



St Philip & St James' and St Thomas'

The Rector
writes ...

CHRISTMAS 2014



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NEWSLETTER

The Power of Christ The Prince of Peace

As you know, on the 100th anniversary nearest their death, we are remembering each of the forty-one men and one woman from our three constituent churches, who died in World War One. As we approach Christmas, I find myself thinking about their families and how they felt as Christmas 1914 approached. So many thought that the war would be over by Christmas, and by the beginning of December, some would have already lost loved ones, and all must have begun to realise that it wouldn't be over by Christmas.

The television advertisement for Sainsbury's, is, I suppose, in some way capitalising on the incredible story of the truce on Christmas Day, but it brings home visually and forcefully the impact that the tiny Christ-child had, continues to have, and can have, on our world. In the midst of a terrible war, the celebration of the birth of Christ took precedence; carols were sung by German soldiers and British soldiers

replied. They then ventured into No Man's Land, bringing Christmas greetings and small gifts to each other, and playing a game of football.

And then the Prince of Peace got pushed to one side as battle recommenced. There was a smaller truce in 1915 and even less of a truce in 1916 and none in 1917.

And it keeps repeating itself... we see what allowing Christ into a situation can do... we see all the possibility and potential, and even the reality... and then as human beings' greed for power and control takes over, devastation, destruction, violence and the taking of life dominate...

And yet, that evil can never fully quench the power and the light of Christ; that is why one hundred years after that Christmas truce on the Western Front, after a second horrific World War; after many terrible and bloody battles and wars; and in the midst of some terrible acts of horror and hate going on in our world, we still

hope and pray for peace; for new beginnings, for reconciliation, for bridge-building, for wholeness, for healing...

We think of the kidnapped Nigerian girls; aid workers being held hostage in Syria; the peoples of Israel and Palestine; the people of Iraq who are being persecuted; the families of the Kenyans murdered on a bus because of their beliefs; those who are suffering from Ebola and those who are battling to heal people and contain the illness; those whose lives have been devastated by the brutality of gangland crime of our country...

May the Peace of Christ be for life and not just for Christmas. May the Power of Christ as seen in that truce one hundred years ago, help us make the possibilities a reality.

Alan and I wish you a very Happy and Blessed Christmas, and a contented and peaceful New Year.

Gillian



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Friday 19th December 2014



Boooterstown National School Carol Service

This will take place at 12.15 in St Philip and St James' Church. All are welcome to this service. We would ask parents to bear in mind that this is a carol service and therefore is an act of worship, not a concert. The service is followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall organised by the parents.



Sunday 21st December 2014

'A Quiet Christmas'

'A Quiet Christmas' will be in St Thomas' Church at 10.00. This is a service specially designed for those who may want a more meditative approach to Christmas, or who, for differing reasons—possibly bereavement or illness or whatever—may find the 'razz-ma-tazz' of Christmas a bit over-powering. As you might imagine, 'quiet' and 'children' do not normally go together(!), so we are asking parents to bring their children to the all-singing, all-dancing Christingle Service that morning in St Philip and St James' at 11.30.

Christingle Service

The Christingle Service is in St Philip and St James' Church at 11.30. This is always a very special service, using the old Moravian custom of Christingles.

Carols by Candlelight

will be at 19.00 hours, in St Philip & St. James' Church and will be followed by non-alcoholic mulled wine, - mindful of being responsible towards those who will be driving - and mince pies, in the Parish Centre.

This is always a wonderful Service as we lead into the celebration of Christmas. There will be a collection in aid of Protestant Aid

—see page 8.



Wednesday 24th December 2014 - Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve, there will be the usual Candlelight Service of Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church, at 23.30 hours, to which Santa and ALL his helpers will be very welcome!



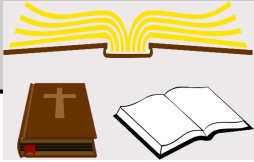
Christmas Day

On Christmas Day, there will be the usual services to celebrate Christmas: 8.30 in St Philip and St James' Church, 10.00 in St Thomas' Church and 11.30 in St Philip and St James' Church.



Sunday 28th December 2014

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church and a United Service in St Thomas' Church at 10.30.



REGISTERS



Holy Baptism:

Lola McColgan Byers, the daughter of Lucy McColgan Byers and Michael Byers, was baptised on Sunday 14th September 2014, in St Philip and St James' Church. Her godparents are Justin McColgan, Paul Gaffney, Hilary McCormack-Harris. Lola's older brothers Sam and Max did the readings, whilst her granddad, John McColgan read one of the prayers.

Welcome:

Gavan Christopher Harris, Arthur Gabriel Harris and Christopher Patrick Harris,

were welcomed into the Church of Ireland at the United Family Service on Sunday 26th October 2014 in St Thomas' Church. The readings were read by Hilary McCormick-Harris (Gavan's wife and mum of Arthur and Christopher) and by family friend Michael Byers. We wish them every blessing as they continue on their journey of faith.

Holy Matrimony:



James Chew and Claire Graves were married in St Thomas' Church on Saturday 13th September 2014 with the Rector and Fr. Michael Casey officiating. We wish Jamie and Claire every happiness.

In Memoriam:

Ida Martha Lewis (née Sweetnam) died on Sunday 9th November 2014 in the wonderful care of the staff of Mount Tabor Nursing Home. Although, Alzheimer's, had in recent years, taken the real Ida, her life had been a rich one, marked by her faith, generosity, enthusiasm and drive. Her funeral service took place in St Philip and St James' Church on Friday 14th November 2014, followed by burial in Shanganagh Cemetery. We extend our sympathy to her children Alan and Nicola and their families; to her siblings Noël, Herbie, Iris and Charlie and their families.

Sympathy:

We extend our sympathy to:
Dolores Coughlan-Killeen and her family on the death of her mum Dolores Coughlan;
to Julie-Anne Hudson and her family on the death of her mum Janet Baines;
to Olive Kearthland and her family on the death of her brother Aubrey Bradshaw.



THANK YOU!



Dear all,

Thank you so much to both Select Vestries, who on your behalf, very kindly presented me with a beautiful Japanese Acer (and the bag of relevant compost!) at the united family service in St Thomas' Church on Sunday 26th October 2014, to mark my ten years (27th October 2014!) as Rector of Booterstown and Carysfort with Mount Merrion.

It is hard to believe that it is ten years since my institution as rector of these parishes, in St Philip and St James' Church on a wild, wet and windy night; it feels like I have been here for five, maybe, six years... definitely not ten!

I wondered what on earth was going on when I announced the final hymn at the united service and the organist, Adrian Somerfield, did not play; and then Denis Beare came up the aisle to say a few words followed a little later by Ken Wilson and a tree!

Thank you to Denis Beare for his very kind words as he recalled how he, Vi Wilson and the late much-loved William Burgess and the late dear Sue McDonnell, interviewed me and decided to nominate me to the Archbishop to be appointed rector here.

Thank you to those who were the ones who engineered the surprise and the pressie... Uta Raab, and various people like Ken and Vi Wilson and Vi Hoffman who went purchasing the tree, and others...

I am very touched by your kindness and that you marked my first decade with you in this way. I love working with the people of these parishes; all of us as a team together (and I know I speak for Suzanne and Uta as well, in saying that). For 193 years and 140 years respectively, St Philip and St James' Church and St Thomas' Church have been places of worship, welcome, care and support, and I hope and pray that we continue to build on all that has been, so that what is ahead is even more enriching and vibrant.

With many, many thanks for the lovely gift and card, but especially for the last ten years.

Gillian

CANON KEN KEARON'S CONSECRATION

The Service of Ordination and Consecration of the Revd Canon Kenneth Kearon as the new Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe will take place in Christ Church Cathedral Dublin on Saturday 24 January 2015 at 2.30 p.m. We continue to pray for Ken as he begins this new sphere of ministry, and for him and his wife Jennifer as they prepare to move to Limerick.

REV. ROB CLEMENTS IS PUBLISHED!

The Rev. Rob Clements, who along with his wife Julie and children Sophia and Gideon, was a parishioner of St Thomas' Church Mount Merrion prior to his Ordination, has had the thesis for his MTh published. The book *Occupy Faith: The Movement of Movements and its Implications for Christian Practice*, which is part of the Braemor Studies Series, was launched by UK journalist and activist, Symon Hill, in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute on Tuesday 18 November 2014. Copies are available to purchase from Dr Susan Hood at the RCB Library, Braemor Park, Churchtown, Dublin 14.

ST THOMAS' INDOOR BOWLS CLUB



Our indoor bowling club has been busy since starting up again in September. Our teams have been very successful in the league matches having played five matches and won them all. The ladies in the Hope Cup are through to the second round and now travel to Castleknock to play the ladies there – we wish them well. The men in the Millar Cup got a bye into the second round and they now meet the men in Glenageary. The Kerr Team have commenced very well with a win over Greystones and the McIlwaine Team are doing equally as well.

We are really looking for new members and we would like to make a strong appeal to anyone who may be interested to pop in to see us any Thursday or Saturday evening, join us for a cup of tea and we will introduce bowling to you.

**Wishing all our bowlers a very Happy Christmas
and Best Wishes for 2015.**



made by me
make it - bake it - love it

Afterschool Cookery & Knitting Classes

Cookery Classes

Made by Me cookery classes encourage children to experiment with healthy foods and new flavours, while teaching them essential culinary skills and nutritional education.

What will they learn?
In addition to culinary skills & nutritional education, children will learn organisational skills, weighing, measuring, kitchen hygiene & safety – to name just a few.

What will they make?
Children will learn to prepare, cook & serve a variety of healthy starters, main courses, side dishes, desserts & baked goods.

Junior Cooks (1st-3rd class) Day: Monday Time: 3.15 – 4.45p.m. Cost: *€140 / 8 weeks	Senior Cooks (4-6th class) Day: Thursday Time: 3.15 – 4.45p.m. Cost: *€140 / 8 weeks
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*Price includes all ingredients.

made by me
make it - bake it - love it

Knitting Classes

Teaching children to knit is a kin to giving them a gift for life. Knitting is an excellent way to relax, and has become tremendously popular in recent years. It aids concentration and is also a refreshing detox from a technology saturated world.

What will they learn?
Children will learn the basics of knitting using practice yarn and 4mm needles, supplied as part of the course. They will learn plain & purl stitch, how to cast on & off and simple increase & decrease. They will complete 3 small projects.

What will they make?
They will make an Innocent Smoothie beanie hat, head band and a third fun project that will be decided during the course.

Knitting Classes (3rd – 6th class)
Day: Monday
Time: 3.15 – 4.45p.m.
Cost: *€110 / 8 weeks

*Price includes wool and knitting needles

8 Week Cooking & Knitting Course Dates;

- Term 2 commences week beginning 10th November 2014
- Term 3 commences week beginning 19th January 2015
- Term 4 commences week beginning 13th April 2015

facebook.com/madebyme.dublin

Denise Kelly (B.Ed. Home Economics, M.Sc. Food Business) is a registered member of the Teaching Council.

All classes are held in
**Monk Gibbon Hall,
St. Thomas' Church,
Foster Avenue, Mt. Merrion**
To enrol in any of the above
please text **Denise Kelly** or
086 833 1314 or
email: **denise@madebyme**

CHRISTMAS STARS



There are still some crystal Christmas Stars with an engraving of St Philip and St James' Church left from last year.

**These lovely Christmas decorations are €10 and are
in aid of RAISE the REST of the ROOF!**

Available from the Rev. Suzanne Harris.





A NOTE FROM OUR CURATE

Another Advent has arrived and it is the start of a new liturgical year. It's a great time to take stock of our lives and examine the balance between earthly pursuits and spiritual ones. As we prepare for Christmas during this Advent season, may God help us to keep a balance between the excitement of decorations, presents and cards and the excitement of his Son Jesus coming into the world as our Saviour and Lord of all.

God bless each and every household this Christmas.

Suzanne xx

MONK GIBBON HALL TO LET!



MONK GIBBON HALL TO LET!!

**There is availability in the
The Monk Gibbon Hall,
Foster Avenue
for afternoon and weekend lettings!**

The hall is in a lovely setting, very bright and airy with full kitchen facilities and parking.

It would be suitable to a variety of afterschool activities, i.e., ballet, study, drama, exercise classes, birthday parties, family celebrations, etc.

For more information about our competitive rates and bookings please

contact:

**Deirdre,
Parish Office,
01-2835873**



BADMINTON



BADMINTON

*Are you a wannabe
Badminton Player!*

Now is your
opportunity.

Join St Philip
& St James'
Badminton Club
Cross Avenue,
Boooterstown.

**Contact Maureen
on
01-2809826**



HEALER PRAYER GROUP

Each month there is a time of prayer for those who have asked for prayer, or for whom prayer has been requested. The next Healer Prayer time is Monday 12th January 2015 at 19.15 hours in the Committee Room of the Monk Gibbon Hall at St Thomas' Church.

Details are announced in the weekly newssheet. It lasts 40-45 minutes: the people on the Healer Prayer Group List are prayed for, and the list is updated and fresh lists are placed in each church the following Sunday, for people to take away and to use. Those who take the list, are asked to pray for everyone on the list each day. In addition, in each church, there are sheets, where the names of anyone whom you would like to be prayed for, may be added.

We would particularly ask those who put names on the Prayer Request Lists to come along to the Healer Prayer Group.

Each person's name will remain on the list for 3 months and will then be taken off unless there is a new request for prayers to continue.



ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES' SUNDAY CLUB



Sunday Club in St Philip and St James' is up and running very smoothly and the new format is working well. The children now all join together for a hymn and prayer before going into their classes. The hymns are led by either Adeleh or Robert, both of whom are a great asset to the Sunday Club. Then the prayers are usually based on a theme where the children can pray for family, friends, the environment/animals, the world, or school.

As we look forward to Christmas we will be looking at the symbols for the Jesse Tree which are placed on the Jesse Tree each Sunday from Advent Sunday to Christmas Day.

Merry Christmas to all our Sunday Club members and their families.



ST THOMAS' SUNDAY CLUB



Our leaders for this year are Catherine Thanaseelan, Adam McConnell and Emma Telford. We meet on the second and third Sunday of every month during the church service in the Monk Gibbon Hall. We were delighted to welcome some new faces and also lots of old faces returning again when we started on 14th September 2014.

We have been getting to know one another better and having fun, as well as learning about some of Jesus' parables by reading scripture; and playing games and doing activities to help understand the meaning of what we're learning about. Each Sunday, everyone brings a small amount of money which is used to support a boy called Alex Ruhinda in Uganda through the organisation Fields of Life. Over the past number of years, we have been able to help Alex to pay for his education and educational needs; he writes to us occasionally telling us how he is getting on and thanking us for our support.

We hope to continue our work on parables and lessons and study the birth of Jesus as the Christmas period approaches until we split for the Christmas break. We as always welcome new members and friends of members to come and join us as often as they wish, all are welcome.

BOOTERSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL



The first term in Booterstown National School has flown by, full of activity and learning!

We welcomed back Mrs. Fraser after her maternity leave and we wish Ms. O'Doherty all the best as she takes up her new post.

We dressed up for Halloween, raising lots of money for Temple Street Hospital. We also enjoyed a science workshop and a visit from Dublin Fire Brigade to 3rd & 4th classes.

The PTA organised Christmas crafts to sell at our first ever 'Winter Craft Fair' and we had a lot of fun making snow globes, cards and pencil toppers. Many thanks to the PTA for organising such a great Craft Fair and to the whole school and parish community who supported it.

We wish you all a very joyful Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Rachel Fraser—Principal



Carols for Protestant Aid



Over the past year, we have been very conscious of the demands on Protestant Aid, which is a Protestant version of St Vincent de Paul. It does not differentiate between creed or ethnicity regarding those who it helps... although the name can be misleading. They are doing amazing work, helping families of all backgrounds and origins who are finding things tough.

To support their work, we will have a collection at the Carols by Candlelight Service at 19.00 hours, on Sunday 21st December 2014, for Protestant Aid. The proceeds of the carol singing in the Blackrock Shopping Centre, will go to Dublin SIMON, and the collection from the Sunday night will go to Protestant Aid.

Protestant Aid helps families and individuals who are very much in need of financial assistance, and this situations arise from all sorts of circumstances: the economic down turn, ill-health, marriage breakdown, etc. They are often 'invisible', coping with acute financial stress caused by mounting debts or redundancy, and family pressures with little or no State aid.

Please note this appeal is not only to raise awareness of those in need, but also to make those in need aware that assistance is available.



Applications, which are means tested, may be made through the Rector or directly to Protestant Aid.



Collection for Protestant Aid Sunday 21st December 2014 at 19.00 hours Carols by Candlelight

SINGING FOR BLACKROCK HOSPICE

This year, in addition, to *Singing for SIMON* with our neighbours from St Andrew's Presbyterian Church and the Church of the Assumption, we are going to also join them to **Sing for Blackrock Hospice**. This has been done for a number of years by St Andrew's Presbyterian Church and we are going to help them this year. It's just for one hour! So after you have enjoyed Vi Hoffman's Coffee Morning on Saturday 6th December 2014, come along to the Frascati Centre to sing from 15.00-16.00 hours.

Carol Singing in aid of Blackrock Hospice Frascati Shopping Centre

15.00—16.00 hours

Saturday 6th December 2014



Carol Singing for Dublin SIMON



As you will be aware, for the past two years, we have gone carol singing in aid of the Dublin SIMON Community, in the Blackrock Shopping Centre.



Originally, we used to go out and about on the roads of our neighbourhood, but the change to Blackrock Shopping Centre has worked well, with our donation to Dublin SIMON being higher each year. This year, we are being joined by our neighbours from St Andrew's Presbyterian Church and the Church of the Assumption, so the hope is that we will have lots of voices for each of the three hours that we are there—singing non-stop for three hours is rough on the voice! We felt that it would be a practical outworking of our common Christian faith, to sing together for SIMON.

The manager and staff of the Blackrock Shopping Centre are very keen to do anything they can to support the work of Dublin SIMON, and to facilitate local parishes.

Thursday 18th December 2014 17.00-20.00. It is a long stretch, so it is hoped that people may come along and sing/collect for even part of that time; and that those who are going socialising that night might still be able to come along and even sing/collect for 1 or 2 hours. Also, the earlier slots make it possible for children to join in, and be part of it.

It would be fantastic to get a HUGE response to this, and to do a little bit at Christmas for the homeless. This is one of those occasions where we are not asking for money—although of course, you may make a donation if you wish—we are asking you to give some time and some energy for others this Christmas.



Please put this in your diary. Bring your children, friends, etc., etc., to make a fantastic and enthusiastic sound for others! If you are concerned that your singing might not be wonderful, and you think that you cannot take part... no such excuse will be entertained!!!! You can do an excellent job of rattling the collection boxes.

Carol Singing in aid of Dublin SIMON

Blackrock Shopping Centre

17.00—20.00 hours

Thursday 18th December 2014



PILATES CLASSES



MONDAY Evenings 7 - 8 pm

St Philip and St James' Parish Hall.

Jo welcomes all levels and ages to her Pilates Class

Bring a mat—First class free!!

Looking forward to meeting you—Jo Horsley 087 162 7378



REGISTER OF VESTRYPERSONS

The Register of Vestrypersons is the ‘electoral roll’ of the parish. If you wish to be able to vote on parish matters, or in elections, such as at the Easter General Vestry, or if you wish to hold office in the parish as a churchwarden, glebewarden, member of the Select Vestry, Parochial Nominator or Diocesan Synodsperson, then you have to be on the Register of Vestrypersons.

It is very simple to do, the Churchwardens have forms available, and all you have to do is fill in the short, simple form, sign it, and give it to a Churchwarden.

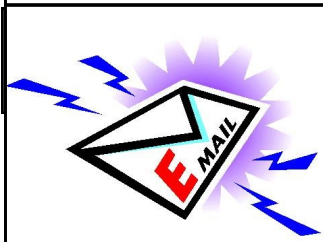
The Register is updated at the January Select Vestry meetings of our respective parishes. You may not be on more than one Register at any one time, so if you have moved recently and you wish to be included on the Register in one of our parishes, but you are already on the Register of Vestrypersons elsewhere, you would need to request your previous parish to have your name removed from their Register.

Being on the Register gives you the right to vote, it gives you a say in the decision-making process of our church— democracy is an important part of the Church of Ireland—cherish that right.

Currently, our representative bodies do not reflect the membership of the church and it is an issue that we are being encouraged to address. In order to be able to have the

option to respond to that motion, we need a wide variety of people to ‘sign-up’ for the Register of Vestrypersons.

If you want to have your say and be able to vote, you have to be on the Register of Vestrypersons....



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 parish office so that we can have our email address on our records and use it to communicate with you.

In addition, the Rector usually sends out an email each week, giving an update and reminding people what time the services are at and what else is happening in the coming week.

The relevant email addresses are on the front page of this newsletter!



DATES FOR YOUR 2015 DIARY!



Although there will be lots more things coming along, you might like to put the following in your 2015 diary:

Daffodil Service and Coffee Morning on Sunday 22nd March 2015 in St Philip and St James' Church and Parish Hall

Easter Day on Sunday 5th April 2015

St Thomas' Summer Sale on Saturday 16th May 2015 in St Thomas' Parish Hall

St Philip and St James' Autumn Fair on Saturday 26th September 2015 in St Philip and St James' Parish Hall

Boosterstown National School Winter Craft Fair on Sunday 22nd November 2015 in St Philip and St James' Parish Hall



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION



There are two Christian Meditation Groups meeting each week in the Canon Osborne Barr Room of St Philip and St James' Parish Centre.

On a Tuesday afternoon, a group meets at 3.30pm for approximately 40 minutes and on a Wednesday evening, a group meets at 8pm until 8.40pm approximately, so that the remainder of the evening is free.

These Christian meditations are based on the teachings of John Main OSB and both groups always welcome beginners.

For more information ring Irene on 087-2755423.

WEBSITE, DATABASE and FACEBOOK

Communication is vital to our parishes. We are using a number of ways to communicate what is going on in our parishes and in our school. The parish website has the details of all the services for the next year, with the details of the services for the next week on the home page. We also try to keep the 'Latest News' up-to-date. In addition, Gillian usually sends out an email each week, with details of the services and other events coming up that week, as well as any news that there might be. Each church also has a Facebook Page and again, we strive to keep those pages fresh and up-to-date. For those for whom computers are not their thing, there is the weekly newssheet each Sunday in church, giving all the information. Thanks to Jeremy Bruce-Smith who built it, we now have a new parish database—this was a huge undertaking by Jeremy and we are indebted to him for this wonderful contribution to our parishes. Peter Richards installed the database and we are now in the process of inputting all the information that we have onto the database but the database will only be as good as the information we have. Please ensure that we have your up-to-date contact details, so that we can let you know what is going on, and keep in touch.



ECUMENICAL LENTEN STUDY PROGRAMME



We (Fr Cormac McIlraith of the Church of the Assumption, Gillian Wylie from St Andrew's Presbyterian Church and the Rector) have already had several meetings to arrange the Ecumenical Lenten Study Programme for 2015. The title of the series is **Let's Take God Out...**

This was prompted by a discussion of the how inclusiveness can be, do nothing and remove everything. Instead of being multi-faith, or multi-denominational, there is a tendency for nothingness, and in that nothingness, are we losing something precious? Should God be taken out of health? Should God be taken out of education? Do references to God exclude people? Can different aspects of society function just as well, or better, with or without God? Should the declaration made in the Presidential inauguration include God? Should the declaration by a judge be made in the name of God?

Again there will be four evenings and they sessions will take place in the Stillorgan Park Hotel at 8pm.

The four evenings are:

Why Take God Out? - Thursday 26th February 2015
Let's Take God Out of Education—Thursday 5th March 2015
Let's Take God Out of Health—Thursday 12th March 2015
Let's Take God Out of Public Life—Thursday 19th March 2015



Further details will be available in the New Year.

All are very welcome to these talks.



25th DUBLIN SCOUT TROOP AND CUB PACK

T

he Cub pack is thriving. We are delighted to have three members of the parish school in the pack and hope that this may be the beginning of a new trend that will strengthen the links between the parish and the Unit.

This year's Sixers' Council requested that we focus on Emergencies and First Aid and we hope to have the Stage 1 Emergency badge completed before Christmas. This involves making a personal first aid kit, knowing how to react in a variety of emergency situations and how to report an incident calmly and accurately. We will be doing many role-play situations to drive this home. Last week we presented a cheque for €467 to Bóthar from a sale the Cubs initiated and ran earlier in the year. They have asked that the money be used in sending a dairy goat, a batch of chickens and some bees to an African village in need.

The Scouts are busy competing in County and Interprovincial events, developing their camping, pioneering and hiking skills. They are progressing in leaps and bounds and there is such enthusiasm in the troop that it looks as if we must seriously consider setting up a Venture Unit for the over-fifteens next year. As a new initiative this year, both Scouts and Cubs will be joining St Mary's and Irishtown parishes in their carol singing for the Simon Community on December 12th. If you live in the Clonskeagh area please listen out for us that evening!

The New Year will see us get involved in an environmental project called Recharge the Earth. Our Cubs and Scouts aim to collect as many batteries as possible for recycling in order to earn tree coupons. Once the group has collected four full boxes (or 100kg) of used batteries, we will be rewarded with a coupon that can be exchanged for a tree. We would hope to plant this somewhere in Mount Merrion.

So if you have used batteries of any shape or size, we would appreciate any contributions. We will ask the rector if we may leave a box in the church to collect them. And early in 2015, we should be able to tell you all about how batteries are recycled and to what use their component parts are then put!



TRUST



In our two parishes, we have an ongoing working relationship with **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 and women call each morning, the majority of whom are sleeping out (age 18 to 85).

TRUST is urgently in need the following items:

MEN'S CLOTHING

Jeans, Track-suit bottoms, Jumpers, Water-Proof Jackets, Strong, Sturdy Shoes

THEY ALSO NEED

Cup-a-soups, Mini-bars (chocolate, etc.)

These items can be left at the back of either Church and are then taken into **TRUST**

We are indebted to Ken and Vi Wilson and June Sherlock from St Thomas' and Vi Hoffman and Faith Frankland from St Philip and St James' who liaise with **TRUST** and take the items into them.



UNITED SERVICE FOR DAFFODIL DAY



For many years, Florrie Halliday has organised a coffee morning in aid of the Irish Cancer Society. The coffee morning originally began with the late Phyllis Hodgins. Earlier this year, Florrie announced that March 2014 would be her last coffee morning. Shortly afterwards, the late Sue McDonnell and I were having a chat about it, and we felt that it would be wrong to let it go, as so many families in our parishes have been affected by cancer; we thought that as the fourth Sunday of March tends to be near Daffodil Day, that at the united service on that Sunday, we would pray for those who are undergoing treatment for cancer, and for all who are involved in the healing and care of people with cancer; for those undertaking research into the treatment and cure of cancer; give thanks for the recovery of those who have survived cancer, and remember those who have died from cancer, and that the coffee morning in aid of the Irish Cancer Society could take place afterwards in the parish hall.

***Sunday 22nd March 2015 in St Philip and St James' Church at 10.30,
followed by coffee morning in the parish hall.***

Gillian



STAGECOACH THEATRE ARTS SCHOOL



Stagecoach Theatre Arts Schools Dublin have centres in Blackrock, Castleknock and Killiney. We teach performing Arts to children and teenagers aged 4 to 18. We run weekly classes and have summer Camps in July and August. We first opened our doors in St Philip and St James Parish Centre, Cross Avenue, Blackrock 20 years ago this year and have grown a lot since 1994, with classes on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in Cross Avenue and Sunday Mornings in Wyvern School Killiney.. We spend three hours mid week or at weekends exploring the arts through song, dance and drama, and for our 4 to 6 year old classes are 90 minutes. Our students learn skills that will stand to them all through their lives and we know happy students are and why we have been in business for 20 years.

We are now enrolling for our new term beginning January 2015, so if you would like to explore or enrol in Stagecoach Dublin please call Evan or Emma on 01-2043814 or 01-2722276, visit for more information and to book -www.stagecoach.ie or email dublinsouth@stagecoach.ie or dublinnorth@stagecoach.ie — ACT NOW!

RAISE THE REST OF THE ROOF

The second phase of St Philip and St James' Church roof has now been completed. At the end of June, as soon as Booterstown National School finished, the scaffolding went up and work began to re-roof the north and south transepts, the north and south porches, the vestry, the organ roof and the chancel. It was completed at the end of August, and the scaffolding came down very early on the morning of Ceri Teggin's and Paul Phibbs' wedding!

It is fantastic to have the church water-tight! The worry of the state of the roof, and the size of the undertaking to replace had been a feature of Select Vestry meetings for, probably, almost twenty years. Much of the other work that needed to be done—and still needs to be done—to St Philip and St James' Church, had to be delayed or put off, as it was all contingent on the roof being replaced. Now it is done! We are very grateful to Justin O'Callaghan (parishioner and architect) for his expertise; to AA-Plus Roofing and OME who carried out the work to exacting standards, but always with a sensitivity to where they were working, and co-operation to ensure that the church never ceased to be a place for worship. Particular thanks to our glebewardens Clive Beatty and Mike Hayes, for their care and attention, and especially Clive Beatty who took the lead on behalf of the Select Vestry, on this project. The legacy of having this work completed is immeasurable and the benefit of it will go on for generations, considering the last nave roof was erected between 1821 and 1824, with the transept roofs, etc. erected in the mid 1800's!

Thanks to a fantastic Autumn Fair and a heritage job leverage grant from Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council of €14,500, we now owe a balance of €13,000 for the second phase of the roof. In addition, the last part of the project—the re-plastering of the north transept which was damaged due to the roof—is estimated to be in the region of €2,000, so we still require approximately €15,000. The support of the parishes, and the wider community at fundraising events has meant that we were able to re-roof the church; the entire roof project has cost in the region of €190,000, so to be in a situation where we have managed to pay off almost all of that, with just(!) €15,000 left to pay, is staggering. Thank you to so many who have worked so hard, and been so generous with their time, energy, resources and money. We still have much to do but we have much done!

Thank you.

TÚS... JOB-BRIDGE SCHEME

Early this year, we were approached by Southside Partnership wondering if we would have a placement for someone on Tús Job Bridge Scheme. The scheme is to help those who are unemployed gain experience and skills to assist them in getting back into the work force. In May, Michael, a qualified plumber, arrived to finish his year on the scheme, having completed a job of work, in a previous placement. Michael began, by hand, to scrape and hack off the old paint and rust on the railings of St Philip and St James' Church on Cross Avenue—a slow, tedious and painstaking job. Part of the railings has been completed and looks really well in black paint with gold tops. Michael finished his year on the scheme in October, and Stephen will be starting shortly with us and hopefully a second person too, who was interviewed in mid-November. Weather-permitting, they will continue the work on the railings—there are a lot of them! - and in wet weather, they will start work on refurbishing the church pews.

Gordon Richards is the liaison person between the parish and Tús, overseeing the work, and linking with the placement officer.

It is wonderful to see the improvements that are being made, but most importantly, we hope that it helps people to gain experience that will help them long-term in getting employment.

AUTUMN FAIR—BEV TURNER



Since our first Autumn Fair in 2007, Bev Turner has been the co-ordinator of the Autumn Fair. With her 'can-do' attitude, Bev got the Autumn Fair up and running, and eight Autumn Fairs later, she has decided that it is time to step back from heading it up. The Autumn Fair is St Philip and St James' major fundraising effort each year and because of it, we have been able to do some of the very necessary work in St Philip and St James'. Bev, thank you very much for all that you have contributed and encouraged others to do too.

THANK YOU!

There is an astonishing number people who give of their time, energy and resources to our parishes and school community. Some head-up bigger occasional events or projects such as the Summer Sale, the Autumn Fair or the Winter Craft Fair; or who design a database, a logo or poster; others contribute of their time, skills and energy throughout the year to help our parishes tick along. Some tasks are quite visible but also there are things that go on that no one sees or realises as parishioners fulfil roles as churchwardens, glebewardens, musicians, readers, secretaries of select vestries, treasurers of select vestries, select vestry members, flower arrangers, cleaners, gardeners, grass cutters, candle fairies, tea/coffee helpers, Church Review distributors, assistants at Holy Communion, Sunday club leaders, parish hall committees, Diocesan Synodspersons, reader co-ordinators, those who give lifts to church, etc., There are things that happen behind the scenes that no one notices but it would be noticed if those things were not tended to...



such as a major tidy-up and clean-up of a church or the grass being cut, before a wedding or funeral; heating clocks being set so that the church is warm; a lighting clock being set so that a stained glass window can inspire passers-by; contents of kitchen cupboards cleaned and checked; sorting arrangements for the Parish Women's Fellowship or a parish lunch; popping into see someone...

It is a long list and there is always the worry that someone may have been left out.

Please do not be offended if your particular contribution hasn't been mentioned.

Your contribution is most appreciated and as we come to the end of another year; we just want to say "thank you for all who do to contribute to this community".

STEWARDSHIP—THE ENVELOPE SCHEME



Each of our churches operate 'The Envelope Scheme' through which parishioners give to the parish each Sunday, by using the envelopes provided. The scheme allows you to make your donation in a discreet manner and also, helps you to keep a record of your giving. If anyone would like to join 'The Envelope Scheme' then June Burgess from St Philip and St James' or Meriel Armstrong from St Thomas', are the people to contact.

Some prefer to give by Standing Order and if you would wish to do this, please contact the respective parish treasurers: Ian Mullen at St Thomas' and Quentin Teggins at St Philip and St James'.



VI HOFFMAN'S COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 6th December 2014

10.30—12.00 in 'Veldin', 54 Waltham Terrace, Blackrock.

In aid of St Philip and St James' Church Roof.

PARISH LUNCH



Friday 9th January 2015

Stillorgan Park Hotel at 12.30

Last January, we had a lovely parish lunch in the Stillorgan Park Hotel, and then in the summer, we had another lovely lunch in Elm Park Golf Club.

These are purely social events for our two parishes to get together and spend some time in each other's company. No one has to cook, set-up, tidy-up or clean-up!

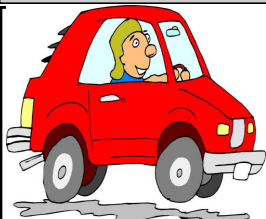
**Our next parish lunch will be in the Stillorgan Park Hotel on
Friday 9th January 2015, at 12.30.**

June Burgess at 01-2888887 and Vi Wilson at 01-2888782 are taking names.

**Please contact either of them before
Tuesday 6th January 2015, as we will need to know the
numbers going to the lunch at that stage.**



LIFTS TO CHURCH



We have a number of parishioners who are no longer able to drive but who would like to come to church, on a Sunday or on a Wednesday. Would you be able to help?

Lifts from the areas of Goatstown and Milltown on a Wednesday would be particularly welcome.

It would be great if we could get a few people who would be willing to do this, so that the lifts could be shared, so if someone was away, a lift could still be arranged.

Please contact Gillian if you can help.



MEALS ON WHEELS



MEALS-ON-WHEELS

**Volunteer Drivers
Needed Urgently!**

Volunteer Drivers are urgently need for
Saturday deliveries. If you can help
please contact:

Nora Conway 01-2887721



PREPARE A PLACE FOR GAZA THIS CHRISTMAS

United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough Advent Appeal

“Let’s prepare a place at our table this Christmas” – that’s the plea from the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough which is running an emergency appeal for Gaza this Advent.

People are being urged to include an imaginary Gaza guest in their festive gatherings this year to help raise funds for the appeal. By donating the cost of the meal for their Gaza guest and the price of a gift for a loved one, the dioceses hopes to raise €30,000 for the Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City.

Parishes, schools, hospitals, organisations and individuals throughout Dublin and Glendalough are being asked to support the appeal by holding an Advent fundraising event for Gaza.

Commending the Advent Appeal Archbishop Michael Jackson said: “I am delighted that the Diocesan Council for Mission has taken this Appeal for Gaza forward in such an imaginative way. I should encourage everyone across the United Dioceses, in the Season of Advent and Christmas, to think of ways of reaching out across the world in the spirit of Christmas in response to this urgent need for financial support. Please lay a place at your table for someone just like any of us as a way of supporting friends abroad and contributing to the reconstruction of the Al-Ahli Hospital which itself turns nobody away.”

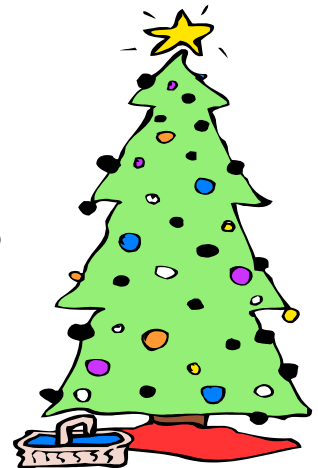
Bishop Suheil Dawani, the Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem said: “Our medical services are given irrespective of race, religion or ability to pay. We see in each person seeking our services the image and likeness of Almighty God and we affirm through our support the dignity of each individual who comes to us.”

The appeal is being run by the Diocesan Council for Mission in partnership with Bishops’ Appeal, the United Society and Friends of Sabeel. It is part of a longer term link which is being nurtured between the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough and the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

Al–Ahli Hospital was built in 1882 by CMS and is owned and controlled by the Diocese of Jerusalem and provides services to all patients. Following the conflict during the summer, areas of the hospital are no longer safe for patients and there is an urgent need for reconstruction.

Overwhelming need in the Diocese of Jerusalem:

- 1.8 million people affected in the Gaza Strip
- 1,814 fatalities, of which 1,312 are civilians
- 9,500 (at least) injured (2,877 children 3,061 women)
- 520,000 displaced people housed in UN/government schools or with host families.
- 1.5 million people not in shelters with no or extremely restricted access to water.
 - 10,690 housing units destroyed or severely damaged
 - 141 schools damaged
 - 5 hospitals shut down
 - 24 (at least) health facilities damaged
 - 2-4 hours of electricity per day on average



Donations can be made to Bishops’ Appeal either by envelopes which are available in all parish churches or by electronic transfer to IBAN: IE BOFI 9000 1749 8394 99 (reference Gaza).

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO DIED IN WORLD WAR



A Few Thoughts on Remembrance Sunday 2014

On Remembrance Sunday 2014 in particular, and with so many 100th Anniversary Commemorations of the start of the Great War having already taken place, it is perhaps easy to forget that one hundred years ago in November 1914, the war was just three months old. Total cessation of hostilities was still over four years away. So this year is different because in reality we are remembering something that in 1914 had not happened yet. We are in fact commemorating the 96th Armistice Day.

Why is this important? Well, by November 1914 two families of our parishes had already lost a son each. So families and friends were already in mourning and completely traumatised. We can well imagine that the reality of what was happening to the world gone mad, was beginning to come home forcefully to the rest of the families of our parishes. Gone was the early jingoism of going off to give the “Hun” a good hiding. There would be no glorious tales of heroics and “derring do” at the Christmas tables of 1914. Instead there would be a terrible sense of loss, of foreboding and a terror of what might be in store for the families of all those young men who joined Kitchener’s new armies in such haste just a few months earlier.

The small professional British Army (BEF) had been severely depleted on the western front. The seemingly unstoppable onslaught of the German war machine, the British retreat from Mons and subsequent fierce fighting, the German advance only stopped by epic French Army resistance at the Marne had left the British professional army in tatters; later fighting at Ypres only adding to the casualty lists. Now for 1915 and future years, it would be up to the thousands of young volunteers from all over Britain and Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa and other far off parts of the British Empire, to continue to prosecute the “Great War for Civilisation”. For now, most were still training. However, if anyone in our parishes was foolish enough to think that two casualties was the extent of the price to be paid, they would be gravely mistaken. The price for 1915 and subsequent years would be much higher.

Michael Lee

November 2014

Remembrance

On the Sunday nearest the 100th anniversary of their death, we are remembering each of the forty-one men and one woman from our three churches of St Philip and St James, St Thomas and Christ Church Carysfort, who died in World War One.

We think of their families... who came to our churches to pray for their loved ones, to hope against hope that they might be safe, and who came to remember and to grieve.

But we also remember that no one side had a monopoly on grief...
and so we remember all who died... the loss of life was unimaginable...
loss of life in the armed forces... loss of life of civilians...

It is not enough to remember; we must learn; so that such loss of life is not repeated; that such horror does not become part of our future as well as our past; so let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women: that we may help, encourage, and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

*Lord God our Father,
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind,
in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name.
Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom;
give us courage; give us hope;
and keep us faithful now and always. Amen.*



REMEMBERING...

Continued



Private Joseph Arthur Poulton

9th (Queens Royal) Lancers.

Died of wounds: 29th September 1914 at Longueval, Aisne, France.

On Sunday 28th September 2014, we remembered the first person to die from our parishes, Private Joseph Arthur Poulton.

Joseph Arthur Poulton was born on Lambay Island on the 23rd April 1876, one of eight children born to John and Johanna Poulton. Joseph was baptised in St Philip and St James' Church Booterstown on the 26th October 1876. The family lived at No 7 Anglesea Avenue, Blackrock and were members of Christ Church Carysfort.

Joseph was a veteran of the Boer War of 1899 -1902, having joined the 9th Lancers, a cavalry unit as a Trooper (Private). At the outbreak of the Great War in August 1914, Joe as a reservist, was amongst the first to be re-called to the colours and ordered to return immediately to his regiment. Joe arrived in France on the 27th August 1914 as part of a draft of replacements for the many 9th Lancers who had become casualties over the last month. On 29th September 1914, the billets were shelled by the Germans and seventeen Lancers and one officer were killed. One of the casualties was Pte. Joseph Arthur Poulton.

Pte. Joseph Arthur Poulton is buried along with his seventeen comrades at Longueval Communal Cemetery, Aisne France.

Michael Lee

September 2014

2nd Lieutenant Donald Seymour Smyth

3 (att 2) Battalion Royal Irish Regiment.

Killed in action: 19th October 1914, Le Pilly, Aubers Ridge, France.

On Sunday 19th October 2014, we remembered the second person to die from our parishes, 2nd Lieutenant Donald Seymour Smyth.

Donald Seymour Smyth was born at 73 St Stephens Green Dublin on the 5th November 1893, the youngest son of Edward Weber Smyth JP and Elizabeth Anna Smyth. The two boys lived with their mother and father in a large house "Cuil-Min" 56 Sydney Avenue, Blackrock and the family were parishioners of St Philip and St James'. The Smyths were a prosperous business family who owned the high class grocery and wine shop "Smyths of the Green" on St Stephens Green.

Donald was educated at St Stephen's Green School, St Andrew's College and Elstow School in Bedfordshire. He entered Trinity College in 1911 and was a member of the OTC. Donald embarked for France on the 11th September 1914. He was attached to the 2nd Battalion RIR as part of a new draft sent out to replace casualties from earlier fighting.

On the 20th October 2014, 170 Officers and men of the 2nd Royal Irish Regiment were killed in action at Le Pilly. Among the dead was young South Dubliner Lieut Donald Seymour Smyth. He was just 20 years of age.

Lieutenant Donald Seymour Smyth has no known grave. He is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

Michael Lee

October 2014



CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Friday 19th December 2014

12.15 Booterstown National School Carol Service
St Philip and St James' Church

Sunday 21st December 2014

08.30 Holy Communion

St Philip and St James' Church

10.00 'A Quiet Christmas'

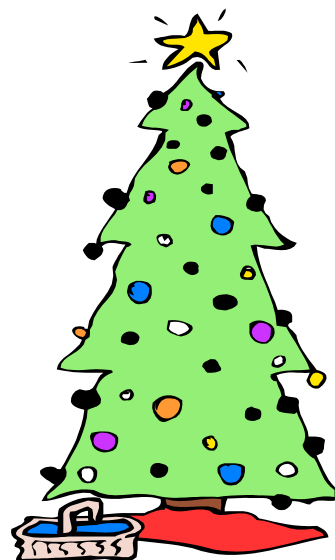
St Thomas' Church

11.30 Christingle Family Service

St Philip and St James' Church

19.00 Carols by Candlelight

St Philip and St James' Church



Wednesday 24th December 2014 — Christmas Eve

23.30 The First Holy Communion of Christmas

St Thomas' Church



Thursday 25th December 2014 — Christmas Day

08.30 Holy Communion

St Philip and St James' Church

10.00 Family Holy Communion

St Thomas' Church

11.30 Family Holy Communion

St Philip and St James' Church

