



*The Grouped Parishes of  
Booterstown and Carysfort with Mount Merrion*

# St Philip & St James' Church & St Thomas' Church



**RECTOR:**  
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the **Monk Gibbon Hall,**  
(**St Thomas' Church**  
**Hall**):

T: 087-1849870 on  
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9.00-13.00 hours.  
E: [monkgibbonhall@gmail.com](mailto:monkgibbonhall@gmail.com)

For all **bookings** for  
**St Philip and St**  
**James' Parish Centre:**  
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1780653

## AUTUMN 2021 NEWSLETTER

**God didn't stop, and neither did we!** Inevitably, every conversation whether it is with someone you know or a complete stranger, the conversation is about the coronavirus pandemic and the impact of it on all our lives. Often people, (from outside the parish) say to me "When were you able to start having services again?" and I tell them that we never stopped! They didn't happen in the usual way but we have had a service every Sunday in our group of parishes, from the initial short services recorded on my phone, thanks to Mike Lee, to the live-stream services, thanks to the webcam and Graham Hayes. Whilst many things could not go ahead, and many things disappeared from our lives, worship and prayer has continued, and church (as in the community) and God did not disappear. The online services, online Midweek Prayer and Chat on a Wednesday morning and our Midweek Musical Treats were the online ways of trying to keep connecting with people and to keep worshipping. Thank you to Mike Lee, Graham Hayes, Mike Hayes, Charles Pearson and Alan Rowden who helped to make those happen.

With the easing of restrictions over the past few weeks, activities in our parish halls have begun to resume, and elsewhere in this newsletter, there is information about those things. The government's roadmap envisages a final lifting of restrictions on 22nd October 2021 including that of social distancing which will make a significant difference to the capacity of our churches but especially to St Thomas' Church which has been operating with 12 pods plus a churchwarden's pod for the past 18 months whenever we have been allowed to have in-person worship. However, given the recent numbers of COVID-19 cases and hospitalisations, there is a possibility that the final part of the roadmap may be delayed. We await further information.

**Sunday Clubs:** Given the current numbers and the fact that children are in pods within their school classes, we are not going to re-open the Sunday Clubs just yet. We feel that it would be safer to wait until after the schools have reopened after Christmas and to then consider re-opening our Sunday Clubs in both churches.

**Remembering:** Last year, All Saints' Day was on a Sunday and we said that if anyone would like someone who had died, to be remembered at that service to let us know and that we would light a tea-light candle for them. Such was the response that we had to do it on the third Sunday of November as well. We will be doing it again this year. If you would like someone remembered, please send me a note, a text or an email.

**Sausage Service WITH Sausages and Wedges!** During the pandemic, we have had online 'Sausageless Services'!!! Not the same thing at all! Subject to government restrictions, from Sunday 14th November 2021, we will be back having in-person Sausage Services on the second Sunday of the month at 18.30 hours in St Philip and St James' Church, followed by sausages and potato wedges.

**Select Vestries:** Thank you to the members of the select vestries who have kept looking after the fabric, furnishings and finance of our parishes in difficult circumstances—we are zoomed out from online vestry meetings!

*Gillian*





# REGISTERS

*From 5th August 2021, we were allowed to resume doing baptisms and we are looking forward to welcoming a number of children into the worldwide family of the church. We were delighted to have our first baptism in church on Sunday 5th September 2021.*

## Holy Baptism

**Emilie Grace Feeney**, the younger daughter of Stefanie O'Brien Feeney and Peter Feeney, and little sister of Annabelle, was baptised on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in St Philip and St James' Church Booterstown.

Emilie's grandparents, Georgina (née Orme) and Paul O'Brien were married over forty years ago in St Philip and St James' Church, so the family connection with the parish goes across the generations. Emilie's big sister Annabelle helped pour the water into the font, and the readings were read by Emilie's uncle Kevin Feeney and one of her godmothers, Karen Pierpoint. Her other two godparents, Katie Feeney and her family in Ireland, and Andrew Feeney, and his family in Australia, joined the service via the internet. We wish Emilie every blessing on her journey of faith.

## In Memoriam

**Andrew Charles Hoffman** died on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 in The Beacon Hospital and his funeral service took place in St Philip and St James' Church on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021, with the permitted increase to 25 attendees at a funeral that day, enabling his family members attend the funeral. The funeral service was live-streamed which enabled many more being able to be part of the funeral and especially

Andrew's brother Bevin, sister-in-law Marie and niece Kate, who were not able to travel to be at the funeral. The words that kept being used of Andrew was of his kindness and generosity with his time and his expertise, always ready to help, and to go that extra mile for others, and always ready to help out colleagues with a particular problem or issue. We extend our sympathy to Andrew's mother Vi, his brothers Robert, Simon, Bevin and Edward and their families.

**Joy Elizabeth Clarke née Davis** died on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021 in The Glebe House Nursing Home in Kiltarnan where she lived since January this year. Joy was very involved in all sorts of parish activities but perhaps, she is remembered best by the many girls whom she influenced and inspired as a guide leader in St Philip and St James' Guide Company. The Trefoil Guild formed a Guard of Honour for Joy and sang 'Taps' as the coffin was taken from the church to the hearse. Joy's funeral which took place in St Philip and St James' Church on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021 was followed by cremation at Mount Jerome Crematorium. We extend our sympathy to Joy's husband Michael, and to their children, Fiona, Grania and Brian and their families.

## Interment of Ashes

The ashes of **David John Rodgers** who died on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016, and of his father **John Terence (Terry) Rodgers** who died on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019, were interred in St Philip and St James' Garden of Remembrance on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021. We extend our sympathy to Gwen (David's mum and Terry's wife), to David's wife Ning, to Allen (David's brother and Terry's son), and his family.

The ashes of **Andrew Charles Hoffman** who died on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were interred in St Philip and St James' Garden of Remembrance on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021, on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of his late father, Bob. Please continue to keep Andrew's mother Vi, his brothers Robert, Simon, Bevin and Edward and their families in your prayers.

The ashes of **Suzanne Yvette Fink** who died on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019, were interred in St Philip and St James' Garden of Remembrance on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021. We continue to hold her daughter Rachel in our prayers.

The ashes of **Lilian Roulston Allan (née Spender)** who died on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020, were interred in St Thomas' Garden of Remembrance on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021. We extend our sympathy to her niece Audrey Kellett and her nephew Dudley Hudson and their families..

## REGISTERS *continued*



The ashes of **Joy Elizabeth Clarke née Davis** who died on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021, were interred in Powerscourt Graveyard, Enniskerry, on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Please continue to keep her husband Michael, their children Fiona, Grania and Brian and their families in your prayers.

The ashes of **Kenneth (Ken) Robert Wilson** who died on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020, were interred in St Thomas' Garden of Remembrance on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021. Please continue to keep his wife Vi, their children Daphne, Graham, Naomi and their families in your prayers.

### Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to:

the Laing family on the death of Canon Sydney Laing;

Lyndon MacCann and his family on the death of his mother Dorrie;

Nigel Cole and his family on the death of his father Sam;

Alan and Pam McGurdy and their family, on the death of their daughter-in-law, Bongi;

Sharon (née Dunne) Ahern and her family on the death of her father Ronnie;

Marcus Daly and his family on the death of his brother Ivan;

Deirdre Knight (née Donnelly) and her family on the death of both of her parents on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2021, Geoffrey (in Blackrock Hospice) and Terry (in St Vincent's University Hospital), and on the death of her Theresa Morris in March 2021;

Andrew Crawford and his family on the death of his mother Liz;

Justin O'Callaghan and his family on the death of his brother Michael;

John Bourke and his family on the death of his father Geoffrey;

John Hudson and his family on the death of his father David;

Alan Robinson and his family on the death of his mother Kit.

## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION



The parishes' Christian Meditation Group has continued viz Zoom on a Tuesday afternoon at 3.30pm. If you wish to take part, please contact Irene—details below.

Men and women from all walks of life come together to express a desire for deeper meaning to their lives through meditating together.

The World Community for Christian Meditation follows the teachings of John Main OSB and over 2000 meditation groups meet in 115 countries around the world each week.

**Contact: Irene 087-275542**

Discover more: [www.christianmeditation.ie](http://www.christianmeditation.ie) [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org)

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

We had intended to hold the Blessing of the Animals Service outside St Philip and St James' on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021 at 10.30 but the weather did not cooperate with our plans, so we held it in the church. It was lovely to be able to have this much-loved service after missing out on it last year. The animals were very well-behaved and their owners were almost as well-behaved!! We had no unplanned eating episodes and every animal went home blessed!





## 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Creation of Booterstown Parish

On 29<sup>th</sup> June 1821, the deeds, constituting the new Parish of Booterstown out of Donnybrook Parish were registered.

Over the last five years, we had given much thought to how we would celebrate this, the first of a number of significant anniversaries in the life of our grouped parishes, over the next few years, but COVID-19 put paid to those plans. With the return to in-church worship in May, we were able to mark the 200th anniversary of the foundation of Booterstown Parish in a low-key way on Sunday 27th June 2021, at the united service in St Philip and St James' Church, and we had refreshments outside afterwards.

Thank you to those who decorated the church so beautifully and who provided the refreshments and put up the gazebos.



*Graham Hayes operating the webcam to livestream the service.*

In 2024, we will celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of St Philip and St James' Church which took place on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1824 and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of St Thomas' Church which took place on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1874; as well as the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the uniting of Booterstown and Carysfort Parishes in 1944, and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the grouping of Booterstown and Carysfort with Mount Merrion which began in 1994, and culminated with the institution of the Rev. Stephen Forde in 1995, and in 2026, we will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the foundation of Booterstown National School, so we are going to have a lot to celebrate over the next five years!



Parishioners enjoying refreshments outside after the service.



## ADULT CONFIRMATION

For the past few years, we have had a number of adults being confirmed or whom have re-affirmed their Confirmation promises. Some had opted out of confirmation at the time when they might have been expected to be confirmed and when their friends were being confirmed; some just never got around to it. Those who re-affirmed their confirmation vows had been confirmed previously in another Christian denomination but had now become part of the Church of Ireland, and felt that this was something that they wanted to do.

The preparation for this is done separately to the preparation for the teenage candidates. Already, there have been some enquiries from adults about the possibility of being confirmed. A lot of what is on page 5 applies here too! This is your chance to explore, to ask all those questions you have wanted to ask, and to see if confirmation (or re-affirmation) at this time is right for you.

Please contact the Rector if you are thinking about this.



# CONFIRMATION

Confirmations in our Rural Deanery (a group of five parochial units) are held in the Spring (usually February). We have yet to receive the dates and venues from the Archbishop's Office, but I very much hope that we will be hosting a confirmation service.

There will be a meeting for all those enquiring about confirmation (and their parents) on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 in St Philip and St James' Church at 8pm.

As always, I ask those who are considering Confirmation (and their parents) to think carefully about it. I take Confirmation and the preparation for Confirmation seriously, and I think it is important that we as family members, and as a parish, encourage those who wish to be confirmed, to do so with integrity.

If you are considering Confirmation, please think about the following:

1. The decision to be confirmed must be your own choice. It is not a decision for your parents, grandparents, friends, etc. to make. It is you who will be standing up in church declaring your belief in God, and affirming your faith in Jesus Christ. It is important that you feel that you can answer these and the other questions honestly. Confirmation is not the end of the journey; it is a stage on the journey of faith where you feel that you are ready to take on the promises that were made for you at baptism and take responsibility for your faith development and nurture.

It is you who will be answering the following questions:

**Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?**

**Do you believe and accept the Christian faith into which you are baptized?**

**Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?**

**Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?**

**Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?**

**Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?**

2. There is no **right age** for confirmation, but I do feel that candidates should be **at least** in 1<sup>st</sup> Year in secondary school. Please do not feel that you should be getting confirmed because you are a certain age, or even in a particular class in school. There can be a feeling that one gets confirmed in 2<sup>nd</sup> Year or 4<sup>th</sup> Year or whatever. This is a pity, because each individual matures and grows in their faith in their own way and their own time. Therefore, some feel ready to be confirmed at an earlier age than others, or at a later age than others; I have prepared people from the age of 13 years to 61 years for Confirmation. I have found that the older candidate, or the candidate who makes the decision themselves to be confirmed, is more aware they are of what is involved, and what they are promising and committing to at Confirmation.

3. Candidates sometimes feel that because they have started going to Confirmation classes, they cannot 'back out' of being confirmed even if they feel that they are not ready for it. Please do not feel that this is the case. I have had candidates who have postponed being confirmed because they felt that they were not ready to take on the commitment, and I admire the care and honesty with which they have approached Confirmation.

Confirmation is an exciting time for those considering it, and for a parish or group of parishes. We, as a group of parishes, will support those preparing for Confirmation by our prayers and our encouragement.

## EASTER GENERAL VESTRIES

**The Easter General Vestry for Mount Merrion Parish was held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 via Zoom, and the following were elected or appointed:**

Rector's Churchwarden – Patricia Bedlow      People's Churchwarden – Sheila Chamberlain  
People's Glebwarden – Denis Beare

**The following were also elected to serve on the Select Vestry:**

Judith Donlon, Aideen Hartney (*Honorary Secretary*), Cedric Heather, John Hudson, Alan McGurdy, Michael McWilliam, Myrtle McWilliam, Ian Mullen (*Honorary Treasurer*), William Robertson, Hilary Turner, Clair Wallace.

**The following were elected in 2020 to serve 2020-2023:**

Parochial Nominators – Denis Beare and Sheila Chamberlain  
Supplemental Parochial Nominators – Ian Mullen and Joan Sherlock-Robertson.  
Diocesan Synodsperson – Clair Wallace (now William Robertson)  
Supplemental Diocesan Synodsperson – TBC

**The Easter General Vestry for Booterstown and Carysfort Parish was held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. 2021 in St Philip and St James' Church, and the following were elected or appointed:**

Rector's Churchwarden – June Burgess      People's Churchwarden – Deirdre Kennedy  
Rector's Glebwarden – Gordon Richards      People's Glebwarden – Justin O'Callaghan.

**The following were also elected to serve on the Select Vestry:**

Viola Brady, Marcus Daly, Cecilia Faulim Quadros, Michael Hayes, Joy Hurst, Jill Lacey (*Honorary Secretary*), Stephanie Morris, Damian Phelan, Barbara Plant, David Reid, Denise Richards, Quentin Teggin (*Honorary Treasurer*).

**The following were elected in 2020 to serve 2020-2023:**

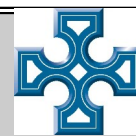
Parochial Nominators – Quentin Teggin and June Burgess;  
Supplemental Parochial Nominators – Michael Hayes and Barbara Plant.  
Diocesan Synodspersons – Stephanie Morris and Marcus Daly;  
Supplemental Diocesan Synodspersons – David Reid and Deirdre Kennedy.

## DIOCESAN SYNOD

The Diocesan Synods of Dublin and Glendalough took place on Wednesday 6th October 2021, via Zoom..

Clair Wallace, who was elected to serve as a Diocesan Synodsperson for Mount Merrion Parish is no longer in a position to serve in that capacity, and so Wil Robertson is now the Diocesan Synodsperson for Mount Merrion Parish. A Supplemental Diocesan Synodsperson will be elected at the Easter General Vestry in 2022. In addition to the Diocesan Synodspersons, Wil Robertson, Stephanie Morris and Marcus Daly; Quentin Teggin has now been elected by the Diocesan Councils to the Diocesan Synods..

## GENERAL SYNOD

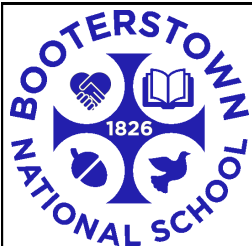


Last November, the Standing Committee decided to move the General Synod 2021 from its usual time of May to the end of September in the hope that we might be able to have a physical General Synod. However, it became apparent in early 2021 that that was not going to be possible. Hence, General Synod took place via Zoom on Thursday 30th September, Friday 1st October and Saturday 2nd October 2021. Our parishes had more people than ever participating in General Synod this year with Quentin Teggin, Gordon Richards, Marcus Daly, joining Stephanie Morris as members of General Synod. We could not possibly spend seven hours a day—which is the length of a day at a physical General Synod—on Zoom, hence we had two-hour sessions each day, on the morning and evening of Thursday 30th September 2021, on the afternoon and evening of Friday 1st October 2021 and a final two-hour session on the morning of Saturday 2nd October 2021.

There was a pre-recorded Opening Service of the General Synod which is still available for everyone to view and worship with, on the Church of Ireland and the General Synod websites..



# BOOTERSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL



Rachel Fraser, who was our Principal for the last eleven years was appointed as Principal of Taney Parish Primary School in May 2021 and she took up her new appointment on 1st September 2021. We wish her the very best. The recruitment for a new principal for BNS is in train.

On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021, we held a special assembly via Zoom to say farewell to Rachel and presented her with various gifts from the children, the Parent-Teacher Association, the Board of Management and the Staff.

At a special service in St Philip and St James' Church on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021, we thanked the outgoing 6<sup>th</sup> Class for all that they had contributed to the school in their time with us, and sent them on their way to their respective secondary schools with our good wishes and blessing.



*The tadpoles and frogs under intense scrutiny from some of the pupils in Canon Wharton's garden pond last spring!*

Over the summer, the school was re-roofed and we are delighted to have this work completed. We will really notice the difference when the weather gets colder.

There are some staff changes this year: in addition to me being the Acting Principal, Becky Prenter is the Acting Deputy Principal, Emma Nolan who covered the Principal's Administrative Days last year is teaching 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Classes while Dee Langrell is on Parental Leave for the first two terms; Elaine Keane is teaching 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Classes until a new principal takes up the role; and Eimear Fallon is covering the Principal's Administrative Days.

Last year, we submitted a number of entries in a competition run by Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to design a poster to encourage people to reduce their refuse, to recycle items and to use bins. We were delighted that Katie Hiles' entry won and her poster can be seen around the area on signposts and on bins. See the photo below—well done Katie!

We have had a really busy first month back. We re-opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021, and extend a particular warm welcome to our new Junior Infants and new families throughout the school.

In the Infant room the pupils really enjoyed AISTEAR with the theme being 'Back to school and getting to know you'. The Infants also enjoyed creating hand print hedgehogs and learning about the importance of exercise during 'bicycle week'.

In 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Classes, the pupils have been busy with our Green School's initiative and participated in the 'Picker Pals' zoom webinar to learn about litter and its negative effect on nature.

In 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Classes, the pupils have been enjoying using the iPads, in particular playing 'Math Playground!' They also participate in circle time at the end of each school day to relax.

In 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Classes, the pupils have been researching and drafting biographies about their favourite celebrities ranging from political figures, to sports people, to authors and poets.

The whole school is enjoying our weekly outdoor assemblies with Canon Wharton where we can sing, pray and celebrate birthdays together!

The Parent-Teacher Association had their AGM on Tuesday 28th September 2021 and as we thank Linda Bell for her contribution as the outgoing Chairperson, we welcome Pamela Potterton as the new Chairperson of the PTA and wish her well.

**Shameela Lyons**  
*Acting Principal*



*Katie Hiles with her award-winning poster for bins in the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County. This particular bin is located at the junction of Cross Avenue and Mount Merrion Avenue.*



# Our United Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held in St Philip and St James' Church on Sunday 10th October 2021 at 10.30, and we also gave thanks for the Harvest at the 8.30 Holy Communion Service in St Thomas' Church.



We were delighted to welcome **Alice Leahy** of the Alice Leahy Trust as our guest speaker at the 10.30 Service.

The children and adults of the parishes and the school brought in an extraordinary amount of non-perishable food and hygiene items to school during the week leading up to the Harvest Thanksgiving and during the two services that Sunday morning. The items included rice, pasta, cereals, porridge, sugar, flour, tinned foods of every kind, packets of soup, sugar, tea, coffee, flour, biscuits, sweets, pot noodles, pot curries, pot porridge, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, shower gel, female hygiene products, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hoodies, etc.

These were all sorted the following day and delivered to *The Capuchin Day Centre* which is based on Bow Street, Dublin 7. <https://www.capuchindaycentre.ie/> and to *The Alice Leahy Trust* on Bride Road, Dublin 8. <https://aliceleahytrust.ie/>



*The Capuchin Day Centre* provides 700-800 hot meals everyday. Due to COVID-19, these are now provided as takeaways and the service users are able to go into St Mary of the Angels' Church on Church Street and eat their meals there. Baby supplies are available on Mondays from the Centre and over 1,500 grocery parcels are given out every Wednesday at the Day Centre.



*June Sherlock, wearing two crab apples from her garden at the Service in St Thomas' Church as we gave thanks for the Harvest.*

*The Alice Leahy Trust provides medical and related services to the homeless from their base. Their service users can shower, get their feet and medical needs taken care of, get a clean, fresh set of clothes, and food.*

*The decorations for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service in ST Philip and St James' Church were amazing! There was something beautiful in every corner,! Thank you to the army of people who decorated at various times on Friday and Saturday, and thank you to those who donated flowers, fruit and vegetables.*





# THE ALICE LEAHY TRUST



**TRUST**, now known as **THE ALICE LEAHY TRUST** continues to do extraordinary work in difficult circumstances.

In our two parishes, we have an ongoing working relationship with **THE ALICE LEAHY TRUST**. **TRUST** was founded in 1975 as a private charitable trust (Charity No. CHY7014), and since then has been working with people who are homeless in Dublin. It is a non-political, non-denominational voluntary body which provides medical and related services for people who are homeless, operating out of a premises provided at a nominal rent by the Iveagh Trust. Up to 50 men (mostly men) and women call each morning, the majority of whom are sleeping out (aged 18 to 85 years).

**TRUST is urgently in need the following items:**

## **MEN'S CLOTHING ....**

**Hoodies; jeans; track-suit bottoms; jumpers; water-proof jackets; long-johns (underwear—must be new); strong, sturdy shoes (preferably runners)**

## **THEY ALSO NEED ....**

**pot noodles (preferably chicken); pot curries (preferably chicken); cup-a-soups; mini-bars (chocolate, etc.); toiletries (shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes, female hygiene products)**

The items can be left at the back of either of the churches and they will then be taken into **THE ALICE LEAHY TRUST**.

Parishioners have been very generous over the years to **TRUST** (and its successor, **THE ALICE LEAHY TRUST**) and it is very much appreciated. But we would ask you to think carefully about the items that you donate; these items must be appropriate and suitable for people who are living on the streets. High-heel shoes, cocktail dresses, bikinis, etc. are all items that have been left at the back of our churches and these are **NOT** suitable.

Thank you to Sheila Chamberlain from St Thomas' and Viola Brady and Denise Richards from St Philip and St James' who sort the items and to Viola Brady who liaises with **THE ALICE LEAHY TRUST** and takes the items into them.

Please continue to help—your generosity is much appreciated—but please ensure that you give suitable and appropriate items, as listed above.

## LENTEN 2021 CHALLENGE



Thank you to all who took part in the Lenten Challenge. People walked, cycled, scooted and did all a variety of things for the Challenge, and endured some discomfort and pain at times as a few blisters made their presence known on feet and on the derrière of some cyclists!!!

Thank you to all who have donated so generously – it really was extraordinary. The primary aim of the Challenge was to take something up that would be of benefit for our physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health, and if whilst doing that, we could help others as well, that would be great. I originally hoped that we might raise €3,000 and be able to give €1,000 each to The Irish Cancer Society, Protestant Aid and to our parishes' 'poor' fund. We raised €15,000 which is amazing! It was wonderful to be able to send €5,000 to the Irish Cancer Society and to Protestant Aid—both of whom were very grateful and appreciative to the parishes; and the parishes' 'poor' fund and our parishes benefitted by the remaining €5,000.

Well done and thank you!



# DUBLIN STAGE SCHOOL

## (FORMERLY STAGECOACH)

We at Dublin Stage School are delighted to be part of this community, our Part Time Theatre schools run weekly in St Philip and St James' Parish Centre.



We are back indoors running operating safely and are now taking bookings for our Spring Term 2022.

Our classes for 4 to 18 year-olds include lessons in Dance, Drama and Singing on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in the parishcentre.



Our Summer Camps were sold out last year and you can book online for July and August 2022 soon.

[www.dublinstageschool.ie](http://www.dublinstageschool.ie) to book or enquire.

Any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us

Best Wishes,

Evan & Emma

**Evan & Emma Holton | Managers | Dublin Stage School**

98 Inagh Court Ballybrack Co Dublin A96N9E2

**T:** 01 2722276 | **M:** 086 8919240 | **M:** 086 0816866

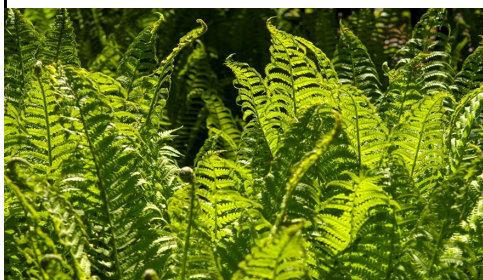
**E:** [info@dublinstageschool.ie](mailto:info@dublinstageschool.ie) | **W:** [www.dublinstageschool.ie](http://www.dublinstageschool.ie)



## 'One Step Too Far Away – One Breath Too Near'

### An online Advent retreat for lay people and for clergy

### Organised by the Commission on Ministry



**Saturday 20th November 2021**

**9.30 am – 1.00 pm**

Held online by Zoom – free of charge. For booking or further information, please contact Catherine Smith at [catherine.smith@rcbdub.org](mailto:catherine.smith@rcbdub.org)

**Speaker:** The Rev Ruth Patterson is a Presbyterian minister, and for the last 29 years has been Director of Restoration Ministries, a non-denominational, Christian organisation committed to peace and reconciliation.

In 1976, she was the first woman to be ordained in Ireland. She was the recipient of the Alumna of the Year 2000 award (Edinburgh University / Royal Bank of Scotland), in 2001 an honorary doctorate from the Presbyterian Theology Faculty of Ireland, and in 2003 was awarded an OBE for her efforts in reconciliation.

She has authored five books and numerous articles stemming from her commitment to unity and peace. She is one of four church representatives to L'Arche International and holds the post of Ecumenical Canon in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. She is on the Board of Oneings, a bi-annual publication of the Centre for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



# 25TH DUBLIN (MOUNT MERRION) SCOUT GROUP



## 25<sup>th</sup> Dublin Scout Group COVID-style!

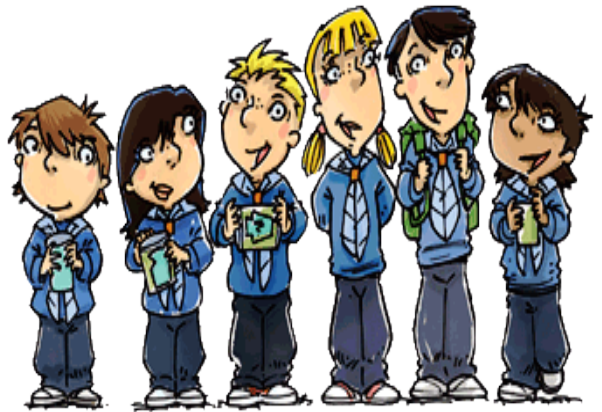
We're delighted to be back again after such a long absence! The Ventures and the Scouts kept in touch online during lockdown, while the Cubs and Beavers received regular challenges in the post to earn some skills badges. When we were allowed to meet outdoors, all sections did so safely in small groups, enjoying some hikes, shelter building, orienteering and cooking over open fires. No group camps have been permitted since

early 2020 and we have really missed those memorable annual experiences. However, in recent months, Scouts/Ventures were allowed either to construct individual bivouacs and sleep in them overnight or camp in separate tents. Ours did both and this made up for the lack of a real camp!



All sections will be in operation, both outdoors and indoors, by the end of September. We are delighted to welcome several new leaders, Karena, Laoise and Amy (Beaver section), Kasia (Cub section) and Seán, Ciara and Rachel (Scout section), all of whom trained during lockdown.

We are starting the year with twelve Beavers and would love to welcome a few more, girls in particular. We have twenty Cubs and roughly the same number of Scouts. The majority of our 9 Ventures will be sitting the Leaving Cert next summer and so they are considering the value of meeting less often but yet regularly, so as to take time out of their studies and keep in touch with Scouting and one another. We are blessed with our adult teams in all sections under the leadership of Johanna, Neil and Maggie (Ventures and Scouts) and Lyndsey (Cubs). It was their enthusiasm, creative thinking and determination that helped us to make our way carefully through the ups and downs of the pandemic.



Back in 1907, our founder, Robert Baden-Powell, stressed the importance of hand hygiene and the value of working in small groups. The pandemic has certainly reinforced these notions and we intend to operate within the wise guidelines of both B.P. and the HSE as we head into the new season of activity and adventure.

We wish all parishioners well as together we adapt to the 'new normal'.

**Lesley Rankin**  
(Group Leader)

***Places available for Beavers,  
particularly girls, please contact  
Group Leader, Lesley Rankin at  
lesleyhrankin@gmail.com***



## GDPR—PARISHES' PRIVACY POLICY

Thank you to all those who have completed and returned their GDPR Forms. There are still some forms outstanding. If you have not done so, and you wish the parishes to be able to keep in contact with you, please complete and return a GDPR Form now. Forms are available from the Rector.



For further information on our GDPR policies please see [www.booterstownchurch.ie](http://www.booterstownchurch.ie) or [www.mountmerriionchurch.ie](http://www.mountmerriionchurch.ie). Click *About Us* and then on *Parish Privacy Policy*.

***If you do not return the completed form we will be unable to continue to keep your contact information on computer and hard files and we will be required to cease communication with you. Personal information held as part of the public records of the parishes (e.g. parish registers) will continue to be permanently held.***

***The Parishes' GDPR Sub-Group***

## HEAD GIRL

Congratulations to Lana Knight (daughter of Orla Kaminska and Stephen Knight) on being chosen to be Head Girl of St Andrew's College. We wish her all the best for the year ahead.

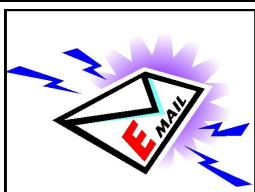
## LETTERS of REFERENCE and WITNESSING of SIGNATURES

Clergy are frequently asked to write letters of reference; to complete forms of reference; or to witness signatures. Some forms (including school application forms and SEC grant forms) are quite specific in what they ask, such as...

is the person/child is personally known to the rector;  
does the person/child attend the church;  
or clergy are asked to confirm that the person/child is a member of the parish, etc.

As I am sure you can appreciate, it is important that the information given is accurate and true.

## EMAIL! ... EMAIL! ...EMAIL!



Email is an efficient, economical and environmentally friendly way in which to communicate and get information out from the parishes to the parishioners. But, inevitably people tend to change their email addresses from time to time, and we also do not have email addresses for some parishioners who are on email. It would help us ENORMOUSLY if we were able to email you. It would cut down on paper and reduce our costs as well as making our communication more efficient. We do recognise that some people are not on email and we are happy to communicate with them via paper and/or phone. But if you do use email, please, email the Rector so that we can have your email address on our records and use it to communicate with you. Please also complete and return a GDPR Consent Form—see above article.

**The Rector's email address: [booterstown@dublin.anglican.org](mailto:booterstown@dublin.anglican.org)**



## BANK DETAILS

Both select vestries wish to record their thanks to those who, in difficult times, have been very generous in their giving to the parishes and have adapted their method of giving due to COVID-19—all very much appreciated. A number of people have requested the bank details of the respective parishes in order to set up their parish giving via online banking. The information is below:

### St Philip and St James' Church

Honorary Treasurer: Quentin Teggin ([qteggin@gmail.com](mailto:qteggin@gmail.com))  
 IBAN: IE51 BOFI 9010 2887 8916 34      BIC: BOFIE2D  
 ACCOUNT NAME: PARISH OF ST PHILIP & ST JAMES

### St Thomas' Church

Honorary Treasurer: Ian Mullen ([ianwmullen23@gmail.com](mailto:ianwmullen23@gmail.com))  
 IBAN: IE22 AIBK 9335 7015 2550 13      BIC: AIBKIE2D  
 ACCOUNT NAME: ST THOMAS' CHURCH



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## Parish 5-a-side Indoor Soccer

Monday and Wednesday nights in St Philip and St James' Parish Hall

8.30-9.30pm      All welcome

Contact Dylan Rynhart at  
[dylanrynhart@gmail.com](mailto:dylanrynhart@gmail.com) or join the What'sApp Group  
 at



### EVENING BADMINTON IN ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES' HALL

Now that we are allowed back to indoor sports, it is time to dust off your racquet and get back into badminton. You can enjoy yourself, met new people and get fit all at the same time!

## BADMINTON!!

You don't have to be a pro... just a racquet and runners and off you go to St Philip and St James' Badminton Club, Cross Avenue, on Thursday evenings. Make new friends and have fun along with a good workout, what could be easier.

For further information  
 contact Maureen at  
 01-2809826 or 086-3203849



### MORNING BADMINTON IN ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES' HALL

Do you like to get your exercise done early in the day?

Then Thursday morning badminton might be just the thing for you!

A bright and early start on  
 Thursday mornings *from 8.45am*

For further information, please  
 contact:

**Gill Davis at 087-7857711**





## No PJ's Autumn Fair again this year

The Select Vestry of Booterstown and Carysfort Parish decided to cancel the Autumn Fair, which had been scheduled for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October

2021 due to the ongoing restrictions and the high numbers of COVID-19 cases. A Christmas Coffee Morning and Mini Fair with a Raffle is planned instead – see below!

# Christmas Coffee Morning and Mini Fair with a Raffle and Santa Claus!

Saturday 4th December  
2021  
10.30—12.30



  
**CHRISTMAS**  
— **FAIR** —

St Philip and St  
James' Parish  
Centre

***The Great PJ's Bake-off will be happening!  
here too!!***

*Visit Santa, and enjoy tea/coffee and the following stalls:*

*Home-baked Goods, Unwanted Gifts, Jams  
and Marmalades, Christmas Stall, Bottles,  
Books, Treasure Hunt, Raffle, etc.*





# Harvest Displays in St Philip and St James' Church





## Harvest Displays in St Philip and St James' Church



**Wonderful  
decorations and  
displays for Harvest  
Thanksgiving.  
Thank you to the  
amazing volunteers  
who did this!**

