



KILTERNAN KLIPS

Building community, strengthening worship, growing in service

The quarterly newsletter of Kilternan Parish, Co. Dublin

Vol. 26 No. 4 Kilternan Klips | Winter 2020

www.kilternan.dublin.anglican.org



NOTICE BOARD

News and notices from around the parish

WHAT'S ON

Keep up with what is happening in the parish

FEATURES

Articles and features of interest to the church

MINISTRY

Youth, family and liturgy, articles and more

THE PERFECT GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS!

Dear Reader,

Many thanks for your continued support of the Gazette. Our ongoing mission is to reflect the vibrant, island-wide Christian community that is the Church of Ireland. In these difficult times, we hope that you have found some comfort and a form of connection through the pages of our magazine. Though the timing of the permanent reopening of our church doors remains uncertain, we will continue to keep you connected to your parish, diocese, and our community throughout the island.

As you prepare for the Christmas season, we are asking you to consider giving the gift of a subscription to the Gazette to your friends, neighbours or loved ones, so that through our diverse collection of news, features, and opinion pieces, they too can enjoy the most special of gifts - reading that is thought provoking, stimulating, and comforting.

God bless,

Emma
Emma Blain, Editor

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The Rector on...

How darkness has not overcome the light, and never will

For many of us, 2020 has been a difficult and confusing year. As we look back, we recognise that many people have died, and many others have struggled with physical, mental and spiritual wellness. It would be easy to think that Christmas might be a dreary end to what has been a tough year, but it need not be so.

This Christmas we want to encourage you to share your light with those around you. We may not be able to gather in large numbers for carol services or nativities. We may not be able to 'do' Christmas as normal, but we still get to 'be' Christmas in our communities and neighbourhoods.

One of my favourite services is the carols by candlelight. I love the part at the end when the lights are dimmed and the church becomes dark. Then, one by one, we light each other's candles, starting from the candle on the holy table. With a couple of candles lit, it's still dark in the church, but as more and more candles catch light the church becomes brighter and brighter.

Jesus Himself made the great pronouncement, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life' (John 8:12).

Our communities are similar. The more people who share their light, the brighter our communities become and the less imposing the dark seems. We who are in Christ have received the Christ light, so let us share it!

At Christmas many of us adorn our windows and homes with lights and decorations. Lights have the amazing power of drawing people by their glow. Moreover, Christmas lights can teach us something significant about how to share the good news of the Gospel at this time of year. In fact, the Bible itself uses lights to describe how we can share the good news of Jesus to people all year round. The story of Christmas is the story of the Light coming into the world. In John's version of the Christmas story, he uses the word 'light' to describe Jesus five different times. Jesus Himself made the great pronouncement, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life' (John 8:12).

So, share the light this Christmas. Why not drop in a gift to a neighbour who might be alone? Why not post a card to someone with whom you have not been in touch for a while? And if you need a bit of light this season, don't forget to reach out to someone. I'm sure there is someone in your community who would love to share their light with you.

Let's help our community to sing with joy and sparkle with light as we bless one another with love and joy. The darkness has not overcome the light, and never will.

Blessings,
Revd Rob Clements



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PASTORAL CARE

In this time of social distancing, clergy are not able to make home or hospital visits, but if you have an urgent pastoral need or would like a prayer, please contact the rector by phone (Tel. 087 149 6605).

WHAT'S ON IN KILTIERNAN

PATTERNS OF WORSHIP

In October we had to return to online worship. This was a difficult situation for everyone, having just started to adjust to a new pattern of worship. Hopefully by the time you receive this we will be back to in-person worship again, as below.

- 9:00am *Said Holy Communion in the church.*
- 10:00am *Sunday Morning at the Gathering Grounds.* Family-based worship in the Kiltiernan Centre. We recognise that families with small children may have concerns about how children manage social distancing. We are also mindful of the need to safely facilitate prams and toddlers. As a result, we are planning to develop a more informal experience of worship in the Centre. We would encourage those with young children to access this service rather than the 9am and 11am services. The Centre is bigger than the church and is a more flexible space, facilitating 35 people.
- 11:00am *Traditional worship in the church.*
- We will continue our online services for those still uncomfortable with in-person worship.

Please do not attend church if you or a member of your household is experiencing, or recovering from, symptoms of Covid-19. We should note that this is early days in our return to worship. If you have health concerns, there are no prizes for returning to worship before you feel safe and ready.

If you plan on attending, and in accordance with our diocesan protocols, you will be asked to:

- 1 Wear a face covering. We

accept that not everyone is comfortable with a face covering. However, for your own well-being and for the well-being and assurance of vulnerable people who may be in attendance, we would ask that you comply, particularly at this early stage. If you do not have a mask, we will have some available. Of course, this will be reviewed in the light of government advice.

- 2 Ensure that your hands are sanitised, using the sanitiser provided or your own.
- 3 Do not bring a prayer-book. The words of the service will be on screen or in booklets.
- 4 There will be a greeter there to seat you. Please sit where you are seated. I know that this isn't the Anglican way; people tend to like to sit where they normally sit. However, in order to manage the required cleaning of seats and social distancing, there will be a system in place for you to be seated.
- 5 Don't bottleneck! It will be lovely to see familiar faces again, but we ask people not to converse in areas that will restrict the movement of others.
- 6 The greeter will take a record of who is in attendance for contact-tracing. All records will be destroyed after three weeks.

WEDNESDAY ZOOM PRAYER MEETING: 8:00PM

We all currently need a dose of prayer. Prayer is giving our attention to God in a two-way spiritual relationship in which we talk to God and listen to Him. We do not pray on our own but alongside Christians throughout the ages and around the world. Prayer puts us in touch with God

and others. As we pray, we offer every situation to God, and God uses our prayers to bring love and justice into the world.

Every Wednesday a group meets for prayer on Zoom. We would love to have you join us. If you would like prayer, or if there is someone you know who needs prayer, please forward the names. We only ever pray using first names, and the request can be anonymous if the person does not want his/her name to be spoken. Holding each other in prayer is so important at this time. It's our privilege and joy to hold you in ours.

CHURCH OPEN ON WEDNESDAY FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

The church will be open and staffed from 12 noon till 4pm every Wednesday for private prayer. Please come along and spend a few moments with God.

CHURCH MUSIC

Youth music group

This new group is for teenagers and youths; anyone aged between 12 and 24.

You can join if you just enjoy singing or play any instrument from guitar to keys, drums, violin, trumpet, anything. We'll meet once a week on Tuesdays 7-8pm in the church to rehearse and record songs to be played fortnightly at the 10am Sunday Service.

Contact Kevin at music@kilternanparish.ie

Junior Choir

The Junior Choir meets on Tuesdays after school, 2:15-3pm for children from 2nd to 6th Class. We rehearse and record our songs to be played fortnightly at the 10am Sunday Service.

Contact Kevin at music@kilternanparish.ie

The Parish Choir

The Parish Choir rehearse and record on Tuesdays at 8pm for 11am Sunday services.

Contact Kevin at music@kilternanparish.ie

REGISTER

Funerals

It is with great sadness that we mourn the death of Daphne Athey. Daphne was a much-loved member of our community and a wonderful example of faith and Christian living. I have fond memories of her counting the church collection in the rectory office over a cup of herbal tea. Our prayers are with her friends and family.

Weddings

Congratulations to Olivia Keeley and Brian Kavanagh on their wedding. It was a joy to celebrate with them and we wish them God's blessing in their marriage together.



KILTERNAN SUPPORTING YOU DURING COVID-19

Christmas is a tough time for many. If you or someone you know is in financial need, you can confidentially reach out to Revd Rob Clements at rector@kilternanparish.ie. If you have a need for food, errands, connection or some prayer resources, please let us know.

SUPPORTING KILTERNAN DURING COVID-19

Through all of this we are continuing the mission and ministry of Kilternan. If you are able, please support Kilternan through donation and regular

giving. You can find out more about standing orders in the finance section of the website, or contact Annemarie.

Online donations. We now have a mechanism for online financial donations on the parish website. It's designed primarily for 'one-off' contributions and all donations are most welcome as we seek to fund the work of the parish. If you are planning to contribute regularly, the most effective way to do so continues to be through standing order.

Keeping in touch. You might like to follow Kilternan parish on our social networks for more instant information about what is going on in the parish. You can follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/KilternanParishChurch>. You might note that the Gathering Grounds has a busy Facebook presence also.

LOOKING BACK AT 'BUILD A HARVEST'

Harvest is normally a time when the church is full of parishioners singing 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter', but this harvest, of course, was very different. Nonetheless, we decided that as a parish we wanted to mark the season. As a result, we had to get creative in how we would be able to facilitate a harvest festival whilst making sure we were fully Covid-compliant.

We decided to build a harvest in the church from the 6th to the 8th of October. We started with a display of one bowl of fruit on the holy table as a symbol of God's abundance and goodness. We then invited people to drop in to the church and add to the harvest display. People brought fresh produce or non-perishables. Some brought a piece of art or a window display. Over the course of the three days we built a harvest display in the church to reflect God's goodness to us. People were encouraged to simply take a moment in the church in private prayer and give thanks for God's goodness.

We also invited the school to

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participate. Children came over in their pods in the mornings throughout the week and helped us 'build a harvest'. From Junior Infants right up to 6th Class, we created a space where we shared a thought about what Harvest is and gave the children the opportunity to add to the display through craft. The junior half of the school did crafts on the theme of living gratefully while the senior side of the school placed more emphasis on living generously, as they reflected on people across the world in poverty. They all had the opportunity to write prayers; for example, 6th Class wrote out prayers on post-it notes and stuck them up on the world map. By the end of the sessions we had covered the entire world with prayer.

By the end of the week the church was filled with colour and abundance. Sadly, the church service couldn't be held on Sunday, but people were able to see the fruits of the 'build a

Top: the online Harvest Festival service.

Above: one of the lovely displays in the church.



The saints' wall in the Gathering Grounds.

harvest' event on the online service.

Non-perishables were donated to the Bray Women's Refuge, and perishables were taken into the Gathering Grounds and turned into soup for distribution.

OH, WHEN THE SAINTS ...

During All Saints, we encouraged people across the parish to write the name of one of their saints on the saints' wall in the Gathering Grounds. Some people brought pictures, some wrote names, and the school brought art (see the youth and family section for more).

We often assume saints to be the venerated or canonised, but actually a saint is someone who faithfully follows Christ. In the Bible, Paul often begins his letters with a welcome to the saints. Your saints are those who inspire you towards Christian living and Christlikeness.

CHRISTMAS WILL BE A BIT DIFFERENT THIS YEAR!

People are asking what Christmas will be like this year. The answer is that it will be what we choose to make it. We cannot, and should not, forget the loneliness, despair, suffering and loss that so many people have endured and just try to

do 'Christmas as normal'. That would be insensitive and quite impossible. We will need to be imaginative if we are going to experience and share the joy of the Christ light. Here are a few things that we are doing in Kiltiernan.

Advent candles tell their story

We normally light our Advent candles in church throughout Advent, but we may not be able to do so consistently this year. Instead, we want to encourage you to design your own Advent candle wreath/display at home. Lynn and Sarah Tilson have offered ideas on how we can do that.

Every Sunday there will be a short Zoom gathering where we all light our candle together. The time and contact details will be in the weekly parish email. Such a lovely way to check in with each other over Advent!

Illuminations

Our theme this Christmas is 'Share your Light', so we offer you a challenge. Why not illuminate your window or door with the 'Share your Light' theme and offer some hope in our communities? Lynn will



be sharing some simple craft ideas that you might like to use. Otherwise, we encourage you to be as creative as possible on the theme.

Take a photo of your illumination and send it to Lynn or the parish office by 18 December. There might even be a few prizes for the most creative illuminations.

'Build a Christmas' fest

The 'Build a Harvest' event was so successful that we decided to create a 'Build a Christmas'. Depending on the level of restrictions, we hope to have a 'Build a Christmas' fest on 21–23 December. More details will be emerging, but we plan to have a socially distanced outdoor fest over three days when people are invited to come and build a Kiltiernan Christmas tree together.

We hope that you might bring something from your tree at home and add it to the tree here. We will also have something for you to take away and add to your tree at home. Maybe take a few moments to drop into the church for prayer. Who knows? There might also be a mince pie or a warm glass of mulled wine.

Christmas services

We hope that in December churches will open again for in-

person worship. We will not, however, be able to manage the numbers we normally have over Christmas. We need to accept that the usual Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will simply not happen. We are currently working on an online carol service and an online nativity. We are also making plans for Christmas Day. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and weekly email.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALISTAIR DOYLE AND LEONARD MADDEN

In a city quietened by new Covid-19 restrictions, the Revd Alistair Doyle and the Revd Leonard Madden were ordained to the diaconate by Archbishop Michael Jackson in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. Alistair is with us this year as our intern deacon, and many of us will remember Leonard, who was with us on placement last year.

The cathedral was closed to the public, and the congregation of three included the deacons' wives, Cecilia and Catherine, and Alistair and Cecilia's son Toby. Apart from the archbishop, clergy present included Dean Dermot Dunne, Archdeacon Neal O'Raw (who



Outside Christ Church Cathedral after the Revd Alistair Doyle and the Revd Leonard Madden were ordained to the diaconate by Archbishop Michael Jackson.

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preached), Archdeacon David Pierpoint, the Revd Abigail Sines, the Revd Dr William Olhausen and the Revd Kalmer Keskula.

Archdeacon O'Raw acknowledged that Alistair and Leonard found themselves being ordained to the diaconate during very strange times. He said that he had been trying to picture what it must be like for them to begin this new chapter in these challenging times, 'not only for us as human beings, but also as a living, breathing, organic church'.

He suggested that they stood on the cusp of their new futures like the Spanish explorer Cortez, who on the peak in Darien saw a land of opportunity laid out at his feet. The archdeacon also suggested that, like Captain Kirk of the starship *Enterprise*, Alistair and Leonard's ongoing mission was to explore new worlds, seek out new life and boldly go where no one has gone before!

A NEW STRING TO BRIAN HICKEY'S BOW

In November Brian Hickey, our youth worker, was accepted by the Church of Ireland to train as a parish reader. Readers are lay people in the Church of Ireland, from all walks of life, who are called by God, theologically trained and licensed by the Church to preach, teach, lead worship and assist in pastoral, evangelistic and liturgical work.

Brian will be doing this on top of his normal duties in youth ministry. We applaud him for taking this opportunity and are delighted to support him in this ministry.

HOPE FOR THE SOUL

At the start of the lockdown around Easter time, we dropped a little booklet called *Calm for the Soul* through the door of quite a number of our more senior parishioners. *Calm for the Soul* was written by Ruth Gyves, a Diocesan Lay Reader and Lay Assistant Pastor at Holy Trinity Rathmines. It seems to have been well received! Ruth has now produced another booklet called



Ruth Gyves

Hope for the Soul. 'We all need to have hope in these days and this booklet focuses attention on the reasons the Bible gives us to be hopeful, offering helpful prayers and readings we can use in our daily lives,' Ruth explains.

Hope for the Soul is beautifully produced and filled with reflections, readings, and prayers to lift the soul during these difficult times. Over Christmas we hope to be able to drop this book to our senior parishioners again. If you do not get one, but would like to receive one, please send the rector a note and he will arrange getting one your way free of charge.

Alternatively you can contact Ruth directly on ruthgyves@gmail.com to order with a suggested donation towards costs of €1 per copy (plus postage).

PLAY CAFÉ

We are delighted to have returned to ZOOM for our Play Café @ Home sessions. These take place every Wednesday morning from 10am–10.45am. We have put together a themed Christmas Craft Pack that links in with our sessions as we journey through the Christmas Story through play, song, story and craft along with other fun



activities. If you haven't got yours get in touch with Lynn. A gentle reminder that no child is too young to join the session as activities are designed for the whole family to join in together. Listening and learning takes place in many ways. Your child does not need to be sitting still and noise etc. can all be muted. To join in on the sessions you just need to get in touch with Lynn and she will give you all the details you need.

FAITH PODS

I still have ambitions of having a number of faith pods in the parish in 2021—groups of interested people exploring faith together. Owing to the uncertainty caused by Covid-19, however, I've had to park this for now. More to come in the future.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



From 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) until 10 December (International Human Rights Day) we were delighted to support the campaign of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. Members of Kiltiernan Parish committed to take up the All-Ireland Mothers' Union 16 Days Prayer Diary.

Throughout this annual campaign, the Mothers' Union joined with other participating organisations to raise awareness of, and call for an end to, gender-based violence in all forms and in all societies. One in three women worldwide have experienced

domestic or sexual abuse. We joined with the Mothers' Union in asserting that this is unacceptable.

MUSIC NOTES

Junior Choir Leader & Lionel Freeman Medal

I start these Music Notes with thanks and congratulations. Thank you, Charlie, for leading Junior Choir. I know it was cut short thanks to Covid-19 but you did a great job. Congratulations to Meg on taking up the mantle. I look forward to presenting the medal at the next in-person service.



Christmas

This promises to be a quite different Advent and Christmas season. The Choirs will be helping to bring you the music that you love for services and events that will be happening. We're thrilled that we can provide for the Community Carol Service, which will be online this year, and we look forward to Junior Choir's songs for our online Nativity.

Music with the Choirs

The Parish Choir have been incredible this term helping me produce recordings of hymns for our online services. It is a different style of music-making that has been quite rewarding. We've managed it all through Zoom and new members are welcome to join.

We hope that we can meet in person soon.

Junior Choir

Junior Choir have taken a short break at Level 5 but will return to rehearsals once the Level is lower. We meet in the church on Tuesdays after school to practise and record our music.

Youth Music

Plans got scuppered with the restrictions tightening. However, we will begin this January on Tuesday 12th at 7pm. Restrictions may allow us to meet in the church though there will be provisions in place for rehearsing online. Please express your interest to Kevin. Instruments and singers are all welcome. I look forward to our debut service January 24th, whether in person or online.

We're looking for joiners

Check out **What's On** for details on joining us for music in the parish. You can contact the Music Director, Kevin, at music@kiltiernanparish.ie for further details.

THE GLORNEY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

by Suzanne Hendy

When the Foundation was looking for an office space last year, the Administrator was advised that there might be an option of renting a room in the Church Cottage at Kiltiernan Parish Centre. Once she tasted the fresh baking and coffee in the Gathering Grounds the decision was made, and the Foundation moved into the recently renovated cottage in February!

Here is just a little background information about the Foundation. Over 60 years ago a successful Dublin businessman, Cecil Parker Glorney, established a trust to assist those who found themselves in difficult circumstances. While the membership of the Board of Trustees has changed over the years, the objective remains the same: to administer small financial

grants to individuals and families who need a helping hand. This need can sometimes arise unexpectedly through illness, disability, homelessness or unemployment. Some of the applicants feel that they have nowhere else to turn, and a grant towards heating oil, replacing an electrical appliance or the balance on their college fees can make such a difference. These are just some examples of the help which the Foundation offers.

The Board of Trustees meet seven times a year to consider applications from sponsors (e.g. social workers/clergy) in a non-discriminatory manner. While investment income provides the main source of funding for the Foundation, bequests and donations are also very gratefully received.

For more details, contact Suzanne Hendy, Church Cottage, Kiltiernan Parish Church of Ireland, Enniskerry Road, Kiltiernan, Dublin D18 CF79. Tel.: 087 184 0606; email: glorneycf@gmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

2020 has been a difficult financial year for everyone. As a church we are not immune to the current financial difficulties. We have suffered this year from the church being closed and the lack of revenue from the Kiltiernan Centre, the Gathering Grounds and the fête.

Normally December is a time when people give generously to the life of the church. Collections tend to be high and we receive some of our annual donations. With normal patterns of worship disrupted, this may not be the pattern this year.

If you are in a position to do so, and we recognise that in the current climate not everyone is, we might encourage you to make a donation to the church this Christmas. It all goes towards advancing the ministry of the church. Donations can be made online at kiltiernan-dublin-anglican-donations.yolasite.com, by bank transfer, cheque or standing order. IBAN: IE50 BOFI 9000 1716 3069 36

Thanks in advance.

GATHERING GROUNDS

LOVE DURING CHRISTMAS

When was the last time you chose to love? I mean, when you had other choices and really made the choice to love instead? I have been thinking about this a lot recently. At a time when life is upset, routines are minimal, communication is misconstrued over digital and virtual means, face-to-face conversations are misunderstood behind masks, news around the world is dire, people in our local communities are suffering owing to stretched finances, domestic abuse and mental illness—I don't know about you, but this affects me immensely. I want to do something to help but I am overwhelmed by the problem of where to start. So I choose to love. Or at least I try. I use Jesus as my example. He loved so well. He loved and spent time with outcasts and the unlovable. He loved you and me to the point of death. 'This is how God showed His love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another' (1 John 4:9-11).

So, when you are being unkind to yourself, allowing the self-hating thoughts to take hold or self-sabotaging again, let go of that heaviness and make the choice to love instead. Remember that 'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs' (1 Corinthians 13:4-5).

Our greatest commandment is to love: 'My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you' (John 15:12). One of the few truths I know is that to love is really the only thing that grounds me and gives me a sense of wholeness. I believe that loving in my immediate surroundings will have a ripple effect in the wider world. I really do believe that love heals.

So, as we enter the season of Advent, I prepare for the coming of



Jesus, our perfect example of hope, love, joy and peace. Be kind to yourselves and be kind to others in Jesus's name.

A few more verses on love in your own time—Galatians 5:13, John 13:34, Leviticus 19:18, John 15:9-17, Matthew 5:43-48, 1 Peter 4:8, Proverbs 10:12, Ephesians 4:2, 1 Corinthians 16:14.

THE GATHERING GROUNDS COOKBOOK

Kiltiernan Parish's Gathering Grounds café has launched a cookbook with a difference. The cookbook features 125 enticing recipes centred around the café's mission of promoting community, belonging, growth and healing. It also tells the story behind the Gathering Grounds.

A vast team of volunteers give their time and creativity to the daily running of this project. As with so many other businesses, Covid has had its impact on the Gathering Grounds. At the current level 5 restrictions, the tables and chairs have been stacked up and stored away, outdoor seating is no longer available, footfall has lessened, and takeaway vessels are replenished more frequently. We delight in the faces that still come up to get a coffee or takeaway soup and thoroughly enjoy any and all conversation.

In an effort to recoup lost

finance in 2020, the Gathering Grounds team has come together to write a cookbook that not only contains favourite recipes but also captures the story of the café. This cookbook is now available at the Gathering Grounds at a cost of €12.

If you are interested in purchasing this book and are unable to travel to Kiltiernan, please contact the parish office at 01-295 2643, or email gatheringground@kiltiernan-parish.ie.

SOUP ON THE GO!

The Tuesday soup lunch was an important part of the life and ministry of the Gathering Grounds. Every Tuesday before Covid, 50-plus seniors would meet and chat over soup and bread (pictured above). We were deeply grieved when we had to shut it down.

Once protocols allowed, we reopened, although for takeaway only. While we were delighted to see some familiar faces return for soup, takeaway does not suit everyone.

Since November, Alistair, Rob and Fintan have been delivering takeaway soup to some of our regulars, and to parishioners who might have restricted movement. We have delivered 15-20 bowls a week. We are not 'Meals on Wheels' and certainly we can't get to everyone every week, but we hope that a bowl every so often reminds people that they are in our thoughts.

CRiTiCall: SUPPORT PEOPLE EMERGING FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

It has been hard to remain at home during Covid-19, but imagine if during the pandemic you were forced to remain at home in an abusive environment. For many people this has been the reality.

More than 4,000 women and children contacted a domestic violence service for the first time during the first six months of the pandemic. The 3,450 women and 589 children equate to nineteen women and three children every day.

In response to reports of increasing incidents of domestic violence during the restrictions, the Dublin City Volunteer Centre has teamed up with St Patrick's Cathedral, Safe Ireland and other volunteer centres around Ireland to create CRiTiCall, an initiative to support people emerging from domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic.

CRiTiCall aims to provide support to help people on their journey to safety by offering practical resources along with comfort and encouragement from within the community, including:

- Donations—purchasing much-needed items and dropping them off in Dublin 8.
- Volunteer your home—volunteer a holiday home or second property as a safe haven.
- Letters of courage and hope to those emerging from domestic abuse.

'Many refuges are at full capacity. We want to ensure that when people are ready to make the courageous step to leave an abusive situation that we have every resource to hand to support them in their recovery,' says Kelley Bermingham, Community Officer,



St Patrick's Cathedral.

Dublin City Volunteer Centre Manager Edwina Dewart says: 'Covid-19 has proven how volunteers are prepared to go above and beyond for those who need it most. We are delighted to be a core part of this wonderful, needed initiative, and will work with our partners, now and into the future, on how we all creatively continue to provide practical supports around domestic violence.'

The impact since the launch has been huge, and CRiTiCall have been able to be the conduit of other people's kindness to the tune of 2,080 parcels worth no less than €50 each; regional hubs have been set up in Dundalk, Drogheda, Celbridge and Cork, with Sligo ready and waiting to open their doors any day now!

This is a situation that we can support through prayer. Pray for the many victims feeling trapped in abusive situations. Pray for the volunteers who selflessly dedicate time and energy to our refuges and partner organisations.

But we also want to support it through practical giving. Every year we as a church set aside a substantial sum of money for charitable donations. As a Select Vestry we support doing so, and we have over

the years annually supported many charities. This year we felt that we should change approach slightly. We will still give to charities that we have traditionally supported, but we decided to pick one charity this year and fund it more significantly.

The Select Vestry felt moved this year to support a charity that was working with women experiencing domestic violence during Covid-19. I contacted June Butler, the All-Ireland President of Mothers' Union, who had done work in this area. June suggested that we might consider supporting the work of CRiTiCall. In turn I spoke to Kelley Bellingham, the Community Officer of St Patrick's Cathedral. We are delighted to contribute €3,000 to the work of CRiTiCall. Specifically, our donation will go towards food vouchers for families escaping domestic violence situations. We hope that this donation can make a difference during this difficult time.

On top of our donation to CRiTiCall, we will also be supporting Protestant Aid, the Laura Lynn Children's Hospice, the Leprosy Mission of Ireland, the Church Missionary Society Ireland, the Dublin & Glendalough Diocesan Board of Education, the Mothers' Union, the Mission to Seafarers, the RNLI, the Samaritans, the Alice Leahy Trust, the Bray Women's Refuge, Christ Church Cathedral, the Peter McVerry Trust, the Solas Project, Church in Chains, the Church's Ministry of Healing, the Harding Trust, the Eco Congregation Ireland and SPCK.

Domestic violence can happen anywhere and in all communities. If you are not safe in your home, supports can be found at <https://www.stillhere.ie/>.

KILTERNAN PARK



ISH ACTIVITIES



Clockwise from top left:
1-3: Scenes from our Build A Harvest initiative.
4: Messy Church online—still messy!
5 and 6: Christ the King, Messy Church participants.

COPING WITH CHANGE AND UNCERTAINTY

Some faith-filled ideas for families when facing new or emotionally demanding times and transitions (Part 2)

By Lynn Storey

Part 1 was in the Autumn edition of *Klips*, when we thought about tips to encourage talking and listening. Here we are thinking about ways to deal with ‘big feelings’.

Ways to deal with big feelings, racing thoughts or anxious energy

Movement

Getting out for a walk or a cycle, whether it’s around your area, in the park or on the beach, and connecting with nature has been shown to be therapeutic to children (and adults) these last few months. Use it as a time to marvel, enjoy and notice things about God’s wonderful creation. Use your senses and think of five things you can see, four things you can hear, three things you can smell, two things you can touch and one positive thing about yourself!

Worry prayers—pop bubble wrap or burst bubbles for these sensory prayers

Matthew 6:25–26: ‘Don’t worry about life. Don’t worry about having something to eat, drink or wear. Isn’t life more than food or clothing? Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest. They don’t even store grain in barns. Yet your Father in heaven takes care of them. Are you not worth more than the birds?’

- God loves you and wants to take care of you.
- Tell God something that you are worried about and ask Him to help you.
- Burst one of the bubbles as a sign that you are releasing or letting go of your worry and

giving it to God. When something worries you, pop a bubble and give your worry to God.

Sensory bottles

Making a sensory bottle or ‘calming jar’ can be a great visual for children. The objects in the jar represent your worries or racing thoughts. As your child makes one, pick an item to represent each worry and gold glitter to represent God. Shake up the bottle, focus on everything swirling and then settling, and imagine your thoughts slowly quietening down. Tell the story of Jesus calming the storm. Ask Jesus to speak to your mind and the worries racing around your body. Practise saying, ‘Peace, be still’. Thank God that He is in control.

Journaling

There are lots of simple ways for children to journal.

Write or draw worries, and then rip up the page and throw it out. This can bring release.

Why not bring a more prayerful approach with a pocket cross or, even better, a cross you make from objects in your home? Both you and your child can write or draw your worries and put them by the cross or pin them onto the cross as a sign that you are giving your worries to Jesus.

Using a worry journal, encourage your child to write and/or draw in it each day (*it can take four or five days before you see the benefit of this*). For younger children, colours can signify different feelings one day and pictures can be drawn another day.

I found the following particularly useful for one of my

children who was particularly anxious and worried about lots of things. Set aside ten minutes every day to worry together; at the end of that allotted time, pop the journal with all the worries into a sealed box. This helps a child to understand that his worries are valid but don’t have to steal joy from other parts of his day.

Play

Provide opportunity for play, as this is how children process their world. Set aside ten minutes each day without the distractions of TV, phones, computers etc. A time of informal play is best, when you join the child at his level on the floor, at the table, wherever he chooses. Allow your child to lead the play, when you don’t give directions or ask questions (yes, I know some of us might find that a challenge!) and join in when invited by your child. During this time your child may express things that are on his mind and give you the window into what might be worrying him. Of course, you may find that nothing surfaces and that’s perfectly fine. You are giving your child the most wonderful message that you love and value him enough to put everything aside to spend ten minutes each day solely with him. It will create a strong connection, and as he gets older he will know that he can always come to you, and that you will put everything down to listen to and be there for him.

Ways to ground children

Breathing techniques are perfect for bringing calm to the body and mind. They can be fun and creative and part of your daily routine. There are many suitable for

COMMUNITY AND WIDER CHURCH

children—‘The Breathing Ball’, ‘Calm down Cupcake’, ‘54321 Slow Down & Calm Down’ are just a few that you can find on YouTube.

Take 5 Gratitude can be incorporated into your child’s daily routine. Some children focus more on negative happenings each day, finding it difficult to see the good in their lives. Using their hand, they can take some time to think about the good things in their lives. Starting with their thumb, get them to take a breath and think of one thing that happened in their day that they are grateful for. Moving to the next finger, think of something else that they are grateful for, and so on—with the children thinking of a different category for each finger. For example, you might like to finish with the little finger, thinking of someone in their lives that they are grateful for.

Laughter is a great release. What makes your child laugh? Being chased by the tickle monster? Watching funny videos? Reading funny stories? Making faces? Whatever it is, make time for it together.

Music brings a unique lifting of spirits. Every child will be different: some may like soothing music while others will prefer beltiers that they can sing along to. Why not create a playlist with your child as his go-to when he feels the need for some calm? You can include some of his favourites from church, or school assembly.

We are ‘in this together’, so let’s support one another in the parish and community in the days, weeks and months ahead.

‘I can do all this through Him Who gives me strength’ (Philippians 4:13).

If you have any further questions or need to chat, please do get in touch with Lynn.

Adapted from *Tips for Parents of Anxious Children and for Anxious Parents* by Lydia Monds and the Church of Ireland Children’s Ministry Network.

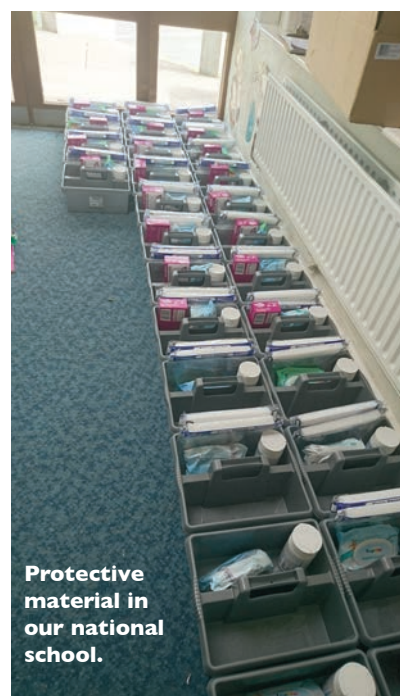
RUNNING A SCHOOL DURING COVID-19

by Grainne Darlington

Many of us remember where we were when global events happened—the JFK or John Lennon assassinations, the signing of the Good Friday agreement, the bombing of the Twin Towers in New York. Akin to the ‘where were you when’ conversations, Tanya Riordan and I were buying goodies for our Siopa Tuc—our much-anticipated end to another successful Seachtain na Gaeilge—when we heard the news that schools were to be closed because of Covid-19, for what we thought, at worst, would be until Easter. Little did we know!!

It came as no surprise to me that the staff and parents rose to what was an amazing and, at times, daunting challenge. Home schooling/virtual learning was adopted and, in many cases, combined with one or both parents working from home—not always the easiest of relationships. Behind each of the closed doors lay stories of no devices, not enough devices to facilitate both parents working in addition to other children (some in secondary school), loss of jobs, poor health, fear. Despite this, I witnessed the efforts that everyone put into making this possible, engaging, interesting and fun—including Ms Butler, who had replaced Tanya on her maternity leave and who never got to meet any of her crew! As a staff, we were keen to maintain as much of our valued community as possible through online weekly assemblies, virtual Sports Day, quizzes, our Laura Lynn Challenge and our progress assembly, in addition to teacher/class and teacher/individual contact. The PTA also organised an online Talent Show in keeping with their desire to connect and involve, which was much appreciated by all.

June 18th saw a ‘different’ farewell to our 6th Class—their leaving was too big and important an occasion to miss. We gathered in



Protective material in our national school.

the back yard and wished them well as they took a leap into the world of secondary school. Socially distanced in the rain, we were surrounded by banners and immersed in the desire to make the most of this milestone.

The summer gave a much-needed let-up, both as a school and nationally—a well-earned break for all. Behind the scenes, staff and the Board of Management met and planned and prepared for our much-wanted return to school. Classrooms were changed to facilitate social distancing; one of our SET rooms was transformed into an isolation room; our staff room, whose size couldn’t facilitate social distancing, became the SET room, and our



Children in the National School made a great contribution to the Harvest Festival.

school hall became our staff room and a storage facility for the furniture and contents out of classrooms to maximise space.

Seating arrangements were planned scrupulously, creating pods and mini-pods, and starting and finishing times were staggered so that there was time for children to come in safely and at a distance. Strange painted yellow feet a metre apart appeared around the outside at all the assigned entry points—children stand on these in the mornings and at the end of break times, again to ensure their social distance as much as possible.

August 27th saw the front door remain closed but other doors flung open to welcome back 217 pupils with open arms—it is such a pleasure to hear noise and see the school bustling and busy once more. As a school, our priority is to keep everyone safe, secure and reassured, and it is wonderful to see this being realised and not to the detriment of anything else. Classrooms may be a bit more draughty with windows and doors open, but there is superb learning, teaching and interaction going on and you could be forgiven for momentarily forgetting that anything was different. This, we believe, is how it should be: we want to maintain and preserve our atmosphere, our community, our hub and identity, and give the children and you, their parents and guardians, every reassurance that they are safe, happy and learning. I see all of our efforts reflecting the words of Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, who said of Covid: 'Ultimately the greatest lesson that Covid-19 can teach humanity is that we are all in this together'.

THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS

The Episcopal Electoral College for the Diocese of Clogher has elected the Revd Canon Dr Ian Ellis as the new Bishop of Clogher. He succeeds Revd John McDowell, who took office as Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.

Revd Ian was my neighbouring rector in the parish of Rossorry when I was curate in Enniskillen. I



Revd Seán Hanley, his wife Cherith and their one-year-old, Marcus.

remember him fondly and expect that he will be an excellent bishop. Keep him in your prayers.

WELCOME TO REVD SEÁN HANLEY

We are delighted that Rathmichael Parish has a rector! We look forward to working closely with Seán in the years ahead. We wish God's blessing for him, his wife Cherith and their one-year-old, Marcus. Keep them in your prayers as they settle into their new home and ministry.

HOLY BAPTISM

We are building up quite a backlog of baptisms! Normally in Kiltarnan baptisms are celebrated in the midst of a regular service of worship. This is still the preferred way in which a baptism should be celebrated, but owing to social distance restrictions we will for a short season permit short services of baptism solely with family and friends.

If you have a child that you would like to have baptised, please contact the rector and we will find a suitable date in the new year once current restrictions lift.

The following guidelines have been proposed by the House of Bishops.

- Only one candidate should be baptised at each service.
- In making the sign of the cross (whether before or after the baptism), the presiding minister should not make direct physical contact with the candidate.
- An infant should be held by his or her parents. The presiding minister should not take the

infant into his or her own arms.

- In blessing the water, the presiding minister should not touch the water.
- Throughout this period of restrictions, it is advised that baptism should be by the pouring of water over the head of the candidate, using a baptismal vessel, and no physical contact should be made between the presiding minister and the candidate.

SEND A LETTER TO A NURSING HOME

Parishioners might like to be aware that An Post will bring letters, cards and parcels to nursing and care homes for free this winter. All mail parcels weighing up to two kilos sent or received by residents will be handled by An Post free of charge. To avail of the initiative, An Post has advised those planning to send parcels and letters to write the word 'Freepost' in the spot where they would usually place a stamp.

IRISH CANCER SOCIETY

The Irish Cancer Society is looking for volunteers to drive patients to and from their chemotherapy treatments. Drivers with free weekday availability and who can commit to driving twice a month, please email Gail at gflinter@irishcancer.ie or call 01 231 0566 for an application form. Owing to the impact of the coronavirus we are seeking drivers under the age of 70 years.

MESSY CHURCH ON ZOOM

Well, we were overwhelmed by this one!

Messy Church has been a very successful outreach to new families over the years. It was sad to have to close it during Covid-19.

In November we decided to attempt a Messy Church on Zoom. We were initially cautious, mindful that 'Zoom fatigue' was setting in for many. Even if we have a small number, we thought, it was still worth a go.



So how do you do Messy Church on Zoom? Well, some of the craft team started planning. Three craft activities were agreed on that would be placed in bags. Parents could request a craft bag and pick one up from the Gathering Grounds. Each bag would contain craft activities, a Messy Church booklet with instructions, sign-in details and info about the theme, and a snack.

A Zoom gathering was planned for 4pm on a Sunday. The celebration team would welcome everyone and begin with an activity. We would then break into three virtual breakout rooms for crafts. Once the crafts were completed, we would gather again for a celebration time which would include prayers, songs and a talk on the theme. We would finish by eating a snack together before saying farewell.



Initially we filled 30 bags, but it became clear after the first hour that 30 was not going to be enough. By Friday we had 62 families signed up! By the time 4pm rolled around on the Sunday we had 240 people attending. It was such an amazing sight!

Well done to all involved. We learned that, even with the current restrictions, Messy Church is still alive and well in Kiltiernan!

ALL OUR HEROES

by Brian Hickey

I miss Karen; she was a hero of mine. It was such a joy to be able to share the words she spoke to me as she pushed me to pursue a relationship with Christ. In terms of people who have cheered me on from the sidelines as I have been on my Christian walk, I would place her right at the top.

How nice it was to hear about Lynn's father Arthur and the impact he had on her. It's so important to recognise who our heroes are. I think it's also important to let them know—something I will come back to in a bit.

Another word that can be used for heroes of the faith is 'saints'. As we were celebrating 'All Saints', it was fitting that we geared our content towards this theme.

The junior half of the school

was given the opportunity to learn about saints. Of course, usually when we think of saints we think of the epic people in the Bible, like St Paul or St Peter. I cannot speak for Lynn, but I can't express the joy I feel at watching the little faces find out that everyone who follows Christ is a saint. The Bible does instruct that the leaders within a church are tasked with the building of the saints. And guess what? That's you!

The crafts that followed were a way for the little ones to remember the saints who have gone before us. This got far too creative for me and all credit goes to Lynn on this front. We used electric tea lights, disposable cups, old CDs and little plastic jars to help illustrate the point. Naturally, there are always little bits and bobs that can be stuck on any craft done here in Kiltiernan, but can I share how happy I was that there was no glitter?! Unreal.

All Saints also coincided with Remembrance, where people would wear a poppy to remember those who have died in conflict. Once again, I was in awe of the simplicity of the craft. We used the bottoms of bottles and coloured them in red and black, so they looked like a poppy. I was very surprised at how well they turned out. If you haven't seen them, check out the photo on page 6. They turned out really well.

For 5th Class and 6th Class, which Rob and I were charged with leading, there was no craft (no surprise). What we had them do was write letters to their heroes. I think there is something to be said for using our own words to think about why someone is our hero. I think that giving kids and young people the opportunity to find their voice and express it, whether in speaking or writing, is one of the greatest challenges of our age. As we began to assemble our 'wall of saints' and put up the letters, I just had an overwhelming sense of pride to see some of the words shared by them. It should come as no great surprise that putting them to the task of thinking about and writing to those whom they hold in

high esteem brought some wonderful moments captured on a page.

Lastly, a big thank you to Grainne and all the staff in the school who are giving us this opportunity to connect with the kids. I speak for the whole staff team here in Kilternan when I say that it has been a real blessing to be able to work with them in these uncertain times.

CHALK PRAYER WALK



No sooner had we begun to welcome families back to worship than we found ourselves returning to tighter restrictions. This, combined with a good weather forecast, prompted a quick decision to bring forward our Pop-Up Outdoor Chalk Prayer Walk. We had two glorious days of dry and sunny weather with clear blue skies. A chalk path was created



around the church grounds, with different activities and stations, giving families an opportunity to enjoy a time of creative prayer together. A variety of creative prayer stations included 'Jumping for Joy', 'Alphabet Prayers', 'Boats in the Storm' and 'Memory Tree', to remember those whom we no longer see. As we could only facilitate one family at a time, slots were booked in advance. It was wonderful to catch up and connect with families from the parish and community. Chalk was provided for each family, which they took home to create their own chalk prayer walk. Who knew there was such a

thing as glitter chalk? It certainly added some bling to our prayers! (See pictures on this page.)

SAFEGUARDING FOR ALL: NAVIGATING THE ONLINE COMMUNITY

It is the policy of the Church of Ireland to safeguard both children and adults sharing in its ministry and to protect them from all forms of harm and abuse. Of course, during the Covid pandemic many of our children and youth organisations have had to stop, but the work of safeguarding continues, especially with online usage on the increase. The church has developed a list of good practices for social media and video conferencing with young people. A few of these are listed below.

- For children under eleven it is appropriate for a parent/guardian to be in the room when they are taking part in an activity online.
- Avoid social media platforms that may inadvertently connect young people up with other people as an unintended consequence.
- When using platforms such as



Zoom with children, ensure that you use the most up-to-date guidance for security. For applications which allow for password access, only use password/passcode-protected meetings. Passwords should only be sent to

- parents/guardians of children and young people and not directly to the child/young person. Enable the 'waiting room' feature, where available, which allows the host to have the discretion to allow invitees in to attend the meeting.
- Approval of the rector is always sought before any Zoom activities with children.
- Parental consent is required for any Zoom meetings with children over the age of eleven. An email reply as a form of consent is satisfactory.
- Most video conferencing software allows for the session to be recorded. Avoid doing this, as you would need separate permission for data capture and there are all sorts of issues around storage, GDPR etc.

If there are any safeguarding questions, contact the parish panel: Rob Clements, Jonathan Holt or Kerrith Fisher.

BUILDING BLOCKS

Building Blocks 2019 was held in the Kiltarnan Centre. This year was very different, as it took place on Zoom. Surprisingly, though, it was one of the best-attended Building Blocks conferences in years!

The Building Blocks team, which includes our own Lynn and Brian (who took on the role of tech guru), met in the Kiltarnan Centre on their laptops, and were joined by 80 participants from all across the country, and by speakers Lucie Hutson (founder of Muddy Church) and Melanie Lacy (Director of Theology for Children and Youth Ministry at Oak Hill College) from England.

Well done to Lynn and Brian for organising a brilliant day.



WANDERING AND WONDERING

During half-term we invite families to wander and wonder on their daily walk. Hidden in the church grounds were four QR code posters. Once they found them, they could scan the codes using smart phones, and each one took them to an activity card with

prayers and faith activities. This was spread over three days, and although the weather was blustery, families had great fun wandering and wondering.

Above: scenes from the QR code Wandering and Walking days during half-term.

CRANMER'S CORNER



LECTIONARY RAMBLINGS

How should we read the psalms? The full lectionary offers us on Sundays a gospel reading, a New Testament reading, an Old Testament reading and a psalm. Sometimes the psalm is sung.

For many of us, the Book of Psalms can be intimidating. It's the largest book in the Bible, filled with a broad spectrum of emotion.

Bono, the lead singer of U2, once famously referred to psalms as King David's version of the blues.

The psalms include a great variety of material, some of which feels familiar, like Psalm 23, but much of which feels baffling or disturbing, like the tediously repetitive Psalm 119 or the seeming cruelty of Psalm 137.

The Christian Church has often paid special attention to the psalms, what Martin Luther called the 'Little Bible'. The psalms teach us how to pray, how to worship and how to live faithfully in the world. Here are a few hints on how to get the most out of the psalms.

1. Pay attention to the whole of a psalm, not just the parts of a psalm.

While many of us may be tempted to read only parts of a psalm, it is important to remember that God has given us whole psalms in order to teach us specific things about the character of God and about what it means to be human.

Take, for example, Psalm 139. Many of us are naturally drawn to the beautiful language of the first eighteen verses, with its language of God searching our hearts, hemming us in and knitting us in our mother's womb. Once we get to verse 19, however, things seem to go suddenly dark.

The point of the psalm is not chiefly to provide us with a lovely devotion on God's intimate knowledge of us. The point is to bring us face to face with the God who confronts 'wickedness' in the world, which is always destructive and dehumanising. The psalm takes a dark turn—but, then, so does life sometimes.

2. Read the psalms consistently rather than occasionally and sporadically.

Anglicans often promote reading a psalm a day as a life's habit. Consider, then, how you might read a psalm a day yourself. Begin with Psalm 1 and march your way to the end, to Psalm 150, and then start over. It's not a race, nor should you beat yourself up if you can't quite manage it. But it is an invitation to allow the psalms to saturate our hearts and minds with the good words of God.

3. Read the psalms out loud, not just silently.

Because the psalms originate in an oral culture, we can only fully appreciate their power when we read them out loud, rather than only to ourselves in the quiet of our own thoughts. The point is this: the deepest meaning of the psalms occurs through its orality, not despite it, which is of course what



In July 2006 Mr Eddie Fogarty unearthed an early medieval book of the Psalms in a leather satchel while operating a peat-digger on a bog. It has been identified as dating from c.AD 800. On the last folio of gathering IV the largest section of visible text occurs, which corresponds to Psalm 84 in the BCP written in Latin. The words *in ualle lacrimarum* were the first to be recognised, and these refer to 'the valley of tears'. The text can just about be made out in the accompanying photograph.

© National Museum of Ireland

all good poets might tell us.

You might even like to sing them. Yes, I know we have a lovely tradition of sung metrical psalms and I'm happy to celebrate that, but you can also put them to your own tune in your head. You might even find they work well with the blues.

AMEN

Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Then all the people said "Amen" and "Praise the LORD" (1 Chronicles 16:36).

Our liturgical response is: 'Amen!' But what does that mean? Why do we say it? Is it simply a liturgical habit, akin to saying 'Bless you' when someone sneezes?

The word 'amen' is used thirteen times in the Old Testament and 119 times in the New Testament. It is the most frequently used religious word. It is used not only by Christians but also by Jews and by Muslims, who conclude hymns, prayers and recitals of the Koran with it.

Many of us know the word 'amen' as a closing to a prayer. 'Amen' is a Hebrew word that is essentially an affirmation of truth or agreement, meaning something like 'so be it', 'it is so' or 'it is true'. When we end a prayer with the word 'amen', we are acknowledging that we believe that God actively hears our prayers, and that our prayers will be answered by Him in His time. 'Amen' is an expression that all those things we just asked for in prayer, all the things we praised God for, all the questions, all the pain and the joy we express in prayer are founded in the truth of God.

In Scripture, the word 'amen' is used in a variety of different situations, such as in a response of group affirmation. For example, in Deuteronomy 27:14-19 Moses gives the people instructions and asks them to respond by saying collectively 'Amen'. Many of us have heard the phrase, 'All God's people said amen!'. We might associate this with the more

Pentecostal traditions, but it is likely that the phrase originates in the Old Testament. When 'amen' is used in this way, it is an affirmation that what was just said is true and good and worthy of our response. As we hear the truth of God's Word, we should all be able to say 'amen'!

The very last word in the Bible is 'amen', which means that everything that has been said before is true, trustworthy and reliable.

A short aside as I finish. My middle son, Gideon, was asking me why some people say 'ah-men' while others say 'ay-men'. I'd never thought about it before, so I did a bit of research. Apparently the 'ay-men' pronunciation is a product of the Great Vowel Shift (i.e. it dates from the fifteenth century); it is associated with Irish Protestantism and with conservative evangelical denominations generally. It is also the pronunciation typically used in gospel music. The 'ah-men' is more likely to be used in performances of classical music and in churches with more formalised rituals and liturgy. We learn something new every day!

ANGLICANISM 101

The Church of Ireland is an Anglican church, but what does it mean to be Anglican? Many of us in the Church of Ireland come from different traditions, or from none at all.

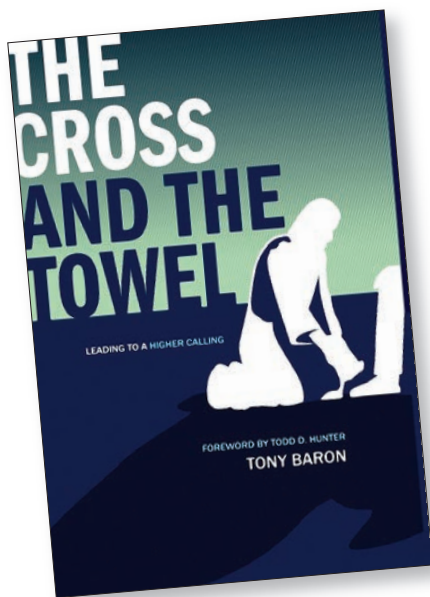
Of course, in the Great Commission, Jesus did not ask us to go and make Anglicans of all nations (baptising them according to the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer). He asked us to go and make disciples. We clergy are not PR agents for a denomination. My primary interest is the advancement of the kingdom of God, and God is not an Anglican any more than he is Roman Catholic or Presbyterian. My primary purpose is not to maintain a tradition but to make disciples and draw people closer to God.

So why do a course like this? Well, we express our faith within a tradition, and for us that is the

Church of Ireland. It is important that we understand our tradition because there is a lot of misunderstanding out there. There are lots of things that puzzle even cradle Anglicans. In this series, we tried to address some questions about basic beliefs and traditions in our church.

Anglicanism 101 will be uploaded on Fridays on YouTube. The topics are outlined below.

- Week 1: The story so far. A look at the history of the Anglican church. Where did it emerge from, and why is it called 'Anglican'?
- Week 2: Building blocks. A look at what the characteristics of an Anglican are. What holds the Anglican church together?
- Week 3: Sola Scriptura (by Scripture alone). How do Anglicans approach Scripture and how can we use the Bible in our discipleship?
- Week 4: Anglican prayer and common worship. It is often said that Anglicans pray their theology. Is there an Anglican rhythm of prayer, and how can it help our spiritual life?
- Week 5: Tradition and doctrine. Anglicans talk about the three pillars of Scripture, reason and tradition, but what do we mean when we talk about tradition? What is the difference between traditionalism and tradition?
- Week 6: Bread, water and wine. What do Anglicans believe about the sacraments?
- Week 7: Authority and moral questions. How do Anglicans deal with the thorny moral questions?
- Week 8: The future of Anglicanism. As the world changes, what next for the Anglican church?



The Cross and the Towel,
by Tony Baron.

ISBN 9781604945362.

€22

Reviewed by Brian Hickey

Think of our world leaders; think of the power that these (mostly) men have accumulated. Some have gotten into these positions by using methods such as fear or by promoting a celebrity image of themselves that has led to an almost god-like persona. They view themselves as untouchable. Their only interest is in gaining more power or influence and how they can use people to grow it further. This does not apply just to our politically savvy world leaders but also to organisations of all walks of life that have some form of leadership structure. I imagine most of us can think of a boss we once had whom we didn't like. It is almost as if you can see through the character they are trying to show to the world.

It should come as no surprise to us that this need or want to accumulate power and influence has infiltrated the church and has done for many years. In his little book Baron aims to outline the stark difference between celebrity Christian leaders and their methods and the method of leadership of Jesus. He calls this style the 'cross and towel' approach. To sum it up in one word: humility. The author

is trying to teach the ways of the leader who came to serve and not be served.

In the early chapters, Baron discusses the idea of power structures within the world and the church, laying the foundation for something we would come to find out—that is, that the church and the world on a big scale are more similar in their leadership than they are different.

Baron doesn't leave us on a cliff-hanger or build it up to the way Jesus did things in later chapters. He actively dismantles how these structures fail in comparison to the way of Jesus. The harmful structures that Baron speaks of are the 'sword and shield' style of leadership. He hits on many different aspects of what the sword and shield are, but the one that struck me the most was the positional principle. A local church modelling the positional method (unconsciously most of the time) means that everyone is in it for themselves. The more power and influence I can accumulate, the more decisions I'm likely to be involved in making. If I used the COI model of the minister and the vestry to explain it, it would be

along the lines of people only wanting to be on the vestry to gain more power, to be part of the group that can say yes or no. This type of leading is harmful and dangerous. It's completely self-serving, with no interest in the people you have been called to serve.

Baron contrasts this with the way Jesus went about His ministry. Before He was to go to the cross, Jesus demonstrated servant leadership to His disciples by washing their feet. Jesus was never interested in abusing His power but was rather focused solely on the will of the Father, to love people and meet them where they are.

Baron does the same when he considers other principles, such as pleasure, professional status, abuse of power, territorial lines and more. He expertly shines the biblical light of Jesus on how the sword and shield must be removed in order to follow the way of the cross and towel.

I would highly encourage anyone who is involved in any form of leadership within their jobs to read this book. It has been very helpful to me as I consider how I wish to lead in the future.

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HEAD TEACHERS! NEW GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR SCHOOL NATIVITY PLAYS

1. The Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem will NOT be mentioned, and neither will snide remarks be made about Dominic Cummings, eye tests or Barnard Castle.
2. 'No room at the inn' will be replaced with 'accommodation was limited because of strict adherence to social distancing regulations'.
3. A maximum of THREE shepherds will be abiding in the fields keeping watch over their flocks by night.
4. Whilst 'a multitude of the heavenly host' may be permitted in heaven, it would be advisable to state that only 'a quintet of the heavenly host' are permitted in the vicinity of Bethlehem.
5. The shepherds visiting the stable must wear masks and use hand-sanitising gel on arrival, and must depart before the Wise Men appear.
6. In respect of the Wise Men, references to 'the East' are wholly unacceptable, as are allusions to camels.
7. It must be clearly stated that the Wise Men have observed a period of quarantine before visiting the infant Jesus.
8. The Wise Men should therefore arrive in a traditional manner, but strictly one at a time: specifically (i) one in a taxi, (ii) one in a car and (iii) one on a scooter.
9. They should also wear masks and practise hand hygiene on arrival.
10. Gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh may NOT be brought into the stable. Instead, it should be plainly said that the Wise Men will email a QR code to Joseph, so that their gifts can be collected from the nearest Amazon locker.



**The Buildings
May Be** 

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Is Still

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