

Kilbride HERALD

St Bride's—where Faith and Fellowship grow

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022



- A DAY WITH GOD -

see pages 4,5,6.

PARISH OF KILBRIDE : ST BRIDE'S CHURCH
- where Faith and Fellowship grow

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<p align="center">Organist & Choir Director Timothy Wilson</p> <p align="center">Sunday School Superintendent Eleanor Graham: 9334 0000</p>	<p align="center">The Rector would be grateful for information about hospital admissions and discharges.</p>
	<p align="center">KILBRIDE HERALD Editorial Panel Iris McCormick, Ivan Topping, The Rector</p>
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FROM THE RECTOR



Dear Parishioners,

A great many people have difficulty with prayer; this is what I am told, time and time again.

While I am not entirely surprised at this revelation, I am convinced that we simply cannot shrug our shoulders and say that we have tried and failed! There is a great power in prayer, and thus there are also great benefits, both for ourselves, and for other people and other situations which may be the intended object of our prayers.

I have been thinking about how we as a parish family might tackle this together, and so tap into this great powerhouse of prayer which God in his wisdom provides for maintaining and improving our relationship with him. If we can do this, it could change our lives, and the life of our parish!

As stage one in the process, I want to hold "A Day with God" which you will read about in

these pages, and hear about in some of the sermons over the coming weeks.

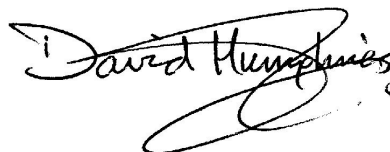
The day itself will be Friday 11 February—a normal working day for most of us. A working day has been chosen deliberately, and it will soon become apparent how this "Day with God" will work for us.

I would ask you to read the material in this edition of THE HERALD and to come and listen to the sermons. Please keep your mind open to the idea, and determine to take part.

I would like all our people—all who claim allegiance to our parish—to take part in this endeavour.

I offer a guarantee that if we take part enthusiastically and to the best of our ability, it will help us all with our prayer life, and it will be a significant step forward in the transformation of our parish.

Your friend and Rector,



A Day with God
A Guided Personal Retreat of Prayer and Reflection
YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Ok, so is this some general Church of Ireland thing?

No.

So is it just organised for us in St Bride's?

Yes.

Well, what's the point of it?

The power of the whole parish in prayer—an entire congregation on retreat!

But don't be daft! 11 February is a Friday—how can we all go on retreat on a normal working day?

That's exactly the point! Have your normal working day! Do what you're supposed to do on Friday 11 February—but make sure God goes with you—from the time you get out of bed in the morning until the time you get back into bed in the evening!

Impossible! Some of us lead busy lives, you know—some of us have to work for our money—in this day and age this can't be done!

Yes it can! The whole parish in prayer! What better thing can happen to a congregation? Everyone knows the personal spiritual benefits of spending time with God, but here's a way to get an entire congregation to do it together.

The Rector is asking all our parishioners to set aside Friday 11 February as a special day of prayer and reflection. Before the day itself, every household will be issued with a printed guide to take us through the day. Some people will be able to use the whole guide, from beginning to end; others will only be able to use parts of it. The guide will provide material for our praying, reflecting and meditating throughout the day—whether we will be having breakfast, are on the bus, or having a quick break at work, at evening meal—or whatever.

The point is that, although we will all be “doing our own thing” as we always do, we will nevertheless be having this retreat together!

Do you really think this is important?

Yes! We need to continually renew ourselves in faith, and what better time to do this than just a couple of weeks before Lent? This day, as a day with God, will be a day when our entire parish will be involved in prayer and reflection.

Ok, it's beginning to sound good—but do you really think that our parishioners will take it seriously?

Yes!

How come? I mean, it involves a bit of an effort, doesn't it? And while most of us would say that we pray every day, and some of us pray a lot every day, just a few of us might say that we don't pray too much.

The Rector believes that our people will be happy to take part in this special day—indeed, he believes that many people will be enthusiastic about it, particularly after he has revealed the details during the sermon slots over these next weeks.

But surely he won't be able to get everyone involved—I mean,

there are bound to be a few sceptics!

No doubt! But the Rector believes that they can be persuaded to see the benefits of such an exercise—not only for themselves, but for the whole parish.

So what do we do now?

Come to church and listen to the sermons—even if it does involve making a bit of an effort!

THE RESULTS OF FAITHFUL WITNESSING

A boy gave his lunch to Jesus, and five thousand people were fed.

A slave girl spoke to her mistress about God, and her master, healed of his leprosy, became a devout believer.

Andrew told Peter about Jesus, and three years later Peter preached a sermon that was instrumental in bringing three thousand people into the Church.

Faithful witnessing can produce tremendous results. Tell someone about Jesus—and leave the rest up to God.



A TALL TALE

One day God was looking down at the earth and saw all of the rascally behaviour that was going on. He decided to send an angel to the earth to check it out.

When the angel returned, he reported to God, "Yes, it is bad on earth; 95% are misbehaving and 5% are not."

God thought for a moment and decided to send a second angel to get another opinion. When the angel returned he went straight to God and said, "Yes, the earth is definitely declining; 95% are misbehaving and 5% are not."

God was not pleased. He decided he would send an email to the 5% that were good, in order to encourage them and give them a little something to help them keep going in such a desperate time.

Do you know what he said in that email?

What? Oh, you didn't get one either?



OOPS!

Please note that due to a recent computer failure the Rector cannot receive or send emails.

Therefore messages which require a response should be sent by phone or snail-mail!

A PRAYER TO USE OFTEN

O Lord God, who dost call thy servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing whither we go, but only that thy hand is leading us, and thy love supporting us, to the glory of thy name.



The Services at St Bride's



[4] Sunday 26 December
Feast of St Stephen
11.00am Morning Prayer

Saturday 1 January
Feast of the Naming of Jesus
11.00am Holy Communion

[1] Sunday 2 January
Christmas 2
11.00am Holy Communion

Thursday 6 January
Feast of the Epiphany
11.00am Holy Communion

[2] Sunday 9 January
Epiphany 1
11.00am Morning Prayer

[3] Sunday 16 January
Epiphany 2
11.00am Holy Communion

[4] Sunday 23 January
Holocaust Memorial (*Transferred*)
11.00am Morning Prayer

Tuesday 1 February
Feast of St Bride
11.00am Holy Communion

[1] Sunday 6 February
4th Sunday before Lent
The Queen's Accession (1952)
11.00am Holy Communion

Friday 11 February
A DAY WITH GOD
8.00pm Compline

[2] Sunday 13 February
3rd Sunday before Lent
11.00am Morning Prayer

[3] Sunday 20 February
2nd Sunday before Lent
11.00am Holy Communion

Thursday 24 February
Feast of St Matthias
11.00am Holy Communion

[4] Sunday 27 February
Sunday next before Lent
11.00am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 2 March
ASH WEDNESDAY
11.00am Holy Communion



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27 January each year and is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi persecution and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. At St Bride's we hold our remembrance on the Sunday before this date, 23 January.

Holocaust Memorial Day is a time when we seek to learn the lessons of the past and recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own – it's a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented.

Here in Northern Ireland, we are not at immediate risk of genocide. However, discrimination has not ended, nor has the use of the language of hatred or exclusion. There is still much to do to create a safer future and HMD is an opportunity to start this process.

On Sunday 23 January the main theme of our service will be that of remembering the victims of the Holocaust.

To help us with our remembering, six candles will be lit to represent the six million Jews who were murdered by the Nazis during, and around the time, of the

Second World War.

We invite all to be present at that service, so that we may unite with one voice to show our abhorrence of genocide, and our determination to resist such evil in the future.



Focus on

The Psalms

The Christian Church has always used a wide variety of prayers, but the most precious of all are the Psalms.

They are used throughout the world by Christians of all denominations, and of course they are also prayed by our Jewish brothers and sisters.

The Psalms are classed as POETRY, with other types of poetry in the Bible including Song of Songs, parts of Isaiah, Proverbs, and others.

At one time it was thought that King David was the author of most, if not all, of the Psalms, which is why we often refer to them as “The Psalms of David.” Today we believe that David certainly wrote some of them, but the Psalter was composed over many hundreds of years, some psalms dating before David’s time, and some much later.



The Psalms were written and sung from the heart, and so there are many different types, and the Psalmist poured out his soul to God. There are psalms of praise, psalms of thanksgiving, psalms of lament and supplication, psalms of what we call “wisdom”, royal psalms—concerned with the king, psalms of trust and confidence, and psalms as prayer.

If we take a closer look at the Psalter (the version of the psalms which we sing in church), we can easily see that they are not just words joined in any old way. They are written using a technique called PARALLELISM, and there are three types:

1 Synonymous Parallelism, where two parts of the verse repeat the same thought:

The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament shows his handiwork.

2 Antithetical Parallelism, where the second line contrasts with the first:

The Lord knoweth the way of the righteous:
And the way of the ungodly shall perish.

3 Synthetic Parallelism, in which the second line builds upon the first:

Who forgiveth all thy sin:
And healeth all thine infirmities.

The Psalter is a great treasure of the Church, because the whole of the human condition is expressed in the Psalms; there is a psalm for every mood, emotion and occasion.

Our Prayer Book used to help us read the psalms by dividing them up into thirty days, and each day into morning and evening. Sadly, this is no longer the case, but you can still practise this if you have an older version of the Prayer Book. Many people have found this devotional exercise a very big help in their daily prayer life.



MEMORIAL TO SAM BOYD

Shortly before Christmas the Rector dedicated a plaque in memory of Sam Boyd.

This was a decision of the Select Vestry in view of Sam's very substantial bequest which came about at a time when we really needed it to help with the purchase of a new rectory.

The service was attended by Retha Flavell-Robinson, Sam's niece, and her husband William.

Sam lived on a farm on the Ballymena Road, near Browndod, and the last few years of his life were spent in the Lakeview Nursing Home in Crumlin. After his death his remains were interred in Ballymena Cemetery in February 2017.

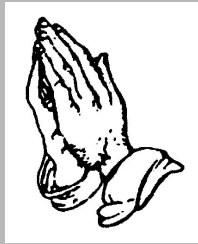
In dedicating the plaque, the Rector commented that it would remind us to be thankful to God, not only for Sam's generosity, but for the service of a great many parishioners down through the past 150 years, who performed similar acts of kindness to the parish.

The photo (by David Holmes) shows Retha and William below the plaque, with the Rector and Ivan Topping, who looked after our guests, in the foreground.



A DAY WITH GOD

A GUIDED PERSONAL
RETREAT OF
PRAYER AND REFLECTION



We'd like you to take part—we could do with your help.

*But I don't go to church—
and to be honest, I don't
pray much either.*

We'd still like you to take part—we still need your help.

But I don't do much for the church.

If you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, and you're registered as belonging to St Bride's, then we'd really like you to take part. Why not ask God what *he* thinks?

THE PERFECT CHURCH

If you should find the perfect church
Without one fault or smear,
For goodness sake don't join that church -
You'd spoil the atmosphere.

If you should find the perfect church
Where all anxieties cease,
Then pass it by, lest joining it
You spoil the masterpiece.

If you should find the perfect church,
Then don't you ever dare
To tread upon such holy ground -
You'd be a misfit there.

But since no perfect church exists,
Made up of 'perfect men',
Let's cease towards looking for that church,
And love the church we're in.

Of course it's not the perfect church,
That's simple to discern,
But you and I and all of us
Could cause the tide to turn.

What fools we are to flee the past
In that unfruitful
search
To find, at last,
where problems
loom
God proudly builds
his Church.



THE PARISH REGISTER OF GENERAL VESTRYPERSONS

The Register of General Vestrypersons is usually open for revision during the month of February, but perhaps not everyone understands what this is about. Hopefully, the questions anyone might have will be answered by reading this article.

What is a General Vestryperson?

A parishioner (someone who lives within the parish boundary) or accustomed member (someone who doesn't live within the boundary but attends church) and whose name is on the parish list of General Vestrypersons.

How do you become one?

You fill in a form which the Church Wardens will provide.

Can anybody become one?

No! You must be at least 18 and have subscribed (by recordable means, e.g. Freewill Offering Envelopes) to parish funds in the past year.

Why might I want to become one?

When you register as a General Vestryperson you are entitled to have a say in the business affairs of the parish. The annual business meeting is known as the Easter General Vestry meeting, at which elections to the Select Vestry and other appointments take place.

If I go to the meeting can I bring up whatever issues I like?

No. The General Vestry members elect the Select Vestry and receive the Financial Statement. In our parish they also hear the Rector's Address. Questions on these matters are welcome, but no other business is conducted. Most people find the meeting quite interesting.

I think I filled in a form to become a General Vestryperson about ten years ago. Do I still hold this title?

You might do! In fact, if you still subscribe to parish funds, you probably do! Get the Churchwardens to check if your name is there.

When can I register?

Only during the month of February. An announcement will be made in church, and a notice will be posted on the church door, to tell you when the Register is to be opened and closed.

If I register, how often am I required to attend meetings?

There is usually only one meeting per year.

As far as I know I meet all the requirements—do you think I should register?

YES!! You should!

JUST A THOUGHT...

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed fervently for God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed to be forthcoming. Exhausted, he managed to build a little hut from driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

But then one day his little hut was destroyed by fire, and he was stunned with grief and anger. "God, how could you do this to me?" he cried.

Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island. It had come to rescue him. "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal" they replied.

It is easy to get discouraged when things are going badly, but we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering. Remember, the next time your little hut is burned to the ground, it may be a smoke signal that has been sent by the grace of God.

THANK GOD FOR YOU

Thank God for you, good friend of mine,
Seldom is friendship such as thine;
How very much I wish to be
As helpful as you've been to me.
Thank God for you.

When I recall from time to time
How you inspired this heart of mine,
I find myself inclined to pray,
"God bless my friend this very day".
Thank God for you.

Of prayer requests, just one thou art
On whom I ask God to impart
Rich blessings from his storehouse rare,
And grant to you his gracious care.
Thank God for you.

So often at the throne of grace,
There comes a picture of your face,
And then instinctively I pray
That God may guide you all the way.
Thank God for you.

Some day I hope with you to stand
Before the throne at God's right hand,
And say to you at journey's end,
You've been to me a faithful friend.
Thank God for you.

- Author unknown.

DOG FOULING

A SERIOUS PROBLEM

Repeating our message from the last edition.

What? What does this mean, and how can anything to do with “man’s best friend” be a problem?

Well, its *dog poo* we’re talking about, and just ask a grass-cutter! A great many folk walk their dogs in the church grounds. We should be pleased about this, because a walk by the church helps their morning or evening meditation as well as giving folk a little bit of exercise—so that’s good.

But some people don’t realise how serious dog poo on the grass can be, and they just leave it there, making no attempt to pick it up and dispose of it in their own homes. So it stays in the grass and becomes a serious risk of infection to many other people, especially children, and a “pain in the ear” to our grass-cutters.



So we say to them, seriously, but respectfully, please help us out on this one. You really should dispose of your dog poo properly. It isn’t fair to us, and the only alternative is to ban dogs from the church grounds altogether. That would be a very difficult decision for us to make, and we genuinely don’t want to do it. So, if you’re responsible,



SCOOP THAT POOP!



ECO NEWS

WHAT IS GOD SAYING THROUGH CLIMATE CHANGE?

We have thought for years about climate change, and we're in no doubt that this is important for humanity and for the future of the planet. On those two counts alone, Christians need to be concerned. But what is the distinctive message that the Christian faith has to offer?

It is not just a matter of expediency, or survival, or of apportioning blame. Climate change reminds us that the earth and its fullness are the Lord's, as St Paul puts it, echoing the words of Psalm 24.

God created the world and saw that it as good. It was created out of love, not just for us.

God's work as creator, and Jesus' work as redeemer, is about the whole of the universe, not just humankind. So over-fishing of oceans, destruction of rain forests, pollution of the atmosphere, are

theological questions as well as political ones.

Though human beings are made to bear God's family likeness, we betray that image if we assume that we are the centre of everything that matters.

God does not, however, simply issue instructions or thunder at us from the mountaintops. "Come, let us argue it out" says Isaiah (1:8), and again and again God enters into a covenant with his people.

Exodus 32 relates how Moses came down the mountain with two tablets of stone, representing the two copies of an agreement between God and humankind.

St Paul shows how Jesus brought in a new covenant, of which we are to be the agents, sustained by the Holy Spirit.

Climate change, painful though it may be, gives us a special opportunity to be ministers of this new covenant. How are YOU progressing in the struggle against climate change?



**Good Shepherd,
Be over me to shelter me,
Under me to uphold me,
Behind me to direct me,
Before me to lead me,
About me to protect me,
Ever with me to save me,
Above me to lift me,
And bring me to the green
pasture of eternal life.**

DID YOU KNOW?

Have you noticed that, from time to time, the colour of things in church changes? No, I don't mean the Rector goes a funny colour or someone paints the walls, but the special robes that the clergy wear, and the front of the Holy Table among other things, change from time to time.

Each season of the Church's year has its own distinctive colour and these are called liturgical colours.

GREEN is the colour we have more than others. Green, the ordinary colour of nature, is used during most of Epiphany (after Christmas) and Trinity. Trinity lasts for about half the year, so green is the colour we see most.

The next change of colour is to **PURPLE**. This is the colour of penitence and preparation, and is used for Lent (the forty days before Easter) and Advent (the four weeks before Christmas).

Then comes **WHITE** and **GOLD**, which are used for all the joyful festivals—Easter, Ascension and Christmas.

RED, the colour of fire, is used at Pentecost, to remind us of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples—like tongues of flame. It is also used on the feast days of martyrs, to remind us of their sacrifice.

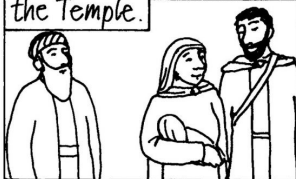
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 2 verses 22-38

God promised the Jews that when times were bad, He would send a leader to save them. He told Simeon it would happen in his lifetime.

God told Simeon to go to the Temple.



He saw a couple with a baby.

Mary and Joseph had come to give their offerings for their first-born, Jesus, and for childbirth.



Simeon held Jesus and praised God.



I can now die in peace because You have kept Your promise.



I have seen the one You have sent to save Your people and all the world!



Mary and Joseph were amazed! Simeon blessed them, but said...



This child will show what people are really like inside and this will mean pain for you as well.



Anna the prophet was also in the Temple.



Her family was from the north of Israel and she was very old.



She spent every day praying in the Temple.

When she saw Jesus she praised God.



Anna spoke about Jesus to everyone who was waiting for God's Saviour.