

DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018

RATHMICHAEL PARISH

NEWSLETTER

www.rathmichael.dublin.anglican.org



Dear parishioners and returning friends,

The Sunday before Advent used to be called *Stir up Sunday*, based on the words of the collect "*Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people.....*"

Advent is a time of spiritual reflection prior to celebrating the birth of Christ and hopefully countering some of the commercial hijacking of the season within ourselves and our souls.

Many of us who are longer in the tooth will remember the Diocesan Exams where we knew the scripture stories and the catechism to within an inch of our lives. "*What is a sacrament? A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible grace*" At the ages of perhaps 8 to 12 we must surely have a handle on that!! NOT.

The Holy Communion service or Eucharist must hold many mysteries for our children today. Fortunately children now feel that they can ask questions without any fear, and Jonathan and Debbie Duncan have been gleaning the questions of late. *Why does Fred...? Who.....? Why is the.....?*

It is with all of this in mind that the Family Service Liturgical Team and myself decided to address these questions by having a '*Family Eucharist Service*' on the 3rd December 2017. The preacher and teacher will be a colleague of mine, the Rev'd Cathy Hallissey and her little cheeky puppet Copperpot.

RE for children is a big concern of mine, and we can feel blessed that Rathmichael Parish School has some very committed teachers in this area. And. As is the way when children are learning, we adults may pick up a thought or two at the same time!

I'll leave the Happy Christmas greetings to nearer the time, but for now we strive to keep Advent and Christmas HOLY and Wholesome.

With every blessing,

Fred

CONFIRMATION



His Grace The Archbishop of Dublin,
The Most Revd. Dr. Michael Jackson,
will confirm young people from this parish,
along with candidates from Bray and Kiltarnan
parishes,
on

Saturday 14th April at 14.00 hrs.
in Christ Church, Bray.

If you wish to be confirmed please give your
name to Anne Thompson @ 086 893 7067.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 10th December 19.00 hrs

BLUE CHRISTMAS



Sunday 17th December 16.00 hrs

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

followed by seasonal refreshments

*

CHRISTMAS EVE 23.45 hrs

The First Communion of Christmas

*

CHRISTMAS DAY

08.30 hrs Holy Communion

11.00 hrs Family Service

11.45 hrs Holy Communion

CHURCH SERVICES DECEMBER 2017

SUNDAY	08.30 hrs	11.00 hrs	19.00 hrs	LECTORS
The FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT Violet 3rd DECEMBER 2017	H.C.	FAMILY SERVICE with HOLY COMMUNION Isaiah 64: 1 - 9 Psalm 80: 1 - 8, 18 - 20 1 Corinthians 1: 3 Mark 13: 24-37 The Rev'd Cathy Hallissey Please join us for coffee after the service	EVENING PRAYER	Debbie Duncan
The SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT Violet 10th DECEMBER 2017	H.C.	MORNING PRAYER (Rite 2) with RE-DEDICATION Isaiah 40: 1-11 Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13 Mark 1: 1-8	BLUE CHRISTMAS	Michael Hill
The THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT Violet 17th DECEMBER 2017	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 The Magnificat 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 John 1: 6-8, 19-28	16.00 HRS. SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS	Anne Thompson
The FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT Violet 24th DECEMBER 2017	H.C.	MORNING PRAYER (Rite 1) 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26 Luke 1: 26-38	NO EVENING SERVICE	Lily Byrne
The FIRST SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS White or Gold 31st DECEMBER 2017	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 2: 15-21	NO EVENING SERVICE	Ros Cox

CHURCH SERVICES - JANUARY 2018

The FIRST SUNDAY after the EPIPHANY The BAPTISM of our LORD White 7th JANUARY 2018	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Genesis 1: 1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19: 1-7 Mark 1: 4-11	EVENING PRAYER	
The SECOND SUNDAY after THE EPIPHANY White 14th JANUARY 2018	H.C.	FAMILY SERVICE 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20) Psalm 139: 1-5, 12-18 John 1: 3-51 Please join us for coffee after the service	HOLY COMMUNION	
The THIRD SUNDAY after the EPIPHANY White 21st JANUARY 2018	H.C.	HOLY COMMUNION Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 Psalm 62: 5-12 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31 Mark 1: 14-20	COMPLINE	
The FOURTH SUNDAY after the EPIPHANY PRESENTATION OF CHRIST White 28th JANUARY 2018	H.C.	MORNING PRAYER Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 Psalm 111 Mark 1: 21-28 Please join us for coffee after the service	HOLY COMMUNION	

THE THURSDAY GROUP



Our Christmas Lunch along with Kiltarnan Parish will take place in Old Conna Golf Club on Thursday 14th December. We will meet at 12.30 p.m. The cost of lunch will be €25 per person and friends are more than welcome to join us.

Please let me know by 12th if you will be there. Our meeting for the New Year will be on Thursday 18th January in the home of Neville & Anne Thompson, Seafield, Shankill. Let me know if you require a lift.

Anne 282 4204

THE ALPHA/IN-BETWEEN BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will not meet in December.

We will meet on Tuesday 30th January, 2018 @ 8.00 p.m. at the home of Linda Orr, Ballybride Cottage, Ballybride Road, Shankill, Phone:01-2822471.

We are reading two books for this meeting -
 "Elinor Elephant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman
 and
 "Plainsong" by Kent Haruf



RATHMICHAEL PARENTS, BABIES & TODDLERS



You are cordially invited to Stories and Songs by the Crib for the under 4 's in Rathmichael Church on Wednesday 13th December at 10.30 am followed by a Christmas Tree Party.

Food, fun and games and maybe a surprise visitor!!! As we need an idea of numbers for the party please let Claire @ 086 875 0540 know by the 9th December if you are coming.

Will see you all on January 10th 2018

CHURCH FLOWERS



We look forward to seeing all our flower arrangers on Saturday 16th December when we will Decorate the church for the Carol Service and Christmas Services.



CHURCH COFFEE

Dec 3rd	Oonagh Cosgrave - Avril McWilliams	Mary Went Avril Stewart
10th	Pamela Hill - Catherine Millar	Barbara Fagan Helen Darcy
Jan 14th	Anne Headley - Anne Golden	Pamela Ross Ros Cox
28th	Marilyn Griffith - Susi French	Olivia Uhlar Shirley Garland

CHURCH AND BRASS CLEANING

DATE	CHURCH	BRASS
2nd Dec	Frances Marshall	Debbie Duncan
9th	Anne Headley	Beverley East
16th	Anne Headley	Beverley East
6th Jan	Sarah Campbell	Pamela Bradley
13th	Eva Caufield	Heather Maybury
20th	Vacant	Heather Maybury
27th	Debbie Duncan	Pamela Bradley

SUNDAY CLUB

	4-6 yrs	7-9 yrs	10-12 yrs
Dec10th	Shirley Farrell	Hannah Harty	Jonathan Byford

We hope all our boys and girls have a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in January. Texts will be sent to parents to advise the dates.

SUNDAY CRÈCHE

DEC	3rd	Family Service
	10th	Kim Hannigan
	17th	No Crèche
JAN	7th	No Crèche
	14th	Michelle Hennessy
	21st	No Crèche
	28th	No Crèche



Remembrance Service at Rathmichael Parish Church - 12th November 2017

and the Battle of Passchendaele

Authors & Presenters:

Lt Prof Mathew McCauley, Army Medical Corps; and Maj (Retd) Peter Harty, R IRISH

Introduction:

President Higgins recently commented that we as a people are defined by what we chose to commemorate. Remembering provides us with a social and psychological anchor. Without memory, we are a drift, for it is memory that roots us in our past, shapes our interpretation of the present, and charts a course for our future.

As it is said in scripture, "there is a time for every occasion under heaven... A time to kill, at time to heal, a time to breakdown and a time to build up." Remembrance Sunday is thus a time to reflect not only on the human cost of seeking justice, but on the generosity of so many; those who stood up for the achievement of this honourable endeavour, whilst meeting the terrible costs involved. As Christians, we also are mindful of the sacrifice that secured a peace and mercy for the world, which involved Christ's death on the cross and the love and welcome to the stranger that reflected his life. Justice does not come without a cost, such as the cost of life, or psychological and physical injuries. Today involves expressing our thoughts, prayers, respect, and thanks to those who taught us, through their sacrifice, the sheer value of justice and peace; by shouldering so much of the responsibility and exhibiting the qualities most only talk about.

Remembrance and the Poppy:

The Poppy, our Remembrance Sunday symbol, is so powerfully appropriate for today's ceremony. It has been linked to the Great War commemorations for almost 100 years. The poppy now forms part of the annual process of remembrance in so many countries. Its moving symbolism has also lead others to consider how it speaks to us in other ways. Some have said that the black centre with red petals might represent the bullet hole and blood of the soldier sacrificed in battle, or perhaps his bloodshot eye looking back at us in death. The stem, reminding us that we are all linked to this world as part of God's creation; and the green leaf, the symbol of life being reborn out of death and the hope of future generations to come. Today we gather to remember and commemorate those who served and sacrificed in wars, so that we can enjoy the communities within which we live. Some here today will be remembering friends, colleagues, loved ones, or relatives who served so that we might live in peace. All of us, however, will be honouring national and parish ancestors who served. This year also marks the centenary of the Battle of Passchendaele.

Passchendaele:

Our impression of WW1 is defined more by Passchendaele than any other battle. Mud, death, and the futility of wasted humanity. Officially known as the Third Battle of Ypres, Passchendaele was fought from July to November 1917 in the Flanders region of northern Belgium. One of the harshest battles of the war; its cost: 500,000 Allied and Germans casualties; its gain: five miles of mud.

It was said you could smell the battlefield miles before you ever reached it. The ever present odour of dead humans, horses, rats; mixed with the stench of excrement, lingering poison gasses and the pungent aroma of quicklime used to decompose the dead. Constant and unseasonal rainfall, on a flat land, continually re-ploughed by artillery fire created a quagmire of biblical proportions. Stories of men and horses drowning in a sea of mud became legendary. Indeed, the entire battle came to a halt after the initial few days.

Early in the battle two Irish Divisions fought shoulder to shoulder. The largely protestant 36th Ulster Division, having recovered from the Somme, and the predominantly catholic 16th Irish Division, having redeployed from the heat of Gallipoli. Within the first two weeks Ireland lost five thousand dead, with one thousand two hundred killed on one day!! Amongst the Irish fatalities at Passchendaele where three heroic individuals: Home rule MP, Willie Redmond: an Irish patriot and a British soldier.

Ireland's greatest WW1 war poet - Francis Ledwidge, of Co. Meath.

Father Willie Doyle, a Jesuit Priest of Dalkey. It was said "He marched every mile alongside the soldiers— forgoing all privileges that his officer rank afforded him. They were his "flock," and he was their "shepherd". During the seemingly never-ending Passchendaele offensive, Father Doyle was in the dreaded "No-Man's Land," desperately trying to drag a wounded Irish comrade back to safety. In so doing, he was blown to pieces by a German shell. This humble man from Dalkey was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry.

The renowned WW1 poet, Siegfried Sassoon, wrote:

"I died in Hell, they called it Passchendaele."

Contd.....

Remembrance Service contd.....

Remembrance is not a celebration of victory nor any form of jingoism. It is about respect. Respect and tolerance for others. Respecting the lessons of history, whilst reminding our elected representatives of their empowered responsibility – lest they forget.

Modern warfare and conflict has evolved dramatically; today it is characterised in a new world dis-order that is Volatile, Uncertain, Complex & Ambiguous. So in our acts of remembrance. I [P. Harty] implore you to reflect on contemporary conflict, as well as history. This week marks 30 years since the Enniskillen bombing, it also sees enduring conflict in Syria, Afghanistan, the forgotten war in Yemen, and constant conflict on the Horn of Africa. Yet, at this very moment, Ireland has some 600 soldiers, sailors and airmen deployed in 13 different conflict zones doing their part to defend and enforce peace in a volatile world. Ireland's remembrance of its experiences in WW1 echo today in the integrity of our neutrality, the moral imperative of our DF deployment on UN operations, and the relevance of our very act of remembrance here today.

A Commitment to Peace:

Today we paused for silence. A silence, when sometimes words are not enough; a silence full of dignity, sadness, grief, courage, death, and hope.

Silence, as I [M. McCauley] know in my many years as a military psychologist, communicates 'something' that is often powerful and profound. For behind it can harbour unspoken acts of suffering, despair, duty, honour, or even heroism. Such are the internalised acts of life that can shape a person, as we too have been directed and influenced by the acts of so many known and unknown people across our lives: teachers, parents, strangers, colleagues, and indeed our children. And others, those whom we may never meet, who protect us from known and unknown enemies, both now, in the past, and from dangers yet to come. Today's silence, rather than being a passive act, is an active expression of remembrance and resolve, which informs our place in history, honours and respects those gone before us, and commits us to the pursuit of justice and peace. For as Christ teaches, "Blessed are the peacemakers."

Conclusion:

In conclusion, then, remembrance is perhaps an act of defiance against the complacency of taking our lives and security for granted; of crucially recognising and valuing that we are here today because of the acts of sacrifice of so many people, many of whom are often forgotten. Siegfried Sassoon, upon serving so gallantly in the trenches, later received psychological care from my [M. McCauley] professional predecessors. He then put pen to paper and challenged survivors, leaders, the public and future generations to remember the horrors of conflict.

As Christians, we have a duty to protect the weak and those suffering from harm and injustice. So, whilst peace must be secured and protected by the few whom we ask to stand bravely and honourably in harm's way, we are challenged to avoid entering into conflict lightly or recklessly – for lest we forget, and as Sassoon wrote*:

Have you forgotten yet?...

*For the world's events have rumbled on since those
gagged days,*

*Like traffic checked a while at the crossing of city ways:
And the haunted gap in your mind has filled with thoughts
that flow*

*Like clouds in the lit heavens of life; and you're a man
retrieved to go,*

*Taking your peaceful share of Time, with joy to spare.
But the past is just the same – and War's a bloody
game...*

Have you forgotten yet?...

*Look down, and swear by the slain of the War that you'll
never forget.*

*Do you remember that hour of din before the attack –
And the anger, the blind compassion that seized and
shook you then*

*As you peered at the doomed and haggard faces of your
men?*

*Do you remember the stretcher-cases lurching back
With dying eyes and lolling heads – those ashen-grey
Masks of the lads who once were keen and kind and gay?*

Have you forgotten yet?...

*Look up, and swear by the slain of the war that you'll
never forget!*

Amen.

* Abridged version of the poem "Aftermath" by Siegfried Sassoon



RATHMICHAEL PARISH NATIONAL SCHOOL

We have had a rather active month. We are working on our Global Citizenship Flag. Towards this we collected shoeboxes for Team Hope. This has become an annual event. A wonderful display of over 150 shoeboxes arrived into school on 8th Nov. They were covered in Christmas Paper and families in the school had gone to great lengths to fill them over the midterm break. It is lovely to see the children thinking of others at this Christmastime and also to see the great enjoyment and satisfaction it brings to everyone.



Thinking of our own local community we collected items of non-perishable foods for Harvest this year. We delivered this to the local association SOFA (Shankill Old Folks association).

Each member went home armed with a bag of goodies from the school. The produce also helps with occasions and festivities held in the centre over the next few months. Again a time of giving, remembering those worse off than ourselves. We at Rathmichael are particularly lucky and are in a position to help others and so we should when we can. A good thing for children to learn.



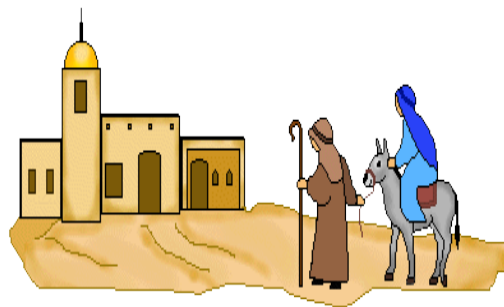
We held a Dress Up Day at Halloween which was a lot of fun. Staff and children entered into the spirit of the occasion.



The PTA held a bake sale, also dressed up, joining us with our theme. Sometimes it's just good to feel good and have some fun!

Caroline Senior, Principal.

POSADA



Joseph and Mary will begin their journey around the parish on Advent Sunday - 3rd December after 11.00 hrs. Family Holy Communion Service.

The invitations for them to spend a night in a comfortable home have already started to arrive so if you and your family would like to be involved with this wonderful event - then please get in touch with Debbie Duncan @ 087 647 1617 and arrange a date for their visit to your house!

RATHMICHAEL WALKERS



No walk in December.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and look Forward to seeing you for a walk on Saturday 27th January 2018. Meet at the Church at 11.00 a.m.

**You are most welcome to join us
Contact Helen Darcy at 0872342689**

CAROL SINGING AT BEECHFIELD MANOR



We look forward to singing carols with the Residents and Staff in Beechfield Manor Nursing Home

on Monday 11th December.

Meet at 6.45 p.m. sharp at the nursing home.

We need some tuneful voices to get us through the evening and men, women and children (over 8 years of age) would be most welcome.

Don't forget your antlers and Santa hats!

Please Note: The Nursing Home is very warm so woolly jumpers are not necessary!

Any queries: Please phone Anne @ 086 893 7067
or Caroline @ 087 744 6719

We look forward to seeing you!

THE RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND



Je suis Old Mother Hubbard's Dog!

Not really, - thanks to the extraordinary generosity of those who trust me to be judicial in my administration of the fund.

Over the years this fund has allowed me to support parishioners who have one way or another met with adversity or need.

The fund provides practical financial help, usually in small amounts, which simply says, "*the parish cares*".

I know that these gestures have been gratefully received and have made a huge difference throughout the year to individuals or families at times of crisis.

The fund is administered by myself, with an independent auditor, in a completely confidential manner.

Fred

Some Tips to Keep the Little Ones Safe at Christmas

With the change of routine at Christmas perhaps some of these dangers may elude a parent's eye.

Babies and young children have a natural habit of putting things into their mouths - even foods that could easily cause them to choke.

There are ten foods in particular which can be a choking hazard for your little ones, according to the HSE.

- Hot dogs/sausages
- Raw carrots
- Apples
- Grapes (and similar shaped fruit and vegetables, e.g., cherry tomatoes, soft fruits)
- Nuts
- Peanut butter
- Marshmallows
- Chewing gum
- Boiled sweets
- Popcorn
-

The HSE also offers guidelines that will help prevent choking incidents.

Chop grapes, cherry tomatoes and similar shaped soft fruits into quarters or smaller pieces

"The fruit could otherwise totally block a child's airway in a choking incident," according to the HSE.

- Children should sit at the table, or sit still, while eating - they are much more likely to choke if they are walking or running around.
- The HSE also advises that parents never let their child eat in bed, or eat alone at meal or snack times.
- Skins from sausages or hotdogs should be peeled, and these foods should be cut lengthways into small pieces (at least as small as your child's small fingernail).
- Thick pastes like nut butter or chocolate should be spread very sparingly onto bread.



*An Edwardian Tea Party
will take place in The Erck Hall
(beside Rathmichael Church)
Saturday 6th January 2018
One sitting at 3.30 p.m.*

*Bring your relatives and friends
Edwardian dress optional!*

*Cost per person - by Donation
Tickets from Lily Byrne @ 087 282 1021*

Proceeds to the Rector's Discretionary Fund

Thank you! Thank you!

This is an appropriate time of year to thank everyone who helps to keep the wheels on this parish bus well oiled and turning.

We thank the church wardens Richard Marshall and Marian Conboy for looking after “everything” at each service.

Thank you to our Parish Readers - Lily Byrne and Anne Thompson for their assistance with services throughout the year.

Thank you to the Organist and Choir for their musical input at each service and to Lily Byrne for organising the lectors each week.

Thank you to the volunteers who help to run the Sunday Club and to Jonathan and his helpers for their work with Slip and Grip Youth Groups and to Caroline Senior for liaising Church and School. Thank you to Debbie Duncan for organising and overseeing Sunday Club.

Thanks to Danielle Fletcher and her volunteers who look after the Sunday Crèche and take care of our very little ones while mum and dad attend the service.

Thank you to the volunteers, Claire Miller, Aoife Conroy and Kim Hannigan who organise the Parents, Toddlers & Babies Group on Wednesday mornings.

Thank you to Mark Thornburgh, Anne Thompson (and just retired Peter Williams) for looking after the many demands of safety on our premises and the implementation of the Church of Ireland Safe Guarding Trust.

We welcome Laura Mahon to this panel

We thank Elizabeth Gordon, Ingrid Goodbody, Margaret Nevin and their team for attending to the flower arrangements, which are admired each week and remind us of the beauty of the earth that God has given us.

We thank Ros Cox for looking after the Liturgical Colours week by week throughout the year.

Thank you to Helen Darcy and the team of volunteers who serve that welcome cup of coffee on certain Sundays throughout the year.

Thanks to Debbie Duncan and the people who attend to Church and Brass Cleaning (there are a few “vacancies” - maybe you could spare a couple of hours in the year.). This team of helpers keeps our lovely little church spic and span.

Our Glebe Wardens attend to all matters with regard to upkeep of the buildings and halls and Dave Elmes, along with Fiona Ashe, Geoffrey Perrin and Peter Williams arrange work parties to prune, clear and plant the church grounds. Our thanks to all involved in this work.

Thanks to Carol Bond who looks after delivery of The Church Review and Geoffrey Perrin who does likewise with the Gazette.

Our parish Newsletter is Edited by The Rector and compiled by Anne Thompson. Ros Cox manages the distribution of it each month. Many thanks to those dedicated distributors who, through rain and shine, deliver it to many parishioners throughout the parish.

The Newsletter is printed, as are the service sheets for our main services at Christmas and throughout the year, to a very high standard by Grant Howie at Grants, Baggot Street, Dublin, and we thank him for that.

We email a large number of Newsletters to parishioners, ex-parishioners and friends of the parish, and will be happy to add more names to that list. Please send your email address to annethompson2824@gmail.com and we will gladly put you in our address book. This also helps to reduce overheads with printing which loom large on the agendum!

We thank our Parish Treasurer, Michael Malcolmson and Lily Byrne for their diligent book-keeping.

And - last but by no means least - thank you to my P.A. Anne Thompson.

As you can see from the above, many hands make light work so please consider offering your services for even a few hours during the year. It would be greatly appreciated.

Fred

BEYOND RATHMICHAEL and St. VINCENT de PAUL



In recent years the parish has very generously contributed to Christmas food hampers which have been given to the local St Vincent de Paul organisation and some to Bray Women's Refuge. The recipients have been enormously grateful and we know that our annual Christmas Hamper Appeal meets a real need.

Every Euro we collect is generously matched by the Select Vestry and this provides another way for the parish to show its concern for and interest in the local community.

So as before we would really like donations of CASH which will enable us to go to the supermarkets and get the best price on multiple items of food. If you would like to contribute food items these can be left in a box in the Church Porch or delivered to us in the Burton Hall by 9am on Saturday 16th December when we will be packing the hampers.

Many thanks.

Fiona Ashe 087 8215806 & Geoffrey Perrin 087 9174452

GROUNDS CLEAN UP! THANK YOU!



A big "thank you" to everyone who came and helped with the Church grounds autumnal clean up. We had so much help, we got a lot of work done and the grounds look fantastic.

Thank you once again,

Fiona, Geoffrey and the "grounds gang"

Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal.

Bishops' Appeal is the Church's World Aid and Development Programme. It was set up by the Bishops of the Church in response to the commands in the Bible to bring good news to the poor and relief to the suffering.

Aims of this role

- to educate the Church at home about the needs and concerns of people in the less developed world and the causes of poverty;
- to encourage Church members to examine the reasons for the problems facing the less fortunate in the world and to consider what we can do to change conditions;
- to reach out in God's name to those who need our help;

to encourage informed prayer and prayerful action aimed at strengthening the poor; to raise the funds needed to allow Bishops' Appeal to support development projects and alleviate the suffering caused by disasters, both natural and man-made.

Bishops' Appeal works through partner Non-Governmental Organisations and Mission Agencies to implement Christ's "Mission Statement" to feed the hungry, lift the burden of poverty from the poor and bring freedom and hope to the oppressed. It does not fund development and emergency work directly. Our partners have the local knowledge and resources to ensure that projects for which they apply for funding are of maximum benefit to the peoples and areas in which they work.

Bishops' Appeal contributes to relief of suffering in time of emergencies whether natural or man-made. However, our main concern is to support ongoing development in the fields of sustainable agriculture, health, including HIV/AIDS, and education in many parts of the world. We aim to enable people to have more control over their own lives and futures so that they are less dependent on others than they are today.

The Appeal has released emergency funds to Médecins Sans Frontières to support 500,000 Rohingya refugees fleeing violence in Myanmar. The number of people attending MSF's two existing clinics has doubled to 550 each day.

Emergency responses such as food, water, shelter and medical supplies Have been made in South Sudan (CMS Ireland), Yemen (Tearfund Ireland) Sierra Leone (Christian Aid) Caribbean Region (Christian Aid) Ethiopia : Self-help groups to build resilience and reserves, as response to drought and famine. (Tearfund Ireland).

In Rathmichael Parish over Christmas we will have retiring collections for Bishops' Appeal at our services. The purple envelopes, together with a copy of the annual report for this appeal will be available in the church in December.

You can read about the Appeal and what it does at

www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org

Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

For the Bishops' Appeal, Anne Thompson

SLIP & GRIP YOUTH GROUPS

Here in Rathmichael we have 2 youth groups. Slip is for kids in 5th and 6th class and meets every second Saturday. Grip which is for teens in secondary school and they meet every second Sunday in The Erck Hall.

Slip had a great day out a few weeks ago when we went out to Dun Laoghaire to try and taste chips from as many chippers as we could. We had really good fun with a very discerning group of "tasters" who really enjoyed the challenge.

Now we are looking forward to our Christmas party which will take place on the 9th of December.

Grip has plans to go ice skating on the 3rd of December followed 2 weeks later by a Christmas meal.

All this means we will have to take a break from our usual time of watching and discussing the Nua series, but we will look forward to getting back into it in the New Year.

If you have any questions about our youth groups or would like to get involved (The leaders are always looking for help) please contact me at.

Phone:0838110533

Email:byfordjonathan@gmail.com

Jonathan Byford



CHURCH OF IRELAND SAFE GUARDING TRUST

Thank you to all of our volunteers who came along to the training evening in December.

This is a most important part of our ministry with our children and we do appreciate your time and your interest.

ANNUAL REGISTER OF VESTRY PERSONS

Each year in the month of January every Church of Ireland parish revises its register of parishioners.

People who have become new members of the Parish and parishioners who have reached the age of eighteen are entitled to become registered members of the Parish (referred to as registered vestry members).

In a similar manner, names of those who have ceased to be registered vestry persons through death or having moved away from the Parish, are deleted.



ANNUAL REGISTER OF VESTRY PERSONS

Declaration Form for new Registered Vestry Members

(If by 14th January 2018 you will have reached the age of 18 or if you have recently become a member of Rathmichael Parish, you should complete the following declaration and give it to a Churchwarden or the Rector before 14th January 2018.

Name:

of _____

Address:

I declare that I am a member of the Church of Ireland; that I am a *Resident or *Accustomed Member of the congregation of Rathmichael Parish in the Diocese of Dublin; that I am over 18 years of age and that I am not now registered elsewhere as an above stated member of a congregation in the Church of Ireland.

THE CHURCH REVIEW

The subscription for the Church Review for 2018 of €40 is now due and should be paid to Carol Bond in cash or by cheque payable to her and she would greatly appreciate prompt payment of subs.

Carol is always hoping to increase the circulation of the Church Review in the parish.

The Review has interesting news from all the parishes in the Diocese, a foreword from the Archbishop, book reviews, a very popular crossword and many other articles.

Please contact Carol at 282 6391 (by 15th December) if you wish to renew or take up a new subscription.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Carol for kindly collecting the Review and organising it to be available in the church porch each month.