

# The Parishioner

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

Winter 2018

Dear friends,

As I write this letter in mid-November Christmas decorations festoon the shops and ads for Christmas events and shopping bonanzas are on TV and radio. Preparation for Christmas seems to start earlier and earlier each year. The wonder of the birth of Christ, the promise of the Prince of Peace has virtually disappeared? The magic, the wonder, even the miracle seems to have been replaced by Santa,

*a child would be born to be Saviour of all.*

*Of old Micah's prophecy, so it came true that Jesus was born in this town.*

*Our Saviour, Redeemer and ruler of all the Christ-child of Mary, from heaven came down.*

*The real meaning of Christmas appears to be gone*

*now Santa is here, people say.*

*But we must remember and never forget that Jesus our Saviour was born on this day.*

*Thanks be to God for His indescribable Gift*

*(2 Cor 9:15)*

elves, toys and the seemingly endless financial drain on families already struggling to make ends meet. In such a festive atmosphere of getting and spending, eating, drinking and making merry, it is hard to believe that we are celebrating a religious festival.

*Bethlehem town is not too far  
from Jerusalem's mighty walls.  
It's like a little market-place  
where people sell their goods on stalls.  
Two thousand years ago or so,  
the town was really packed,  
For Herod the King had issued a writ  
a Census was called for, and that is a fact.  
But the prophets of old had said of this  
town  
no longer would it be so small,  
For from its small streets and the houses  
so quaint*

The message of the gospel is that of caring and love. At this particular time of year we think of those less fortunate than ourselves, the lonely, the refugees, all those who hurt in any way so we must never forget the gospel message to give of ourselves, our time, our energy and talents, not only at Christmas, but throughout the year in some practical way. The birth of Christ, the birth of our faith is set in the context of discipleship. If we really respond to the gospel, we can be encouraged by the life of Christ to strengthen us, the light of Christ to guide us and the assurance of His presence with us as we care for others. Let us pray for continued goodwill among all people. As always, Denise and our family join me in wishing you all a very happy, holy and

peaceful Christmas and a blessed New Year.

*David.*

### **A word from the Curate**

Our super summer seems a distant memory now, as the cold grey days of winter set in, yet it was only a few short months ago. During August, the World Meeting of Families took place, culminating in the visit of Pope Francis to Ireland on August 25<sup>th</sup>. One aspect of the World Meeting of Families events was a Pilgrims walk, involving seven churches in Dublin city centre. To add an ecumenical element to the pilgrimage walk, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin invited St. Michan's Church to be one of the pilgrimage churches. It was fantastic to be invited and to participate in the walk. Each pilgrim was issued a Pilgrims passport, which they got stamped at each church. Each church had its own theme and prayer, centering on the importance of families and pilgrims were invited to spend time in each location, in prayer and contemplation. Archbishop Michael Jackson and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin officially launched the Pilgrims walk in St. Michan's, Church Street on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August. The two archbishops then walked to St. Michan's, Halston Street, symbolically linking the Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic parishes.

We received thousands of pilgrims over the course of the week, between the 18<sup>th</sup>

and the 25<sup>th</sup> August. It was wonderful to meet people from quite literally all over the world, from North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and from all over Ireland. The great surprise for me was the huge number of young people and young families taking part. In an increasingly secular world, it was a very uplifting experience to see so many young people proud of their Christian faith. It was a great pleasure to be involved in the whole process, which gave me the opportunity to get to know our neighbouring Roman Catholic parishes, clergy and laity a lot better. It also gave us the opportunity to meet the pilgrims. The warmth, good will and interesting conversations that we experienced with the pilgrims was an amazing example of true ecumenism at work, illustrating that there is a lot more that unites us as God's Church than divides us.

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank everybody who volunteered their time to meet and greet and so warmly welcome the pilgrims, thank you so much for all your hard work and for making the pilgrimage such a great success.

On behalf of Fiona, Ben, Ava and myself, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Ross**



### An Invitation,

*The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready.*

*It is the table of company of Jesus, and all who love him.*

*It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself.*

*It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate.*

*So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; come.*

*It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.*

—An Invitation, Iona Abbey

### From the registers:

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May, **Eunice Therese Nicholson** was baptized in All Saints' Church. The sacrament of Holy Baptism was administered by the archdeacon who is godfather to Eunice's Dad, Clive. We pray for Eunice and her parents, Clive and Oliva. On 30<sup>th</sup> September, the vicar conducted the service of Holy Baptism for his new grandson, **Isa David Pierpoint-Sheridan**. It was a great joy and honour to be part of Isa's initiation into the Christian faith. We pray for Isa and his parents, Daniel and Nicola and his brother Kai as they journey forward together.

We record here three recent deaths: **Sam Carson** who died on 15<sup>th</sup> May, **Joan Condell** who died on 19<sup>th</sup> May and **Trevor Logan** who died on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Sam had been a resident in Castle Street (St Werburgh's Trust) for over 45 years and in the past number of years has not enjoyed the best of health. He spent the last

nine months of his life in hospital being cared for by a dedicated team of doctors and nurses. Sam is survived by his daughter, Celia, his brother Charlie and sister Isabel. To whom we extend our sympathies. Joan was our former parish administrator and mother of our tour guide, Peter. Her funeral took place in St Mary's Church, Crumlin and a large congregation headed the rector, The Rev Ruth Noble speak of Joan's full and active life. We sympathize with her children, Peter, Helen and Alan. Trevor Logan is the brother of our parish treasurer, Eric Logan. Trevor was recently diagnosed with a rare form of Leukemia and died after a very short stay in hospital, surrounded by his family. Trevor's funeral service was held in Mount Jerome and the archdeacon gave the address. The service was broadcast on the internet so that Trevor's Son, Brian, in Australia, could join with family and friends in saying farewell to a remarkable man. At the service, the archdeacon told a packed church, that in losing one life, two new lives came into the world. Brian's wife, Ciara gave birth to twins on the morning of the funeral. We extend our deepest sympathies to Trevor's wife, Valerie, his children, Ian, Brian and Amy, his grandchildren, Violet, Conor and Rory (plus the new arrivals in Australia) his sister Pat and brother Eric.

The funeral service for **Stanley O'Brien** was held in All Saints' following his death on 25<sup>th</sup> July. Stanley was a lifelong supporter of everything associated with All Saints' especially the choir and his many financial gifts to choir events will always be remembered with thanksgiving. **Barbara O'Brien** led the family tribute to Stanley with **Carol Harold** reading the lesson. The archdeacon gave the address ending with the following words. *"This morning as we bid farewell to Stanley O'Brien may God comfort you all in your sorrow and may he give us all faith to see in death the gateway to a better life in heaven, where we will be together with those who have gone before. And be assured as I am, that Stanley - is free from all the pain and the suffering he has endured with great courage and dignity and humour. But greater and better than that, he is now in the nearer*

*presence of God reunited with all who have gone before him". We extend our sympathies to his wife, Kay and his brothers, Paddy and Dougie.*

After a long spell in hospital suffering with Alzheimer's **Eric Mooney** died peacefully in the Sycamore Unit of James Connolly Memorial Hospital on 4<sup>th</sup> September. His funeral service was held in All Saints' church where the congregation heard a moving tribute from his wife, Dorothy given by **Avril West** and an inspiring sermon by the curate **Rev Ross Styles** in which he said, *"This congregation here this morning shares something very special, memories of Eric Mooney. Though each is slightly different, they have a common thread, the gift of Eric's life. For Eric's family and friends, his life has made such an impact, the ripples of which will continue far into the future. Our reading this morning from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians teaches us about the nature of God's love for us and how we should reflect that love to the world around us and in how we treat others. Yet it also seems to encapsulate the nature and life of Eric Mooney and reflects the love that Dorothy and all Eric's family had for him. For Dorothy, truly over the last 12 years she has borne all things, endured all things for her love for Eric. We have heard how on her daily visits to the Sycamore unit, where Eric received such wonderful care, a single beautiful smile from Eric became the highlight of her day. Truly Love never ends.*

Eric had been involved in All Saints from early childhood as a member of the Boys Brigade and choir as well as playing football for the churches League. Sympathies to his wife, Dorothy, sons, John and Brendan, their wives, Nadia and Joeann, with Chelsea and Kai. May Christ give to all who mourn, comfort and peace in their time of need and may the souls of the faithful departed Rest in Peace to Rise in Glory.



### **"The Christ's Breath,"**

I am  
a hole in a flute  
that the Christ's breath moves through—  
listen to this  
music.

- Daniel Ladinsky, inspired by Hafiz,

### **Phibsboro Village Tidy Towns**



This is our fourth year of entering the National Tidy Towns Competition. You may have noticed the flowers on the lamp posts along the Phibsboro Road, a joint initiative between ourselves and Dublin City Council, and the artwork on some security blinds along NCR to reduce after hours 'closed down look'. We continue with our monthly clean ups and Bin the Butt campaign, and planting planters around the area. Whilst we have made progress there is still a significant body of work to be done.

Winning prizes at the National level is a long way into the future, however, we have made significant progress with Dublin City Council Neighbourhoods Awards, winning joint first prize in the annual Team Dublin Clean up, second prize in Environmental Awards and joint third prize in best Urban Village in the Dublin area.

Our main event this year was:

*Buzzfest - Relove, Remake and Repair and Bee Kind, Bee Green, Bee Good.*

This event marked European Day of Sustainable Communities on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two venues were used, in the morning we gathered in St Peter's Court. Phibsboro community groups: Men's Shed, Stitchers and Active Retirement group plus Repair Café demonstrated how to repair and reuse materials be they wood, cloth, jewellery, or electronic equipment.

The afternoon saw us in St Peter's Church grounds for the Blessing of the Bees ceremony, conducted by Fr Aidan. The bees in Phibsboro have had two harvests of honey this year, in June and September creating approx 20lbs of delicious urban honey each time. There are approx 40,000 bees. Fr Aidan commented that last year he prayed for the bees to be fruitful and multiply. He was delighted to see that his prayers had been answered. We are most grateful to the Vincentians for giving us the use of their garden for our apiary.



*Our apiary in St. Peter's*

We also had local ballerina's celebrating the bees with butterfly and bee dances, Face painting, Irish Traditional music, a Bake off competition, a Master Composter who demonstrated the art of composting, and we sold our own Phibsboro Honey and honey from Bí Urban of Stoneybatter.

All these activities were to raise awareness of the imperative of caring for our environment through wise use of our natural resources. It

was a family friendly and fun way to encourage changing of mindsets and behaviour. The day brought the community together through sharing knowledge, skills and ideas on how individuals can contribute to the creation of a sustainable community.

Forthcoming events:

- Wednesday 12<sup>nd</sup> December Carol Singing in aid of Simon Community: PVTT volunteers will be joined by All Saints Choir, St Peter's Church Choir and St Josephs church choir.



## **The sound of music!**

Helen Dawson from All Saints is a member of the parish choir and is also an organist and on the panel for deputy organists. Here are some of her experiences of playing the organs in different churches around the city.

### Clontarf and Scots Presbyterian

Although this organ usually works very well, the hot weather caused a major difficulty for this instrument over the summer. The bellows kept switching off halfway through services, often mid-hymn. Fortuitously a violinist was able to keep the tune going when the organ failed, but on one memorable occasion – a funeral – it switched off half way through *The Lord's my Shepherd*. Eventually we realised that strategically placing a fan by the bellows switch allowed it to last the full service.



gallery, so I can't hear how it sounds from below.

### St Audeons

When the rector asked me to play he warned me that it was an 'upside down organ.' This doesn't mean that the pipes are under the manuals, but that the Great doesn't play, so everything happens on the Swell. Fortunately the St Audeons congregation are good singers, so the quietness of the organ didn't matter.

### St John's Sandymount

This was my first time playing the full sung service – old school Marbek. The organ is up in the gallery and the regular organist advised that I play loudly because I'm so far away from the congregation. The hard part is getting the entrances, but the congregation all know what they're doing.

### Rathmines

This organ has a great number of stops and is conveniently located so that the organist can see what's going on – I'm sure every organist has been in the position where they are getting repeated signals to cut short their communion or offering piece because the action is over, but the organs are often positioned so you can't actually see what's going on – but Rathmines organ is well positioned in that respect.

### Drumcondra

Compared to Rathmines or Sandymount, which has a respectable array of stops, this organ manages pretty well with very few stops – at least I think it does. The organ is in the



## **Parish Sale**

The recent Sale of Work held in All Saints' Hall raised a much needed €3200 and we thank all those who helped organise and look after the various stalls. A special thank you to Catherine O'Brien for all her hard work in bringing this event to fruition.

## **Poets Corner**

### **In Memoriam**

I'm sorry that the sun went in and the  
flowers lost their scent  
I'm sorry that the night turned bright and  
the swallows haven't come  
I'm sorry that the tide has turned and we're  
still all at sea  
I'm sorry that the darkened sky struck  
lightning at your tree  
These trifles were a breezy walk compared to  
keeping you  
With me.

*By Jonathan Saint, In memory of Eithne Reynolds: a friend, a poet, a writer and a soprano with the voice of an angel. Died 7.8.2018*



*Autumn in the Botanic Gardens*

On Monday, wash your heart my friend  
And rinse your cares away.  
On Tuesday, iron out harsh thoughts  
Till all are smooth and gay.  
On Wednesday, dust away tired frowns  
And polish up your smiles.  
On Thursday, sort out happy deeds  
And place them in neat piles.  
On Friday, think of kindly friends  
And pleasant things to do.  
On Saturday, clean up all your cares  
And mend your moods of blue.  
On Sunday, look around and see  
Exactly what you have done  
And pray the week has been well spent  
And another well begun.

- *From Gladys Mooney*



## Parish Notices

### Christmas services.

The traditional service of nine lessons and carols will be held in St Michan's Church on Sunday 23rd December at 10.30

Christmas day there will be services in St Michan's at 10am and All Saints' at 11.30

Sunday 30th December there will be a service of Holy Communion in All Saints Church at 10.30am

### St Werburgh's Church.

Following a recent inspection of the church by our architect and after deliberation at a recent meeting of the Select Vestry, it has been decided to close St Werburgh's for church services until further notice. The cost of restoration is estimated to be in the region of €2 million and meetings are being planned with various grant making bodies to see how best we can undertake the necessary work to allow us continue worship in this magnificent building. Services normally held in St Werburgh's (1st and 3rd Sundays) have been transferred to St Michan's.

### Safeguarding Trust.

The Selcct Vestry wishes to announce that Mrs Clodagh Kingston (St Werburgh's) has been elected as a panel member for the parish.

The panel now consists of The Archdeacon, Eric Logan, Susan Dawson and Clodagh Kingston. Ongoing training for all Panel members and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults is taking place over the winter months.



### Parish Bowling Club

For more information about the bowling club please contact the club captain Hazel Barr at 01 820 7450.



### **Parish Choir**

Choir rehearsal takes place each Thursday during the school term from 18:00 until 19:00. New members are always very welcome.

For more information about the choir please contact Dr Gerard Downey, Organist and Director of Music, Christ Church Cathedral Group of Parishes.

Email [gerard@christchurch.ie](mailto:gerard@christchurch.ie)



### **Mothers Union**

The archdeacon has written to the Diocesan President and the archbishop advising them that the Christ Church Cathedral Group branch of the Mothers' Union will close this session. This decision did not come lightly and those involved met to discuss the future of the branch they decided with so few members it was unsustainable to remain open as a diocesan branch. A date for the closing service will be notified in due course.

### **Confirmation:**

We have been advised that confirmation next year will be held on Palm Sunday. Any children considering the sacrament of confirmation should contact the archdeacon. The service of confirmation is likely to be held in St Brigid's Church, Castleknock. TBC



### **Parish Contact Details.**

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