

# Kilbride HERALD

*St Bride's—where Faith and Fellowship grow*

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019



The Kilbride Ramblers at the Giant's Ring

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

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<p align="center"><b>Organist &amp; Choir Director:</b> Vacant</p> <p align="center"><b>Sunday School Superintendent</b> Eleanor Graham: 9334 0000</p> <p align="center"><b>Charity Number: 10 35 70</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>The Rector would be grateful for information about hospital admissions and discharges.</b></p>
	<p align="center"><b>KILBRIDE HERALD</b>  <b>Editorial Panel</b>                      Iris McCormick, Ivan Topping,                      The Rector</p>
	<p align="center"><b>NEXT ISSUE:</b>  <b>COPY DEADLINE</b>  <b>Sunday 1 December</b></p>



*The Revd Amanda Adams, Rector of Ballyrashane & Kildollagh,  
who preached at the Harvest Thanksgiving service this year.*

## The Services at St Bride's



**[1] Sunday 3 November  
Trinity 20**

11.00am Holy Communion  
6.00pm Prayers for Healing

**[2] Sunday 10 November  
Remembrance Sunday**

11.00am Morning Prayer  
& Act of Remembrance

**[3] Sunday 17 November  
Trinity 22**

11.00am Holy Communion

**[4] Sunday 24 November  
Sunday next before Advent**

11.00am Family Service  
(tea afterwards)

**[1] Sunday 1 December  
Advent Sunday**

11.00am Holy Communion  
6.00pm Prayers for Healing

**Monday 2 December**

7.00pm Christmas Service for the  
Boys' Uniformed Organisations

**Thursday 5 December**

7.00pm Christmas Service for the  
Girls' Uniformed Organisations

**[2] Sunday 8 December  
Second Sunday of Advent**

11.00am Morning Prayer

**Tuesday 10 December**

7.30pm Masonic Carol Service

**[3] Sunday 15 December  
Third Sunday of Advent**

11.00am Holy Communion

**[4] Sunday 22 December  
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

11.00am Family Service  
(tea afterwards)

**6.00pm The Parish Carol Service  
with the Ballyclare Victoria  
Flute Band**



**Tuesday 24 December  
Christmas Eve**

11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion

**Wednesday 25 December  
Feast of the Nativity of our Lord  
commonly called Christmas Day**

11.00am Family Service  
in the context of Holy Communion

**[5] Sunday 29 December**  
**Christmas 1**  
11.00am Morning Prayer



**Wednesday 1 January**  
**Feast of the Naming of Jesus**  
11.00am Holy Communion  
(*tea afterwards in Parish Room*)

**[1] Sunday 5 January**  
**Christmas 2**  
11.00am Holy Communion  
6.00pm Prayers for Healing

**Monday 6 January**  
**Feast of the Epiphany**  
11.00am Holy Communion  
(*tea afterwards in Parish Room*)

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## **NEW YEAR'S DAY**

### **The Naming of Jesus**

This has become an important day for us at St Bride's, when a large number of us meet to celebrate the Naming of Jesus and to dedicate the new year to God.

After the service we move to the Parish Room for a celebratory cup of tea (with appropriate festive food!)

## **ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CUPS**

At tea after the Family Service we've been scratching our heads to see if there is any way we could avoid using throwaway cups without damaging the environment.

Carol Ireland has found an answer! She's discovered cups which are biodegradable, which is great!

From now on we'll be using these cups in church.



*The biodegradable cups, which can be used and then properly disposed of.*

# From the Rector's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

Let me tell you a story. A young man was getting ready to graduate from university. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a car showroom, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him that was what he wanted as a graduation present.



As the day of graduation approached, the young man awaited signs that his father had purchased the car. Finally, on the morning of the big day his father called him into his study; he told him how proud he was to have such a fine son, and that he loved him. He handed his son a beautifully wrapped gift box.

Curious, but somewhat disappointed, the young man opened the box and found a beautifully wrapped leather-bound Bible. Furious, he raised his voice to his father and said, "With all your money you give me just a Bible?" and stormed out of the house.

Many years passed and the young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home and a wonderful family. But still he thought about his father and that Bible. He had not seen his father since that graduation day. He had never opened the Bible, which was locked away in some back cupboard. Finally, worried that his father was by now very old, he thought that he should go to him.

But before he could make arrangements, he heard that his father had died and had left all his possessions to him. The son looked for the last thing the father had given him in his life, the Bible.

With tears in his eyes, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. His father had carefully underlined a verse: "*And if you being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly father give to those who ask him?*" (St Matthew 7:11).

As he read those words, a car key dropped from the back of the

Bible. It had a tag with the dealer's name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words PAID IN FULL .

How many times do we miss God's blessings because they are not packaged as we expect them to be?

Your friend and Rector,



## KILBRIDE AT THE KINGSPAN

A group of seventeen Kilbride folk and friends had a very enjoyable trip to Belfast to see the Ulster team play its first Pro 14 game of the season against Welsh opponents, the Ospreys.

The game started badly for the Ulster team as the Ospreys took an early lead but Ulster soon turned it around and won fairly comfortably in the end by 38 points to 14. Rain had threatened but thankfully, other than one light shower, the heavy rain forecast didn't happen. Here are some of the folk in joyful mood:





*Above: Jaxon Wilson with his parents and godparents. He was baptized in September.*

*Below: Charleigh Margaret with her parents and godparents, also baptized during the month of September.*



## WATCHMEN GREET A FORMER R.O.C. MEMBER

The men in the Watchmen group welcomed Roy Coulter to their first meeting of the new season.

Roy was a member of the Royal Observer Corps in Northern Ireland for many years until it was stood down in 1984. He described the work of the Corps with particular emphasis on the main sites in



Northern Ireland where they were based and the type of work they did and the sometimes simple but very effective equipment they used.

A lot of the ROC's work involved training for a doomsday scenario when the United Kingdom may have come under attack by Soviet nuclear missiles or bombs and when it would have been vital to have monitored the nuclear fallout and to have raised the alarm quickly to minimise civilian casualties. Thankfully their skills were never utilised in war.

Kilbride's own Raymond McDonald was Roy's commanding officer and they exchanged memories of their service over the years. A very interesting presentation by Roy which was enjoyed by everyone there, and sincere thanks must go to him for coming along to make this presentation to the Watchmen.

***They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow  
old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.***

Every year, the Royal British Legion calls on the nation to unite in commemorating Remembrance Sunday, which this year is Sunday 10 November.



At St Bride's we will have our usual service incorporating the Act of Remembrance. This service is usually very well attended, and again we invite all our parishioners and friends to join us as we remember with honour those who made the supreme sacrifice to secure and protect our freedom.

It has become the practice at each Act of Remembrance to

recite a verse of Lawrence Binyon's poem, "For the Fallen", the words of which are printed above.

Remembrance Sunday is the Sunday nearest to 11th November, which is the anniversary of the end of hostilities in the First World War, in 1918 at 1100hrs. The national ceremony is held at the Cenotaph in London.

In the United Kingdom, remembrance poppies are sold by the Royal British Legion (RBL). This is a charity providing financial, social, political and emotional support to those who have served or who are currently serving in the British Armed Forces, and their dependants. They are sold on the streets by volunteers in the weeks before Remembrance Day.

The remembrance poppy is the trademark of The Royal British Legion. The RBL states,



"The red poppy is our registered mark and its only lawful use is to raise funds for the Poppy Appeal"; its yearly fundraising drive in the weeks before Remembrance Day. The RBL says these poppies are "worn to commemorate the sacrifices of our Armed Forces and to show support to those still serving today".

Other poppy merchandise is sold throughout the year as part of the ongoing fundraising.

In England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, the poppies typically have two red paper petals mounted on a green plastic stem with a single green paper leaf and a prominent black plastic central boss.

The stem has an additional branch used to anchor the poppy via a pin in the lapel or buttonhole.

In Scotland, the poppies are curled and have four petals with no leaf. The yearly selling of poppies is a major source of

income for the RBL in the UK. The poppy has no fixed price; it is sold for a donation or the price may be suggested by the seller.

The black plastic centre of the poppy was marked "Haig Fund" until 1994 but is now marked "Poppy Appeal". A team of about 50 people — most of them disabled former British military personnel—work all year round to make millions of poppies at the Poppy Factory in Richmond.



### OUR CONTACT WITH PARISHIONERS GOES HI-TECH

Digital notice boards are to be fitted around the church premises. There will be one in the hall foyer, one in the Parish Room, and one in the church.

Don't laugh at the idea, we think most people will be very glad of them when they get used to the notion.

# News from Jeel

**Many of our regular church attenders will know that the Rector pays a visit to Jeel al Amal at least once a year.**

Jeel is an orphanage in the town of Al Azariah, which we know better as Bethany. The school and orphanage were set up for Palestinian boys living in and around the West Bank.

Here Muslims are given a Muslim education, and Christians are given a Christian education, but they all live together.

The Rector encourages regular donations to Jeel, in order to keep the school and orphanage going.

Something interesting happened at Jeel over the summer months. A former pupil came back to school. His name is Ahmed Sami.

Ahmed, who is now studying medicine in Romania, came to Jeel when he was three years old. As a child he was always saying “when I grow up I want to be a doctor, I want to save

lives”. He was an ambitious and bright boy who was determined never to despair and to make a bright future despite his difficult background.

When he graduated from high school it was time to take the first step towards realising his dream. After having paid all the money he’d saved to register with a university in Romania, we were then confronted by the fact that he had no money to pay for his tuition and living expenses.

Much prayer went up, and through the many emails we sent, an organization in Spain was touched by Ahmed’s story and wanted more information about Jeel al Amal.

When the email arrived saying they would support Ahmed, there were a lot more prayers—of thanksgiving! This year he will graduate, but his dreams do not stop there – he wants to specialise as a neurosurgeon!



*Above: Ahmed Sami with current director of Jeel al Amal, Samar Sahhar.  
Below: Some of the boys at lunch.*



# DID YOU **KNOW?**

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## **WHAT IS THE LOGISTICS COMMITTEE, AND WHAT DOES IT DO?**

The Logistics Committee is chaired by the Rector, and includes the Churchwardens, the Honorary Secretary, and several other folk who may or may not be members of the Select Vestry.

## **WHO GOVERNS THE LOGISTICS COMMITTEE?**

It is answerable to the Select Vestry. The Logistics Committee organises certain events in the parish calendar, such as the Lighting of the Christmas Tree, the Summer Fete, Beetle Drives, and *assists* in others, for example the Ladies' Fashion Show. It has also organised certain recitals.

Some of these events are clearly fund-raisers, others are purely social events.

## **DOES EVERY PARISH HAVE A LOGISTICS COMMITTEE?**

No. The idea, as far as we know, originated in our own parish. There may be other parishes

where a similar idea has been thought up; we're not aware of any.

## **WHY WAS THE LOGISTICS COMMITTEE SET UP?**

The Rector felt that there weren't very many social events going on in our parish, and he thought that a small committee could arrange many of these functions subject to the approval of the Vestry, as well as bring in some extra finance.

## **IS IT WORKING WELL?**

Yes, it is. Being a small group, Logistics can arrange meetings at short notice. It can also bring on to its membership temporary members, for example, people who might be skilled at something the Committee wants to do for its next event. Then when the event is over, those temporary members can leave the committee until they are again required.

## **WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE?**

The permanent members are the Rector, the Churchwardens (Clarence Gibson and Hazel McDonald), the Honorary Secretary (Ivan Topping), Diane Hurst and Kathryn Hamill. Others who advise from time-to-time are June Johnston and Carol Ireland.

**ARE PEOPLE VOTED ONTO THE LOGISTICS COMMITTEE?**

No. The permanent membership is under the control of the Select Vestry, and these permanent members can bring on others to assist for a period of time, according to the expertise they might possess.

**HOW LONG WILL THE LOGISTICS COMMITTEE CONTINUE TO RUN?**

It will run as long as the Select Vestry wishes it to; it is considered as a permanent committee in our parish. Indeed, we owe our thanks to all its members for the work they do in easing the burden of the Select Vestry and in organising so much for the parish family.

**HOW OFTEN DOES THE LOGISTICS COMMITTEE MEET?**

Quite simply, as often as it needs to.

**WHERE DOES IT MEET?**

Usually in the Rectory.

**DO THE MEMBERS ENJOY THEIR WORK?**

Absolutely!



*Some members of the Logistics Committee at a recent meeting in the Rectory.*

# Christmas Art Competition

## Calling all children!

**We're inviting the children to take part in a Christmas Art Competition. Any child of primary school age can take part. There are prizes to be won!**

The theme of the artwork is **WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME**, and the medium can be paint, crayon, fibre-tipped pen, anything at all.

Only one entry per child, and the absolute deadline for entries is Sunday 8 December. Entries can be left at the Rectory or with your Sunday School Teacher or youth leader, but they must be with the Rector by 8 December in order to qualify.



**Prizes will be awarded at the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday 14 December at 6.00pm, to which children and parents are invited.**

This competition is being run in association with Tildarg Primary School, so the children of Tildarg will also be entering their artwork. Let's take this opportunity for a bit of co-operation with one of the schools in our parish, and join together in a lot of fun!



It was 30 years ago this month, on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1989, that the fall of the Berlin Wall began. Over two million people from East Berlin visited the West in a celebration described as *'the greatest street party in the history of the world.'* However, we are still

living with walls, thinking of those dividing Gaza and the West Bank from Israel, and those dividing parts of Belfast. It's a strong human instinct to build walls to separate us from those we view as different and threatening.

Paul writes of how the death of Jesus has broken down the barrier between Jew and Gentile: *'His purpose was to create in Himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility.'* (Ephesians 2:15-16).

Jesus is still in the business of breaking down the barriers between people of different gender, age, race and language, to bring them together in His church: *'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'* (Galatians 3:28).

We can easily put up barriers with others, when we make assumptions about them, forgetting that they may be thinking the same things about us. We may want to avoid making ourselves vulnerable or appear needy. Yet Jesus can break down our defences and enable us to live openly and honestly with others. As His church, He invites us to be a community of risk-takers, i.e. those who trust each other, handle our weaknesses and fears, and who encourage one another's strengths and gifts.

*'A person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be, and not building bridges, is not Christian.'* (Pope Francis).

# WATCHMEN VISIT THE MOYLE INTERCONNECTOR



Last month fourteen Watchmen took a trip to Ballycronan More next to the power station at Ballylumford to see the Moyle Interconnector, which is the electricity link between County Antrim and South Ayrshire in Scotland.

The visit, organised by David Holmes, was carefully planned by director Sam Gibson who took the men around the high security site and showed them how the electricity operated between the two sites.



Leaving out all the technical terms, at times the extra supply generated in Northern Ireland is sent to Scotland, and at other times the system is reversed, so that Northern

Ireland benefits from the Scottish electricity.

The Moyle Interconnector was first commissioned in 2002, and it runs from Ballycronan More to Auchencrosh. The account of how it was actually built is just fascinating! The Interconnector has enhanced the security of electricity supply right through Northern Ireland and reduced the costs of running the electricity system. It now provides competition in the electricity market arrangements in Ireland and makes possible trading with our market in Great Britain. In creating the electricity link, a very special ship had to be mobilised to do the work, and a “digger” the size of a Ford Transit van, was placed on the North Sea bed.



This was a truly staggering visit to the site of a wonderful achievement. To hear of the work that went into this huge project makes one proud to be from Northern Ireland.





# CLIMATE CHANGE

## Is your organisation helping?

**If you've been paying attention to Environmental issues in the Herald and elsewhere, you'll realise that our parish has begun to tackle Climate Change in a big way.**

Okay, there are lots of small matters that we've taken on board, but add them all up, and you'll find that they contribute to something bigger.

For example, we've recently ceased to use polystyrene cups during tea after the Family Service, and we hope that all our organisations will follow this example.

We're also trying to ensure that people put the rubbish in the correct bins—something that some of our organisations aren't very good at!

Thinking seriously about how much power we use regarding heating and lighting, and how much water we use in the church and parish hall, are also matters with which you could help.

Let's make it clear: we're not asking our organisations to freeze in the winter—that would be daft! But we are asking you to make sure that we're not heating an empty hall when we decide to take a break from the normal routine, say at half-term or a bank holiday. Let someone know you won't be there!

Small matters such as these can make a significant contribution to our efforts.

**Remember, think GLOBAL, act LOCAL!**

## **AN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY RECENTLY ADOPTED BY THE SELECT VESTRY**

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.

J.W. Topping

*Honorary Secretary*

W.D. Humphries

*Rector*

# ...and the bells rang

Earlier this year, during the holiday period, we asked for articles on visiting another church. Betty Girvan responded enthusiastically, as you can now read...

**Earlier this year we attended a family christening in St Bartholomew's Church in the village of Wimslow, Cheshire, and stayed in the hotel next door.**

The weather was lovely and the day of the christening was very warm, so all the windows and doors of the hotel were open on the Sunday, the day of the services. At 9.30am the bell-ringers of St Bartholomew's started to practise and continued until 10.45 just before the service started.

There is a ring of six bells which were cast in 1733. For some this was a joyful sound and others, who are not familiar with this call to worship, didn't see it as so joyful as there was no chance of a lie-in with the clanging of the bells echoing through the hotel. I overheard a guest saying that she could not concentrate on getting her make up on properly!

For me it was a bit like the 12th July morning wakening to the sound of the Lambeg drums! Some like them and some don't... We were informed that the bell ringers practise mid-week for three hours!

The baptismal service was in the afternoon with another family and so as the families arrived at the church the bells rang out



again about 15 minutes before the service started, very joyful this time it seemed!

The church was filled with many children, parents and relatives, the service lasting one hour with readings hymns and a full choir.

Parents and children were seated at the front of the church where they took part in the readings, then proceeded to the back with their children, followed by the congregation, to witness the children being baptised in a very large font, before returning to their seats for the remainder of the service.

A separate Order of Service was provided so that all could follow, a good idea, I thought.

The rector announced that no photos were to be taken during the service, but afterwards he would participate willingly.

People from the village dropped in and took part in the service and admired the children Perhaps they were parishioners.

The highlight for me was the bell-ringers of St Bartholomew's. A beautiful day—and yes, I'll make another visit!

Betty Girvan



# RETIREMENT OF THE BISHOP

**At the end of September, the Bishop announced his retirement on health grounds. Bishop Alan was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2018.**

In a statement to the diocese he said: “The last 12 months have been exhausting and it has been difficult to focus on anything other than my treatment plan. I have just received my last proton injection as part of the clinical trial and this stage of the journey is complete. I now need time to recover and regain my strength and energy.

“Having advanced prostate cancer means that I will be receiving quarterly hormone injections for the rest of my life and will have very regular checkups with my oncologist. There are no guarantees, but it is hoped that I will be free of further treatment for years to come.

“My family have been amazing in love and support and they have also



been carrying their own hopes and fears. We have also been very blessed by the peace and joy we have experienced, as Jesus has clearly journeyed with us on this strange and unwelcome journey. He has been with us, giving us hope and healing.”

The bishop concluded: “It has been an amazing privilege and joy to have served you as bishop.”

The Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland, the Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke, said: “With our prayers, we all wish for Bishop Alan a happy and fulfilling retirement.

“We know that the decision to retire on grounds of ill-health has been a difficult and painful one for him. For well over a decade, Alan has given powerful, courageous and dedicated service to the Diocese of Connor and to the wider Church of Ireland, and now to relinquish office in circumstances of ill-health is inevitably far from easy for him.

“We thank him warmly for all that he has given us, and we wish him, Liz, and their family every happiness and God’s blessing into the future.”

As we offer thanks to God for Bishop Alan’s ministry, it is important to join the rest of the diocese in praying for his healing in body, mind and spirit. Please remember the Bishop daily in your prayers.



### INFORMATION

At the Harvest Thanksgiving service, attendance was down on last year by 15%.

### **WHAT'S THE SITUATION WITH THE POST OF ORGANIST?**

Well, over the past months since we lost our own organist, we've been introduced to quite a few organists who have come to help us out.

Valerie Ireland played for us for a while, then Denise Martin came along to help; Julian Moller was on hand to play for some occasions, and Jim Drennan has also been travelling up from the city on a Sunday.

Then at the Harvest Thanksgiving we had Gerald Hill, and that more -or-less brings us up to date.

At the moment Denise is playing for us on the first two Sundays of the month. Our thanks are due to all these good folk who have been providing their services.

In due course we will find a suitable organist who will be able to take on the role permanently. In the meantime, we must continue to pray that all will work out in accordance with God's holy will.

*Below: Gerald Hill, our  
Harvest Organist.*



## **DON'T TELL THE RECTOR - HE'S HEARD THEM ALL BEFORE!**

**The reason why I'm giving up all activities at the sports club from now on. Here are my 11 excuses:**

- 1 Every time I went they asked for money.
- 2 The people I sat next to didn't seem friendly.
- 3 The seats were too hard and not very comfortable.
- 4 I went to lots of games, but the coach never called with me.
- 5 The referees made decisions that I couldn't agree with.
- 6 The game went into overtime and I was late getting home.
- 7 The band played numbers I'd never heard before and it wasn't my style of music.
- 8 It seems the games are always scheduled when I want to do other things.
- 9 I suspect that I was sitting next to some hypocrites. They came to see their friends and they talked during the whole game.
- 10 I was taken to too many games by my parents when I was growing up.
- 11 I hate to wait in the car park queue to get out of the gate when I'm going home.

**'Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.' [Hebrews 10:25]**



*Members of Olive Masonic Lodge No. 487  
who attended Holy Communion at St Bride's  
on Sunday 6 October as part of their Centenary Celebrations.  
Warmest congratulations to them all on achieving this milestone.*



## **RECYCLING**

Are you still doing a good  
job on this—both in the  
parish and in the home?  
Good on you!