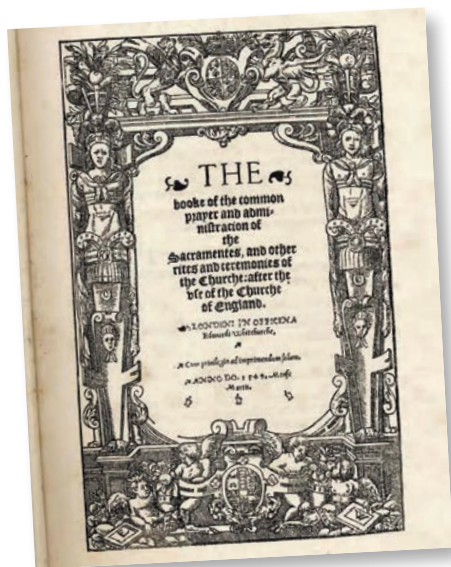
You can register for this event at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/talking-climate-why-facts-are-not-enough-dr-katharine-hayhoe-tickets-86967083889>.



CRANMER'S CORNER



It is generally assumed that the first edition of the Book of Common Prayer in 1549 was the work of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. The Book of Common Prayer has gone through a large number of redrafts and changes over time, but it still provides the shape of how Anglicans worship. Cranmer's Corner looks at a different aspect of the prayer-book and seeks to shed some light on it.



The first Book of Common Prayer

Grace, mercy and peace

Usually we begin our services with the president of the service saying, 'The Lord be with you', to which the people reply, '**And also with you**'. In this greeting the community is gathered and bound together, and relationships are formed and acknowledged.

There is, however, a longer greeting:

Grace, mercy and peace
From God the Father
And the Lord Jesus Christ
Be with you
And also with you

This is an extension of the greeting we find in 1 Timothy 1: 2; 2 Timothy 1:2; and 2 John 1:3. These three words of greeting, 'grace, mercy and peace', say something about the essence of our relationship with God.

'Grace' is a hard word to tie down, but it has the flavour of generosity and gift about it. It hints at the many good things we receive as a result of our life in Christ. 'Mercy' or 'compassion' refers to the nature of God always to reach out to us in love, no matter who we are or what we have done. 'Peace' evokes not only tranquillity or the absence of violence but also wholeness. The Hebrew word for 'peace', *shalom*, has a sense of completeness about it.

At the beginning of worship, then, we wish for each other an experience of God's generosity, compassion and wholeness that will underpin everything that is to happen. It's a good check on the attitude we bring to worship. Do we wish that for one another? A good way to begin your morning's worship is to look around at all the people in the church, from the tiniest baby to the church elders, and to pray for them an experience of God's generosity, compassion and wholeness.

The content of this section is adapted from Echoing the Word by Paula Gooder and Michael Perham.

LECTIONARY RAMBLINGS

¹*I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?*

²*My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.*

³*He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.*

⁴*He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*

⁵*The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.*

⁶*The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.*

⁷*The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.*

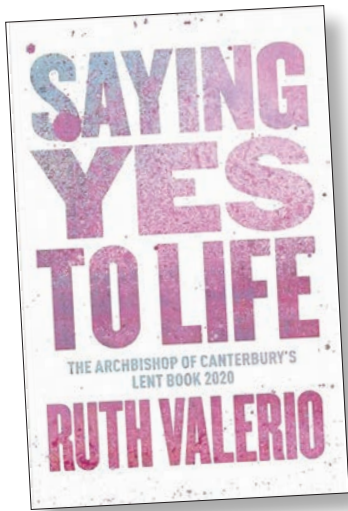
⁸*The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.*

During Lent, we read Psalm 121, a well-loved psalm with those familiar words, *I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?*

Psalm 121 has always been identified as a 'traveller's psalm' or a psalm for 'sojourners' and has been used in the congregation or family circle before setting out on a trip. In ancient Israel the psalm was very likely used as a ritual for setting out on a journey. The one leaving expresses the anxiety that is always present at the start of a trip (v. 1) but then expresses confidence in the Lord (v. 2).

Those staying at home address the traveller with the encouraging words in the remainder of the psalm. The Lord is pictured as a night watchman who neither slumbers nor sleeps (vv 3–4). Once in a while, says Luther in a sermon on this psalm, it may appear that the Lord has forgotten about us. When we feel this way, 'we should remain steadfast in faith and await God's help and protection. Because even though it appears that God is sleeping or snoring ... this is certainly not so, despite the way we feel and think. He is surely awake and watching over us ... Eventually we'll learn that, if we can only hold fast.'

Perhaps this is why we read this psalm at a funeral. This is a different type of journey, but a journey nonetheless, as we travel from this world to the next.



Saying Yes to Life: the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2020, by Ruth Valerio

Saying Yes to Life lifts our focus from natural, everyday concerns to issues that are having an impact on millions of lives around the world. As people made in the image of God, we are entrusted to look after what He has created: to share in God's joy and ingenuity in making

a difference for good. Ruth Valerio imaginatively draws on the Days of Creation (Genesis 1) as she relates themes of light, water, land, the seasons, other creatures, humankind, Sabbath rest and resurrection hope to matters of environmental, ethical and social concern.

'Ruth Valerio's book is perfect for individuals and groups to think, reflect, pray and be challenged together'—JUSTIN WELBY, from the foreword.

Foundational to *Saying Yes to Life* is what it means to be human and, in particular, to be a follower of Jesus. Voices from around the world are heard throughout, and each chapter ends with discussion questions and a prayer to aid action and contemplation.

Dr Ruth Valerio is Global Advocacy and Influencing Director at Tearfund. An environmentalist,



theologian and social activist, Ruth holds a doctorate from Kings College London, and honorary doctorates from the Universities of Winchester and Chichester. She is Canon Theologian at Rochester Cathedral and her home church is part of the 24/7 Prayer Network. She enjoys living sustainably—practising what she preaches and inspiring others as she does so—in the south of England with her family. She is the author of *L is for Lifestyle: Christian living that doesn't cost the earth* and *Just Living: faith and community in an age of consumerism*.

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Sung Lenten Compline
at Kilternan Parish Church
Tuesdays 7:30pm
March 3rd to April 7th

- WORSHIP - REFLECTION - PRAYER -

THE RESURRECTION

One thing that I have found
complex
Was Our Lord's arousal from death.
Instead of this being a source of joy
I was filled with a dying dread,

For apart from a man named
Lazarus
And perhaps a couple more,
I couldn't recall others rising
Who I believe had expired before.

Our Lord's rising is doubtless
mighty;
I myself don't expect to rise so,
And I thought 'What's the point of
His rising
If that's not the way to go?'

Now remember that man with the
palsy:
Jesus forgave all his sins in talk,
But because they wouldn't believe
Him
He said 'Take up thy bed and walk'.

Was His resurrection something
similar?
If He'd said His spirit would rise
from the dead
No one would see it or come to
believe,
And so He rose bodily instead.

William D

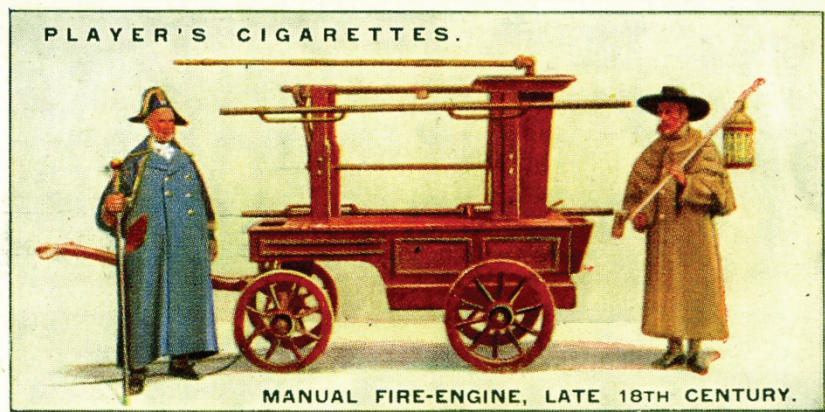
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PARISH PUMP POLITICS



An interesting article in the current issue of *History Ireland* magazine sheds new light on the workings of the Church of Ireland Select Vestries during the eighteenth century and beyond. The author, Pat Poland, in the course of the article also comes up with an interesting theory in this edited extract (reproduced by kind permission of Pat Poland).

'In the reign of King George I, a legal onus was placed on parishes in Ireland to provide fire-fighting equipment.

It became mandatory for each parish to provide 'one large engine and one small engine' and to 'keep and maintain one leather pipe and jacket as the same size as the plug or fire cock'. Churchwardens were directed to place fire-plugs at convenient distances on the water mains, 'such plugs to be maintained and kept in repair at the expense of the parish'. Failure to implement the law could result in a fine of £10.

Each parish vestry was at that time a committee for the local secular and ecclesiastical government of the parish, and originally met in the vestry of a church. Over time, the church replaced the old manorial courts as the centre of rural administration. Vestry meetings attained a new significance; initiated solely for the administration of ecclesiastical matters, they gradually acquired greater responsibilities, such as Poor Law administration. The vestries became an early form of local government, supervising the maintenance of the parish infrastructure, taking respon-

sibility for abandoned children ('foundlings'), feeding the poor, burying the destitute ('paupers') and maintaining the parish pump (fire-engine). These civic services were financed by a local tax called the 'parish cess'. All residents of a parish, irrespective of religious affiliation, had to contribute to the maintenance of the church by way of the so-called 'tithes', a tax that was objectionable to other denominations.

The law that compelled engines to be procured and taken to fires did not provide for them to be actually worked upon arrival. As a result, the only object that their custodians had in view was to secure the sum of money allowed to the keeper of each pump that attended: 30 shillings to the first on the scene, twenty shillings for the second and ten shillings for the third and subsequent arrivals. As these were not inconsiderable amounts of money—30 shillings in 1719 approximates to €515 today—there was often much bickering over who had arrived first, which was not always immediately obvious in the confusion and excitement of the moment. So the subsequent machinations to claim the premium award may have given rise to the expression 'parish pump politics'."

'Parish pumps—the role of the Church of Ireland in Cork City in early fire-fighting' by Pat Poland can be found in the March–April 2020 issue of *History Ireland*.


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