

The Parishioner

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

Autumn 2016.

Letter from the Vicar

Dear friends,

All Saints tide, All Souls and the month of November are traditionally times to remember and give thanks for the saints, family members, friends and colleagues who in faith now rest in God's eternal kingdom. As I write these few words, my thoughts turn to the recent and sudden death of our good friend and neighbour James Cruite-Walsh. James was a regular worshipper in All Saints', sacristan in Berkeley Road church a former member of our parish choir and right up until his untimely death, a faithful member of the Dublin Welsh Male Voice Choir. He will be greatly missed in this parish, the community and among the many people he helped through his work with St Vincent De Paul. May he rest in peace to rise in glory. Anne Campling also died in recent times and we extend our sympathies to her family, especially her daughter Susan (Dawson) and the wider family and her friends. It is hoped to have a memorial service for Anne sometime in the New Year. May she too rest in peace to rise in glory.

On a brighter note, there have been recent baptisms in the parish, namely, Sally and Siun Galbraith (twins) who received the sacrament of Holy Baptism in All Saints on Sunday 11th September. This was the first time in thirty years of ministry that the vicar had the privilege of baptising a set of twins. Two weeks later, on 25th September, the vicar conducted the service of Holy Baptism for his grandson, Kai Pierpoint-Sheridan. A very proud yet emotional occasion for the entire vicarage family and such a joy and honour to be part of Kai's initiation into the Christian faith. The same day, the vicar as archdeacon of the dioceses presented his brother Nigel for ordination to the priesthood at the service in Christ Church Cathedral.

As I write, the radio is already advertising Christmas shopping! Whatever happened to leaving Christmas until closer to the birth of Jesus Christ? It seems that as each year passes, advertisements for Christmas are seen and heard earlier and earlier.

We are about to embark on the season of Advent when we take stock of the year past, but in preparation for the coming of the Christ Child, we prepare ourselves for the great incarnation. A time to reflect, to pray, to give thanks. Let us never forget the true meaning of the Christmas season.

A great deal has happened since the last publication of the Parishioner. Without listing everything, some of the highlights were the recent choir concert raising much needed funds for choir robes, which I am delighted to say are being ordered as you read this edition. Eddie and Joy O'Brien celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in August. A milestone in anyone's life. It was wonderful to have them in church on this special occasion.

During the summer, the vicar captained the Great Britain and Ireland golf team to victory over the USA and Canada. Even with a broken toe (later discovered to be a broken bone in my foot) we managed to take the cup back to these islands where it currently resides in the vicarage. A further double celebration for the vicar as I celebrated 30 years of ordained ministry in God's Church and my 60th birthday. Both occasions were marked by parishioners and well-wishers giving surprise "parties" after church on a Wednesday and following the opening service of the Mothers Union, the latter of which I was unable to attend as I was called away during the service itself and Helen Gorman kindly finished the service.

I ask you all to please note the date for the parish sale. 26th November in All Saints' Hall from 11 to 2pm. See separate notice elsewhere in this publication.

Finally, I would like to say a few words about our former curate Abigail Sines. Abby, came to this group of parishes in September 2015 and left us at the end of the summer this year. One might think it strange that a curate

stayed only 11 months! Well, when The Rev Garth Bunting moved from his position as Dean's Vicar to take up the incumbency in Drumcondra parish, this left a void in the cathedral family. Abby, with her dynamic approach to ministry in general, was asked to fill this position and it really was an offer too good to turn down. With my blessing, she moved to her new role in the cathedral and is taking the place by storm ever since.

Although she is officially gone as our curate, she remains part of the cathedral group family and will take occasional services at times when I am away. We wish her continued blessing in her ministry in the city. God Bless,

David

The Cathedral Parish Choir sings at Christchurch

On Sunday the 24 July the Cathedral Parish Choir returned to Christchurch to sing the Cathedral Eucharist in the company of many of the parishioners from each of our churches; St Werburgh's; St Michan's; and, All Saints'. On this occasion the choir sang Hans Leo Hassler's Missa super "Dixit Maria" and its originating motet of same name published in 1591. This setting is a typical example of the parody mass which was popular in the style of composition in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. This parody mass takes as its foundation the tune from Hassler's motet of same name, a four part setting of the text from Luke 1:38:

"Dixit Maria ad angelum: Ecce ancilla Domini, fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum. (Mary said to the angel: Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done unto me according to thy word.)"

The choir demonstrated the enduring splendour of sacred polyphony which remains in harmony with the liturgy in the contemporary sphere. Each movement echoed the tune and style of the motet, hinting and teasing the listener about what was to come. This finally culminated in the

singing of the motet, the *fons et origo* of the entire body of music sung that morning during the distribution of Holy Communion. The setting of the service was in harmony with the motet as the sound of the Cathedral Parish Choir was in harmony with the liturgy of the Cathedral Church demonstrating our symbolic connection with this ancient place of worship in the heart of the city of Dublin.

What also must be read from this is the expanding musical prowess of the Cathedral Parish Choir and their increased commitment to musical growth and repertoire. It demonstrates their rapid improvement and youthful exuberance in sound and in commitment to be heard. As Director of Music in this united parish, I am proud of the talent and skill shown by our cohort of singers and appreciate the work that they do for our parish beyond the walls of our respective churches. They are contributing to cultural growth in our area and are attracting others to join us at service to participate in a liturgy adorned in the "beauty of holiness".

I look forward to yet another year of music sung by our Cathedral Parish Choir and, as always, seek the support and commitment of the Cathedral Parish Group for our various initiatives. This year the musical repertoire of the choir will expand to greater heights and so will our work in the surrounding area; one such demonstration being the participation of the choir singing at Culture Night in St Werburgh's Church on Friday the 16 September at 19:00. Additionally we need your support for the first Annual Fundraiser Concert which will take place in All Saints' Church on Saturday 8 October at 19:30. Please support and encourage the work of our choir.

Organ Restoration – St Werburgh's Church
As you are aware, the 1767 Organ of St Werburgh's Church is in a rapid state of decline and is no longer capable of supporting the singing of hymns during service in that church. In recent weeks I have secured emergency funding from Dublin City Council to fund the repair of some of the most

effected parts of the organ. I am happy to report that the first phase of the organ restoration, at the time of writing, is underway. This initial process involves the slow and detailed repair of leather connectors integral to the structure of the instrument and also the metal components associated with these parts. The leather being replaced was almost entirely perished having been in consistent use for the last one hundred and fifty years since the last remedial works were carried out.

This is the first step in what will be a lengthy process which will constantly involve the parish community. It requires your support. I look forward to reporting the continuation of the project into the future.

Dr. Gerard Downey, Director of Music

Going Native

Helen Dawson from All Saints is currently teaching English in the city of Daqing in north-eastern China. Here are some more of her impressions on living and working in Asia.



What I've gotten used to after two years

I have been rereading the past things I have written and am astonished at how much of what startled me when I first arrived now passes right over my head. I sometimes tell strangers, when they ask me where I'm from, that I am a Daqing-ren, (a person from Daqing) because I feel I have become inured to so much that baffles a newcomer:

- 1) The traffic – Last year when my parents came to visit me we took a taxi home from a neighbouring district, about half an hour's drive away. I could almost feel their blood pressure soar as the taxi made a screeching swerve to overtake another vehicle. While I still get the occasional alarm I am now more inclined to remark about a person driving too slowly.
- 2) People staring – That is something some people never adapt to, which is understandable, but I think the people here are simply more open about their curiosity than we are, who look while pretending not to. It's part of life here; laugh and walk on and then it stops bothering you.
- 3) Cute accessories – Ladies carrying parasols and pedestrians carrying fly-swatters that look like little mops are images that, for me, conjure up turn of the century eastern colonies rather than a modern day city. The fashion on ladies hats here is also along the lines of wide-brimmed straw hats or little bonnet-like hats. I truly did feel like a native my first summer here because I loved to look about me at the assortments of clothes and accessories seen every day on the streets.
- 4) Street food – So much of life here, once winter is left behind, takes place on the streets. Although many foreigners are warned against the street food, if you know what to look for there is no risk: a long queue, a freezer box, a fresh animal carcass hanging beside the chef. It shocked me the first time I saw a barbeque vendor on a public street outside my housing estate, select a bleating sheep from a truck, hang it up and kill it in the halal fashion. I have now become accustomed to see the remains of the animal hung up beside the table where he and his sons prepare the barbeque sticks, and it is guaranteed fresh meat. Vegetarians have a difficult time of it here.

However...

Although there are many things I have gotten used to and many more that I will miss when I return to Ireland, some things I cannot but shake my head at, even after two years:

- 1) While butter, sugar and cheese are available here, you have to know where to look. They are not available at every corner shop.
- 2) The plumbing is terrible.
- 3) Health and safety is conducted along the lines of "it's up to the individual to use their common sense and keep their eyes open." Therefore beware of nails sticking up out of the ground, holes in the ground, dangerously loose paving stones, exposed electrical wires in buildings, ropes or power cables lying along the ground and the very frequent piles of rubble in the middle of the footpath from ongoing construction or renovation projects.
- 4) Pollution here, while not as bad as Beijing or some other cities in China, is still bad by our standards.



Despite the many hazards and privations of life here (and very difficult it was sometimes without cheese and butter) I have had a great time and am curious about what Daqing will be like in ten or fifteen years' time. Will people still stare at me and ask me if I am Russian because of my blue eyes? Will they have built better houses of sturdy construction and good plumbing, the door frames not held up by duct tape? Will I still have to walk half an hour to the shop to buy cheese and butter? While I certainly hope for some of these changes, I hope it doesn't all change.

Daqing is a unique place – modern in design, but provincial in outlook. There is a quaintness and vibrancy about the place; it's not on the tourist track and its remoteness, while not to everyone's taste, creates an environment that is charming and friendly to outsiders. While some merchants in the large markets try to overcharge for their wares I have had occasions where I have been given discounts or deals because the merchant or manager wishes to show hospitality to a foreigner.

Helen Dawson

Royal Canal Ramble

'Everywhere is walking distance if you have the time'

Take a walk northwards from All Saints Church up along Phibsborough Road, past the shopping centre to Cross Guns Bridge and the Royal Canal. Turn left and walk up along the canal path. As the path rises by the 6th lock you can get an interesting view of some of the landmarks on the north side of Dublin. The dome of Corpus Christi Church on Griffith Avenue to the east, the chimney stack at the former printing works on Botanic Road, the imposing round tower, monument to Daniel O'Connell in Glasnevin Cemetery. Behind the round tower in the distance, the tall tower of the Metro Hotel in Ballymun and the chimney from the old Ballymun district heating plant soon to become an art centre. Out to the west is the grey spire of the Church of the Annunciation in Finglas west. Looking back downhill you can see the stands at Croke Park and the iconic chimneys of the old Pigeon House power station so much associated with the city that they are now protected structures.



Continue along the path and very soon the noise of the traffic fades and the sounds of nature pervade. Already you will notice that the canal is rich with wildlife. You will see ducks, coots and moorhens, bees, butterflies and other insects. Stately swans glide through the water leading their flotilla of cygnets and the imperious ever-patient heron stands sentinel in the reeds waiting for an unwary fish to come his way. Very soon you pass Coke Oven cottages, continue along under the low railway bridge past the 7th lock and on towards Broome Bridge. This bridge, like many of the other bridges on the canal was named after one of the directors of the Royal Canal Company. However Broom Bridge is more famous for its association with Sir William Rowan Hamilton a noted 19th Century mathematician and astronomer. On 16th October 1843 on his way from Dunsink Observatory to Trinity College he discovered the formula for quaternion multiplication and wrote it on the bridge. There is a plaque on the bridge commemorating this event. Follow the path beneath the bridge. In the distance you can see the new flyover built to replace the railway level crossing at Reilly's Bridge. Continue along the path and cross over the road at Reilly's Bridge and past the 8th lock. On your right are the new housing developments at Royal Canal Park which go all the way up to Ashtown. This stretch of the canal has been much improved in recent years and with its lawns and playgrounds is one of the few 'manicured' areas along the canal. Recent works include the widening of the canal and the building of a dock for mooring boats.



Very shortly you reach Ashtown village where you can get refreshment in one of the bars or restaurants overlooking the canal. From Ashtown you can get a train or bus back towards Phibsborough. However if you are feeling energetic you can continue along the canal path over the M50 aqueduct up through the Deep Sinking and on towards Leixlip. Or, you can cross over the railway and head up the road past the Halfway House to the Phoenix Park which is about 10 minutes' walk. There you can wander through the extensive meadows and woodlands and visit Farmleigh, Ashtown castle and the zoo. Alternatively turn right and head down to the magnificent Tolka Valley Park developed by Dublin City Council. The park follows the Tolka River all the way back to Finglas Road and like the canal has an abundance of wildlife. The reed beds beside the river are a great place for spotting dragon flies and butterflies.

Distance: Cross Guns to Ashtown 4.3 Kilometres

Walking time: 50 minutes approx.

[The path along the Tolka from Ashtown to Finglas Road is around 3.5 kilometres and takes about 45 minutes to walk.]

Paul Dawson.

New parish website

The new parish website is now up and running and is packed full of information about the parish and parish activities. For those of you that use social media there is also a Facebook page.

Website:

<http://www.cathedralgroupdublin.ie/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/cathedralgroup/>

Friends of the Christ Church Cathedral Group Parish Choir

The Friends of the Christ Church Cathedral Group Parish Choir support and sponsor the work of the Choir. While the choir is a voluntary association, support by way of charitable financial donations or assistance enables us to realise the full potential of the choir through the purchasing of music, musical resources, choir robes and the provision for various events. Please consider becoming a Friend of the Choir and help us continue to provide high quality sacred music in the City of Dublin.

For more information on becoming a Friend of the Christ Church Cathedral Group Parish Choir or donating to the choir, please contact the Director of Music, Gerard Downey, Email; gerard@christchurch.ie or alternatively contact the parish office, Email; stmichan@eircom.net

The choir has been very active since its return after the summer break. As well as the regular parish engagements, the choir participated in a concert in St. Werburgh's as part of Culture Night on Friday 16 September.

We will also held a concert in All Saints Church on Saturday 8 October at 7:30pm, to raise funds for the purchase of much needed new robes. This event was a huge success. The choir sang to a packed house and performed a lovely selection of church music and excerpts from Handel's Messiah finishing with a rousing rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus. Our thanks to all who helped to make this such a successful and memorable evening.

Movin' on

Congratulations to our curate, Rev Abigail Sines on her recent move to the position of Dean's Vicar at Christ Church Cathedral.



Abby was a huge asset to the parish during her short time with us and will be sorely missed.

30 years on.

Following the 10:30 service in All Saints on 7th September the congregation joined Archdeacon Pierpoint for tea and cakes to celebrate the 30th anniversary of his ordination (David has also been 21 years as Vicar of the Christ Church Cathedral group).



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.

1 November Sung Eucharist, All Saints, 8pm.

10 November Vestry meeting, St. Michan's 8pm.

- 26 November Parish Sale, Parish Hall, 11 to 2pm.
- 12 December Community carol singing starting at All Saints, 7pm.
- 14 December Damer Court carol service 7:30pm.
- 18 December Group carol service, St. Michan's, 10:30am.
Carols by candlelight with the Dublin Airport Singers, St Werburghs, 8pm.

Christmas Day; All Saints, 8am; St, Michan's, 10am; St Werburghs, 10am; All Saints, 11:30am. All of these services are Holy Communion.

Mothers Union

2016.

- 15 September Diocesan Service—Dunlavin Parish Church
- 4 October Opening Service of Holy Communion, St Michan's Church, 8pm
- 6 October Christ Church Cathedral, Service, 11.15am
- 8 November Beauty Night, St Michan's Church, 8pm
- 6 December Assemble Parcels for Simon Community, 8pm in St Michan's Church.

2017

- 3 January Dinner
- 7 February Visit to theatre.
- 7 March Talk by Jessica Clarke, St Michan's, 8pm
- 4 April Beetle Drive, St Michan's, 8pm
- 2 May Closing Service, Holy Communion, St. Michan's 8pm.

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 very welcome to get involved.

The Parishioner, next edition

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

Email: 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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Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/cathedralgroup/>

A blast from the past!

The photograph below was given to The Parishioner by Ernie Hanton. It appears to be of a Mother's Union outing but where or when it was taken we do not know. If any of our readers could help with this we would be grateful. It would be nice also if someone could out names to all the faces in the picture



This photo of All Saints Choir is also from Ernie Hanton. Again if any of you know when it was taken please let us know.

The people in the picture, as far as we know, are

Back Row: Harry O'Brien, Andrew Moody, Stephen Gardiner, Clive Christie, Philip O'Brien, ?? O'Brien

Middle Row: Paul Sherlock, Mark Gardiner, Rev. Dawson, Archdeacon Jenkins, Rev. Commiskey, Dean Salmon, Victor Leeson, Gordon Moody.

Front Row: Gregory O'Brien, Keith Moody, Darren Moody, Mark Moody

Please let us know if any names are incorrect.



Three Men and who's the baby?



Photo from Denise McGowan

St. Werburgh's Sunday School



Photo from Denise McGowan

If any more of our readers have old photos that they would like to share please send them to us.