

Kilbride HERALD

St Bride's—where Faith and Fellowship grow

MAY/JUNE 2022



NEW FLAGS FOR RANGERS AND RAINBOWS

[See Page 19]

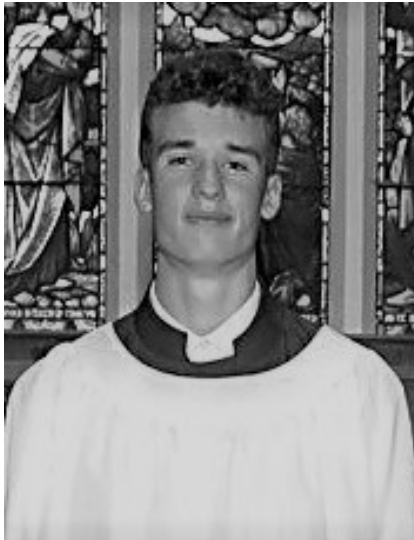
PARISH OF KILBRIDE : ST BRIDE'S CHURCH
- where Faith and Fellowship grow

Rector: The Revd Canon W D Humphries
 St Bride's Rectory, 53 Brook Meadow, Doagh, Ballyclare BT39 0QF
 Phone: 9332 2979 E-mail: wdhumphries@hotmail.com

<p>Parish Reader David Holmes</p>	<p>Honorary Treasurer Lilian Lyttle: 9332 3311</p>
<p>Rector's Churchwarden Clarence Gibson: 9332 3761</p> <p>People's Churchwarden Diane Hurst: 07595 497487</p>	<p>Parish Hall Organiser Alex Johnston: 9334 9393</p> <p>Caretaker Jean Johnston: 9334 9393</p>
<p>Rector's Glebewarden Jim Wilson: 2589 8753</p> <p>People's Glebewarden Billy Robinson: 07799 863 095</p>	<p>Parish Website kilbrideparishchurch.org Parish Webmaster: David Holmes</p>
<p>Honorary Secretary Ivan Topping: 9334 1916</p> <p>FWO Secretary Ashley Hurst 07890 583 962</p> <p>Gift Aid Secretaries Phyllis Glenn: 9334 0884 Irene Paget: 9332 3579</p>	<p>HOLY BAPTISM This is by arrangement. Please contact the Rector at the phone number in the top panel.</p>
<p>Organist & Choir Director Timothy Wilson</p> <p>Sunday School Superintendent Eleanor Graham: 9334 0000</p>	<p>The Rector would be grateful for information about hospital admissions and discharges.</p>
	<p>KILBRIDE HERALD Editorial Panel Iris McCormick, Ivan Topping, The Rector</p>
	<p>Charity Number: 10 35 70</p>



Three “Wednesday Witness” contributors included the St James’s Singers (above), David Monahan, Baritone (below left), and Caroline Woods, soprano (below right). More information inside.



The Services at St Bride's



[1] Sunday 1 May Easter 3

11.00am Holy Communion
6.00pm Prayers for Healing

[2] Sunday 8 May Easter 4

11.00am Morning Prayer

[3] Sunday 15 May Easter 5

11.00am Holy Communion
Preacher: Canon David Brown

[4] Sunday 22 May Easter 6

11.00am Morning Prayer

Thursday 26 May
Feast of the Ascension
11.00am Holy Communion

[5] Sunday 29 May
Sunday after Ascension Day
11.00am Songs of Praise

[1] Sunday 5 June Feast of Pentecost and celebration of H.M. the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

11.00am Holy Communion
*followed by a celebration picnic lunch in
the church grounds.*
(See notice elsewhere.)

[2] Sunday 12 June Trinity Sunday

11.00am Morning Prayer

[3] Sunday 19 June Trinity 1

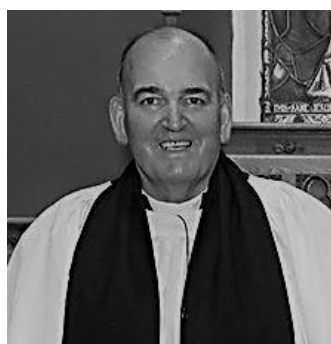
11.00am Holy Communion

[4] Sunday 26 June Trinity 2

11.00am Morning Prayer

[5] Sunday 3 July Trinity 3

Feast of St Thomas
11.00am Songs of Praise



Revd John McClure, page 5.

- COVID 19 - REMOVING RESTRICTIONS FROM WORSHIP

Restrictions are gradually being removed. We have a plan for this; it began last month and will continue over the next weeks and months.

While our system has been planned carefully and thoughtfully, the Select Vestry will not hesitate to return to some restrictions if we believe them to be necessary.

Parishioners should be aware that the sanitizing of hands and the wearing of face masks will still be obligatory for some months to come.

We would respectfully ask that our people observe all the rules, and not try to anticipate what comes next!

We would welcome all those who have not yet returned to church—you're missed each Sunday!

The guest preacher at a recent Holy Communion was Rev. John McClure, former rector of St Jude's, Muckamore. John retired at the end of December 2021 for health reasons and this was first time since then that he has taken part in a service. He took the theme of the blind beggar for his sermon highlighting that even though Jesus knew he was going to die on the cross only days later he still had time to cure the blind man begging at the side of the road.

John also mentioned how touched he had been, as he lay in hospital seriously ill last year, when he heard that there was to be a sponsored cycle around Antrim Rural Deanery to raise funds for Chest, Heart and Stroke, and it was being organised in his name. The cyclists rode around all 14 churches in the Rural Deanery on Saturday, 4th September, 2021 and raised £5,080.50 for the charity. Most of the cyclists who took part in the ride were at the service and John thanked each one individually for their efforts both in completing the cycle and in raising such a large amount of money.

An Easter Reflection

“When you die, that’s it. Nothing. Out like a light.” That’s what the man in the pub said, and his mates all nodded, though the one whose mother had died the week before wasn’t really quite so certain. Still, it seemed to make sense.



After all, we know what ‘dead’ means: dead leaves, dead batteries, dead fish, dead pets . . . and dead people, to be honest. While we recognise that it’s all too easy to go from alive to dead, we’ve got serious doubts about the possibility of any return journeys.

Which is why Christians have an uphill task. Jesus was a great man, and people want to remember how He died. Fair enough. But it starts getting complicated when Christians insist that Jesus died – but didn’t stay dead – in fact, that He’s alive now. That ‘return journey’ has happened, they say.

That’s the problem about the Resurrection of Jesus. Christians persisting in what sounds like a ridiculous belief. If they just dropped the resurrection bit and concentrated on the wonderful teaching of Jesus and His example of generosity, compassion and love then everybody would find Christianity much more believable. Wouldn’t that make sense? And wouldn’t that fill the churches again?

Well it might (or, more likely, it might not). But in any case, the trouble is that it wouldn’t be Christianity at all. The faith of Christians actually depends on the resurrection of Jesus, and always has done, right from the earliest days.

After the crucifixion the body of Jesus was taken down from the cross by some of His friends and put in a rock tomb with a heavy stone rolled across the doorway. Yet the following Sunday, the third day after His death, His followers claimed that they had met Him, seen Him, talked with Him.

So certain was their belief that nothing could make them recant it. Not ridicule, not torture, not even death itself. They couldn't deny His resurrection, because they were absolutely convinced that it had happened. Plenty of clever and powerful people at the time had a vested interest in proving them wrong. It shouldn't have been difficult to prove that a dead man had stayed dead, especially when you have at your disposal the resources of the greatest empire in history. Yet they didn't do it, because it couldn't be done.

Still today millions of people all over the world believe that Jesus did in fact rise from the dead. They include brilliant scientists and philosophers as well as plenty of 'ordinary' men and women of all ages. They believe it because they respect the witness of those first Christians, and because in many cases their own lives have been transformed by a relationship with Jesus – a relationship that wouldn't make sense if He were dead!

Christians don't put their faith in a dead hero from the past, but in someone who is alive and *active in their own lives and in the world*. That, in a nutshell, is the real message of Easter. Christ is risen!

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS AT THE EASTER GENERAL VESTRY

Rector's Churchwarden

Clarence Gibson

People's Churchwarden

Diane Hurst

Rector's Glebewarden

Jim Wilson

People's Glebewarden

Billy Robinson

Other members of the Select Vestry:

Hazel McDonald, Lillian Lyttle, Carol Ireland, Kate Henry,
Ivan Topping, Nigel Cinnamon, David Holmes,
Steve Aiken, Raymond McDonald.

Friday 29 April
8.00pm

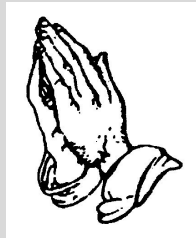
AN EVENING OF LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

**with the Killyglen Accordion Orchestra
and supporting artists.**

Suggested donation: £10.

***Come along for some good fun.
Bring your Granny too!***

Prayers for our Parish



Our Prayer Suggestions seem to have gone down well in the parish. We've kept the same topics for another month, then we'll probably change them.

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 the new 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!





A huge THANK YOU to everyone who gave so generously last year to Christian Aid. A staggering £938 was raised—this was an amazing amount and will help in no small way towards alleviating some of the issues of the poorest nations, as they struggle with the results of the climate crisis.

This year Christian Aid Week is focusing on rural Zimbabwe where seven out of ten women depend on farming to earn a living and provide for their families.

Since this very worthy cause was chosen as the key project for Christian Aid, we have witnessed the horrifying war in Ukraine, where there is untold suffering.

Therefore, with the approval of Christian Aid, all monies collected through our parish will be divided in two by Christian Aid—half for Zimbabwe and half for Ukraine.

Kilbride parishioners have always been very supportive and generous with their giving during Christian Aid Week and, with your help, we would like to continue to support this most worthy cause. Unfortunately, as in the last couple of years, there will not be a house-to-house collection.

If you wish to support Christian Aid Week please leave your donation:-

- (a) on the collection plate at the back of the Church
- (b) where you normally deliver your Freewill Offering envelope
- (c) with either Lillian Lyttle or Barbara Rea.

Christian Aid Week daily devotional booklets (a seven day journey of prayers and reflections) are available at the back of the Church.

Thank You, Barbara.

EXTRACTS FROM THE RECTOR'S ADDRESS TO THE EASTER GENERAL VESTRY

This is the first “proper” meeting of the General Vestry since the beginning of the pandemic, and although we are in one sense still trying to cope with the results of this modern-day plague, we are nevertheless fighting back, and trying to regain at least some sense of normality in our lives, and especially in what we do connected with the weekly running of our parish.

That fight back began two years ago when we were more-or-less forced into lockdown, an event which was absolutely necessary, but which promptly stopped so much of what has been considered the norm for the whole Church, mainly in communication.

That was very frustrating for me, because the development of communication of many sorts was the very thing I have been pushing in my ministry since I came here, and to have the rug pulled from under my feet was a big blow for me, and particularly for the parish.

Nevertheless, with the help of some IT experts, particularly

David Holmes, we managed to set up a series of videos which could be watched and listened to by people at home, with the use of the Internet.

We were fully aware when we set this up, that only those with computer facilities could “tune in” so to speak, but at the same time I was somewhat pleasantly surprised to discover just how many of our parishioners were able to avail of their own facilities in order to continue worshipping, and keep in contact.

It was also decided that with the premises empty for most of the time, we should push ahead to bring our buildings up-to-date by having the parish hall and parish room redecorated and fit for purpose in the sure and certain hope of their re-use as soon as possible...

During that time we also completed the setting up of three monitors, one in the church, one in the parish room, and one in the porch of the main hall, which have since proved to be an excellent means of communication. They don't all display the same thing, but they *can* do if we want them to, and so a modern means of communication was set up for the whole parish, facilitating children and their parents (in the hall), our own people (in church), and the

choir and others in the Parish Room.

Admittedly at the moment, due to Coronavirus, we need to get the morning congregation out of the church as quickly as possible, so they can't get the full benefit of the church monitor at this time, but that will come at a time when we can linger as we leave, and thus have the time to look at the notices. Some people will say, what's wrong with a notice board? And I would respond, will you really stand and read a notice board as much as you would a monitor? And whether you like it or not, the answer to that question is no, you wouldn't, so let's continue with the 21st century answer to our problems, and leave behind the ancient ones...

Also, in connection with communication and moving forward, probably not many of our parishioners are aware that there exists in the parish room a facility including a ceiling projector and automatic wall screen which can be attached to a laptop and used as an excellent visual aid. I myself use it all the time for meetings which I convene, and it is also being used with meetings of the Select Vestry, as it proves to be a valuable aid to our gatherings...

A similar but more complicated system is soon to be installed in

the parish hall. We had a system there which relayed the sound from the church PA system into the hall, but this recently broke down, leaving a serious problem for us, and a new system of this kind will be incorporated into the new workings, featuring not only a sound system from the church, but also a visual system.

So there is absolutely no doubt that St Bride's is now moving much more quickly into the 21st century, keeping the parish up-to-date, and establishing us, a country parish, at the cutting edge of modern technology.

No doubt some will argue that our church doesn't need that sort of advancement – we're not going to use it. Well, the proof of the pudding will be in the eating, and if some think it's not necessary and their organisations won't use it, that's ok; the rest of us will move swiftly forward into the present day.

During the pandemic, we have continued, as much as possible, to maintain our parish in every way, and we offer our grateful thanks to the Almighty for all that he has done for us during this time...

We also thank each and every person who has been behind us in our really strenuous efforts, and who have come to church each and every time, and who have

been so courageous in doing so.

Many people took time off church-going, with a genuine fear of catching the virus, and I would say to those people that now is the time to return, because there is a much greater chance of catching coronavirus in the local supermarket than there is in church.

I also want to thank those who stuck rigidly to the rules over the period of restrictions, particularly the rule about wearing masks, which, incidentally, is still in force. Restrictions will be removed slowly and systematically, and it really is important that we should not anticipate what we think is the next relaxation, but wait until we're actually told.

The Bishop has already told us what is allowed, but he does not give instructions to individual parishes; we work those out ourselves, according to what we believe is right for our parish. We will continue to do this over the next weeks and months...

I want to thank the Select Vestry for their careful consideration of these matters, and particularly the Churchwardens and Glebewardens for the enormous amount of work they have put in over the period of the pandemic. Also over this period, it is

inevitable that some people, a very small minority, thank goodness, will have stopped coming to church, and will not start again. In some cases, excuses will have been offered, in other cases, not. That is a sad circumstance, and one which I and others will labour to correct. For the Christian, regular church-going is something which should always happen, and our Lord's own example of regular synagogue worship with the local community is one which I believe we should continue to follow...

I want to say a word of thanks to Timothy Wilson, who was appointed, only a year ago, to the position of Organist & Choir Director. We went through a rather lengthy period of having no one in that post, although we were most fortunate to have secured the services of some very dedicated people, who put themselves out to take on that role in a temporary capacity. I really hope that our people appreciated the fact that we never suffered in our worship through the lack of an organist, and we should offer thanks to God, and regard ourselves very lucky in that respect.

Tim has established an excellent relationship with the choir; he is constantly building them up and training them in St Paul's way, "decently and in order", and the choir are certainly responding to

his call.

As a parish, we have come through a very difficult time, but so has every other parish. We must now pull together and get things back into full running order as quickly as possible.

Sincere thanks are due to Churchwardens Clarence Gibson and Diane Hurst, who have worked tirelessly to keep things moving ahead without any backward movement, and to Glebewardens Jim Wilson and Billy Robinson who have continued with work on our buildings, despite anything which might hamper progress.

Honorary Secretary Ivan Topping and Honorary Treasurer Lillian Lyttle have managed to fulfil their respective positions superbly, overcoming the obstacles which were before them in this recent past.

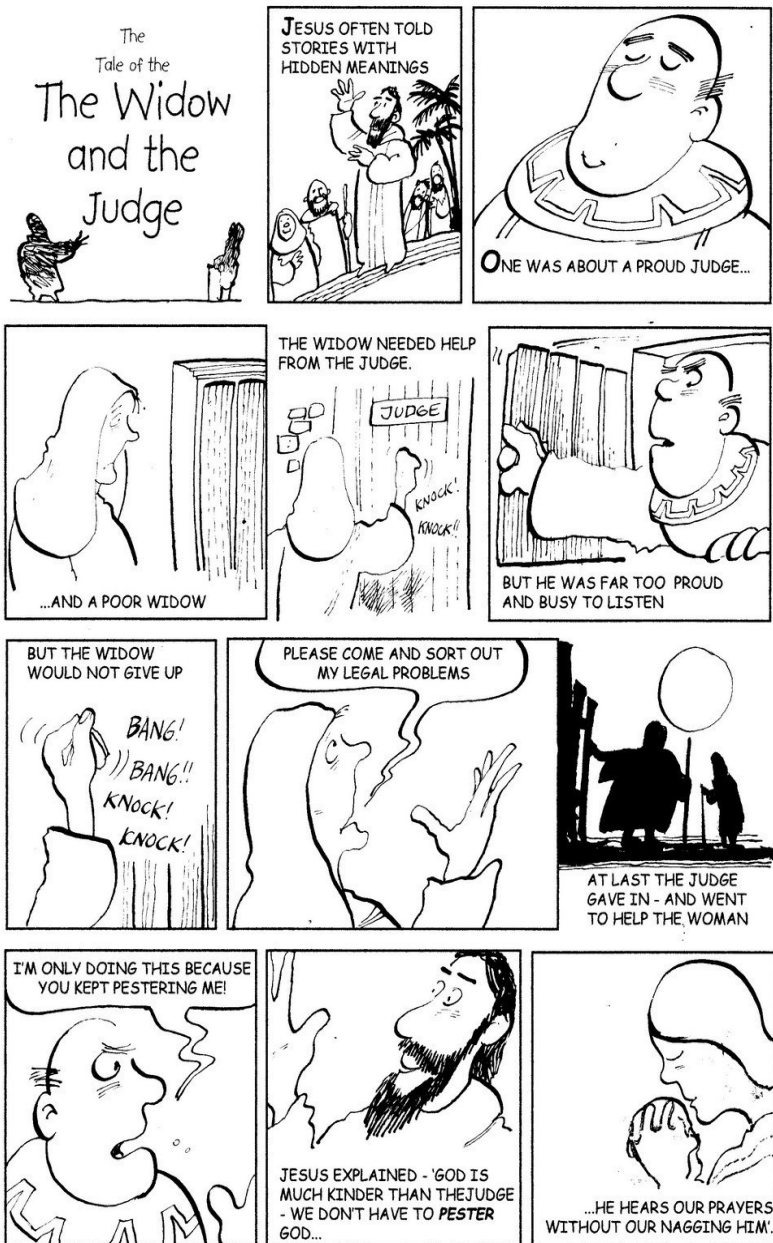
I would point out, as I do each year, that the people I mention by name are those who have been elected or appointed to office, but there are a great many more, who I would not mention, for fear of leaving someone out, whose dedication to their work keeps this parish running. And if you think about it, you will find their names in every aspect of parish life. Nothing happens in this parish

without a lot of hard work by a huge number of people, and we should thank them most sincerely for that, and we should also thank Almighty God that he has placed them in the roles which he wants them to adopt.

The whole point of holding an Easter General Vestry and electing members of the Select Vestry becomes abundantly clear when we celebrate the Holy Communion beforehand. We will have prayed for quite a few weeks now, that God will guide us in the coming elections, so that our electing will be his will. I definitely do not want to see people looking round the room to see if there's anyone else they can put up for election. That should all have been done beforehand.

So please, when it comes to the elections, do act sensibly, and propose for election those you have already thought and prayed about in the time before this meeting.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us and strengthen us, as we place our trust in him for all that lies ahead.



NEW FLAGS FOR RAINBOWS AND RANGERS

All of the sections of the Kilbride Guide Movement met in church on an evening last month when the Rector received and dedicated new flags for the Rangers and the Rainbows.

This means that each section of the Guides now have their own flag. The girls, who turned themselves out very well, played a full part in the service, each section offering their own prayers to God, and singing heartily in the hymns.

Some parents of the Rainbows were also present; we were unable to invite the other parents, as we were still under Coronavirus restrictions at the time, and it would have been impossible to fit them all into the church.

You'll find a photo on the front cover, showing the new flags of the Rangers and Rainbows.



Sunday 5 June is the Feast of Pentecost, and also the day we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of the Queen.

Pentecost is often referred to as “the Church’s birthday”, and is a day worth celebrating.

We will also be able to join together to receive the Holy Communion, offering thanks to God for her long reign, not forgetting her Christian witness.

After the service we’ll be having a celebration picnic (hopefully on the dry grass!). Come and join us! (Bring your own lunch!)



Our Wednesday Witness series, held during the season of Lent, was successful in that a large number of folk attended each of the sessions in church at lunchtime.

Each session included a short recital of music followed by a homily from the Rector, and then a simple lunch of soup and wheaten bread in the hall.

The recitalists included the parish choir, the St James's Singers, Caroline Woods (soprano), Timothy Wilson (organ) and David Monahan (baritone).

We had hoped to include Joe McKee (organ) and singers from St Malachy's College; unfortunately Covid got to them first!

The St James's Singers are a small group, kept together by Pat Maxwell, after their church (St James's at the bottom of Cliftonville Road) closed some years ago. Caroline Woods stood in for the St Malachy's boys, who took Covid. Tim Wilson replaced Joe McKee, organist at St Columba's Knock, and David Monahan, is our own superb baritone, who sings with our own choir, but also attends school in England, and so is with us only at holiday times.

We were pleased that visitors from the neighbourhood, as well as folk from other denominations, took the opportunity to attend the series—the best attended comprised almost 70 people -and it may



well be that we will have them again next year—with different homilies and recitalists, of course!

A sincere thank you to all who were involved in organising the Wednesday Witness sessions, which resulted in a very helpful growth in “Faith and Fellowship” within the parish family and beyond, and thank you also to Tim, who not only gave an excellent performance, but also organised the musical end of the sessions.

We had rather “successful” Lent, which perhaps seems better than usual because we have recently been released from many of the constrictions of the pandemic.

The photo above shows some of our folk having lunch in our beautiful, newly decorated hall. You can come and see it any time; call in at one of our functions, or even a Sunday service!

PALM SUNDAY PRAISE RETURNS AFTER COVID RESTRICTIONS

It was a cold, but dry day for the Palm Sunday procession from the Parish Hall up to the church, on the first day of Holy Week.

Led by the church wardens, the choir sang 'All Glory, Laud and Honour' as they made their way up the yellow brick road to the church, closely followed by 'Annie' the donkey and the congregation.

'Annie' symbolised the colt that Jesus used on his final journey into Jerusalem in the days before his trial and crucifixion, when the road was lined with people who placed their cloaks and palm branches for the donkey to walk on.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic 'Annie' hasn't been inside St Bride's since 2019 so her owner, Alan McLeod, brought her to church the day before, to give her a look inside and to familiarise her with her



surroundings. She was kept calm today by the close attention and soothing words of Kerry, helped by a few treats!

The children's address explained the significance of a donkey in church and the Rector went to great pains to emphasize that this was no gimmick, but an important effort to teach the children about the events of Palm Sunday. He made the point that no child who took part in the procession, would ever forget what Palm Sunday was about, and that would be thanks to the visit of a donkey.

Then 'Annie' made her exit with a reward of hay in the back of the horse box in the car park.

Left: Part of the congregation processing behind the donkey across the stones.

Below: Kerry in the chancel, with the donkey.



