

Kilbride Herald

St. Bride's - where Faith and Fellowship grow



"At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them"

November - December 2023

Parish Of Kilbride: St Bride's Church - where Faith and Fellowship grow

Rector-in-Charge: Rev. John McClure (07841 866414)

Parish Reader
David Holmes

Rector's Churchwarden
Vacant - see rota

People's Churchwarden
Vacant - see rota

Rector's Glebwarden
Jim Wilson: 2589 8753

People's Glebwarden
Billy Robinson: 07306 303337

Honorary Secretary
Ivan Topping: 9334 1916

FWO Secretary
TBC

Gift Aid Secretary
Phyllis Glenn: 9334 0884

Organist & Choir Director
Timothy Wilson

Sunday School Superintendent
Eleanor Graham: 9334 0000

Honorary Treasurer
Lilian Lyttle: 9332 3311

Parish Hall Organiser
Alex Johnston: 9334 9393

Caretaker
Claire Patterson: 07745 721069

Parish Website
kilbrideparishchurch.org
Parish Webmaster: David Holmes

Holy Baptism
This is by arrangement.
Please contact Rev. John McClure
at the phone number above.

Rev. John McClure would be
grateful for information about
hospital admissions
and discharges.

Kilbride Herald Editorial Panel
David Holmes, Iris McCormick
& Ivan Topping

Charity Number: 10 35 70



The Services at St. Bride's

Sunday 5 November
Fourth Sunday before Advent
11.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 17 December
Third Sunday of Advent
11.00am Holy Communion
6:00pm Service of Nine Lessons
and Carols

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 12 November
Third Sunday before Advent
11.00am Morning Prayer
and Act of Remembrance



Sunday 19 November
Second Sunday before Advent
11.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 26 November
The Kingship of Christ
11.00am Morning Prayer

Sunday 3 December
First Sunday of Advent
11.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 10 December
Second Sunday of Advent
11.00am Morning Prayer

Tuesday 12 December
7:30pm Masonic Carol Service

Sunday 24 December
*Fourth Sunday of Advent -
Christmas Eve*
11.00am Morning Prayer
11:30pm Midnight Eucharist
(The first communion of Christmas)

Monday 25 December
*Christmas Day - Feast of the Nativity
of Our Lord*
11.00am Holy Communion and
Family Service

Sunday 31 December
First Sunday of Christmas
11.00am Morning Prayer

2024

Sunday 7 January
*First Sunday after the Epiphany -
The Baptism of our Lord*
11.00am Holy Communion



Harvest Thanksgiving

The church's harvest service was held on 24 September and the church was beautifully decorated for the occasion with sheaves of corn, bales of straw and fruit and vegetables, symbolic of God's generous bounty. The service was very well attended and was conducted by the temporary rector, Rev. John McClure.

Ever mindful of the needs of others who are struggling to make ends meet during these difficult times a request was made a few weeks before the service asking everyone to bring some non-perishable food items for donation to the local food bank. The response was wonderful with donations being brought in right up to the day of the

service. At the end of the service the donations completely filled a very large car. Everything was delivered to the food bank on the Carnmoney Road near Glengormley the following day where it was gratefully received.



Jean Johnston Retires

Jean Johnston has been sexton in Kilbride for over 33 years and during the summer she decided it was time to take things a bit easier and she gave the Select Vestry notice that she would retire in September. In her many years service she has kept the church, parish hall and parish room immaculate, quietly working in the background to keep everything clean and tidy. Her many years of service were recognised by the Select Vestry this evening as she was presented with gifts by Ivan Topping and Lillian

Lyttle. Ivan expressed the gratitude that every parishioner felt for her long and dedicated service and wished her a long and very happy retirement. Jean thanked everyone for their generosity and said that she had enjoyed working in the church over the years. Following the retirement of Jean Johnston as sexton for Kilbride Claire Patterson (pictured below bottom right) has been appointed as her replacement. Claire started her new role in mid-September and we all wish her well in her new position.





Poppy Display

In September Fiona Charlton had the inspirational idea of a poppy display for Remembrance Sunday and she enlisted the help of various people

to make enough poppies for a fitting display. The response has been amazing and there are approximately 850 poppies now arranged in a wonderful display in the church. Fiona would like to thank everyone who has knit or crocheted poppies or asked family and friends to make some.

The display can be seen in church on the following Sundays, before or after each church service; 5th November and Remembrance Sunday, 12th November. More images of this wonderful poppy display can be seen on the church website.

Dates to Note

Wednesday 8 November - Ladies' Group Quilt Exhibition by Sandra Weir in the Parish Hall from 7:30pm. Refreshments will be served - all welcome

Wednesday 15 November - Watchmen - a talk on the history of Ballyclare by Robson Davison

Saturday 9 December - 5:30pm Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on

Wednesday 13 December - Watchmen - a talk on former rector Rev. John Freeman by David Holmes

Saturday 16 December - Carol singing at Coleman's Garden Centre, Templepatrick from 11am - 12:30pm

Wednesday 10 January - Kilbride Parish Church Ladies' Group Cinema Night

Kilbride Parish Church Ladies' Group

The Ladies' Group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Parish Room. The ladies started the year on 13th September by exercising their brains with the "100% Club" quiz, brilliantly hosted by Kerry Knipe.

11th October saw the ladies exercising their bodies when they welcomed Rachel Wilson to teach them some easy chair fitness.

The next meeting will be on 8th November in the Parish Hall when guest Sandra Weir, a very talented local quilter from Cookstown, will exhibit a selection of her quilts. Sandra's work explores colour and reflects her Christian faith. On the evening she will talk about the stories and experiences that have inspired her quilts.

Eleanor Graham, Sharon Francey and Hazel McDonald will also be displaying their handbags and quilts. This evening is open to all parishioners, family and friends. Refreshments will be served and donations will go to church funds.



The Watchmen

The Watchmen men's group visited the business of parishioner George McMillan recently to look around his specialist car-servicing facility in Antrim. George's company, McMillan Specialist Cars, looks after the servicing requirements of many prestige vehicle brands, including Audi, Mercedes, Maserati and Lamborghini to name a few, but his company specialises in Porsche. The men were able to look around a very well-equipped workshop to see state-of-the-art servicing equipment and

numerous performance cars currently being worked on by George's skilled technicians. There was even a 1900 vintage Renault car being prepared for the annual London to Brighton vintage car rally! George gave a talk on the history of his business and some of the training work he personally does for other companies such as Toyota UK. Listening to him speaking it was clear that he has been passionate about cars throughout his life. It was an extremely interesting and informative visit enjoyed by everyone.



watchmen
at Kilbride Parish Church



From the Archives

In going through some of the church archives recently this photograph of the choir came to light. It dates back to 11th September 1977 during the second tenure of Rev. Roy Cox and many current parishioners will recognise at least some of the faces, even if they can't put names to everyone.

Back row (L - R) Mr. Alec Trimble (Rector's Church Warden), Major A.E. Matthews, Mr. Tommy Green, Mrs. Babs Hill, Mrs. Marjorie Beresford, Miss Nancy Wilson, Mrs. Wilma McVitty, Mr. John Dobbs, Mr. Bill Robinson, Mr. Bob McVitty (People's Church Warden).

Photo credit - F.L.R. Bradley, Larne

Front Row (L - R) Mrs. Welch, Mrs. May McAllen, Miss Hazel McAllen, Rev. E. Darling (St. John's, Malone), Rev. Roy R. Cox (Rector), Rev. H.P. Johnston, Mrs. Joan Simpson (Organist), Mrs. Margaret Robinson, Mrs. Cunningham.



Holy Baptism

Emily-Rose Boyd was baptised by Rev. John McClure on Sunday 29 October. She is pictured here with her proud parents Adam and Angela Boyd, along with her grandparents and godparents.



History of Hymns

On 12th November the nation will commemorate the fallen of the two World Wars and subsequent wars in remembrance services across the country led by King Charles III at the Cenotaph in London. The service there begins at precisely 10:36 a.m. with a programme of music known as “the Traditional Music”, which has remained largely unchanged since 1930. This comprises a selection of National Airs and solemn music performed by the massed bands representing the four nations of the United Kingdom; the Band of the Grenadier Guards, Band of the Coldstream Guards, Band of the Scots Guards and the Band of the Irish Guards. The bands play music such as “The Minstrel Boy,” “Men of Harlech,” “The Skye Boat Song” and “Nimrod” from Elgar’s Enigma Variations. One hymn that has long had an association with commemoration and is included in the Traditional Music is “O God, Our Help in Ages Past,” a hymn written by Isaac Watts in 1708 and based on the 90th Psalm of the Book of Psalms.

Isaac Watts (17 July 1674 – 25 November 1748) was an English Congregational minister, hymn writer, theologian, and logician. He was a prolific and popular hymn writer and during his lifetime he penned some 750 hymns. His works include well known hymns such as “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,” “Joy to

the World,” as well as “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past.” He is recognised as being the “Godfather of English Hymnody” with many of his hymns remaining in use today.

Watts displayed a skill for rhyme from an early age. As a boy he was once asked why he had his eyes open during prayers, to which he responded;

*“A little mouse for want of stairs
ran up a rope to say its prayers”.*

He received corporal punishment for this, to which he cried:

*“O father, father, pity take
And I will no more verses make”.*

The hymn originally consisted of nine verses but in modern usage the fourth, sixth and eighth verses are commonly omitted to leave a total of six. In 1738, John Wesley in his hymnal, *Psalms and Hymns*, changed the first line of the text from “Our God” to “O God”. Both Watts’ original text and Wesley’s rewording remain in current use but the Church of Ireland hymnal uses Wesley’s version.

The hymn was originally part of *The Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament*, published by Watts in 1719. In this book he paraphrased in Christian verse the entire psalter with the exception

of twelve Psalms which he felt were unsuited for Christian usage.

The hymn tune “St. Anne” to which the text is most often sung was composed by William Croft (1678 - 1727) in 1708 whilst he was the organist of St Anne’s Church, Soho, hence the name of the tune. It first appeared in the Supplement to the *New Version of the Psalms*, 6th edition in 1708. It was originally intended to be used with a version of Psalm 62 and it was not until sometime later when set to Watts’ text that the tune gained recognition.

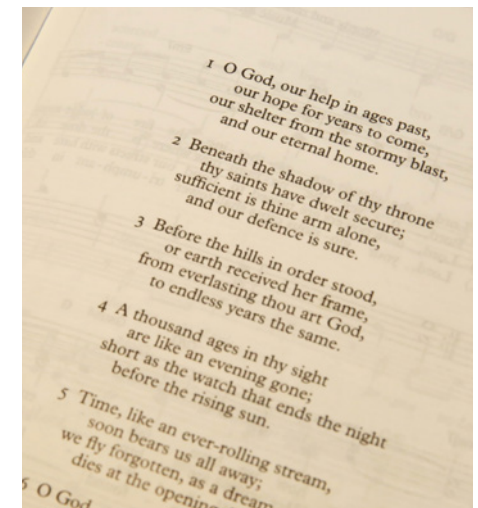
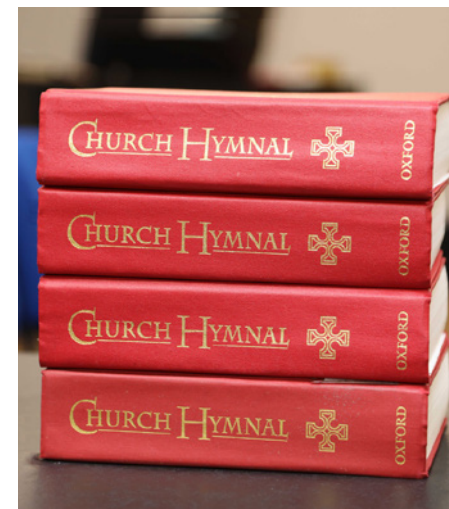
The hymn has been sung on many notable historical occasions over the years including on the morning of Sunday, 14th April 1912 as the last hymn in a church service led by

Captain Edward J. Smith on board R.M.S. Titanic.

In 1941 it was sung on board HMS *Prince of Wales* at a religious service attended by Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt as part of the conference creating the Atlantic Charter.

It was used again at Winston Churchill’s state funeral in London in 1965.

It is also the school hymn for King Edward VI School, Southampton, which Isaac Watts himself attended, and as the peal of the nearby Southampton Civic Centre clock tower ringing out every four hours during the day at 8am, midday, 4pm and 8pm. The main bell in the bell tower is called the “Solent Chimes.”



Kilbride Parish Church War Memorials

A number of men associated with the Parish of Kilbride answered their country's call during both the First and Second World Wars and enlisted into the armed forces. Most served in the British army or the Royal Navy but a number who had emigrated from the Kilbride district enlisted in their adopted countries. All served with honour but those listed opposite made the supreme sacrifice. Their names appear on a memorial inside the church as well as on the main memorial for this area in Ballyclare War Memorial Park. Information on individual servicemen can be found on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website where details of each man is recorded, including date of death and place of burial, if known.

Many have no known graves but they are commemorated on collective memorials near where they fell.

The sacrifice these men made is remembered on Remembrance Sunday every year when a wreath of poppies is laid at the main memorial tablet inside the church. This tablet was unveiled on 14th December 1919 by Major General Sir William Adair KCB of Loughanmore.

The biographies of some of these men can be found on our church website.

The image below shows the Railway Dugouts War Cemetery near Ypres in Belgium, where Private David Armstrong was laid to rest.



World War 1

Armstrong, David
Ayer, George
Bill, Robert
Busby, Samuel R

Cassidy, William Lindsay

Easton, Samuel
Gault, John Victor
Hamill, Robert Moore
Hill, James Smith
Jamison, Alexander
Martin, John W
Percy, James
Porter, Archibald
Robinson, Samuel
Sempey, Alexander Todd

Taylor*, John
Taylor*, Joseph Patterson
Turkington, Robert
Waddell, George
White#, Robert
White#, Thomas
Wright, Thomas
Wright, William John

Private, 3rd Battalion, Australian Infantry Force
Corporal, 2nd Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers
Rifleman, 12th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles
Private, 15th Battalion, Devonshire Regiment (Territorial). Formerly Royal Irish Rifles
Private, 2nd Field Ambulance Company, Canadian Army Medical Corps
Rifleman, 11th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles
2nd Lieutenant, 5th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles
Corporal, 12th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles
Private, Royal Engineers
Class 1 Stoker, Royal Navy (HMS Cressy)
Rifleman, 12th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles
Private, 6th Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers
Rifleman, 3rd Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles
Lance Corporal, 12th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles
Company Quarter Master Sergeant, 46th Battalion, Canadian Infantry
Private, 7th Battalion, Canadian Infantry
Serjeant, 12th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles
Rifleman, 12th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles
Rifleman, 18th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles
Rifleman, 12th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles
Private, 46th Battalion, Canadian Infantry
Serjeant, 18th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles

World War 2

John McGarvey

Fusilier, 1st Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

* denotes brothers who died in action, # denotes brothers who died in action



A Prayer for Remembrance Sunday

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

A Prayer for the Leaders of the Nations

O God our heavenly father, whose love sets no boundaries and whose strength is in service; grant to the leaders of the nations wisdom, courage and insight at this time of darkness and fear. Give to all who exercise authority a determination to defend the principles of freedom, love and tolerance, strength to protect and safeguard the innocent and clarity of vision to guide the world into the paths of justice and peace. This we ask through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

Tote Bags and Torches

Do you frequently drop in to a local supermarket for a few items of shopping, maybe on the way home from work, and forget to take a small bag with you to carry them home in?

Rather than have to buy a plastic bag at the checkout why don't you buy one of the customised St Bride's tote bags to keep in the car? They only take up a little space and could be stored quite easily ready to be used when needed. They are environmentally friendly, being reusable, and come in four different colours, red, blue, black and green, with the church name printed on the side. There is a stock of these available at the moment, very reasonably priced at £5 each, so if you would like one or more of these please contact any of the church wardens.

Now that the darker nights have returned don't be caught out struggling in the dark! A selection of small LED torches in a variety of colours is available and each one can be used as a keyring or just kept in a handbag or a pocket for when you need to shed a little light on something. In addition a slightly large torch is available for when you need a little extra light.

A small torch costs just £2 and the larger £3, again available by contacting a church warden. An ideal stocking filler for Christmas.



Church Website

Kilbrideparishchurch.org contains a lot of very important and useful information that everyone should find interesting and informative. It is updated on a regular basis by our webmaster, David Holmes, and he is keen to get details of anything that is happening in relation to the parish of Kilbride. Contact him with anything you think might be of interest using the contact page on the website or in person at the church.

Badminton Club

Kilbride Parish Church Badminton Club meets on a Tuesday Night in the Parish Hall from 8pm until 10pm. Players of all abilities will be made very welcome. A typical evening consists of a few games of badminton, plenty of chat and most importantly a cup of tea and a biscuit.

Bereavements in the Parish

Matthew (Matt) Crothers
10th October 2023

1st Kilbride Scout Group

Meeting times

Squirrels - Wednesday evenings from 5:45pm until 6:45pm.

Beavers - Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm until 8:00pm.

Cubs - Monday evenings from 6:30pm until 7:45pm.

Scouts - Monday evenings from 8:00pm until 9:30pm.

For more information please contact Simon Charlton via email **kilbridescouts@hotmail.com** or by phone **07900 053885**

1st Kilbride Guide Group

Meeting times

Rainbows - Thursday evenings from 5:45pm until 6:45pm.

Brownies - Thursday evenings from 6:50pm until 7:50pm.

Guides - Thursday evenings from 7:45pm until 9:15pm.

Rangers - Thursday evenings (2nd and 4th Thursday of each month) from 8:00pm until 9:15pm.

The Shields

Have you ever sat in church and looked up at the wonderfully constructed roof of the building and wondered about the significance of the beautiful shields that are fixed to the roof timbers in the main body of the church and in the side chapel?

The thirteen shields are intended to represent various aspects of church life, and the church's connection with the community. Thus eight of the shields have ecclesiastical connections, three have civil connections, one has an industrial connection and one a personal and family connection. The idea for the shields was conceived by the late Rev. Roy Cox who was inspired by seeing a similar set of shields on the roof of a church in England. They are believed to be unique in Northern Ireland, if not on the entire island. The shields were manufactured locally, and painted by a parishioner, Gweneth Moore. Gweneth (sister-in-law of Ivan Topping) was a fabric designer by profession and Rev. Cox asked her to paint the various designs on to the bare aluminium shields. On completion they were installed by a parishioner and dedicated by Rev. Cox in 1988.

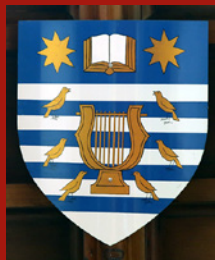
The connections are as follows:

Ecclesiastical – the coats of arms of the five Northern Ireland dioceses of the Church of Ireland (i.e. Connor, Armagh, Down & Dromore, Clogher and Derry & Raphoe); the Royal School of Church Music; and the emblems of St. Bride and St. Patrick.

Civil – the coats of arms of the city of Belfast, and the former Boroughs of Newtownabbey and Antrim, all of which have or have had a bearing on church life. The Parish is now of course situated in the Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council area.

Industrial – the arms of the Guild of Weavers & Millers, representing Doagh's long connection with spinning & weaving, and the linen trade. These industries had a substantial impact on the local community and parish, particularly in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Personal & Family – the coat of arms of the Glentoran Family. The family has a long and honourable connection to the church with the present Lord Glentoran and his wife living locally at Drumadarragh House.



Top Row (L-R): St Bride, St. Patrick, Royal School of Church Music, Diocese of Armagh, Second Row (L-R): Diocese of Clogher, Diocese of Connor, Diocese of Derry & Raphoe, Diocese of Down & Dromore, Third Row (L-R): Borough of Antrim, City of Belfast, Borough of Newtownabbey, Fourth Row (L-R): Guild of Weavers & Millers, Lord Glentoran