



KILTERNAN KLIPS

Building community, strengthening worship, growing in service

The quarterly newsletter of Kilternan Parish, Co. Dublin

Vol. 27 No. 3 Kilternan Klips | Autumn 2021

www.kilternan.dublin.anglican.org

ALL ABOARD: BUILDING OUR VISION



NOTICE BOARD

News and notices from around the parish

MISSION

The Rector on 'building our vision'

FEATURES

Articles and features of interest to the church

MINISTRY

Youth, family and liturgy, articles and more



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Cover image: A young participant in the Play Café Outside With Toddlers day.



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The Rector on...

Building our vision

A common metaphor for the church is a boat. This image points back to the Old Testament, where a flood came upon the earth and those who embarked on Noah's Ark were saved. At the end of the ordeal, a dove appeared to herald new life. The church is represented as the new ark, and the Holy Spirit is the dove bringing new life.

This imagery lent itself to ideas of how churches should be built. It's significant that the central aisle of a church is called the nave because the word comes from the Latin *navis*, 'ship'. The vaulted ceilings of Gothic churches are shaped like a ship's keel.

I've been wondering about this metaphor recently regarding our church's mission and vision. All too often our preoccupation in church life has been to mend the leaks in the beloved boat, and heaven knows, in the modern world there are lots of leaks that need attention. Alternatively, our focus has been on the comfort of those already on board, and of course that is not without merit as a concern.

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church life has been to mend the leaks
in the beloved boat, and heaven knows,
in the modern world there are lots of
leaks that need attention.*

But I wonder whether we have forgotten to address two important questions. Firstly, do we know where the boat is going? In normal life, we would never get on a boat without having an agreed sense of our route and destination. In church life, however, I wonder how frequently we ask this important question. Maybe churches have been guilty of drifting at sea, without a clear sense of where God is directing us.

The second question follows on from the first. Once we discern where God is calling us to go, is the boat adequately equipped to get us there? That is a hard question that requires deep reflection and honest self-evaluation.

In the autumn and into 2022, I want us to embark on a season of mission action planning as a church as we seek to discern where God is calling us. You can read more about this in this latest edition. As we do so, I pray that we will all get on board, ready to face the challenges of where God may be leading us.

As we consider this across multiple layers of our church life, I encourage you to reflect on three open questions:

God's dream for our church is ...

God's dream for Kilternan is ...

If all your prayers were answered, what would our church be like in five years?

Blessings,
Revd Rob



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(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

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH WHAT'S GOING ON

We 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. We are also looking at strengthening our social media. Kiltiernan Church of Ireland has a Facebook presence, so search for us at Kiltiernan Church of Ireland and follow us for updates about what's going on in the parish. You might note that the Gathering Grounds has a busy Facebook presence also (and recently on Instagram—handle: gatheringgrnds).

REGISTER

Christian burial

It is with sadness that we mourn the death of Michael Richardson, who died on 3 July 2021. Michael lived in Chester, but during frequent visits to Ireland he would attend the 8:30am service with his sister Mary. A funeral was held in the UK and his ashes will return to Ireland at a later date. Our prayers and thoughts are with his family.

Baptisms

We were delighted to be able to baptise again! In view of restrictions on numbers, we baptised children at noon and 1:00pm over a series of Sundays in May and June. We have been delighted to welcome Isabella, Moya, Jayden, Arianna, Harper, Jake, Becki, Elliot and Joshua into the family of the church. We will begin a new season of baptisms in September!

PATTERN OF WORSHIP

9:00am Said Holy Communion in the church.

9:45am Sunday Morning at the Gathering Grounds.

Contemporary worship in the Kiltiernan 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.

Tuesday service 11:30am in the church

PARISH VISION NIGHT

In May of this year the staff team and the Select Vestry both took a day to discuss and explore the vision and strategy of the parish. This is part of our commitment to taking seriously God's calling on our church. They were both highly fruitful days, but very much the beginning of a process.

That conversation, of course, needs to be broader. On 3 October at 7:30pm, we will be holding a parish vision evening. Of course, we will be watching carefully to see how restrictions lift concerning public gatherings and adapt or reschedule accordingly (we can push the date back to November if necessary). The idea is simple: we want to bring together as many people as possible and to facilitate through small groups a conversation about the parish.

What do you think our strengths and challenges are?

What are the opportunities set before us and threats we need to tackle?

What do you think we should be focusing our energy and resources on in the next five years?

What are our values and how do we articulate them?

Where do you think we should be going in our worship, our mission and outreach, our teaching, our work with young people and families, our pastoral care of the vulnerable, our use of facilities, etc.?

If we are to do this properly, we want voices new and old. We need voices who know the history of the parish and wider community, but

we also need new voices who can bless and energise us with new (and unthought-of) ideas.

This process is for everyone. It is part of our commitment to listening as broadly as possible, so please make every effort to be there. Depending on restrictions on gatherings, we may have to have several meetings. Keep an eye out on the weekly email, Facebook and church announcements for more information.

PARISH SURVEY

By this stage, hopefully many of you have already completed the church's survey online. If you haven't, I hope you will consider doing so by 26 September. You can access the survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SGL5GN>. If you would like a hard copy, you can get one from the parish office and return it to the church or the office by the above date. Or you can scan the QR code below and it will bring you directly to the online survey.



GIFT DAY 2021: GROWING, LIVING, BUILDING TOGETHER

As a church, we give thanks to God for His generosity to us and the way He has always met our financial needs over many years in various ways. We also give thanks for the faithful, sacrificial, voluntary giving of so many within the body of Kilternan. Be assured that your giving makes a difference.

We are privileged to be part of a vibrant, growing church. Many churches have struggled to maintain their mission and ministry during Covid-19, but we have been blessed with growth even during these challenging times. Nevertheless, we are not exempt from the financial challenges of Covid-19 and suffered

a severe deficit in 2020. We are asking for your help to enable us to meet our financial targets this year.

The Select Vestry has decided to run a gift day in 2021. Gift days are part of the life of many parishes. It is an invitation for people to make a one-off donation on top of their regular giving.

We will run the Gift Day campaign over a weekend, 15–17 October. We have decided to coincide this with the harvest festival, which offers us a chance to celebrate God's goodness and faithfulness to us. There will be an opportunity to give during a church service, but also opportunities to give electronically. More details to come.

With your support, we will achieve our church's vision and lay stronger foundations for the future.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

MIDWEEK WORSHIP RETURNING

Before Covid, we had a regular communion service on Tuesdays at 11:30am in the Kilternan Centre. We have decided to recommence this from 14 September. To accommodate the need to socially distance, however, we will start this in the church and move back into the centre as restrictions lift.

The service is a Holy Communion service, using the

traditional language. All are welcome. Maybe you can join us for a bowl of soup afterwards.

A GRATEFUL GOODBYE

Dear friends,

As the saying goes, 'Time flies when you are having fun'. Not everything in the last twelve months has been fun, but certainly this last year serving in Kilternan Parish has brought me great joy.

As I reflect on it, I realise that all my expectations have been exceeded. I have learnt so much, sharing experiences with all of you and working alongside an amazing ministry team.

There are not many positives to the pandemic, but it has demonstrated to us how creative and resilient we are as a church family. It was not a normal deacon year experience, which would have been in many ways routine as we travel together through the church calendar. This year spent amongst you has provided so much more: being part of and observing the excitement and challenges of re-imagining how to be church in the season that we have encountered; the way we, as a Christian community, connected with God and with one another; and how the church worked so well together with the school and connected to the wider community.



Alistair and Cecilia, saying goodbye from their holiday fortress!

NOTICE BOARD

I have had so many positive experiences that it would be difficult to record them all. Personal highlights have been the weekly Soup run, which gave us the opportunity to have a degree of in-person contact and provide pastoral care where needed, making us visible as church at work in the community and allowing us to bless some frontline and key workers who maintain the life of our local community; our weekly Zoom prayer meeting, which brought us together to worship and thank God, a very special time each week when together we could present to God what was on our hearts and name before Him those known to us in need of His touch or loving presence; Virtual Messy Church; Muddy Church; Play Café—the list could go on and on.

Cecilia, Toby and I have just returned from our holiday in Rhodes, a stopping-off point for St Paul on his return journey to Jerusalem after visiting Macedonia and Greece (Acts 20 & 21). He had just said a tearful goodbye to the elders of the church in Ephesus; there was much weeping among them all, because he said he would not see them again. In a similar kind of way, our break in Rhodes has been a stopping-off point for us, as we say not a tearful but a grateful goodbye to the church in Kiltarnan before setting off for the church in Galway. It is not a tearful goodbye because I am sure that I will see many of you again over the coming months as I complete a new dissertation based on my time spent with you and how the 2020/21 pandemic changed our sense and understanding of meaning, community and ritual. It is a very grateful goodbye: thank you for welcoming me into and making me part of your church family, thank you all for the wonderful positive experiences I have had with you, and thank you for all your prayers and good wishes. Every encounter has been influential in preparing me for one more step along the world; I will hold you in my heart and take you with me to Galway.

Farewell, **Alistair**.

A FEW NEW FACES

We will have a few new faces joining us this September.



Dr Mathew McCauley (above) is a part-time Ordinand with the Church of Ireland. Currently a postgraduate student at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, he recently completed a parish assignment at St Matthias Church in Killiney. Mathew now joins the ministry team at Kiltarnan Parish Church on Sundays for the next several months. His lay background involves a career as a consultant clinical psychologist, specialising in military healthcare. Mathew lives in Rathmichael with his wife and two children.

Alan Diamond will be placed with us part-time on the TUS programme as a caretaker for a year. He will provide support with cleaning and general maintenance.

Please make them both feel most welcome.

BUILD A HARVEST

We had to rethink Harvest 2020 owing to Covid-19, but our 'Build a Harvest' event turned out to be a lovely celebration. In 2021, irrespective of how restrictions pan out, we might borrow from the success of 2020.

So, we will build a harvest together. The church will be opened the week before harvest for people to bring perishables and non-perishables, and to add to our display. Non-perishables will be donated to the Bray Women's Refuge, and perishables turned into soup etc. in the Gathering Grounds.

MARRIAGE COURSE

Early in 2021, sixteen couples participated in the Marriage Course on Zoom. We were delighted by how successful it was and how much the participants got out of it. We plan to hold it again in October.

The Marriage Course is a series of seven sessions, designed to help couples invest in their relationship and build a strong marriage. It isn't a 'pre-marital' course; it is designed to help couples build strong foundations, learn to communicate more effectively and resolve differences well. As one couple described it last year, it's a relationship NCT.

The Marriage Course is based on Christian principles but is designed for all couples, with or without a church background.



The course was originally designed to be delivered in person but, much to our surprise, the Zoom format worked exceptionally well. Certainly, we found it easier to talk about personal things from the safety of our own couch!

If you would like to participate, please let Julie know at gatheringgrounds@kiltarnanparish.ie.

MUSIC NOTES

As church worship evolves, so does music. At the end of summer, a group from the parish met to talk about how music will grow with worship. I write this before we've met, so I hope that the parish is benefiting from this meeting, particularly at the 10am service.

Can the congregation sing?

As I write, the guidelines have yet to change regarding music in church. Since August we have



Gathering Grounds Choir (provisional name)

A new group of singers and musicians who lead and provide music for Sunday worship at 10am in the Kiltiernan Centre. The group is open to teens and adults. For details, please contact Kevin at music@kiltiernanparish.ie.

INTRODUCING THE CALVARY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

In case you drop by on an occasional Sunday afternoon and wonder what is going on in the parish centre ...

Once a month, a group called the Calvary Christian Centre, All Saints Community Church (formerly the Sandyford Christian Centre), will be holding a service in the Kiltiernan Parish Centre on Sunday afternoons. They are a registered charity, and at the moment they have four branches in total in Dublin and Northern Ireland. Their pastor is Victoria Ogunyemi.

The Calvary Christian Church is a Pentecostal church who previously met in Sandyford Community Centre. As Covid made its impact, the room they were using in Sandyford became no longer fit for purpose and they were in need of somewhere to meet. While they serve the whole community, they have a strong African contingent. We are delighted to be able to help them find a place to worship, and with all good ecumenism we hope that we can also learn something from them.

MISSION POSSIBLE IN CHERRYWOOD

If you have driven past the new Cherrywood development recently, you will have noticed the speed at which it is growing. When completed, there is no doubt that Cherrywood will redefine the area, with a prospective 25,000 people designated to live there. It is quite hard to imagine.

One of the challenges facing the

begun to sing a couple of hymns quietly under our masks. We look forward to further guidance soon.

Return of the choirs

The Parish Choirs (*pictured above and below*) will return to church this September. Rehearsals start up on Tuesday 7th and we begin singing on the 12th. Precautions are in place, with social distancing, proper ventilation and masking where appropriate. The choirs are excited to return to worship after nearly eighteen months of working mostly online. As Music Co-ordinator, I can't express my gratitude enough for all the work they've put in to keep church music going throughout the pandemic. We look forward to an eventual return to some form of normality.

Junior Choir

The Junior Choir have class on Tuesdays at 2:45–3:45pm in the centre. Children in 2nd–6th Class are welcome to join. It is a great place to make new friends and to learn about music and singing through the Voices for Life programme. Queries can be sent to Kevin at music@kiltiernanparish.ie.

Church Choir

The Parish Choir rehearse on Tuesdays at 7:30–9pm and sing at the 11am Sunday services. It is a great place to make new friends and to learn about music and singing through the Voices for Life programme. No experience is necessary, and we're open to teens and adults. Queries can be sent to Kevin at music@kiltiernanparish.ie.



NOTICE BOARD



church is how we minister to such a population increase. Cherrywood will cut across various parish boundaries, with the assumption that it will be its own centre with its own infrastructure. If the church is going to be effective in its ministry and mission, we will have to be creative and collaborative.

In partnership with some colleagues in the Methodist church, I'm proposing that we might develop a regular prayer gathering/walk through the emerging development. We will pray for the people preparing to move in, and we will pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as we imagine church together in this new development. If you have an interest in the area and a leaning towards mission, perhaps you might commit to joining us.

OUTDOOR FURNITURE GRANT

Through our Local Authority at Dlr we were eligible to apply for the Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Services scheme. The aim of the scheme is to provide support to individual independent hospitality and tourism businesses towards the cost of equipment to provide additional outdoor seating in order to increase their outdoor dining capacity during 2021. We were awarded €1,256 to cover the costs of additional tables and chairs for outdoor seating at the Gathering Grounds.

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.

CLIMATE SUNDAY ON 10 OCTOBER

What is Climate Sunday? The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 1–12 November 2021. The Climate Sunday initiative is calling on all local churches across Great Britain and Ireland to hold a climate-focused service on any Sunday before COP26. So far over 1,000 churches have joined in. We plan to be one of them.

The vision is to leave a lasting legacy of thousands of churches better equipped to address this critical issue as part of their discipleship and mission, and to make a significant contribution to civil society efforts to secure adequate national and international action at COP26.

The collective action and commitments from local churches across Great Britain and Ireland will be presented to the UK government at a Nations Climate Sunday Service in Glasgow on Sunday 5 September 2021.

On 10 October we hope to hold a climate-focused service to explore the theological and scientific basis of creation care and action on climate, to pray and to commit to action.

COMPLIANCE CORNER

Charitable organisations in Ireland are regulated by the Charities Act 2009. The main provisions of the Charities Act 2009 came into effect on 16 October 2014. The Act established the Charities Regulatory Authority (CRA) as the body to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act.

All churches need to be registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority. This is a good thing, and if a charity is doing its work properly and transparently there is generally no difficulty, albeit a lot of paperwork. As a church we are already registered, and I'm convinced that we are reasonably ahead of the curve in this area.

As charities, all churches will be required to have a Code of Governance. Alongside this, the CRA has introduced a compliance



Climate Sunday

reporting form to help charities answer the question 'What do I need to do to be compliant?'. A step-by-step approach has been developed to lead Select Vestries in the Church of Ireland through the six core areas of governance identified in the Governance Code:

1. Advancing charitable purpose
2. Behaving with integrity
3. Leading people
4. Exercising control
5. Working effectively
6. Being accountable and transparent

Parishes are not expected to be fully compliant by the end of 2021, but we all need to demonstrate that we are heading in the right direction. Over the next couple of years, we will be looking at the six core areas in *Klips*.

ALTAR FRONTAL DISPLAY—UPDATE

As many will have read in the last issue of *Kiltiernan Klips*, we were awarded a Community Heritage Grant from the Heritage Council for the construction and installation of a conservation-grade display case for the repaired and conserved altar frontal.

The repair and conservation undertaken by Rachel Phelan in 2018, also funded by a Community Heritage Grant from the Heritage Council, have restored the altar frontal to its original glory.

The display case has now been installed. Yet to be included in the

Below: The restored altar frontal in its specially constructed display case.

display case is some explanatory text (space has been left at the bottom for this) and a protective blind. The Vestry hopes that all the additional work will be completed in the very near future, but it is wonderful to see our beautiful frontal back in the church.

Kiltiernan Church of Ireland parish is grateful to the Heritage Council for the support of this project in 2018 and in 2021.

We look forward to opening the church to visitors when public health restrictions allow and giving all visitors the opportunity to view the altar frontal and the many fine features of this beautiful church.

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE ALICE LEAHY TRUST

Many parishioners will be familiar with the work of the Alice Leahy Trust, founded in November 1975, which is a non-political, non-denominational voluntary body that acts as a befriending social and health service for people who are homeless (<https://aliceleahytrust.ie>).

The Alice Leahy Trust provides daily showers as part of this service and Kiltiernan parish continues to contribute to its work through the provision of toiletries.

Items which are useful include:

- Shower gel;
- Hair products (shampoo, conditioner and hair gel);
- Perfume/after-shave;

- Deodorants (only aerosols, as roll-on deodorants can only be used once);
- Shaving cream/gel;
- Disposable razors;
- Sanitary products;
- Hairbrushes and combs.

Toiletries for men are especially welcome. A box for donated toiletries is in place at the parish centre.

Very many thanks for your ongoing commitment and contributions to the Alice Leahy Trust.

Una MacConville, 086 817 5530

REPLASTERING THE STAIRWELL

Replastering work has begun on the stairwell of the church. We will be glad to hopefully wave goodbye to our tower troubles for the foreseeable future. A word of appreciation to Bruce Fitzsimons for his work on this, and to all our donors who helped fund the repairs.

BOOK LAUNCH AT THE GATHERING GROUNDS

There was a launch in the Gathering Grounds on 4 September to celebrate the publication by Ashfield Press of Janetta Mellet's *The Bright Delight of Gorse*. Janetta is a local poet and artist, and this book reflects both her poems and her art.

If you are interested in this publication, contact John Davey on 087 258 0786.



THE GATHERING GROUNDS

The Gathering Grounds had a four-week rest over the summer and has returned with indoor and outdoor dining in accordance with government protocols to minimise the spread of Covid. We are delighted to welcome you back for coffee, tea, and lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We also hope to begin offering a nourishing porridge breakfast with a selection of toppings this term, so keep an eye out for this.

New volunteers are welcome at this time! Especially with increased Covid protocols, the Gathering Grounds would welcome additional help, particularly on our afternoon shifts from 12noon to 3pm. Please contact Julie at 087 2039516 if you are interested. Thank you!

GET TO KNOW YOUR BARISTA

I'd like to introduce a new section in *Klips*, 'Get to Know Your Barista'. In each edition of *Klips* I will interview one of the Gathering Grounds' baristas and share their answers here.

For our first barista, I share Mel Reed with you. Mel (*below*) is an ever-smiling face in the Gathering Grounds; she overflows with positive energy and always has time to listen to whoever finds themselves lucky enough to stand opposite her.

So, Mel, what memory do you have of the parish before the new centre was built?

I have very fond memories of Kiltiernan Parish before the new centre was built. When I first joined the

parish, the congregation would have been somewhat smaller; many parishioners would have been there for many years and would have had a huge involvement in the parish. These parishioners gave so much to the parish, and they were always so welcoming. It was a great way to meet people from within the local community.

The old Parochial Hall was always a wonderful place to adjourn to after family services. Children would run across to get their orange and biscuits and you could smell the coffee being brewed as you went through the door. The white cups were laid out on the tables and the tea was poured out of the huge 'teapots'. There was always lots of chat and information-sharing. Technology wasn't used like it is now and as a result this was a great opportunity to pass on information or recruit a few new volunteers for church-cleaning or flower-arranging!

What have been your most memorable moments while volunteering in the Gathering Grounds?

There have been lots of memorable moments in the Gathering Grounds—the opening of the Parish Centre, training to be a barista and the starting up of Messy Church, to name but a few. However, many of the memorable moments come from the volunteers you are with each week and the people you meet as they come through the door—each with a different story to tell. That is the

beauty of the Gathering Grounds.

What is that you like best about the Gathering Grounds?

I absolutely love the fact that the Gathering Grounds is a community café and as a result there is such a diverse group of people who come there. It is such an inclusive environment and ideas are always looked for and listened to. Everyone has something to bring to the table. There's always laughter and fun there, and a listening ear when it's needed. It's a great place to make new friends, hear new stories and, most importantly, it gives everyone a sense of belonging. I think this is hugely important, as things are changing so rapidly around us.

What did you and your family get up to in the summer?

We're very lucky to have a place in Wexford where I've been going since I was eleven years old, and that's where we've been all summer. It's a magical place right on the beach—the ultimate place to escape to!

GATHERING GROUNDS COOKBOOK IN CAMBRIDGE

The *Gathering Grounds Cookbook* has travelled—pictured here outside the Cambridge Botanic Gardens. The Gardens are celebrating their 175th anniversary this year. A wonderful place to visit!



MUSIC FOR LIFE:

pilot music programme fund-raising with Fields of Life for two schools in Uganda

Victoria Johnston, a parishioner of Kiltiernan and an award-winning Irish classically trained singer and songwriter, is partnering with registered Irish charity Fields of Life in fund-raising to roll out a pilot programme called 'Music for Life'. We wanted to promote the work they are doing here in case you would like to support it too.

As a music educator herself in Ireland, Victoria has seen the benefits that music education and learning instruments provide for both adults and young people, and she contacted Fields of Life to suggest the positive contribution that a music programme could bring to some of their schools; 100% of all donations raised will go directly to fund a music education programme and musical instruments in two Fields of Life schools in Uganda. Fields of Life has more than 25 years of development experience working in Uganda through their 120 supported schools, involving over 50,000 children.

Many schools in Uganda focus only on producing academic results, and often children end up lacking life skills and creative opportunities. School systems strive to implement mandated standards to help students excel in tests and exams, and to gain necessary skills for future job opportunities. In this worthwhile pursuit, many creative school programmes such as art and music are deemed unnecessary and cut from the curriculum.

You can help us change this fact and provide an outlet for young people to explore their creative talents through music. With your financial support, you can help create a love of music as a medium of learning in two Fields of Life partner schools in Central Uganda through the Music for Life programme.

Your donation will have a direct impact on 300 boys and 380 girls at Good Shepherd and Nakapinyi Pri-



mary school in Central Uganda. It will also help eighteen local teachers at the schools. This Music for Life programme will look to promote the joy of music, friendship, a sense of belonging, teamwork, commitment, responsibility and mutual respect for their peers.

Benefits of music education

It is widely recognised and proven that music education benefits intellectual development, creativity, and personal and social development. Key positive factors in musical training relay a sense of achievement, self-discipline, increased self-esteem, self-expression and self-confidence, which lend themselves to increased motivation.

Playing a musical instrument enhances critical thinking and hand-eye coordination, motor skills, enhanced reading and language comprehension, memorisation, improved mood and stress reduction. Studies in schools show that musicians outperformed non-musicians in auditory, visual and memory tests.

Music students work together to create a cohesive, technically correct performance. Together, they form a community of like-minded individuals who can help each other reach goals. Many children find a sense of belonging in school music programmes.

Music for Life

This project will require the procurement of musical instruments to facilitate the teaching of music education. This will enable learning and playing of instruments, learning and performing traditional and Christian music in an orchestral group setting in the two primary schools, and paying the local music specialists for training the students and teachers.

Local specialised music teacher Joseph Kakungulu (who studied Mathematics and Music at Nkozi National Teachers' College) will help Margaret Nakiberu (the Head Teacher of Nakapinyi) to run this programme for students to learn to play musical instruments and to learn musical theory and composition, in addition to arranging opportunities for local community music performances. Other local special music teachers like Mr Godfrey Matovu will teach traditional forms of music. Instruments for each school will include drums, xylophones, Ugandan tube fiddles, shakers, flutes, guitars, bangles, rattles, Ugandan trumpets, bells and one piano per school. These instruments will all be purchased locally in Uganda to support the local economy. Please click this link and help Victoria Johnston give 'Music for Life'.

For more information, please contact Victoria Johnston. Email: victoriajohnstonofficial@gmail.com. Phone: +353-83-875-2277.

KILTERNAN PARK



ISH IN PICTURES



Pictured clockwise from top left:

Play Café Gets Outside with Toddlers (see also page 19) (1)

Sunday morning service at 10am (1)

Alistair and Lynn having fun Outside with Toddlers

Sunday morning service at 10am (2)

Sunday morning service at 10am (3)

Play Café Gets Outside with Toddlers (2)

MEET DAVID WEBB

David talks about the Church and his work with Protestant Aid

A few years ago, David took on the role of Secretary of the Select Vestry. This is a chance for us to hear a bit more about him, and his work with Protestant Aid.

David, tell us a bit about yourself.

I grew up in Booterstown, Co. Dublin, and now live in Carrickmines, Dublin 18, close to Kiltarnan Church, with my wife Klara and three children, Elena, Davy and Evelyn. After school, I attended UCD and subsequently went on to become a solicitor and practised law for fourteen years. In 2016 I took over the role as Chief Executive of Protestant Aid, a charitable organisation that has worked to help people in need for over 180 years. Outside of work, I love to run and play golf (badly) when I have some free time, although with three young kids at home it can be a challenge!

Tell us a bit more about your role in Protestant Aid, and maybe, for those who don't know, a little about what Protestant Aid does.

Protestant Aid was originally set up in 1836 to help alleviate the extreme horrors of poverty, prevalent in Ireland at that time. Protestant Aid now supports hundreds of individuals and families each year through various grant schemes, including financial crisis grants, annuities for the elderly and allowances for heating/energy costs. We also support learning through school expenses grants and second-level education grants. Applications for support come through social workers and clergy, and we treat all calls for help equally, regardless of religious, ethnic or social backgrounds. Protestant Aid dispenses every cent received from donors in grant aid, an efficiency unsurpassed by few if any charities. We also provide sheltered housing and nursing care for over 160 elderly people through our related charities, the Brabazon Trust



and St John's House.

I am responsible for the overall administration, financial and risk management of the Charity on a day-to-day basis and work closely with our volunteer Board to develop strategies, set budgets and ensure compliance with relevant legislation. There is also a really important leadership aspect to my role, with nearly 120 full-time staff and many volunteers. The job is challenging at times, often sobering, but always rewarding. I am reminded on a daily basis of how easy it is to take things for granted, such as my health, home, the ability to put food on the table, family and friends. I consider myself very fortunate to work with such committed people who have worked tirelessly to ensure that our services have continued uninterrupted during the pandemic, especially our frontline staff in our nursing homes.

In recent years you have become much more involved in the life of the church. Tell us a bit about that journey. Why is church/faith important to you?

As a child, church was a big part of family life, and we would go to church almost every Sunday, so it was part of the routine of life. My

parents were very involved in Kill o' the Grange parish in Deansgrange, Co. Dublin. After confirmation, like many other teenagers, I was probably more interested in socialising with friends and pursuing my sporting interests than sitting listening to sermons in church—I probably thought I knew it all! College came soon after and my interaction with church became almost non-existent, except for the odd visit during Easter and Christmas.

It was not really until I became a father that I began to consider faith and attending church again. As a parent, I was very keen that our children had the opportunity to experience church life and all that goes with it, and particularly to understand the central themes of the Bible, such as the importance of forgiveness and being thankful for what we have. Once I started attending again (keeping a low profile at the back), it felt like I had never left. I really enjoyed the 'peace', the sermons and the music, and what blew me away was the most incredible welcome I received (special mention to Ann Walsh in this regard!). There may have been a subconscious need to rekindle my spirituality, but I definitely felt the better for being there and I haven't looked back.

Probably the biggest change I have found since returning to church is a move away from cynicism to being more open and understanding. I feel that my experiences of the church have helped rewire my brain for positivity! I also really enjoyed the Alpha Course, which explores the basics of the Christian faith, and the interesting conversations with other parishioners, which were very helpful in my journey, and I'm excited and hopeful that there is still a long way to go.

What are the challenges facing the church in 2021?

It is certainly a complex area and

one in which I would not profess to be an expert. I think that news headlines in Ireland about church hypocrisy and cases of abuse have turned many against established churches. I believe that the Church of Ireland has led the way in many areas in changing mind-sets and being ready to embrace change, particularly with the ordination of women. I would tend to believe that most people consider themselves spiritual (i.e. believe or have a feeling that there is something greater than the human experience) and it is on this basis that I would tend to be optimistic about the future of the church.

A few years ago, you took on the role of Secretary of the Select Vestry. For those who might not know, tell us a bit about what the Select Vestry does and what the role of secretary is.

Yes—firstly, to explain that the ‘Select Vestry’ are a number of appointed church members who act as trustees and are responsible for the parish’s money and resources. I was honoured to be asked to take on the role of Secretary last year. Mind you, I’m not sure there were too many others competing for this prize role! It is similar to acting as a Company Secretary in that I take the minutes at Vestry meetings, and there are a number of important responsibilities to ensure that the church is compliant with Charity Regulations and Governance Codes. Thankfully, I am well supported by the parish support team in carrying out this important role.

What are your hopes for Kilternan Parish in the years ahead?

Keep going—the sky’s the limit. We are obviously fortunate with our location and a growing population, with a lot of young families moving close to the church. I think it is very exciting and the church continues to grow, with a fantastic group of staff and volunteers. The Gathering Grounds has been a great success, not only as a space to use for socialising with a nice coffee and treat but also as a centre for outreach and learning.

A LETTER TO JOHN KEELEY IN GRATITUDE

In August of this year, we discovered that John Keeley had been the groundsman of Kilternan Parish for 60 years. The following letter is in recognition of his work and service.

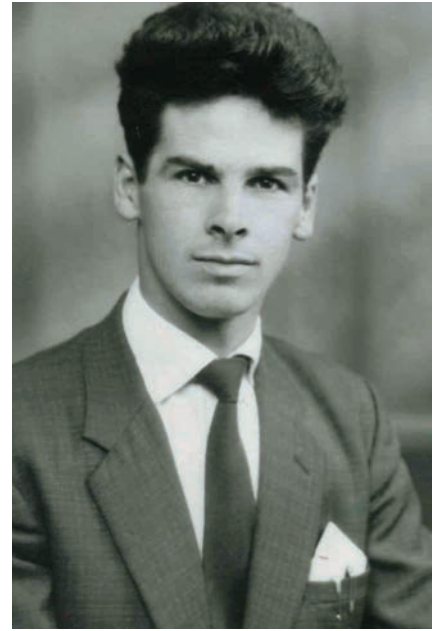
Dear John,

Who are you, John Keeley?

Are you that invisible man who so magically cares for our church grounds and graves and keeps them so shipshape and tidy? Are you the man who prepares the graves for our loved ones as they leave us and who cares so diligently for them weekly? Are you the man who for 60 years has painted and patched, plugged the leaks, mended the broken, nimbly ascended and descended ladders, repairing and cleaning gutters and replacing roof tiles on our church? Do you prepare the place for us as we turn up on Sundays, greeting each other and pausing for a moment as we acknowledge our maker in gratitude and humility?

John Keeley, we owe you such gratitude for your love and commitment to our parish. As a young newly married man of 23 years, you took up residence in the church cottage in the year 1961. Your five children were born while you lived there; the church ground was their playground. There must be so many, many tales to tell of the comings and goings of people. You patiently watched as clergy and vestries came and went, decisions being taken that most of the time were right but at other times were not quite so right! This was your church and you loved it.

I have been asked by the Select Vestry (the committee that represents all of us in this parish) to thank you for the wonderful service that you have given us for such a



A younger John Keeley!

long time; we do so appreciate your dedication. You are indeed our invisible man, and we love you for it.

Recently, when I was in hospital at the peak of Covid, I surprised myself in wishing that I was back in Kilternan at the church on a sunny Saturday morning watching you working. The idea amazed me, and I wondered what message I was to receive from this, and I thought about the way you contribute to our lives.

Here in Kilternan we are so fortunate that each one of us matters and that we know and have time for one another. John, you remind us of this and, although time is changing so rapidly and we each have our worries, you are consistent and resolute in your love and dedication; you remind us of our purpose in life, that is to love one another.

In deep gratitude,

Ann Walsh, for the Rector, the Vestry and the parishioners of Kilternan Parish.

MISSION ACTION PLANNING:

The Rector on 'building our vision'

What is mission action planning? A 'Mission Action Plan' or MAP is a document put together by a local church that outlines the mission activities of that church. It is built on a clear sense of God's 'vision' for the church—what God is calling the church to be and to do. A MAP is a living document, something that needs to be immersed in prayer.

Churches have been doing this for years, but the work is not as easy as it sounds. What exactly do we mean by mission? How does a busy church decide on its priorities? What initiatives need to be taken on anew and, equally, what needs to be 'pruned for growth'?

Mission Action Planning is more than fancy business-speak; it is rooted firmly in the pastoral letters in the Bible. We are told to be good stewards of the household of God. Jesus Himself encourages careful planning: 'For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ... Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand?' (Luke 14: 28, 31).

The origin of the phrase 'Mission Action Plan' can be traced back to the arrival of Bishop David Hope in the diocese of London in the early 1990s. Faced with a church that was declining and dividing over theological issues, Bishop David devised an 'Agenda for Action'. The diocese was to establish four agreed mission priorities and to focus its resources accordingly. These priorities were:

- Worship and Prayer
- Care and Service
- Teaching and Nurture
- Mission and Evangelism

Each local parish church was to follow suit, to choose a few realistic targets that they wanted to set themselves in view of the overall vision of the diocese. In the diocese of London, 70% of parishes responded to his invitation to produce their own MAP. It is acknowledged that the MAP process was one of the major forces in reversing the downward spiral of the diocese and moving it towards growth. Considering its success, the MAP process, or a version of it, has been rolled out across the wider church.

At its most fundamental, a MAP has four phases, with prayer running through each stage. The first is to review the church's current situation. The next stage is to choose future priorities and then to make a plan. The final stage is to act on the plan.

The first task is to see the church's current situation as God would see it. This generally involves a three-way listening process:

- Listening up—to God.
- Listening in—to church members.
- Listening out—to the local community and to the networks that the church serves.

This involves listing the things that the church is good at and that are working well (our strengths), and then acknowledging those things that we are not so good at, or that might be hindering what God is doing (our weaknesses). It might also draw us into a wider consideration of the opportunities for growth set before us.

In September/October we are planning several listening activities in the church and wider community. There will be a survey for church members, and we would love as many people as possible to complete it. You can link to it online or, if you don't have access to a computer, we can get you a hard copy.

There will be an evening (maybe two) in the parish centre where we can hear from one another. More details will follow.

We will be reflecting using the following open questions:

God's dream for our church is ...

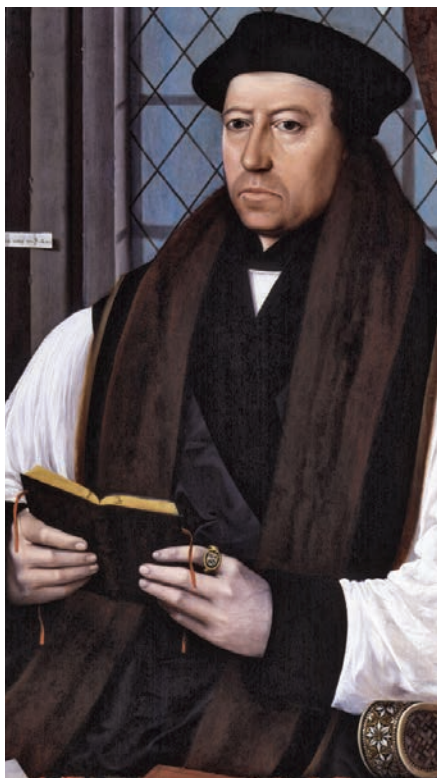
God's dream for Kilternan is ...

If all your prayers were answered, what would our church be like in five years?

Most importantly, we would ask you to pray. Pray that God will lead us where He wants us to go as we live out His mission in the world.

The MAP Cycle





BAPTISM

'Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love' (BCP, p. 357).

In the May and June weeks we were able to baptise again. I often wonder whether as a church we have fully wrapped our minds around what is happening at a baptism.

Like our other services, the Church of Ireland has revised the service of Baptism in recent years. And these revisions, like all others, have been informed by the insights of the modern liturgical movement. For example, as long ago as 1968, the Anglican bishops agreed that 'confirmation is not a rite of admission to Communion'. The International Anglican Liturgical Consultation said as long ago as 1985 in Boston that 'since baptism is the sacramental sign of full incorporation into the church, all baptised persons [should] be admitted to communion ...'.

Some of the understandings incorporated into the writing of Holy Baptism Two (Book of Common Prayer, 2004) include:

- There should be one baptism

for all ages. Baptism can take place at any age. In the Church of Ireland most people are baptised as infants. Children are baptised before they can answer for themselves so that they become fully included in the life of the church.

- Baptism should ideally be part of the main service. Baptism welcomes the candidates into the Christian family and the congregation promises to support and pray for them and their parents and godparents.
- Baptism comes as a response to the Word of God.

After baptism it is the responsibility of the parents, godparents and the wider church to ensure that each newly baptised child or adult is welcomed and nurtured in the faith as a member of the local and worldwide Christian family. In the fellowship of the Christian community, it is the responsibility of the baptised to make God's gift in baptism their own through their commitment to Christ.

Baptism does not confer membership of just one denomination but rather of the whole Christian family. We recognise what is called 'common baptism'. In other words, we recognise the baptism of other churches. If a child is baptised

Catholic but the family decide to become Church of Ireland, the child does not need to be re-baptised.

LECTIONARY RAMBLINGS

During harvest we read from Matthew 6:25–32. It's the passage that reminds us to 'Look at the lilies'. The first way to become aware of God is simply to go and look at things—not try and figure them out, not try and hear a hidden message or deduce a lesson for life. Just look. As a starting point, lilies come highly recommended.

Slowing down and looking is a powerful statement, a modelling of an alternative way. What would the world be like if we all just sat and 'looked' more often (being content with food and clothes)? Jesus here offers an alternative to the hoarding of stuff and daily 'panic buying' that we all experience.

The harvest readings encourage us to make a connection between this inner peace (bestowed as we learn to 'simply look') and the outer working for peace and justice. Jesus's words challenge us to reframe our understanding of needs, wants and abundance, to look and see differently, and to never be so driven that we fail to see the glory of God in the life of the world.

Kiltiernan Parish Choirs

- ♪ 3 Friendly Choirs
- ♪ All welcome, no experience needed!
- ♪ Learn music & singing for **FREE**
- ♪ Make Music for Church on Sunday
- ♪ Choirs for Teens & Adults:
 - ♪ GG Choir: Play & Sing @ 10am Worship
 - ♪ Church Choir: Sing for 11am Service
 - ♪ Practice: Tuesdays 7:30-9pm
- ♪ Junior Choir for kids 2nd to 6th Class:
 - ♪ Practice: Tuesdays 2:45-3:45pm
 - ♪ Sing on Sundays

Contact Music Co-ordinator Kevin @
music@kiltiernanparish.ie



FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY

WHAT GOES ON AT SUNDAY MORNING @ 10AM

A year ago in August, the staff team gathered for a retreat—a time to specifically reflect and pray as we took some time to reimagine our ministries in a world turned upside down by Covid. Lots of exciting ideas and thoughts about new patterns of worship for Kiltarnan emerged, one of which has now become known as Sunday Morning at 10am—a short, interactive, contemporary service with a liturgy accessible to everyone.

For now, this service in the Kiltarnan Centre is primarily geared towards families and those with small children. However, as restrictions ease, and we can gather together in larger numbers, our hope is that this service will be intergenerational, creative and inclusive. One year on, and despite the ‘stop-start’ nature of the past year, this service has a rhythm and pattern in its liturgy that have quickly become familiar to the families attending. The set-up is informal and relaxed, with families sitting around tables covered in paper to use during the service, along with a box of items for busy hands that link to the different parts of the liturgy. The items (activity sheets, playdough mats etc.) help people of all ages to engage with each aspect of the service, and some of them point to the colour of the church season (green, purple, red or white).

So, what happens at Sunday Morning at 10am? The service is led each week by the ministry team, beginning with a time of welcome, when we celebrate any birthdays, anniversaries or significant milestones. We generally have an interactive question, riddle, thought or visual to introduce the theme and Bible passage. We formally start our time of worship with our gathering (lighting candles as a reminder that God is with us wherever we are), time of confession and absolution (using stones and water), proclaiming and receiving God’s Word (interactive Bible passages, dramatised versions etc., followed by a short reflection and something



to think about in the week ahead), and a time of prayer (often creative, using different ways into prayer from objects, our hands, cut-out shapes, chalk, wool and, yes, Haribo sweets and so much more!). Though we have been unable to sing, we have been blessed with involvement by the Junior Choir (ribbon streamers are available for the rest of the congregation to join in with the ‘singing’). During most services there is a time for families to ponder and explore a question together, during which there has been some quiet, reflective music being played in the background thanks to Kevin. There are some exciting plans around music for Sunday Morning at 10am for the season ahead.

Generally, the theme and main

message from the Bible passage run through every part of the liturgy, and the service is intentionally put together with a warm welcome for all sorts of families, while encouraging participation and engagement and prayer from all ages, learning and spiritual styles.

It’s been wonderful how Sunday Morning at 10am has grown over the months and to have welcomed so many families to this service. We believe that the informal and flexible nature of this model offers a service in a relaxed set-up where everyone can worship and experience a sense of belonging within their faith community. If you have yet to join us, a warm welcome awaits you; for those who have joined us already, why not

invite another family along? We've been apart for so long that it's a joy to be able to gather and worship together.

PLAY CAFÉ GETS OWT! (OUTSIDE WITH TODDLERS)

As restrictions eased back in early summer and small outdoor gatherings were allowed, we were excited to meet in person outdoors with Play Café Gets OWT! (Outside With Toddlers), a resource from the Salvation Army in response to Covid-19, which we adapted each week for our setting.

The sessions were family-oriented, using nature to nurture little ones, with a familiar and regular structure each week. A themed interactive trail around the grounds with a pack full of sensory play activities to do on the morning or back at home ensured that there was something for everyone (our home-made Play Dough was a big hit, from relaxing lavender- to mindful lemon-scented dough and lots in between!). After fourteen months since our last in-person session, it was wonderful not to be on Zoom and such a joy to welcome mums, dads, grandparents, minders and their little ones for a Jurassic Trail in early June. Other sessions included a Three Little Pigs Story Trail, Bug Hunt Trail, Mindfulness Trail and Bear Hunt Trail. Despite the reasonably good weather in early summer, we seemed unlucky to have a wet and dreary start to most Wednesdays, though we didn't let that dampen our spirits—'There's no such thing as bad weather, just wrong clothes!' Two of our favourite activities over the five weeks had to be mud painting and our sensory walk with even more mud! (Did you know that playing with mud releases happy chemicals in our brains?)

It was so encouraging to get the wonderful feedback from parents and minders as to how much their little ones could now look forward to and anticipate the Play Café Gets OWT! sessions, while the grown-ups finally got to enjoy face-to-face



connection with other parents, minders and the team. Places all had to be booked in advance and very quickly booked out once they went live on Eventbrite (our cancellation waiting list worked out well). It's been a tough time for everyone, even our little ones, and it's been a privilege to have been able to welcome families from the parish, local community and further afield to our Get OWT! sessions for everyone to enjoy. We have had great fun at our outdoor sessions, being blessed with a perfect morning for our last session before the summer break, which was a special one with a Teddy Bear's Picnic and Big Sing!

We are thankful for all the volunteers who have joined Lynn and Julie in everything from helping with the set-up and clearing away to welcoming families with lots of smiles and chats, ensuring smooth running on the day—not to mention the much-needed barista coffee from the Gathering Grounds. So, a huge shout-out to our wonderful volunteers, Wendy Bradley, Lorraine Hayes, Linda MacWilliam, Helen O'Sullivan, Andrea McLeane and Alistair Doyle. We are delighted that our Play Café sessions proved to be exciting and engaging outdoor experiences each week for toddlers and their carers, while keeping safe and socially distanced. We were also delighted to welcome Sarajane McCarthy to our

mindful week, when she finished the session with some mindfulness for toddlers with Teddy Bear Breathing, and some quick and easy helpful tips for the grown-ups, easily done during a busy and hectic day with young children while dealing with little ones' big emotions. We thank her for her time and for sharing some of the techniques she uses in her own work as a mindfulness practitioner.

We are looking forward to some more outdoor sessions with Play Café Gets OWT! this autumn, while also planning a 'Bumps & Babes' for expectant parents and those with babies in the parish and community once we know what we can offer with current restrictions and guidelines.

Lynn Storey

See also photos on pages 12–13



FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY

MUDDY CHURCH TRAIL: 'GOD'S GREAT BIG MUDDY WORLD'

The Church of Ireland Children's Ministry Network have been busy outlining some initiatives for parishes and dioceses to reconnect with families and children. To celebrate the beginning of the return back together they have commissioned a beautiful intergenerational trail, 'God's Great Big Muddy World', based on the Story of Creation. We are delighted to be one of the host parishes for Dublin and Glendalough Diocese. Many families have enjoyed a number of similar trails in the past year set up around the church grounds. God's Great Big Muddy World Trail @ Kiltiernan will take place on Saturday 25th September for everyone in the parish and community to wander and wonder, while we will also invite other parishes to come and explore God's creation with us. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome others to our parish and the Gathering Grounds will be open on the day to offer refreshments. Don't miss out on this special event, a time of safely gathering together to enjoy and celebrate our wonderful world. All details will be available in the coming weeks, so keep an eye out on our social media platforms and weekly emails. In the meantime put the date in your diary — the trail is intergenera-



Muddy fun in the church grounds



tional and suitable for all ages to enjoy together—the perfect opportunity to invite family to enjoy a morning or afternoon together in the beautiful grounds of our church.

CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE

Have you ever sat in church and thought to yourself, 'I would really like to find out more about the Christian faith'? Have you ever been in conversation with someone about matters of belief and wished that you had a better skillset to explain your own relationship with God? Do you sometimes read the Bible and come away with a longing to have greater understanding of both its heritage and its message? Are you interested to discover a stronger sense of rootedness in God through a deeper appreciation of prayer and helpful spiritual practices? Do you ever find yourself wrestling with some of the complexities and more puzzling aspects of contemporary life?

If you can identify with any of these questions, then the 'Certificate in Christian Theology and Practice' could be exactly what you need. Some students take this course to test out their own interest in ordination, but many take it simply to enrich their own discipleship and knowledge.

The course comprises an introductory weekend, and six modules taught at certificate and diploma level over six further weekends. Over weekends in January and March, students undertake modules introducing the Creeds and the Old Testament. In May and June, these are followed by modules on the New Testament and on foundations for Public Worship. A module on Theological Thinking is taught over the September and November weekends, together with an elective module.

The Church of Ireland Theological Institute (CITI) (*pictured below*) have advised that registration has opened for the Certificate in Christian Theology and Practice course commencing in the new year and registration will continue until 15 October 2021.

All the information is on the CITI website (www.theologicalinstitute.ie). Have a chat to the rector if this is of interest to you.



MESSAGE OF HOPE FOR PEOPLE IN NURSING HOMES

Dublin and Glendalough Council for Mission has put together a short 'Message of Hope' video to share with those in nursing homes and care settings. Kilternan's fingerprints are all over this one. You'll spot your rector at the start introducing this initiative, and you will spot the kids of the Junior Choir. A thank-you to Kevin, who put the video together.

Please feel free to use this Message of Hope in group or personal settings. If you have a loved one in a care home, or you know someone who is housebound, you might find it appropriate to show them the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOn9n-dYc7Y>.

BISHOPS' APPEAL: WHERE DO THE FUNDS GO?

Further funds for the India Appeal were released, with gratitude to all those who donated to support the Appeal.

A Water project for two villages in Malawi to ensure consistent clean water and improved sanitation and to eradicate open defecation was part-funded through Habitat for Humanity NI.

An Education project for six schools in Uganda to support the provision of up-to-date textbooks and school gardens that can provide a hot meal as part of a bigger initiative was part-funded via Fields of Life.

A Disaster Relief response in Tigray, Ethiopia, supporting people who have fled the ongoing conflict there with rations of food, tarp for shelter and medical supports, was part-funded via Tearfund Ireland.

A Health programme providing mobile health clinics for day labourers in more remote areas of Bangladesh who cannot afford to travel to get medical assistance focused on treating minor ailments locally, providing financial support for those who need to attend hospitals and tackling malnutrition, particularly targeting



children and pregnant and lactating mothers, via USPG and the Church of Bangladesh.

An Education programme in Bolivia supporting the upskilling of people who have lost their jobs owing to the pandemic, with a 'train the trainer' approach and a strong emphasis on supporting mental health, was funded via SAMS.

An Agricultural programme in D.R. Congo is supporting Mothers' Union and Youth initiatives through the setting up of Model Farms for training in sustainable farming practices via CMS Ireland.

Thank you for your support, which makes the funding of these vital programmes possible.

Photo above: Jobarpar Community Health Programme—an initiative of USPG in partnership with the Church of Bangladesh.

Geoffrey McMaster

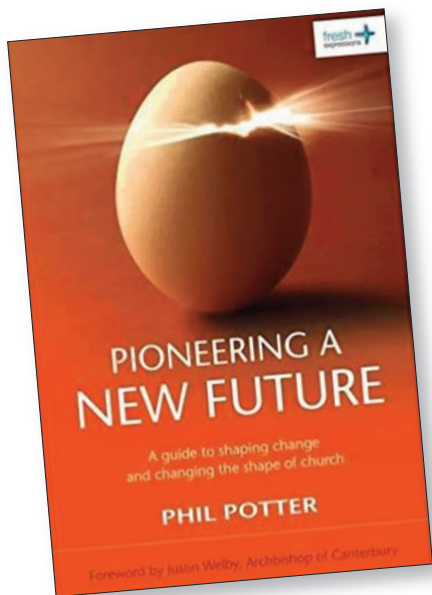
Representative for Dublin Diocese
(Bishops' Appeal)

AL AHLI HOSPITAL GAZA APPEAL

The three-week fund-raising appeal in Dublin & Glendalough has raised €17,874.50 for the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza city (*right*). Donations to the appeal, which was launched by Dublin & Glendalough Council for Mission, coordinated by the Revd Abigail Sines, in the wake of the latest conflict in the

Holy Land, will be transferred directly to our partners in the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem, which runs the hospital. Al Ahli continues to be at the forefront in treating those affected by the conflict, providing services ranging from medical treatment to food. We have been informed that the best site to keep up to date with what is going on at Al Ahli is: <https://afedj.org/institution/ahli-arab-hospital-gaza-city/>.





Pioneering a new future

Phil Potter

Kindle edition

€3.50

Reviewed by Brian Hickey

I wonder what you think of when the word ‘change’ is brought up? For some it may be fear of the unknown, while for others change brings new opportunities and new possibilities. Both are justified responses, of course. It all depends on what change is happening.

Phil Potter, using his own church experience at St Mark’s in

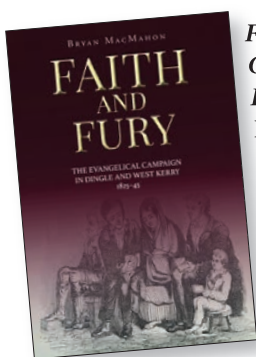
Haydock, led us on a journey through all the challenges and difficulties of going through change within a church community. And it had a bit of everything. One of my favourite things that he wrote about were the excuses that church members come up with for why we shouldn’t change—reasons like ‘We’ve always done it that way in this church’ or ‘We’ve never done it that way in this church’. Maybe you have heard one of them in the past.

I think that the crux of Potter’s argument for change can be summed up quite well in the opening chapter of the book (on which he elaborates for the rest of the book!). As Christians, as church members, we follow a God Who throughout Scripture and throughout the world is on the move. Right from the first moment of creation God was moving and, as followers of ‘the Way’, we too are invited on that missional journey to make disciples of all nations, from Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth—or, more locally, Kiltiernan, Dublin, Ireland and the ends of the earth. Potter writes that, while it appears that the church is on the move, following the promptings of God, it isn’t moving at the pace at which

the world moves. He says that it’s frighteningly slower than the pace of the world.

Thankfully, Potter gives us some very practical steps as to how we as a church can negotiate change, such as communication—reaching everyone; collaboration—involving everyone; consensus and compromise—integrating everyone; and, lastly, character formation—facing up to change.

This book has been a fascinating read and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting into it with the other staff members here in Kiltiernan. It gives the theology and then the practical outworking of that. That is music to my ears as a Bible nerd (unapologetic), but it all falls down very quickly if we miss the mark. We here in Kiltiernan can dream dreams, pray prayers and imagine a new future, but it all means nothing if we don’t care. We as staff members can flaunt our fancy new ideas to which we have given loads of thought but have our heads in the clouds without considering the people we serve. As Potter helpfully puts it, ‘people don’t care what you know till they know that you care’. And I think that is a poignant line when considering change and the future. Do we care?



Faith and Fury: The Evangelical Campaign in Dingle and West Kerry 1825-45.

Bryan MacMahon

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Eastwood Books €20

In this book Bryan MacMahon gives a comprehensive overview of the origins and progress of the evangelical campaign in

West Kerry from 1825 to 1845. These Church of Ireland missionaries were motivated by a desire to save what they saw as Irish-speaking Catholics from superstitious practices and enthrallment to Rome. This study brings personalities to life and records the long-lost voices and values of those on both sides of the religious divide.

The work of the evangelicals was widely hailed as a model of a successful missionary campaign; however, it evoked a furious response from local priests. The war of words between clergymen of both persuasions was fomented by rival local newspapers, reaching a climax in a notorious libel case in March 1845.

The scripture readers and teachers worked in

association with the Irish Society for Promoting the Education of the Native Irish through the Medium of Their Own Language, which had been established in Dublin in 1818. The evangelicals in west Kerry, lay and clerical, were collectively known as ‘bíoblóirí’ or ‘biblers’, and the term was appropriate, as the Bible was central to their work. ‘Search the scriptures’, the clergymen advised the people, challenging Catholic priests to point to the biblical sources of their doctrines. They also told people that they had no need of priests, as Jesus Christ was the only high priest, the only mediator between God and man. The evangelical clergymen saw themselves as missionaries, while adherents of the Catholic Church, particularly its priests, saw them as proselytisers. In this remote district, the great majority of the population was Catholic, and while the Church of Ireland, the Established Church, had a presence, its clergymen had not actively sought converts. The bíoblóirí were a new phenomenon.

The arrival of Protestant teachers and missionaries in west Kerry from the late 1820s polarised society, and sundered social and familial bonds. Their missionary activities left an enduring legacy that cast a shadow over the history of the region and over its religious heritage.

AWAY TO LAKES

I expressed a desire to go to lakes
And P was keen to go,
But it happened that when I was
ready
P unfortunately wasn't so.

Plans to go on this trip were made
But these had to be postponed
For one reason or another
Until final agreement was
phoned.

At 9 a.m. on the 9th of July
I called to P's address;
The day overcast but to be dry
and warm
As far as we could assess.

By M50 and M4 we went
And into Mullingar town,
Passing the statue of Joe Dolan
there,
A singer of high renown.

By circuitous route to Lough
Ennell's shore
With Lilliput to the western side,
Visiting the caravan park on the
eastern bank
Where in the 'Mayfly' I did abide.

Driving past the harbour there,
We had coffee on the shore,
Then away to the Lough Owel
viewing point
Over that vast watery expanse, rail
line and more.

Northward via Crookedwood to
Derravaragh Lake,
It of 'The Children of Lir' fame,
Where Bob and I fished in the
seventies
And from where many memories
came.

Another today at Clinton's Bay,
Where P and I sat out
Eating salmon, tomato, boiled
eggs and spuds
On a picnic table about.

P spotted rosebay willowherb
And sniffed the meadowsweet
there;
He heard the little grebe's
chattering call
And fixed a coot bird with a stare.

He stood on a ramp looking up
the lake
Taking in the varied view,
Then tidying up we travelled on
The R394, away to pastures new.

By Whitehall and the Yellow River
To Castlepollard town,
Then westward on the R395
To Tullynally Castle ground.

Here Lord Longford (Pakenham
family) dwells
In a secluded rural estate.
P was surprised to see this pile
As we motored by its gate.

He complimented me on my
driving,
I don't think it's a rule,
But instead of returning to
Castlepollard
I finished up in Coole.

So backward then and on to Fore,
Which Patrick knew in part;
He'd been to a motorcycle road
race here
At some stage in his past.

The 'Seven Wonders' were a
mystery,
A few notices leave one agog,
Like the well water which would
not boil
And the monastery built on a bog.

A scenic walk in the
neighbourhood
Would allow most or all to be
seen;
Noticeboards are a substitute
If on exercise one isn't keen.

Michael Walsh, poet, lived here;
Some of his lines may be 'wred'
now
On a part of the aforementioned
scenic walk
By the wayside and a plough.

We ventured on till we found
Lough Lene.
P succumbed to the enchantment
here;
Pretty, clean, safe and serene,
Bathing/socialising providing
much cheer.

Would P like a visit to the
Loughcrew Hills?
Glory be, he was game!
So off we set for Loughcrew,
From where Blessed Oliver
Plunkett came.

We passed where he attended
church
And climbed up into the hills
Where one may begin a climb to
the cairns,
But we were not out for such
thrills.

We ate wild strawberries and
studied charts
Then climbed the initial steps.
This was far enough for P,
And we had no regrets.

It was about 15 kms to Lough
Sheelin;
I suggested this for tea.
P complied and to Crover shore,
Where we picnicked at the quay.

P sat down with his back to the
lake
As a breeze was blowing in;
A woman passed by and
surprisingly
Nipped into the lake for a swim.

She went out a considerable
distance
Before returning to the quay.
We left for home by the Crover
Hotel
The Skoda, P and me.

On the way P, pointing to the
windscreen, said
How clean it was after so many
miles—
A keen observation on the lack of
insects
When one would expect there to
be piles.

P was home by 9 p.m.
After twelve hours away,
His capacity to endure awesome
During this, our nine to nine day.

William D July 2021



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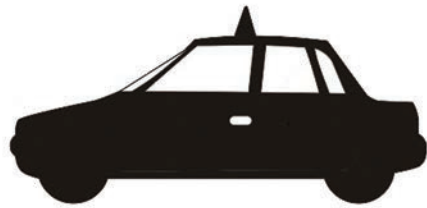
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