



# KILTERNAN KLIPS

Building community, strengthening worship, growing in service

The quarterly newsletter of Kilternan Parish, Co. Dublin

The Rector on ...

## Thy Kingdom Come

Between Ascension and Pentecost we participated in a global initiative started by the Church of England in 2016 called 'Thy Kingdom Come'. We joined with churches from over 65 different denominations in 114 countries around the world to pray.

After the very first Ascension Day, the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer, while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total—on our own we can do nothing.

Through the centuries Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. 'Thy Kingdom Come' picks up this tradition. Over the past three years more and more worshipping communities have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to praying 'Come, Holy Spirit'. To quote the Archbishop of Canterbury, 'In

**'... prayer and proclamation are not optional extras in our faith but part of our Christian DNA.'**

praying "Thy Kingdom come" we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities'.

During 'Thy Kingdom Come', we are challenged to do two things: we are asked to pray and then to tell (proclaim). We should pray for the renewal of the nation, and in particular for five of our friends, that they might come to a new or renewed faith in Jesus. We pray that the Spirit will inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ

with our friends and families, our communities and networks.

The truth is that to pray and to tell is a big ask. It's very easy for the church today to retreat, to keep our heads down in what is seen as a very secular and at times 'faith-hostile' society. To pray for others and to tell others about Jesus requires courage and risk-taking. It's tempting for us to avoid it at all costs or to leave it to the Christian 'professionals'.

However, prayer and proclamation are not optional extras in our faith but part of our Christian DNA. Prayer should come naturally to us, not just in the form of the beautiful prayers learned on our parents' laps or read in our prayer books but also the prayer that is the cry of the heart for a better world. Likewise, we are called to proclaim the Good News. This is not to be preachy (and certainly not to be judgemental!), but it is to recognise that the Good News that we have received is not to be held but to be given away. We live in a world that is broken and hurting, and in need of the love and grace of Jesus. How will they know unless we tell?

Some of this is well captured by the collect of the 5th Sunday of Easter:

*Risen Christ,*

*Your wounds declare Your love for the world*

*And the wonder of Your risen life:*

*Give us compassion and courage*

*To risk ourselves for those who serve,*

*To the glory of God the Father.*

Every blessing as you pray and tell.

**Revd Rob**



In praying 'Thy Kingdom come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities.



## Contents

Parish Notice Board	3
Easter Vestry report	8
The Parish Fête in pictures	10
Women's World Day of Prayer	12
Is the Church good news for women?	13
Family and Youth Ministry	14
Community and wider Church	16
Cranmer's Corner	17
Book review	18
Sunrise service poem	18
Miscellanea	19



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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 Kilternan Centre every Tuesday at 11:30am.

### Sunday Services

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

June 16	Holy Communion Father's Day Messy Church at 4pm in the rectory grounds
June 23	Valedictory Service
June 30	Holy Communion
July 7	Morning Prayer
July 14	Holy Communion
July 21	Service of the Word
July 28	Holy Communion (Revd Neil McEndoo)
Aug. 4	Morning Prayer (preacher Alistair Doyle—also 8.30am MP)
Aug. 11	Morning Prayer (preacher Carol Barry—also 8.30am MP)
Aug. 18	Holy Communion (preacher and celebrant former Archdeacon of Dublin Gordon Linney)
Aug. 25	Holy Communion
Sept. 1	Blessing of the Backpacks. The start of the Sunday Club term
Sept. 8	Outdoor service (provisional)

## CONTACT LIST

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## PARISH TEAM

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

# PARISH NOTICE BOARD

## REGISTER

### Baptisms

We welcome Oliver McQuestion, Abigail McCabe, Callum Laverty, Nathan Thompson, Jack and Olivia Notley, Priya Brown, Dylan and Jessica Chandler, Oscar Martin and Emily Campling into the family of God's church.

### Christian Burial

We remember Simon McCluskey, who died on 25 March, and Cyril Greene, who died on 13 May. Our prayers are with their families.

### 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)

Tea and coffee after church takes a break over the summer.

## IN RECOGNITION OF OUR DEPARTING SECRETARY, JONATHAN HOLT

Before the Easter Vestry, Jonny Holt, the secretary of the Vestry for the previous eight years and Vestry member for thirteen years, told me that he felt that it was his time to step down. Since he first took the role two small children have entered the Holt family, and life is busy!

We want to thank Jonny for his faithful work for the Select Vestry. He has been a stable presence during the years of the centre build, a progressive voice for church growth and development.

I am particularly thankful for Jonny, as he was one of the parochial nominators responsible for my appointment as your rector.

We wish Jonny God's blessing. We hope that he enjoys the break from secretarial responsibilities, and we look forward to what lies next for him in his ministry in the church.

## SELECT VESTRY 2019

The new Select Vestry this year is as follows: Gary Colcough and Jackie Robinson (church wardens), Bruce Fitzsimons and Christian Kraeft (glebe wardens), Harry Simpson (treasurer), Carol Barry (secretary), Jackie Fitzpatrick, Philip McQuestion, Una MacConville, Jonathan Pickett, Ann Jones Walsh, David Webb, Irwin Johnston, Stephen Newell, Susan O'Toole and Fern Jolley.

## COLLEGE PLACEMENT: ALISTAIR DOYLE



Hi! For those whom I have not had the opportunity to meet, I am Alistair Doyle. I am married to Cecilia and we live in Dún Laoghaire with our family, Richard (30), Chloe (28) and Toby (11).

I have been a lifelong parishioner of St Matthias' Church, Killiney/Ballybrack, and have had several roles within the life of the parish: churchwarden, glebe warden, Select Vestry member, Sunday Club leader, Messy Church leader and diocesan lay reader.

In Philippians 4:4 Paul writes, 'Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!'

I rejoice in the Lord and in sharing God's message of unconditional

and eternal love, with great gladness.

I have embarked on a new chapter in my walk with God, as an ordinand at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. Academic study, pastoral training and regular daily worship are all part of our routine in the Institute, but 'where the rubber meets the road' is the application of what we learn in parish ministry.

I am delighted to have had the opportunity to spend my three-week summer placement in Kiltarnan Parish, learning a great deal from Rob, Julie, the entire ministry team and congregation. Being exposed to the wide range of day-to-day activities of your parish has provided me with the chance to engage with many social group gatherings and ministries. Kiltarnan is a unique place, a parish with a rural heritage, now embracing fast-developing and growing suburbanisation. What I have experienced is a unique example for parish ministry that caters for and serves the needs of its community.

Two extremely encouraging highlights of my time with you have been attending and participating in the church's fresh expression services. The café church-style 'Sunday Night @ the Gathering Grounds' and 'Messy Church' are both providing opportunities for the people of God to come together and worship in an informal way. The Messy Church is flourishing, building both community and discipleship.

It has been wonderful to meet so many people and to discover the connections between people and parishes that is so much part of the Church of Ireland.

I feel a very real sense of God's blessing on the work that is taking place here. What a joy to see people growing in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Thank you all for making me so welcome and for sharing your time and stories with me.

Cheers, Alistair.

## NOTICE BOARD

### CONGRATULATIONS TO REVD SARAH MARRY

Congratulations to Revd Sarah Marry, who has been appointed as incumbent of Edenderry Union. Her appointment was announced on Sunday 19 May.

Sarah has been Priest-in-Charge of St Anne's, Shandon, and Chaplain to St Luke's Home in the dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross since 2015.

Sarah and Declan and their daughters Ella and Sophie lived in our church cottage while she studied for the Church of Ireland ministry. They would have frequently attended church here during that time. Susan, Sarah's mother, is still a parishioner here.

We wish Sarah and her family God's blessing in their ministry.

### KILTERNAN FÊTE 2019

I cannot believe how quickly time passes ... it is a sure sign of getting older or perhaps just a busy life!

The Fête for 2019 has come and gone; thankfully we had a dry day and even saw and felt the sun a few times.

This year we had the fabulous task of incorporating the layout of the Fête around our new Parish Centre. To be honest, it was not an easy task, as we needed to make sure that it would all work on the day. After much consideration we decided to utilise the school hall for the Bric-a-Brac and Toys and the school car park for the PTA Games. We are very lucky to have the use of the school facilities, for which we thank principal Grainne Darlington and her staff.

As per previous years, the set-up commenced on Friday night. Craig McWilliam and his band of merry men arrived at 6pm and worked until darkness fell, laying out the various marquees. Karl Reid and Isaac made sure that all electrical requirements were in place before Karl headed off to watch Leinster play in the final. Isaac was back on site on Saturday morning, making sure that all was ready to go.

On Saturday morning we hit the ground running and everything was ready by 11am. A huge thank-

you to all on the set-up team.

Fête day was a great success. The atmosphere was just fantastic and everybody enjoyed the day, which was enhanced by the music performed by the returning band, 'Three Amigos'.

The Fête is such a great community day; it brings the wider church and school community together, and even though we are working/participating we are joining together as one community and sharing the experience together under the watchful eye of the gracious church spire.

We are really humbled by the continued support for and success of the Fête; this is due to the endeavours of our great community of both school and parish, and we offer many thanks to you all!

I always find it amazing, as we leave the grounds at the end of the day, how it looks as if nothing had taken place and all is ready for church on Sunday and school on Monday—how much we can accomplish in a day!

A huge thank-you to the wonderful, hard-working, positive and supportive committee of Grainne Darlington, Gretchen Dawson, Revd Rob Clements, Helen Dunne, Arlene Brislane and Annemarie McCleane; the Fête would not be possible without you.

Thank you, one and all, for visiting the Fête and making it such a successful day!

Wishing you all a very happy and sunny summer.

Many thanks,

Olive Walker

(Fête Co-ordinator 2019).

### TOTALS IN.

It looks like the total for the 2019 Fête is €22,661. This is an amazing figure that is shared equally between the school and the church. Well done, Olive and team!

*You can see photos of the day in our centre spread.*

### SUNDAY CRÈCHE

The crèche runs from 10:15am till 11:30am and is staffed by Andrea McClean, a parishioner and child-care professional. Andrea runs the

crèche with great care and organisation. It does not operate during the All-Age services, where we would expect the children to be able to participate in their own special way in the service.

The crèche will take a break during the Summer months.



### LENT IN A BAG

Lent feels like a long time ago, but we want to recognise the 'Lent in a Bag' initiative that we used this year. 'Lent in a Bag' included a number of objects to steer reflections during Lent, along with prayers for people to use at home. People were invited to pick a bag up after church on the Sunday before Lent, or to pick them up during the week at the Gathering Grounds. In total 90 bags were taken.

### GARDENING CLUB

Having been so kindly accommodated for our meetings at nearby Rosemont School for the previous two years, the Gardening Club was absolutely delighted to be back on home ground in the superb new parish centre last January. We continued our monthly Monday night meetings with a very interesting variety of speakers, ran the plant stall at the parish fête and are now looking forward to several garden visits over the summer. We restart meetings in September and always welcome new members or visitors.

Enquiries: Noreen Keane  
087 259 2766.

Evelyn Richardson 087 240 6410

**COLLECT FOR FATHER'S DAY**

I've never been invited to write a collect before. As part of the Children's Ministry network, I was invited to write a collect for Father's Day. This was part of a series of occasional prayers collected from schools and church leaders. Here is the prayer for Father's Day.

*God our Father, bless all the dads in the world:  
Dads who make us laugh when they play with us,  
Dads who are brave and protective,  
Dads who seek to be good role models.  
Give them grace and patience in every situation.  
Sometimes being a dad isn't easy.  
When our dads worry (and we know they sometimes do), remind them that You are their Father in heaven and You will take care of their needs.  
Help us to let them know how much we love them,  
And how much You love them also.  
Amen.*

**Rob Clements**

**MEN'S STEAK NIGHT**

A group of Messy Church dads and granddads gathered in the kitchen of the Gathering Grounds for a steak night. Emerson, a Messy Church dad and Brazilian chef, showed a dozen men how to cook the perfect steak.

Look out for another men's steak night in the autumn.

**THY KINGDOM COME**

*'In praying "Thy Kingdom Come" we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities'—* Archbishop Justin Welby.

'Thy Kingdom Come' is a global prayer movement which the Archbishop of Canterbury is inviting people around the world to join. We were delighted to be able to participate this year.

The wave of prayer started on 30 May and ran for ten days between the feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost.

'Thy Kingdom Come' is not



Laurie, Sophie and Esmee who will be travelling to Zambia with Habitat for Humanity.

complicated—it simply encourages people to pray in whatever way they want and with whomever they want for others to come to know Jesus.

During the ten days of 'Thy Kingdom Come', it is hoped that we will:

- Deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for God's spirit to work in the lives of those we know
- Come to realise that every aspect of our life is the stuff of prayer

In Kiltiernan, Brian, our youth worker, arranged an interactive prayer event in the school. We encouraged people to prayer-walk their local communities, praying that God would reach into our neighbourhoods, introducing people to faith in Christ. There were also opportunities for prayer in the Gathering Grounds, as people were invited to take daily prayer cards for personal prayer.

Of course, the plan is not to condense our prayer life into eleven days. The hope is that we will continue to hold our church and community in daily prayer, praying 'Thy Kingdom come'.

**FEARLESS WOMEN CONFERENCE**

'Fearless' is a national conference for women of faith in partnership with Compassion Ireland. It will take place in the Helix at DCU on 11 and 12 October.

Speakers are Lucy Hill, who is part of the 24/7 Prayer movement, and Revd Kathie Filby from Greenville University, Illinois. Worship will be led by singer/songwriter Philippa Hanna.

If you are interested in attending, talk to Julie Clements or find out more at <https://www.fearlesswomen.ie/>.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, ZAMBIA 2019**

*'A world where everyone has a decent place to live'*

By the time you read this I will have travelled to Zambia with Habitat for Humanity. We plan to build five houses in the town of Chipulukusu in Ndola. Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit charity that aims to give families a 'hand up, not a hand out' by building and renovating houses with the involvement of the communities in some of the most disadvantaged areas. Despite Zambia having one of the world's fastest-growing economies, it remains one of the world's poorest countries.

Owing to the lack of affordable housing, about 70% of urban dwellers in the country live in slums with inadequate access to water, sanitation and extension facilities. The lack of decent housing exacerbates people's poverty.

I will be travelling with a group of 30 Wesley students, five of whom are past pupils of Kiltiernan

## NOTICE BOARD

C of I National School, class of 2015. Once we have completed this year's programme, the number of Habitat houses built worldwide by Wesley students will number 88.

On a personal level, this trip has been made even more relevant and exciting as I will be following in my grandfather's footsteps. He was the supervising engineer on the Kabwe to Chisamba road construction, south of Chipulukusu, in 2001.

I would like to thank everyone sincerely for all their support and generosity as I embark on my journey.

**Sophie Moutray**

### HTB VISIT: ALPHA

On 8 May I had the privilege of attending the Global Alpha Gathering in Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB). This was by invitation of Susan O'Toole, who is the chair of Alpha Ireland (and a new member of the Kilternan Select Vestry).

Holy Trinity Brompton is where Alpha began. It is a huge church in London, playing a significant role in church-planting and in the growth of the diocese of London. It's quite an operation. The church buildings accommodate Alpha, other courses, conferences and meetings during the week and ten services each Sunday, with total Sunday service attendance at around 4,500 people.

The conference was an opportunity to promote a number of developments in the Alpha programme, as well as to highlight the marriage and parenting courses. There was much to be encouraged about here. Come September we hope to introduce a number of these programmes to Kilternan. More in the next edition of *Klips*.

### NEW TABLE

A new communion table was donated by Adrienne Carroll in memory of her late husband Derek earlier this year.

Some Sunday in the summer (date to be announced), we will have our 10:30am service in the Kilternan Centre rather than in the

church. At that service there will be a dedication of the table to the Glory of God, and we will break bread together on it.

### MUSIC NOTES

This March, we had our first visiting choir to come sing in our church for some time. Valdez High School, from Alaska, came and sang with our Junior Choir at service on 24 March (*pictured below*). They sang beautiful songs like *Cantate Domino* and *I believe*. They also treated us to some music played by their flautists. Check them out in the photo below with the Junior Choir.

Notre Dame and the fire that captured minds across the world deserves a special mention. The Cathedral has a special place in the hearts of musicians owing to the historical significance of the medieval French in the development of music, the inspiring organ and the choral tradition. A prayer was set to music by a friend of Kevin's, Eoghan Desmond, and it was sung at the Service of Wholeness and Healing during Holy Week.

The Parish Choir worked hard this year to make Lenten services more special. Revd Rob joined us in singing parts of the weekly Compline service and the choir brought reflective pieces that complemented the emotions explored during Holy Week services.

Coming Soon! The Junior Choir will join forces with Cappella Mixed Voice Choir on 14 June at 8pm in the Kilternan Centre in Concert. No doubt it was a fantastic night (as I'm writing before it) and we hope you enjoyed it.

The Parish Choir will be visiting St Anne's Parish in Sligo this June in their first choir trip in a few years. And to finish off the choir year, we'll gather once more in the rectory for our Choir BBQ.

I'd like to give a special mention to the Parish Choir and thank them for their commitment and singing this year. Our two new members, Áine and Nick, have really taken to the choir and are an example of how music is for anyone. They joined Lynda, Linda, Adrienne, Catriona and Geoffrey in leading hymns and songs weekly.

We're all looking forward to coming back on 8 September to bring you another year of great music. If you or someone you know is interested in joining our choirs, please get in touch at [music@kilternanparish.ie](mailto:music@kilternanparish.ie).

### KILTERNAN PARISH LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Since tennis began in the parish in the 1930s the club has seen many changes. The new parish facilities, with changing rooms and showers, and the recent cleaning of the courts mean that the club is now





Relaxing at the Parish Lawn Tennis Club Open Day.

ready for new members! At the Open Day on 18 May current members welcomed over 60 adults and children for tennis and refreshments. Several families joined within the following week and other applications are in the pipeline.

There is a huge demand for junior tennis and plans are in hand to get this started as soon as possible. This is being facilitated by a club member but will need the support of parents to provide adequate supervision in order to comply with Tennis Ireland's child protection guidelines.

Summer League matches are being played by the men's and ladies' teams, and to date all results have been 2-3! Club nights continue on Tuesdays, with ladies also playing on Monday mornings and men on Thursday evenings. Call in if you'd like to find out more!

**Mary White**  
(kilternanparishltc@gmail.com)

**A PARISH GARDEN**

Knockrose Garden ([www.knockrose.com](http://www.knockrose.com)), The Scalp, Enniskerry Road, Kilternan, Dublin D18 Y280, is open every Friday from 10.00am till 5.00pm until the end of August. Other times can be arranged by 'phoning Trish at 087-619 3455.

**THE GATHERING GROUNDS**

**Summer hours**

The Gathering Grounds is usually open from 8am till 3pm, Monday to Friday. During the summer, the hours will be from 10am till 2pm, Monday to Thursday. We will also be closing from 28 July till 28 August. This gives us all a chance to recharge before we come back with a new programme in September.

**Mindful Mondays @ the Gathering Grounds**

This group meets every Monday at 9:00am for 30 minutes of silent

mindful meditation. This is open to everyone. It's a great way to start the week.

**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.

**Sunday Nights @ the Gathering Grounds**

There have been two Sunday Nights at the Gathering Grounds since our last edition of *Klips*. An evening with Dr Alley McGeever on 'Is the Church good news for women?' was followed by an evening with Alistair Doyle on 'Life as an ordinand'. Worship was led by Kevin O'Sullivan and Victoria Johnston.

The last Sunday Night at the Gathering Grounds before the summer will be on 23 June.

**Tapas Thursday @ the Gathering Grounds**

Rob Pierce again creates delicious food for all on Thursdays with his Tapas Lunch. If you have not yet tried this lunch on Thursdays, come along in June or July from 12pm.

**Senior Soup Group @ the Gathering Grounds**

We have been delighted with the number of people who have been regularly attending the weekly soup and bread lunch every Tuesday. 'Soup and bread' doesn'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. We are so thankful to Rob Pierce and his team who make this all happen.

This term, the Tuesday group had a visit from two young harpists and a fascinating presentation from historian Frank Tracy on the royal visit of 1861 that put Killarney on the map. We also invited a number of children to play board games

## NOTICE BOARD

one afternoon with some of our lunch group regulars.

### **Craft Nights @ the Gathering Grounds**

Eco Clingfilm: In April the craft night crew made beeswax food wrap. This is a simple way to wrap sandwiches for the kids in school or to store items in the fridge without the waste of Clingfilm or single-use plastic food bags. Beeswax food wraps are made from ingredients that you can feel good about, reusable and compostable.

The craft night usually takes place on the first Friday of the month. We will take a break this summer and will meet again on Friday 6 September at 8pm. Keep an eye on the Gathering Grounds Facebook page for more information.

### **Gathering Grounds Volunteer Appreciation**

A significant number of people volunteer to make the Gathering Grounds happen. We are amazed at what we have been able to achieve through the generosity of so many people. It is our aim twice a year to formally recognise our volunteers. On 8 June the Gathering Grounds volunteers were invited to a Brazilian BBQ prepared by Emerson. Thank you, everyone, for all you do!

### **Alpha Marriage Course**

Keep your eye out for the Alpha Marriage Course starting in September in the Gathering Grounds.

Regardless of how long you have been together, if you are in a monogamous relationship and wish to carve out a bit of time to invest more fully in each other (who wouldn't?!), this is for you.

Seven gatherings with your partner in the Gathering Grounds over food to eat and food for thought.

More details to follow in the September *Klips*.

In the meantime, if you're interested, contact Julie at 087-203 9516.

# EASTER VESTRY RECTOR'S REPORT

**The following is an edited version of the rector's report at the Easter Vestry on 7 May**

I started with words from the Gospel (Luke 24: 30–32) that I hope can frame our work this evening. Two disciples have been walking with Someone Whom they discover to be Jesus on the road to Emmaus. They say: *Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road.*

As we drift into the business of the church, we begin with that idea. Are our hearts burning? Our hearts burn to know God more and to deepen our understanding of God. Our hearts burn to share the good news with others.

This has been quite a milestone year for us in Kiltiernan, with the opening of the new centre. It's important to note, however, that we didn't just build a building, and that is not to lessen the amazing work done by Stephen and the building committee, the finance committee and the Select Vestry. We have built an opportunity for ministry and mission!

What have we achieved this year?

We opened the Gathering Grounds. What began as a spark of an idea quickly grew into a place of community, belonging, growth and healing. The coffee is good, but it isn't about the coffee! I want to recognise the work that Julie has done, not just in leading from the front but also all the behind-the-scenes work, the early morning scone-making, the dealing with environmental health, with suppliers, and with volunteer training and support. But we also recognise the amazing contributions of a wide-ranging team of volunteers, baristas, bakers, servers, dishwashers, people of all ages, new to the community and

established. What we are doing in the Gathering Grounds is not only a game-changer in terms of our opportunities for ministry and mission in Kiltiernan but also a model for diocesan renewal. The Gathering Grounds as a concept is becoming a point of reference for the diocese, as we explore new and inventive ways of doing mission in an increasingly unchurched society.

What else have we achieved this year? We have seen significant growth in our administrative processes. We have pushed forward in data protection and successfully completed our triennial safeguarding trust review. There's no question that the move to the new centre has seen the bar raised with regard to how we manage our administrative processes, and I offer sincere and genuine thanks to Annemarie and, in recent days, Carol.

What else have we achieved this year? We took on board a part-time youth and children's ministry coordinator. Since Brian took over we have initiated a senior and junior youth group, developed our Sunday Club ministry, and facilitated one of the largest confirmation classes we have ever had. Brian also takes a weekly RE class in the school, as he builds bridges between the young people and the church. The sad truth is that there are few young men in their mid-twenties today openly talking about faith, and he provides a great role model for young people in the parish. We want to nurture him and continue to support him.

What about liturgy and worship? We have introduced a number of new liturgical offerings this year: a Tuesday Holy Communion service and Sunday

Night at the Gathering Grounds. We continue to see growth in our 10:30 service and in Messy Church. I continue to be thankful to Kevin and the choirs for their inventiveness, leadership and flexibility. Kevin continues to nurture excellence but also pushes us forward to embrace new music. I thank my church wardens, those who keep the place looking beautiful, Sarah on flowers, Avril, Ann and others on linens.

I am thankful to Carol Barry for everything she offers liturgically and pastorally. Carol makes many of the pastoral visits that I just can't get to, but her presence in the lives of people in the parish is not as my surrogate. Carol has wonderful pastoral gifts that we seek to nourish. I want to very publicly affirm her in her ministry, with some excitement to see how that continues to grow in the years ahead.

What else have we achieved this year? We started a number of new programmes. Table tennis was a vision of Irwin's and has been very successful. It was with some sadness that we said goodbye to the Tuesday Club this year, and we give thanks for all who served it faithfully over the years. But in its place we have initiated a senior soup lunch on Tuesday which has been thriving, often gathering anywhere between 30 and 50 people for lunch. I want to acknowledge Jane, Derek and Alasdair, who helped shape the idea, and the team of Tuesday volunteers led by chef Rob Pierce.

We opened a Play Café on a Tuesday, which grew out of the old toddler group that used to meet in the rectory. While we might have had five or six mums and the occasional dad, we now have dozens attending regularly.

As in any year, of course, there are challenges. There were many things that we wanted to get around to that time just hasn't allowed us. We also want to note how hard it was to have the Revd Graham Jones with us just before he died. Graham was known to us for a short time, and his death is

deeply felt. We continue to remember his family in prayer.

Easter Vestry often becomes a night of looking back. I'd like us to see over the next few years whether we can change that. It should be a time of looking forward.

At the last Select Vestry meeting, we committed ourselves to a process of clarifying our priorities for the next three years. In other words, what do we want to achieve in the years ahead? We want to live out our values, but what does that mean for us in terms of how we use our resources, what we need to fund-raise, and what we need to be prayerful about?

What things might we consider? I would like to see us grow in faith formation and prayer—an area where we are not strong. We are fortunate to have with us Susan O'Toole, who is the chair of Alpha Ireland. I would like to see us use this as a tool for spiritual development.

We have been privileged to have so many young families join us this year; this is an area where we seek to grow so that we keep those families and further integrate them into the life of faith.

We might also look at that area of our life that we call 'growing in service'. How might we meet some of the social needs in our society? How might we reach into communities that are struggling?

We will want to be looking at the parish's financial health. We should be a place of vision, but vision comes at a cost. We will be looking at how we raise funds to achieve the things we want to achieve.

I wish to offer thanks to the Select Vestry and its various subcommittees. I appreciate the work of our treasurer, Harry Simpson, who has a great eye for detail in these things. It would be remiss of me not to mention Anne O'Neill, who offers tremendous financial assistance, and Liz and Daphne (who took a bit of a step back this year), our trusted money-counters. We have added a bit of muscle to the team recently in Derek and Alasdair, who transfer the money from the office to the bank. I want to thank Jonny Holt, who after thirteen years as secretary has made the decision to step back.

I'm thankful for those who make practical things happen: for John and Audrey Keeley, who keep the graveyard looking beautiful; for our glebe wardens, Bruce and Christian, who worked behind the scenes on a variety of projects, of which one particular one this year has been work on the bell-tower; and, as ever, for Olive, Grainne and her team for their work on the fête.

As always, there are too many people to mention. We continue to be a thriving community of faith. And may our hearts be burning within us.

**We are thankful for our church, centre and grounds. (Photo: Paul Kilgallon.)**



# SCENES FROM THE SCH



# COOL AND PARISH FÊTE



Celebrating the first fête in the school and parish grounds since the opening of the Gathering Grounds Centre.

# COME— EVERYTHING IS READY!

**Carol Barry on Women’s World Day of Prayer**

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This was the invitation extended to all to the annual Women’s World Day of Prayer service. And many (both men and women) responded to this invitation by attending this beautiful ecumenical service prepared and written by the women of Slovenia.

Slovenia, a country in south central Europe, stands at the crossroads of many cultural and trade routes. After World War II Slovenia became part of the multinational state known as Yugoslavia, later declaring its independence in 1991 and becoming a sovereign state.

Our service began with members from each of the local churches bringing gifts to the altar: gifts of bread (*belokranjska pogaca*), grapes, water, salt (which is produced on the Slovenian coast in the Piran Saltmines), a ceramic bowl and a vase of carnations. Gifts for our celebration together.

To help us understand life in Slovenia, five women shared their unique stories with us.

We heard from Marjeta, a Christian lady with deep faith who found it difficult to find work in post-war Yugoslavia and eventually emigrated to Switzerland. She felt very strongly about how emigrant workers were treated and returned home after her retirement. According to the UN, 65.6 million people are displaced in our world; 28 million of these are children.

Mojca, 34 years old, was able to continue her education to third level as it’s now free of charge. She became pregnant at 21 and her boyfriend left her. It was difficult to

continue with her studies but she persevered and succeeded, later marrying and having another child with her new husband. Mojca feels that family care could be better and less restrictive for women in the workplace. The World Economic Forum reports a worsening of the gender gap, with women having 68% of the chances and outcomes of men.

An octogenarian, Maria lives with her son’s family. He and his wife are unemployed but manage to grow enough on their small farm for their daily needs; however, it is Maria’s modest pension from her work in a factory that sustains the whole family. Maria is lucky that she has family; many elderly people live alone and don’t receive the care and attention they require. Ageism is the most socially ‘normalised’ of all prejudice, and countries face major challenges to ensure that their health and social systems are ready to meet the needs of an aging population.

Both Ema’s mother and father drank and she swore that her children would never suffer as she did. She married, built a house and had two children, both in school. When her husband lost his job, he began to abuse alcohol and became violent towards her. He promises that he will get help to stop drinking but he never does. Ema prays that God will help him to face his addiction and is hopeful that their lives will improve.

Forty-six-year-old Natasha is Romani and is married with two children. She spent her childhood in a small Roma village, where her

parents worked to ensure that she received a good education. Their Roma village was accepted by the larger community around her and she almost never experienced rejection because of her background. However, her family’s experience does not fully reflect the situation of many Roma families in Slovenia. Many Roma families find access to education difficult and this has a negative impact on their future. Social exclusion is rampant in our world and, while Ireland has a more positive attitude to ethnic minorities, the European Network Against Racism Ireland recorded an increase of 33% in racism-related crimes in 2017.

All of these accounts highlight for us the many difficulties faced by people not only in Slovenia but in our world. As we prayed for God’s help, we were reminded that we are called to action and to be the voice for all who suffer from brokenness, ageism, impoverishment, neglect, inequality, marginalisation, substance abuse, injustice, fear and despair. We prayed for change and reflected on life-giving words such as understanding, justice, peace, inclusion, compassion, freedom, belonging, reconciliation and forgiveness.

It doesn’t matter where you come from; God’s invitation to ‘Come, everything is ready’ is open to everyone.

Our reading for the evening was from Luke 14: 15–24, and this parable formed the basis of the address by Julie Clements.

Julie spoke about the invitation to gather and the power in gathering together, which tied in with her vision for the Gathering Grounds Café. We all need to be included; we all look for the invitation; but before we can accept the invitation of others, we must accept God’s invitation first.

The reading from Luke tells the parable of a host who is throwing a great dinner party, but those who have been invited have other things to do and make excuses as to why they can’t

attend. This enrages the host and he instructs his servant to go out into the streets and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame. The final line in this reading is: 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.' We all need to accept God's invitation to come to the feast, because we know that in accepting His invitation we will never be disappointed.

The vision for the Gathering Grounds Café was similar. Here, a standing invitation was made to all, without exception, to come and to gather, to reach out to the wider community, and to provide a place where everyone would feel welcome. Developing the idea further, Julie felt that it would need to be a place of community, belonging, growth and healing. The Gathering Grounds daily fulfils its potential. It has over 30 volunteers who are at the heart and who are the heart of this project.

We were reminded not only of the big invitation to come to God's table and live as followers of Christ, but also of the invitations that God gives us daily to engage in conversations with others towards whom we may not naturally gravitate, to speak up for those who aren't treated as they should be, to care for our neighbours and the marginalised, to practise Christ-like love and to receive Christ-like love.

As Julie concluded her address, she encouraged us to listen and to hear Jesus' voice speaking in our lives, to respond to the invitation and to trust that God will not abandon us in our efforts.

I would like to thank everyone who was involved in this year's Women's World Day of Prayer service, especially Edwina Mulvey, the choir, the organist and hospitality group of St Patrick's Church, Glencullen. We look forward to hosting next year's service, which will be written for us by the women of Zimbabwe, in Kiltiernan Church of Ireland church on Thursday 5 March 2020.

# IS THE CHURCH GOOD NEWS FOR WOMEN?

**Looking at issues of faith and gender across the churches in Ireland.**

In our March Sunday Night at the Gathering Grounds, Dr Ally McGeever of the YWCA asked the question: 'Is Christianity expressing itself as good news for women in Ireland?'

This is a big question, born out of a research piece in which she was involved, looking at issues of faith and gender across the churches in Ireland. Last year, in partnership with YWCA Ireland, *Vox magazine* conducted a survey exploring the role and experiences of women in Irish churches. The findings were fascinating.

- One in three men thought Christianity was too feminine.
- 45% of men think that there is a crisis of masculinity within the church.
- 72% of men would like more women in leadership.
- One in ten Christians have experienced or witnessed sexual abuse or harassment within church.
- 20% of women have heard sexist jokes or comments in church or Christian ministries constantly, and 41% sometimes.
- 31% would not feel comfortable speaking about sexual abuse to their church leadership.

There were several aspects to this event. One related to the #metoo movement, a recognition that many women who have experienced abuse have not felt safe to disclose that fact. The challenge issued to church leaders is that

there should be a plan in place for responding to abuse when it is declared in the church setting. There is the suggestion that a culture of shame and secrecy has been prohibitive in churches. It is a time for the Church to A.C.T. (Acknowledge the problem, Create safe environments, and Take care of victims).

Ally suggested that one simple thing that churches should do is to have posters in place with the national helpline for the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, which provides support for those who have experienced rape and sexual abuse. We now have information on the Dublin RCC in the Kiltiernan Centre. A wider conversation has begun in the church to provide church leaders with training in this area.

A second aspect was a more general conversation about the relationship between faith and gender, especially the attitudes of younger women. It was observed that Christianity and feminism have much in common: both can be conversation-stoppers and both terms are divisive. Both are also supposed to be inclusive. Yet it was noted that many young women felt that they could not be both. A wide variety of experiences were noted, and while many women found church to be an affirming place, many found church exclusionary and discriminatory, especially regarding leadership.

This was a healthy conversation for us to have, but of course it's only a start. We were thankful to Ally for engaging us on this issue.

# FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY

## MESSY CHURCH BAPTISMS

This was a first for us, and I believe a first for Ireland. We had Messy Church baptisms!

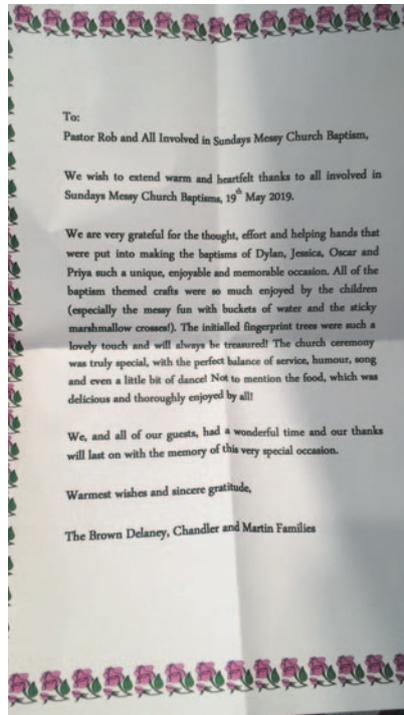
It began with a conversation between me and a family who had started to engage with the parish through Messy Church. They had never had their children baptised and wondered whether this was something they might do. Since Messy Church had been their point of engagement with the life of faith, we considered whether this was something we might do during Messy Church.

Word of this got around, and within a week two other Messy Church regulars wondered whether they might be able to do this also. Soon we had three families (four children) making plans.

Baptism in the early church was often associated with Easter, but we hadn't scheduled a Messy Church in April. Then we started to think about May. The craft team started to develop craft ideas

around the theme of baptism.

During the baptism service we sang some Christian songs, we read a dramatised reading about the baptism of Jesus, and then we



poured water, blessed it and baptised Dylan, Jessica, Priya and Oscar in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The families then gathered with the Messy Church community for our usual meal together.

We received a lovely letter from the families, offering their appreciation to all involved.

*A lovely Messy Church quote:*

*The following was sent to me from a Messy Church mum on the way home from our last Messy Church. Her daughter Isabella said: 'Mummy, I hate driving home from Messy Church. I love Messy Church so much, it's the most fun thing.'*

## JOURNEYING THROUGH THE MIND OF A TEENAGER

**By Brian Hickey**

As a youth minister working in a church and as a student of youth work and theology, it shouldn't come as a surprise that I have done a lot of research on teenagers and everything that comes with them. Over the past couple of months this has been intensified as I wrote my dissertation paper, which included a section on secondary school students. While what I write here isn't an extensive piece of work, I hope to cast a bit of light on one prominent issue.

I won't lie: it was quite a tough paper to write—not from an academic point of view but more on a personal note. I am only 26 years old. I'm still relatively young. I can still remember quite vividly what it was like being a teenager. It wasn't that long ago really. As I stepped into youth work at nineteen, however, things started to change. Social media exploded into life. I was part of it, I was immersed in the subculture that we had started, but little did I know the effect it would have on teens just a few years later. Social media is like an itch that we can't quite scratch. The culprit is dopamine. Dopamine controls the 'pleasure' systems of the brain. This includes food, sex and even drugs. That very



same thing that is released is present when a person 'likes' something on your social media page. It is that craving for attention. Social media has given every single person licence to shout whatever they want on their own private little island, and a lot of it can be summed up by saying 'Look at me, look at what I'm doing, look at how happy I am'. Teenagers have that same want and need to be noticed, to stand out from the crowd. They are searching for their own identity, seeing how they individually fit into the world. Social media gives them that platform, and when I say they are living for their likes I mean it.

Teens are constantly trying to make sure that they are aware of the latest thing that is happening in the world; they don't want to miss out because, if they do, they'll stand out (but for the wrong reasons). The fear of missing out is huge. If you're an adult reading this and you think that it doesn't make sense, think back to when you missed that party that everyone was at, or that day in school where something amazing happened and you were out sick. It's the same thing, except social media is quicker than that; if you aren't there as it happens, you're in trouble.

The individual has been lost amongst the crowd too. To be a teenager now means to be in with a group that shares the same views as you, and the group mentality is far more important than the individual. No one person is too important; it's all about the collective. In this developmental phase, teens need to figure out who they are; it is a dangerous game to start finding your identity in a group rather than in who you are as a person—you will get lost in the cracks. When the group disbands, what is left? A group of individuals who found their protection in the group—but when that isn't there any more, all of a sudden we have people in their mid-20s not knowing who they are. And that search for meaning and purpose begins all over again.



### **CONFIRMATION**

We were delighted to celebrate with twelve Kilternan young people who were confirmed on 13 April. We continue to pray for the three Harrys, Ben, Alasdair, Adam, Cody, Lucy, Nessa, Lola, Heidi and Emily.

Maybe we need to be better mentors to our young people. Maybe we need to show them what life outside the bubble of school is really like, so that they are better prepared to face the world. And we have to admit that we have failed in doing this. The summation of my research showed me one glaring truth: the teenager has been abandoned by adults. The only option they had was to band together, to survive. We can do better; we must do better.

### **KILTERNAN SCOUTS Springtime with the Scouts**

Spring is here, though you might not know it from the temperatures. But, as always, that hasn't stopped all our intrepid Scouts from having a full programme.

We held our annual group camp, where kids from all our sections get to go away together and bond. The younger kids get to see a slice of what they might get to do when they move into other sections.

This year we went to Castlesaunderson Scout Centre in Cavan. It was a great weekend (no one mention the power cut). The Beavers and Cubs got to visit the Marble Arch caves, which was a great experience, and the Scouts

stayed on site to build water-balloon catapults. There was no shortage of human volunteers to be moving targets.

We also held an archery day in the field to give Beavers and Cubs a chance to shoot some targets. All apples were hidden to avoid any 'William Tell' incidents.

The spring is also when Scouts in our county hold their annual competition, the County Cup. This year our team entered and came fourth, winning a silver badge. This also qualifies them to enter the national Phoenix competition later in the summer. Well done to all the Scouts and leaders involved!

Not to be outdone, the Cubs have been working equally hard to get their Chief Scout award, helping to set up the parish fête and undertaking a beach clean-up in Bray, as well as completing the mandatory 20km hike across the Dublin Mountains.

As the Beavers prepare for their annual summer camp in Larch Hill, they have been practising putting up their tents in the field—a vital skill for all budding survivalists.

And so we move towards summer, with plans being made for summer camps both at home and abroad.

# COMMUNITY AND WIDER CHURCH

## CHRISTIAN AID—KERRY CAMINO

Christian Aid are looking at the possibility of taking part in the Kerry Camino in September of this year. Would you be interested in walking the Kerry Camino in late September with other Christian Aid supporters from around Ireland?

In former times, Dingle was one of the departure points in Ireland for boats taking pilgrims to northern Spain to set off on foot to Santiago de Compostela.

With breathtaking views over the Atlantic Ocean and the mountains of Kerry, the 58km route from Tralee to Dingle can be completed over three days. The route pays homage to the early pilgrims, as walkers are able to collect stamps for their Camino passport along the way.

In a package, we would provide accommodation for four nights. Participants would walk as a group and we hope to provide reflections each evening. If you would like to receive further information, please contact Jane Burns or Michael Briggs at 01 467040 or email [eventsireland@christian-aid.org](mailto:eventsireland@christian-aid.org)

## FERNHILL COMMUNITY GARDEN

Fernhill Community Garden, in the grounds of Fernhill Park and Gardens, is now in full swing. We have regular member meet-ups on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, with a diverse range of ages; our youngest member is not quite two and our senior members are 70 plus VAT. It's wonderful to see age as only a number and all members of our community happily mucking in together. We are age-friendly and completely socially inclusive, with a diverse range of nationalities rubbing shoulders and learning from each other. We have seven nationalities to date!

As many of you know, the Kitchen Garden in Fernhill has been established as a kitchen garden since the 1800s and, although neglected over the years,

we have a beautiful framework to work with which includes many apple trees, pear trees, fruit bushes and an amazing array of heritage and rare flowers and shrubs.

Our members benefit from learning about plants, seed-saving, water management, compost and soil health, and also about the seasons, plant varieties, stages of growth and the connection between care in the garden and flavour on the plate.



We are championing biodiversity, sustainability and environmental topics, with the intention of raising awareness through our members and further out into our community of how we can each make a difference to protect our beautiful habitat, wildlife, flowers and the greatly declining insect and bee populations whilst growing delicious, nutritious, home-grown food to share.

As we progress, local schools will be invited to learn in Fernhill Community Garden. We have already received grant aid to construct wheelchair-accessible beds and will continue to be open to ALL!

We have been fairly busy and have managed to construct a six-bay compost pallet system; a home composting demo site is well under way too. We have ten beds (5 x no dig, 5 x dug) where we have managed to plant ... you guessed it ... the humble spud. We have Pentland Javelins, Colleens, British Queens and our main crop, *Sarpo mira*, all happily snuggled up in the delicious mud of Fernhill Community Garden. We also have

peas, broad beans, onions, turnips, beetroot, radish, carrots, parsnips, chard, kohlrabi, cauliflowers, butternut squash, courgettes, pumpkins, tomatoes, basil, parsley, celery and many varieties of salad leaf. With many more varieties to sow and plant, I'm salivating at the thoughts of harvest time.

We have a very committed and friendly bunch of members and a dynamic dedicated committee who will continue to bring this beautiful place back to being the productive kitchen garden it has always been. The peonies have popped into vibrant blooms, a sight to behold—bliss! The foxgloves are almost in full bloom, not to mention all the other beautiful flowers.

We would like to encourage all the *Kiltarnan Klips* readers to please come and join us in Fernhill Community Garden, whether to get stuck in and lend your gardening expertise or to learn more about gardening, or even to simply admire the stunning array of plants and share a cuppa and a cake or two with us. Everyone is welcome. We sign up new members on Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 11am. We look forward to welcoming you then with a warm smile and, if you're lucky, a great big hug—they're free!

Alternatively, drop us a line at [communitygardenfernhill@gmail.com](mailto:communitygardenfernhill@gmail.com) if you'd like more information. We'd like to thank Des Kennedy from Centra for being our first Sponsor of Fernhill Community Garden, and Rosa Roe from Stepside Golf Centre, Mick Fleming from Flemings butchers, Tom Murphy from Murphy Stone and Kim from Sandyford Village Vets. Thank you so much for your support. Thanks also to all the team in DLRCOCO, namely Lorraine, Ruairi and Gerard—your support and guidance have been endless.

Thank you!

With warmth and wellies,  
Fernhill Community Garden  
Committee

## CRANMER'S CORNER



### THE GRACE PRAYER

At the end of a service of Holy Communion, it's usual for a clergy person to pronounce God's blessing. During Morning Prayer, the Service of the Word or other occasional offices, it is more likely that we will conclude with the Grace.

The Grace Prayer is based on Paul's prayer at the end of 2 Corinthians 13: *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.* These words apply the three spiritual principles of grace, love and fellowship, three principles that are central to every Christian's life.

We might note a few slight differences between the version from Corinthians and the version we say in church. In church we say, 'be with us' and not 'be with you all'. That change is important. It's not that the priest pronounces the grace upon the congregation but that we say the grace together. We say it to one another!

It is common practice in church meetings for the whole congregation to say the grace prayer out loud, and to look at each other as we do so. We tend not to say it as a prayer specifically to God, and we make eye contact.

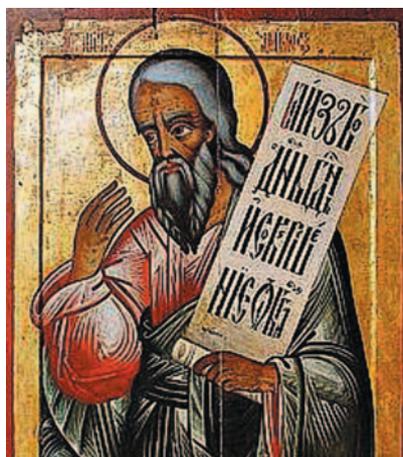
If you are not used to doing this, it takes a bit of time to get used to. But it is worth it. It reminds us that church is not just about God and me but also about us.

### LECTIONARY RAMBLINGS

A lectionary is a collection of readings or selections from Scripture, arranged and intended for proclamation during worship of the people of God.

We are currently on year C of the revised common lectionary. During the summer months we focus on the Gospel according to St Luke. But there is more in the lectionary than simply a journey through Luke. Our Old Testament readings draw us into the stories of Israel's painful confrontation with its failure to be the people God intended. These stories of human failure and its challenges, heard mostly from the prophets Elijah, Isaiah, Amos, Hosea and Jeremiah, at the same time also reveal God's faithfulness.

A good example of this is from Amos 7: 7–15, which is the Old Testament reading on 14 July. The first part of the reading recounts a vision of destruction for Israel. Amos has a vision of a plumb line—a weight suspended by a string used as a vertical reference to ensure that a structure was centred. It was a tool to measure a structure's stability. It might look beautiful, but if the plumb line was off then the structure was not fit



Amos: a prophet of Israel.

for purpose and it would need to be corrected or torn down and rebuilt.

Amos was writing during the time of King Jeroboam II, sometime between 785 and 745 BC. This was actually a time of much prosperity and peace. To the casual viewer, the 'structure' that was the social order was flourishing. It would be in the self-interest of the prophets to simply keep quiet and enjoy the trappings of success. The prophets, however, rarely act out of self-interest. Amos noted that if the plumb line was applied we would find that the structure was off centre and that the people of Israel were going in the wrong direction. He observed that Israel's prosperity was built not on the values of God but on the exploitation of the poor and the dishonesty of the privileged. Unless they changed their ways, God would tear the structure down.

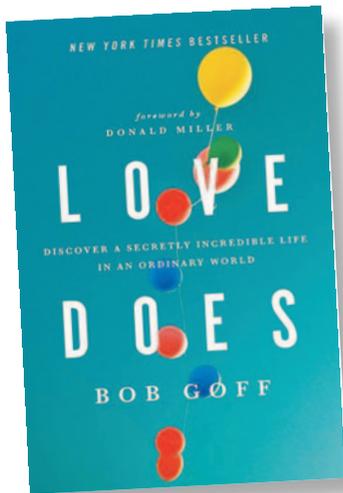
It is significant, though, that God still calls Israel 'my people' in verse 8. This detail offers a brief glimmer of hope, suggesting that restoration may be possible on the other side of judgement.

I'm struck when I read the books of the prophets in the Old Testament by how much they resonate with the world we live in today. The structures around us may seem better than they have ever been, and in many ways they are. Nevertheless, how much of our social success is still built on the exploitation of those who have nothing, those who make our goods for a pittance in factories overseas, those who continue to live in poverty while others feast?

Amos reminds us that human failure always has consequences. He also provides a reminder that the prophetic voice does not speak out of self-interest but is willing to say things that might be unpopular for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Amos gets banned from the Temple and forced into exile for what he says.

*If you would like to know what readings are assigned for Sunday worship, you can access them on the Church of Ireland website at <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/prayer-worship/lectionary>*

## BOOK REVIEW



*Love does: discover a secretly incredible life in an ordinary world*, **Bob Goff**. Nelson. ISBN 9781400203758. Paperback. 240pp. £7.18.

This is a book about love. Simple! It's full of lots of stories of the way Goff does life and love. Love is an active verb for him. Each day is an opportunity to experience life and share love.

Each chapter presents a

personal example from Goff's life of an encounter that opened up the opportunity for love and generosity. Goff takes an incident (even a very minor one) and talks about what he learned from it. By doing so he invites us to look at the simple happenings in our own lives and the choice to love or not to love.

The book challenged me to love those around me ... better. When I get caught up in being too busy and uncertain that I have enough to give, when I get distracted with concern over what someone thinks of me, when the housework feels overwhelming, when it's the end of the day and all I can think of doing is flopping on the couch in front of a TV programme, *Love does* has left me with the simple instruction—to engage with life, and to love.

That resonates with me. It feels good and, for some reason, it seems really simple to me. Whether it is someone I know well or not at all, someone who is easy to love or with whom I may find it a

challenge, if I ask myself 'How can I love this person?' the answer is usually clear. And usually very simple. This is how the author lives his life. The book is written almost as an autobiography, detailing events in Bob's life that he might describe as whimsical and profound opportunities where he made his faith real.

In the very busy world we live in, sometimes what I do is to keep my head down so as not to have to engage with those around me—not out of meanness, just out of exhaustion. But I find that if I look up and love those around me, I get love in return and that feels good.

Goff's writing at times is a little repetitive, and perhaps one chapter blurs into another somewhat, but maybe life is a little repetitive, and perhaps less complicated than we think. I invite you to dip into this book. It might not be for everyone, but we could all take something from Goff's whimsy and love to share with those around us.

**Julie Clements**

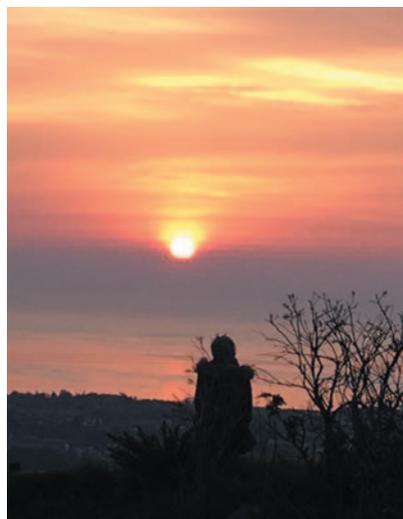
### SUNRISE SERVICE 21/04/2019

On this Easter morn at 5.10 I arose,  
No time to lose, no time to doze,  
And yet 'twas 5.40 when I opened  
the door  
To the squawk of a grey crow now  
to the fore.

Then the dawn chorus of other  
birds I heard,  
The morn calm and bright as away I  
sped.  
Into Barnaslingan Lane as a car  
came along  
Holding Pat and Alice to join the  
throng.

Above the hills and to the west  
A yellow moon seemed at rest.  
Upward we walked on this morning  
still,  
Lovely, with no sign of chill.

A man and child joined us and we  
five arrived  
Around six a.m. as Carol strived  
To hand out leaflets before Rev. Rob  
began  
The sunrise service with much élan.



There were prayers, readings, we  
'The Lord of the Dance' sang.  
At its close we remembered some  
with a pang:  
Michael, who used to light the fire,  
Geraldine, whose sausages many  
came to admire.

The sun then appeared as a  
red/orange orb  
And our appreciation was hard to  
curb.

The sun in the east and the moon  
in the west,  
About twenty-five present and the  
climate the best.  
A fitting start to this Easter Day  
Remembering a resurrection far  
away.  
Bernard and Gay who arranged the  
fire  
Saw to it that it would expire.

A great tit sang as I went away  
And chatted with Barbara down the  
brae.  
A pheasant piped as she inferred to  
me  
How much a lover of nature was  
she.

Reciting a few lines from a Byron  
poem  
She found this pleasing, heading  
home.  
Flowers blossomed on wayside  
banks  
'Twas a morn to remember and  
offer up thanks.

**William D.**



**OLD PHOTO—WHO'S WHO?**

Thanks to Mary White, who had a good go at identifying those in the photo. There are still a few gaps. Standing, left to right—first person still unrecognised, Joan Richardson (now Donaldson, living in Glasgow) as Bo-Peep, Ingrid Allison (now McIlwaine, living in Enniskerry) as Mother Hubbard(?), Alec Tracey, Alan Thompson, three Keeleys as 'blind mice'—maybe Ann, Harriet and Patricia (possibly Phyllis?), Helen Richardson (now Saville) as Jill and Douglas Richardson as Jack. Sitting—Sam Meyer (Stepaside). Our two blackbirds remain a mystery!

**KLIPS GOES GLOBAL**

Hopefully there will be a few more adventures for the summer edition of *Klips*—why not bring one with you as you travel this summer and send us a photo?



The first photo (*below left*) is Jacqueline Yates (née Turbett) reading *Kiltiernan Klips* on a recent visit to see her son Stephen, who lives in San Francisco. Jacqueline lived in Kiltiernan Parish until she finished nursing training in the Adelaide, and was married to Henry in the church in 1985. Now she regularly attends the communion and lunch with her mum Anne on Tuesdays in the Gathering Grounds.

The second photo (*below*) is Seán Pheiffer at Big Hole, Kimberley, South Africa. Seán is a regular at Sunday Club and a senior infant in the school.



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