



# KILTERNAN KLIPS

Building community, strengthening worship, growing in service

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

Vol. 28 No. 2 Kilternan Klips | Summer 2022

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

## DREAMS, VISIONS AND GOALS



### **NOTICE BOARD**

News and notices from around the parish

### **MIND MATTERS**

Mental health awareness week in the school and parish

### **FEATURES**

Articles and features of interest to the church

### **MINISTRY**

Youth, family and liturgy, articles and more



# THINKABLE LEARNING CENTRE

Learn Easier. Think Faster. Perform Better.

JUST OPENED!

## Struggling in School? Memory issues?

### Know the Cause and Tackle it!

Reach your full potential with **BrainRx™** training

Now available, for the first time in Ireland — only in our Centre!

Suitable for all ages

**20% OFF**  
**WITH THIS AD**  
**INITIAL REPORT & CONSULTATION!**

[Thinkable.ie](http://Thinkable.ie)

| 087 621 9376



Suttonfield

stephen newell architects



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



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

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

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

Selected plots are available to pre purchase



**KILTERNAN**  
CEMETERY PARK

Tel: 01 281 4029 [www.kilternancemetery.ie](http://www.kilternancemetery.ie)



## Contents

Notice Board	4
Mind Matters	9
Strategy and Vision 2022–2027	11
Kiltiernan Parish in pictures	12
General Synod Synopsis	14
Gathering Grounds	16
Family and Youth Ministry	18
Community and wider church	20
Cranmer's Corner	22
The Arts	23

Cover image: Easter fun in the Church grounds.



Volume 28 Number 2  
June 2022

Editorial: Rob Clements and  
Annemarie McCleane

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

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

## The Rector on...

# Dreams, Visions and Goals...

One of my favourite quotes from Hudson Taylor, the very quotable pioneer missionary to China, is 'There are three stages in every great work of God: first, it is impossible, then it is difficult, then it is done'. Taylor knew about impossible. Impossible was going to the other side of the world in 1853 to untold millions who had yet to hear about Jesus. To do that would take months of risky sea passage and then the acquisition of a new language, not to mention the threat of death or cholera. On top of all that, to evangelise such a large country of large extremes would take an army of missionaries, not just one.

I had the privilege of attending a clergy learning event recently under the guidance of Canon Phil Potter. Potter was the Archbishop of Canterbury's Missioner and Team Leader of Fresh Expressions UK. He translated the stages of Impossible, Difficult and Done into the idea of Dreams, Visions and Goals.

*Can we dream of a land where the  
churches are thriving, and people are  
living as active disciples of Christ?*

We dare to dream, but our dreams often feel impossible. The fulfilment of dreams has long been a significant part of God's dealing with His people. As the aging, childless Abraham sat in the desert watching millions of stars, he could only dream of his descendants becoming a great nation. Joseph had more than one impossible dream, which ultimately led to his leadership of the whole land of Egypt. Moses was given a dream of a land flowing with milk and honey against the backdrop of enslavement. In the New Testament, the church was given the dream of turning a frightened group of disciples in an upper room into a movement that would reach the ends of the earth.

A dream evolves into a vision when we begin to work out what is practically possible today. Do we have a dream for our land? Do we imagine a society where all are cared for, and treated with justice and fairness? Can we dream of a land where the churches are thriving, and people are living as active disciples of Christ?

That is a difficult stage, and frequently where dreams become un-stuck. It stretches and tests our faith; it's a difficult step into an unknown future. Like Peter, we are asked to step out of the boat and keep our eyes on Jesus.

The last stage is to set goals. Yes, it's important to dream, and then to step out of the boat. But what makes that achievable is moving forward, one step at a time.

At our Easter Vestry we launched our Strategy and Vision Plan for 2022–2027. It is ambitious and progressive, but with prayer and patience there is so much that we can do, one step at a time.

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

**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**

(Glebe-warden)

**Christian Kraeft**

(Glebe-warden)

**David Webb**

(Secretary of the Select Vestry)

**Gary Colclough**

(Treasurer of the Select Vestry)

## SELECT VESTRY

David Webb,

Gary Colclough,

Carol Barry,

Ann Walsh,

Una MacConville,

Robbie Burns,

Jackie Robinson,

Philip McQueston,

Irwin Johnston,

Carol Hennessey,

Neil Goolding,

Susan O'Toole.

*Jackie Fitzpatrick decided to step aside this year. Many thanks to her for all her work on the Select Vestry.*

# 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 also has a busy Facebook presence.

## REGISTER

### Christian burial

It is with sadness that we mourn the death of Muriel Booth. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with her family. We are also mindful of the family of Michael Richardson, whose ashes were interred.

### Baptisms

We have been delighted to welcome Sloane, Henry, Dylan, Kacey and George into the family of the church.

It's been great to get back to baptisms within the church service.

### Marriage

It was a joy to celebrate the wedding of Adam Kinlan and Ramona. We wish them God's blessings in their life together.

## PATTERNS OF WORSHIP

### First Sunday of the Month

9:00 Holy Communion

10:00 Sunday Morning in the  
Gathering Grounds

11:00 Morning Prayer

### Second Sunday of the Month

9:00 Holy Communion

10:00 Sunday Morning in the  
Gathering Grounds

11:00 Morning Prayer

### Third Sunday

9:00 Holy Communion

11:00 Holy Communion

4:00pm Messy Church

### Fourth Sunday

9:00 Holy Communion

11:00 All Together Worship (see  
more below)

8:00pm Sunday Night at the  
Gathering Grounds

Fifth Sundays will normally follow the pattern of the first and second.

Note that there will be a change in our patterns of worship over the summer months. From 3 July there will only be two services, at 9am and 11am. Our regular pattern of three services will recommence on 28 August. If the weather is agreeable, we might be able to organise a few summer picnics after 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.

### Rotas

**Church Readers:** If you would like to be a reader, or even do the occasional prayers of intercession, let us know and we will get you on the reader list.

**Church Flowers:** Aisling O'Neill has kindly agreed to take over the flower rota. If you would like to put yourself on the list, please let us know.

**Coffee and tea:** We have been offering tea and coffee after the 10am service and the 11am service. Contact Julie at [gatheringgrounds@kiltiernanparish.ie](mailto:gatheringgrounds@kiltiernanparish.ie) if you would be willing to help.

### Welcome teams

We have always been a church that has worked towards welcoming, putting our best foot forward in friendliness, hospitality and

connection. This was evident in our parish survey last year.

It is our ambition to develop a welcome team within the parish as we build on the ministry of hospitality. Here are three reasons why now is a great time to join us in embodying this.

- We serve a Welcoming God: *‘Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God’—Romans 15:7.*
- We need to be a Welcoming Body. *‘By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another’—John 13:35.*
- We have a Welcoming Opportunity. All of the upheaval and uncertainty of the past couple of years has taken much from us, but has also afforded us the present moment. Whether we can see it or not, people are looking in: *How will the church, which claims the greatest love ever known, respond in this moment? Can I go there and be welcomed? Can I belong? Can I return to worship with confidence?*

What we would like to do is have a ‘team’ approach to how we extend a welcome in all our services. It can’t just be the job of the church wardens. Our ambition is to have a list of people trained as welcomers who are happy to go on a rota. If we have plenty of people trained and ready, it should not be a burden on any one person or group of people. Spouse teams and family teams are welcome.

If this is something with which you feel able to assist, please let one of the staff team know.

**Sunday Nights at the Gathering Grounds**

We have had a few wonderful Sunday evening gatherings since our last edition of *Klips*.

It was a great blessing in April to interview Dr Alex Boychak. Alex is a Ukrainian currently working in St Luke’s Hospital, Dublin. He has set up an initiative to send medical supplies to Ukraine with the



Rebekah Fozzard, Project Manager of the Church of Ireland’s Mind Matters programme

support of the Ukrainian embassy in Dublin and Ukraine’s Department of Health.

Alex brought with him a Ukrainian family who had just arrived in Dublin. It was a powerful conversation and helped us to put human faces on a terrible situation. We will continue to keep the people of the Ukraine in our prayers and do whatever we can to ensure that we are a place of hospitality and reception.

In May we heard from Rebekah Fozzard. Rebekah is the Project Manager of the Church of Ireland’s Mind Matters programme. She spoke about the research conducted in phase one of the project and the

vision in the church regarding caring for our mental health.

If you haven’t yet connected with Sunday Nights at the Gathering Grounds, let me encourage you to do so. It is an exciting gathering with amazing possibilities as we grow and reach new communities together.

**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 bring the community’s needs to God. You are most welcome to join us. Contact the office for meeting details.

**Alpha in 2022**

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. Alpha has ten sessions and includes food, a video presentation and a discussion at the end. Alpha really is for anyone who’s curious. The talks are designed to encourage debate and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, honest and informal environment.

We will be launching an Alpha course in autumn 2022 and encouraging people to sign up. We hope to run the series on a Sunday evening. More information will follow, but if you would like a place, please let us know so we can book a spot for you.



Dr Alex Boychak with the recently arrived Ukrainian family, Jackie Robinson and the Rector

## NOTICE BOARD

### Music for Life raffle and non-uniform day update!

A huge thank-you from Victoria Johnston to the Gathering Grounds and parishioners, who raised €170 with raffle ticket sales, and to Kiltiernan National School, who raised €907 with their non-uniform day, in support of Music for Life (a pilot education programme and funding for instruments for two orchestras for two Fields of Life schools in Uganda).

### Digital Plan

In our parish planning survey and planning night there was widespread belief that our digital platforms should be improved to reflect how active and vibrant our parish is and to better support our Vision & Strategy, including:

- **Community:** Making it easier to follow and get involved in what's going on across the parish.
- **Service:** Enabling us to grow in service with our ministries, volunteering and funding.
- **Faith:** To be a resource for all age groups (especially youth) in faith formation and worship.

To help implement a new digital plan, we have created a digital team and will start by implementing a new parish management platform and launching a new website this year. If you have any skills that could help our digital team with our website, graphic design, social media management or content creation, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Many thanks,  
Susan and Robbie.

### Pet Service—26 June

It's been a long time since we welcomed our pets to church! On the 26th, at our 'All Together' service, we invite you to come along and bring pets, cats, dogs, rabbits, whatever. It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all of God's creation.

### Thursdays in Black

At the back of the church you will find a basket of Thursdays in Black badges. Thursdays in Black grew

out of the World Council of Churches' Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women. Initially people were encouraged to wear black on a Thursday, but then to wear a badge every Thursday to declare that you are part of the global movement resisting attitudes and practices that permit gender-based violence.

We hope you will join with us as we promote this in Kiltiernan. We all have a responsibility to speak out against violence, to ensure that everyone is safe from rape and violence in homes, schools, work, streets—in all places in our societies.

Pick up a badge on Sunday and join the global conversation. You might like to share your Thursdays in Black photos on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, using hashtag #ThursdaysinBlack.

### Thanks from Mathew McCauley

Dear All, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to everyone at Kiltiernan Parish Church. The Revd Clements, his family and all of you made me feel so welcome during my six months in the parish. I leave with many warm memories and new friends. I will keep you all in my prayers as I progress to my next placement at St Bartholomew's Church, Dublin. Thank you again for all your support and perhaps you might keep me and my family in your prayers, with my journey towards ordination continuing over the next 24 months. God bless, Mathew McCauley.

PS: Some have asked for information from my Remembrance Day sermon in 2021. The following book is a great resource: K. Kinsella, *Out of the Dark 1914–1918: South Dubliners who fell in the Great War* (Merrion Press, 2014).

### Lighting up the Ascension Window.

Thanks to a generous donation from Ann Walsh, we have a new outdoor spotlight to light up the Ascension Window (the stained-glass window at the Communion Table). We look forward to enjoying this as we worship together.

## PARTING WORDS FROM CAROLINE BRENNAN

As I compose this article for *Kiltiernan Klips*, it's hard to believe that my three-week placement in the parish is almost at an end. Dare I say it, this has been something of a whirlwind romance! From the moment of my arrival, I was immediately captivated by the charm of Kiltiernan and its people. How could I not have had my head turned by the pretty hills and the picture postcard perfection of the parish church and surrounding lands? This is a special place, steeped in local history and memory.

On one of my first days in the parish, I walked around the cemetery and read the inscriptions on the headstones. Many were familiar family names and I pondered probable connections with friends and acquaintances in neighbouring parishes. One evening, in glorious May sunshine, I sat on one of the postbox-red benches and contemplated the very distinctive qualities of this place—my time of peaceful reverie punctuated by the sounds of birdsong and tennis and by the chatter of passers-by. It was in those moments that the thought struck me that what is so distinctive about Kiltiernan parish is how it manages to blend so many different strands of life experience into one place. Old and new stand effortlessly side by side: the parish church, formal, handsome and dignified, on one side, with bustling community and casual modernity on the other side in the shape of the Gathering Grounds.

It has been a joy to meet the people of this parish: to worship with them, to lead services of Morning Prayer and to enjoy fellowship together. I commented above that Kiltiernan is a place steeped in local history and memory. Many parishioners were very generous to me with their time and local anecdotes. I heard many a story over soup on Tuesdays about the colourful characters that once lived and worshipped in this parish! It is lovely to know that



Saying farewell to Caroline Brennan

there is so much living memory still being shared here in Kiltarnan.

It is probably fair to say that Kiltarnan parish is now well renowned for its innovation in terms of children and youth ministry. This has been wonderful to both watch and participate in during my time in the parish. At a time when many in the broader Church can be quite pessimistic about church attendance and growth, it is clear that Kiltarnan is joyfully and boldly rebutting any such sense of pessimism.

And so, what is it that I will take away with me from my time in Kiltarnan parish? Well, first and foremost, newfound friendships, to be sure. Second, I am leaving with a wealth of learning and resources so generously shared by the rector, Rob, and the wider ministry team. But I would like to end with one particular memory that has really resonated with me. That was the sight of a grandparent sitting in the Gathering Grounds Café with a grandchild whose face was smeared with a combination of tears and chocolate brownie. The child had clearly had a bad day. The grandparent was doing a very valiant job of cheering the precious grandchild up. Some words of wisdom were spoken: 'You know, tears are prayers too. God hears them, He hears every teardrop.' This cross-generational moment for me epitomises Kiltarnan parish. This is truly a place where all of God's people come to be restored.

**Caroline Brennan**

### GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW DEACON

In September we will be welcoming a new member to the staff team. Scott Evans will be ordained as a deacon and will spend nine months with us while he completes his final year of study at the Church of



Ireland Theological Institute. We are delighted to welcome him.

Scott is currently the Church of Ireland Chaplain to University College Dublin, where he serves young adults by offering pastoral care, faith dialogue and discipleship. He will be continuing in this important ministry, so will be with us part-time (mainly on Sundays).

Scott has a gifted ministry to young adults, and we hope that he can provide us with some guidance and leadership as we grow in this area.

### TIME OUT FOR TEACHERS

Our teachers and school staff have had a difficult couple of years. We wanted to say a simple 'thank-you and bless you' before they took a break. Thanks to Lynn's creativity, we sent them 'time out' gifts from the parish. Thanks for all your hard work!

### NEW BOILER

After many cold winters, we made the decision to replace the boiler in the church. The cost of the new boiler was €5,516. This is not cheap, but it's money well spent, and we can see the positive effects already!

On occasion people ask me whether there is anything within the parish that needs funding. If you would like to make a contribution towards the new



Time out gifts from the parish to the National School Teachers.

## NOTICE BOARD



The Córde Chamber Choir performed a lovely selection of choral music in the Gathering Grounds.

boiler, we would welcome your support.

### PARISH FÊTE

Mindful of Covid, we decided to put the fête back to June this year, rather than our usual May date. From the perspective of *Klips* this isn't ideal, as we will have gone to press before the fête has taken place.

Many thanks to everyone involved. Hopefully we'll have some photos and notes in our Autumn edition of *Klips*.

### UKRAINE FUND-RAISING

Well done to all involved in fund-raising for Ukraine. In total we raised €11,615, of which €11,105 will go to the Irish Red Cross Crisis Appeal and €510 to Medical Help Ukraine.

### MUSIC NOTES FROM KEVIN O'SULLIVAN

#### Charity summer concert

The Córde Chamber Choir, directed by Kevin, performed a lovely selection of choral music at the end of May, with solos from Kevin, his sisters Éilís and Ciara, and Stephanie Behan. It finished with a beautiful song, 'A Ukrainian Prayer', for which several choristers from the parish swelled the ranks of the choir.

The concert was in aid of the Red Cross Appeal for Ukraine. I'd like to

thank everyone who came and who donated, and also the volunteers who helped on the night. The amount raised so far is €1080.

#### Music for Kiltiernan Parish

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

#### Junior Choir

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

#### 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 learn about music and singing through the Voices for Life programme. No experience is necessary and we're open to teens and adults.

### KEEPING THE SCAMMERS AT BAY

Regarding parish communication:

- You will only receive communication from the 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.

### DIGITAL APP REVIEW

Want an easy and accessible way to get to know the Bible better? We found *Bible in One Year* to be a great app that you can use either by reading the text or by listening to it on the go, making it ideal to listen to even in your commute, at home or out and about during the day.

With over one million downloads and with an average review rating of 4.8/5 stars, *Bible in One Year* is well worth considering adding to your phone or tablet (even if it takes more than a year for you to get through!).

You can download it in the App store or at <https://bibleinoneyear.org/en/>





# MIND MATTERS AND MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

The Church of Ireland began a three-year mental health promotion initiative in October 2020 called MindMatters COI. This aims to raise awareness of and respond to the mental health needs of communities across the island of Ireland. The project was made possible by a significant grant from one of the UK and Ireland's largest grant-making charities, the Benefact Trust, and is fully supported by the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland and the Church of Ireland's House of Bishops.

MindMatters COI aims to transform the understanding of and attitudes and responses towards mental health within the Church of Ireland and the wider community. Research is at the centre of this three-year project. It commenced with a literature review of recent research and an extensive study that describes existing attitudes towards and understandings of mental health across both jurisdictions. Over 1,200 lay members and 50% of the clergy responded to the survey. The results of the research will be available on the Church of Ireland website.

Rebekah Fozzard, the Project Manager for MindMatters, gave a helpful summary of the findings of the report at Sunday Nights at the Gathering Grounds. The initiative identifies four main areas for ongoing attention:

- Reducing stigma.
- Promoting connections.
- Exploring the role of clergy and the supports and training that would be useful for them.
- Exploring the role of faith in promoting positive mental health.

In our Strategy and Vision Plan for 2022–2027 we have set ourselves the target of developing or partnering with a mental health or well-



being programme to serve the needs of our community. It makes sense for us to work closely with MindMatters COI in order to realise this ambition.

We decided that a good place to begin was with Mental Health Awareness Week, 9–15 May. The activities marking this week included conversational exercises, empathy development, a mindfulness trail, a talk exploring the expression and identification of our feelings and emotions, and Stones of Hope in the Gathering Grounds. So what did we do?

### *Mental health awareness in the school*

The ABC Conversations exercise was originally thought of by Sophia Clements. During lockdown, Sophia started doing this with Julie (her mum) at bedtime. She would ask Julie to tell her something about herself, past or present, that began with the letter A. The letter A made Julie think of Alaska, where she was born, so she shared memories of her childhood. When the conversation came to an end, she would say 'B'. The ABC Conversations are simple and structured and allow for broad response. We practised the ABC Conversations with

4th, 5th and 6th Classes in the church and at the end of the week at Messy Church.

The 1st–3rd Classes engaged in empathy development, with the understanding that practising empathetic behaviour improves our ability to effectively manage and respond to our own emotions and be better equipped to handle stressful or emotionally challenging situations. We drew from a programme called Roots of Empathy, which originated in Canada. With the time and generosity of three mother and baby pairs, each class got to spend a short time getting to know a baby and thinking about what the baby was feeling by observing its body language. Joyce and 7.5-month-old Helena Joy, Celine and eight-month-old Francesca, and Paula and one-month-old Max were our mother and baby pairs who spent time with 1st–3rd Classes. We spread a large mat on the floor, on which the mum and baby sat, and the children from each class sat around the mat. Each of the three classes had a special 45-minute session with their mum and baby. The kids spent half of the time getting to know the given baby and the other half of the time thinking about the baby's



feelings and emotions and how he/she communicates them, and likewise what the children's feelings and emotions are and how they express them. This was a fun and memorable activity to do with 1st-3rd Classes and we hope to have the opportunity to build on this idea of empathy development in the future!

Junior and Senior Infants participated in an interactive Mindfulness Nature Trail around the parish grounds. They engaged in activities that raised their awareness of the natural world around them and their personal connection with it. They listened to and felt the wind blow, they examined and felt stones, built stone towers, hugged trees, and observed the many different leaves and flowers. They were an active bunch, but it was wonderful to see their moments of stillness and connection with nature.

***Mental health awareness in the Gathering Grounds***

We had the privilege of hearing from Aisling O'Neill on the Tuesday of Mental Health Awareness week. Aisling is a Cognitive Behavioural Therapist and spoke in the meeting room about the range of feelings and emotions that we all feel, practical steps towards positive mental health and the importance of self-care. This was an extremely useful talk and I hope we might have the opportunity to offer it again to a wider audience.

During Mental Health Awareness week, the Gathering Grounds

made Stones of Hope available to anyone who wanted one. This is something we have done in the



Gathering Grounds in the past, and it is always very welcomed by the recipients. A single word of hope is written across the front of each stone and they are left in a visible place where a visitor might notice one that catches his/her eye.

***Mental health awareness for families***

As part of Mental Health Awareness Week, everyone at Play Café Gets OWT! enjoyed being outside with friends as they 'Connected with Nature' and experienced the physical and mental benefits it brings. There was a lovely assortment of outdoor, nature-based, sensory and messy activities, intended to help little ones (and their grown-ups!) to slow down a little and enjoy the healing benefits of nature. Many took a stroll through our interactive Mindfulness Nature Trail in the church grounds before enjoying the feel and smell of handmade lemon-scented Happy Playdough and other hands-on activities which helped release the happy chemicals (serotonin) in our brains, including creating an artistic masterpiece with mud paint and walking our barefoot path.

The end of Mental Health Awareness Week was marked by Messy Church, where special attention was paid to mental health and well-being.

Stones of Hope below and left.



# VISION AND STRATEGY 2022–2027



At our Easter Vestry we published two documents. One was our Annual Report for 2021, which this year included not only our finances but also an outline of some of the achievements of the past year. We also released our Strategy and Vision document for 2022 to 2027. This document is available online, but a hard copy is available from the parish centre.

I had a great sense of positivity at the Easter Vestry—a true sense of working together to grow God’s Kingdom in our community. There is lots to be done, but with God all things are possible. The objective of the next five years, which take us into the bicentenary of the church, are outlined below under the three headings of ‘Building Community’, ‘Strengthening Worship’ and ‘Growing in Service’.

## Building Community

- Expand the work of the Gathering Grounds in terms of both opening hours and engagement with the wider community.
- Redesign the church website to be a more user-friendly point

of contact and strengthen our social media presence. This will likely involve identifying a role within the parish to oversee communication.

- Plan an annual parish retreat to encourage parish relations and spiritual development.
- Establish and train a ‘welcome team’ on Sundays to ensure that new members are greeted and connected. Encourage initially those with roles to wear name badges.
- Develop welcome packs for new members and new members’ evenings.
- Establish a regular Alpha course to encourage newcomers and the curious to engage more deeply with faith.
- Expand the ministry to over-65s by formally reintroducing the senior lunch and by offering regular classes/lectures.
- Develop a schedule of intergenerational activities to provide opportunities for

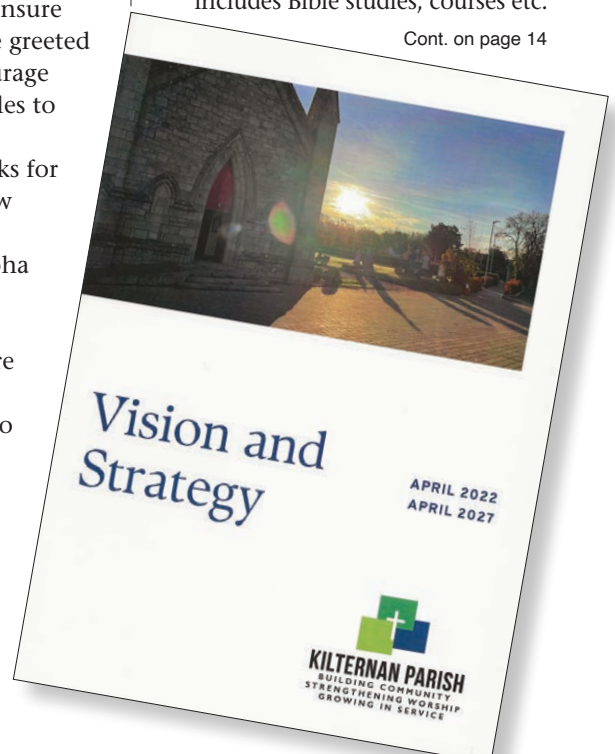
better engagement and mutual learning between all ages.

- Recognising that the most underrepresented group in the parish are the 18–30s, develop a young adult ministry that offers support and connection.
- Develop a men’s ministry within the parish to encourage greater engagement and conversation among men.

## Strengthening Worship

- Continue to develop the diversity of worship experiences in the church community, including the development of live-streaming or hybrid church services.
- Establish regular ‘church family gatherings’ that bring together the whole body of the church.
- Improve the church facilities to ensure that our buildings are liturgically and practically fit for purpose.
- Establish a regular ‘faith formation’ programme within the life of the parish that includes Bible studies, courses etc.

Cont. on page 14



# KILTERNAN PARK



# ISH IN PICTURES



Clockwise from top:  
Mindfulness activity with the school in the Gathering Grounds;  
Messy Church end result;  
Hitting the mark at Ovoca;  
Children from Kiltiernan Col National School at the Mental Health Awareness Week;  
With Lynn at Mental Health Awareness Week;  
Sunrise service on Easter Sunday.

- Establish a ministry of ‘small groups’ for people to build meaningful relationships and grow in faith.
- Grow the prayer ministry of the church to include prayer ministry after services, and group prayer.
- Develop a worship service for and by teenagers.
- Establish an annual Bible week/summer club for children and teens.
- Continue to develop our children and family ministries to encourage families to grow in faith.
- Organise a library/bookshop using the bookshelves in the Gathering Grounds to deepen our knowledge of the Christian faith through reading/study.

#### Growing in Service

- Establish an ‘eco-concern’ group to reduce our carbon footprint and advance good ecological practice.
- Develop a ‘missional partnership’ ministry with ten charities and support them through prayer, promotion and giving.
- Develop or partner with a mental health or well-being programme/initiative to serve the community.
- Establish and train lay-led pastoral care teams to support older or more vulnerable people in the community.
- Reach out to new communities with pioneering expressions of faith. This may include ‘pop-up’ missional communities in some of the local estates.
- Plant a missional initiative in Cherrywood with broader church/inter-church support and funding.
- Encourage all members of the church to find an avenue of service that enables the ministry and mission of the church to grow.

Copies of the *Vision and Strategy* document are available at the back of the Church and in the Gathering Grounds.

# GENERAL SYNOD SYNOPSIS

By David Webb



I had the pleasure of attending the Church of Ireland General Synod 2022, which was held in the Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in early May. This was the first ‘in-person’ meeting of the General Synod since its meeting in Derry in May 2019. Over the three days, the General Synod considered faith, education, health and social matters directly affecting its membership at diocese and parish levels.

Simply put, a ‘synod’ is a meeting or assembly of church leaders and has New Testament roots in Acts 15, where Paul and Barnabas are recorded as travelling to Jerusalem to attend the Council of Jerusalem and the beginning of Paul’s second missionary journey. The General Synod is the national assembly of the Church of Ireland, which encompasses the 32 counties of Ireland; it not only considers and approves legislation affecting the whole of the Church of Ireland but also formulates new forms of worship, debates matters of national and international importance, and approves the annual budget for the work of the

Church. Less formal proposals are submitted as motions which, if approved, become resolutions. The synod also receives reports from various committees and boards, which are debated by its members.

Archbishop of Armagh John McDowell began proceedings with an important address to the attendees which highlighted the Church’s recent response to Covid-19, climate change and the war in Ukraine. He also expressed concern about social media and the ‘atomisation of public space’, and urged Church members to make a ‘distinctive contribution to reconciliation’. He also reported on the initial findings of the ethnic diversity, inclusion and racial justice research project which he had announced at the 2021 General Synod and the need to help people find a place at home in the Church in a world of migration.

Various reports were presented by, amongst others, the Council for Mission, the Church of Ireland Marriage Council, the Liturgical Advisory Committee, the Church of Ireland Youth Department and the

Bishops' Appeal, to mention only a few. In particular, it was highlighted that the Bishops' Appeal observes its 50th birthday this year, marking 50 years of the Church of Ireland engaging in a wide range of partnerships for good. A video was played which celebrated the work of the Bishops' Appeal, which Bishop Ferran Glenfield said was 'inspiring and humbling' in showing what the Church of Ireland had done in God's name.

It was also announced that the Church of Ireland will introduce a new programme known as the Clergy Assistance Programme to help improve mental health among its leaders in ordained ministry. The Clergy Assistance Programme will seek to give clergy a place and a space to explore their own well-being and is being led by the Mind Matters Initiative, who are tasked with improving the understanding of, and attitudes towards, mental health within the Church of Ireland.

From a Kiltiernan point of view, our own Revd Rob Clements seconded a motion on the housing crisis. The motion called for the General Synod to recognise that helping people affected by the housing crisis must be considered an essential part of the Church's mission and ministry. It asked the RCB and Standing Committee to work with parishes and dioceses to identify ways in which the Church can directly help those in need. In seconding the motion, Rob said that 'there was no moral justification for the lack of housing we are experiencing in Ireland today' and, although it was a social and economic issue, it was also 'a theological and pastoral one'. 'Not only does this have immediate impact on the well-being of the most vulnerable, positioned at the knife-edge of housing insecurity, but the lack of accessible housing has long-term implications on social cohesion and established societal norms for people of all ages,' he explained. Rob observed

that the Covid-19 pandemic had made us realise how vital our homes are to our health and illustrated without doubt the connection between poor housing and diminished well-being. It had shown unequivocally that housing is an issue of justice and equality and that this is an area where the Church has a role to play. This means affirming the right to safe and stable housing, keeping informed about housing policy, speaking out and making public representatives accountable, and developing and supporting housing initiatives. I commend Rob for highlighting these important issues.

It was great to see so many people again after such a long break. Thankfully the next meeting is a bit closer to home and will be held on 11-13 May 2023 in Croke Park, Dublin.



*Care & Compassion in action since 1836*

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

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

T: 01 668 4298 E: [info@protestantaid.org](mailto:info@protestantaid.org)

# THE GATHERING GROUNDS

By Julie Clements

## UKRAINE COFFEE MORNINGS

We have been delighted to hold two Ukrainian coffee mornings in the Gathering Grounds. This is a time for any Ukrainian families who have moved into the area to meet one another and the people from Kiltiernan community. While we know that there are plenty of practical needs, the need simply to make connections is vital.

For two hours on the second Monday of each month, we will host a Ukrainian coffee morning from 10am till 12 noon. You are welcome to drop by for coffee, conversation and connection.

Last month the number of Ukrainian families was few, but those who came made some lovely positive connections. One of the great delights was a surprise visit by two therapy dogs. It was a great joy to see a few Ukrainian children (and parents) pet the dogs.

Our plan is to hold this as a regular event on the second Monday as we support Ukrainian families moving into the area.

## INTERVIEW WITH A BARISTA: AISLING O'NEILL

*When and why did you start volunteering in the Gathering Grounds?*

I started to volunteer in the Gathering Grounds in the spring of 2021 very shortly after I retired from my career. It was always part of my plan to continue with some shape of giving back to the community, so when there was an appeal for more volunteers in autumn 2020 I responded. I had previously volunteered in the life of the parish and school in various activities, e.g. Ladybirds, Sunday Club, PTA, chairing of the Fête committee, and more recently the church flowers.

*What do you like best about the Gathering Grounds and about volunteering in the Gathering Grounds?*

Probably the fact that no day is the same and you can have some very varied and interesting conversations with people. I also think that there is something energising about the natural light in the café space, coupled with the ability to sit outside under the canopy, which has an impact on people's connection with nature, even when it's a dull day.

*We just marked Mental Health Awareness Week 2022 and, as a cognitive behavioural therapist, you gave a great talk in the Gathering Grounds about identifying feelings and emotions.*

*How do you think people can best mind themselves during this time in our history when life is fraught for so many?*

The past couple of years have had an impact on all age groups of society, and we probably don't yet appreciate how some individuals will have been overwhelmed by the changes in their lives and have experienced some neurobiological changes. Mental health services in Ireland are both under-resourced and under-funded, so we need to look at our own strengths and to each other to find ways to navigate stress. On the plus side, humans have the capacity for adaptation and resilience.

We also need to be kind to ourselves, especially if we have had an increase in our anxiety, by saying 'this is a normal response to an abnormal situation, as opposed to being an abnormal response to a normal situation'.

We shouldn't underestimate the impact of the past few years on children and young adults. They were stripped of opportunities to engage in their regular activities, which would ordinarily serve to develop social skills of negotiation,

person-to-person interactions along with shared experience, etc. It's great to see a return of the after-school activities, sports, birthday parties in the younger groups. Engagement in social activity should most likely be the number one priority for parents of youngsters, while education will fall in line once you have a socially content child.

For young adults and college students, again trying to engage in sports, clubs and societies will have a positive impact on mental health.

Across all sections of society, the same type of advice applies: engage in physical activity, learn something new, keep up with healthy nutrition, temperance, rest/sleep and re-engage in the face-to-face social activities. All these elements amount to good self-care, which is the cornerstone of good mental health.

Some of us will have slipped into what we consider to be 'bad habits' or a fixed mind-set over the past few years. As I said at the talk in the Gathering Grounds, Henry Ford had a famous statement: 'If you always do what you always did, you'll always get what you always got'.

We cannot stop feeling, but we can ask ourselves how we are responding to the feeling. Is it a helpful response? Is there another perspective on it? How might I respond differently?

One of the programmes I was involved with delivering when I worked in the HSE was a Stress Control programme. During the lockdowns we were unable to deliver this programme face to face, and the HSE responded by funding the programme for online delivery. It is a very practical programme which is delivered over six 90-minute sessions in a three-week period, rolling throughout the year. Dr Jim White (Clinical Psycholo-





gist) is the author of this Cognitive Behaviour-informed training. It's a great first-step approach to understanding your own response to stress/anxiety and can be undertaken from the comfort of your own sofa:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/about-us/free-on->

[line-stress-control-classes.html](#). This course is available for anyone and everyone!

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

I have to say we get a great laugh interpreting some of the question-

able latte art produced. They are a bit like the historical Rorschach inkblot tests; I'm not sure I'd wish to hear what a psychologist would make of my interpretations.

*Who is your hero, and why?*

There are plenty of people who do heroic things who have to be admired; I don't think of any one individual as being my hero. However, I was very struck by a single parent with a mental illness diagnosis with whom I worked during the first lockdown. It got me thinking about my early parenting years and how challenging it was at times when Alastair worked away from home a reasonable amount of the time. I was more than happy to abdicate responsibility when he came home and got by with the knowledge that it was only for a short time.

In essence, I think that the heroes I celebrate are the single parents who get by, who struggle when times are challenging and probably must be much more resilient than those of us with backup.

*What was your favourite family vacation?*

We've had lots of happy holidays with our three daughters and rarely go back to the same spot, as there are so many places to explore. If you asked the girls that question, they'd tell you I like city breaks but that they come at the cost of wearing the legs off us all. I'm the one who does the homework on the itinerary of what cannot be missed! Vienna for the New Year is a favourite memory.

As the Irish saying goes, 'An rud is annamh is iontach'; now that the girls are all adults, we can't expect too many trips where we are all together. We were all due to go to Singapore in February 2020 but had to abandon that plan a couple of days before travelling. Singapore had started to go into lockdown; we missed out on our trip and suffered financial losses. While this was disappointing for us, it was a case of us all shifting our perspective from losing out to staying healthy.

## FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY



### PLAY CAFÉ DOES CHURCH

Play Café is focused on supporting the parents, grandparents and carers of under-fives in the parish and community. Since the days of lockdown, we have maintained a connection with young Play Café families in a variety of creative ways—craft packs, weekly Zoom sessions and, for the past year, the Get OWT! (Outside with Toddlers) programme. Originally a resource from the Salvation Army, we have adapted and added to the material to suit our setting. It is a family-oriented programme, using nature to nurture little ones and their families, though there is the occasional week when the weather goes against us, with less getting out as we move indoors.

Our weekly gatherings have developed into an exciting and engaging outdoor experience which many families have said is the highlight of their week, giving structure, routine and familiarity for the children and an opportunity for mums, dads, grandparents and carers to be together. There are often tears when the time comes for us to finish and the children don't want it to end. Each week we have a trail around the grounds, sensory and messy play and hands-on activities, all helping to nurture families and the young children in



what is now a strong community with a sense of belonging and a warm welcome for everyone who joins us.

We now have over 50 families who connect with us, helping to make the group what it is. Each week we are fully booked up with a waiting list, as invariably we have unforeseen cancellations, and places can be offered out and even 'on the day spaces' for anyone who

needs last-minute plans. This is just one aspect of the group which we hope offers a personal touch, along with our WhatsApp group, our volunteers and personal connections in between sessions. We hope that those who come to us know that we are about more than Wednesday mornings; we are here if you need to get out of the house, have someone to chat to or to sound off to! Our mission is to create a supportive, safe, caring space which offers a sociable, fun experience for both the grown-ups and children. Everyone is welcome and we do our best to be friendly, welcoming and supportive.

Inviting Play Café families into a worship experience (see picture left) has been part of our vision for some time now, although Covid stymied our plans somewhat. That being said, we took the earliest opportunity we could to open the church doors to the group. So back in April we were delighted to invite families from both Play Café Gets OWT and Bumps & Babes (an offshoot of Play Café that meets informally also on Wednesday mornings in the Gathering Grounds) into the church for a short Easter celebration. We were joined by Revd Rob, who brought along his guitar and helped keep us in tune! Between a fun puppet script, singing and prayer, Rob, Lynn and Linda shared the message of the Easter story with the children and their grown-ups. The pews were full of excited children, while the aisle was full of buggies and prams. It was a real joy and a wonderful experience for everyone. This was the first of our Play Café does Church occasions, which we have now pencilled in to be a regular pattern of the group every month or two. At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our next time in church, which will be around Pentecost and when Play Café Gets OWT! is a year old. So, we plan a 'Together We Celebrate' party in the church. Watch this space as we make more connections between the church and community.

Lynn Storey



The confirmation group on the way to the chipper from Ovoca.

### CONFIRMATION WEEKEND

Nine candidates received confirmation in June. We will have a photo to show in our next edition. In the meantime, above and in the centre spread are a couple of photos from the Ovoca confirmation weekend away.

### SAYING FAREWELL BY BRIAN HICKEY

I have rewritten this about five times now! How do you express in 800 words or less what you want to convey to the people who have invited you into their community such as Kilternan? I suppose the fullest expression of how I feel about this community would be to use the words I shared with my teenagers when I announced I was stepping down: 'Being your youth worker has not just been the greatest honour of my career, it has been the greatest honour of my life'.

I have made enough memories in four years to last me a lifetime. I'll never forget that time I had to retrieve a basketball from a beam in the hall. And no, I won't be revealing how I got it down either. The chats with the young people, from Juliette, Ellie, Grace, Jack and Ashton to Daniel, Ben, Meg, etc. I could keep naming names, but I would run out of space!

I think I will miss the

conversations most. Youth group is great, like when you have to drink a can of coke through a sock, or have an egg cracked over your head, or just having to look incredibly stupid for any reason, but when you have 15–30 young people it can become more like crowd management. Getting to sit and talk with people young and old was what I thrived on. It's what I will remember most.

There have, of course, been many highs and lows during my

time here. Seeing young people grow and mature has been a joy, but also seeing them embrace the work I have been doing here. They could have easily turned around and said 'Nah, we aren't up for that', but they were for it and supported me in the work. They have made being the youth worker here much easier by their attitude towards it. Speaking of support, all the volunteers who took time out of their evenings to help with the various groups—you are all legends!

A low time for me would have been lockdown. I found it particularly hard to navigate those choppy waters. It was very hard to motivate myself to get onto each Zoom call. I think in the height of the first lockdown I was doing youth group four times a week and then had a Kilternan kids' group too—it was exhausting. I think the biggest teaching point for me, though, was realising how much I enjoyed the young people's company. They really are a fantastic group. I can't speak more highly of them, and as we came back to in-person work, it filled me so much. To the people of Kilternan I say this: keep investing in your young people. They have brought so much life to the parish. Although



Brian with one of his group at Messy Church

you might not see them on Sunday mornings because of other commitments, they are still very much part of the community here.

While I am speaking to the people of this parish, can I just say thanks. You have been some of my biggest supporters in my time here and have made it such a joy to come into work every day. I won't name names, but you have been incredible, and I will always appreciate it. I will, however, make special mention of our unreal staff team. I couldn't think of a better group of individuals to help and support me in my time here. Kevin, Carol, Rob, Julie, Lynn and Annemarie—I cannot speak more highly of you all. It has been a pleasure to be part of the team. You have all in your own way looked after me and for that I'm deeply appreciative.

Hey Kiltiernan, you have a class staff team, by the way; you have no idea how blessed you are with the team! They have the best interests of the parish at heart, and they will continue to serve you all in the best way they know how.

I would extend that message to the young people of the parish. You can trust that Rob and the team have you in mind. Just because I am stepping down from the role doesn't mean that it's the end of KYM. Youth work will continue in the parish; it will grow bigger and better than I could ever have dreamed of. I'll just be cheering you on from the sidelines now. You will get a new youth worker and I will be a thing of the past. And that is normal. When I was a teenager, I went through four or five youth workers, so you needn't worry about that.

And let me finish by saying to the young people once again: being your youth worker has not just been the greatest honour of my career, it has been the greatest honour of my life.

*We wish Brian every blessing as he continues his journey, and we thank him for everything he has done for us. We will have a formal goodbye at the Sunday Night at the Gathering Grounds on 26 June.*

## COMMUNITY AND WIDER CHURCH

### BALLYOGAN REGIONAL TEMPORARY REST CENTRE

Local authorities, State and community and volunteer agencies have joined together in the provision of temporary rest centres for displaced Ukrainian nationals, as well as providing assistance to follow-on longer-term accommodation across the state.

Following a series of meetings between senior council staff from the relevant local authorities, fire officers and civil defence, a large DLR Council-owned facility on Ballyogan Road, adjacent to the council's Ballyogan Operations Centre and Ballyogan Recycling Centre, was identified as the site most suitable to fulfil the regional need.

This facility will be the East Region Temporary Rest Centre facility and will accommodate up to 300 displaced Ukrainian nationals for short periods. Thereafter they will be allocated longer-term accommodation in other areas of the state.

It is difficult for us to imagine what it must be like to be one of these families. We commit to holding them in our prayers, but we also present ourselves as a support resource over the days ahead. I will use the weekly announcements to make the congregation aware if there are any things in particular that they may need, or any concrete things that we can offer.

### THE UKRAINIAN HUB IN DÚN LAOGHAIRE

On the suggestion of a friend, I paid a visit in mid-May to the Ukrainian Hub at Unit 2, George's Mall, in the shopping centre in Dún Laoghaire. My friend had told me that suitcases were very popular with their 'customers', so I took a couple from the attic, along with some good-as-new items of clothing. I was rewarded with a hug from two sisters with small children.

The hub was started in Sandycove by several Russian women living here. They now have



a unit and some storage in the shopping centre and, with the support of a team of volunteers, the hub is open from 10:00–16:30 Monday to Saturday.

Good-as-new casual clothes for children (from age five preferably) and adults are gratefully received, as are toys, games, backpacks and the above-mentioned suitcases! Shoes and other essential items are purchased, often at cost price, with funds raised through their GoFundMe page.

Visit their website, [www.ukrainianhubdlr.ie](http://www.ukrainianhubdlr.ie), or, if you're on Facebook, have a look at their page for updates on what's required and for other bits of relevant information for our Ukrainian visitors: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/ukrainehubdl/>.

It's been hard to know how best we can help the Ukrainian people who have arrived here, and this is one practical way to offer support. If you'd like further information or have items which you'd like to donate, please do contact me.

Mary White, 087 987 7377

## WELCOME TO A NEW NEIGHBOUR

Revd David Bowles has been appointed the new rector of Whitechurch Parish. He is currently serving in the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

David is a local, having grown up in Blackrock and attended St Brigid's National School in Stillorgan. He is related to the late Daphne Athy; indeed, it was fairly recently that he visited Kiltiernan for his nephew's baptism.

David previously served as Curate Assistant in Douglas Union of Parishes, in Cork, Cloyne and Ross from 2015 to 2019, then as Priest-in-Charge of Moviddy Union of Parishes, west of Cork City, and also part-time Healthcare Chaplain in Cork University Hospital and the Bon Secours Hospital in Cork city. He is currently on the Diocesan Youth Council and chair of the children's ministry group in Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

We are delighted to have him,

his wife Michelle and their two children, Harry and Hannah, next door. Keep them in your prayers as they begin their ministry.

David succeeds Canon Horace McKinley, who retired last year.

## BABY LOSS REMEMBRANCE SERVICE IN CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

The Mariposa Trust's core objective is to support people who have lost babies at any stage of pregnancy, at birth or in infancy. It was founded in 2012 by Zoe and Andy Clark-Coates, who saw a critical lack of support for people like them, who had gone through baby loss. With over 258,000 babies being lost yearly in the UK alone, the charity needed to be able to offer not only a comprehensive package of befriending and support but also national baby loss remembrance services (called Saying Goodbye services) for people to join together and remember the children they had lost. Six years on, over 150 services have taken place at cathedrals and minsters across the UK, US and France, and 2022 will see twenty services across England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

They will be hosting a Saying Goodbye service on 25 June at 5pm in Christ Church Cathedral.

So, who is the service for? It is for anyone who has either personally lost a baby at any stage of pregnancy, at birth or in early years, or who has been affected by family members' or friends' loss. Whether the loss was recent or 80 years ago, everyone is welcome to attend. We have also extended the services, and gladly welcome anyone who is grieving the fact that they haven't had children. This may be due to circumstance, infertility or other reasons, but all are welcome. Babies and children are also invited to come with their families, as the Saying Goodbye service is truly a family event for all.

To read more on the charity, please see the Saying Goodbye website, which you can find at [www.sayinggoodbye.org](http://www.sayinggoodbye.org).

## BOOK REVIEW

*Hope from the margins: church history informing mission today*, by Laurence Graham

We were delighted to launch this book in June. Laurence Graham is the Superintendent Minister of Dublin Central Mission and General Secretary of Irish Methodist World Mission Partnership, this book provides a reflection on what it means to live as a missional congregation in a changing world.

*Is there any hope for the future of the church in the Western world as it loses its former position of influence? 'The Church is not where it used to be. We're marginalised.' That's how many Christians feel in Ireland today and throughout the Western world. But that does not need to be bad news! During its first three centuries the Church was small, under pressure and marginalised, yet it grew. Based on extensive academic research, Laurence Graham examines the ways in which the early church went about mission both within the Roman Empire and beyond. These lessons are then applied to mission in Ireland today through the lens of the author's over 25 years' ministry experience in local churches—big and small, old and new. The conclusion? Yes, the Church today is increasingly marginalised. But from the margins Christians can still demonstrate and share hope. This new book from Praxis Press has been welcomed by Church leaders from across the theological spectrum in Ireland.*

*Hope from the margins is a fascinating journey through the panorama of church history, exploring how Christians have shared and demonstrated the good news of Jesus Christ down through the ages. But this is not a history textbook. By pondering how the past can inform our present and future, Laurence Graham's timely and essential book draws from his years of experience of grassroots mission. Hope from the margins is an inspiring and thought-provoking 'must read' for anyone passionate about finding authentic, contextualised approaches to Gospel ministry in contemporary Ireland.—Ruth Garvey Williams, Editor, Vox Magazine.*

Copies of the book are available at Praxis Press: <http://www.praxispress.ie/>



### LECTIONARY RAMBLINGS: PSALM 8 (NRSV)

*O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! You have set Your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants You have founded a bulwark because of Your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars that You have established; what are human beings that You are mindful of them, mortals that You care for them? Yet You have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honour. You have given them dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!*

When was the last time the beauty of the natural world made you stop and thank God for sharing some of His splendour with us?

There are times in life—maybe when things are going well, or maybe when things have taken a turn for the worse—when we feel like we are the centre of everything. All our thoughts, all our work, even all our prayers are focused on ourselves. But there are other times, holier times, when some still, small voice reminds us to look beyond ourselves to see what God has done.

On Easter Sunday, many of us walked up towards the lead mines to watch the sun rise. It was cloudy and we didn't see much sun. But I saw birds finding their breakfast. I felt the cool breeze that I could hear moving through the limbs and leaves around me. What a beautiful morning it was! Everywhere I looked there was evidence of a God Who loves us. The world and the cosmos that He has created is truly awe-inspiring.

What's even more amazing is that God has set up humanity as His crowning creation. He entrusts this beautiful world to us and intends for us to act as faithful guardians and stewards for His name's sake. 'O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!'

### ENGAGING THE SENSES

One of the criticisms levelled at the Church of Ireland is that we, along with the rest of the Anglican family, are too wordy. It's true—we like our words, and we take great joy in the textual dimension of worship. We take pride in being able to recite familiar prayers, often in the traditional form. There is nothing wrong with this, and it's something rich that we bring to ecumenical endeavour.

However, it's become clear in recent years that, when it comes to the subject of faith, there are generally three ways in which people learn: scholarly/intellectual, emotional/intuitive and kinesthetic/practical. People who fit into the first category lean heavily on the written word. Others experience God through different

means, and if we are going to enable worship for everyone we shouldn't neglect the non-textual dimensions of our worship.

The most obvious is music, and for many of us it's hard to imagine worship without song. Music can take many forms, from hymnody to contemporary and from instrumental to chant. But there are other ways in which our sound can shape our worship, things as simple as footsteps, perhaps the pouring of water or wine, or the clapping of hands.

Visual learners, not surprisingly, find the visual dimension of worship most significant. The human face is central to visual engagement during worship, which is why a smile and eye contact matter. Signs and symbols may also be important—the flickering candle, or the cross, or the stained-glass window.

Other senses may not always be so frequently engaged, but the taste of bread and wine is likely to be a valued experience for many. Touch is important for some—the handshake during the peace (a casualty during Covid), the laying on of hands during prayer or the handling of prayer beads. This is closely linked to posture.

Kinesthetic learners like to be physically engaged, to stand or bow, to raise their hands, or to make the sign of the cross. They also tend to appreciate movement, processions or dance.

In some traditions smells are engaged with incense, or through freshly cut flowers. We shouldn't underestimate the smell of coffee brewing in the background in the Gathering Grounds, a signal of conversation and hospitality.

It's probably unlikely that Cranmer, who wrote the Book of Common Prayer, was aware of our spiritual senses when he wrote the prayer book. But recent liturgical innovation has tended to attend to this. This is a good thing and produces more holistic worship. Our hope is that, whatever spiritual style you have, you will find an experience of God that works.

## KILTERNAN COI NATIONAL SCHOOL TAKES PART IN LIVING FAITH, LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

A wonderful new book highlighting the history of Church of Ireland parishes through the eyes of schoolchildren in Dublin & Glendalough was launched on 1 April. *Living Faith, Living History* features the work of young historians and researchers and is the fruit of an exhibition to which they contributed in Christ Church Cathedral last year.

The book was written by children in ten Church of Ireland schools around the United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough. Kilternan Parish was delighted to be one of the ten. They were expertly directed by their teachers (well done, Miss Nolan), supported by their principals and other staff in the schools, and assisted by the clergy and laity of their local parish.

As part of their projects, children explored the history of their parish churches. They explored graveyards. They found out information about the local history of their church and their school. They also explored the current life of their parish. They interviewed people involved with the parish. They found out the activities that take place in their parish, as well as finding out about the links between their school and their parish. Some of them also wrote prayers for their parish and their school. They made wonderful artwork, including pictures of churches, of graveyards, of stained-glass windows and of activities in the parish.

The book was edited by the Revd Prof. Anne Lodge and Archbishop Michael Jackson and launched by historian Dr Ida Milne in Christ Church Cathedral.

Launching the book, which is filled with drawings, pictures and photographs, Dr Ida Milne commended the children on their work. 'For some of you this is the first time for you appearing in print. But it is the first of many, as you are all historians, journalists and writers,' she said. She added that the book contained important oral histories, de-



tails on church memorials, histories of church bells and buildings, explorations of parish graveyards and crypts, and discussions on organs and organists. 'All this information would be of great use to historians in the future,' she commented.

The project was a shared initiative between the Church of Ireland Centre in DCU, the United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough and Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.

### PSALM 23—THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

In primary school our teacher would teach us psalms from time to time, not in any particular order, or so we thought at the time. Now, however, as I read through the Book of Psalms, it would seem that our teacher was very deliberate in his choice, selecting those that were short and easier for us to learn.

So, what is a psalm?

The Book of Psalms is a collection of hymns, prayers and poems that were written over a long period of time by different authors. They were read, sung and chanted by the people of Israel as part of their worship, and were collected from the time of David through to the time after the exile.

The psalms include poems of contrasting types; some are prayers seeking God's help, His rescue and protection, while others are calls for forgiveness and outpourings of thanks for God's goodness. There are also psalms asking God to punish the enemy. While some psalms deal with the feelings of individuals, others are concerned with issues of national importance.

But the most constant theme

throughout the psalms is the greatness of God's creation and His immense love for the people of Israel. Every type of human emotion and experience can be found in the psalms, and this has helped make them favourite readings throughout the ages. But most of all they express a deep faith in the living God.

Psalm 23 has been a source of strength and reassurance for many for thousands of years, and I recently found the following version, which is entitled 'A psalm for people like us'.

*When we are isolated and alone, we remember God is with us; we place our hands in His hands.*

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want*

*When we are tired and confused ... He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters.*

*When we are worn out with worry ... He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for His name's sake.*

*When we are sick and afraid and grieving ...*

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for You are with me, Your rod and Your staff comfort me.*

*When we face difficulties today and hope for a better tomorrow ...*

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

*In the face of trouble and difficulties of all kinds, we remember Jesus' promise of life beyond death ...*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.*

*Amen.*

Carol Barry



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



Our Service room can comfortably accommodate up to 130 people.



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



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

Old Connaught Avenue, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 PX65

T: +353 1 272 0777

www.colliersfuneraldirectors.com E: info@colliersfuneraldirectors.com



## PRIVATE HIRE, AIRPORT TRANSFERS and WICKLOW TOURS

Fintan Keogh

# 086 268 5865

keoghfintan | @gmail.com



## ROSSPRINT.ie

GREYSTONES

Leaflets & Brochures

Branding & Stationery

Websites

Promotional Products

A VERY PERSONAL SERVICE

print signage web

ian@rossprint.ie | 01 287 6612

## Kiltiernan Picture Framing

Over 200 Frame Styles  
Available

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



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

Showrooms open: Monday to Friday 9am  
to 5:30pm &  
Sat 10am to 1pm.

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