

Kilbride HERALD

St Bride's—where Faith and Fellowship grow

MARCH/APRIL 2022



**Celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
with the Parish Family.**

See inside for details.

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

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<p align="center">Rector's Churchwarden Clarence Gibson: 9332 3761</p> <p align="center">People's Churchwarden Diane Hurst: 07595 497487</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: 07799 863 095</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 Ashley Hurst 07890 583 962</p> <p align="center">Gift Aid Secretaries Phyllis Glenn: 9334 0884 Irene Paget: 9332 3579</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>

BIG CELEBRATIONS PLANNED FOR JUNE



Churches, Christian charities and youth organisations are working together to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee over the four-day Bank Holiday from 2nd to 5th June. Here are some details:

A new website has been created – www.theplatinumjubilee.com – to provide ideas and resources for communities to celebrate the Queen's 70 years of faith and service.

The following websites may also be of use to you:

www.theplatinumjubilee.com – a dedicated website with all the ideas and resources you'll need to bring people together to celebrate.

The Platinum Jubilee – Celebration of Faith & Service logos can be downloaded from www.theplatinumjubilee.com

As the four-day Bank Holiday ends at Pentecost, our partners [Thy Kingdom Come](#) are also providing a Cheeky Pandas film, song and book for primary school children – with resource packs for home/ church/school and community events.

**But what about us in Kilbride?
What are we planning?**

**Read on in this edition,
and we'll let you know on page thirteen!**

The Services at St Bride's



Wednesday 2 March Ash Wednesday

11.00am Holy Communion

[1] Sunday 6 March Lent 1

11.00am Holy Communion

Wednesday 9 March (Lenten Lunchtimes)

12.15 Short Organ Recital

12.30 Homily

12.40 Lunch in the Hall

[2] Sunday 13 March Lent 2

11.00am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 16 March (Lenten Lunchtimes)

12.15 Short Organ Recital

12.30 Homily

12.40 Lunch in the Hall

[3] Sunday 20 March St Patrick (*transferred*)

11.00am Holy Communion

Wednesday 23 March (Lenten Lunchtimes)

12.15 Short Organ Recital

12.30 Homily

12.40 Lunch in the Hall

[4] Sunday 27 March Lent 4

11.00am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 30 March (Lenten Lunchtimes)

12.15 Short Organ Recital

12.30 Homily

12.40 Lunch in the Hall

[1] Sunday 3 April Lent 5

11.00am Holy Communion

Wednesday 6 April (Lenten Lunchtimes)

12.15 Short Organ Recital

12.30 Homily

12.40 Lunch in the Hall

[2] Sunday 10 April Palm Sunday

(The first day of Holy Week)

11.00am Morning Prayer

and Procession of Palms

Monday 11 April Monday of Holy Week

8.00pm Compline

Tuesday 12 April Tuesday of Holy Week

8.00pm Compline

Wednesday 13 April
Wednesday of Holy Week
8.00pm Compline

Thursday 14 April
Maundy Thursday
8.00pm Holy Communion
and ceremonies

Friday 15 April
Good Friday
8.00pm A Devotion for Good
Friday

[3] Sunday 17 April
Feast of the Resurrection
11.00am Holy Communion

[4] Sunday 24 April
Easter 2
11.00am Morning Prayer



What a busy two-month period this is turning out to be!

The first day of Lent (**Ash Wednesday**) will be marked by Holy Communion, as we begin our period of spiritual renewal together.

Please note our **Lenten Lunchtimes** on most of the Wednesdays of Lent, when we will be treated to a short recital by our Organist Timothy Wilson, followed by a Homily (very short sermon), and then a simple lunch together in the hall.

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, when Alan McLeod's donkey will help us to re-enact our Lord's Palm Sunday procession from the little hamlet of Bethphage, over the hill and into Jerusalem. There will be changes due to Coronavirus.

We observe the rest of Holy Week each evening at 8.00 when we join together in church for **Compline**. On **Maundy Thursday** we celebrate the Holy Communion and then observe the traditions of that day, as we prepare the church for Good Friday. The service on **Good Friday** evening is a simple devotion, and then on Easter Day we celebrate the joyful **Holy Communion** of the Feast of the Resurrection.

IN PRAISE OF PLODDERS

Consider the words of the apostle Paul where he says, 'I press on towards the goal' (*Philippians 3:14*). It suggests taking one step at a time, and simply keeping moving in the right direction with discipline and determination.

This reminds us of the great Bible translator William Carey who said of himself, "If he gives me credit for being a plodder, he will describe me justly."

Anything beyond that will be too much. I can plod. I can persevere in any definite pursuit. To this I owe everything."

Christian discipleship is not always exciting, glamorous, or even enjoyable. Sometimes it is a matter of quietly getting on with it, with our eyes fixed on Jesus. Think about it!



MY INFLUENCE



My life shall touch a dozen lives
Before this day is done;
Leave countless marks for good or ill,
Ere sets the evening sun.

So this the wish I always wish,
The prayer I ever pray;
"Lord, may my life help other lives
It touches by the way."

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH OF DENZEL WASHINGTON



The American actor Denzel Washington, 66, mentioned his Christian faith in a recent interview with the New York Times.

Washington described himself as God-fearing and warned against the dangers of the digital age. He said: “The Bible says in the last days ... we’ll be lovers of ourselves. The No. 1 photograph today is a selfie, ‘Oh, me at the protest.’ ‘Follow me.’ ‘Listen to me.’...We’re living in a time where people are willing to do

anything to get followed.”

NYT Journalist Maureen Dowd said that during the interview, Washington encouraged her to read the Bible. He said: “You have to fill up that bucket every morning. It’s rough out there.” He went on: “If you don’t have a spiritual anchor you’ll be easily blown by the wind and you’ll be led to depression.”

Speaking recently at The Better Man Event conference in Florida, Washington said: “I hope that the words in my mouth and the meditation of my heart are pleasing in God’s sight, but I’m human. I’m just like you... If you want to talk to someone, talk to the One that can do something about it.”

Washington also said that before his 97-year-old mother died last year, he promised her he would “attempt to honour her and God by living the rest of my days in a way that would make her proud.”

Washington has been married to Paulette Pearson for 38 years. With Archbishop Desmond Tutu officiating, he and his wife renewed their wedding vows in 1995 in South Africa.

The Tale of The Friend at Midnight

JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT A MAN WHO HAD
RUN OUT OF BREAD...



...AND HE NEEDED PLENTY AS
A FRIEND WAS COMING TO STAY.

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS
MIDNIGHT...



... HE WENT TO HIS NEIGHBOUR'S
HOUSE AND BANGED ON THE
DOOR - LOUDLY!



WAKE UP!! I NEED
SOME BREAD

PLEASE WILL YOU LEND
ME THREE LOAVES?

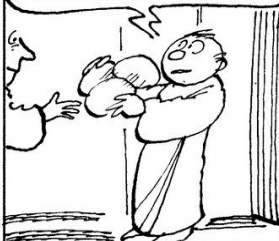


GO AWAY!! WE'RE ALL TRYING TO SLEEP!



OH GO ON... PLEASE I
REALLY DO NEED SOME!

ALRIGHT THEN! BUT I'M
ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE I
WANT SOME PEACE AND QUIET!

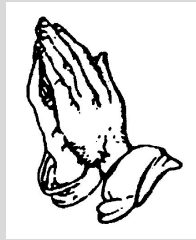


JESUS EXPLAINED - 'THE
NEIGHBOUR AGREED TO SHARE
HIS BREAD BECAUSE THE MAN
KEPT ASKING'

'DON'T BE AFRAID TO TALK
TO GOD. HE LONGS TO HEAR
OUR PRAYERS.'



Prayers for our Parish



In the past few weeks we've been concentrating a lot on prayer. We invite you to use these next few pages in your daily devotions. There are many prayer topics here—designed to help those who have a genuine desire to pray for our parish and its people.

Here is a way in which we can all play a valuable role in God's work. Will you take up the challenge?

Pray for our parish and all its people, that through our public worship we may be awakened to the wonder of God's love for us.

Pray that more and more of our people may see the necessity of weekly worship in church with their Christian brothers and sisters.

Pray that our worship may constantly undergo renewal, and that it may never become mere ceremonial observance.

Pray for our Rector, who has the cure of souls in the parish, and who requires your prayers in order to adequately perform his role.

Pray for all those who lead the worship, especially the Rector and David Holmes, that through their own preparation for the task, and in the way which they perform it, they may encourage all our people to worship in spirit and in truth.

Pray for those who take lightly our Lord's command to partake of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and ask that ways may be found to show the importance of participation in this respect.

Pray for Timothy our Organist, and the Choir, that they may always be aware of their high calling, and give of their very best at all times.

Pray that we may be a truly friendly and welcoming parish family, and that no visitor or stranger in church may ever feel alienated or ignored.

Thank God for the spiritual



growth and renewed vision which has gradually come about in our parish, and for the success of every effort to bring us closer to God.

Pray continued spiritual renewal in the life of our parish and all its people, and for the success of every effort to bring us closer to God.

Pray for a willingness to change according to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, in whatever department of parish life that change is required.

Pray for George our Bishop, living in our parish, that he may have strength to manage the daily problems of parishes and people. Pray for his wife Nadine and his children in their daily lives, and in the role to which God has called them all.

Pray for all those who have the care of our young people, especially parents, godparents and guardians. Pray that they may be given strength and motivation to keep the promises made at the baptism of their children, to bring them up in the Christian faith by their prayers, teaching and example.

Pray for the parish Sunday

School, and for teachers Eleanor, Ashley and Angela. Pray that the children may be eager to learn, and the teachers eager to teach the things of God.

Pray for God's guidance as to how he wants our parish to further develop.

Pray that those whom God is calling to work with the young may be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and offer their services in love and sacrifice.

Pray for Doagh primary School, Kilbride Central Primary School, Tildarg Primary School, the Thompson Primary School, and other schools around the parish, that the family atmosphere may continue, and that teacher-pupil relationships may flourish.

Pray for members of the Select Vestry, elected and appointed to look after the fabric, furnishings and finance of the parish, that they may use the gifts of God to carry out their work to his glory and to the benefit of all people.

Pray for each and every home in our parish, that they may be images of God's kingdom. Ask God's blessing on families—on every man, woman and child, and pray for the maintenance of family life.

Pray for all those struggling with an ever-widening of family problems, that they may have strength and guidance to overcome them.

Ask God's special blessing on those families which are broken and divided, and pray that their members may still be united in the family of our parish.

Remember those who live alone, both senior citizens and younger people, that they too may feel part of the family of God in the Parish of Kilbride, and share the love of a family.

Ask God's continued blessings on the development of the Healing Ministry within our parish family, that more people may realise the important role they can play by praying for those who are ill, especially together in church once a month.

Pray for the sick and suffering; those who are anxious or depressed; the housebound; the lonely; those who mourn the loss of loved ones, those suffering from Coronavirus, and all in special need of God's healing blessings. Pray that they may be granted healing of body, mind and spirit, and the awareness of God's comforting presence at all times.

Pray for all parish volunteer workers, in whatever capacity, that they may perform their function with enthusiasm and cheerfulness, and that we may never take their work for granted.



Thank God for all the faithful souls who have lived, worked and died in our parish, and who have worshipped him in our parish church. Thank him for the founders of St Bride's Church, and for those who allowed our beautiful church to be built.

Thank God for allowing us the privilege of worshipping him and witnessing for him in our parish, and thank him for our fellow-parishioners, and for the sense of fellowship which exists among us.

Pray for the vital work of Environmental Stewardship which exists within the parish, that we may willingly adhere to the principles of our Environmental Policy and encourage others to join the cause.

Thank God for all in Holy Orders who have served our parish in times past, and especially for the Revd Paul Redfern, the Revd Colin Hall-Thompson, the Revd Clyde Irvine, and the Revd Roy Cox, former rectors of our parish.



Pray for a greater sense of peace in our land, and for an end of hatred and sectarianism.

Ask God how we, as individuals and as a parish, can best make our contribution permanent and lasting peace, and a greater understanding of our beliefs and cultures.

Ask forgiveness for our part in the bitterness of our society, and pray for the visible unity of the whole Christian Church, which we know to be our Lord's will.

Pray for other churches within our parish; the congregation at Kilbride Presbyterian Church and at Doagh Methodist Church, and the Christian group meeting in the Torrens Hall.

Pray for local councillors, other local leaders, and all who have a voice in the community, that words may never be spoken hastily or without thought.

Pray for the members of the PSNI, that they may always work for a greater sense of trust with the public.

Pray for the members of the security forces, magistrates, and all connected with Law and Order.

Pray for all MLAs and all who represent our people in public office.

Pray for the love of Christ in the hearts of all our people.

So there's the list, now let's get cracking! We don't have to pray for everybody every day, but in the course of several weeks, we should be able to make good use of these topics in our prayers to the Almighty.

You can, of course, add other topics connected with the parish. Tell us about them, so that we can pray too!





HOW WILL KILBRIDE CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE?

Well, here's how...

On Saturday 4 June we'll have the **Parish Fete**,

and on Sunday 5 June we'll hold a **Parish Picnic**
in the church grounds, after the
Service of Celebration.

*Subject to the Coronavirus Regulations at the time.
So please put these dates in your diary.
We'll give all the details in due course.*

FREEWILL OFFERING

Freewill Offering figures for 2021 should be delivered with this edition of The Herald. They should either be tucked into the middle pages or come separately. You should be able to identify them easily as they are on coloured paper.

If you're sure you didn't get them, mention to the Churchwardens on your next visit to church, and we'll get you sorted out!

WHAT ABOUT CORONAVIRUS? ARE THINGS GETTING ANY EASIER?

We think so. But that doesn't mean that restrictions are about to be abandoned! We will follow all advice that the Church authorities lay before us.

A word of congratulations and appreciation must be given to those who have kept coming to church throughout this pandemic; their courage has been tremendous, and they have been an example to all.

We understand that some folk have not yet returned to church, and we also understand the reasons for this. But several people who have not gone back to church have nevertheless attended funerals and other events at St Bride's, and so they are probably thinking about coming back to church very soon.

It may help those people to realise that we believe they are safer in St Bride's than they are in the local supermarket. Please remember, church-going is many things, but it is certainly a habit, and if we break the habit for too long, it becomes difficult to resume that habit satisfactorily.

Worship at St Bride's has continued, as have some of our organisations. You will probably find that some things have changed since you were last at church, but there will still be a warm welcome here, and we invite you to come and see for yourselves.

Will we be able to fit everyone in according to the restrictions? We think so.

So think about it, pray about it, and make your own decision in accordance with God's will. Decision-making is not always easy, but remember that the Rector is available, should you wish to speak to him.

WILLIAM HARPER

Obit January 2022

The Herald does not normally contain obituaries, but William was a Diocesan Reader in the Church of Ireland for a large part of his life, and we would all feel it appropriate that he be mentioned in these pages.

William's recent funeral service was attended by many people, including The Revd Paul Redfern and The Very Revd John Bond, formerly Dean of Connor, both of whom played a part in the service, as was William's wish.



Brought up in the Choir of the Cathedral Church of St Columb, Derry, William was an excellent churchman, who served God and the people in accordance with his sincerity and dedication.

When William finally retired from assisting at public worship in St Bride's, the parish awarded him the title of *Reader Emeritus* in honour of a lifetime's work in the Church.

We at St Bride's will miss him with his thoroughly good and honest nature and demonstration of the Faith. We extend our condolences to William's daughters, to Mark, formerly an organist at St Bride's, and to all the family. *Requiescat in pace.*

A BOOK OF MEMORY FOR KILBRIDE

It might be a good idea if we could give a little more time to thanking God for the great many souls who have worked long and hard in the service of Christ and the parish.

Of course, we can't go back too far into the long history of our parish, because no one will remember that far back!

It might help, though, if we were to compile a "Book of Memory" containing the names of those who lived and worked for our church from, say the end of the Second World War.

The names of many will be recorded in the registers of baptisms, weddings and funerals, and there will be names of others recorded in books, files and papers stored in our parish archive.

While some of these names will be "remembered in history", other names will exist in records, but will not be remembered. Should this book, therefore, contain the names of, for example, those who were baptised, but who never darkened the door of the church?

Yes, they should. It is not for us



to decide who should be recorded and not recorded in the Book. If they existed and were connected with the parish, their names should certainly be recorded.

But what if someone remembers the name of a person who they say was a parishioner for a while, then moved away and died?

That would have to be investigated very carefully; only the names of *deceased* persons should be recorded in the book.

So you see, it can be quite a complicated project to complete, but we can do it!

Remember, the purpose of the book will be to give thanks to Almighty God for the labours of these former parishioners who lived and died in the service of Christ and the parish.

Members of the Select Vestry have recently decided that this project should be commenced.

At a certain stage, everyone will be given the chance to put

forward names for the book. The information should be considered carefully, with dates of death. The information you give will be scrutinized before the names are included.

The project may take some years to complete, but by the end of the work we should have a very valuable memory of a large number of people.

You will be kept informed, from time to time, in church, as to how the project is developing.

A DAY WITH GOD

At the time of going to print our special Day of Prayer has not yet taken place.

However, in the next edition of the Herald we hope to present some of the reactions of those who took part in the project.

Thank you to all who made the effort to involve themselves in this very important part of parish life.

CLERGY WELLBEING DURING THE PANDEMIC

A new report detailing how clergy have fared in the Covid pandemic has been published, as part of the findings from the Church's *Living Ministry* research programme.

The report sets out how clergy have reported on their levels of physical, mental, spiritual, relational and financial wellbeing during the pandemic. The study also reports on respondents' perspectives relating to autonomy, accountability and support.



Dr Liz Graveling, who oversees the research programme, said: "It will be of little surprise that the biggest impacts on wellbeing were in the areas of mental health and relationships. However, ... strong connections with other people were crucial to clergy wellbeing before as well as during the pandemic."

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 15:11-32

Jesus told stories about a lost sheep and a lost coin, then one about a man with two sons. The younger son said to his father...

I want my share of what I'll inherit from you now!



So the father divided his property between his sons.

The younger son took his money and went to another country.



Then his money ran out and there was a famine.



The only job he could get was feeding pigs.

He was so hungry he would have eaten their food.



Then he came to his senses -

I'll go to my father, say sorry, and ask him for a job as a workman!



He set off for home.

His father saw him coming, ran to him and hugged him.



Father, I am so sorry. I am not good enough to be your son..



But his father sent servants to get clothes for his son and prepare a feast to celebrate his return.

The older son came back from work and heard the noise.



Your brother has returned and your father is having a feast

The older son was so angry he wouldn't go into the house..



so his father came out to see him

For years I've slaved for you and you've given me nothing. He returns after wasting your money and you give him a feast!



My son, all I have is yours, but we should celebrate because he was lost and now he has been found.



THE QUEEN

**I said to the man who stood at
the gate of the year,**

**‘Give me a light that I may
tread safely into the unknown.’**

And he replied,

**‘Go out into the darkness, and
put your hand into the hand of
God.**

**That shall be to you better
than light,**

And safer than a known way.’

We know very well these words of Minnie Louise Haskins, quoted by King George VI in December 1939. They inspired millions throughout the United Kingdom, and gave people strength and courage in the face of a great evil.

But do you know who gave the King those words, suggesting that he might like to use something of the sentiment of the poem as he spoke to the nation?

It was his first-born daughter, Elizabeth, at the age of 13, now Queen Elizabeth II, and those words helped millions.



More of **THE QUEEN**

In Sandringham Church a side door opens and a 5'4" woman comes in and sits down.

She arrives unannounced, preferring to sit in a pew, rather than in the special seat that only she may sit in. The Queen is there for the Sunday service, which is a regular occurrence when she is resident at Sandringham.

The Queen enters through the side door because she doesn't want to draw attention to herself, and she is there because she *wants* to be there.

When the Queen is on holiday at Balmoral she invites a clergyman to spend time with her family. Her trust in the Lord is central to her in so many aspects of her life.

We will have much more on the Queen in the next edition of The Herald, which will cover the period of celebration regarding the Platinum Jubilee.

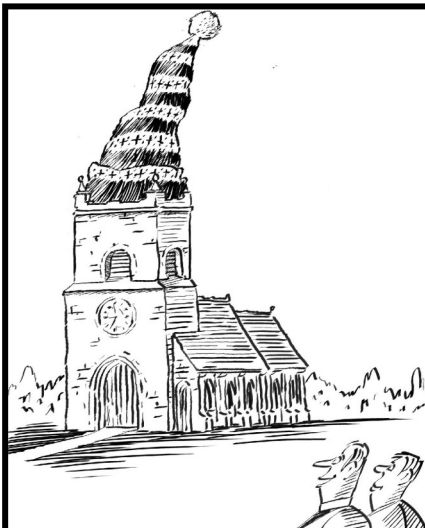
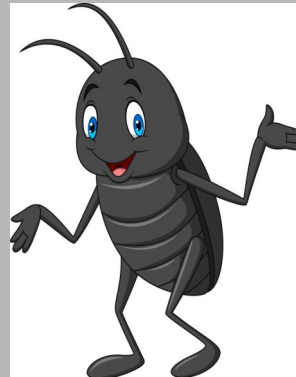
Come and join us for our next

BEETLE DRIVE

on Friday 25 February at 7.30pm.

Adults £5
Children free!

*All Coronavirus Restrictions
observed.*



"The knitting circle are playing their part
in our heating efficiency programme."



The fan-heater under the cassock idea
proved not to be such a good one

ECO CORNER



SAVING THE PLANET VIA KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

As world leaders wake up to the crisis of global warming and plan emergency measures before it is too late, each of us can make a difference right now, beginning in our own homes.

Start in the KITCHEN

25% of the world's food is thrown away. One supermarket discovered British households waste seven million tonnes of food waste every year, partly because most of our fridges aren't cold enough. Keeping the fridge temperature at a maximum of 4 degrees will help food last longer and save waste.

Vast quantities of greenhouse gases are released by animals reared to supply us with red meat and dairy products. Cutting down on quantities and conserving leftovers would help.

Conserving electricity by washing clothes at 30 degrees and replacing power-hungry tumble driers with a clothes line or old-fashioned clothes-horse would have the added advantage of reducing soaring power bills.

According to the Good Housekeeping Institute, "many mainstream detergents are brimming with synthetic chemicals like phosphates, chlorine and bleach that pollute our waterways, damaging delicate ecosystems, and may irritate sensitive skin."

Plant-based and eco-friendly alternatives are now readily available and work well in the washing machine and dishwasher.

But there's more...

Don't forget the BATHROOM

Annual increases in UK water consumption would be curbed, if we were to shower rather than bath. Exchanging the shower head for a water-saving type, which regulates or aerates the flow, would save both water and cash.

Spending less time in the shower needn't be a hardship. Daily shampooing may actually be counter-productive - it's best to let some oils remain in the hair, so they can act as moisturisers. Biodegradable body wash is available in bulk, from which re-usable containers can be filled.

Eco-friendly toothpaste is now on the market, some of it in plastic-free containers. More water can be saved by turning the tap off as we brush. Beware wet-wipes which may be 'flushable', but aren't biodegradable, because they are part-plastic. Eco-friendly alternatives are now available. Saving the planet needn't cost the earth!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year the World Day of Prayer Service is due to be held in 2nd Donegore Presbyterian Church on Friday 4th March at 8pm. The Service has been prepared by the Christian women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland with the theme "I know the plans I have for you" which is found in the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah. The service will focus on freedom, forgiveness, justice and God's peace.

If you wish to attend the service would you please contact Barbara Rea (9332 2207) before Sunday 27th February as numbers will be limited due to Covid restrictions.

WHY THE CROSS?

The cross is a picture of violence, yet the key to peace;

a picture of suffering, yet the key to healing;

a picture of death, yet the key to life;

a picture of utter weakness, yet the key to power;

a picture of capital punishment, yet the key to mercy and forgiveness;

a picture of vicious hatred, yet the key to love;

a picture of supreme shame, yet the Christian's supreme boast.



The cross really is the key to everything! Although a horrifying instrument of torture and death, it is also a symbol of love and peace. On the cross Jesus died to deal with the problem of our sin and defeat the powers of death and evil. He identified with our sufferings and set us an example of self-sacrificial love.

As Peter writes, *'He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed ... Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God'* (1 Peter 2:24, 3:18). Jesus died in our place on the cross and took away our guilt, to pay the full penalty for our sin. Access to God's presence is now open to all, symbolised by the Temple curtain being torn in two from top to bottom. The barrier between us and God was torn down in order *'to bring us to God'*.

Jesus is the bridge providing access between us and God. *'If Jesus Christ is to be our Saviour then He must be able to place a hand upon a pardoning God and another hand on a penitent sinner and draw them together in an act of reconciliation'* (Bishop Handley Moule).