



KILTERNAN KLIPS

Building community, strengthening worship, growing in service

The quarterly newsletter of Kilternan Parish, Co. Dublin

Vol. 27 No. 2 Kilternan Klips | Summer 2021

www.kilternan.dublin.anglican.org

THE SPIRIT IS WITH US



NOTICE BOARD

News and notices from around the parish

FÊTE REVIEW

How we got on with our virtual Fête.

FEATURES

Articles and features of interest to the church

MINISTRY

Youth, family and liturgy, articles and more



Care & Compassion in action since 1836

Protestant Aid exists to help relieve the distress of financial hardship and deprivation on a strictly non-denominational basis, treating all calls for help equally, regardless of religious or social backgrounds. For further information on any of our schemes please check out our website at www.protestantaid.org

Protestant Aid, 202A Merrion Road, Dublin 4. D04 R9W8

T: 01 668 4298 E: info@protestantaid.org

stephen newell architects

*33 years designing houses, rectories,
church / community facilities and
commercial premises.*



01 286 4791 | studio@sna.ie | www.sna.ie

NOW OFFERING IRELAND'S
MOST ATTRACTIVE BURIAL AND
ASH INTERMENT OPTIONS



Traditional Burial Plots
(capacity 3 coffin burials & 4 urn burials)
Now available from €5,950

Ash Burial Plots
(capacity 4 urn burials)
Now available from €4,900 inclusive
of Irish Granite headstone

Columbarium Memorial Wall
(capacity 2 urns)
Now available from €2,950

Selected plots are available to pre purchase



Tel: 01 281 4029 www.kilternancemetery.ie



Contents

Notice Board	4
Gathering Grounds	8
A virtual visit to St Michael's, Gilford	10
Virtual Fête	11
Fête pictures	12
Family and Youth Ministry	17
Community and Wider Church	19
Cranmer's Corner	21
Review	22
Poem—Growing Old	22
Prayer for India	22
Review 2	23

Cover image: Images of Pentecost.



Volume 27 Number 2
June 2021

Editorial: Rob Clements and
Annemarie McCleane

Design: Wordwell Ltd
Production: Nick Maxwell
Copy-editing: Emer Condit
Printed by: Ross Print, Greystones
Published by: Kiltiernan Church of
Ireland Parish, Kiltiernan,
Dublin 18.

Rector: Revd Rob Clements
Contact:
Phone: 01 295 2643 (O);
Mob: 087 149 6605
Email: rector@kiltiernanparish.ie;
www.kiltiernan.dublin.anglican.org

The Rector on...

A *kairos* moment

Time took on a new dimension during Covid. For most of us, our usual rhythms were dramatically affected, and as a result one day became like the next. I frequently heard people say, 'I don't know what day of the week it is'.

The ancient Greeks had two words for time: *chronos* and *kairos*. The former refers to sequential time whereby one day follows the next, while the latter signifies a proper or opportune time for action. From a Christian point of view, *kairos* is 'God time'. Appearing 86 times in the New Testament, *kairos* refers to the moment when God acts.

Three ideas come together in this understanding of a *kairos* event. The first is that a *kairos* event is something new, something totally unexpected. The second is the recognition that this new reality is totally beyond us, and it therefore draws us into a reliance on and awareness of God. Last but not least, there is something of 'good news' in a *kairos* event, something that might be called salvation. This is the *kairos* that Mark had in mind when he proclaimed, 'Now is the time, the Kingdom of God is at hand' (Mark 1:15).

***We have before us an opportunity to
reshape our mission and ministry in
such a way as to serve the needs of a
hurting world***

There is a sense, as we move into a post-Covid reality, that this is a *kairos* moment for the church. We have before us an opportunity to reshape our mission and ministry in such a way as to serve the needs of a hurting world. I read a quote recently from a senior cleric who said, 'I have known church life for 70 years. I have never known a missional moment like this.'

How shall we respond? The case of the Hebrew prophet Joel is helpful. Responding to a terrible plague of locusts that devastated fields, shattered the economy, and caused widespread hunger and suffering, Joel invited the community into three practices. The first was the practice of gathering. Of course, this is difficult for us under current restrictions, but as we go forward there will be more of a need than ever to build spiritual community together. The second practice was lamentation. Joel provided space to grieve, and likewise we should not gloss over just how difficult this time has been for many people. The third practice was action. Joel called on the community to 'pay attention' (1:2), 'wake up' (1:5), 'be appalled' (1:11), 'see' (2:19), 'rend your hearts' (2:13), 'pray' and 'return' to the Lord.

More than 2,600 years after Joel, we find ourselves in a similar *kairos* moment. Thus Joel's message is relevant for us today. As a church, it is time to act. We need to envision a vibrant, risk-taking church, awake to God's calling and bringing Jesus into every home in Kiltiernan. Let us not miss this opportunity to proclaim the Kingdom of God.

Every blessing,
Revd Rob



CONTACT LIST

Revd Rob Clements
(Rector)
Rector@kilternanparish.ie
Tel. 087 149 6605

Alastair Doyle
(Intern Deacon)
Tel. 086 608 1223

Annemarie McClean
(Parish Administrator)
Office@kilternanparish.ie
Tel. 01 295 2643

Brian Hickey
(Youth Ministry Coordinator)
KYM@kilternanparish.ie
Tel. 085 862 2893

Lynn Storey
(Children and Family Ministry
Coordinator)
Lynnstorey14@gmail.com
Tel. 087 695 7061

Julie Clements
(Gathering Grounds Supervisor and
Outreach Worker)
Gatheringgrounds@kilternanparish.ie
Tel. 087 203 9516

Kevin O'Sullivan
(Music Director)
Music@kilternanparish.ie

Carol Barry
(Parish Reader)
carolmbarry@yahoo.ie
Tel. 087 087 636 1530

Stephen Newell (Churchwarden)

Fintan Keogh (Churchwarden)

Bruce Fitzsimons (Glebewarden)

Christian Kraeft (Glebewarden)

David Webb (Secretary of the Select
Vestry)

Gary Colclough (Treasurer of the Select
Vestry)

PASTORAL CARE

In this time of social distancing, clergy may not be 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).

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

KILTERNAN ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Kilternan Church of Ireland now has a Facebook presence. Search for us at Kilternan Church of Ireland and follow us for updates about what's going on in the parish. You might note that the Gathering Grounds has a busy Facebook presence too. We also send out a weekly email. If you don't receive the email, let us know in the office and we'll get you on the list.

REGISTER

Christian burial

Funerals are incredibly difficult at this time with current restrictions, and we are mindful of all who grieved. This quarter we mourned the death of Louis Walsh on 28 February, and Alfred Parnes and Barbara Wilkie, both on 12 March 2021. We continue to hold their families in our prayers.

Baptisms

In May we started to make a dent in the long list of people awaiting baptism. Normally we like to celebrate baptisms as part of the worship service. A baptism isn't just about the child; it's also about the church. Nevertheless, in these exceptional times, and with restricted numbers permitted in church services, we are arranging a number of lunchtime Sunday baptisms. If you have a child awaiting baptism, reach out to the rector and we will schedule a baptism.

RETURN TO WORSHIP

We are delighted to return to in-person worship. We have spent a long time worshipping online, and I think we are all ready for face-to-face prayers and conversation (never mind being able to sing again!). We continue to monitor protocols as we move forward.

Throughout June and probably into September we will have three services each Sunday, much the

same as we had in October 2020.

9:00am Said Holy Communion in the church.

10:00am Sunday Morning at the Gathering Grounds.

Contemporary worship in the Kilternan Centre with a focus on children and families. 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 can accommodate more people.

11:00am Traditional Worship in the church.

We will assess summer arrangements in due course, but it is likely that we will drop to two services in July and August, one in the church and one in the centre. As protocols change, we might be able to have a few outdoor services.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Fund-raising to date, 2021

With the challenges of Covid before us, we needed to have a focus on fund-raising in 2021. You will see some amazing facts and figure from our virtual fête in this edition. To date this year we have also received €3,100 towards the work on the church tower. Our two table quizzes have brought in €1,100 between them, and our Lenten 'Fast, Pray, Give' initiative brought in €590 to be shared between the Peter McVerry Trust and the Laura Lynn Children's Hospital. Ongoing sales of the Gathering Grounds cookbook have brought in an additional €1,000 this year, and the Gathering Grounds Sourdough starter €570. You can read a bit later about the tremendous success of the virtual fête.

We continue to be grateful for the contribution of all those who make the mission and ministry of Kilternan Parish possible through their generosity.

Have you thought about legacy giving?

What is a legacy gift? It is a gift of an amount of money or property left in a will. Gifts in wills are a natural part of Christian giving and, as we are stewards of everything we own, they should be seen as part of our Christian stewardship.

Thinking about life after death should not be difficult for Christians. We should be prepared both spiritually and practically. Having a will can save your loved ones a lot of trouble, so we would encourage you to write a will and keep it up to date.

A legacy gift is a way to thank God for all the gifts of your lifetime, and to pass on the legacy we've received from Christians in the past to Christians of the future—it is an expression of gratitude and thanksgiving towards God. Leaving a gift in your will can be tax-efficient and may reduce the amount of inheritance tax to be paid.

We welcome all gifts in wills, however large or small, and we promise to use your gifts to make a difference in the work of the church. Our parish legacy policy is to use gifts to help significant development projects, whether buildings, equipment, mission or staff. Since needs change over the years, we encourage you to leave a gift in your will for the general purposes of the parish rather than for a specific purpose.

We will discuss possible uses of your gift with your executors when the time comes, bearing in mind your known areas of interest in the church (e.g. music, buildings, children and youth, overseas mission etc.) and the priorities for the parish at the time. You can be confident that your gift will be used to make a real difference to our future mission and ministry.

SOUP FOR SENIORS GRANT

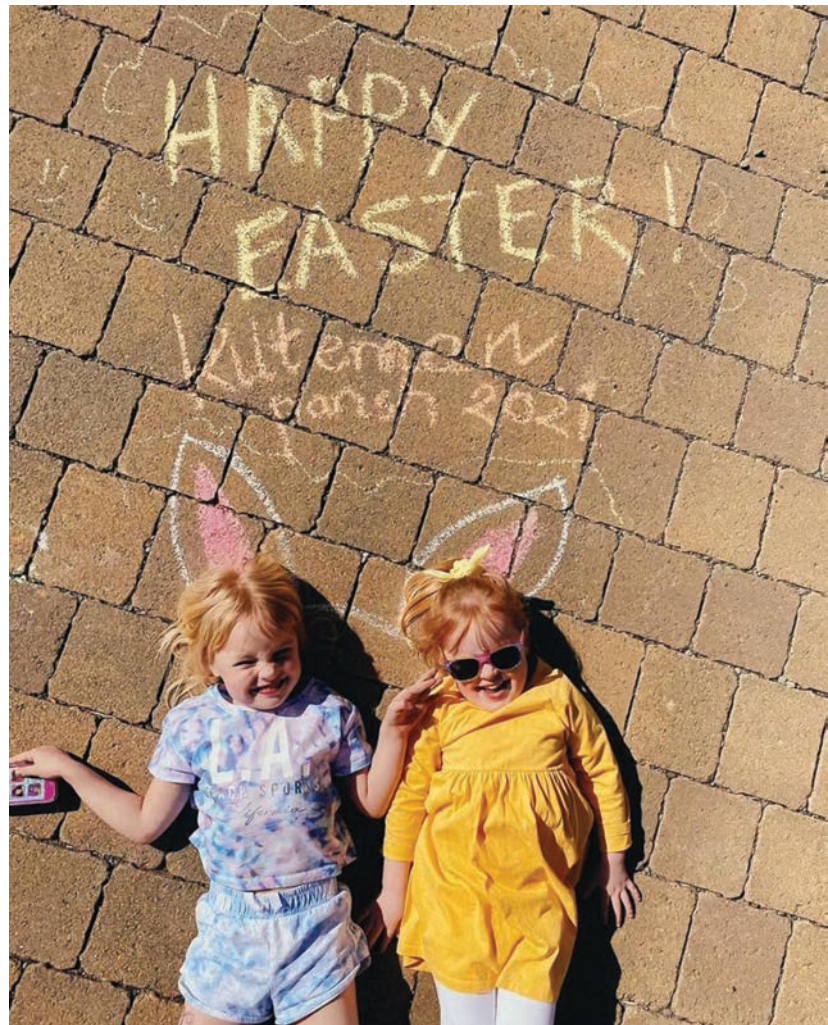
We were delighted once again to receive another grant of €600 from Dún Laoghaire County Council to



sustain this initiative throughout the month of April and May. Many thanks to chef Rob and to the delivery team of Alistair Doyle, Fintan Keogh, Carol Barry and Alistair Jackson.

LOOKING BACK OVER EASTER

We are thankful for all we were able to do this Easter, and for the many people involved in person and online.



NOTICE BOARD

Congratulations to Kevin O'Sullivan and the Lockdown Collaboration Choir with Big Red Box Media Ltd on their online performance of *The Crucifixion* by Stainer. As I write, this has been viewed over 3,500 times and has drawn us into a musical reflection on the Passion. If you haven't seen it yet, you can watch it on the Kiltiernan Parish YouTube channel.

Well done also to all who were involved in the Easter Sunday service, notably the virtual Easter production in partnership with the Play it By Ear drama company. Dozens of people from all ages made this possible.

During Easter we also had a pop-up family chalk walk and a 'Wandering and Wondering' trail—with appropriate physical distancing measures, of course.

It was also our great privilege to deliver over 60 Easter eggs (kindly donated by Treehouse Montessori) and the '3 Words of Easter' booklet to some of our more senior parishioners on Easter Sunday.

HERITAGE GRANT FOR WORK ON THE TOWER

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2021 through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has approved funding of €2,500 for Kiltiernan Parish to carry out replastering works to the inside of the tower. Well done to our Glebe warden Bruce Fitzsimons, who submitted the application.

THY KINGDOM COME

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. This year's Thy Kingdom Come took place between 13 and 23 May.

We joined with thousands of



Christians around the globe to light up the world in prayer. '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).

During the eleven days of Thy Kingdom Come, it was hoped that all those who took part would:

- Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Pray for five friends or family members to come to faith in Jesus.
- Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness.

So, what did we do in Kiltiernan?

First, during the eleven days we focused our Sundays and our Wednesday prayer meeting on Thy Kingdom Come. Second, we encouraged people to pick up and pray the Thy Kingdom Come prayer journal. Third, we opened up the church and centre for Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Stations (although the weather was somewhat against us!). This included button prayers, ribbon prayers on a tree, Light in the Darkness prayers, immovable

barrier prayers and prayers using shoes, amongst other things.

Do continue to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit in Kiltiernan.

EASTER VESTRY 2021

Easter Vestry 2021 was our first Easter Vestry held on Zoom. The rector's report and the statement of accounts for 2020 can be accessed on the parish website under latest news.

The Select Vestry elected in 2021 are:

People's Churchwarden:
Fintan Keogh;

Rector's Churchwarden:
Stephen Newell;

People's Glebewarden:
Bruce Fitzsimons;

Rector's Glebewarden:
Christian Kraeft.

Elected Select Vestry:
David Webb (secretary), Gary Colclough (treasurer), Carol Barry, Ann Walsh, Una MacConville, Jackie Fitzpatrick, Jackie Robinson, Philip McQueston, Irwin Johnston, Carol Hennessey, Neil Goolding and Susan O'Toole.

MARRIAGE COURSE

We were delighted with how successful the Marriage Course was this spring. Sixteen couples took part and feedback has been great, so we want to run it again this autumn!

The Marriage Course is a seven-session course designed by Alpha and run via Zoom. 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.

Have a chat with Rob or Julie if you would like to sign up.

COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANT FOR KILTERNAN

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a Heritage Council Community Grant for the construction of a conservation-grade display case for our wonderful altar frontal.

As many will remember, we previously received a Community Heritage Grant from the Heritage Council in 2018 which enabled us to engage the services of Rachel Phelan, historian and textile conservator, to repair and conserve the altar frontal and supra frontal. These beautiful pieces feature blue silk and metal thread embroidery, decorated with white lilies in silk floss thread; their constant use over the years left them in a poor condition, and considerable repair and conservation work was required.

Both the altar frontal and supra frontal have been repaired and conserved, and are in storage awaiting the display case for the altar frontal.

Back in 2018 we were also keen to find out something about their history. Thanks to Mary White and Ann Walsh, we were able to discover that these pieces were gifted by Fred Myerscough to the Church of Ireland in Kiltiernan in the 1940s. Fred, who, together with his wife Marie, is buried in the graveyard, made this donation on foot of his horse winning at the



Irish Derby in 1943. As a result of this great success, he commissioned the Anglican nuns in Sandymount to create this altar frontal, which we appreciate so much in Kiltiernan; it was also thought that another frontal was donated to St Patrick's Cathedral.

During Heritage Week in 2018 Rachel Phelan gave a terrific talk about the repair and conservation of the altar frontal and supra frontal, and was able to add to the information about these pieces from her own research into their origins. She intrigued and enthralled us as she revealed her results, even discovering the name of the winning horse—Phoenix. Rachel also told us about the school of embroidery run by the Anglican nuns, who were clearly extremely skilled. Through her extensive research, Rachel ascertained that Fred Myerscough had indeed commissioned another altar frontal from the nuns in Sandymount, although no trace of this was found in St Patrick's Cathedral. She has, however, discovered an altar frontal very similar to our own, albeit somewhat more elaborate, and this is still in Christ Church Cathedral!

As part of the Grant Award this year, we will be registering for Heritage Week (details on page 20) and putting together information about these wonderful artefacts. We are very grateful to the Heritage Council for their support for this

work and we look forward to having the altar frontal on display in the church for everyone to enjoy.

Many thanks to Una MacConville, who did great work in putting together this application!

SAFEGUARDING TRUST

I'm delighted to say that we had our Safeguarding Trust triennial assessment in April and passed the necessary requirements. I might draw your attention to the policies on the website. It is important to us that good practice is reflected in our policies.

The Kiltiernan Parish/Church of Ireland's Anti-bullying Policy, Complaints and Disciplinary Policy, Grievance Policy, Data Protection Policy, Communications Policy for children and families and Working in Partner with Parents/Guardians policy are available to review on the parish website.

KILTERNAN PARISH LAWN TENNIS CLUB

After four long months without tennis, we are thrilled to be back on court again and, happily, applications for membership are coming in steadily. Sadly, the social side of tennis and competitions are not there yet, but we are grateful to have the Gathering Grounds and take-away coffee during school opening hours. Hopefully, it won't be too long until the leagues are up and running and we will be able to meet socially and get to know our newest members.

GATHERING GROUNDS

AFTERNOON TEA IN A BOX AND COUNTRY KITCHEN

The Gathering Grounds had a wonderfully collaborative contribution to the Virtual Fête 2021! The Fête Country Kitchen offered home-made jams, chutneys, apple tarts and fudge, available to pre-order and collect on the Saturday of the fête. Jams and chutneys were made by Anna Kennedy, Fern Jolley, Julie Clements, Katie Holland and Mary White; apple tarts and fudge were made by Carol Hennessey, Julie Hickey, Kerrith Fisher, Sandra Pullen, Sarah Tilson, Suzanne Storey and Wendy Bothwell. Many other home-baked goods and breads were also donated and sold on the Saturday. I would like to thank all of the makers and bakers who donated their time and creations to the Fête Country Kitchen this year.

Afternoon Tea in a Box was also a great success. In total, 67 boxes were ordered and either collected or delivered on the Saturday of the Virtual Fête. In addition to the tea, the box contained a small bottle of prosecco and savoury items made by Rob Pierce, Helen Dunne, Una O'Sullivan, Emma Lennon and Avril Kinlan, including chicken Caesar wraps, smoked salmon on brown bread and guacamole baskets. The sweet items included lemon cupcakes made by Sheryl of Rise Bakery, a shot-glass tiramisu and banoffee made by Irina Ricinschi, vanilla melts made by Mandy Burgess, meringues made by John Dunne, chocolate-covered strawberries made by Linda MacWilliam and scones made by Julie Clements. Gluten-free, vegetarian and other specific

Pictured right, top and bottom.

A mouth-watering array. The beautifully presented contents of the Afternoon Tea in a Box

And the boxed product can be seen at the top of the page opposite.





dietary restrictions were accommodated on request. Thank you to everyone who spent so much time and effort on making these boxes so special. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive; several people put it on a par with the Shelbourne's high tea, which is amazing, I would imagine! A huge amount of help was given on the Saturday and I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard, including Helen and John Dunne, Avril Kinlan, Carol Hennessey, John Davey, Mel Reed, Julie O'Sullivan, Barbara Richmond, Wendy Hobson and Niamh Moutray.

Saturday was a beautiful sunny day and several people sent photographs of how they enjoyed their Afternoon Tea in a Box. Some people went straight to the park and enjoyed it on a picnic blanket, others ate in their back garden, while some laid out their finest china in their dining room to give it the true feeling of high tea. At 5pm we joined together via Zoom and enjoyed a catch-up and some of our goodies together virtually. The Gathering Grounds hopes to offer Afternoon Tea in a Box again, as it was so well received—so watch this space!

INDIA COVID APPEAL

We were all touched by Neelam and Yash Saria's loss and generosity at the end of April. Yash's father, Jai Kishen Agrawal (JK), was living in India and taking every precaution to keep healthy and well during this pandemic. Unfortunately, JK contracted Covid-19 and passed away at the age of 73 with no underlying conditions. Traditionally, Neelam would have cooked food for people in the community, particularly those in need. As Neelam, Yash and their two boys were unable to travel back

to India, Neelam asked whether she could cook in the Gathering Grounds and offer it as a take-away meal to the volunteers there, where she has spent so many hours volunteering her time and talents. This was a wonderful evening of community and remembrance, while Neelam, Yash, Emma, Evelyn, John and Julie helped at various shifts in the kitchen preparing food for take-away. Donations exceeded €900 and were given to the Bishops' Appeal for Covid Relief in India.

JK had fond memories of his



trip to Ireland in 2018, when he visited his family and joined us in Kiltarnan Parish for Sunday worship. Our prayers are offered for Yash, Neelam, Sunay, Samay and the wider family, as they grieve the loss of JK and celebrate his life.



A VIRTUAL VISIT TO ST MICHAEL'S, GILFORD

Carol Hennessey

It is important that we continue to broaden our horizons and learn from what other Christians are doing. As part of our monthly Select Vestry meeting, we have committed to reviewing the activities of another church for purposes of learning.

Encouraged by Revd Rob, one of the lovely things that we as a Select Vestry did over the past couple of months was to look at the website of St Michael's Parish, Bristol. It is quite an inspiring website, and we were struck by quite a few similarities between St Michael's Parish and Kiltiernan Parish—so much so that Revd Rob organised a Zoom call for us with Revd Canon Simon Jones. We just had to find out more from Simon about how the parish had grown and what inspires and encourages them!

St Michael's vision statement is 'living to make a difference by being a Christian heart at the centre of our communities'. When Simon came to St Michael's twelve years ago, it was a small country parish in a village outside Bristol. Now there are approximately 28,000 people living in the area surrounding the church! St Michael's is thriving as a church and people are connecting through various weekly activities—life groups, knitting groups, men's football, Saturday breakfast with a speaker, to mention just a few. Like Kiltiernan, St Michael's has a lovely community café which is run by volunteers.

Listening to Simon, it was obvious that from the beginning he and key people within the parish had a big vision for St Michael's, as he said, 'As the Lord leads, we are willing to grow and take on responsibility'. Of course, all this requires energy, passion and God's timing!

Instead of guessing what people in the parish wanted and needed, it was decided to hold several small meetings to hear what people appreciated about the church and to listen and discuss needs within the parish and community.

St Michael's accommodates different styles of worship and holds several services on Sundays, as well as having sixteen home groups where people meet, pray and study the Bible together. When the pandemic and restrictions came, all the services and meetings continued on Zoom.

One of the decisions that was made was to run Alpha courses for the parishioners, their neighbours and friends and the wider community. An Alpha course is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith where people can ask questions and share their point of view. Alpha courses are run all over the world, and they all have food, a talk and good conversation in common! The Alpha courses have helped to bring new life and more people to St Michael's.

As St Michael's Parish has grown steadily over the years, so, too, has the ministry team; this is good, as it enables Simon to delegate some of the work. They are also investing in and equipping the next generation, which is exciting.

Interestingly, as most people had set up standing orders and are committed to the church, the pandemic didn't really affect the finances of the church. Simon mentioned that we worship and serve a generous God Who blesses us abundantly, and that people give from an open and thankful heart and towards a shared vision. They have built a new auditorium where services are held. A recent gift day to help towards the costs generated £330,000—what amazing

generosity! As well as seeking to be a blessing to the community, St Michael's is also involved in supporting the work of various overseas mission partners.

Some of the things that struck me about St Michael's were the team's vision, strategy and structure, and how they communicate and involve parishioners in this. I think that, no matter what age or sex you are, if you were new to the community you would find a warm welcome and it would be easy to become involved in St Michael's Parish. As more and more people come to live in the area, they are not seeking to build more churches. Instead, they are encouraging parishioners who are already living in or considering moving to new areas to get to know their neighbours and people in the locality and invite them to their homes, with the hope of starting a small church/home group—'a Christian heart at the centre of our communities'.

While God is the same yesterday, today and forever, constant change is seen as a natural part of being a healthy and growing church. Now that we are coming out of the pandemic, perhaps it is time to think about our vision and strategy for the future. In Kiltiernan Parish there is so much to be thankful for; we have Revd Rob and Julie, as well as Carol, Brian, Lynn and Alistair assisting with ministry, a caring parish community, a wonderful new parish centre, a community-run café, a great parish national school and lots more to offer. Here in Kiltiernan there are exciting times ahead!

'For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and His faithfulness continues to each generation' (Ps. 100 v. 5).

VIRTUAL FÊTE SUCCESS

A review of activities



What a great fête we had this year. I really did not expect to be able to say that. Of course, it was not quite a fête as normal, and we are right to lament the loss of the annual gathering. We missed the hay, the music, the atmosphere, and the putting up and taking down of the tents—well, actually, I’m not sure we really missed that bit, but we did miss the camaraderie and the sense of people coming together from across the community.

Nonetheless, we set ourselves the task of reimagining a fête during lockdown. The result was a Virtual Fête, held over three days. We had a virtual pet show, and a Kids’ Kahoot and a bingo night, both on Zoom. The Country Kitchen was ordered via email, as was the Afternoon Tea in a Box. The school PTA put together a fête day for the kids in the school, and we organized a ‘fête in a bag’. A fête is not a fête without a raffle. You can read a bit more about each of those events below.

We were amazed by the level of support and participation. You will see in this edition a copy of the fête brochure, with many of our sponsors and friends of the fête. Of course, there were donations that came in after the brochure was produced, so if we missed your name we apologise in advance, but

please know that your support was appreciated.

You can see a breakdown below of how much money was raised. There are a few bits of income outstanding, so it should increase a little. The figures below don’t include expenses, which will probably come to around €2,900, but our estimate at this stage is that the parish and school should make around €8,500 each! This by far exceeded our expectations. It has been a tough year financially for the church, with the centre and church closed, but this made such a difference!

Virtual Fête Event 2021

Fête Raffle	€5,742
Fête Brochure Adverts	€2,375
Fête Parishioner Donations	€2,803
Friends of Fête Donations	€1,650
Fête Afternoon Tea	€2,617
Fête Country Kitchen	€ 741
Fête Café & Cakes	€ 309
Fête PTA Games Day	€2,090
Fête Pet Show	€ 332
Fête in a Bag	€ 820
Fête Bingo	€ 640
Fête Kid’s Kahoot Quiz	€ 280
Total	€20,399

FÊTE IN A BAG,

by Lynn

Many, many thanks to the Messy Church Craft Crew, who put together all 100 of the ‘Fête in a Bag’ bags! These were filled with lots of fête-style activities and surprises—a lucky dip and three craft kits in every bag, and some with a Golden Ticket entitling the bearer to hot chocolate and a treat at the Gathering Grounds. The excitement had been building, as families collected their bags and were encouraged not to take a sneak peek! It was wonderful to see so many families and children join us on Zoom on a sunny Saturday afternoon and, though we weren’t weather-dependent, it certainly helped to get us into fête mood.

We were delighted to have Emma Slowe Zoom in and bring her usual energy and enthusiasm, as she kicked us off with flashing lights, some games, music, dancing and of course some flossing—a firm favourite with some, and not just the children! From there, in true Messy Church fashion, we went to breakout rooms, where everyone experienced something of a few of the stalls from the fête using the craft kits: Rachel de Oliveira, along with her magical garden Gnome,

Continued on page 14

KILTERNAN PARISH



SH VIRTUAL FÊTE



Pictured clockwise from top left:

Committed bingo players at home.

School Fête activities.

Emma Blain gets her Fête goodies.

Enjoying the afternoon tea.

One of the Pet Show winners!

Lynn with Fête in a Bag.

PARISH FÊTE

gave some great gardening tips while everyone planted beanstalk beans; Arlene Brislane brought some fun-of-the-fête games, making pompom poppers; and Alistair Doyle brought some inspiration from the sweet and cake stalls, making funny faces! Before finishing, we gathered together for 'Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar' and popped our pompom poppers in celebration of a great afternoon of fête-ish fun! Many thanks to Emma, Rachel, Arlene, Brian and Alistair, and all those who helped behind the scenes—and of course to everyone who joined us.

PET SHOW,

by Linda MacWilliam

The idea of a Virtual Pet Show had never occurred to me. When Rob suggested it, I initially thought, yes, maybe it might work, but the more thought I gave it, the more I realised that this could really work well.

First, we could immediately extend it to all pets, as we didn't have to worry about how they would interact on the day. Pets are unpredictable; you just never know how they will react to being on show in front of lots of spectators or around other pets on any given day. My dogs won in the Most Disobedient class more than once—I wonder why! In previous years we were always careful to time it so that the dog show wasn't on at the same time as the pony rides. Can you imagine how crazy that could have been?

Second, entries could actually be from anywhere in the world, and we did get an entry all the way from Bondi Beach, Australia, this year—a lovely puppy named Holly.

Third, we didn't have to worry about the weather. Mostly we were lucky and had sunny days, but there were years when we were hanging on to the gazebo so that it didn't blow away during the show, while everyone and their dogs ran into the book stall to get out of the storm.

So we went ahead with a plan of

six categories: Cutest Under a Year, Best Old Pal (pets over ten years old), Most Beautiful Eyes, Best-Dressed, Best Owner Pet Lookalike and Best Trick.

We asked for photos of pets to be emailed to a specific email address set up by Grainne Darlington, listing the categories into which they were entering pets and a short video for Best Trick. Best Trick was a category that we felt would work well virtually, as it's so hard to get a pet to perform with the distractions of a fête going on around them. We published the event in parish and school emails, on Facebook and Instagram, and through flyers in the school, Gathering Grounds, pet shops, vets etc.

I contacted my usual sponsors who had supported the dog show over the past few years by donating vouchers and prizes and managed to get a few more involved, too. Most were happy to support us, saying that it was a great idea to have such a fun virtual event. In return, these companies always get a mention on the day and an ad in the fête brochure. We also managed to get a lovely judge, Jennie Darlington, a 3rd-year Veterinary Nursing student, to judge with the help of some of her student friends. It was very good of her to take the time, especially with 3rd-year exams looming!

It was wonderful to receive the photos and videos as they came in. They were all just so cute! I was glad I wasn't the judge, as I simply couldn't have decided. Pet-owners did so well—it's difficult to get a good photo of a pet. Some were so funny, too, especially in the Best-Dressed and Owner Pet Lookalike classes. The videos were also brilliant—there are some very clever pets out there! What really struck me was how much these wonderful pets are loved and valued, and what an important role they play in our lives, especially during the isolation of the pandemic.

We received lots of entries, 61 in total, from 48 families, as some families had more than one pet.





Dogs predominated, along with four brave cats, two ponies, two chickens, a rabbit, a hamster and a guineapig. We forwarded all the entries in their category groups (my son Guy helped me with this) to Jennie so that she could get going on the judging. Cutest Under a Year and Most Beautiful Eyes had the most entries, so we extended the prizes to have joint 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Each of these places in all the categories received Kiltiernan Virtual Pet Show Rosettes and prizes such as vouchers for veterinary visits, pet shop vouchers, personalised tailored bandanas, grooming goodies, and lots of toys and yummy treats. Owing to the difficulty of choosing winners out of all the beautiful entries, Jennie decided to have commendations in each class too. These also received a small prize.

When the results were in, it was time to put together a video for YouTube that would be released on the Thursday evening to mark the start of the Kiltiernan Virtual Fête. This was the part I really was a bit nervous about, but thanks to Derek Darlington's skills in this area it all came together really well. He took the time out of his busy schedule to come and video the show and then he went off to edit it and produced a fabulous result. This can still be viewed on YouTube.

The Kiltiernan Virtual Pet Show 2021 was a success. Not all pets could get prizes, but they were all acknowledged in the show, like nominees at the Oscars. I'd like to thank all the pets who took part and their owners who took the time to take the photo or video. The show couldn't happen without you. I would also like to thank our sponsors, who provided some of our great prizes: Village Vets, Direct Vets, Petstop, Nature Nurture, Dimples Sew Happy, Canine Creations and Ecomutt.

I'd also like to thank Rob, Grainne, Helen, Jennie, Derek, Annemarie and Guy, who helped in so many different areas to organise and bring it all together. Wherever we are next year, we know that, no matter where the Dog or Pet Show

is run, it will always be a loved and fun event.

A selection of photos can be seen on these pages..

KIDS' KAHOOT

By Brian

Having become something of a 'Zoom expert' over the past number of months, when I was given the chance to run a Kahoot quiz for kids from 4th to 6th class my initial response was 'This will be fine'. I decided to be a bit smart, though, and do more than a simple Kahoot quiz.

I thought that only doing that would be too easy, so I decided to include some other games that would lead to some competition among the group. The call was only meant to take an hour, but to my very great surprise I didn't actually get the Kahoot quiz started until 7:55! It's fair to say that I need to work on my timing!

We had several spot prizes, along with our 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, to take people through the quiz. Congratulations to all those who won a prize and thank you to everyone who took part. It was a fantastic evening. A special mention for Lynn, who expertly led the scoring and made sure that it was all under control, and for three of the first-years, Sara, Eva and Caoimhe, who helped me to run some of the games for spot prizes! I couldn't have done it without you.

PTA FÊTE GAMES,

by Penny Harris Healy, Co-Chair PTA

The prospect of the PTA providing games for the fête this year presented more than its usual list of considerations! With the necessary cancellation of last year's fête, it seemed more important than ever to come up with a plan that would allow the children to enjoy the games this year. The formula is usually pretty straightforward: games to throw/hit/kick/shoot/whack x 220 children = considerable happiness. Add to the mix hot-dogs and far too many sweets and the result is a sugar-



fuelled frenzy of high excitement. The difficulty facing the PTA, however, was that now-well-worn question: how to make all of the above Covid-safe?

We were in the fortunate position of being able to hold the fête games during school hours, which meant that all children could not only attend but also attend safely within their class units. The PTA was tasked with choosing games that required the least amount of 'handling'. The result was a line-up of tried and tested games that could be easily sanitised between children, including Splat the Rat, Hook a Duck and Guess How Many Sweets in the Jar, amongst others. One of the most popular games on the day was Beat the Keeper, where determined students lined up to beat the very valiant keepers Jack Darlington and Matthew Williams. The tension mounted with every class that trooped out to score a goal, and onlookers would have been forgiven for thinking that prizes greater than a lollipop were at stake, such was the passionate nature of the competition!

The sun shone on the games all day and, thanks to the huge generosity of all involved, including the overwhelming support from parents, the children enjoyed what was reported to be a

fête experience 'almost better than the real one'! The PTA members worked tirelessly from early morning until long after the children had gone home, and the donations of gazebos, bunting, creative skills and many hours of people's time ensured that this year's fête games were a huge success. The school also very generously accommodated the commandeering of over half the school yard for the entire day, and, after cooking over 200 hot-dogs in the school kitchen, I imagine the staff room in the hall is still trying to air out!

Considering our initial expectation that the PTA fête games this year might fall slightly short of the usual fun, the result exceeded all our hopes. The children (and adults) thoroughly enjoyed the day and its success was beyond what we had dared to think it might be. Let's just hope that masks, hand-sanitiser and cleaning equipment won't be as necessary in the years to come!

SATURDAY BINGO BONANZA

by Revd Rob

When I finished my training as a rector, I never imagined acquiring the skills of a bingo caller! I've had to learn a whole new vocabulary. I

now know what a dabber is, and I know the difference between speed bingo and 75-ball bingo. I've also become a bit of a pro at calling my bingo numbers. How well do you know yours?

Number 4 is 'Knock at the door', 62 is 'Tickety-boo'. Twenty-seven is 'Duck and a crutch' (apparently the number 2 looks like a duck and the number 7 looks like a crutch) or, depending on regional variation, 'Gateway to heaven'. Regional variations are important. Number 50 can be 'It's a bullseye!', referring to the darts score, or '5-0, 5-0, it's off to work we go' (sung *à la* Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs). Fifty-two can be 'Danny La Rue' or 'Chicken vindaloo'. Sixty can be 'Five Dozen' or my personal favourite, 'Grandma's getting frisky'.

I even made it my business to know the history of some of the calls. Thirty is 'Dirty Gertie', a reference to the given name Gertrude, used as a nickname for the statue *La Délivrance* installed in north London in 1927 (and a bawdy song sung by soldiers during the Second World War). Number 9 is either 'Brighton Line', referencing the railway line, or 'Doctor's Orders' (Number 9 was the name of a laxative pill given out by army doctors in World War Two).

We had 28 players on Bingo Night, ranging from more senior members of the parish to young families. Some people made an evening of it, enjoying a take-away and a tippie. It really was a lot of fun. We played eight rounds with a prize at the end of each round, including Colm Leavy vouchers, Uno vouchers and Quattro vouchers. We also had a few spot-prize rounds, including an 'obscure items' bingo round, where players had to collect items from around their homes to make a bingo line.

I've learned that there is a bit of an appetite for bingo. Maybe I'll be able to put my newly found skills to good use when we return to in-person gatherings. Bingo night in the Gathering Grounds, anyone?

THY KINGDOM COME

We always welcome the opportunity to link in with the parish school. As part of Thy Kingdom Come, we invited the children, along with their teachers, to join us for a time of wandering and wondering to explore Pentecost. Though the children have really enjoyed their visits to the church this year, they have also engaged with trails, and so, it being May, we opted for the outdoors, setting up a Muddy Church Trail. Brian and I always look forward to and enjoy these times when we can connect with the children, as they join us in their classes. Alas, the weather was against us and simply couldn't have been worse. Thankfully, there was a 'Plan B', with videos, interactive stories and activity sheets linked to the trail sent to each class. Though we missed our time with all the children, we hope that they enjoyed learning about Pentecost.

Lynn Storey

FOREST KIDS

Heather Burnett Niland is well known to us in this parish, perhaps mostly through Scouts and Guides. Recently she has been pioneering a project called 'Forest Kids'.

Heather has 25 years of experience with children and families. Trained as a nursery nurse, for twenty years she ran her Centre of Excellence daycare centre, where she promoted 'free range' children spending much of their day in the specially designed award-winning garden and play space. Situated in Fernhill Gardens, 'Little Darlings' was her pride and joy. She was chairwoman of the National Nurseries Association and sat on the board for ten years.

Heather's love of the outdoors started as a child and was encouraged by her family; she grew up learning about nature from her mother, who was a Guide leader specialising in camping.

Heather is one of two women on the National Panel for Backwoods Adventure Skills. She completed her Wilderness



Heather Burnett Niland

Emergency Care training fifteen years ago and continues to educate and develop her skills. Books on trees and wildflowers can be found beside her bed. She is currently studying Forest School Leadership. Brought to Ireland by the IFSA, this promotes a vision of children leading the way in their experiences, being free to assess risks and build their confidence through developing their skills and adapting to overcome challenges and complete tasks. It develops their self-esteem, resilience, and physical and emotional needs in a holistic way, creating independent thinkers.

More recently Heather founded Forest Kids. Based in south Dublin, with adventures in Glencullen Adventure Park and Fernhill Gardens, Forest Kids brings children into the forest to learn

through doing, where information seeps in and children enjoy the freedom of the outdoors. Forest Kids is for all ages, with summer day-trips for all school-going ages, summer camps for 6–12-year-olds, and weekly adventures with a younger group opening in September. Transition-year days of survival skills run county-wide. They also teach adults and help them to rediscover their love of the outdoors with fun days in the forest that both challenge and engage.

Heather is one of the rare lucky people who loves her job and sees it as a combination of all her skills and personality combined. She is passionate about how important everyone's experiences are, as they mould and influence their future thinking about the world around us.

FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY

PLAY CAFÉ @ HOME

Play Café continues to gather on Zoom each Wednesday @ 10am for a chat, singing, story and craft idea. Play Café is suitable for parents of babies and pre-schoolers, with lots of fun and interaction. We are always delighted to welcome new members so, wherever you are, please do make contact if you would like to join any of our sessions—you don't need to commit to every week.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND MENTAL HEALTH

At the beginning of 2021, I signed up to do a six-week course called 'Lifting the lid', which was facilitated by the Bible Society of Ireland. The course looked at one key issue a week and expanded on it, using a Bible passage as the backdrop for understanding the emotion or experience being discussed.

I don't know what you think of when you consider someone with a mental health issue, but quite often in my experience we don't talk about it. It's almost brushed under the carpet and left for the individual alone to deal with it. Alternatively, one line I hear, particularly on social media, is that if you are having mental health problems you haven't got enough faith or God has abandoned you. That couldn't be further from the truth! We would not even consider making that sort

of statement if somebody arrived at church with a broken leg or a dislocated shoulder. Your injury isn't a result of lack of faith or a sign that God has abandoned you, and it's the same with our mental health. We can take heart that God is with us in our pain and suffering and know that He understands, because Jesus experienced it all. And sometimes that is what we need, isn't it? Someone who understands.

The six sessions discussed being valued, being cared for, being listened to, being accepted, being understood and being loved. While it was only an introduction to the topic of mental health, it was still a fascinating course. But it was also a painful look in the mirror at where the church as a whole has failed people with regard to mental health. I am encouraged, though, that our mental health and mental health awareness is being discussed more and that it is no longer something left behind closed doors. As a church and as a community we should want to see the growth and development of good mental health. A helpful place to begin is to understand what is a myth and what is a fact around mental health. For example, one myth is that people with mental health problems don't experience discrimination, whereas the facts are that nine out of ten people with mental health problems experience stigma and discrimination.

As I work predominantly with young people, another myth that caught my eye was that young people just go through ups and downs as part of growing up, and that it's normal and not a problem. But the reality is that one in ten young people will experience a significant mental health problem. We here in Kiltarnan have many young people, and it hurts me to think that one in ten of those with whom I interact is struggling mentally. With the pandemic and lockdown, we have gotten used to being reactive, to our guidelines, restrictions, etc., and I think that has maybe also been true of our promotion of good mental health. I want to be part of a community that doesn't react to bad mental health but rather is proactive in developing an atmosphere of inclusion, valuing and understanding around mental health—a community that supports people who are struggling and reaches out that supportive hand or listening ear.

I'll close with the prayer used to end our session on being valued.
'Lord of the excluded,
Open my eyes to those I would prefer not to see,
Open my life to those I would prefer not to know,
Open my heart to those I would prefer not to love,
And open my eyes to see
Where I exclude You. Amen.'

Brian Hickey





CONVERSATIONS ABOUT MISSION

One of your rector's privileges is to chair the Dublin and Glendalough Council for Mission. The council acts as a think-tank and generator of resources to facilitate mission in all its aspects within our joint diocese.

During a meeting of the Diocesan Council for Mission, a need was identified to support and encourage parishes to engage with mission during the challenges of Covid-19. It is tempting during Covid to drift into maintenance mode, but more than ever the church needs to be focused on mission.

We got to work on a 'Conversation about Mission' series. The goals were:

- 1 To promote good missional practice during unprecedented times.
- 2 To encourage those churches exercising missional innovation.
- 3 To provide opportunities for mutual learning in a safe space.
- 4 To theologically reflect on the impact of Covid on missional engagement.
- 5 To foster networking

opportunities within the Church of Ireland and ecumenically.

The conversations will focus on enabling churches to reach out into their communities in a Covid/post-Covid society. Each month, practitioners will speak briefly about their area of expertise and participants will have the opportunity to explore how they can take action in their own contexts.

The conversations take place on Zoom and offer an opportunity for people to engage from all across the island. The first Conversation about Mission happened in May, with a focus on domestic violence: 'When Home is not a Safe Place—reaching those experiencing domestic violence during Covid'. Contributors were Jacqueline Armstrong, the Mothers' Union's Faith and Policy coordinator, and Kelley Bermingham, the Community Officer of St Patrick's Cathedral. Jacqueline Armstrong spoke about the All-Ireland Mothers' Union activities in highlighting gender-based violence, and domestic abuse in particular. Kelley Bermingham talked about the work of CritiCall, an initiative

to support people emerging from domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic (you may remember that we donated to them before Christmas).

Conversations such as this are vital. In June the focus is on 'Invisible Pain', how we reach out to those with unaddressed trauma during Covid. Keep an eye on the Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan webpage for more info.

UNDERSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH: TAKE THE MINDMATTERS COI SURVEY

The MindMatters COI project wants to hear from members of the Church of Ireland about your understanding and awareness of mental health and mental health problems.

MindMatters COI is the Church of Ireland's mental health promotion initiative and the research team is currently seeking people throughout the church, both clerical and lay, to take part in a short survey. The survey is anonymous and completely confidential and will take about fifteen minutes to complete. To take part, just click here: <https://mindmatters.ireland.anglican.org>

The MindMatters COI team is also looking for people to take part in focus groups. These interviews will last about an hour and will give an opportunity to explore understanding of and attitudes to mental health and mental health problems in more depth. This information will also be treated confidentially. If you would like to join a focus group, please leave your contact details at the end of the survey, contact the project at mhp@rcbdub.org or call 01 412 5660 and leave your name and contact details.

The findings of the research and surveys will support the development of a Church of Ireland Mental Health Promotion Strategy. This will include a mental health awareness training plan that will be

COMMUNITY AND WIDER CHURCH

rolled out across the Church of Ireland.

Launched on World Mental Health Day last October, the three-year project aims to raise awareness of and respond to the mental health needs of communities across the island of Ireland. It also hopes to transform how we understand attitudes towards and responses to mental health within the Church of Ireland and the wider community through gathering evidence and looking at how the church can promote good mental health.

You can learn more about the project on the website:

<https://mindmatters.ireland.anglican.org>

NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK 2021

The Heritage Council has announced that National Heritage Week 2021 will take place from Saturday 14 August to Sunday 22 August 2021.

Last year, in response to public health guidelines relating to Covid-19, National Heritage Week moved away from events only and invited heritage enthusiasts to create projects that could be shared online. Project organisers met this challenge with great innovation and creativity, producing over 800 heritage projects and ensuring that National Heritage Week remained a vibrant celebration of Ireland's heritage. Heritage Week 2020 projects are still available at <https://www.heritageweek.ie/projects>

As a result of continued public health restrictions and the success of last year's initiative, National Heritage Week 2021 will retain the project element introduced last year.

This year, National Heritage Week is about getting as many people to enjoy heritage as possible. In particular, heritage project organisers are encouraged to consider when planning their projects how they can connect with 'heritage newcomers' who have not engaged with National Heritage

Week before, groups or individuals who may not traditionally feel included in local heritage, and heritage enthusiasts of all ages.

National Heritage Week projects can involve creating something new, such as developing research about a particular place in your locality or an oral history collection about a moment of history in a community. Projects can also involve revisiting or building on a heritage project that you have already worked on, such as showcasing research that you have done on a monument, waterway or traditional skill, and finding new ways to promote awareness of it.

National Heritage Week will also see the continued celebration of themed heritage days, when project organisers can develop specific themed activities.

On Wild Child Day, the Heritage Council encourages kids and families to drop the devices, jump off the couch and get outdoors to explore the heritage in their locality. This year's Wild Child Day will take place on Wednesday 18 August.

Water Heritage Day will take place on Sunday 22 August as a collaboration between the Heritage Council and the Local Authority Waters Programme. As an island nation, our history and heritage have been shaped by the sea and the great Irish rivers, lakes and wetlands. Water Heritage Day will highlight projects that celebrate water and our connections with it.

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



BISHOPS' APPEAL: SUPPORTING RELIEF EFFORTS IN INDIA

The Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal has released €10,000 in emergency funding to support Covid relief efforts in India. Individuals and parishes are invited to contribute to support these efforts. Funds will be channelled to partner agencies working on the ground in communities in India to provide vital support and supplies.

More than 200,000 lives have been lost to the pandemic in India. It has spread from large cities to smaller cities, towns and villages, where its impact is largely under-reported, and the peak of the outbreak may still be two to three weeks from now.

Bishops' Appeal's Diocesan Representative for Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh the Revd Albert Dawson says: 'As we look at the news bulletins over the last few weeks, the situation that has evolved with Covid-19 in India is very distressing to watch. We can only imagine the distress the doctors and nurses are working in to care, as best they can with extremely limited resources, for the sick and the dying in the hospitals.'

'Let us remember the doctors and nurses who have travelled to our country from India and provided care for our citizens over the last year in the hospitals and nursing homes throughout Ireland. These are very valued members of our healthcare staff and it would be one way of showing them how much we value their contribution to our society.'

Donations can be made online or by post, using the reference 'CIBA India Covid Relief', and all details about how to contribute can be found here:

www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give

Prayer for India from Christian Aid

I will say of the Lord, 'You are my refuge and my fortress, my God, in Whom I trust'.

God of power and might, we lift our brothers and sister in India to You.

We pray for Your protection,
We pray for Your provision,
We pray for the nations of earth to have compassion.

When people are in need, You are our refuge.

When people are scared, You are our refuge.

When people are mourning, You are our refuge.

Compassionate God, draw close to those who seek Your refuge today. Amen.



THE COLLECT

The word 'Collect', used as a noun, is a very churchy word. I can't think of any sphere of life where it is still used in this way. A collect is essentially a short prayer which focuses our thoughts on a particular day (e.g. the 6th Sunday of Easter) or on a particular theme (e.g. aid against all perils). We may also use a collect at a particular service (e.g. the Collect for Purity).

The origin of the term *collecta*, while rather obscure, means 'the gathering of the people together' as well as the 'collecting up' of the prayers of individual people within a congregation into one prayer. It's a good reminder that worship is a collective act, not just a personal experience.

Almost 100 pages of the Book of Common Prayer are given to the collects and post-communion prayers. Some are better known than others. You will see Collect 1 in traditional language and Collect 2 in more contemporary language or using more contemporary themes. The collects have come from all different stages of the life

and growth of the church, right from the pre-Reformation days until now. The Collect for Purity, for example, goes back to the tenth century.

Collects often pass us by in a service but, if truth be told, most of our collects frame our prayers in strong biblical ways, sometimes even in biblical language. Of course, there are times in worship for prayers to be in our own words. There are times when our prayers need to be plain and simple, spontaneous, even faltering and in bad English. But there is also room for prayers that are more carefully and poetically crafted. We need both to be fully alive and cherished. An over-reliance on spontaneity can result in worship that is lazy, individualistic and lacking in depth, but an over-reliance on structure can become aesthetic and static, more interested in what God did yesterday than in what God is doing today.

Worship can be both spontaneous and liturgical. A useful activity to draw both these strands together is to write a collect. What is God doing with us today? Can we discern that? Can we articulate it? If so, can you put it into words that the people of God can say in common? Can you collect up our thoughts so that we can say them together?

LECTIONARY RAMBLINGS

Pentecost—moving outdoors! Reflections on the Acts of the Apostles

During springtime, I preached from the book of Acts, which tells the story of the early church. Theories abound as to why the Christian church grew so quickly in the centuries immediately following Jesus's resurrection. Amongst many possibilities, three specifically are worth noting.

- The empowering work of the Holy Spirit. No growth is possible without God, but when God opens a door the impossible becomes possible. We see that at Pentecost; the Spirit comes and just that day

thousands are added to the numbers of the church (Acts 2:21).

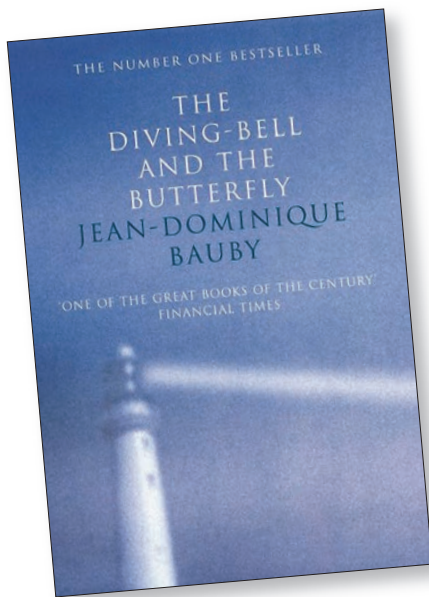
- The boldness of the people of God. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Christians grew in courageous confidence, even amidst—and sometimes because of—persecution. The same Peter who puts his foot in it with Jesus so many times suddenly finds himself speaking articulately about Jesus.
- The visibility of the difference that God makes to the ordinary things of life. Faith was visible in the often-outdoor meeting places of life. Even when meeting in homes to worship, as so many churches did, the lack of glazing meant that worship, preaching and testimony to God's transforming power was audible to the rest of the neighbourhood.

Pentecost was a public act of faith. These three strands noted above run through Pentecost like writing through a stick of rock. So, how do we encourage our gathered worship to fully embrace these three strands, and might the unwelcome challenges of Covid maybe even allow us to embrace all three in even deeper ways?

One of the features of the Covid restrictions was our ability to get a glimpse into what other churches are up to. We became YouTube voyeurs, checking out one another's media presence. Church became public rather than private. Rather than meeting behind closed doors, our worship became accessible for all to see.

Pentecost is the festival of faith breaking down the doors of fear and hiddenness and moving outdoors. It was in the streets, not the temples, where the first followers of Jesus, empowered by His Spirit, testified to God's love and calling, and in ways that each person could receive.

Pentecost reminds us that the church is much more than four walls.



The diving-bell and the butterfly

Jean-Dominique Bauby
ISBN 978-2806284303.

€9.50

Reviewed by Carol Barry

One of the things that I have missed greatly during the past year in lockdown has been my annual visit to the local fêtes, in particular the opportunity to browse through the bookstalls in search of a little gem! A book that I purchased at a fête some time ago and which I return to again and again is called

The diving-bell and the butterfly. This wonderfully written book tells the story of Jean-Dominique Bauby (Jean-Do), a Frenchman, a journalist and editor-in-chief of the European edition of *Elle* magazine.

At the age of 43, Jean Do is enjoying the high life—wining and dining high-profile clients, jetting around the world and generally living life in the fast lane.

Unfortunately, his relationship with the mother of his two children breaks down, and it is while he’s on his way to collect his children that he suffers a devastating cerebrovascular accident, commonly known as a stroke.

Following many tests, the doctors diagnose Jean-Do with ‘Locked-in syndrome’, a state of total paralysis which has left him unable to speak. He is still able to hear, to think and to see, but the only muscle over which he has control is his left eyelid.

Among his compassionate medical team are his physical therapist, Marie, and his speech therapist, Henriette. Henriette eventually teaches him to communicate using a code whereby Jean-Do blinks whenever she says

the correct letter. Starting with simple questions requiring a yes/no answer, she begins to develop a two-way conversation with Jean - Do. And it’s in this painstaking way that he composes, letter by letter, a lyrical and heartbreaking memoir of his life, both before and after his stroke. Each chapter is written and edited in his head and then dictated from memory.

Jean-Do eloquently describes the aspects of his interior world, from the psychological torment of being trapped inside his body to his imagined stories from lands he has visited only in his mind. In a beautiful metaphor we see a diving-bell which physically imprisons him and the freeing of his imagination in the form of a butterfly emerging from its chrysalis and fluttering among fields of flowers.

This is not a depressing memoir, as one might expect it to be, but rather a most inspirational and uplifting account of his life, told from Jean-Do’s unique perspective.

It’s a reminder to us all that we must live every day that God gives us to its fullest and never to underestimate the power of the human spirit.

GROWING OLD—a poem

I used to think that growing old would be a benign affair,
But now I’m thinking it could be the cause of much despair.
Life is great when your parts are working properly as of yore,
But when they start to misbehave you may be rattled to the core.

Ankle pains, knee pains, shoulder pains and varicose veins,
Urinary strains, uti’s, t.u.r.p.s, endoscopies, cystoscopies,
Heart attacks, strokes, piles and colostomies.

There’s hardly an end to the dire consequences
Of poor diet, lack of exercise, not to mention inheritances.
But try not to dwell on the dire possible facets—
Rather, endeavour to make the most of your depreciating assets.

William D

**A PRAYER FOR PEACE
IN THE LAND OF THE HOLY ONE**

God of creation and of re-creation, we call on You for the gift of peace in these times of sorrow and of devastation in the Land of the Holy One.

We bring before You all those who suffer and all those who respond to their cry for compassion and understanding, for dignity and justice.

We pray for those who are injured and maimed, whose families are ripped apart and whose homes and livelihoods are gone. Our prayer and our hope, Lord God, are for the sound of harmony and the voice of humanity.

We ask in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Lynn Glanville
Diocesan Communications Officer Dublin & Glendalough
Church of Ireland

A QUESTION OF TIME?

During this Lenten season, Revd Rob and Julie challenged members of the parish to participate in a meaningful way by fasting, praying and contributing charitably to two worthy causes. In the online service for the 3rd Sunday in Lent, Rob asked that we face up to the challenges of the world and pray for its welfare in the way that God would want it.

I recently finished reading the book *A life on our planet* by David Attenborough, in which he outlines that between 1937 and 2020:

- Earth's population increased from 2.3 billion to 7.8 billion;
- carbon in the atmosphere increased from 280 parts per million to 415 parts per million;
- the remaining wilderness on the Earth declined from 66% down to 35%.

It was stated that evolution over the past four-billion-plus years of Earth's existence has occasionally been interrupted. Mass extinctions have happened five times. This has been shown by the presence in rock layers of fossils, with more recent higher layers showing a collapse in these fossils. One such occasion ended the reign of the dinosaurs.

Humans such as ourselves apparently arrived only about 200,000 years ago. Progress was slow but there has been a rapid growth in humankind since the Holocene period, which began about 11,700 years ago after the last glacial period. Starting as hunter/gatherers, humankind eventually embraced farming and agriculture. Over millennia, knowledge led to other options, and to what we have today.

The writer describes, however, how since 1937, in less than 80 years, humankind has harmed the Earth.

- 30% of fish stocks in the seas have been reduced to critical levels.

- We have lost half of the world's shallow-water corals.
- Plastic has invaded the oceans and invaded oceanic food chains.
- 90% of seabirds have plastic fragments in their stomachs.
- No beach on the planet is free of our waste.
- Rivers are loaded with fertilisers, pesticides and industrial chemicals, as well as with our litter.
- Floodplains and areas around river mouths have been built on.
- Wetlands have been drained and their area reduced to half of what it was 100 years ago.
- A combination of the damming of rivers, over-extraction of water, pollution and overfishing has led to smaller catches yearly in terms of both the numbers and the size of fish.
- We cut down over 15 billion trees each year.
- The world's rainforests have been reduced by half.
- Since the 1950s wild animal populations have more than halved.

It is predicted that within the lifespan of someone born today our species will take our planet through a series of one-way doors that lead to irreversible change and commit us to losing the security and stability of the Holocene epoch. In such a future we will bring about nothing less than the collapse of the living world.

There are nine factors that influence the stability of the Earth's system.

- Biodiversity loss
- Climate change
- Chemical pollution
- Ozone depletion
- Atmospheric aerosols
- Ocean acidification
- Nitrogen and phosphorus use
- Freshwater consumption
- Land-use change

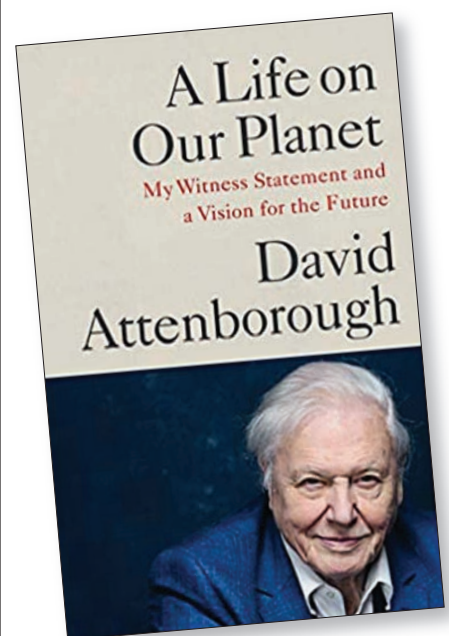
Four of the boundaries relating to the above have been crossed by humankind (nos 1, 2, 7 and 9) and the Earth is already in an unstable state.

To restore stability to our planet, we must restore its biodiversity, the variety of life in the world—all sorts of animals, including fish, trees and plants, fungi etc.

So I did as Revd Rob asked and prayed for the welfare of the world the way God would want it to be, bearing in mind all the above. It will take an almighty lot of prayer, sackcloth and action to save our planet and humankind.

I recommend the book and wonder how on earth humankind, given its failings, could work together to save it in a sustainable manner.

**William D
March 2021**



A life on our planet
David Attenborough
ISBN 978-1529108279.
€12.50


COLLIERS
SINCE 1880



Serving Wicklow and South Dublin since 1880, the Collier family offers bespoke funeral services for all faiths and philosophies.



Our Service room can comfortably accommodate up to 130 people.

There is parking space for 40 cars available on-site.

A separate drawing room with a fireplace provides a comfortable room with added privacy.

Old Connaught Avenue, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 PX65
T: +353 1 272 0777
www.colliersfuneraldirectors.com E: info@colliersfuneraldirectors.com

TAXI FOR HIRE

Fintan Keogh

086 268 5865

(Local Taxi Service)



 **Take a Taxi**



ROSSPRINT.ie
GREYSTONES

Leaflets & Brochures

Branding & Stationery

Websites

Promotional Products

A VERY PERSONAL SERVICE
print signage web

ian@rossprint.ie | 01 287 6612

Kiltiernan Picture Framing

*Over 200 Frame Styles
Available*

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



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

Showrooms open: Monday to Friday 9am
to 5:30pm &

Sat 10am to 1pm.

Contact Geoffrey Willis (01) 295 5597/
086 374 5586