



*The Grouped Parishes of
Booterstown and Carysfort with Mount Merrion*
**St Philip & St James' Church
& St Thomas' Church**



RECTOR:
The Rev Canon Gillian Wharton

Tel: 01-2887118
087-2300767

Email:
booterstown@dublin.anglican.org

Visit us anytime at
booterstownchurch.ie
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

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

CHRISTMAS 2021 NEWSLETTER

Here we go again! Last year, in the Christmas Newsletter, I said that Christmas 2020 would be not be like any other Christmas in our memories! How wrong I was! There is a real sense of *Here we go again!* but things are different. We have vaccinations which have, and are making a difference. We have had to learn to live with this pandemic for the past eighteen months and we have had to make adjustments as to how we do things. We have had to take a greater responsibility for our own actions and we have had to be aware of how our actions can impact on others. It has been hard—and for some it has been unimaginably hard—and lots of us are weary from it all at this stage.

There is such a build-up to Christmas. In newspapers, magazines, television programmes, we have experts from chefs to event planners, telling us how to have a stress-free, perfect Christmas! We are advised on what to do, when to do it, and how to do it, and we will then have a perfect Christmas! If only! It seems to me that they created aspirations of Christmas that you would never have thought of yourself—fortunately!!! And with the added ideas, you just increase the stress and spread it out over a longer period of time! Where did this notion of the perfect Christmas ever come from?! And who ever decided what makes a perfect Christmas?! Even the phrase *I am doing Christmas this year*, is extraordinary!!! Gosh! We do make things difficult for ourselves!!!

Right from that first Christmas, the perfect Christmas has never happened. Some Christmases may have been more enjoyable than others, some may have been affected by circumstances from weather to power-cuts to illness, to the unexpected arrival of someone, even maybe the birth of a baby; some have had their struggles or been harder for whatever reason. None of them have been perfect. For Mary and Joseph, they were away from home. There was political unrest. They had to flee for their safety. God did not come down amongst us into perfection. Every Christmas has had its difficulties and challenges and yet Christmas has still happened because we still celebrate that God came amongst us in human form as Jesus Christ to show us what God was like and to bring his message of peace, hope, care, love, compassion, welcome and inclusivity.

Christmas still happens whether we *do* Christmas or not, because God is still amongst us, is still revealing himself in us and through us, and often, in spite of us, through our words and actions. In many ways, we do not need to *do* Christmas because God does Christmas, and all we have to do is allow him to do it, to allow him into our lives, to allow him to influence and transform who we are. And, then.... well, then... it is Christmas every day!!!

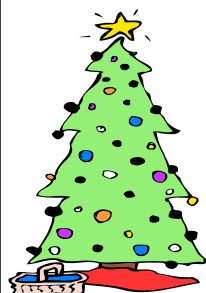
Thank you to all who have contributed to our **Help Santa Appeal**—see pages 6 and 7—and you still can. Now there's a way of *doing* Christmas! Throughout this pandemic, people have made those kind of differences in people's lives and that makes it Christmas every day... when we care and show compassion... we do God's work.

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

Gillian

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

I really did not think that we would have to have a booking system again for this Christmas, but we do. We are going with a similar plan to what we had last year. The booking system will enable us to create specific seating allocations and to maximise the numbers attending each service, depending on the make-up of the households.



The churches will be sanitised either after each service or preceding each service. From Wednesday 22nd December 2021 to Sunday 26th December 2021 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 three services in our churches on Sunday 12th December 2021 and also on Sunday 19th December 2021. 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 in has been accommodated. This is not how we do things—we like to welcome everyone—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.



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, post or by email, by Monday 13th December 2021, and the 'booking window' will **open from 12.00 midday on**

Tuesday 14th December 2021. 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 (booterstown@dublin.anglican.org), texting, or leaving a voice message on the landline or mobile.

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 PCR test or a PCR test result. Please note that a negative Antigen test does not necessarily mean that you do not have COVID-19. Please be considerate towards the safety and wellbeing of others.
- Please wear a face covering at all times during the service.
- Those who are reading may remove their mask while reading but should put it back on when they finish reading.
- 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.



8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

There is a celebration of Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church each Sunday. No booking is required on Sunday 12th December 2021, Sunday 19th December 2021 and Sunday 26th December 2021 (St Stephen's Day) but booking **is** required for the 21.30 hours service on Christmas Eve and the 8.30 service on Christmas Day.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES *continued*

Sunday 12th December 2021 at 10.30

‘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 Sausage(less!) Service later the same day at 18.30, the Christingle Service the following Sunday at 10.30, 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. You do not need to book in for this service.



Sunday 12th December 2021 at 18.30

Sausage(less!) Service

Our monthly Sausage(less!) Service will be in St Philip and St James’ Church at 18.30. Unfortunately, we are not able to have supper afterwards but we look forward to when we will be able to do so. This service was originally designed for children and teenagers who do other activities on a Sunday morning, and it has also become a focus for many of those who are preparing for Confirmation. You do not need to book in for this service.



Boosterstown National School Carol Service

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions the School Carol Service will be recorded in compliance with the government restrictions and the recording of the service will be circulated to the parents/guardians.

Booking-in for services on Sunday 19th December 2021

Christingle Service at 10.30

The Christingle Service will take place in St Philip and St James’ Church at 10.30 on Sunday 19th December 2021. It will be a little different to other years, in that you will collect your Christingle as you enter the church and take it with you to your seat. There will be no queueing up in the aisle to receive Christingles. During the service, the Christingles will be lit. Please book in.

Carols by Candlelight at 19.00

RTÉ Cór na nÓg has been rehearsing in St Thomas’ Church on a Saturday morning and in St Philip and St James’ Church on a Wednesday evening for the past few months. In appreciation of that, they have offered to join us for our Carols by Candlelight (as choirs are allowed to sing and practice with specific restrictions). We are very much looking forward to this. Please book in.



Booking for the Christingle and the Carols by Candlelight will open at 12.00 midday on Tuesday 14th December 2021 and will close at 12.00 midday on Friday 17th December 2021, 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.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES *continued*

Booking for all services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will open at 12.00 midday on Tuesday 14th December 2021 and will close at 12.00 midday on Monday 20th December 2021 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.



Friday 24th December 2021 - 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. Please book in.

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. Please book in.

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

Saturday 25th December 2021—Christmas Day

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

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

Sunday 26th December 2021—St Stephen's Day

No booking required for St Stephen's Day

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

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



BANK DETAILS and STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES

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

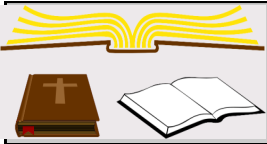
St Thomas' Church

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



Stewardship Envelopes

If you wish to have a box of stewardship envelopes for 2022, please contact the Honorary Treasurers above.



REGISTERS



Holy Baptism

Zoe Elizabeth Burdett Irvine, the daughter of Louise Irvine (née Burdett) and Richard Irvine, and little sister of Max, was baptised on Sunday 7th November 2021 in St Philip and St James' Church Booterstown. Zoe's granddad Brian Burdett and her great-aunt Ann did the readings. We also had the pleasure of Zoe's Great-Granny Burdett being at the baptism. Zoe's godparents are Eric Burdett, Amber Hanna and Jane Irvine. We wish Zoe every blessing on her journey of faith.

In Memoriam

Dorothy Knight (née Dyer) died in St Colmcille's Hospital in Loughlinstown on Thursday 28th October 2021. For the past number of years, Dorothy had not had good health and after some time in hospital, she had resided in Beechfield Manor Nursing Home in Shankill. Dorothy's funeral took place in St Philip and St James' Church, on Saturday 30th October 2021, followed by cremation in Mount Jerome. We extend our sympathy to her sister-in-law Zandra Dyer and the Dyer family, to Karen Sweeney and all the Sweeney family.

Muriel Frances Noelle O'Donnell (née Bird) died in Glengara Park Nursing Home on Wednesday 24th November 2021. Prior to going into Glengara Park Nursing Home twelve years ago, Noelle had lived on Grove Avenue. Noelle's funeral took place in St Philip and St James' Church, on Monday 29th November 2021, followed by burial in Donabate Cemetery. We extend our sympathy to her son Hugh, her daughters Vanessa and Rosaleen and their families.

Interment of Ashes

The ashes of **Catherine (Kay) Ferguson (née Crook)** who died on 15th July 2020, were interred in St Thomas' Garden of Remembrance on Thursday 21st October 2021. This was particularly poignant as some members of Kay's family, who had not been able to travel to attend her funeral due to the COVID-19 restrictions in place in July 2020, were able to be there. We extend our sympathy to her children Philip, Paul and Kathryn and their families.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to:

Vi Hoffman and her family on the death of her niece Linda Moloney;
Brian McConnell and his family on the death of his mother Marion;
Nigel Cole and his family on the death of his uncle, Dallas Chamney.

The Rev. Kevin Dalton, the former Rector of Monkstown Parish until 2008, was also Rural Dean for many years and oversaw four vacancies in this group of parishes. In his imitable way, he told the parishioners that he was sick of having to look after them and would they treat the next Rector better! Kevin was such a big-hearted, generous and kind colleague, friend and priest but also a bit of scallywag and a loveable rogue! As Rural Dean, he summoned the clergy together for chat and camaraderie, and he and Jennifer hosted great parties for the clergy of the Rural Deanery and their spouses, and for the retired clergy and their spouses and the clergy widows and widowers. We extend our sympathy to Jennifer, their daughters Tara and Sally-Ann and their families.

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, glebeward, 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, before the annual updating of the Registers at the January meetings of the respective select vestries.

HELP FOR SANTA



It has been a tough time for Santa and we can help. Already people have responded generously and enthusiastically as we try to make a difference to some children this Christmas through the Capuchin Day Centre. Due to COVID-19, the Capuchin Day Centre can only accept new toys, so I am asking if you could buy one or two small toys - they cannot be big toys as those families living in hotels or hostels, or in cars, do not have the room for anything big - and could you bring them to either of our churches on the following Sundays... if you are not able to attend the service, please aim to arrive at the end of the service to drop off the items:

Sunday 12th December 2021 to St Thomas' Church which has a service at 8.30 (finishes at 9.00),

or to St Philip and St James' Church which has a service at 10.30, (finishes at 11.15), and a Sausage(less!) Service at 18.30 hours (finishes at 19.00).

I will also be in St Philip and St James' on Sunday 12th December 2021 to receive your items 17.00-18.00, before the Sausage(less!) Service, and on Tuesday 14th December 2021, 19.00-20.00.

*I have to deliver the items into the Capuchin Day Centre on **Wednesday 15th December 2021, so we have to have them before that day.***

Santa needs long-johns, socks etc too!

Thank you too to those who have donated brand new pairs of long-johns (underwear) which have been hugely appreciated by The Alice Leahy Trust for their service users. As you can imagine, it is bitterly cold living on the streets at this time of the year. People have been very generous with donating long-johns and ski underwear, and we would be delighted to pass on more, new long-johns, new warm socks, new gloves and new hats. Warm jackets in good condition would also be great. See page 7.

Lions Club Food Appeal

In addition to the above, the Dublin Lions Club is doing an appeal through Booterstown National School. For one week in December (6th – 10th December 2021), there will be a collection box in the School, and the Lions Club is asking people to donate one item of non-perishable food for the homeless.

The specific items requested are:

Christmas Cakes, Christmas Pudding, Soft Drinks, Selection Boxes, Celebration boxes, Mince Pies, Christmas Crackers, Decorations, Table Settings



We can give a little love this Christmas, and that is exactly what Christmas is... God coming to earth in human form because he loves us, and to show us through Jesus Christ how to love and to care.

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. 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**





THE ALICE LEAHY TRUST

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

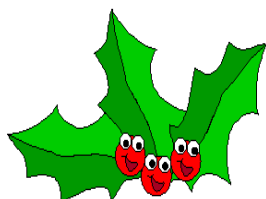
In our two parishes, we have an ongoing working relationship with **THE ALICE LEAHY TRUST**. **TRUST** was founded in 1975 as a private charitable trust (Charity No. CHY7014), and since then has been working with people who are homeless in Dublin. It is a non-political, non-denominational voluntary body 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

NEW Long-Johns, NEW hats, New gloves, New scarves, New socks.

The following items must be clean and in good condition:
**Jeans, Track-suit bottoms, Jumpers, Water-Proof Jackets,
 Strong, Sturdy Shoes**



THEY ALSO NEED Mini-bars (chocolate, etc.), toiletries

Please leave any items at the back of either church —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.

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



At the meeting of Booterstown and Carysfort (St Philip and St James' Church) Select Vestry on Tuesday 7th December 2021, it was agreed that the retiring collection at the Carols by Candlelight Service on Sunday 19th December 2021 would go to the Dublin **SIMON** Community.

If anyone wishes to contribute to 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 Teggins (Honorary Treasurer) at qteggins@gmail.com.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 12th December 2021

08.30 Holy Communion
St Thomas' Church

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

18.30 Sausage(less!) Service
St Philip and St James' Church

Sunday 19th December 2021

08.30 Holy Communion
St Thomas' Church

10.30 Christingle Service
St Philip and St James' Church (*live-streamed*)

19.00 Carols by Candlelight
St Philip and St James' Church (*live-streamed*)



Wednesday 22nd December 2021

10.30 Holy Communion
St Thomas' Church

Friday 24th December 2021—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*)

Saturday 25th December 2021 — Christmas Day

08.30 Holy Communion
St Thomas' Church

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

Sunday 26th December 2021

08.30 Holy Communion
St Thomas' Church

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

