

Kilbride HERALD

St Bride's—where Faith and Fellowship grow

JULY/AUGUST 2023



RECTOR TO RETIRE

See page 6

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

Rector: The Revd Canon W D Humphries
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Phone: 9332 2979 E-mail: wdhumphries@hotmail.com

<p align="center">Reader Emeritus William Harper</p> <p align="center">Parish Reader David Holmes</p>	<p align="center">Honorary Treasurer Lilian Lyttle: 9332 3311</p>
<p align="center">Rector's Churchwarden</p> <p align="center">People's Churchwarden</p>	<p align="center">Parish Hall Organiser Alex Johnston: 9334 9393</p> <p align="center">Caretaker Jean Johnston: 9334 9393</p>
<p align="center">Rector's Glebewarden Jim Wilson: 2589 8753</p> <p align="center">People's Glebewarden Billy Robinson: 07306 303337</p>	<p align="center">Parish Website kilbrideparishchurch.org Parish Webmaster: David Holmes</p>
<p align="center">Honorary Secretary Ivan Topping: 9334 1916</p> <p align="center">FWO Secretary Fiona Charlton</p> <p align="center">Gift Aid Secretaries Phyllis Glenn: 9334 0884</p>	<p align="center">HOLY BAPTISM This is by arrangement. Please contact the Rector at the phone number in the top panel.</p>
<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>
	<p align="center">Charity Number: 10 35 70</p>

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace... we went on to Neapolis. From there we travelled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district[a] of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. (Acts 16:11-12)

I wonder if travel was in some ways easier in St Paul's day! No waiting at airports, cancelled flights or passport problems. The Roman Empire had an amazing system of well-maintained roads, provided with inns, guards, signposts and milestones. Everyone spoke Greek and the currency was interchangeable. We do not live in classical times so how should we prepare for holidays?

Choose your holiday from a reliable travel company that is a member of the professional bodies that protect customers if it all goes wrong. Pay for the holiday using a credit card, so you can claim against the credit company if there is a serious problem.



Prepare and research where you are going. Look up the Government travel advice pages on staying safe and healthy in that country.

Get someone to look after your house and pets while you are away. Make sure it does not look as though it is empty.

When on holiday, keep your belongings safe and avoid dangerous places. Do not keep all your holiday cash in one place. If you lost your wallet, would you have details of what numbers to phone to stop your card? Take more than one credit/debit card with you, and keep them separately.

Finally – have fun. You deserve it! As always this is a light-hearted introduction, and do get professional advice.

The Services at St Bride's



[1] Sunday 2 July
Trinity 4

11.00am Holy Communion

[2] Sunday 9 July
Trinity 5

11.00am Morning Prayer

[3] Sunday 16 July
Trinity 6

11.00am Holy Communion

[4] Sunday 23 July
Trinity 7

11.00am Morning Prayer

*Followed by tea/coffee in the
parish hall.*

[5] Sunday 30 July
Trinity 8

11.00am Morning Prayer

[1] Sunday 6 August
Trinity 9

11.00am Holy Communion

[2] Sunday 13 August
Trinity 10

11.00am Morning Prayer

[3] Sunday 20 August
Trinity 11

11.00am Holy Communion

[4] Sunday 27 August
Trinity 12

11.00am Morning Prayer

*Followed by tea/coffee in the
parish hall.*

During the month of July and August we do not normally have Prayers for Healing. You should listen very carefully to announcements in church about the future of these services.

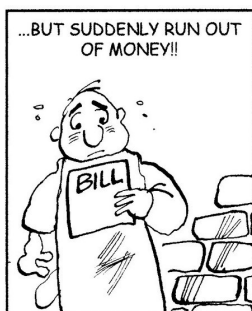
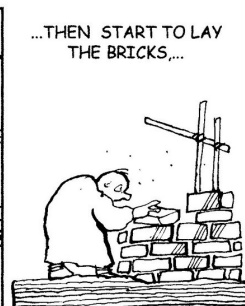
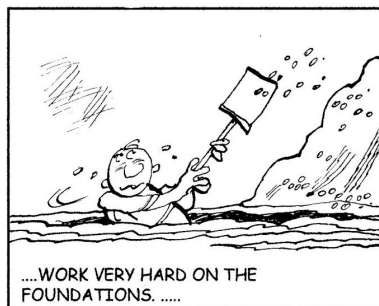
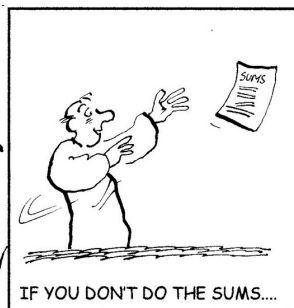
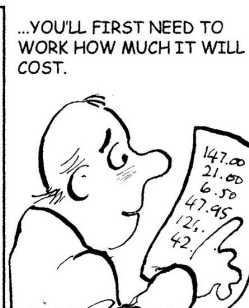
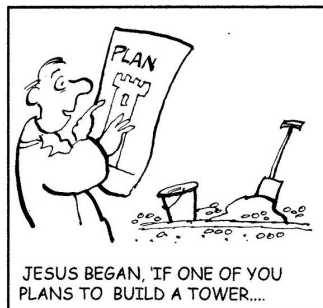
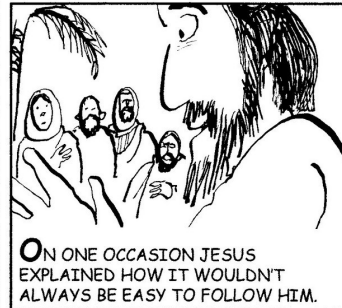
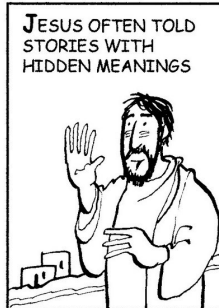
Sunday School children should expect to restart Sunday School on or around the second week in September.

Starting Dates for all other organisations will be given to members at the beginning of September.

During an Interregnum there may be some changes to normal routine. Do listen out in church!

The tale of the Tower Builder

BUILDING SITE FOR SALE



NEWS OF THE RECTOR'S RETIREMENT

Our Rector, Canon David Humphries, is to retire on 31 August this year. He is 66.

David came to us from the Diocese of Down & Dromore in 2016. On reaching Holy Orders in 1986, he had already spent an exciting life as a teacher in the Boys' Model School at Ballysillan, teaching Music and Religious Studies, as well as filling the role of Organist & Choirmaster at (successively) Christ Church Belfast, St Mary's Crumlin Road, and St Bartholomew's Stranmillis.

He was also Musical Director of the Ulster Singers in these early years, and was a well-known pianist, having given recitals at various churches, the Harty Room at Queen's University, and in the Ulster Museum at Stranmillis. He was taught at the City of Belfast School of Music by Betty McCartney



David was ordained for the parish of Ballyholme, where he worked with the Rector, the late Canon Jack Mercer. Later he moved to Belfast Cathedral, where he became Vicar Choral under the Dean, the Very Revd Jack Shearer.

An appointment to the Parish of Stormont was next, in which he spent 23 years in St Molua's Church on the Upper Newtownards Road, during which time he was appointed a Canon of Belfast Cathedral by the Rt Revd Harold Millar,

Bishop of Down & Dromore.

After that long period at Stormont, David was invited to take up the incumbency of Kilbride in the Diocese of Connor.

Although one normally loses one's Canonry when one moves to another diocese, David received his Canonry back after a matter of minutes, by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Revd Alan Abernethy, when he was instituted to Kilbride. As far as we can tell, David is the only Rector of Kilbride to also be a chapter Canon.

David has served the Church in a broader sense, as well as in the Parish. For several years he was chair of the Ecological and Environmental Panel of the Church in Society Committee, and at the same time he represented the Church of Ireland on EcoCongregation Ireland, taking part in radio interviews and voicing the Church's opinion on environmental issues.

He was chair of the Down Choral Union, an organization which encouraged small

choirs to come and sing with larger ones throughout the diocese, thus renewing their strength and enthusiasm for their weekly role in their own parishes.

As a former teacher, David has always retained an interest in education, serving for many years as chair of the Board of Governors in Tullycarnet Primary School, and continuing his interest here at St Bride's with Doagh Primary School, as well as Kilbride Central Primary



School and Tildarg Primary School.

One of David's chief interests in ministry has been the conducting of pilgrimages to the Holy Land. He has been involved in this for almost thirty years, and during that time he has encouraged approximately 450 people to walk in the steps

of Christ, and has invited them to support the children of the Jeel al Amal Orphanage in the town of Bethany in the West Bank.

We understand that although retiring from the Parochial Ministry, David will continue this Holy Land ministry for as long as possible. Indeed, he will be spending a lot of his time each year in the land of the Bible.

Finally, David has served for a great many years on the Connor and Down & Dromore Organ Scholarship Scheme, where he was chair for seven years and secretary for two. During this time he has worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to support the training of organists and choir directors in this diocese.

Parishioners are not always conscious of the work undertaken by their Rectors in the wider church environment, but this is how the Church of Ireland continues to function, with parochial clergy taking on the broader tasks of ministry.

As a rector, David has been, first and foremost, an enabler,



encouraging his parishioners to take on various aspects of parish work themselves. After his greatest concern of serving his people, David has developed the use of modern technology in teaching and communication.

Monitors can be seen in the church, the parish room and the porch of the parish hall, as a useful way of displaying notices; ceiling projectors have been installed in the main hall and in the parish room as valuable teaching aids for both adults and children, and the parish is now run by computer, thus competing with other aspects of the workplace and of modern-day living.

We know that in retirement,

David will not be sitting back; he says he has much to do, and we accept that he will continue in the path that God has chosen for him. We take this opportunity to thank our Rector for his dedicated service to the people of Kilbride, and to the wider Church, and we wish him God's blessing in all that lies ahead in his retirement.



*The Rector celebrates the Eucharist
on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.*



Through the Holy Land

Another pilgrimage to the Holy Land took place in May this year. May is a good month to go to Israel, as there is little chance of rain and the weather is just beginning to warm up, so temperatures are between 80F and 100F, very pleasant for moving around.

It is always very moving to make a pilgrimage to the land of the Bible, there is so much to see and experience and learn together. St Jerome said “Five Gospels record the life of Jesus. Four you will find in books, and the fifth one you will find in the land they call Holy. Read the fifth Gospel, and the four will open to you.”



*The Latest pilgrimage to the Holy Land.
Front row left: The Bishop. Second row left: The Rector.
Second row right: Our guide, Rafi.*



*The Pilgrimage 2023 Staff Team:
Two leaders, guide and driver.*

Maybe you are new to the Holy Land, or perhaps you've been many times before; there are always new sights and sounds to reflect upon, but it is certain that reading the Gospel accounts will never be the same again.

Our pilgrimages will always include the sites where the most important events in our Lord's life and ministry took place. Our journey is always a life-changing as well as a faith-changing experience.

Grab a brochure from the table at the back of the church, and ask to learn more. We invite you to journey with our growing party for 2024, and share with us in this great opportunity to see those places we read of in the scriptures.

WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT THIS TIME OF YEAR?

These summer months are the time of light, when millions of people in northernmost Europe stay out late to enjoy the sight of the midnight sun. To have light and glory where there is usually darkness is something we celebrate and welcome.

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world." He wasn't comparing Himself to the summer solstice, but preaching at a Jewish occasion which celebrated light every bit as much. It was the Feast of Tabernacles (John 7:14), which was a celebration not only of God's provision of water, but also of the light of God's presence with the Israelites in the wilderness.

During the Feast of Tabernacles there was a joyful celebration. The priests would light four huge lamps in the Court of Women. The flames would reach as high as the temple walls and would provide



a light that could be seen all throughout Jerusalem. Men of deep piety would dance throughout the night for the entire week of celebrating. A choir, accompanied by an orchestra of instruments, would sing psalms like Psalm 27, which declare "The Lord is my light and my salvation."

At the height of this grand celebration, the Lord Jesus had the temerity to stand and say that HE was the light that was foreshadowed by the light for the Israelites in the wilderness.

The Jewish leaders were furious, and tried to stone Him to death. Jesus did not fight back, He simply illustrated His claim to be the Light of the World by immediately giving sight to a man born blind. (John 9).

In the 20 centuries since then, the Word of God, when it is proclaimed, has drawn people out of the darkness and into the light of Jesus. The Word is, as the psalmist said, "a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105). David said, "In your light we see light" (Psalm 36:9b). Today, by the light of the Word of God, we can see Jesus as He is: truly the Light of the World.



NEWS FROM THE LADIES

Susanna Hassard grows seasonal flowers locally in the village of Ballyeaston and on a recent evening she talked about how she started her business and then gave a very interesting flower arranging demonstration.

The ladies were delighted to see some of her wonderful creations and the process of putting them together.

The ladies welcome new members at any time. Listen out in church for the details of their next meeting, and come alone to meet them!

For Susanna's website please go to our own parish website and follow this link - [One Small Seed](#)



watchmen

at Kilbride Parish Church



The Watchmen recently made their way to Carrickfergus for a look around the Andrew Jackson Centre and the US Rangers Museum.

George, the tour guide for the evening, gave a very interesting talk on the history of the Jackson family in Ulster before they emigrated to the United States where their son Andrew Jackson was born only a few years after they arrived in the New World.

Andrew Jackson eventually became the 7th president of the United States and is one of a large number of immigrants from Ulster who became prominent in all walks of life in their adopted country.

Then the Watchmen group moved to the adjacent building for another



ECO NEWS

TREE-PLANTING EVENT IN THE CHURCH GROUNDS

In 1953 the then Lady Glentoran planted an oak tree to mark the occasion of the coronation of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

1st Kilbride Scout Group made the suggestion that a tree should be planted to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III and with the agreement of the Select Vestry an application was made to Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council for a suitable tree.

The application was successful and an oak tree was donated by the council and at a ceremo-

ny this evening the tree was planted in the grounds of the church.

Barbara Acheson was a Guide leader for many years and the honour of being first to help with the planting was given to her. Barbara was followed by Trevor James, a former Scout leader with the group for many years, and then a Beaver, a Cub and a Scout completed the planting.

The ceremony was watched by everyone in the Scout group as well as the Rector and members of the Select Vestry, who all enjoyed themselves, despite the bitter cold.

Well done to everyone for their efforts!



Barbara Acheson plants the oak tree while Trevor James patiently awaits his turn.



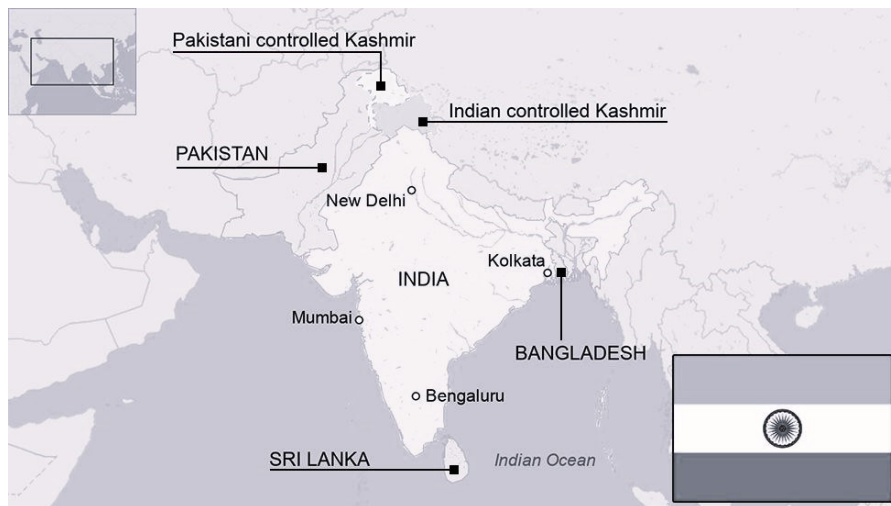
Luke fixes up the planting on behalf of the Scouts.

CHURCHES BURN IN INDIA

More than 100 churches have been burned down in the recent ethnic violence in Manipur, north-east India, according to a partner in India of the charity Open Doors. One report told of mobs also attacking Christian homes and burning them.

The number of dead and injured is difficult to verify, but the BBC has referred to official reports of 60 dead, 200 injured and tens of thousands displaced.

Clashes between the different ethnic groups in the state date back many years. More than half of the population are Meitei, a largely Hindu group. The two main tribal groups are Naga and Kuki, who are mostly Christian. Please remember all these people in your prayers.



Lord,
Your great
LOVE
reaches to
the skies...



...Your
TRUTH
to the
clouds!

Psalm 57:10

Children, colour in the image!

OUR PARISH ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The Rector, Select Vestry and Parishioners of the Parish of Kilbride recognise that concern for all components of the environment is a fundamental responsibility of all.

We are dedicated to carrying out all our functions and activities in a way which minimises negative impacts on the environment.

We are committed to ensuring that all activities undertaken on parish premises or on behalf of the parish will be in strict compliance with legislation.

It is an objective of the parish to co-operate with all statutory, voluntary and community bodies in our attempt to reduce our impacts on the environment.

In keeping with this policy we will:

- Monitor and improve energy use
- Monitor water use and reduce wastage
- Set targets for reduced waste generation
- Promote recycling within the parish
- Minimise the risk of water, land and air pollution
- Include environmental considerations in Select Vestry business decisions
- Update staff, parishioners and contractors on policy
- Generally apply sustainability objectives in all activities
- Attempt to continually improve our environmental performance

The Parish Environmental Policy will be made widely available to parishioners and others through the Herald, the parish website and other means as appropriate.

Ivan Topping, *Hon. Sec.*

W.D. Humphries, *Rector*