



# KILTERNAN KLIPS

Building community, strengthening worship, growing in service

*The quarterly newsletter of Kilternan Parish, Co. Dublin*

Vol. 27 No. 4 Kilternan Klips | Winter 2021

[www.kilternan.dublin.anglican.org](http://www.kilternan.dublin.anglican.org)

## THE CHURCH IS A BODY OF PEOPLE...



### NOTICE BOARD

News and notices from around the parish

### PARISH LISTENING

Our strengths and weaknesses

### FEATURES

Articles and features of interest to the church

### MINISTRY

Youth, family and liturgy, articles and more



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## Contents

Notice Board	4
Kiltiernan Parish in pictures	12
Gathering Grounds	14
Parish Online Survey	16
Parish Listening Evening	18
Cranmer's Corner	19
Family and Youth Ministry	20
Kiltiernan COI National School: art display in Christ Church	22
Advent Poem	23

Cover image: Messy Church Advent creation.



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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...

# The church as a body of people

A few years ago I was given a book to read after an event by the Historic Churches Trust. It was to say 'thank you' for helping to facilitate an event. I'm not sure whether the person who gave the book was making a statement, or maybe just wasn't quite thinking, but it was a book called *New life for churches in Ireland*.

At first it struck me as an interesting title, maybe a call to renewal and revival, but that wasn't the purpose of the book. It was a book of examples of church buildings that, owing to demographic change or increased secularisation, had become unsustainable. It included stories of churches that had dwindled away, leaving 'redundant church buildings' that were brought back to life for a variety of uses, few of them spiritual. Perhaps one of the most obvious examples is St Mary's Church on Dublin's Mary Street, which is now the Church Bar and Restaurant, but there were many others. One newspaper review called it

*Even during Covid many of our programmes have flourished, as we have adapted to ever-changing circumstances. Of course, we still have some distance to go if we want to fully live out our calling to live as disciples*

the 'Secular resurrection of churches'. While I know that the church is a body of people, not a collection of buildings, I still read the book with some sadness.

As I've reflected on our life in Kiltiernan Parish, I am proud to say that we are a thriving community. This is evident in some of the feedback we received from the online survey and the parish listening evening (see more inside). Even during Covid many of our programmes have flourished, as we have adapted to ever-changing circumstances. Of course, we still have some distance to go if we want to fully live out our calling to live as disciples and make Jesus known. There is still plenty of work to be done.

As we enter the Christmas season and the New Year with continued uncertainty, it's important that we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. We look to the Christ Child Who came into the uncertainty of His world, the ambiguity of human reality, and offered new life and potential. Ours is not the secular resurrection of churches but the spiritual resurrection society.

Blessings,  
**Revd Rob.**



## CONTACT LIST

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

**Annemarie McCleane**  
(Parish Administrator)  
Office@kiltiernanparish.ie  
Tel. 01 295 2643

**Brian Hickey**  
(Youth Ministry Coordinator)  
KYM@kiltiernanparish.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@kiltiernanparish.ie  
Tel. 087 203 9516

**Kevin O'Sullivan**  
(Music Director)  
Music@kiltiernanparish.ie

**Carol Barry**  
(Parish Reader)  
carolmbarry@yahoo.ie  
Tel. 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

## 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 use of 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 David Rowe. One of our recent memories is celebrating David's 100th birthday in the Gathering Grounds. Our prayers are with Veronica and all the family.

### Baptisms

We have been delighted to welcome Elisabeth, Amelie, Ollie and Harper into the family of the church.

## PATTERN OF WORSHIP

We will continue with our pattern of worship. You might note that the 10.00am service will informally begin at 9:45am.

### 9:00am Said Holy Communion in the church.

### 9:45am Sunday Morning at the Kiltiernan Centre.

Contemporary worship in the Kiltiernan Centre, with a focus on children and families. We would encourage those with young children to attend this service rather than the 9.00am and 11.00am services. The centre is bigger than the church and can accommodate more people. The service starts promptly at 10:00am.

### 11:00am Traditional worship in the church.

### Midweek service

Every Tuesday at 11:30am there is a short communion service in the meeting room. We use the traditional rite 1 service. All are welcome.

### Wednesday prayer service

You are warmly invited to join us to spend 25 minutes praying every Wednesday. We have been wonderfully encouraged by everyone who joins us to pray. It is a lovely way for us to 'check in' as a parish and to bring the community's needs to God. You are most welcome to join us. Contact the office for meeting details.

## FAREWELL TO OUR ONLINE SERVICES (FOR NOW)

When Kevin and I started recording our online services at the start of the Covid pandemic, we did not expect to be filming for the next eighteen months! In total, from March 2020 we recorded 126 videos, with a total of 21,010 views.

We recorded not only services but also a couple of study series ('Tea and Theology' and 'Anglicanism 101') and several musical pieces. We had participation from hundreds of people, young and old.

While it is a blessing to be back at in-person worship, we owe a great debt to technology. Online attendance was far higher than on-site attendance was before 2020. I've heard lots of anecdotal stories of people listening to the services in the evening because they had morning work commitments, and of people forwarding the service to friends and family members. Online services also allowed us a 'sneak peek' into how other churches do things. One person told me that on Sunday she attends three or four online services.

I had one regular viewer in Canada. He discovered us while on

a Google search and got hooked on our online offerings. He kept in touch with me a little via email and took a keen interest in the 'Tea and Theology' and 'Anglicanism 101' series (he told me that he watched them twice). On his last correspondence, he shared that he has started the process of discernment to become a priest in the Episcopal Church of Canada. He gave us thanks for the encouragement that our videos had given him. I like the thought that Kiltiernan may have helped him in this process.

By October, with three services in person every Sunday, the viewing numbers at our online services had dropped to 20–30 each Sunday. We had a sense that it was time to move on. Maybe we will look at streaming our services in the future, or even uploading sermon audios onto the website.

As I look back, I offer many thanks to Kevin O'Sullivan, who recorded, directed, edited and uploaded the services. Who knew that all those hours as a YouTuber would have developed into a ministry?!

### CHRISTMAS PLANS

We will continue to monitor Covid restrictions over the Christmas season and may have to change the schedule accordingly.

### A not-so-Silent Night

On 17 December we hope to have a screening of Frank Capra's



masterpiece, *It's a Wonderful Life*.

This Christmas classic still speaks to many of us at this time of year, and Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas for many of us without it. We will be projecting it on the big screen and it will be accompanied by mince pies and mulled wine from 7:30pm.

Numbers will be limited. Tickets are €5 per person and can be purchased via the office.

### Sheep trail

Kiltiernan knitters have been busy making sheep for our sheep trail. On Saturday 18 December the sheep will be allowed the run of the church to be discovered by eager children! More details on our social media.



### Santa visit

Rumour has it that Santa will be visiting on 18 December. Kids will be able to book via Eventbrite, with proceeds going to the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

### Nativity

On Sunday 19 December we hope to have a special nativity in the morning. Restrictions permitting, it would be lovely if we could find a way to merge our services for this one—we'll see.

### Sunday evening carols

On 19 December at 8.00pm we will have Carols by Candlelight in the church. Keep an eye out and about the community for some community carol-singing leading up to Christmas.

### What about Christmas Day?

The plan is to have three short services this Christmas to accommodate as many people as possible. There will be a Holy Communion service at 9.00am in the church, a service at 10.00am in the Gathering Grounds and a service at 11.00am. An overflow will be available at 11.00am in the Gathering Grounds if we exceed the permitted number in the church.

As it stands, we still hope to have a service on Christmas Eve. More information to follow.

### KILTERNAN FEATURES IN DIOCESAN ADVENT SERIES

This Advent a series of four videos were released to explore how parishes in Dublin & Glendalough were reaching out to serve their communities during Covid.

Entitled *Advent: Hope, Peace, Love and Joy*, the videos focused on St Patrick's Parish and School in Greystones and their work for the Dublin Christian Mission's Light House, which serves homeless people (Hope); Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, and their outreach to people living in Direct Provision accommodation centres as a Cathedral of Sanctuary (Peace); the Gathering Grounds in



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Kiltarnan, whose mission is to provide a place for community, belonging, growth and healing (Love); and the Storehouse food bank in Crinken, which reaches out to serve and support those in need in their community (Joy).

You can find these videos on the diocesan YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/c/TheUnitedDiocesesofDublinandGlendalough](http://www.youtube.com/c/TheUnitedDiocesesofDublinandGlendalough)) or website ([www.dublin.anglican.org](http://www.dublin.anglican.org)) and on social media.

### GIFT DAY 2021: GROWING, LIVING, BUILDING TOGETHER

*Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:6-8).*

We ran a Gift Day campaign over the harvest weekend to help the church address the financial challenges resulting from Covid-19. Like most churches, we were badly hit by the closure of the Kiltarnan Centre and restrictions to church services. Our expectation was that we might have to prepare ourselves for a deficit in 2021.

However, we have been blown away by the generosity of Kiltarnan parishioners. In total, €22,237 was raised over the Gift Day! This has significantly changed our financial outlook this year and has given us an excellent platform as we move into 2022.

It would be remiss of me not to mention a particularly generous donation of €10,000 from one incredibly supportive individual!

### SOULS OF OUR SHOES

The Mothers' Union 'Souls of our Shoes' exhibition is a thought-provoking, compelling, awareness-raising initiative. It aims to open conversations and to let people know that there are people of faith concerned for those who have suffered from domestic abuse. The exhibition walks viewers through this reality by exhibiting 50

pairs of shoes accompanied by the personal story of each person who endured this trauma. The exhibition was held in the Gathering Grounds, Kiltarnan, from 28 November to 5 December.

The '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence' is an international campaign initiated by the United Nations and takes place every year, starting on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and finishing on International Human Rights Day (25 Nov.–10 Dec.). Gender-based violence is any form of violence which is perpetrated against people because of their gender; unfortunately, gender-based violence disproportionately affects women and girls. 'NO MORE 1 in 3' refers to that fact that one in three women globally will experience some form of gender-based violence at some point in their lives.


For many years the Mothers' Union have been trying to combat the scourge of gender-based violence through advocacy, prayer and practical help. Our exhibition was one that the Mothers' Union had exhibited in Christ Church Cathedral a few years ago. For the

sixteen days they focused on those particularly at risk, women and girls. This campaign encouraged us to reflect, pray and act together to call for an end to violence. No matter how simple or elaborate, this exhibition really tugs at heartstrings and brings reality home. It draws readers into reflection and prayer by simple points of action, i.e. the display of 50 pairs of shoes and the stories told by their wearers.

Having reflected on these stories, we are left with the dilemma of 'What can I do?'. In showing our solidarity and support, we can give those who witness our actions a powerful statement. We want to stand alongside those silently suffering from abuse and let them know that they need to find their freedom and to know their value as intrinsic human beings.

We pray that we might find the wisdom to do the right thing.

*Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good, Yours are the hands with which He*



Mothers' Union in Ireland –  
speaking up for victims of  
Domestic Abuse


## 'Souls of Our Shoes' Exhibition

..... shoes that seek to tell stories on behalf of abused individuals

*It's powerful & compelling .....*

On display at

### THE GATHERING GROUNDS



*"It is God's intention for all human beings, male, female, child and adult, to enjoy safety, freedom, dignity and fullness of life."*  
(From the Scottish Inter-Faith Statement)

*blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the  
feet, yours are the eyes, you are  
His body,  
Christ has no body now on earth but  
yours.*  
—St Teresa of Ávila

**MUSIC NOTES FROM  
KEVIN O’SULLIVAN**

**Thank you, Meg;  
congratulations, Sophia**



Top: Meg, who was last year’s Junior Choir Leader.  
Above: Sophia with the Lionel Freeman Medal

Many, many thanks to Meg for her work as Junior Choir leader last year—constantly interrupted by restrictions but always helpful when we were able to meet and sing. The Lionel Freeman Medal passes now to Sophia, who is settling into her new role in the choir.

**Harvest sing**

It was an absolute joy to celebrate Harvest this year with song. Our Friday service became an outdoor

‘big sing’ filled with Harvest favourites. It was truly special and really made us appreciate the music even more. The Church Choir were delighted to sing with the Glencullen Parish Choir, and the Junior Choir were able to join us, too.

**Welcome to the choirs**

I’d like to take this opportunity to welcome back the choirs and welcome new members. I’m thrilled to welcome Rebecca and Nicola to the Church Choir. I’d also like to give a big welcome to new Junior Choristers Emily, Navya, Neil, Martha, Juliet and Róisín.

**Youth music**

A group of young musicians came together to lead the music at the Youth Service. As is important to our musical traditions in Kiltarnan, they lead the music and encourage congregants to join in. Interested? Kevin’s details are below.

**RSCM**

Kiltarnan Parish has affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music. This provides us with discounts and resources for church music and musical education. The Junior Choir is embracing the programme ‘Voices for Life’, which trains choristers in the ways of church music through a comprehensive graded education programme. The Church Choir has begun work on it, too.

**Christmas music**

We approach this Christmas season with some caution. Nevertheless, both choirs have begun working towards the big services of Christmas week. The Junior Choir have some great songs to enhance our Nativity, and the Church Choir look forward to leading the carols of our Nine Lessons with Carols service. A few special solos will appear and we can look forward once more to ‘O Holy Night’ this Christmas Eve.

**Kiltarnan parish choirs**

Queries can be sent to Kevin at [music@kiltarnanparish.ie](mailto:music@kiltarnanparish.ie).

*Junior Choir*

The Junior Choir have class on Tuesdays at 2:45–3:45pm in the Centre, for children from 2nd Class to 6th Class. Children learn music with friends to sing weekly at the 9:45am service and are trained in the ‘Voices for Life’ programme, which teaches lessons in musical literacy and vocal production.

*Church Choir*

The Parish Choir rehearse on Tuesdays at 7:30–9.00pm and sing at the 11.00am Sunday services. It is a great place to make new friends and learn about music and singing through the ‘Voices for Life’ programme. No experience is necessary and we’re open to teens and adults.

**LOOKING BACK AT  
THE HARVEST**

**by Carol Barry**

Harvest is a very special time of the year, so special that it has its own distinct smells and colours—the sweet aroma of fresh fruit and flowers, and the breathtaking autumnal colours of red, orange, yellow and brown.

In days gone by, Harvest Thanksgiving celebrated the end of a year’s hard work caring for crops



and watching them grow to maturity. A successful harvest meant that a farmer would have enough food to see him/her through the long winter—truly a cause for celebration!

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Well, we may not be farmers, we may not even grow our own fruit or vegetables—indeed, our connection with the earth and growing may be distant—but we still acknowledge the importance of a good harvest. This is our opportunity to thank God for His many blessings and to be mindful of how we care for our world and for one another.

Last year, as you might remember (how could you forget?), we were in the throes of Covid-19, with restrictions in place, and it wasn't possible to celebrate in the usual way. Therefore to be able to gather together for Harvest Thanksgiving this year was even more special.

The whole church community seemed to be involved in the preparations as we began to 'Build our Harvest'. Donations of food were received, the schoolchildren decorated the church with their amazing artwork and superhero scarecrows, and Sarah and her team created stunning arrangements of fruit and flowers.

Everything was ready.

Then the invitation went out, 'Come, ye thankful people come, raise the song of Harvest home', and we didn't have to be asked twice! People from every corner of the parish and further afield gathered to give thanks to God for His goodness.

In the evening, the doors of the Gathering Grounds were opened for the ecumenical service. The choirs of Kiltiernan and St Patrick's, under Kevin's direction, joined together to sing the Harvest hymns and gave us a wonderful rendition of John Rutter's 'Look at the World'.

This was indeed a very special Harvest Festival.

Father, we thank You for our harvest of plenty, for fruit and vegetables, trees and flowers, for fish and animals.

Above all we thank You for the gift of people.

May we always remember that what we have comes from You. As You have blessed us, may we be a blessing to others. Amen.

Lord, we thank You for all of creation, for fruit and vegetables, for trees and flowers, for fish and animals. Above all, we thank You for the gift of people. May we always remember that what we have comes from You. May we have generous hearts that share and respectful hearts that care for all You have entrusted to us. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Non-perishables were donated to the Bray Women's Refuge, and perishables were turned into soup etc. in the Gathering Grounds and distributed to seniors.

Many thanks to all of the choirs who were involved, as well as to Sarah Tilson and the flower-arrangers.

## INTERGENERATIONAL TEA DANCE

Friday 1 October marked the UN International Day of Older Persons. We were delighted to facilitate a Tea Party in the Gathering Grounds, funded through Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. We had live music and plenty of cake. To add an intergenerational feel, the wait staff was made up of young people from the school. Well done to all involved!



## NEW SIGNAGE

Earlier this year we received a grant of €3,500 from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown for signage for the Kiltiernan Centre. It has long been

our ambition to have signage at the front to the road. Rarely does a week go past without someone telling us that they didn't know we were here.

We are in the early days of planning, but we hope to see a totem sign at the gate of the car park by February 2022.

## TAKEAWAY FUND-RAISER

One of our volunteers in the Gathering Grounds cooked up her best Indian dishes for a fund-raiser for the Gathering Grounds. These were made available for takeaway. In total, €658 was raised.

Many thanks to Neelam and her helpers for putting this together.

## CLIMATE SUNDAY

On 10 October we held a service to explore the theological basis of creation care. This was part of the Climate Sunday initiative, and we joined with thousands of churches across Great Britain and Ireland to pray for change before COP26. We recognise the gift that is creation. We recognise that being a disciple of Christ means a commitment to choosing contentment over greed. We need to respond by working for justice for those most affected by climate change, through prayer, changing our own practices and speaking truth to power.

This will be a process for us as a church, but one of our strategic goals must be to lower our carbon footprint and to raise our eco-consciousness.

## FLOWER FUND-RAISER

A big thank-you to the Gardening Club, who held a plant sale in the Gathering Grounds in aid of parish funds. A total of €865 was raised!

## DOWN SYNDROME CALENDAR LAUNCH

The Down Syndrome Centre, based in Sandyford, launched their 2022 calendar (*I'm Able 2*) in Kiltiernan





Parish Centre on Saturday 30 October. The children who feature in our 2022 calendar were presented with their own personalised frame of their picture month. They attended alongside their parents and siblings, in some very eye-catching costumes! It was a wonderful fun day, with the sun beaming down.

The Down Syndrome Centre is dedicated to providing services and support for children with Down Syndrome from three months to eighteen years of age, helping them to reach their full potential and creating a brighter and more inclusive future. The Centre is not government-funded; all funding comes through their own fundraising and the generosity and kindness of donors. Their fundraising is crucial to continue to provide the best care and services for children with Down Syndrome and their families.

Calendars are available to purchase in the Gathering Grounds and all Dunnes Stores outlets or at [www.downsyndrome.ie](http://www.downsyndrome.ie) for €7.

**WHAT IS AN ALZHEIMER CAFÉ?**

*Every Christmas we promote the Alzheimer Café Christmas Fair. We thought it would be good to share a bit about what they do.*

Alzheimer, dementia and memory

cafés are welcoming places where people with dementia and their friends and family meet once a month. It's a place where people share experiences, get information on local supports and informally meet healthcare professionals. The cafés are run by voluntary steering committees and are always free of charge.

The Alzheimer Café Donnybrook was Ireland's first Alzheimer café, founded in 2011. There are now 26 Alzheimer, dementia and memory cafés in Ireland. They come under the umbrella of the Irish Dementia Café Network, a network of Alzheimer, dementia and memory cafés around Ireland, each of which is run according to a set of shared principles and guidelines. The Irish Dementia Café Network is hosted by Engaging Dementia in a project commissioned by the HSE National

Dementia Office, and was launched by Miriam O'Callaghan and Mary Butler TD, Minister for Mental Health and Older People, in September 2020, World Alzheimer's Month. (See launch picture below.)

*'The pandemic has isolated many people living with dementia, and we are hopeful that the Donnybrook café, and others around Ireland, can reopen safely during 2022. They are a welcoming space for people living with dementia and their family and friends. In the meantime, everyone is very welcome to our online dementia café on Zoom, every other Friday morning. Contact details are below.'*—Kim Tully, CEO of Engaging Dementia

Speakers at the cafés include occupational therapists, public health nurses, geriatricians, dieticians, people living with dementia, family carers and social workers. Topics include how the brain and memory work, accessing supports and services, living well with dementia, maximising independence at home, understanding the experience of dementia, caring for the carer, coping with change, transitions into long-term care, and dementia-friendly community initiatives.

The cafés provide information and support for many people living with dementia and their families, carers and supporters, and they are an important element in ensuring that people living with dementia feel included in their communities.

*'Arriving at the Alzheimer Café in Donnybrook many years ago with*



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*my dear late Dad, it felt like a safehaven. Dad was treated with such care and respect and we both made lovely friends there. The talks were very informative, and Dad particularly enjoyed the cuppa and cake and the warm, welcoming atmosphere. I went on to join the steering committee so that I could give something back for all the support we received, and I find it a very enjoyable and rewarding experience.*—Judy Williams, Steering Committee Member, Alzheimer Café Donnybrook

Alzheimer and dementia café evenings are currently suspended owing to Covid-19 restrictions. However, there is a Virtual Dementia Café run by Engaging Dementia ([www.dementiacafe.ie](http://www.dementiacafe.ie)). For information on how to attend, phone 085-2691025 or email [cafenetwork@engagingdementia.ie](mailto:cafenetwork@engagingdementia.ie).

### A NEW COMMUNION SET

As the Covid infection rate grew, the common cup, a beloved symbol of our communion practice, became a health concern. At first we were to receive in one kind, using the bread alone. While many churches are still doing this, Kiltiernan decided to administer the wine using individual cups. The plastic cups that we have been using are not environmentally responsible, however, nor are they easy to distribute.

Thanks to a generous gift by Caroline Kennedy, we now have a set of individual communion glasses and a mahogany tray. We look forward to using it at worship over Christmas.

### CHARITABLE GIVING AND BUILDING MISSION PARTNERS

Every year we give between €10,000 and €12,000 to charities at Christmas time. It's a privilege to be able to do that, and it's part of our calling to bless and support those in need. Over the years, however, the number of charities to which



The new Communion set

we have given has grown to between 20 and 30, and the link between the parish and some of the charities has weakened.

The Select Vestry have decided to rethink our charitable giving this year. Rather than spread our giving across a large number of charities, the plan is to give a more significant donation to nine or ten charities. By focusing on a smaller number, we will be able to inform ourselves better about what the charities do. They become our 'mission partners', and we support them not only by giving an annual donation but also by engagement and prayer. We plan to allot a month to each of the charities throughout the church year and have some input during services etc.

Charities have been selected across a wide range of charitable purposes and, where possible, charities have been selected which have an advocate present within the congregation. The charities for this year are the Tear Fund, the Solas Project, the LauraLynn Children's Hospice, Protestant Aid, the Alice Leahy Trust, CRiTICALL (supporting people emerging from domestic violence), CMSI and Church in Chains. In addition, there will be a donation to Eco-Congregation Ireland towards their work in the field of climate justice/ecology.

### RECARPETING THE STAIRWELL

We are now as confident as we can be that the leaks in the tower have been addressed. We have had the work reviewed by a conservation architect, who is happy to sign off on it. The next stage is to restore the interior of the tower. The inside walls have been replastered and repainted, and we hope to have new carpets in place by Christmas. All in all, the tower and stairwell will look as good as new and fitting for such a beautiful place of worship.

### FERNHILL COMMUNITY GARDEN

Kiltiernan Scouts have recently taken on a project to set up and operate the Community Garden at Fernhill Gardens in what was the old kitchen garden.

The aim of the project is to set up the garden to promote, facilitate and enhance community gardening and food-growing, sustainability and environmental initiatives. It will essentially be a teaching ground, operating using the 'learning by doing' concept. There will be regular workshops throughout the year, and the project will be opening for membership in the spring.

Kiltiernan Scouts are currently

providing the labour to get the garden into shape. The site has been neglected for several years and is very overgrown, but we have made huge progress in re-establishing the original layout of the garden, and much of the original garden remains. New compost heaps and rainwater harvesting structures have been built, paths have been cleared and growing spaces prepared for vegetable-growing.

The youth members in Scouting have adopted the Junior Pollinator Plan, and much work has been done already to provide hibernation habitats and bird feeders, to document the species of birds, bees, butterflies and moths, and to save seed from wildflowers growing in this lovely space.

For more information, find us on Facebook /fcgireland/ and Instagram /fernhillcommunitygarden/.

Email us at [fcgireland@gmail.com](mailto:fcgireland@gmail.com) if you would like to join the mailing list for our newsletter and details of forthcoming events.

## A GIFT FOR JOHN KEELEY

In recognition of John's 60 years of service as our beloved groundsman, a gift was given to him one Saturday afternoon. The framed picture (*see right*) includes all the clergy who have been here during John's service with Kiltiernan. Well done, John!

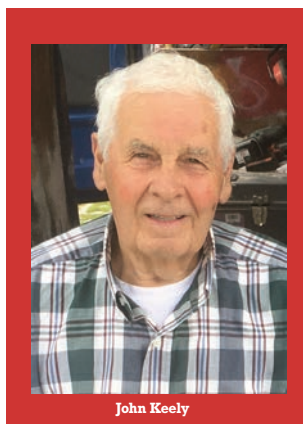
## KEEPING THE SCAMMERS AT BAY

During September a scam email and text was circulated throughout the parish, claiming to be from the rector. This particularly sophisticated scam even cut an image from the parish website and created a false email very close to the parish email account. As far as we know, people caught on quickly that something was not quite right, but it was alarming nonetheless (and highly invasive).

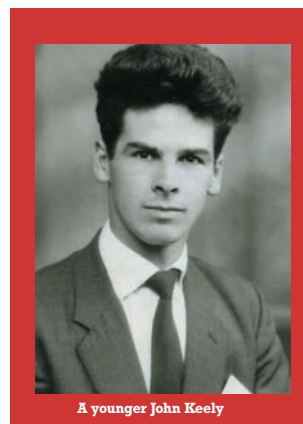
Regarding parish communication:

- You will only receive communication from the

## Rectors come and Rectors go, but John Keeley...



John Keeley



A younger John Keeley



Rob Clements (2015- )



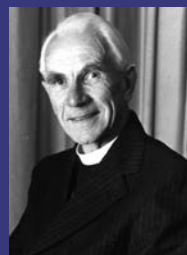
David Moynan (1994-2015)



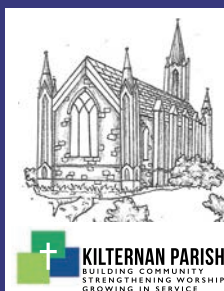
David Muir (1983-1994)



Francis Byrn (1922-1951)



John Fisher (1951-1983)



rector from official email accounts, [office@kiltiernanparish.ie](mailto:office@kiltiernanparish.ie) or [rector@kiltiernanparish.ie](mailto:rector@kiltiernanparish.ie), or from the rector's mobile, 087 149 6605. Be careful of email addresses seeking to closely mimic these.

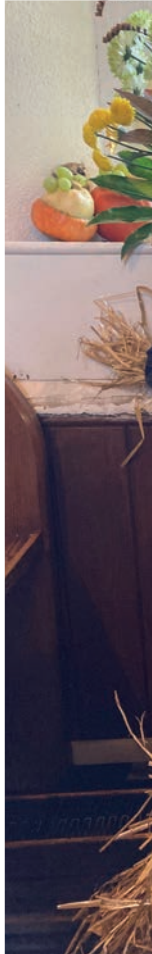
- If you receive any suspicious communication, do not answer it. Check with the rector or office directly, using official communication if unsure.
- Consider reporting and blocking the scammer. Our first instinct is simply to delete the email or text, but a more effective deterrent is to block and report.
- On WhatsApp: When you report someone, WhatsApp will keep track of that user should they get reported numerous times after that. By reporting them, you contribute to a case

against them that can ultimately result in a user being banned temporarily or, in extreme cases, permanently—<https://faq.whatsapp.com/iphone/security-and-privacy/how-to-block-and-unblock-contacts/?lang=en>.

- On Gmail: Please use the 'block sender' function. You can report the person by sending the address of the fraudulent email here: <https://support.google.com/mail/contact/abuse?hl=en>.

Sadly, this has become too common an experience for clergy and other persons of public confidence. For more general information on avoiding scams, have a look on the Church of Ireland website.

# KILTERNAN PARK



# ISH IN PICTURES



Pictured clockwise from top left:  
A Messy Advent (1).  
A Messy Advent (2).  
Harvest scarecrow and 'friend'.  
The 'New Normal'—Sunday morning coffee.  
A harvest scarecrow encourages social distancing.  
Sunset viewed from Kiltiernan churchyard.

## THE GATHERING GROUNDS



### CHRISTMAS STOCKING-FILLERS

Christmas is coming so soon! There are a few items for sale in the Gathering Grounds that would make lovely gifts or stocking-stuffers. The Gathering Grounds cookbooks are still available (while stocks last)! Cookbooks cost €12 each. We have 16oz. Keep Cups with the Gathering Grounds logo on them for €10 each. And Down Syndrome Ireland are selling their annual calendar for €7. Mel Reed is also back with her gorgeous Christmas tags, and all her proceeds go to the church discretionary fund. Thanks, Mel!

### CHRISTMAS TEA AT HOME

A Christmas-themed 'tea in a box' will be pre-sold and available to collect on Friday 17 December. The box will contain tea and scones, delicious sweet treats and a bottle of mulled winter punch. Cost to be determined closer to the time, but check your weekly parish email for when these go on sale!

### BARISTA INTERVIEW—WENDY

*For this edition of Klips, I interviewed Wendy Mulholland (pictured right), who is one of the Gathering Grounds' longest-serving baristas! Whether it is the time she has spent practising, her attention to detail or a combination of both, Wendy makes one of the best lattes in the Gathering Grounds. Thank you, Wendy, for your hard work and dedication!*

#### How long have you been volunteering in the Gathering Grounds?

I have been volunteering at the Gathering Grounds for about three years. I remember the first time I walked into the Community Centre—I thought everything about it was so fantastic, I couldn't wait to ask Julie how I could get involved. There were a few weeks of getting to know the workings of the Gathering Grounds and then those volunteers who wanted to were sent on a barista course. I really enjoyed it and on the first coffee I made when I got back I managed to do some latte art. It seems a little

silly, but we all cheered and took photos. Not for want of trying and watching YouTube videos, it was a few weeks before I was able to produce one like that again! I thought it was hilarious that the first real customer who ordered from me wanted a 'decaf oat latte'; I was hoping for something more straightforward. Once I got over that I was ready for anything, including the parish fête, where we realised what it's like to work in a rush-hour coffee shop.

#### What memory do you have of the parish before the new centre was built?

The parish has always been a very warm and welcoming place to my husband TJ and me. My memories of the parish before the new centre was built are both joyful and sad—the first being the christening of my daughter Alice, which was a lovely time for the whole family. We were relatively new to the area and my son Jamie had just started in the school. I also brought Alice to a few of the mother and baby mornings. That was a lovely way to meet mums in the parish and little ones, some of whom would go on to become future classmates. I volunteer on Wednesdays, so I love to see new mums and babies coming into the Gathering Grounds and making connections. There is now so much space for them all rather than in the kitchen of the rectory, although that was also lovely and welcoming. On Wednesdays the play café for mums and toddlers also takes place, so it can be a very busy morning with something for everyone.

The other memories I have are of how wonderfully we were supported and helped through the difficult time when my Dad died. We donated his body to medical science, so it took a few years for his remains to be returned to us. When we got the letter telling us the date when his body was going to be returned, we immediately phoned Revd David Moyonan, who was here at that time, and he knew exactly what to do. We are forever grateful for his kindness and



Wendy Mullholland

guidance, as it was a long road but definitely worth it if students and doctors learnt from his donation. My dad absolutely loved coffee, so I know he would be over the moon to see a place like the Gathering Grounds buzzing with people chatting and drinking good coffee. If he was still with us, I'm sure he would love to get his hands on the barista machine!

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

Apart from those memories, I can only say that the parish has well and truly come to life, as there seems to be something going on all the time for every age group. TY students come in to do work experience and every one of them has been a pleasure to work with. Having some barista experience is a

great way for them to be easily employable for a summer or weekend job. I will be lining my two children up at the machine when they are old enough, as I'm sure they would enjoy it.

I love that people come in and say hello in the morning and then head off with their coffee and perhaps a freshly baked scone. Especially now that a lot of people are working from home, it can be a nice little break or a stop-off before collecting the kids from school. I am looking forward to when life is different and we can have the high stools back at the barista bar. Some of the best moments have been the morning times, with everyone chatting and sharing stories.

One of the most memorable moments was Christmas 2019, when Santa came to the Gathering Grounds along with carol-singers and the piano was being played.

The atmosphere was amazing and it really was a lovely day for everyone, with seasonal coffees and delicious treats. Knowing that we have done events like that keeps everyone going and we find ways to safely do as much as we can to keep it feeling alive until we can get back to some normality.

**What is it you like best about the Gathering Grounds?**

The thing I like best about the Gathering Grounds is how adaptable it is and how well everyone works as a team. On a sunny day the outdoor area is like a sun terrace on holiday! The weather lately has been perfect for people to still come for coffee and meet friends and family safely. It's also lovely to see birthdays celebrated here, and when funerals take place extra people come to help if needed. It really has become part of the fabric of the community, making it hard to remember what it was like before.

**What are your all-time favourite family Christmas traditions?**

We are at the stage in our family where we are slowly creating our own traditions. If we all enjoy something we will do it again the next year, but nothing is set in stone. We are trying to be more organised these last couple of years by having the wrapping all done so that we can watch a Christmas Eve movie instead of being knee-deep in wrapping paper and Sellotape. We like to go into town to soak up the atmosphere and see the lights, but one simple thing we do close to Christmas to mark the start of the holidays is getting up early for a walk in Powerscourt Gardens, then having a nice family breakfast. No shops, crowds or madness—just us. We always feel refreshed by this little Christmas tradition, as from then on everywhere is hustle and bustle. It goes without saying that seeing family is the most important part of Christmas and our get-together is the highlight of the year, but this year it's obviously hanging by a thread.

# ALL ABOARD: ONLINE SURVEY

A summary of the results

The online survey was open for four weeks on Survey Monkey in October. Links were sent out via the parish email and social media. A QR code was also available, taking people directly to the survey. In total it was completed by 84 people.

A full version of the data collected is available on the parish website. This is a summary piece with a few themes and observations.

The largest respondent group (31%) were in the 41–50 age range. It is notable that no one under the age of 30 completed the survey.

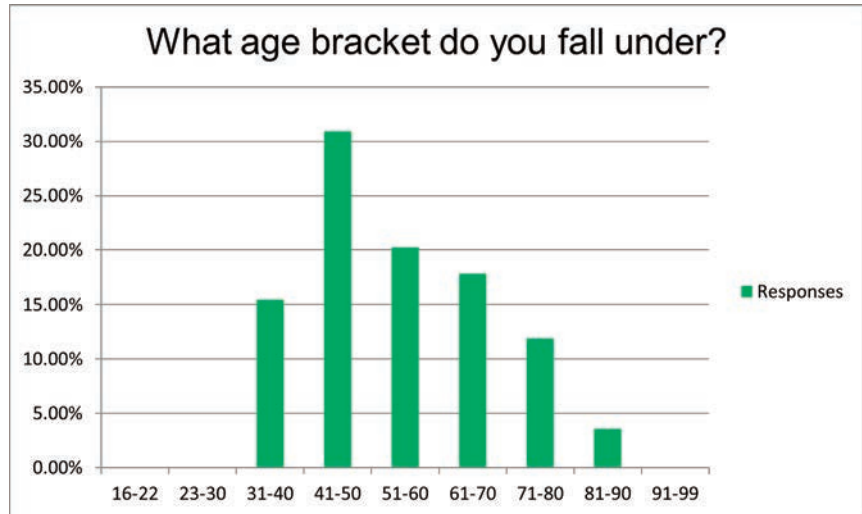
Some 95% of respondents said that they felt ‘deeply connected’ (35%) or related ‘well enough’ (60%) to the parish mission of Building Community, Strengthening Worship and Growing in Service.

Some 93% of respondents felt that the church was sensitive or often sensitive to the needs of its congregants. The remaining 7% felt that the church was sometimes sensitive. No one responded that the church was rarely responsive. A slightly lower percentage felt that the church was sensitive or often sensitive to the needs of the wider community (88%). The remaining 12% responded that it was sometimes sensitive. Again, no one responded ‘rarely’.

As regards engagement, 23% felt very engaged with the church, its mission and initiatives, while 49% felt engaged. Another 20% enjoyed being in the church but didn’t take an active role, 6% felt that they were sometimes watching from the sidelines and 1% did not feel engaged.

## What excites/inspires/motivates you about our current ministries at Kiltiernan Parish?

There was a lot of positivity



regarding the current ministries in the parish. The inclusivity of the parish was highly valued, as was the willingness of the parish to innovate and work with young families. In general, worship was seen as inspiring. The work of the Gathering Grounds was commended as a great way of connecting with people, and a number of people highlighted a sense of belonging and community. The ministry to families was commended on a number of occasions, with a few specific references to Messy Church. Quotes from respondents below:

- There is something for everybody if they wish to participate.
- The open and inclusive approach is very refreshing, with the kids’ voices being heard as well as the adults’, and an honest attempt to listen to everyone. I’m brand new, but that’s my first impression.
- A commitment to traditional services whilst engaging in new and innovative ways with the community.
- I like how Rob relates Christianity to everyday living. I like the family service initiative. I would like to see Messy Church back.
- The outreach through the Gathering Grounds, seeing a lot more young families coming to church and the buzz that brings, it would be nice to have something that digs a bit deeper into faith and to explore this with

fellow parishioners but not everyone would be comfortable with this. I feel I know a lot of parishioners but not really on a faith level.

It was noted that the timing of services and activities does not work for everyone, particularly for those with sports activities. It was also observed that work needs to be done to ensure that the various services come together as a ‘church family’ at times. A lack of connection with the 20s and 30s was identified, as was the need for more Bible study and prayer ministry. It was proposed that the parish should get involved in some sort of charitable works. A gap was also noted in services for those who have gone through the child and teenager/young adult stage of life but are not yet retired.

## Imagine our parish in five years with unlimited resources. What would Kiltiernan Parish be doing? What would it look like?

This question is an exercise in imagination and vision. There was a desire for increased outreach into the community for all ages and for opportunities for people to gather and grow. It was suggested that work might be done to make the



church more comfortable and less draughty.

- Continue the good work. Continue to be a place of welcome, prayer and giving to others.
- I hope it would look like it does now, with increased engagement with the wider community. With the continuing expansion of Kiltiernan, it would be good to be a real touchstone for people—regardless of their background and affiliation.
- Lots of outreach programmes in the community. Services and worship of different forms. Home groups, prayer ministry, all the generations present, sharing of things in common, everyone serving to their area of strength.
- We would have a thriving 15–35 age group, with each of these parishioners engaged in Bible study and contributing in some small or big way to a mission. We would have an increased social mission in Kiltiernan working within homelessness, addiction and OAP and youth services to help alleviate suffering in our community. We would be connected with other parishes and perhaps be twinned with a declining local parish and a struggling overseas parish to help Christians in their communities.
- Encouraging the young, reaching out to the old, and identifying some sort of charitable organisation to support.
- Building on the existing initiatives, become a centre of excellence/resource for the local community and the wider C of I church to help with other communities/parishes starting out on their own journey.
- It looks as though Kiltiernan's population is set to dramatically increase in the next five years, so I feel it's important to continue to reach out to the wider community and be observant of their needs.
- The Gathering Grounds would expand to allow for more groups to congregate there.
- The same principles as now but possibly with more outreach work. What could we do to help the less fortunate, homeless people or those with mental health/addictions?

### **Would you recommend this church to a friend or family member? Why or why not?**

Some comments below:

- Definitely, it is such a friendly and welcoming Church.
- It's a place where people care for others.
- Yes, because in my own way I find great value in my own fairly regular attendance in the lovely atmosphere

of the church. I think people who are not involved in some ways are missing out.

- Well run, constantly trying to evolve. Good community spirit!
- Yes, we already recommended it to friends who have joined the parish and to others who regularly visit Gathering Grounds.
- Yes, it is welcoming, interesting and prayerful. A good social centre.
- Because of the open, inclusive feel and the honest unpatronising preaching.
- The feeling of community and belonging.
- Yes, as I feel very welcome here. I feel accepted without the need of explanation as to why I am here.
- We are a friendly and diverse congregation. Young and old are made to feel welcome.
- I would because it is a church which is on a transformational journey and there is a strong sense of community and warmth. It would come with a health warning that the services are very traditional!
- Energy and welcoming atmosphere.
- I would highly recommend. I think it's a fantastic place for many to reconnect with their faith.
- Because of how welcoming and inclusive it is. I think it's a wonderful welcoming community and that's very hard to find!
- It is so inclusive and relaxed and modern.
- Yes. A real Christian welcoming presence exists.
- Absolutely, it has an amazing friendly atmosphere, and you can really feel the community spirit.
- We feel part of something really special with huge potential.
- It is welcoming and engaging and is open to change.
- It has much to offer across the board.
- Facilities excellent. Very fortunate to have the setting and facilities. Proud to say I belong there and proud to bring people to school/parish centre.
- Wonderful clergyman and wife, beautifully kept grounds and still retains its sense of parish.
- Because it's progressive.
- Inclusive, diverse, options for service types and times.
- It is such a vibrant and inclusive parish where everyone is welcomed. It is run by a clergyman (and team) who have such a strong faith and to me personify all that is good within the Christian faith.
- I definitely would, I feel like I belong there. It's my identity.
- Very friendly and welcoming without being OTT or over-pressuring. Enough traditional elements to not freak the average Irish person out and enough innovation to interest and inspire.
- I feel there is a positive energy currently. My only concern is how the

less 'well off' can be catered for in the wider community.

- It's friendly and all-inclusive. It's also not 'stuffy'.
- It has been such a welcoming and engaging parish since we joined.

One person responded: I am not sure [I would recommend the church to a friend or family member]. I feel there is a significant 'click' in this parish and a risk of over sophistication.

### **What are some ways that you think we could make our church family more welcoming for new visitors?**

There was a sense that this is something we do quite well. There were lots of great suggestions, though: better signage, 'bring a neighbour to church' weekend, welcome packs, video series introducing some of the key people, locations and events happening, buddy systems for newcomers, home groups, coffee mornings, name badges and welcoming committee, amongst others.

- I think people already feel welcome and there is a friendly atmosphere there. Mixing in the local community, we are often asked about events taking place. Surely this is a sign of welcome and friendship.
- In Covid times it's difficult, but coffee after the service, and other social events to get to know people would be good. I was approached on day 1 by at least four or five people happy to talk to me, so it's working well already.

### **Have you attended a different church in the last year? If so, what—if anything—did you enjoy about that church that is different from our church?**

Covid has restricted people's opportunities to experience other expressions of worship. Those who had attended different churches appreciate more modern expressions of music and more engagement with young people. One person shared about a church where Sunday worship finishes with a community lunch, in which everyone is involved in bringing something along to share.

Many thanks to everyone who completed the survey.

# PARISH LISTENING EVENING

## Looking at our strengths and weaknesses

In Proverbs 29:18 we are reminded, *Where there is no vision, the people perish.*

On 3 October just over 50 of us came together in the Gathering Grounds to consider what we want to do as a church. Most of the work was done in small groups, capably facilitated by Carol Barry, Jackie Robinson, Philip McQuestion and Fintan Keogh. We began with a general conversation about what we wanted the church to look like. A selection of comments are given below:

- *We want to welcome everybody to our church and to show our love in active inclusivity.*
- *We want to reach out and serve the community.*
- *We want to create a loving atmosphere and be a loving church where everyone is treated equally.*
- *We want to 'live the message'.*

We then used three areas of the room to post notes about the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of the church under the open statements, 'Isn't it good that ...', 'It's a pity that ...' and 'Wouldn't it be good if ...'. There are a few examples from the feedback below:

### **Isn't it good that ...**

- *Our church is a growing community*
- *There is a strong sense of community*
- *We have such a strong music tradition*
- *We have a strong tradition, but are willing to adapt/change*
- *Facilities, school, well resourced*
- *We have a passionate pastoral team, church and school, we have opportunity to discuss our vision etc. tonight, we have a youth and family worker, we have a church café for outreach*
- *A strong governance tradition*
- *We have an energetic leader and*



### **team**

- *The church has effectively used online resources during the pandemic*
- *There is such positive energy*

### **It's a pity that ...**

- *We don't maximise the use of the Gathering Grounds*
- *We don't have more young adults (18–30)*
- *The church isn't bigger*
- *We don't have more mixing between generations inter-generational services*
- *Children's activities/sports clash with church times*
- *We don't have more facilities for teenagers*
- *Website out of date*
- *We don't feel confident talking about our faith, we don't have a Bible study, our teenagers/20s/30s don't feel church faith is relevant*
- *There is a shyness about pushing our faith*
- *The range of services didn't allow more expressions of worship*

### **Wouldn't it be good if ...**

- *We ran an Alpha Course*
- *We could encourage kids in the school to come to church regularly*
- *We had a worship coordination team*
- *We had more pastoral visits by lay members of the congregation to*

*connect with neighbours*

- *We had more afternoon entertainment for older people with 'talks + afternoon tea'*
- *We had more ecumenical engagement*
- *We had more involvement and participation during the services*
- *The church doors could be open during the day*
- *We reached out to marginalised groups—people with disabilities, homeless, carers, etc.*
- *We had a curate to share the load*
- *We had lots of missions + micro missions*

We then returned to our small groups and looked at what it meant for us as a church to 'Build Community'. We considered two questions: How can we strengthen the relationships in the church? How can we better bridge the gap between the church and the wider community? Under the heading of 'Strengthening worship' we discussed: How can we improve people's experience of worship? Are there better ways in which we can deepen people's faith? Finally, under the heading of 'Growing in service', we discussed the questions: How can we more effectively serve the community? Are there better ways to equip other people to serve?

I'm not going to try to capture the responses in this short article on *Klips*, but the notes from the evening are available on the website for those who might like to look in greater detail. What I might say as the rector, who tried to be a listening ear rather than an active participator, is that both the content and tone of the evening were wonderful. There may be at times different opinions within the parish about how we should do certain things, but the desire to grow in ministry and mission together is ever present. I was tremendously encouraged and look forward to the days ahead.



### THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) is 85% composed of Bible passages. As J.I. Packer once said, 'The Book of Common Prayer is the Bible arranged for worship'. I like that. It's a great reminder that our worship is based on Scripture.

From its inception in 1549, the BCP has always been a text intertwined with the text of the Bible. Many of the prayers utilise phrases that have been extracted from the Bible. Verses of the Bible are quoted directly (for example, Opening Sentences in the Daily Office and Offertory Sentences) and whole passages of the Bible have been included as lections, not to mention the inclusion of the entire Book of Psalms.

When the first BCP was produced, the only authorised English Bible was the 'Great Bible' of 1539, so naturally, in most cases, it was the source for scriptural texts included in the first Prayer Book. I say 'most cases' because there are some verses of the Bible in the BCP

that seem to be unique translations of Cranmer's, such as the 'comfortable words' in the rite 1 Liturgy for Holy Communion.

By the time the Prayer Book was revised in 1662 a new Bible had appeared on the scene, the one now known as the 'King James Bible'. It was agreed that the lections contained in the BCP should be from this translation, replacing those of the Great Bible. By this point, however, the Psalms had become so deeply embedded in the hearts and minds of those who had been praying them (they had been using this translation for more than 100 years) that it was decided that keeping the Psalms from the Great Bible would be for the best. The Psalms of the Great Bible were translated by Myles Coverdale, so they are sometimes referenced as the 'Coverdale Psalter'.

However, in the same spirit in which the 1662 revision of the BCP replaced the Great Bible translations with the King James translations for its lessons, recent revisions have 're-synced' its biblical texts to the New Revised Standard Version. While many people lament the style of the King James Bible, the NRSV is a much more accurate translation of the original text.

While the BCP is full of passages of Scripture, it is not meant to replace Scripture. Within the Church of Ireland there is a concern at times that we are more familiar with our Prayer Book than with our Bible. That really won't do! Let's remind ourselves of what the Prayer Book says about Bible reading:

'Blessed Lord, Who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which Thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.'

### LECTIONARY RAMBLINGS

After Christmas, the lectionary psalm is number 148. We might call it a creation psalm, whose words have much to say in the light of COP26.

Psalm 148 focuses its attention on the non-human praise of God; nature itself, we are told, is in the continuous business of praising its Creator. Nature is alive to God, it says, and is acted upon by God; we humans are not the only creatures who praise God.

*<sup>3</sup>Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars!*

*<sup>4</sup>Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!*

*<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created.*

*<sup>6</sup>He established them forever and ever; He fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.*

*<sup>7</sup>Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,*

*<sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling His command!*

*<sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!*

*<sup>10</sup>Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!*

In memorable poetry, the psalmist announces that nature is in continuous praise of the God Who made it. It's not until verse 11 that humans are mentioned and, when they are, all are called to praise, from kings to all peoples. In short, when it comes to the praise of God, all hierarchies fall away. And that 'all' includes nature in its manifold manifestations. In short, the whole of creation is in the business of divine praise, and because that is so, the whole of creation is ours to love and to serve as partner and friend.

We can join the chorus of the earth in praise to God and in protest against those of us who would needlessly destroy the good earth and its creatures given to us so freely and lovingly by our Creator.

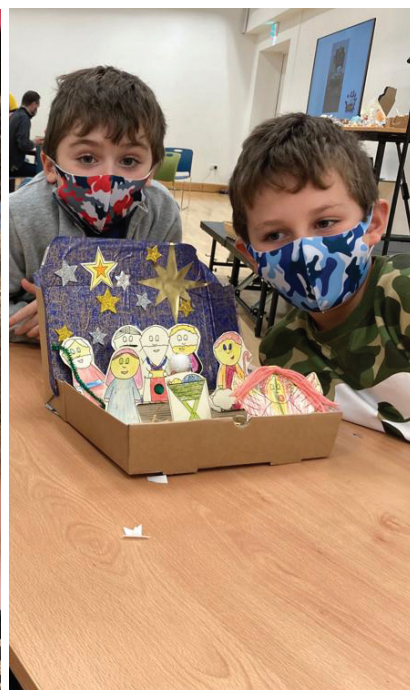
## FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY

### PLAY CAFÉ GETS OWT! (Outdoors With Toddlers)

What can I say? The weather on Wednesday mornings overall has been more than kind to us, with plenty of blue skies and sunshine. Our Play Café Gets OWT! community is growing all the time, and being outdoors has given visibility to the group and all its activities to many in the parish and community. I have recently heard Parent and Toddler Groups being described as the hidden treasures of our communities. Their benefits cannot be overestimated.

As a parish, we should be proud of what we can offer owing to our wonderful volunteers, buildings and grounds—the church is always such a wonderful reminder that Play Café is faith-based, however, not faith-biased. I am thankful for such wonderful opportunities to build so many relationships within the community and to appreciate the impact the group is making. I would encourage you to pray for Play Café, that it may continue to be a safe place where parents and carers feel supported and listened to. It gives the team great joy to hear the laughter and cries of excitement of the little ones as they arrive along the path from the car park each week. It's just wonderful to hear parents talk of how their little ones look forward so much to Wednesdays and get ready with excitement, as they anticipate the activities and now-familiar pattern of the sessions. How amazing that these little ones, who missed out on so much over eighteen months (since being babies), now have activities to look forward to at Play Café Gets OWT!, where they can have a sense of belonging, be known by name and shown God's love through all the fun we share together.

We look forward to many more fun-filled sessions with trails, sensory play activities, craft, story and singing. Of course, none of this would be possible without our team of volunteers—Lynn, Linda, Julie, Wendy and Karen.



### MESSY CHURCH

After nineteen months since our last 'in-person' Messy Church, we met for a special Messy Advent. Yes, we have been meeting with lots of the Messy Church families at 10.00am, but technically that isn't the full Messy Church experience.

In order to return to Messy Church, we had to change our format significantly (and we had to drop the food component, unfortunately, and limit the number who could attend), but it was worth it! Well done to the Messy Church team for a great afternoon, and hopefully we can get Messy Church back to normal in 2022.

### BUILDING BLOCKS

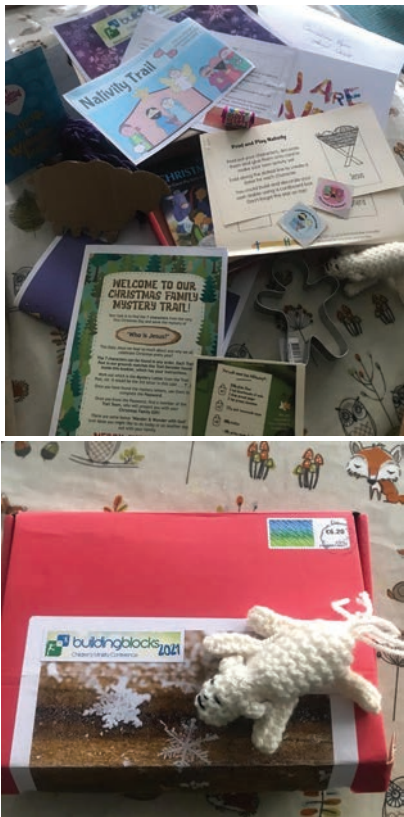
This time two years ago, Kiltarnan Parish came to the rescue with a last-minute venue for Building Blocks, the annual Family & Children's Ministry Conference. Building Blocks seeks to support, equip and encourage those involved in working with children and families in their parishes and communities.

To think that the annual conference would or could move to an online format was beyond the imagination of the Building Blocks team. However, one year on, and no different from other activities, it was sadly not possible to run Building Blocks 2020. The team gathered virtually to pray; before long, plans for an online conference took shape and what normally was one event turned into two exceptional online trainings. The main event, 'THRIVE—how to self-care and care for children and families in a



socially distanced ministry', took place on a Saturday in November. The conference was a sell-out, with 80 conference packs, full of inspirational ideas and goodies, sent to participants in advance. It was really pleasing for the team to receive feedback even before the conference, as the arrival of the packs lifted people's spirits—something the Building Blocks community is all about.

Lovely messages came in before



the day, as conference packs arrived through letterboxes. One message said it all: 'Thank you for the pack that arrived this morning. It made me smile for the first time since lockdown. Really looking forward to tomorrow.' A follow-up training took place just a few months later, in February: an evening with the Building Blocks Team for Seasonal Self-Care, Reflection & Resourcing while Exploring Lent & Easter (ideas for connecting with children and families in a time of uncertainty).

The conference has strong representation from Kiltiernan, not just with examples of some of the creative ministry ideas but also with both Lynn and Brian on the team. Brian was hidden away doing all the vital transitions and spotlighting, not to mention the breakout rooms.

The Building Blocks Team, without a doubt, is the dream team, with all the members giving generously of their time, energy, skills and resources across the boundaries of their parishes, dioceses and organisations.

Building Blocks brings people together from various backgrounds and roles across the country and BB21 was no exception, with 43 parishes represented from the length and breadth of the country (and

even Wales!). An in-person conference had been planned to take place in the Kiltiernan Centre—restricted numbers and some outdoor workshops would ensure social distancing, keeping everyone as safe as possible. The team were very excited about the programme they had planned, but by the end of October, with rising numbers and a sense of uncertainty, it was thought best not to bring people together for a national conference at this time. With the experience of two successful online trainings, the team were quickly able to move to an online format, adapting the programme, and assembling and posting packs to participants ahead of an Advent & Christmas mid-week evening training. The Building Blocks packs now have quite a reputation, packed full of ideas that can be adapted and used to suit any setting. The training had booked out quickly and there were many disappointed to have missed it. The team look forward to hearing from the Building Blocks community about how they connect with children and families this Advent & Christmas, as those who attended left excited by the ideas.

We have heard of many silver linings of COVID-19 and this has to be another. With new opportunities and thinking outside the box, the Building Blocks community has grown. Though a hybrid approach to Building Blocks is being explored, the team can't wait to meet new and familiar faces in person for BB22—watch this space!

## CONFIRMATION 2021

On Wednesday 3 February 2021, the parents of our new Confirmation class met via Zoom to go through the schedule for the sessions we would be doing. Little did we know that this Confirmation class would become both the longest-ever Confirmation class and probably one of the oldest. With 2020 being a wipe-out owing to Covid, we would be working with eighteen young people in 2nd year. And instead of our usual two- or three-month preparation, this would last for over ten months until we finally got to have the Confirmation service.

As you can imagine, it was tough going on Zoom. Having known this group for a number of years now, it was such a shame that we didn't get to do more in-person sessions, but when we did finally get to meet we appreciated that time together a lot more, I think. A big shout-out to Sebastian, who held his ground by holding a different opinion from the rest of the group during one of our ice-breaker games. I was so proud of him.

But I was also proud of the entire group. Having endured a truly awful time doing school online, separated from their friends, they embraced coming together again. I certainly got a sense that they felt at home in the parish centre. Some of the conversations we had in our sessions will be things I will remember for years to come.

Ten months later nearly to the day, our Confirmation candidates finally got their big day on 4



Kiltiernan Confirmation Group 2021

## FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY

November. The venue was Christ Church Cathedral. It was a lovely service. Kiltiernan and four other parishes were represented on the evening.

So, to Emily, Sara, Tara, Dan, Ruby G., Alex, Sebastian, Caoimhe, Eva, Heidi, Rebekah, Emily, Charlie, Rachel, Isaac, Diego, Ruby W. and Emily, may you all, like the young Jesus, grow in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and others.

I pray the prayer that the archbishop prayed over you on your Confirmation day:


*Confirm [young person's name], O Lord, with Your heavenly grace, that he/she may continue to be Yours for ever, and daily increase in Your Holy Spirit more and more until he/she comes to Your eternal kingdom.*

### BUMPS AND BABES

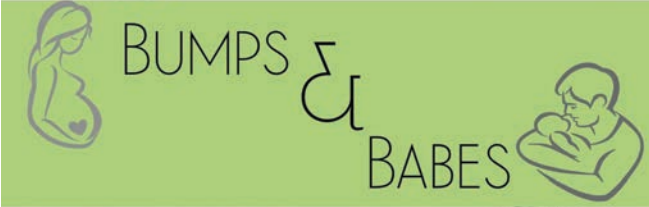
We have been painfully aware of how difficult and challenging a time it has been for everyone in the parish and community. Parents-to-be and new parents have been particularly affected by the imposed restrictions during and after pregnancy, with few to none of the usual supports and groups available. Once indoor dining returned, we were delighted to be able to offer a reserved seating area for these very parents. So if you are, or know, a new parent or parent-to-be, do come and join us to relax and enjoy a cuppa in company at the Gathering Grounds on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am to 11:30am. It's an informal friendly meet-up where you can chat and meet others in the community. If you're expecting or have a baby, from newborn to pre-walking, come alone or bring a friend. A warm welcome awaits you. There is no need to book, but proof of vaccination is needed to sit inside. It's been wonderful to see all the biggies as new parents along with their little ones gather together. For more information contact [gatheringgrounds@kiltiernanparish.ie](mailto:gatheringgrounds@kiltiernanparish.ie).

### YOUTH SERVICE


Covid has disrupted a lot of things in our lives. We have learned to



An informal meet-up for all parents and parents-to-be.  
COME AND ENJOY A CUPPA IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS. A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU!



At 10am on Wednesdays, the Gathering Grounds reserves its couches for parents-to-be and parents with babes in arms (newborn to pre-walkers).



work from home and to embrace online learning, even online church! In late February of 2020 we had our Confirmation service with the group from that year. Just three short weeks later, the nation would be plunged into lockdown and so began our journey.

One thing of which we have been acutely aware during this time for those who celebrated their Confirmation is that they never got to gather and have communion in Kiltiernan. Rob and Brian hatched a plan to hold a service just for young people, so that they could experience communion for the first time together. On 5 December this will become a reality, as we gather together to hear God's word, to have the wonderful Emma Rothwell give a reflection and to gather around the Lord's table and celebrate communion.

Although it is being advertised as a communion service, there will be much more going on. Young people have given up so much during Covid. Some were unable to have a proper graduation; some missed out on birthdays and holidays; some even had their State examinations cancelled! What we want to do for them as a church, therefore, is to show how much we appreciate their sacrifices. Our older members of the community are once again able to gather in person to go to church, and to go for lunch in the Gathering

Grounds on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and it wouldn't be possible without the effort that young people put in during the past two years.

So we want to acknowledge this and give thanks to our young people for all they have done. With their actions, they have well represented Jesus's call for us to love our neighbour and we want to say thank-you. There will also be a video of members of the church saying thank-you to these young people, which will be shown to them on the night of the youth service.

### DGYC—WELCOME, EMMA FAWCETT

We welcome the appointment of Emma Fawcett as Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator. Emma took up the role at the beginning of September.

Emma has been involved in youth work at both a local and a national level for over fifteen years. She was the Youth Pastor in Dundrum Methodist Church, and from 2015 she became the Camps and Volunteer Manager from Scripture Union Ireland.

She inherits a well-established ministry passed on by Susie Keegan. Please keep her in your prayers as she develops this important ministry in the church.

## KILTERNAN COI NATIONAL SCHOOL: ART DISPLAY IN CHRIST CHURCH

There was an exhibition of primary schoolchildren's projects about their parishes, entitled 'Living Faith, Living History', in Christ Church Cathedral during November. Children from the following primary schools produced colourful and interesting projects: Springdale NS in Raheny, Kilternan NS, Kill o' the Grange NS, St George's NS Balbriggan, Holmpatrick NS Skerries, Athy Model School, Whitechurch NS, Drumcondra NS, St Matthew's NS Irishtown and Castleknock NS. The following report is by 5th Class teacher Katie Nolan.

In September, the children in 5th Class were invited to complete a project on our church and parish. The children came together and thought of many different ideas for research based on the church and its parish—for example, the church building itself, interviewing parishioners and researching the graveyard. We got to work straight away and the children were very enthusiastic about learning more about Kilternan and its interesting history. We used our Chromebooks to research and found many websites with lots of information. We also walked over to the church and graveyard many times and looked at the graves and headstones outside the church and

the stained-glass windows and lectern inside the church. The children completed wonderful drawings of the church building and the inside of the church, which were placed beside information about the building. There were many times when the children found out things that they didn't know before. One moment that stood out for us all was when one 5th Class student announced to the whole class, 'Wow! Did you know that one of the headstones is dedicated to a woman who died during World War One on a boat? Her name is Sophia Violet Barrett', which led to the whole class heading over to take a look at the headstone. We spent many hours researching and completing the project and everyone took great pride in the work they had done.

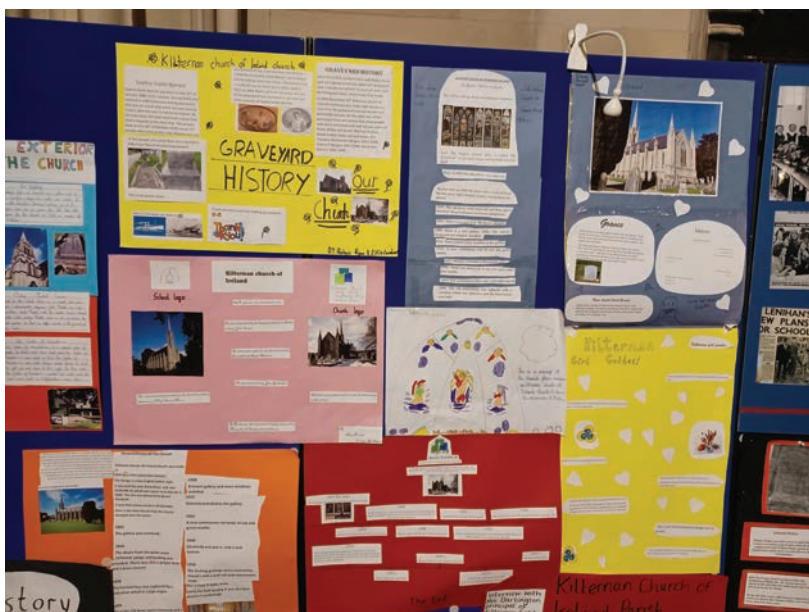
At the end of the two months that we spent on the project, it was collected and brought to Christ Church Cathedral, where it was put on display for the public to see. We were lucky enough to be invited to go and see it for ourselves! We all felt very proud of ourselves when we saw our work displayed in Christ Church Cathedral, especially when we saw other people admiring our work too. During our visit we also got to take a look around the cathedral and admired the high ceilings above our heads and the tiles below our feet. We all agreed that the best part (apart

from our wonderful work!) was heading down to the crypts, where it was a bit spooky but filled with interesting artefacts.

## ADVENT POEM

Advent poem by Caroline Kennedy and her beloved dog!

A is for Advent and all acts of kindness,  
 B is for blessing, beauty and birds.  
 C is for Christ Child we are all soon to greet,  
 D is for dreams both past and future.  
 E is for energy and strength to go forward,  
 F is for faith, family and friends,  
 G is for Gathering Grounds where community meets,  
 H is for Heaven, hope for us all.  
 I is for isolation—please keep in touch!  
 J is for justice and joy, which we can give and receive.  
 K is for the Kingdom of God we long to behold, and *Klips*—the best news we can get.  
 L is for longing and love, and the Light of the World.  
 M is for music, mothers and maidens and the joy they can bring,  
 N is for nations to which we belong.  
 O is for open spaces and on-line workers,  
 P is for parishes, patience and pets and the pleasure they bring.  
 Q is for quiet, questions and queries we all need to ask.  
 R is for rest and routine we all need in our lives,  
 S is for silence and stillness to pray.  
 T is for thank you, for life treats to give and receive,  
 U is for unity and peace in the world.  
 V is for vaccine, and volunteers who give us hope for the future.  
 W is for worship and welcomes we receive or give at the door.  
 X is for Xmas, the Christ Child, our Saviour is here.  
 Y is for Yuletide and the youth of today and tomorrow,  
 Z is for Zoom, the modern technology which I can't get!





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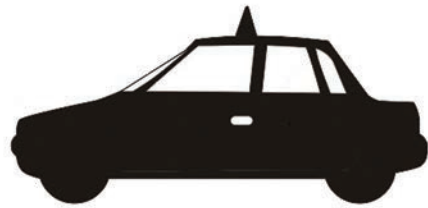
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