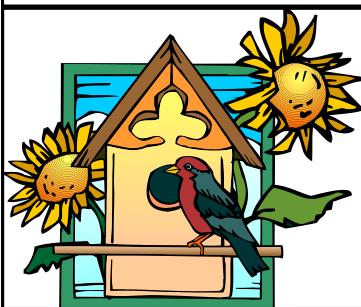




St Philip & St James' and St Thomas'

The Rector
writes ...

SPRING 2015



RECTOR:

Rev. Gillian Wharton

Tel: 01-2887118
087-2300767

Email:

booterstown@dublin.anglican.org

CURATE:

Rev. Suzanne Harris

Tel: 087-9354869
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PARISH OFFICE:

St. Thomas' Rectory
Foster Avenue,
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Tel: 01-2835873

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Deirdre Donovan

Email:

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Visit us anytime at

booterstownchurch.ie
mountmerrionchurch.ie

NEWSLETTER

On Sunday 8th March 2015, at 8.45, twenty-nine very excited children, along with staff and parents, and members of the Board of Management, gathered in the Hospitality Room of the RTÉ Television Centre, before heading into the studio for a run-through the service—the run-through took almost 2 hours! After a short break, we were back into the studio to go out live at 11.10.

Picking up on the two scriptures readings about the Ten Commandments and Jesus clearing the temple, and taking the theme of community and respect, pupils from the school explained why the various symbols had been chosen for the school logo: the cross symbolising Christianity; 1826—the year the school was founded; the clasped hands in the shape of a heart showing that we strive to be a caring, helping, loving community; the open book inviting people to

read it, to learn; the dove symbolising peace and the Holy Spirit; the acorn symbolising growth and all in a circle encapsulating what Booterstown National School is.



The logo was designed by the then 5th Class and 6th Class pupils in the summer term 2014, and then a former parent and a current parent fine-tuned the ideas and the drawings into what you now see. Although the school is 189 years old, it never had a logo or a crest. The logo symbolises the kind of community that Booterstown National School strives to be.

We are now working on a new parish logo

for our parishes to replace the one at the top lefthand corner of the page which was hurriedly put together about 13 years ago.

We want to streamline it as the 'busy' design on the cross can make it hard to downsize successfully and to use on some occasions.

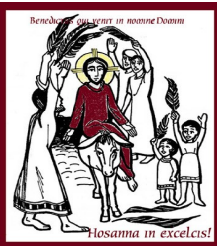
Like the school logo, we want the parish logo to clearly depict who we are and what sort of community we are.

At the heart of who we are, whether parish or school is the cross of Christ.

At the heart of Easter is the cross of Christ, symbolising hope, new life, community. We, as church and school, strive to be communities of hope, care, love, and renewal—the heart of the Easter story.

Happy Easter.

Gillian



HOLY WEEK & EASTER

In this newsletter, you will see details of the Holy Week and Easter services. Again, there is a service each evening in Holy Week alternating between the two churches. On Good Friday evening, we, along with the people of Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church, join with our neighbours in the Church of the Assumption on Booterstown Avenue for an ecumenical service of prayer at the cross. Our evening services in Holy Week will be at 20.00 each night, until we get to Good Friday and then we will go to the Church of the Assumption on Booterstown Avenue but please note that that service will be at **19.30**.

On Maundy Thursday, in St Philip and St James' Church, we will be celebrating Holy Communion, remembering how Jesus transformed the Passover meal into what became the Holy Communion.

On Good Friday, we will have Meditation on the Cross 14.00-15.00 in St. Thomas' Church.

Sonrise on Easter Morning on Sandymount Strand

This is a very special service which is shared with a number of churches in the Ringsend, Irishtown, Sandymount, Sandford, Milltown, Mount Merrion, Booterstown, Blackrock area. It takes place on the strand, just across from the Esso service station, adjacent to the old "baths". People from different the congregations light their Easter candles and proclaim that Christ is risen in word and song. A 6.00 assembly time for a 6.10 start! It is an incredibly moving and profound experience., and well worth the struggle of getting out of bed so early!

The Rest of Easter Day

On Easter Day, we will have the following services: 8.30 in St Philip and St James' Church, 10.00 in St Thomas' Church and 11.30 in St Philip and St James' Church.

EASTER GENERAL VESTRIES



The Easter General Vestry is the Annual General Meeting of the Parish. At the meeting, there is a review of the previous year and a preview of the year ahead. Any member of the parish can attend the Easter General Vestry, and may speak at the Easter General Vestry, but only those who have signed up to the Register of Vestrypersons can vote or hold office. The Register is updated in January each year.

Please value your right to have a say, and your right to vote. Do please support your parish by attending the Easter General Vestry.

Mount Merrion Easter General Vestry
Monday 13th April 2015 at 20.00 in St Thomas' Church

Booterstown and Carysfort Easter General Vestry
Wednesday 22nd April 2015 at 20.00 in the Canon Osborne Barr Room of Booterstown Parish Centre



REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

Aidan George O'Neill and Heather Rosana O'Neill, the twin son and daughter of Lesley (née Tilson) and Aidan (Olly) O'Neill were baptised in Kilmacanogue Church on Sunday 7th December 2014, by Fr Joe Power Parish Priest of Kilrush, County Wexford (Olly's home parish) with the Rev. Gillian Wharton assisting. As this is the third family celebration that Fr Joe and the Rector have shared in together, they reckoned that they were becoming quite a double-act! Aidan's and Heather's big sisters (also twins!) Ellen and Katie oversaw the whole ceremony! Aidan's godparents are David Tilson and Siobhán O'Neill and Heather's godparents are Alan Tilson and Pat O'Neill.

Polly Paula Powell, the daughter of Juliet Ledbetter and Bobby Powell, was baptised on 27th December 2014, in St Philip and St James' Church. Polly's big sister Ellie helped to pour the water into the font and checked the temperature! Her two granddads, Caleb Powell and Peter Ledbetter did the readings. Polly's godparents are Emma McManus and Simon Powell.

Jack Roger Byers, the son of Sarah (née McGlynn) and Jason Byers was baptised on 3rd January 2015, in the Church of the Assumption, Booterstown, by Fr Cormac McIlraith, assisted by the Rector. Jack's godparents are Grace McGlynn and Matthew Byers.

James Edward Mullarkey, the son of Clodagh Merry and Cormac Mullarkey, was baptised in St Philip and St James' Church at the united family service on 25th January 2015, with members of his family doing the readings. James' godparents are Dermot Merry and Helen Heffernan.

Emily Jean Ann Ayres, the daughter of Damaris (née Noble) and Alan Ayres, and little sister of Charlie, was baptised in St Philip and St James' Church on Sunday 1st March 2015. It was a service of mixed emotions; great joy and celebration at the gift of little Emily, but great sadness too, as Emily's granddad who had died just three weeks before, was very much missed. Emily's godparents are Bernie and Paul Norton.

We warmly welcome Aidan, Heather, Polly, Jack, James and Emily into the family of God and wish them every blessing as they travel on their journeys of faith.

In Memoriam

Ruby Blake-Knox (née Grant) died on Saturday 13th December 2014, in St Vincent's University Hospital. Ruby had lived very privately for many years in Mount Merrion. Her funeral service (which was private) was held in St Thomas' Church on Thursday 18th December 2014, followed by burial in the graveyard of Calary Church in County Wicklow. We extend our sympathy to her son Raymond and all the family.

Joan Hilary Newport (née Gracey) died on Thursday 18th December 2014, in Ferndene Nursing Home. Joan's great passion was her garden, and she was famous in the parish for her shortbread, which was a feature of many a parish event! Joan have moved to Ferndene Nursing Home just before Christmas 2013, where she continued to garden. Her funeral took place in St Philip and St James' Church on Monday 22nd December 2014, followed by cremation at Mount Jerome Cemetery. We extend our sympathy to her sons David and Robin and their families.

REGISTERS continued...

Ronald Thomas Noble died at home on Monday 9th February 2015. Ronald had been lovingly cared for at home by his wife Brigid and his daughter Damaris. Ronald was a longtime member of Wanderers Football Club, and was connected with St Philip and St James' for all of his life, having gone to school in Booterstown National School, as a small boy. Ronald's funeral took place in St Philip and St James' Church in Friday 13th February 2015, followed by burial in St Patrick's Graveyard, Enniskerry. We extend our sympathy to Ronald's wife Brigid, his children Tom, Raymond, Peter and Damaris, his siblings Stanley and Olive, and all the extended family.

Joseph Worthington (Joe) Towell died at St Vincent's University Hospital on Saturday 14th February 2015. Joe celebrated his 96th birthday on 17th January 2015. He and his late wife Doadie (Dorothy), along with their sons Andrew and Roger, had come to Mount Merrion in the mid-fifties and had become part of the parish. Joe served in the RAF during World War 2, and each year, he led the Act of Remembrance in St Thomas' Church. His funeral service took place in St Thomas' Church on Monday 23rd February 2015, and the RAF Association formed a guard of honour as the coffin entered and exited the church. At the Committal at Mount Jerome Crematorium, the RAF Association again paid tribute to Joe, and Adeleh Davis played The Last Post and Reveille. We extend our sympathy to his sons Andrew and Roger, and all the extended family.

Interment of Ashes

Basil Fahy: The ashes of Basil Fahy, who died on 18th October 2002, were interred in the Garden of Remembrance at St Thomas' Church, on Sunday 4th January 2015.

Susan (Sue) Eileen McDonnell (née Street): The ashes of Sue McDonnell who died on 21st July 2014, were interred in the Garden of Remembrance at St Philip and St James' Church, on Sunday 11th January 2015.

Joan Hilary Newport (née Gracey): The ashes of Joan were interred in St Thomas' Garden of Remembrance on Saturday 17th January 2015.

Dorothy Towell (née Ferguson) and Joseph Worthington (Joe) Towell: The ashes of Dorothy Towell which had been interred in the old Garden of Remembrance at St Thomas' Church were re-interred in the new Garden of Remembrance as the ashes of Joe Towell were being interred in the new St Thomas' Garden of Remembrance on Wednesday 25th February 2015.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to:

to Maria Hudson and her family on the death of her mother;
to Elizabeth Kinkade on the death of her mother;
to Lucian Harris on the death of his father;
to Alan Rowden on the death of his mother;
to Hilary Turner on the death of her mother;
to Dee Langrell on the death of her sister-in-law.



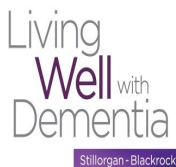
GENERAL SYNOD

This year, the General Synod will meet in the City Hotel, Armagh, on Thursday 7th May, Friday 8th May and Saturday 9th May 2015. This is the first session of the Triennium, so we hope there will be lots of new faces attending General Synod for the first time, having been elected by the Diocesan Synods in 2014. This year the General Synod Holy Communion Service is going to take place on the morning of the first day. For the last number of years it has been at the end of the first day, starting straight after the business session of the first day has finished, which mean a very long day for people who had, perhaps, left home early that morning to get to General Synod. It also meant that attendees were not having dinner until about 10pm which was too late, so it will be interesting to see how it works this year with the service at 10.30, and the formal business of the General Synod commencing at midday.

The clergy of each Diocese elect a representative number of clergy to General Synod, and the laity of each Diocese elect two laypersons for every clerical member. The clergy of Dublin Diocese elect eighteen clergy to General Synod, and the laity of Dublin elect thirty-six laypersons to General Synod; Glendalough Diocese elect four clergy and eight laity to General Synod.

The Rector has been a member of General Synod for a number of years and Uta Raab, who is a Diocesan Lay Minister, and a member of Booterstown and Carysfort Select Vestry, was elected to General Synod in 2011, and again last year, so this will be her fourth year attending General Synod.

A brief overview of General Synod will be reported on Sunday 10th May 2015.



The **Living Well with Dementia** project is delighted to be involved with St Thomas parish. Since September 2013 the project has run a weekly activity group on Tuesday afternoons. More than 30 people with dementia, family members and carers participate in 2 exercise classes, enjoy social support and relax with a cup of tea afterwards. The activity group is run with the support of a team of volunteers, some from St Thomas parish, and transition year students from Mount Anville.

Living Well with Dementia supports people with dementia in the Stillorgan/Mount Merrion/Blackrock area to continue to live at home and participate in their community and continue with life-long interests. The 3-year pilot project, which is funded by HSE and Atlantic Philanthropies, also aims to raise awareness about dementia, reduce stigma, invite participation from all sectors of the community and promote early diagnosis. This part of Dublin has the highest national urban prevalence of dementia (approximately 700 people).

Volunteers. We are appealing for both male and female volunteers to support activities such as our activity group, walking groups, befriending, inclusive choir, social events and transport.

To find out more about any of the above, please contact the Living Well with Dementia office. Tel: 01 706 0100.

Email: info@livingwellwithdementia.ie

Website www.livingwellwithdementia.ie

BADMINTON



*So you still want to
get fit in 2015...
but you hate the gym;
it's boring, and it's too
expensive...*

so play badminton!

***No boredom - we will make you
sweat, while you're having fun!!!***

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

Thursday Nights

**Contact Maureen on
01-2809826**



Living Well with Dementia Volunteer Drivers Wanted!

Living Well with Dementia is a three year community-based project supporting people with dementia in the Stillorgan/Mount Merrion/Blackrock area to participate in their community and pursue life-long interests.

We are currently looking for volunteer drivers to take some of our participants to our Musical Memories Choir on Saturday mornings in the Stillorgan/ Mount Merrion area.

Garda Vetting is a requirement. Training and volunteer support will be provided.

**Please contact : Vivienne McCann
on 087 9185 842**

Email: volunteer@livingwellwithdementia.ie

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



**This year the service
of Blessing of the
Animals will take place
at the United Family
Service in Saint Philip
and Saint James' on
Sunday 24th May 2015
at the united service at
10.30 hours.**

The usual plea applies! Please keep your wonderful creature(s) under control! Birds, guinea pigs, hamsters, etc. to be kept in cages, out of the way of cats, and cats and rabbits to be kept in cages, out of the way of dogs, and dogs to be kept on a leash at all times! We don't want any unplanned and tragic eating episodes!!!

Pooper scooper rules apply too! All sorts of animals are welcome. And if you don't have an animal, but you want to bring your toy animal, well, that's just fine too!



HEALER PRAYER

Each month there is a time of prayer for those who have asked for prayer, or for whom prayer has been requested. The next Healer Prayer time is on Monday 8th June 2015 at 19.15 hours in the Committee Room of the Monk Gibbon Hall.

Details announced in the weekly newssheet. It lasts 40 minutes: the people on the Healer Prayer Group List are prayed for, and the list is updated and fresh lists are placed in each church the following Sunday, for people to take away and to use. Those who take the list, are asked to pray for everyone on the list each day.

In addition, in each church, there are sheets, where the names of anyone whom you would like to be prayed for, may be added.

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

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

FUNDRAISING! FUNDRAISING! FUNDRAISING!



ST THOMAS' CHURCH SUMMER SALE!!

The sale will take place on

**Saturday 16th May 2015,
12.00—15.00 hours.**

We need donations and people to help with the following:

Cakes – Hilary Turner

Bric-a-brac - Vi Wilson and team

Lunches/Teas – Sheila Chamberlain, Myrtle McWilliam, Heather Bell

Cards – Julie-Anne Hudson

Plants – Judith Donlon, Julie-Anne Hudson

Media – Philip Bagnall, Will Robertson

Bottles – Denis Beare

2nd Outing (Clothes, Bags, Shoes, etc.), - Suzanne Harris

BBQ – John Telford, Monickam Thanaseelan

Toys – Volunteers Needed

Gate money – Alan McGurdy

Tea money – Alec Bell

Ice Cream – Volunteers Needed

Raffle – Deirdre Donovan

We need people to help erect and strike tents, to set up and clear up, to help on stalls, and lots of other things...!

***Please put your shoulder
to the wheel !***





MOUNT MERRION ECUMENICAL GOLF SOCIETY OUTING

The 2015 outing will be held on in Elm Park Golf Club, on Friday 22nd May. The timesheet will be in John O'Reilly's Butchers on Deepark Road, from mid-April. There is a special anniversary dinner that evening in the Clubhouse, with prize-giving and a raffle.

This is always a most enjoyable day, with golf ranging from the wonderful to the mediocre, but with craic, camaraderie and fun very much in the wonderful range!

All parishioners from our group of parishes are very welcome to play in this outing. And even if you are a terrible golfer, do still come along and enjoy the walk with your golf clubs!!!

This year, we hope that those who have been part of the various golf outings over the years, will come to the dinner, even if they are not playing— talk to John O'Reilly. And of course, you don't have to be a golfer at all, to be able to come along and join in the fun and camaraderie of the dinner—again, talk to John O'Reilly!

THANK YOU FROM ALAN ROWDEN

Iwould like to thank the parishioners of Booterstown and Mount Merrion, who travelled to St Mary's Church Howth, for my Mum's funeral on Wednesday 11th February 2015, and to thank all those who sent cards and messages of sympathy.

As many of you know, my Mum Florrie, had a very severe stroke on 1st March 2004, and from September of that year, she lived in Ailesbury Private Nursing Home in Sandymount. Living in Sandymount meant that she was no longer able to go to service in her parish church of St Mary's Howth, so she and my Dad would come to Sunday Service by wheelchair ambulance - usually once a month - to St Philip and St James' Church. Mum and Dad were always warmly welcomed, and made to feel part of the parish, as they also were when they went to the Carols by Candlelight in St Thomas' Church. Whilst Mum enjoyed having Holy Communion monthly in the nursing home, she loved to be able to go to a service in a church and be part of a parish community, singing hymns and meeting people.

Thank you for your welcome to her, and for giving her a parish family to be part of, and thank you for your kind messages of sympathy and support.

Alan

KUMON—BLACKROCK

Maths and English Programmes for children of all ages and all abilities.

Monday and Wednesday 3.30 pm—5.30 pm

St Philip and St James' Parish Centre

Contact Clíodhna Colgan—(01) 294 6956

Email: Blackrock@kumoncentre.ie

ST THOMAS' SUNDAY CLUB



Sunday Club is once again back in full swing after the Christmas break with Catherine, Adam and Emma as teachers once again. We continue to meet on the second and third Sunday of the month as we did before the break with an enthusiastic group as usual. We have started the New Year with working on King David, the story of David and Goliath, King Saul as well as many other things. We've been studying these stories through drama, cartoon strips, drawing and other general activities and discussions. We've also been working on continuing collecting for our friend Alex in Uganda through the organisation Fields of Life. We were delighted to receive a Christmas card with his progress from last year as well as some drawings and kind words from him. The money we collect at every meeting pays for his education and educational supplies so he can continue his work and focus on his studies. As always we would be delighted to have any new members join us as often as they wish. We extend a welcome to any family members, friends or new members of the church who want to join Sunday club and participate with all of us. We'd be delighted to have anyone new, everyone is welcome.

ST PHILIP and ST JAMES' SUNDAY CLUB



Sunday Club continues as usual each week in St Philip and St James. Our numbers vary week by week which makes it a bit difficult to plan an event for the children to perform in church. Sport on Sundays is another difficulty.

However things are ticking along nicely with us starting off with a hymn and prayer and then going into our activities. Have you seen the picture at the back of our church? Adeleh organised this and designed the leaves so that the children could colour the picture. They then traced their hand, cut it out and stuck it into the picture to form a flower. With Easter and Bank Holidays coming up Sunday Club members will have a number of Sundays free but you will get the usual emails letting you know when we are meeting.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION



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.

Two Christian Meditation groups meet in St Philip and St James' Parish Centre Cross Avenue and both groups welcome beginners.

Osborne Barr Room - Tuesdays 3.30pm and Wednesdays 8pm.

Contact: Irene 087275542

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

United Family Service for Daffodil Day



Sunday 22nd March 2015
at 10.30am

in
St Philip and St James' Church
Cross Avenue, Booterstown

*At this service, we are going to pray
for those who are undergoing
treatment for cancer, for all who are
involved in the healing and care of
people with cancer and for those
undertaking research into the
treatment and cure of cancer.*

*We are also going to give thanks for the recovery of those
who have survived cancer, and remember those who have
died from cancer.*

**After the service, there will be tea/coffee in the parish
hall, along with a bring-and-buy stall in aid of the
Irish Cancer Society**

All are welcome

BOOTERTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL

We have had an action packed term in Booterstown National School. We had a visit from a storyteller from the Heritage Council, he visited each room and explained story telling and how to make stories interesting.

Every class took part in the Write-a-Book Project. We wrote a variety of wonderful books about all sorts of topics. We really enjoyed reading stories from other schools too.



©gnurrl - illustrationsOf.com/227148



3rd and 4th class have been studying the Vikings – they visited **Dublinia** to bring their learning to life and are now experts on Viking and Medieval Dublin !

Our revamped website is up and running, check www.booterstownnationalschool.ie to see pictures of our art and activities.

**Rachel Fraser
Principal**

ST THOMAS' INDOOR BOWLING CLUB



It is all happening for St Thomas' Indoor Bowling Club this year. We have two teams who have reached the final of their competition. The Kerr Trophy team is a team of four players who have played very well this year and have reached the final of the competition. This match was played recently and the team were beaten by Clontarf but they were happy to leave with a runner-up medal.

The McIlwaine team is a team of eight players and by winning their section went on to play the semi final against Zion in which they were again successful. This final will be played on 25th March 2015 in Ballybrack and the opposition is Glenageary.

All final and semi-final matches are played in neutral premises. As this excitement continues we are currently playing our club matches and following that we will end the season with our AGM and a dinner the dates of which are to be decided.



We are still hoping to increase our numbers so if anyone would like to join us for some bowling with fun and plenty of laughs do drop in to St Thomas' Hall on a Thursday or Saturday evening between 7.30pm and 10.00pm. The season will start up again in September.



Many congratulations to our bowlers on their success this year!

CONSECRATION OF CANON KEN KEARON

Saturday 24th January 2015 (the eve of the Conversion of Saint Paul) was a very proud day for our parishes, as Canon Kenneth Kearon was consecrated as a bishop in Christ Church Cathedral Dublin, the cathedral of which he was a canon up to the time of his consecration as a bishop.

From the Introit at the beginning of the service to the final note, the music and singing was superb; the service was a combination of formality and warmth, ceremony, ritual and great joy. Ken and Jennifer's second daughter Rachel read the Old Testament Reading, and our parishes were honoured by Ken asking the Rector to read the Epistle; the gospel was read by The Right Reverend Dr James Tengatenga who is the Chair of the Anglican Consultative Council.

The Archbishop of Wales, The Most Reverend Dr Barry Morgan, preached an excellent sermon. The consecrating bishop was the Archbishop of Dublin and the co-consecrators were the Bishops of Meath and Kildare, and Tuam, Killala and Achonry respectively. In addition, when it came to the laying on of hands on the new bishop, there was a large 'scrum' of bishops around Ken, as other serving and retired bishops from the Church of Ireland, as well as a significant number of bishops from other parts of the Anglican Communion gathered around to lay hands on Ken. For the first time ever, as a result of the agreements reached at the General Synod 2014 and the Methodist Conference 2014, the current President and two former presidents of the Methodist Church in Ireland also laid hands on Ken.

After the service, the procession of choir and clergy all gathered around the quadrangle outside the Cathedral and greeted the new bishop with sustained applause, after which Ken greeted the members of the congregation as they left the Cathedral.

It was a wonderful occasion for Ken and his family; for the Dioceses of Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly; for the Church of Ireland and for our parishes.

On the Sunday prior to his consecration, both parishes presented Ken with a robes' case in both churches, to mark the occasion of his consecration as a bishop.

THANK YOU FROM BISHOP KEN KEARON

Dear Gillian,

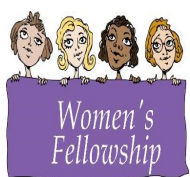
Please convey to the churchwardens and parishioners of both St Thomas' and St Philip and St James' my genuine thanks for the gift of a robe's case last Sunday. [18th January 2015] The gift is very practical - I badly needed a case, and also a very meaningful as a reminder of very happy times spent worshipping in the parish. My involvement has to say the least been sporadic, Jennifer has been able to be a bit more frequent, but you all have always been welcoming and eager to include both Jennifer and myself at all times, and we have seen the parish and especially St Thomas's as our home parish for many years.

The move to Limerick and Killaloe will be a big change for us, but we hope to be able to keep some connection with the parish from time to time, so it's not quite goodbye!

With sincere thanks to you all.

Ken

PARISH WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



F or those who don't know what the PWF is about, the following is a small history.

Many years ago the ladies of St. Philip & St. James' started a monthly meeting with invited speakers followed by a cup of tea. This was well supported and enjoyed especially by those older ladies who live alone.

Meanwhile in St. Thomas' parish the Mother's Union group closed due to lack of support and the PWF kindly invited the ladies from St. Thomas's to join them in Booterstown which made a happy union.

This year, due to smaller attendance and an ageing group we meet every two months. Also during the winter months the meetings are in the afternoon.

We opened in October with a visit from the community garda in Blackrock. A very informative talk on how to protect our homes and ourselves from intruders and warning us not to open our doors to anyone without first putting the chain on and not to give money at the door. In December the group visited Biddy's Kitchen in Dalkey for an afternoon of story-telling by Brigid MacLaughlin, followed by tea and her famous homemade oat cakes.

Our annual fund-raising Auction took place in February and once again thanks to Denis Bears, our resident Auctioneer who could sell snow to the Eskimoes, managed to prise €260 from the small number present and this was sent to a Charity helping children with Aids in Zimbabwe. On 14th April a trip to Howth by Dart for afternoon tea is planned. Please meet at Blackrock Dart Station at 2.30 pm (remember to bring your Travel Pass).

Finally in June we hope to have the annual Outing. The destination will be announced nearer the time.

Any one who would like to join us for the April and June outings will be very welcome. Get in touch with June Burgess in St Philip & St James' Church or Vi Wilson at St Thomas' Church.



Autumn Fair

St Philip & St James' Autumn Fair is in the pipeline for

Saturday 26th September 2015

Put the date in your diary! You will be hearing more about this during the summer!

RAFFLE PRIZES

But we need prizes for the raffle at this stage, so that we can apply for a permit from the Garda Síochána.



TRUST



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

TRUST is urgently in need the following items:

MEN'S CLOTHING

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

THEY ALSO NEED

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

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

Parishoners 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. Vi Wilson and June Sherlock from St Thomas' and Vi Hoffman and Faith Frankland from St Philip and St James' who sort the items and who liaise with **TRUST** and take the items into them, are then left with having to dispose of these unsuitable items.

Please continue to help—your generosity is much appreciated—but please ensure that you give suitable and appropriate items. Thank you!



EMAIL! ... EMAIL! ...EMAIL!

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

The Parish Office email address: mountmerrion@dublin.anglican.org



RAISE THE REST OF THE ROOF

Having completed the second phase of the church roof in 2014, we now have about €11,000 left to pay for the entire roof project, which is due to the hard work and generosity of parishioners. One of the walls in the north transept was damaged by water in 2006 and now that the roof has been completed, we have stripped back the plaster to allow the wall to fully dry. We are also carrying out repairs to a heating pipe in the north transept, and other essential remedial works.

The new Select Vestry will be reviewing what work needs to be done on the church in view of the forthcoming Decennial Inspection.

STAGECOACH

Stagecoach Theatre Arts Schools Summer Camps for 4 to 18 year olds take place in St. Philip & St. James Parish Centre, Cross Avenue, **Blackrock** in **July** and in Glenageary National School, Wyvern, **Killiney** (for 4 to 7 yrs) in **August**.

The Summer Camp week has at least five fun filled days that include classes in drama, dance and singing, plus rehearsals for the live performance.

LES MISÉRABLES SCHOOL EDITION - A Musical By ALAIN BOUBLIL and CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHÖNBERG for our

Two Week Full Time Teen Camp (13th to 24th July)

Roald Dahl's Goldilocks And The Three Bears - The Musical for our 8 to 12 yrs 5 Day, Full Time Camp (6th to 10th July).

A variety of genres and styles are explored in the 4 to 7yrs camp (27th to 31st July Blackrock, 4th to 7th Castleknock and 10th to 14th Killiney).

Places booking fast already - act now!

Students have to learn lines, songs and dances quickly which takes both discipline and effort. They get plenty of encouragement to discover skills they may not realise they have and may get such a buzz from the Summer Camp that they decide to develop those skills at our weekend schools - Thursday, Friday and Saturday in **Blackrock**, Sunday in **Killiney** and

Stagecoach **Castleknock** on **Saturday** mornings, enrolling for Summer term starting Mid- April Now!4

For more information contact Evan or Emma at Stagecoach Dublin south on 01 20438 14

Emma for Stagecoach Castleknock on 01 2722276

dublinsouth@stagecoach.ie,

dublinnorth@stagecoach.ie and visit www.stagecoach.ie for more information and exciting news. @stagecoachdublin.

Services for Easter

Holy Week

Monday 30th March 2015 - 20.00 St Thomas' Church

Tuesday 31st March 2015 – 20.00 St Philip and St James' Church

Wednesday 1st April 2015 - 10.30 St Thomas' Church

20.00 St Thomas' Church

Thursday 2nd April 2015 – Maundy Thursday – 20.00 St Philip
and St James' Church

Friday 3rd April 2015 – Good Friday – 14.00 St Thomas' Church

19.30 Ecumenical Prayers at the Cross – The Church of the
Assumption, Booterstown



Sunday 5th April 2015

Easter Day

6.00 Sunrise Service on Sandymount Strand

8.30 Holy Communion - St Philip and St James' Church

10.00 Holy Communion - St Thomas' Church

11.30 Holy Communion - St Philip and St James' Church