



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



CHRISTMAS 2023 NEWSLETTER



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Visit us anytime at
booterstownchurch.ie
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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:**

E: pjparishcentre@gmail.com

My apologies that there was no Autumn 2023 Newsletter. I had a horrible dose of gastric 'flu' which completely floored me for about two weeks and which took about five weeks to fully recover from. My thanks to Diocesan Lay Reader and former parishioner Uta Raab for taking the services on Sunday 10th September 2023—it was much appreciated.



It has been a busy summer and autumn with work being carried out in both churches, the Start-of-the-School-Year Service which was combined with the Harvest Thanksgiving at the end of September in St Philip and St James' Church. Then it was the Autumn Fair on the second Saturday in October. On the first and third Sundays of November, we remembered our loved ones by the lighting of candles and reading out their names whilst others remembered silently. On the second Sunday of November, we remembered all who have died in world war and conflict, and remembered particularly the forty-one men and one woman from the three churches that make up our parishes, who died in the first world war and the four men who died in the second world war. In the midst of remembering and hoping that the world would have learnt that the human cost of war is unacceptable, we were praying earnestly for peace as the horrors of war and conflict are all too real and we read, hear and see in the media, about Ukraine, Palestine and Israel.

Every life is important. Every life matters. In the story of Jesus' birth, in the choice of Mary and Joseph to be a part of Jesus' family, in the choice of the shepherds who were considered so untrustworthy that they could not be witnesses in a court of law, in the choice of the wisemen, exotic, foreign, different, we see a God to whom every life—even the lives that people considered unimportant - mattered and every life matters now. In a small way, we can show that every life matters... by carol singing in aid of the Dublin SIMON Community—see page 8; helping Santa along with the Capuchin Day Centre and the Alice Leahy Trust—see page 9 and 10; helping the work of Protestant Aid—see page 8. Then we really are *doing* Christmas.

We welcome Christ as the Prince of Peace, the Wonderful Counsellor... and we need that peace and that negotiating ability and listening now... and pray for those who have international influence that they may use it for the greater good and not to serve their own agendas.

Thank you to all who have worked so hard in our parish communities over the past year to make a difference in a myriad of ways: the Select Vestries, Churchwardens, Glebewardens, Secretaries, Treasurers, Safeguarding Trust Panel members; those who clean the churches, arrange flowers, decorate the churches, welcome people, read, make tea and coffee, cook sausages and wedges, manage halls/parish centres, fix and mend things, co-ordinate reading rotas, do Sunday Club, etc.

Thank you one and all!

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

Gillian



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year, there are some changes to our usual pattern of Christmas services—see below.



Sunday 17th December 2023

Christingle Service

The Christingle Service is in St Philip and St James' Church at 10.30. 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 Thomas' Church and will be followed by mulled wine - mindful of being responsible towards those who will be driving, it will be non-alcoholic mulled wine - and mince pies, in the Parish Centre. This is always a wonderful Service as we lead into the celebration of Christmas, and this year, we can all sing!!! There will be a collection in aid of Protestant Aid—see page 10.



Wednesday 20th December 2023

Boosterstown National School Carol Service

This will take place at 12.00 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 24th December 2023 - Christmas Eve

In the morning of Christmas Eve, there will be an 8.30 Service of Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church, and 'A Quiet Christmas' in St Thomas' Church at 10.30. 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 not to bring their children to this service but to bring them instead to the all-singing, all-dancing Christingle Service the previous Sunday in St Philip and St James' Church at 10.30 and to the family services on Christmas Day, and on Christmas Eve night there will be the first celebration of Holy Communion for Christmas at the earlier time of 22.00 in St Thomas' Church.



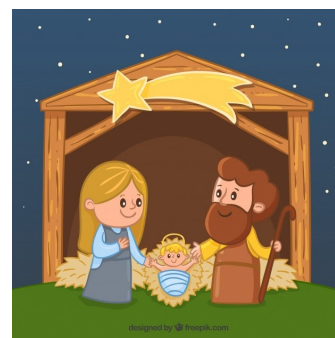
Christmas Day

On Christmas Day, there will be the usual services to celebrate Christmas:

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

9.30 Family Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Family Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church



Sunday 31st December 2023

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church and
10.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church





REGISTERS



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Holy Baptism

Ethan Jonathan McDonnell, son of Fiona (née Kelly) and Ross McDonnell, and brother of Cleo, was baptised in St Philip and St James' Church on Sunday 23rd April 2023. Ethan's cousin Louis Deans poured the water into the font and the readers were read by Niamh Kelly-Deans and Fletcher Thompson. Ethan's godparents are Alexa Deans and Nicky Kenny.

Amélie Maura Quigley, the daughter of Marie-Pauline Maurin and Stuart Quigley was baptised in St Philip and St James' Church on Sunday 30th April 2023. Amélie's cousins Luke, Dylan and Casey poured the water into the font and the readings were read in French and in English by Amélie's godparents, Nicolas Maurin and Orla Quigley.

Sienna Sita Gully, the daughter of Sita Ramkissoon and Graham Gully and sister of Theo, was baptised in St Thomas' Church on Sunday 11th June 2023. Melanie (a friend of the family), and Arabelle (Sienna's cousin), did the readings. Sienna's big brother Theo, assisted by his cousins Archie and Indie, poured the water into the font.

Belle Esmé Phibbs, the daughter of Ceri Teggin and Paul Phibbs, and little sister of Willow and Heidi, was baptised in St Philip and St James' Church on Sunday 2nd July 2023. Belle's big sister Willow did one of the readings along with her granddad Quentin Teggin and Belle's godmother, Sarah. Big sister Heidi helped pour the water into the font. Belle's godparents are Sarah Ekin and Edward Gallagher.

Reuben Finn Bergin, the younger son of Joy née Noble and Tim Bergin, and little brother of Cameron, was baptised in St Philip and St James' Church on Sunday 16th July 2023. Reuben's godparents are Trevor Noble, Aime Noble and Ross Bergin, with Trevor and Aime joining the service via the webcam and answering the questions via Facetime!

Jim Mark Walsh, the son of Catherine (Katie) O'Connor and Peter Walsh, was baptised in St Philip and St James' Church on Sunday 1st October 2023. Jim's godparents are Rosemary Henderson (née Walsh) and Michael O'Connor. We wish Jim every blessing on his journey of faith.

Harriet Alana Blennerhassett, the younger daughter of Hazel (née McFeeley) and Alan Blennerhassett, and younger sister of Heidi and Tommy, was baptised in St Philip and St James' Church on Sunday 5th November 2023. Heidi and Tommy helped to pour the water into the font and her granny Kay Blennerhassett and her auntie Gillian McFeeley, did the readings. Harriet's godparents are Sophie Blennerhassett and Alan Large. We wish Harriet every blessing on her journey of faith.

We wish Ethan, Amélie, Sienna, Belle, Reuben, Jim and Harriet. every blessing on their journeys of faith.

Rite of Confirmation

Confirmation Classes have begun and there are sixteen teenagers meeting to explore their faith and to ascertain if they are ready to take on the promises that were made for them at baptism by their parents and godparents. Four adults have also expressed an interest in being confirmed or renewing their confirmation promises and classes for them will begin in January.

The Archbishop will administer the Rite of Confirmation for our two parishes and for the parishes of St Brigid's Stillorgan and All Saints' Carysfort, on Sunday 21st April 2024 at 3pm.



REGISTERS continued...

Holy Matrimony



Amanda Pennypacker and **Stephen Broderick** celebrated their marriage in St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, on Thursday 22nd June 2023, at which the Rector officiated. Whilst Amanda and Stephen are part of the church family at St Philip and St James' Church, they opted for a city centre location for their wedding, close to the venue for their wedding reception at the Shelbourne Hotel, to facilitate family and friends who gathered from Amanda's native USA and from various parts of Ireland to share in their special day. We wish Stephen and Amanda every happiness and blessing in their married life together.

Inga Beth Patricia Dalzell and **David Kenneth Stanford** were married in St Brigid's Church Stillorgan on Monday 31st July 2023. Inga did her Transition Year work experience with the Rector thirteen years ago and asked her to officiate at the wedding, with the permission of the Rev. Kevin Conroy (Rector of St Brigid's Church Stillorgan). Inga and David live in Kaikoura on the South Island of New Zealand and with people coming from all parts of the globe, it was a very international gathering. We wish Inga and David and their children Forest, Scout and Piper every happiness and blessing in their married life together.



Adam Arthur John McConnell and **Aimee Jean Heraty Carroll** were married in St Mary's Church, Cong, County Mayo on Friday 27th October 2023. Adam's family has a long association with Cong and that part of Connemara, as his late maternal grandparents, Arthur and June White, had a cottage there which is still in the family, and it was on a trip to the cottage that Adam proposed to Aimee. The circle was completed in the West, with their marriage taking place in St Mary's Church, Cong. Adam's first visit to Ashford Castle, where the wedding reception was held, was in the company of his late paternal grandparents, Jack and Marion McConnell, so there were many memories for the extended McConnell and White families as they gathered with the Carroll and Heraty families to celebrate Aimee and Adam's marriage. We wish Aimee and Adam every happiness and blessing in their married life together.

REGISTERS continued...

In Memoriam

Aileen Sinéad O'Donoghue died in Blackrock Hospice on Thursday 6th April 2023. Aileen strove to minimise the effect that her illness had on her, in order to minimise the impact that it had on her family.

Even when she wasn't feeling well at various times during the 5½ years that she had cancer, she still brought sunniness and positivity to all whom she met. Her death has left heartbreak in the lives of so many and particularly of her husband Alan Kelly, their daughters Ellen and Mia, her parents Margaret and Joe, her sisters Mary, Bridget, Angela and Anne and the extended family. Aileen loved a big project and we, as a parish and school community, were the beneficiaries of her enthusiasm and love of lists and getting things done. Aileen was one of the main motivators and fundraisers behind the Trim Trail play equipment installed in the garden of Booterstown National School. (It can be seen in the school garden from Mount Merrion Avenue.) Aileen's funeral was in St Philip and St James' Church on Tuesday 11th April 2023, followed by cremation at Mount Jerome. We continue to hold Alan, Ellen and Mia, Margaret and Joe, Mary, Bridget, Anne and Angela, and the wider family circle and Aileen's friends in our prayers.

Baby Aida Clasby was remembered at a little service on her due date of 21st April 2023. We assure her parents Rita and Albert and her sister Sarah, of our continued support and prayers.

Miriam Olive Keartland née Bradshaw, died at Brabazon House, on Wednesday 7th June 2023. Olive had lived in Brabazon for the last four months where she was wonderfully cared for. Originally from Stradbally in County Laois, Olive had lived all of her adult life in Dublin, and had been a long-time parishioner of St Thomas' Church. A former captain of Rathfarnham Golf Club, there were many captains and members of Rathfarnham Golf present to pay tribute to Olive for her contribution to the club. As some of her family were travelling, Olive's funeral took place in St Thomas' Church on Wednesday 21st June 2023 and was followed by cremation at Mount Jerome. Please keep Olive's husband, Mervyn, their sons Keith and Ian, and their families in your prayers.

Jean Mary Byrne née MacHugh died at home in the care of her husband Simon, daughter Sarah, son Seán, and the Home Care Team from Blackrock Hospice on Friday 14th July 2023. Jean was thoughtful and caring, with a positive outlook which meant that she presented a solution rather than a problem, whether it was on the PTA of Booterstown National School or in many of the other things that she was involved in, golf, tennis, or whatever activities her children participated in. Jean's funeral was in St Philip and St James' Church on Tuesday 18th July 2023, followed by cremation at Mount Jerome. We continue to hold Simon, Sarah and Seán, Jean's brothers Frank and Declan and their families and the extended MacHugh and Byrne families and Jean's many friends in our prayers.

Derek Keith Richards died in the Blackrock Clinic on Saturday 15th July 2023. His funeral took place in St Philip and St James' Church on Tuesday 18th July 2023, followed by cremation at Mount Jerome the following morning. Derek's life outside of his work revolved around his children and grandchildren, and on his retirement from The Irish Times, Derek loved to be involved in supporting and spending time with his grandchildren. He was a lover of the outdoors with mountain walks and rounds of golf. We continue to hold his wife Carmel, their son Karl and daughter Dawn, his children-in-law Dorota and David, his grandchildren Amy, Ellen, Lara, Maitiú and Harry, his siblings and their families and the wider Richards and O'Connor families and circle in our prayers.

Baby George O'Sullivan, the younger son of Charlotte (née Upton) and Alan O'Sullivan, and little brother of Joshua, was born before he had the chance to live on Sunday 22nd October 2023. He was named by his mum and dad in a naming ceremony on Sunday 22nd October 2023 and his funeral took place in the Angels' Chapel in Mount Jerome on Saturday 28th October 2023. We continue to hold Charlotte, Alan and Josh, and the O'Sullivan and Upton families in our prayers.

REGISTERS continued...

In Memoriam continued

Anthea Margaret Montgomery (née Clark) died on Monday 30th October 2023 in Brabazon House. Anthea was always gracious and remained so, even when Motor Neurone Disease made life very difficult. Conscious of the needs of others to the end, Anthea donated her body to medical research. A Memorial Service and Service of Thanksgiving for Anthea's life was held in St Thomas' Church on Thursday 23rd November 2023. Our deepest sympathy to Anthea's husband Robin, their sons Andrew and Nicholas, their daughters-in-law Avril and Denise, and to their grandchildren Emma, Peter, Simon, Anna, Robert and Adam, to Anthea's sister Jennifer, and all the extended families and circle of friends.

Kathleen (Kay) Florence Walsh (née Plant) died on Friday 20th October 2023 in Blackrock Clinic. Her funeral, at which the Rector officiated with the Rev. Rob Clements, took place in Kilternan Parish Church on Tuesday 24th October 2023, followed by burial in the adjoining cemetery. We extend our sympathy to Kathleen's husband Alan, son Marcus, daughter-in-law Victoria, granddaughters Harriet, Ava, Teddy, Skyler and Paige and to her siblings Frances, Martha, May, Ida, Elsie and Albert and the wider family circle.

Interment of Ashes

The ashes of **Alan Stoole** who died while on holiday in Australia were interred in Mount Jerome on Thursday 13th April 2023. Alan lived in England but was originally from Dublin and had requested that his ashes would be interred in his parents' grave. We extend our sympathy to his wife Helen, his children Mark, Jenni and Katy, his siblings Joyce Atkinson and Ken, and all the family.

The ashes of **Aileen Sinéad O'Donoghue** were interred in St Philip and St James' Garden of Remembrance on Sunday 7th May 2023. We continue to hold Aileen's husband Alan Kelly, their daughters Mia and Ellen, Aileen's parents Margaret and Joe, her sisters Mary, Bridget, Anne and Angela and the wider circle and Aileen's friends in our prayers.

The ashes of **Miriam Olive Keartland née Bradshaw** were interred in St Thomas' Garden of Remembrance on Saturday 15th July 2023. We continue to hold Mervyn, Keith, Ian and all the family in our prayers.

The ashes of **Olive Buttimer née Burgess and of her parents, Arthur and Jean Burgess née Stuart** were interred in St Thomas' Garden of Remembrance on Saturday 15th July 2023. We continue to hold Arthur and David Burgess and all the family in our prayers.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to:

Shameela Lyons (née Bhagwan) and her family and Nelina Jones (née Bhagwan) and her family of the death of their mother Nóra Bhagwan (née Hartnett);

Karunadhas Nesan and his family on the death of his mother in India;

Simon Spence and his family on the death of his mother June;

Kim Featherstone and his family on the death of his wife Joan;

Valerie Teggin and her family on the death of her mother Florence Archibald

Gordon Richards and his family of the death of his brother Ken in June and of his brother Derek in July;

Stephen Gillmor and his family on the death of his mother Olive Gillmore (née Shaw);

Stephanie Morris on the death of her brother Richard;

Adrienne and Denise Cole and their family on the death of their mother Audrey;

Janet (née Hodgins) and Paul Douglas and their family on the death of their son Clive, and to Clive's wife Emma and their children Caleb, Eve and Finn.

PJ's Christmas Craic-er!



was held on Saturday 9th December 2023, from 10.30 to 12.00 in St Philip and St James' Church. It was an opportunity for people to get together and to have a chat over tea/coffee/juice/hot chocolate with scones and mince pies. There were bargains and goodies galore on the Bring-and-Buy Stall and a Lucky Dip and Pin-the-Tail-on-the Reindeer for the children to enjoy. And of course, there was the very important visit to Santa! Thank you to all who were involved and who supported the Craic-er!



The blindfold being removed to see if the tail had been put on the reindeer in the right place!!!



Santa Claus with two of his elves, Jill Lacey and Alexa Mitchell and with one of his fans, Renée! Thank you very much to Alexa and her mother Mairéad O'Byrne on the wonderful creation of Santa's Grotto!



All set up and ready to go for coffee, tea, juice and hot chocolate with scones and mince pies!!



CAROLS for PROTESTANT AID



Over the past years and with the increased cost of living this winter, 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 in St Thomas' Church at 19.00 hours, on Sunday 17th December 2023, for Protestant Aid. The proceeds of the carol singing in the Blackrock Village 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 17th December 2023 at 19.00 hours
St Thomas' Church

Carols by Candlelight



CAROL SINGING for DUBLIN SIMON



We are carol singing again this year for Dublin SIMON in their fundraising campaign called *Sing for SIMON!* We will be carol singing in the Blackrock Village Shopping Centre (the one with SuperValu) on Thursday 21st December 2023, 16.00-18.00. The plan is to do it in 'relays' with people singing up for a hour (or even thirty minutes!) as singing non-stop for two hours is rough on the voice!

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 holding—the Centre asks us not to rattle! - the collection boxes.

Carol Singing in aid of Dublin SIMON
Blackrock Village Shopping Centre

16.00—18.00 hours

Thursday 21st December 2023



HELP FOR SANTA

Thank you to for your very generous response to our campaign to Help Santa this year. There is a small mountain of stuff which is being delivered, today (Wednesday 13th December 2023).

Life can be very cruel and by your generosity we will make a difference to some children this Christmas by helping Santa, and make a difference to people who are homeless with gifts of new underwear (particularly long-johns), socks, gloves and hats, as well as passing on jackets, hoodies, tracksuit bottoms, etc. Thank you for gifts of toys, food, toiletries, female hygiene products, etc.



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In working with Protestant Aid, the Alice Leahy Trust, the Dublin SIMON Community and the Capuchin Day Centre, 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.



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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...

THE ALICE LEAHY TRUST

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

Our two parishes have an ongoing working relationship with **The Alice Leahy Trust**. **TRUST** was founded in 1975 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). They need the following items:



MEN'S CLOTHING

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

THEY ALSO NEED

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



The items can be left at the back of either of the churches and they will then be taken into The Alice Leahy Trust.

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

Thank you to Sheila Chamberlain from St Thomas' and Viola Brady and Denise Richards from St Philip and St James' who sort the items and to Viola Brady who liaises with The Alice Leahy Trust and takes the items into them.

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

Thank you!

BOOTERSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL



We have had an exciting term with Maths week in October and Science week in November. A huge thank you to the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) who funded gymnastics classes which are taking place in November and December. Our student council elections have been held and our new Student Council has met and has lots of ideas for new initiatives and activities this year. This term we welcomed *Luna* from the *Irish Therapy Dogs' Reading for Fun Programme*. The Reading for Fun Programme encourages the children to read to a special reading 'friend' – in this case an Irish Therapy Dog. The dog is a captive audience who does not judge or criticise them, never laughs at mistakes and so makes reading an enjoyable activity for them. The children relax while reading to the dog and this gives them the confidence needed to read aloud. With improvement in their literacy and communication skills their self esteem and confidence grows.

In July, Booterstown National School ran its first summer programme for children who attend learning support. It was great fun as children did arts and crafts, science experiments, cooking and day trips. Over the summer we improved the storage in our GP room and senior classes and the revamp looks great. Our school website has been recently updated and we have added a monthly calendar with events and special days highlighted. You can check it out at www.booterstownnationalschool.ie

We are delighted to welcome Rachel Webster to our teaching team this year, covering Ms Deirdre Langrell's career break. Our staffing for this year is as follows:

Principal/ Learning Support Teacher: Emma Uí Shúilleabháin

Deputy Principal/ Junior & Senior Infant Teacher: Shameela Lyons

1st & 2nd Class Teacher: Valerie Walker

3rd & 4th Class Teacher: Becky Prenter

5th & 6th Class Teacher: Rachel Webster

Learning Support Teachers: Bernadette Mc Nicholas, Nalina Jones

SNAs: Carol Thornton and Kerry Grantham

School Secretary: Debra Merriman



The Parent-Teacher Association held a wonderful School Fair at the end of May and their current project is the school calendars. The PTA AGM was held at the beginning of October at which the elections were held for a new PTA. A huge thank you to the outgoing PTA and in particular chairperson Pamela Potterton, Secretary Shíona Fitzgibbon and treasurer Gearóid Cahillane. Welcome to the new Chairperson Carrie Bourke and her team, who have hit the ground running! On Friday 24th November 2023 we had a Christmas jumper day and our PTA provided popcorn for the students in anticipation of the Toy Show.

The Board of Management finished its term on 30th November 2023, having served for four years. Thank you to the outgoing Board of Management, some of whom, by the nature of their nomination/representation appear on the new Board and some who have managed to escape! Thank you to Shameela Lyons, Rachel Morrogh-Foley and Niall McCoy. Following the various appointments and elections, the following are the members of the Board of Management to serve 2023-2027:

Patron's Nominees: Gillian Wharton (Chairperson) and Marcus Daly

Principal: Emma Uí Shúilleabháin

Teachers' Nominee: Valerie Walker

Mothers' Nominee: Pamela Potterton

Fathers' Nominee: Ivan Coulter

Community Representatives: Gordon Richards and Stuart Trotter (Honorary Treasurer)

Our School Christmas Carol Service will take place on Wednesday 20th December at 12pm in St Philip and St James' Church, and our senior classes will be hosting an Ecumenical Carol Service on Thursday 21st December 2023 in St Philip and St James' Church and we look forward to sharing in this service with St Mary's Boys National School and Our Lady of Mercy Convent National School.

Thank you to all who support our school community in so many ways and we wish you all a lovely Christmas.

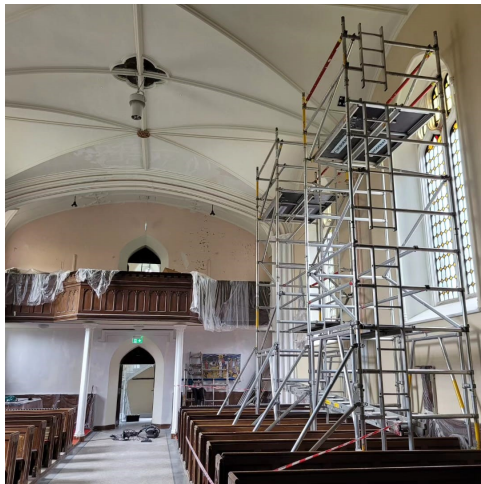
Best wishes,

Emma Uí Shúilleabháin

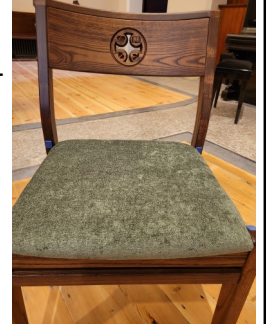
Principal



HEATING and ALTERATIONS PROJECT in ST PHILP and ST JAMES' CHURCH



The works on St Philip and St James' Church have continued this year with the more major projects being the re-painting of the church, the arrival of new chairs and the refurbishment of the pews and wood panelling. The redecoration of the nave and transepts was a huge task. Scaffolding was required which added to the overall demands of the task. We had to use paint that was especially made to reflect the type of the paint that would have been used in the early stages of the church, and the ceiling alone required six coats of paint so that the filling and making good of areas did not show through. We said 'goodbye' to the various shades of powder-puff pink that had been on the walls and painted the walls an 'oatmeal' colour with the back (west) wall in a green. The two photos on the



lefthand side of this page will give you an idea of the changes and of how it looks now.

The overall effect is one that is calming and peaceful and the features of the church such as the chancel, stained glass windows and the mosaic on the back wall are enhanced.

The new chairs arrived in the autumn and they are beautiful with the parish logo carved into the back-rest—see the photos. Thank you to those who have donated or sponsored a chair—over 50% of the chairs have been gifted. Many of the donated chairs are in memory of a loved one. Thank you to those who have done that. The plaques are currently being finalised and will be going on the chairs in early 2024. Irish Contract Seating (ICS) who supplied the chairs informed us that they were getting a new machine for the plaques and advised us to wait as the new machine would do a better job, so we are waiting!

Quentin Teggin has been contacting the donors of the chairs to clarify their inscription.

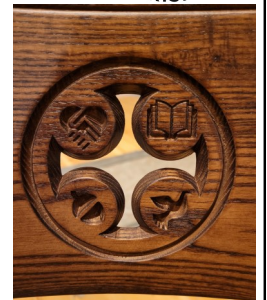
However, please note that the plaque will be small and that the maximum number of characters – NB, characters, not words, and a space counts as a character! – is 50-55.

There are still some chairs available – the cost of a chair is €275 (including the brass plaque and engraving). If you would like more information about donating or

sponsoring a chair, please contact the Honorary Treasurer, Quentin Teggin at qtteggin@gmail.com or the Rector. The remaining pews are being refurbished along

with the wooden panelling and the improvement is amazing! The pews and the wooden panelling in the nave will be finished before Christmas and the pews and wooden panelling in the transepts will be done in

January. Some damp was found in the North Porch and in the Vestry and remedial works have been carried out and when the plaster is dry, the painters will return to complete the redecoration of those areas.



I cannot begin to calculate the hours that the two glebewardens have put into this project. When workmen finish up on a Friday night, Gordon Richards and Mike Hayes are in the church, sorting everything to make sure that we can use it for Sunday services. If there are services or occasions during the week, they



are in there, moving furniture, cleaning, etc. They, along with the Select Vestry given great attention to every detail. The decisions on the colour of the walls and the wood stain and upholstery on the chairs were only made following mammoth discussions!

The church has become a much more tranquil and comfortable place in which to worship, and more flexible for a variety of activities such as confirmation class, concerts, social gatherings, etc. As we prepare to celebrate 200 years of worship in the church, our hope and prayer is that it will continue to serve the parish community and the wider community and be a place where people may encounter the presence of God.

HEATING and SOUND SYSTEM in ST THOMAS' CHURCH

Over the summer, St Thomas' Church was a busy site as work was done on the heating system and the sound system. St Thomas' Church is heated by four storage heaters and by oil-filled radiators that are run on electricity. We looked at all the possible alternatives from gas-fired central heating, to smart heaters, to radiant pendant heaters, to climate-controlled heating, to air to water heat exchangers. After much research and discussion with the heating and mechanical engineer, it was agreed to leave the oil-filled radiators in the system and to replace the four storage heaters, of which only two were working and they were only partially working. It was also agreed to install two small destratifiers which gently (and most importantly, quietly!) push the warm air back down to where it is needed, at human being level! The work was undertaken during the summer and we now have a much warmer and cosier church even though the heating is on for less than it would have been previously.

The sound system was also overhauled. Parishioners were complaining that they couldn't hear and that there was a lot of 'feedback' and 'background' noise on the system. Thank you to Dylan Rynhart, Mike Hayes (St Philip and St James' People's Glebewarden) and Graham Hayes, all of whom not only look after such things in St Philip and St James' Church but who discovered what the problem was, researched what was needed and installed the new equipment in St Thomas' Church too. People are now able to hear everything loud and clear!

The mechanics or action of the organ at St Thomas' Church has been heavy and clunky for many years. It was decided to see if it could be improved. We had exploratory visits and quotes from two organ builders and Stephen Adams has worked magic on the organ! Springs have been released or eased and the pressure was raised to coax a little more power out of it.

All of this work was able to be undertaken, thanks to a very generous donation from the Montgomery Charitable Trust and a very generous bequest from the late Canon Bill Heney,

The Scout Shed roof was also replaced during the summer, and particular thanks to the Scout Group Honorary Treasurer Peter Marshall, who researched and successfully applied for a grant for the work. The Scout Group equipment is now stored in dry conditions which will prolong its life significantly.

Thank you to Denis Beare, the Glebewarden on Mount Merrion Select Vestry who keeps an eye on everything with regard to property.

St Thomas' Church is preparing to celebrate 150 years of worship in the church, and we too are discussing and reflecting how the little church on the corner and the parish may serve the parish and beyond in the years to come.

UNITED SERVICE FOR DAFFODIL DAY

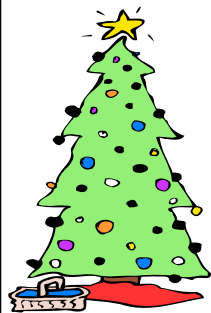


For the past number of years, following on from the Daffodil Coffee Morning held for many years by Florrie Halliday, we have held a Daffodil Service followed by a Coffee Morning in aid of the Irish Cancer Society on the fourth Sunday of March. Due to COVID, we were not able to hold the Daffodil Service for two years and we really appreciated being able to do so again in 2022 and 2023. We always have it on the fourth Sunday of March which is near Daffodil Day and at the service which will be at 10.30 in St Philip and St James' Church, we will be praying 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; giving thanks for the recovery of those who have survived cancer, and remembering those who have died from cancer. In 2024, the fourth Sunday of March will also be Palm Sunday.

Afterwards, there will be a coffee morning in aid of the Irish Cancer Society which will take place in the parish hall.

***Sunday 24th March 2024 in St Philip and St James' Church
at 10.30, followed by coffee morning in the parish hall.***





2024

It's going to be a big one!!

In 2024, we will celebrate and mark the 200th anniversary of the consecration of St Philip and St James' Church which took place on 16th May 1824. The Parish of Booterstown had been founded three years earlier in 1821 as it was carved out of the Parish of Donnybrook. The Parish of Booterstown was united with the Parish of Christ Church, Carysfort in 1943. On Sunday 19th May 2024, there will be a special united service at 10.30 in St Philip and St James' Church to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the consecration of the church. The Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Rev. Michael Jackson, will preside at that Service of Holy Communion and the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Rev. John McDowell will preach. The Ad Hoc Choir will be singing at this service and the Stedfast Band will also be playing. There will be other events too during the year to mark this special occasion.



2024 will also be a special year in the life of St Thomas' Church as we mark and celebrate the 150th anniversary of the consecration of St Thomas' Church on 21st December 1874. St Thomas' Day, up to about 60 years ago, was on 21st December but possibly because it got 'lost' in the run-up to Christmas and possibly because St Thomas features most in the questions that he has after Jesus' resurrection, his day was transferred to 3rd July. The Select Vestry decided that it would not be feasible to mark the 150th anniversary four days before Christmas so they have chosen to have a special service on the Sunday close to St Thomas' Day and there will be a special united service at 10.30 in St Thomas' Church on Sunday 30th June 2024. The Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Rev. Michael Jackson will be preside at that Service of Holy Communion and the Rev. Ruth Elmes will preach. Ruth Elmes' late mother Janet was a Hipwell. She was a first cousin of Canon Trevor Hipwell but the families were close. Trevor has the distinction of being the first rector of the Parish of Mount Merrion, and the only rector of Mount Merrion as a parish on its own. It was carved out of Taney Parish in 1956 and his Institution on 24th June that year marked the beginning of the Parish of Mount Merrion. On Trevor's retirement in 1994, the grouping of the Parish of Mount Merrion with the Parish of Booterstown and Carysfort began and the subsequent rectors of Mount Merrion have also been the rectors of Booterstown and Carysfort. Interestingly, Mount Merrion Parish is the only parish that Trevor was ever rector of; he only served one incumbency and that was in Mount Merrion Parish. Hence, Trevor has a unique place in the history of St Thomas' Church and it is a church that is much loved by the extended Hipwell family. Again, the Ad Hoc Choir will be singing at this service and the Stedfast Band will also be playing. Other events are also being planned to mark the 150th anniversary.

It is hoped that the clergy and lay readers who have previously been connected with one or both parishes will visit and preach during 2024. There are quite a few, at least twelve come to mind!

Michael Lee has done a fantastic job on researching the history of the parishes. Whilst we might have two churches, our history takes in five parishes: Booterstown, Mount Merrion, Carysfort, Taney and Mount Merrion and that is a lot of research, and needless to say, Mike did it diligently. Thank you to all those who gave of their time to be interviewed by Mike. We look forward to the book being published next year.

Details of other events and occasions to celebrate these significant milestones in our parishes will be revealed in 2024. In the meantime, put the above dates in your diary! We would love you to be involved.



DUBLIN STAGE SCHOOL

(FORMERLY STAGECOACH)



Up and running from St Philip and St James' Parish centre since 1994, Dublin Stage School caters for children aged 4-18 years. The stage school has gone from strength to strength over the years now have nine classes from Thursday to

Saturday in the parish. Our ethos is to teach children to sing, dance and act in a safe, all inclusive environment and to allow their talents to flourish under the guidance of trained, experienced teachers.



We were thrilled to be able to have our Christmas Showcases in the beautifully refurbished church and the children love to perform in there.

With sell out summer camps each July, Dublin Stage School is a popular choice for children in the vicinity. For more information you will find us online at dublinstageschool.ie or on social media at Dublin Stage school!

Our Summer Camps were sold out in July 2023 and you can book online for Summer camps 2024 soon.

Any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us

Best Wishes,
Evan & Emma

Evan & Emma Holton | Managers | Dublin Stage School

98 Inagh Court Ballybrack Co Dublin A96N9E2

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

E: info@dublinstageschool.ie | **W:** www.dublinstageschool.ie



SUNDAY CLUBS

It is wonderful to see the children enjoying Sunday Club so much, and the rest of the congregation loves hearing about what they have done that in Sunday Club and to see what they have done. The dates for Sunday Club January to May 2024 will be posted on the website and will be emailed out to everyone so that you know when they are meeting. All children who are toilet-trained are welcome. Thank you to our leaders who give of their time and energy.



GDPR—PARISHES' PRIVACY POLICY



The parishes are obliged to comply with GDPR. If you contact the Rector and want her to keep in touch with you by phone, or email, etc, or to have your contact details on our records, we need a completed GDPR Form from you. If you have not done so, please complete and return a GDPR Form now. Forms are available from the Rector.

For further information on our GDPR policies please see www.boosterstownchurch.ie or www.mountmerriionchurch.ie.

Click *About Us* and then on *Parish Privacy Policy*.

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 Tegg (qtegg@btinternet.com)
 IBAN: IE51 BOFI 9010 2887 8916 34 BIC: BOFIE2D
 ACCOUNT NAME: PARISH OF ST PHILIP & ST JAMES

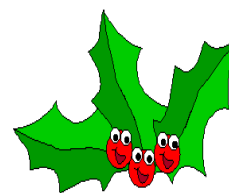


St Thomas' Church

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 2023, please contact the Honorary Treasurers above.



Collections

We will be resuming taking up collections in December. But we do recognise that many people give online and via Standing Order, so please feel free and comfortable not to put any collection in the basket.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

The parishes' Christian Meditation Group takes place on a Tuesday afternoon at 3.30pm. It usually meets in-person in the Canon Osborne Barr Room of St Philip and St James' Parish Centre., and occasionally, maybe, once a month, it meets on Zoom.

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

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

Contact: Irene 087-2755423

Discover more: www.christianmeditation.ie www.wccm.org



DECORATING THE CHURCHES FOR CHRISTMAS



Both churches will be decorated for Christmas on Saturday 16th December 2023. **St Thomas' Church** will be decorated **9.30-11.00** and **St Philip and St James' Church** **10.30-12.00**. Help would be very much appreciated, as would donations of holly, ivy, poinsettias, flowers, etc., and we are always delighted to see people come along towards the end ready to sweep up and tidy up after the decorators have been at work!

Thank you too to Hartney-Spence family who are looking after erecting and decorating the Christmas Tree in St Thomas' Church and to Mike Hayes who erects the Christmas Tree in St Philip and St James' Church and to Denise Richards and Viola Brady who decorate it.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE of REMEMBRANCE at ELM PARK GOLF CLUB

Each year, Elm Park Golf and Sports Club holds an ecumenical service, in the Clubhouse, to remember the members and friends of the Club who have died in the previous year. The families of those who have died are invited to the service and it is very much appreciated by them. The Elm Park Choir—yes! They have a choir! - sings at the service. Having arrived in our parishes at the end of October 2004, it was one of the first ecumenical and community events that I was asked to participate in, and it has been a pleasure to do so every year since, apart from 2020 when there was no service due to COVID. The clergy of approximately four Roman Catholic parishes rotate as to which of them participates. Last year, Fr Joe Mullan, who is the Parish Priest of our neighbouring parish of St Thérèse's Mount Merrion and also the Parish Priest of St Laurence O'Toole's Church in Kilmacud and the Church of the Miraculous Medal on Bird Avenue in Clonskeagh took part. This year, it was the turn of Monsignor Ciarán O'Carroll who is the Parish Priest of our other neighbouring church, the Church of the Assumption, as well as being Parish Priest of the Sacred Heart Church in Donnybrook. He is a busy man! It was a pleasure to share in this service with him.



Monsignor Ciarán O'Carroll

The incoming Captain of the Men's Golf in Elm Park Golf Club for the year 2024 is parishioner Stephen Gillmor. We wish him all the best in his captaincy. This is the second time in recent history that someone connected with our parishes has held office in Elm Park; Peter Kelly was Captain of the Men's Golf in 2012.

HEALER PRAYER GROUP



Each month, or thereabouts, there is a time of prayer for those who have asked for prayer, or for whom prayer has been requested. During COVID, we moved our Healer Prayer Group online and meet via Zoom and this suits people who do not want to travel out in the evening. We meet at 19.00 and 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. Details are announced in the weekly newsheet.

We would particularly ask those who put names on the Prayer Request Lists to join the Healer Prayer Group as it is always good to hear how those who are being prayed for, are getting on.

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.

CLEANING THE CHURCHES

We are indebted to the two teams of volunteers—one team in each church—who clean the churches on a rota basis. No one ever notices the churches looking spick and span but everyone notices when they are not 'up to scratch' so thank you to those who clean, Hoover and polish.

Some new faces would be great—you only end up doing it about once a quarter. June Burgess co-ordinates the rota for St Philip and St James' Church and Sheila Chamberlain co-ordinates the rota for St Thomas' Church. It is always good to get more volunteers—many hands make light work and the idea is that with the rota and many volunteers, you only have to clean two or three times a year.

Please contact June at 086-8157748 or Sheila at 086-3320072.



EVENING BADMINTON IN ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES' HALL... from 8pm

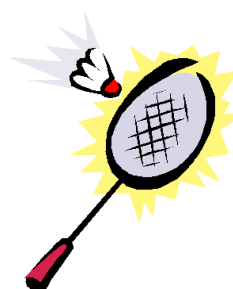


Now that Winter is upon us and the Autumn evenings fading, our thoughts turn to exercise and how to stay fit during those long winter evenings. The answer is easy...

BADMINTON!!

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

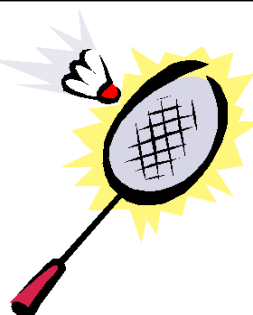
For further information contact Maureen at 01-2809826 or 086-3203849



MORNING BADMINTON IN ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES' HALL

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

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



A bright and early start on Thursday mornings from 8.45am

For further information, please contact:

Gill Davis at 087-7857711



St Philip and St James' Whist

Monday evenings at 7.30pm in the Canon Osborne Barr Room—All very welcome!

Contact Deirdre Kennedy 087-6283534

Parish 5-a-side Indoor Soccer

Monday and Wednesday nights in
St Philip and St James' Parish Hall
8.30-9.30pm All welcome



Contact Dylan Rynhart at
dylanrynhart@gmail.com or join the
WhatsApp Group at



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



EASTER GENERAL VESTRIES

The Easter General Vestry for Mount Merrion Parish was held on Monday 17th April 2023 in St Thomas' Church and the following were elected or appointed:

Rector's Churchwarden – Joan Sherlock-Robertson People's Churchwarden – Myrtle McWilliam
People's Glebewarden – Denis Beare

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

Patricia Bedlow, Sheila Chamberlain, Judith Donlon, Aideen Hartney (*Honorary Secretary*),
Cedric Heather, John Hudson, Ian Mullen (*Honorary Treasurer*), William Robertson, Matthew Sherlock-Robertson, Hilary Turner.

The following were elected to serve for 2023-2026:

Parochial Nominators – Denis Beare and Sheila Chamberlain
Supplemental Parochial Nominators – Ian Mullen and Patricia Bedlow.
Diocesan Synodsperson – Sheila Chamberlain
Supplemental Diocesan Synodsperson – Ian Mullen

The Easter General Vestry for Booterstown and Carysfort Parish was held on Thursday 20th April. 2023 in St Philip and St James' Church, and the following were elected or appointed:

Rector's Churchwarden – Jill Lacey People's Churchwarden – Cecilia Faulim Quadros
Rector's Glebewarden – Gordon Richards People's Glebewarden – Mike Hayes

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

Viola Brady, June Burgess, Marcus Daly, Graham Hayes, Deirdre Kennedy, Alexa Mitchell, Tom Morgan,
Barbara Plant, Síle Reeves, David Reid (*Honorary Secretary*), Denise Richards, Quentin Teggin
(*Honorary Treasurer*).

The following were elected 2023-2026:

Parochial Nominators – Stuart Trotter and June Burgess;
Supplemental Parochial Nominators – Quentin Teggin and Stefanie O'Brien.
Diocesan Synodspersons – Quentin Teggin and Stephanie Morris;
Supplemental Diocesan Synodspersons – Marcus Daly and June Burgess.

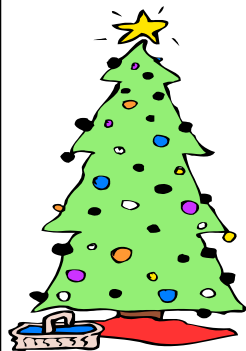
LENTEN 2023 CHALLENGE



Thank you to all who supported the Lenten Challenge. It was much harder this year than previous years to find the time to fit in the 6km walk each day. Posting on Facebook and Instagram kept me honest!!! It was also wetter this year than the previous two years that I have done it. When it rained it was heavier and there were more wet days than previously. Thank you to those who endured some discomfort and pain at times as a few blisters made their presence known! The Rector's Challenge was to walk 6km a day for each of the 46 days of Lent, including Sundays. Thank you to those who were so encouraging, and to those who joined in on a walk on Saturday 25th March, 1st April and 8th April 2023.



Thank you to all who have donated so generously—it much appreciated. The primary aim of the Challenge was to encourage people to get back out and we wanted people to focus on their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health, and if whilst doing that, we could help others as well, that would be great. We raised a total of €4,000 which is fantastic—thank you! €2,300 was sent to the relief of the victims of the Earthquake in Syria and Turkey via the Bishops' Appeal.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 17th December 2023

8.30 Holy Communion

St Philip and St James' Church

10.30 Christingle Service

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

19.00 Carols by Candlelight

St Thomas' Church (*live-streamed*)

Wednesday 20th December 2023

12.00 Booterstown National School Carol Service

St Philip and St James' Church

Thursday 21st December 2023

11.00 Ecumenical Carol Service for the three national schools in Booterstown

St Philip and St James' Church



Sunday 24th December 2023—Christmas Eve

8.30 Holy Communion

St Philip and St James' Church

10.30 A Quiet Christmas'

St Thomas' Church

22.00 NB Time! The First Holy Communion of Christmas

St Thomas' Church

Monday 25th December 2023 — Christmas Day

08.30 Holy Communion

St Philip and St James' Church

9.30 Family Holy Communion

St Thomas' Church

11.00 Family Holy Communion

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

Sunday 31st December 2023

8.30 **NB Venue!** Holy Communion

St Thomas' Church

10.30 Holy Communion

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

