

Kilbride HERALD

St Bride's—where Faith and Fellowship grow

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018



Dedication of the new Royal British Legion Standard

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

Rector: The Revd Canon W D Humphries
The Rectory, 7 Rectory Road, Doagh, Ballyclare BT39 0PT
Phone: 9334 0225 E-mail: wdhumphries@hotmail.com

Reader Emeritus
William Harper

Parish Reader
David Holmes

Rector's Churchwarden
Clarence Gibson: 9332 3761

People's Churchwarden
Iris McCormick: 9332 3921

Rector's Glebewarden
Jim Wilson: 2589 8753

People's Glebewarden
Billy Robinson: 07799 863 095

Honorary Secretary
Ivan Topping: 9334 1916

FWO Secretary
Graham Campbell: 9334 0565

Gift Aid Secretaries
Phyllis Glenn: 9334 0884
Irene Paget: 9332 3579

Organist & Choir Director
Beth Aiken

Sunday School Superintendent
Eleanor Graham: 9334 0000

Honorary Treasurer
Lilian Lyttle 9332 3211

Parish Hall Organiser
Alex Johnston: 9334 9393

Caretaker
Jean Johnston: 9334 9393

Parish Website
kilbrideparishchurch.org
Parish Webmaster: David Holmes

HOLY BAPTISM
This is by arrangement.
Please contact the Rector at the
phone number in the top panel.

**The Rector would be grateful
for information about
hospital admissions
and discharges.**

KILBRIDE HERALD
Editorial Panel
Iris McCormick, Ivan Topping,
The Rector

NEXT ISSUE:
COPY DEADLINE
Sunday 2 December

From the Rector's Desk



Dear Parishioners,

One of the delights I remember from my childhood was that of licking out the bowl during my mother's baking. First, there was that awful waiting as she scraped the big spoon around the inside of the bowl, seemingly to gather up every last scrap of the mixture—and I always wondered if there would be any left at all! Amazingly, there always was.

As we grow older, the joy of licking out the bowl loses its attraction. We begin to experience the range and variety of many completed creations, and we realise that the taste of half-finished cake isn't really that nice.

Nevertheless, throughout our lives we constantly seek 'instant' experiences—instant joy, instant peace, instant love. But the problem with anything 'instant' is that it limits and restricts our experience.

At the time Jesus was born, the Jews were desperately seeking a Messiah—a Saviour who would instantly solve their problems.

First they thought that John the Baptist was the Messiah, but he told them, "I am not the Christ."

John unselfishly bore witness to the coming of Christ, pointing the way to Jesus who is the link between the Old and New Testaments—the Christ whose way was to be one of faith and service rather than instant solutions. But faith and service take time and patience, both with ourselves and with others. God can transform us if we allow him to, but it takes time for us to learn.

Advent is drawing near, and we are rather foolish if, every Advent, we are content to 'lick out the bowl' in our desperation to celebrate Christmas.

The four weeks of Advent are a vital means of preparation for what is to come—both for our celebrating the feast of our Lord's birth, and in getting ready for his return.

Let's slow down! Let's get off the bandwagon and walk through Advent, patiently preparing, trusting and waiting with our heavenly Father for all that lies ahead.

Your friend and Rector,

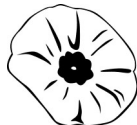
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Humphries".

The Services at St Bride's



[1] Sunday 4 November
Feast of All Saints (*transferred*)
 11.00am Holy Communion
 6.00pm Prayers for Healing

[2] Sunday 11 November
Remembrance Sunday
 11.00am Morning Prayer
 & Act of Remembrance



[3] Sunday 18 November
2nd Sunday before Advent
 11.00am Holy Communion
 (*Family Service*)

[4] Sunday 25 November
Sunday next before Advent
 11.00am Morning Prayer

[1] Sunday 2 December
Advent Sunday
 11.00am Holy Communion
 6.00pm Prayers for Healing



Monday 3 December
 7.30pm Carol Service for
 Boys' Organisations

Wednesday 5 December
 7.30pm Carol Service for
 Girls' Organisations

[2] Sunday 9 December
Advent 2
 11.00am Morning Prayer

Tuesday 11 December
 7.30pm Masonic Carol Service

[3] Sunday 16 December
Advent 3
 11.00am Holy Communion
 (*Family Service*)

[4] Sunday 23 December
Advent 4
 11.00am Morning Prayer
 6.00pm Parish Carol Service
with the Ballyclare Victoria Flute Band

Monday 24 December
Christmas Eve
 11.30pm Holy Communion
The First Communion of Christmas



Tuesday 25 December
Feast of the
Nativity of our Lord
commonly called Christmas Day
11.00am A service for
all the family
(in the context of Holy Communion)

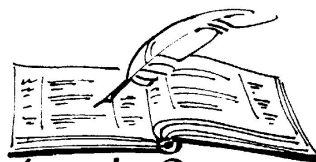
[5] Sunday 30 December
The First Sunday of Christmas
11.00am Morning Prayer

[1] Sunday 6 January
Feast of the Epiphany
11.00am Holy Communion
6.00pm Prayers for Healing

ADVANCE NOTICE
You might like to note that
Holocaust Memorial Day is
Sunday 27 January



Throughout this edition of The Herald, you will occasionally see a little black box at the bottom of a page. These boxes give some information which you might like to know.



From the Registers

HOLY BAPTISM

9 September 2018
Anna
Child of Carla and Jack,
Burnside

14 October 2018
Katie Georgie
Child of Leah and Jonathan,
Doagh

HOLY MATRIMONY

7 July 2018
Jonny McMullan &
Nicola Wallace

22 September 2018
Thomas Johnston &
Lynsey McCleod

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

30 August 2018
Lily Faith McVitty



The usual “beginning of term” **Beetle Drive** was held in the Parish Hall at the beginning of September. The hall was filled with a good selection of old, middle-aged and young folk, all boisterous and enthusiastic to play the game!

The excitement lasted throughout the evening, and a great many people went home with prizes and chewy toffees! This was the biggest Beetle Drive we’ve had to date!



“**Class Act**” was a group of ladies who came to visit us at the end of September. They told jokes and sang all sorts of music—great entertainment for a well-filled Parish Hall, and thanks to Kathryn for organising this.



Harvest Thanksgiving took place on Sunday 30 September, when the preacher was the Revd Canon David Brown from Knocknagoney. This was the day on which we committed ourselves to a greater pledge of giving through Free Will Offering, and our completed pledge cards were offered up at the Holy Table.



Although they were held a while ago, some people thought our **Car Boot Sales** were a bad idea.

Well you might like to know that they raised £1,400. Many thanks to all who supported us. Maybe we’ll do it again!



On Sunday 23 September our **Organist Beth Aiken** received her certificate for completing the three year course of the Down & Dromore and Connor Organ Scholarship Scheme under her tutor Dr Joe McKee.

The awards were held at Belfast Cathedral and were presented by the Dean of Belfast, the Very Revd Stephen Forde.

Beth joined two other finalists in giving a recital before Evensong, and rendered a superb execution of her pieces on the famous four-manual Organ, built in 1907 by Harrison & Harrison of Durham. She was supported by the encouragement and attendance of the Rector and quite a few parishioners from Kilbride. Well done, Beth!



Last month we were privileged to host the dedication of the new standard of the Ballyclare Branch of the **Royal British Legion**. Members of the Legion took part in the service, and a good number of folk were present.



Two Baptisms took place last month, and we welcome Anna and Katie Georgie into the Congregation of Christ's Church.



Last month we welcomed to church the Provincial Priory of East Ulster, of the United Religious and Military Orders of the Temple and of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta—we'll just call them the Masons!

This was the Annual Service of the Order, and the Preacher was V,Em. Sir Knight the Revd Ken Gamble from the Parish of Donaghadee. A full church with a very colourful service was something we will remember for a long time.



The life of our parish is enhanced enormously by a large number of faithful parishioners who do more than worship on a Sunday. They help to keep the parish running smoothly by taking on a whole host of jobs, some small, some large, some practical, some prayerful.

These people should know that none of this work goes unnoticed, but is in fact very much appreciated.

In our work for Christ and his Church, none of looks for any praise or reward, but if it does come, it tends to boost the ego and makes the job a little easier. Thank you to one and all.



A REMINDER ABOUT THE COPY DEADLINE

Please note that the copy deadline for the next edition of the Herald is a week earlier than usual—Sunday 2 December.

That's because of the Christmas and New Year holidays for our printers. If we miss our deadline, the January/February magazine will be very late! So please help us if you can.



Looking after the church grounds is a job that goes on throughout the year—cutting the grass, sweeping up leaves, weeding, repairing storm damage... Our team keeps together with "What'sAp", letting other members of the team know when they're free and what they've done. What'sAp is good fun and a great boost to the job!

WHO WOULD YOU VOTE FOR?



It is time to elect a new world leader, and only your vote counts. Here are the facts about the three candidates. Who would you vote for?

Candidate A: He associates with crooked politicians and consults an astrologer. He's had two mistresses. He chain-smokes and drinks 8 to 10 martinis a day.

Candidate B: He was kicked out of office twice, sleeps until noon, used opium in college and drinks a quart of whiskey every evening.

Candidate C: He's a decorated war hero. He's vegetarian, doesn't smoke, drinks an occasional beer and never cheated on his wife.

Make your choice and then look up our comments, printed on another page.

The Parish of Kilbride stretches from the Grange of Ballyrobert to the Loon Burn, just below Tildarg—quite an area!

Two new ideas to keep folk busy through the winter!

“MEN ONLY”

The men of the parish will meet on the first Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm in the parish room.

Young men, old men, middle-aged men—any man who wants to come.

We're a lucky parish—we have a lot of men, so we may as well make full use of them!

Meetings will be relaxed and informal, and of course there will be a cup of tea at every meeting.

Sometimes a speaker will be invited, sometimes the proceedings will be conducted by one of our own number.

The first meeting is on Wednesday 2 January when the speaker will be Stephen Aiken. Let's see how many men we can get on this big occasion!



HOW JEWISH IS CHRISTIANITY?

A series of three meetings (yes, just three) about our own religion, and how Jewish it really is.

Did you know that Christianity has Jewish roots? Well it does—very strong ones!

Come along to hear (and discuss if you like) how much of what we do in church comes from the Jewish tradition.

And at the end, come with us to visit the Belfast Synagogue.

Our meetings will be held on Thursdays, and will start on 10 January. They are open to all men.



The Trip of a Lifetime

by Lillian Lyttle

In May 2019 the latest Pilgrimage will depart for the Holy Land. It will be led as usual by our Rector, Revd Canon David Humphries. It will cover all the highlights of the Bible stories you know. Ever since I visited Israel in 1992 on a one day visit from Cyprus and had some

seriously dodgy information thrown at me, I have wanted to return with someone who knew what they were talking about.



Well I did that in May this year on the pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by our own David Humphries. David knows the place backwards and our guide Rafi was able to answer any questions we asked of him.

Not only did I get the correct information, but we visited so many of the places I have heard or read about since Sunday School days. Everyone knows of the Mount of Olives, but when you have walked down it, stopping in the Garden of Gethsemane, a place so quiet and still despite the crowds, visiting the church of Pater Noster and the Church of All





Nations, before walking on through the valley and into Jerusalem, it will stay with you always.

We visited so many sites that were known to me, but were just names in a story until I actually saw them. On our way down to Jericho (remember the Good

Samaritan story), we stopped at Wadi Qelt, where we celebrated Holy Communion. This was overlooking the 'Valley of the Shadow of Death' where St. George's Monastery is built into the mountain. The land was completely barren without a blade of grass, and I knew what was meant by "the wilderness" where John preached.

Just recently the reading on Sunday morning was about the disciples and Jesus going to Peter's house and it brought back visions of the ruins we visited in Capernaum.

Standing by Jacob's Well and drinking from the well water, where Jesus spoke with the Samaritan woman, is another vivid memory. Walking around Jerusalem, down the Via Dolorosa, seeing the site of the High Priest's house and visiting the church of the Holy Sepulchre with Calvary and the tomb, leaves an understanding you'll never get from reading about it.

There are so many places to experience, sailing on the Sea of Galilee, visiting the Shepherd's Field, Bethlehem, Pater Noster and on and on.

If you have ever thought about visiting the Holy Land, even if you are a cynic that thinks it is set up for tourists, just go. You won't regret it and if you believe the Gospel, you will gain a whole new perspective on things. I certainly have, and I intend to return.

Lillian

DID YOU KNOW?

Is St Patrick important to the Church of Ireland?

Absolutely! The Church of Ireland holds fast to the ancient Christian faith as taught by St Patrick. It has added nothing to that faith, and it has taken nothing from it.

Most of the ancient churches in this land belong to the Church of Ireland, and the Bishops of the Church of Ireland are in direct line of succession from the Bishops of the ancient Church of this land. Therefore the Archbishop of Armagh claims direct succession from St Patrick himself.

Who are the Roman Catholics?

At the Reformation many people continued to accept the authority of the Pope, his claim to rule the Church and to be protected by God from error when dealing with matters of faith and morals. These are the Roman Catholics.

Who are the Presbyterians?

These folk follow the teachings of the reformer Calvin who lived in Geneva in the 16th century. Calvin rejected the ancient threefold ministry of the Church (which is steadfastly upheld by members of the Church of Ireland and the Roman Catholic Church). Calvin replaced this by a Presbyterian ministry, in which all ministers or elders are equal.

Presbyterianism was introduced into Scotland from Geneva, and it came to Ireland in the 17th century.

Who are the Methodists?

The original Methodists were John and Charles Wesley and some of their Oxford student friends, who followed a strict method of prayer and discipline (hence the name Methodists).

They were originally members of the Church of England, but certain disagreements led to separation after the death of Charles Wesley. Today, the Church of Ireland holds to a covenant with Methodists which is supported by some of each denomination, but not all.

READING THE BIBLE THROUGH

Yes, I thought I knew my Bible
Reading piecemeal, hit or miss;
Now a part of John or Matthew,
Then a bit of Genesis.

Certain chapters of Isaiah,
Certain psalms, the twenty-third.
First of Proverbs, twelfth of
Romans,
Yes, I thought I knew the word.

But I found that thorough reading
Was a different thing to do,
And the way was unfamiliar
When I read my Bible through.

You who like to play at Bible,
Dip and dabble here and there;
Just before you kneel all weary,
Yawning through a hurried prayer.

You who treat this crown of
writings
As you treat no other book;
Just a paragraph disjointed,
Just a crude, impatient look.

Try a worthier procedure,
Try a broad and steady view;
You will kneel in awesome wonder
When you read the Bible through.

SWITCHING ON THE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

This happy event will take place on Saturday 15 December at 6.30pm—but come early and enjoy the atmosphere, with the band playing Christmas music, burgers and drinks in the Parish Hall, and toasting marshmallows with the Scouts.

And then there's Santa Claus, coming with his tractor, pulled by the invisible band of Reindeer! This is an event not to be missed!

Saturday 15 December, 6.00pm for 6.30pm

David Holmes has recently been commissioned as a Parish Reader. But what *is* a Parish Reader, and what can David do—or not do?

Okay, let's start with William Harper. Now titled as Reader Emeritus, for much of his life William was a Lay Reader, or Diocesan Reader.

He was recognised by the characteristic “readers’ scarf”, which was blue in colour. William preached around the diocese wherever he was needed, and quite often he was in St Bride’s, either preaching or reading the office, or both! William has now retired after a very effective and much appreciated ministry.

Nowadays in St Bride’s we just have the Rector to conduct all services. He is quite happy to do that, but sometimes a little bit of help and variation does no harm, so David Holmes was invited to become a Parish Reader.

This means that he can read the Office (Morning and Evening Prayer), read Lessons, lead Prayers, and read parts of the service of Holy Communion, as well as administer the chalice.

David wears a black cassock and white surplice, but does not wear

a scarf. He is licenced for the duties of a Parish Reader, but does not have a licence to preach. He can, however, read the Rector’s sermon if the Rector loses his voice!

Some people think that reading the Office is an easy thing to do. It is not easy at all!

Parish Readers are chosen by the Rector, and their term of office lasts until the Rector is no longer there.

The parish should be both pleased and proud that David has now taken on this role, and with the encouragement of his fellow-parishioners we have no doubt that he will carry out his duties competently and faithfully.



Not long to go now...

On the first day of Christmas
my true love said to me,
"I'm glad we bought fresh turkey
and a proper Christmas Tree."

On the second day of Christmas
much laughter could be heard
as we tucked into our
turkey,
a most delicious bird.

On the third day we entertained
the people from next door.
The turkey tasted just as good
as it had the day before.

Day four, relations came to stay;
poor Gran is looking old.
We finished up the Christmas Pud
and ate the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas,
outside the snowflakes flurried.
But we were nice and warm
inside,
for we had our turkey curried.

On the sixth day, I must admit,
the Christmas spirit died.
The children fought and bickered,
we ate turkey rissoles, fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas,
my true love he did wince,
when he sat down at the table
and was offered turkey mince.



Day eight, the nerves were getting
frayed,
the dog had run for shelter.
I served up turkey pancakes
with a glass of Alka Seltzer.

On the ninth day our cat left home,
by lunchtime Dad was blotto.
He said he had to have a drink
to face turkey risotto.

By the tenth day the wine had
gone
(except our homemade brew).
And if that wasn't bad enough,
we suffered turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas,
the Christmas tree was moulting.
The mince pies were as hard as
rock
and the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day my true love
had a smile upon his lips—
the guests had gone, the turkey
too—
and we dined on fish and chips!

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW YOUR BIBLE?

Try these questions from the Christmas Story:



- 1 Who announced the birth of Jesus to the Blessed Virgin Mary?
- 2 In what town did Mary live?
- 3 Where did Mary go after the visit of the angel?
- 4 Who did Elizabeth give birth to?
- 5 Who was the Roman Emperor when Jesus was born?
- 6 In what town or city was Jesus born?
- 7 Of what famous family was Jesus a member?
- 8 What were his parents doing in Bethlehem?
- 9 Who visited the baby Jesus on the night of his birth?
- 10 How had the shepherds received the news of the birth?
- 11 Where does the Bible say the wise men came from?
- 12 How did they know to go and look for a new king?
- 13 Who was King of Judaea when Jesus was born?
- 14 Where did the wise men first look for the boy?
- 15 King Herod had asked the wise men to report back to him. How did they know not to do that?

- 16 Where did the Holy Family go after the visit of the wise men?
- 17 What did Herod do when he realised the wise men were not coming back to him to report about Jesus?
- 18 Which accounts of the Gospel give the nativity stories about Jesus?
- 19 Which account gives the visit of the shepherds?
- 20 Which account gives the visit of the Wise Men?

The answers are on the next page.



Visiting preacher at the Harvest Thanksgiving, Canon David Brown (on the right).

As a man and his son were heading to McDonald's one day, they passed a car accident. Usually when we see something terrible like that, we say a prayer for whoever might be hurt, so he pointed and said to his son, 'We should pray.'

From the back seat he heard his son's earnest voice: 'Dear God, please don't let those cars block the entrance to McDonald's.'

The Parish of Kilbride comprises approximately 250 families, which is smallish compared to parishes in urban areas.

WHO WOULD YOU VOTE FOR?

Candidate A is
Franklin D Roosevelt

Candidate B is
Sir Winston Churchill

Candidate C is
Adolph Hitler

*We're sure you made a
very sensible choice!*



*Photo taken after the Dedication of the
Royal British Legion Standard
(Ballyclare Branch).*

ANSWERS to the Bible Quiz

- 1 The Angel Gabriel.
- 2 Nazareth.
- 3 To visit her relative Elizabeth.
- 4 John the Baptist.
- 5 Caesar Augustus.
- 6 Bethlehem.
- 7 The Tribe of Judah.
- 8 They were there to register for the census.
- 9 The shepherds.
- 10 From an angel.
- 11 The East.
- 12 They saw a star.
- 13 King Herod.
- 14 Jerusalem.
- 15 They were warned in a dream.
- 16 They fled to Egypt.
- 17 He killed all the baby boys in Bethlehem of two years old and under.
- 18 St Matthew and St Luke.
- 19 St Luke.
- 20 St Matthew.

**Of the 250 families in the Parish
of Kilbride, 61 do not contribute
any money to the Parish.**

THE PIVOTAL IMPORTANCE OF THE MIDDLE EAST

It's astonishing how the epicentre of world news has always seemed to be what we call the 'Middle East'. Ever since history was first recorded, these lands have been its backdrop: great civilisations and powers, Babylon, Assyria, Egypt, and Persia occupied the world's centre stage, sometimes for centuries. When they were replaced, it was usually by another one of that short list.

The world's two greatest religions, Christianity and Islam, were born here, offspring of a smaller but even older one, Judaism. These very lands were the site of the Garden of Eden, the poetic source and beginning of the whole human story.

Sadly, these lands have also been marked out as battle-fields – and the apocalyptic message warns that they will be the site of the final great conflict, Armageddon. Today our TV screens are full of images of devastated towns and cities, destroyed by bombing and shelling. Is this not only the history but also the fate of the Middle East?

But now comes Christmas, and we hear a different message echoing from the same region. It was first heard in a field outside Bethlehem: 'Peace, goodwill among people'. The child who was born in a stable in the Middle East nearly 2000 years ago was to be known as the 'Prince of Peace'. He came, the Bible says, to 'preach peace to those who are near, and peace to those who are far off'.

This is the great paradox. In the midst of conflict, in a land that had suffered enemy occupation for 300 years, there came a message of peace. Hard to hear over the noise of battle, but insistent, it will surely prove in the end to be the greatest gift that these much-abused lands have offered to the world.

“...and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.”

St John 1:14

PARISH OF KILBRIDE : ST BRIDE'S CHURCH

- where Faith and Fellowship grow

"The people devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."



Recent weddings at Kilbride

