



## Christmas 2020



**RECTOR:**  
**The Rev Canon Gillian Wharton**  
Tel: 01-2887118  
087-2300767  
Email:  
[booterstown@dublin.anglican.org](mailto:booterstown@dublin.anglican.org)

Visit us anytime at  
[booterstownchurch.ie](http://booterstownchurch.ie)  
[mountmerrionchurch.ie](http://mountmerrionchurch.ie)

For all bookings for  
the Monk Gibbon Hall,  
(St Thomas' Church  
Hall):  
T: 087-1849870 on  
Monday-Friday,  
9.00-13.00 hours.  
E: [monkgibbonhall@gmail.com](mailto:monkgibbonhall@gmail.com)

For all bookings for  
St Philip and St  
James' Parish Centre:  
T: 086-8157748 or 086-  
1780653

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

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

# NEWSLETTER

This Christmas will be like no other in our memories. The traditions that we cherish at Christmas time—and each family or household tends to have their own customs and traditions—may not be possible this year. We may not be able to gather with those whom we usually gather with at Christmas time.

One of the things that many miss is singing all the well-loved and well-known carols. Knowing that we would not be able to have an indoor Carol Service, we thought that we might be able to have an outdoor Carol Service and I emailed the Department of An Taoiseach, the Department of An Tánaiste and the HSE, seeking clarification on whether we could or not, and they replied that whilst they understood the desire to sing carols and to gather together, that we could not do so this year, safely, and therefore, we had to abandon that idea.

While this Christmas will be like no other in our memories, Christmas has been like this on many occasions. That first Christmas, Mary and Joseph were away from their home. Jesus was born into very difficult circumstances. There was political unrest and oppression and, Mary, Joseph and Jesus had to flee for their safety. In all the uncertainty of their lives, God was the constant presence in their lives.

In the uncertainty and strangeness of our lives at this time, God is constant. The circle of life and the events of life continue—albeit in a different and even strange way—even when the world seems upside-down. God loves us and is alongside us even when all around us is unfamiliar and not that way we want it. And that is what we celebrate at Christmas, that God comes amongst us in the messiness of our lives. He doesn't wait until the perfect moment because if he did, he would never be amongst us. He doesn't show up when things are easy or okay but when they are tough and difficult. To quote Oprah Winfrey: ***Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down.***

While not exactly worded this way in the bible(!), God is on the bus... as well as in the limo... maybe, even more on the bus than in the limo!

I hope and pray that whatever your circumstances and however different this Christmas is, that you will know that God is with you, with us, and especially so, when things are tough.

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

*Gillian*

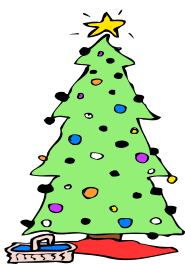
# CHRISTMAS SERVICES

A lot of thought has been given as to how we will celebrate Christmas in our parishes.



## St Thomas' Church Capacity

We have 12 'pods' in St Thomas' Church with a **maximum capacity of 28** in addition to the Rector. This maximum depends on the make-up of the households attending and whether we will be having an organist or not. If we have an organist in St Thomas' Church, it reduces the capacity of the congregation by four people to a maximum of 24.



## St Philip and St James' Church Capacity

In St Philip and St James' Church, we are permitted to have three 'zones'; each 'zone' must have its own door; there can be no movement from one 'zone' to another; and there must be 4 metres between each zone. Zone 1 will be accessed through the West Door; Zone 2 will be accessed through the door in the North Transept and Zone 3 will be accessed through the door in the South Transept (ramp). We will have 24-28 'pods' - we can split some of the bigger pods into more smaller pods, depending on the make-up of households, hence the variation in the number of pods. The **maximum capacity** in St Philip and St James' Church is **89**, in addition to the Rector, the Organist and those operating the webcam. Again, the maximum capacity depends on the make-up of the households attending.

For any services taking place over the Christmas period, we will have to have a 'booking system', and we will use this to create specific seating allocations and to maximise the numbers attending each service, depending on the make-up of the households.



There will have to be a sanitising of each church either after each service or preceding each service. From Wednesday 23rd December 2020 to Sunday 27th December 2020 inclusive, there will be seven services in our churches to try to enable people to attend worship in and around Christmas Day. In addition, there will also be two services in our churches and a Christingle Service by Zoom, all on Sunday 20th December 2020. I know that some people would like to attend more than once and it is hoped to be able to facilitate people attending a second service if there is availability after everyone who books has been accommodated. This is a very strange thing that we have to do, so please bear with us as we work through it. We are all doing the best we can, and a little bit of patience, good humour, understanding and tolerance will go a long way!!!! Hopefully, the booking system will mean that we will not have the situation where people arrive at the door and are not allowed in—that would be awful.

## **Booking in for Christmas Services (23—27 December 2020)**

To ensure that everyone has the same opportunity to book within the same time-frame, and that those who are not on email are not disadvantaged, this newsletter is being circulated either by hand-delivery or by email, by Monday 14th December 2020, and the 'booking window' will **open from 12.00 midday on Wednesday 16th December 2020**. Booking will be on a first-come, first served basis, but please be aware that we have to work with the 'pods' that we have and those 'pods' vary in size with capacities of 1—6. Booking may be done by emailing the Rector, texting, or leaving a voice message on the landline or mobile.

## **Booking will close at 12.00 midday on Monday 21st December 2020**

to allow the specific detailed seating plan for each service to be drawn up. Please note the booking for a service may 'close' before that if the maximum capacity has been reached.

Please also note that those who replied to my email of 1st December 2020 were only giving an indication of their intentions re worship over the Christmas period—it was **not** a booking and has not been taken as such and therefore, all who wish to attend worship in our churches over the Christmas period must book in.



# CHRISTMAS SERVICES *continued*

## COVID-19 Guidelines for Attending Worship

In line with government and HSE guidelines, we must ask you to comply with the following:

- Please do not attend the service if you or any member of your household is feeling unwell, or if you have been in contact with anyone in the past 14 days who has displayed symptoms of COVID-19 or who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or who is awaiting a COVID-19 test.
- Please do not attend the service if you or a member of your household has travelled from overseas in the past 14 days, unless you/they have had a COVID-19 test since arriving, the result of which has been negative.
- Please wear a face covering.
- Please sanitise your hands as you enter and leave the church.
- Please leave your contact details for the purposes of contact tracing in the boxes provided.
- Please only sit where indicated.
- Please follow the directions of the stewards.



## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### **‘A Quiet Christmas’**



‘A Quiet Christmas’ will be in St Philip and St James’ Church at 10.30 and will be live-streamed. 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 bear this in mind—the Christingle Service later the same day via Zoom and the Family Communion Service on Christmas Day are all very ‘child-friendly’ services and we would love to see the children at those services.

### **Christingle Service**

The Christingle Service will be via Zoom from St Philip and St James’ Church at 16.30 hours. This is always a very special service, using the old Moravian custom of Christingles. It is a bit of an ‘all-singing, all-dancing’ affair!!! This year, to keep everyone safe, you will be singing and dancing, and making your Christingles at home!!!!

*Please see the website for the Zoom details.*

### **Boosterstown National School Carol Service**



Due to the COVID-19 restrictions the School Carol Service has been pre-recorded in compliance with the government restrictions in place at the time of recording. Thank you to Dylan Rynhart who did all the recording and editing for the Carol Service. The Service will be circulated to the parents/guardians.

*Continued on page 4*



# CHRISTMAS SERVICES *continued*

***Please note that you will need to book in for any of the services on this page, as per the guidelines on page 2.***



## Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

10.30—Service of Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church.

## Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020 - Christmas Eve



### **The First Holy Communion of Christmas**

On Christmas Eve, there will be a Service of Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church, at 21.30 hours.

### **Midnight Holy Communion at 23.30 hours**

Also, on Christmas Eve, there will be a Service of Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church, at 23.30 hours which will be live-streamed.

Santa and ALL his helpers are always very welcome on Christmas Eve!

## Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2020—Christmas Day

8.30—Service of Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church.

10.30—Family Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church which will be live-streamed.



## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2020

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

10.30 Service of the Word in St Philip and St James' Church.

## **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 finalise their giving before the year-end. The information is below.

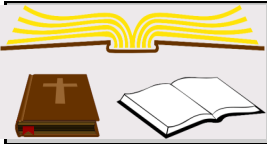
### **St Philip and St James' Church**

Honorary Treasurer: Quentin Tegg (qtegg@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)  
IBAN: IE22 AIBK 9335 7015 2550 13 BIC: AIBKIE2D  
ACCOUNT NAME: ST THOMAS' CHURCH





# REGISTERS



## In Memoriam

**Kenneth (Ken) Robert Wilson** died in St James' Hospital on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Ken was a committed and enthusiastic member of St Thomas' Church and Mount Merriion Parish. He was involved in every facet of the life of the parish. He served on the Select Vestry for many years; he was Honorary Secretary of the Select Vestry; he was Churchwarden. A skilled pianist, he tinkled the ivories of the Clavinova for a hymn, or during Holy Communion, each Sunday in St Thomas' Church and I always associate hymns such as the hymn version that we use of Psalm 1 - *Blessed is the Man*, and *When I'm Confused Lord, Show Me the Way* with Ken. With the variety of sounds on the Clavinova, he would add a trumpet accompaniment to *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* as Adrian Somerfield played the organ.

For many years, he drove down to St Philip and St James' Church each Friday morning to play at assembly for Booterstown National School - he was known as the School Granddad!

The last few years have not been kind to Ken health-wise, and three months ago, he suffered a stroke, and was hospitalised, and he has been in St James' since then.

He and Vi celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in June, and it has been hard for them being apart for the past three months with very few visits allowed, and now the loss for Vi is profound.

Please keep Vi, and their children Daphne, Graham, Naomi and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, and the social distancing requirement, and the numbers allowed in St Thomas' Church, Ken's family decided that Ken's funeral service would take place in St Philip and St James' Church, which it did, on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020, followed by cremation at Mount Jerome. But St Thomas' Church was Ken's second home in so many ways, and so Ken was brought to St Thomas' Church on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to rest there overnight until the funeral service in St Philip and St James' Church the following afternoon. In time Ken's ashes will be interred in St Thomas' Garden of Remembrance.

**Loveday Victoria June Quinn (née Poynton)** died in St Vincent's University Hospital on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Loveday was a loyal and faithful member of St Thomas' Church and Mount Merriion Parish. She looked after the Holy Communion linen with care and attention to detail until she had a stroke a couple of years ago. She was a supportive parent of Booterstown National School and an enthusiastic member of the Parish Women's Fellowship.

In paying tribute to her, Loveday's family spoke of her generous and selfless love and described how she was aptly named. Loveday was cared for in her home by her husband Noel with the support of family and carers, until further care was needed and for the last few months, Loveday was cared for in Belmont Nursing Home.

Loveday's funeral took place in St Thomas' Church on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020, with Loveday's brother-in-law, Fr Denis Quinn taking part and leading the prayers. Loveday's funeral service was followed by cremation at Mount Jerome, and her ashes will be interred in St Thomas' Garden of Remembrance at a later date.

Please keep Loveday's husband Noel, and their children Simon and Rachel, and the wider Quinn and Poynton families in your thoughts and prayers.

## Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to:

Louise Hardiman and her family on the death of her mother, Christine Arthur, and her father, David Arthur;

Stuart Trotter and his family on the death of his mother, Betty Trotter.

## 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.

## SAFEGUARDING TRUST

Each parish or parochial group, is required to have a Safeguarding Trust Panel.

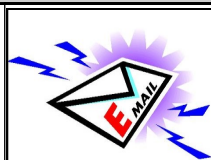
The parish panel comprises of three members, one of which is usually the incumbent (rector). The parish panel, which shall have a gender balance, functions as a sub-committee of the select vestries with the membership appointed by the select vestry(ies). Members other than the incumbent are not required to be members of the select vestry(ies). Panel members are vetted prior to appointment by the select vestry(ies).



The parish panel maintains oversight of all matters regarding safeguarding in the parish(es) on behalf of the select vestry(ies) and reports on matters to each select vestry meeting.

In our parishes, we have one panel member from each parish. We are now seeking a panel member from Mount Merrion Parish ( St Thomas' Church) and in order to maintain gender balance on the panel, we require a male volunteer for the parish panel. If you think that you could serve your parish in this way, please contact the Rector for further information.

## 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 our email address on our records and use it to communicate with you.



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



# 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 ....**

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

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

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



Whilst our churches are closed please leave any items at the back of **St Philip and St James' Church on the second Sunday of the month at 11.30-12.00 (after the live-streamed service)**—these will then be taken into **TRUST**.

Parishioners have been very generous over the years to **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 **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.

Thank you!

Each year, we have gone carol singing in aid of the Dublin **SIMON** Community, which has been working with the homeless for over 50 years.

This year, due to COVID-19, we are not able to do so, but homelessness continues to be a major issue and the work of the Dublin **SIMON** Community continues.



Dublin  
**Simon**  
Community



At the meeting of Booterstown and Carysfort (St Philip and St James' Church) Select Vestry on Thursday 10th December 2020, it was agreed to highlight this to parishioners.

If anyone wishes to contribute to the St Philip and St James' donation to the Dublin **SIMON** Community, please either leave your donation in an envelope—with Dublin **SIMON** clearly written on the envelope—in the baskets at the doors of St Philip and St James' Church, or contact Quentin Teggin (Honorary Treasurer) at [qtteggin@gmail.com](mailto:qtteggin@gmail.com).

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES



## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020

08.30 Holy Communion  
St Thomas' Church

10.30 'A Quiet Christmas'  
St Philip and St James' Church  
(live-streamed)

16.30 **Christingle Family Service**  
via Zoom from St Philip and St James'  
Church

## Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

10.30 Holy Communion  
St Thomas' Church



## Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020—Christmas Eve

21.30 The First Holy Communion of Christmas  
St Thomas' Church

23.30 **Midnight Holy Communion**  
St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

## Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2020 — Christmas Day

08.30 Holy Communion  
St Thomas' Church

10.30 **Family Holy Communion**  
St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2020

08.30 Holy Communion  
St Thomas' Church

10.30 **Service of the Word**  
St Philip and St James' Church  
(live-streamed)

