

# The Parishioner

The parish magazine of the Christ Church Cathedral group of parishes.  
Saint Werburgh's – Saint Michan's – All Saints'

Easter 2016.

## The Lord is Risen.



He is risen indeed, Alleluia

### *Letter from the Vicar*

Friends,

Having journeyed through Lent together, we now celebrate with the Christian Church throughout the world, the joy of Easter. The excitement of the resurrection on Easter morning seems to be what we need to bring us to faith or to solidify our faith. St Mark's gospel unlike the other three gospels, contains very few words about the resurrection. I am sure St Mark believed in the resurrection completely, but knew that the cross, not the tomb, was at the centre of our faith. The resurrection was not added to give the story a happy ending. The resurrection simply confirmed the words of the Roman centurion; "Truly, this man was the Son of God." The resurrection is like a light bulb flashing on in the brain, to let others see what Good Friday had achieved. The resurrection is the bridge from the cross to a future eternal life open to all, not just

to a chosen few, the experts in faith, those who have experienced a miracle. Because the chosen few, the disciples and friends, they all ran away from the cross. They left behind unlikely followers, the Roman centurion, Joseph of Arimathea, the women - people who, without the miracle of Easter, discovered for themselves an extraordinary faith.

In a skeptical world which wants to see proof, we are called to have faith in the Lord of the cross. For that same Lord comes to us when we hurt, stands by us when we weep, lifts us up in our pain and comforts us in our loss. He is the Lord of Easter, of the empty tomb and the resurrection. Alleluia ...

May I wish you all a very happy, holy and blessed Easter

*David*

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### **A word from the curate.**

Ash Wednesday seemed to come very early this year. We had all barely made it through the long, dark nights of January before being hurried into the desert for our Lenten journey! The 'journey' seasons (Lent and Advent) are great reminders for us to be mindful of our walk of discipleship as we carry on with life as 'normal'.

As part of the parish's activities this season we have held a reflection and discussion group focusing on the weekly

readings from the lectionary. The size and composition of the group has changed each week but it has never failed to provide for interesting discussion! At our first meeting we looked at the 'headline' text for the season of Lent: the story of Jesus being led out into the wilderness where he underwent a period of fasting and temptation. As the group reflected on this story, there were a few key observations. First, at the point when Jesus seemed to be alone, worn out, and isolated as he faced temptations, we know that he in fact wasn't alone but was full of the Holy Spirit and led by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit was with him as he answered each of the temptations using the words of scripture. As we discussed this, we noted our own need to remember God's presence with us, even at those times when we feel isolated or weak, and at our low points to call out to God.

In the cathedral during this season, a group of artists created a large labyrinth on canvas for use as a 'walking prayer'. The labyrinth, as a symbol of pilgrimage, reminds us of the twists and turns of life. In our journey we are constantly in need of God's grace. It has been a special treat to chat with a wide range of visitors and pilgrims at the cathedral about the labyrinth, what it represents and to invite them to engage in this type of prayer.

With all this Lenten preparation we are now ready for a joyful season of celebration of our Lord's resurrection!

### Images from the Labyrinth



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### World Day of Prayer

All Saints Church was the host for this annual, international and interdenominational prayer service in our area. The service was prepared by the Christian women of Cuba, on the theme "Receive children, receive me." The Cuban women gave us insights into their life and culture. The symbols of the Cuban culture used to decorate the sacred prayer space brought colour and vibrancy to the church. Cubans face many challenges especial in the area of children's rights and economic and social justice. We were given the opportunity to pray for all children and also to reflect on our own childhood and children who have influenced our own lives.

Parishioners from St Peter's Church, The Church of the Holy Family in Aughrim St and Christ the King Church in Cabra joined members of All Saints, St Michan's and St Werburgh's. Thanks to all those who participated in the preparation for the service, for the readers, especially the young people, to Anna Donlan who played the keyboard for us, and to our own parishioners who served the tea.



*World Day of Prayer, All Saint's Church*

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### **Lent – a time to pray and reflect in preparation for Easter**

Lent is traditionally a time of fasting and prayer, but in the busyness of life, it is challenging to create the space in which to do these. Yet if we change nothing in our regular routines at this time of the year Easter is suddenly upon us and can become, like Christmas, more to do with secular celebrations, than the Christian message.

This year, for me, it was different, thanks to Rev Garth Bunting and Rev Abigail Sines. I was able to go to almost all the Tuesday evening Lenten events in Christ Church Cathedral. There we had the opportunity to pray reflectively and scripturally through different mediums. The Cathedral has a seating capacity of 500, but can also give a sense of both intimacy and space when arranged in

sections with tables laid with colouring materials, coloured beads and prayer cards. We had the opportunity in our own time and way to walk the labyrinth, a symbol of pilgrimage, reminding us of the twists and turns of life. The coloured beads were used to facilitate a meditation on the life of Jesus. One evening we watched a contemplative dance, another we prayed using clay, and other evenings we spent in listening to meditative readings of Scripture.

The atmosphere was of openness, gentleness and creativity, enabling me to listen more attentively to the Word of God and to reflect on where the Spirit may be leading me.

This creative reflective prayer space was complimented by the opportunity to reflect on the Gospel readings and the Psalms for each Sunday of Lent, with Abigail and other parishioners. Abigail encouraged an open, questioning, exploratory spirit in the discussions, with time for self-reflection and for sharing. The Scriptures are so rich with wisdom and insights into the challenges we face as humans living in a dysfunctional world, it is good to spend time together reflecting on them.

*Susan Dawson*

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### **'All Saints Church, Phibsborough Road'**

David and I moved into the church lodge on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1962 (the Wednesday in Holy Week) to be part-time sexton/caretakers for one year until a suitable person was found for the job. That one year stretched to fifty four years. The work was hard in those day. There

were no facilities. Everything was done by hand. All the floors were timber, church, old schoolhouse and stairs had to be scrubbed, water had to be carried over from the lodge, fires had to be lit two or three times a week for meetings (choir, vestry and Mother's Union), parish room floor had to be polished with linseed oil (by hand). There was an old coke boiler to heat the church and had to be stoked up every hour when in use. Church gravel had to be raked and weeded every Saturday. The old vicarage was where the fire station is now and all that ground had to be maintained. There was no kitchen in the lodge when we moved in, the sink and cooker were in the living room, no bathroom, and the toilet was at the top of the old school yard.

These days the work is much easier, just push a button or plug in a Hoover. Sadly David died in June 2000, the vicar and select vestry kindly let me stay on as sexton, as I said the work was hard, but hard work never hurt anyone. Just think what it was like back then and wonder what it might be like in future years. There is a lot more I could write but space would not allow.

*Gladys Mooney*



*All Saint's Church*

## **Phibsboro' Village Tidy Towns**

'Team Dublin Clean-Up' Easter Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> March.

This city-wide clean-up in preparation for the Easter Rising Commemorations is organised by Dublin City Council. Phibsboro Village Tidy Towns is participating in this initiative. Meet at Phibsborough Library 11a.m. to 1p.m. for clean-up followed by entertainment and refreshments 1p.m. to 3p.m.

At the same time All Saints Church is being decorated for Easter by a band of parishioners - the usual suspects. Do come and join us for refreshments afterwards.

The regular clean-up on the third Saturday of every month continues. We meet outside the Library Gardens 10-12noon, and afterwards adjourn for refreshments in St Peter's Court. This a very sociable gathering. ALL WELCOME  
Phibsboro' Village Tidy Towns is also working towards beautifying our surroundings by 'greening' the Village with the help of a local horticulturist and some keen gardeners.



*Phibsboro' Village Tidy Towns, new planter boxes at Phibsborough Library.*

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## Losing the Message

In which festival do you hide a wish within a balloon and play a game in which a ping pong ball is rolled through a hoop taped to a table?

It was a surprise to me to learn that the answer was Easter. There would also be some egg painting, a slightly more recognisable Easter activity, although not one that I ever did. Some details about Easter seem to have been lost along the way to China – the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and the Last Supper – essentially the parts of Easter that cannot be marketed played no part in the activities arranged by my school around the theme of Easter. I explained this to my Chinese colleagues who were organising the activities and described the Easter I know: an Easter garden, chocolate eggs, roast lamb, Simnel cake and the Passion. They agreed that their activities were unconnected with the Christian festival, but most maintained that Easter as I related it to them, would have no significance or meaning to Chinese children, very few of whom are Christian. There is sense in this excuse for pandering to more materialistic aspects: my Muslim colleagues (both American and English) were as unaware of the central position of Easter in the Christian calendar as the Chinese, and although they knew the Passion story, they were more familiar with the advertising imagery of Easter than the more traditional and religious aspects of the festival.

I was similarly surprised when in I had to explain to a group of friends that included Americans, a South African and Russian, that Saint Patrick's Day is a religious holiday. I thought that, given the name, it was self-evident. However the abbreviated "Paddy's Day" allows the

overly sensitive atheist or agnostic to enjoy themselves without having to feel like hypocrites or run the risk of being converted by too much religiousness. I don't think that Easter is quite at that stage yet, most people are aware that it is a Christian holiday, at least in the west. Perhaps in China people are naturally more cautious about teaching anything to do with religion, especially foreign religions, so it's more prudent to stick to the meaningless media trappings; and the story of the Christ's death and Resurrection is, to the majority of Chinese, simply a story, a fable that explains a few traditions, but nothing more. "What about the eggs?" "What about the Easter Bunny?" "What about the chocolate?" The eggs of course can be explained as associated with spring and new life. The bunny and the chocolate are mere modern marketing contrivances, yet one can hardly blame the Chinese for failing to look deeper into Easter when the bunny is all that they see on the media, although how a bunny came into the mix is beyond me, bunnies don't lay eggs after all.

*Helen*



*Helen Dawson from All Saints is currently teaching English in the city of Daqing in north-eastern China.*

## **‘A LAP Dance’**

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February, All Saint’s Parish Hall hosted the PhizzFest production of ‘A LAP Dance’. This was a dramatic re-enactment of the meeting of Dublin City Council of 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at which the Phibsborough Local Area Plan (LAP) failed by one vote to be adopted by the council. The drama was very funny and tragic and was reminiscent of Hall’s Pictorial Weekly. If you view the webcast of this meeting on the city council website the likeness to the ‘Ballymagash Urban District Council’ is uncanny.

Following the play there was a short but informative talk and discussion on the future of Phibsborough facilitated by Mr. Peter Murray.

## **Jack Duggan’s War**

On 11<sup>th</sup> March All Saints’ again played host with a packed house, to another excellent PhizzFest offering, ‘Jack Duggan’s War’ based on letters between Jack Duggan a soldier with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers who was killed in Gallipoli, and his girlfriend Beatrice Seymour. Based on letters and documents in the National Archive and the Bureau of Military History, the play told the true story of how one family confronted the violence of both the Great War and the Easter Rising.

An interesting local connection to this story is that Beatrice Seymour was subsequently married in All Saints Church in 1917.

The play was followed by an engaging discussion chaired by Tommy Graham of History Ireland.

PhizzFest has more events and activities planned for the May bank holiday weekend with something to interest and engage all ages, including;

The Bohemian Café – a commemoration of 125 years of Bohemians Football Club.

Canoe polo and boat rides on the Royal Canal.

A visit to the Firestation.

And much more.....

For more information check out the PhizzFest website [www.phizzfest.ie](http://www.phizzfest.ie)



*Phizzfest: cart racing in Mount Bernard Park*



*Phizzfest: Canoe polo on the Royal Canal*



*PhizzFest: Street Art*

## Diary Dates

**Please Note:** From January 2016 onwards there will be no evening service in All Saints' except on the last Sunday of each month.

### Mothers Union

5<sup>th</sup> April                      Bingo, St Michan's,  
8pm.  
3<sup>rd</sup> May                        Closing Service,  
Holy Communion in  
St Michan's.

## Parish Notices

### Parish Bowling Club

For more information about the bowling club please contact the club captain Reg Neil at 086 332 3292 or the club secretary Derek Borwick at 087 957 3363

### Parish Choir

Choir rehearsal takes place each Thursday during the school term from 18:00 until 19:00. New members are warmly encouraged to participate.

### The Parishioner, next edition

Articles, letters etc. for the next edition (Autumn) of The Parishioner can be sent to the Parish Officer or can be given to Paul or Susan Dawson.

Email: [dawsonpauled@gmail.com](mailto:dawsonpauled@gmail.com)

We would particularly like to have items of local and parish interest both current

and historic and any photos, anecdotes or stories from our parishioners.

## Parish Contact Information

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