

Kilbride HERALD

St Bride's—where Faith and Fellowship grow

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021



*David Holmes and pals meet the Bishop
on their sponsored cycle ride*

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>Reader Emeritus William Harper</p> <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: 07306 303337</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>



*'In Flanders' fields the poppies
blow between the crosses, row
on row, that mark our place:
and in the sky the larks, still
bravely singing, fly scarce
heard amid the guns below.'*

This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, which was first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains a tangible symbol for those who have sacrificed their lives in war, especially as we remember those who died in Afghanistan. But why do we remember?

*'They will beat their swords
into ploughshares and their
spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword
against nation, nor will they*

train for war anymore.' (Micah 4:3). Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria fell due to the aggression of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus.

Our understanding of *peace* is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. *'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.'* (Micah 4:5). Let's ask God's Spirit to make us people of peace, justice and compassion for today's world.

*'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.'*

The Services at St Bride's



[1] Sunday 7 November
3rd Sunday before Advent
 11.00am Holy Communion
 6.00pm Prayers for Healing

[2] Sunday 14 November
2nd Sunday before Advent
Remembrance Sunday
 11.00am Morning Prayer
and Act of Remembrance

[3] Sunday 21 November
Sunday next before Advent
 11.00am Holy Communion

Monday 22 November
Feast of St Cecilia
 11.00am Holy Communion

[4] Sunday 28 November
Advent Sunday
 11.00am Morning Prayer

Tuesday 30 November
Feast of St Andrew
 11.00am Holy Communion

[1] Sunday 5 December
2nd Sunday of Advent
 11.00am Holy Communion
 6.00pm Prayers for Healing

[2] Sunday 12 December
3rd Sunday of Advent
 11.00am Morning Prayer

[3] Sunday 19 December
4th Sunday of Advent
 11.00am Holy Communion
 6.00pm Parish Carol Service
(The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols)

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

Saturday 25 December
Feast of the Nativity
 Commonly called Christmas Day
 11.00am All Age Worship
in the context of the Holy Communion

[4] Sunday 26 December
First Sunday of Christmas
 11.00am Morning Prayer

Saturday 1 January
Feast of the Naming of Jesus
 11.00am Holy Communion

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

**THE SWITCHING-ON
OF THE
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS**

**will take place on
Friday 10 December
at 5.30pm
in the church grounds.**



**Santa Claus will make his usual appearance
with pre-Christmas presents!**

**Refreshments may be served
depending on Covid 19 regulations.**

All welcome, young and old!

**Live Sunday School
has been back in business
since the beginning of September!**



Our young folk have been back to church and Sunday school since the present term started, back in September.

They've spent the last year having lessons on Zoom, a piece of technological wizardry, but we think they're very happy to be meeting each other again, and learning together!

All our Sunday people are truly glad to see the children again, and we welcome them back with open arms.

Thank you to parents who saw

to it that the children were available for Zoom lessons; this kind co-operation made everything much easier.

Thank you also to our teachers, who had to learn some new teaching skills regarding "distance learning" on Zoom.

They've worked very hard to master the new proficiency and aptitudes required by the new system.

No doubt they're also glad to move to another stage in our battle towards "normal."

You are warmly invited to a

TABLE QUIZ

in the Parish Hall
on Friday 19 November
at 7.30pm

Book your team with the Churchwardens.
(Limited availability due to Covid 19)

£5 per person.



BRING A MASK,
and let's have some fun!

THE GREAT SUCCESS OF “L’ETAPE DU DEANERY”

David Holmes, our Parish Reader in St Bride’s, organised a sponsored cycle around the churches in Antrim rural deanery to raise funds for the N.I. Chest, Heart and Stroke charity.

The cycle, with the very French title of L’Etape du Deanery, started and finished at St Bride’s and the route took the cyclists to all 14 churches in the rural deanery.

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev. George Davison, very kindly took time out of a rare day’s holiday to meet the riders at the gates of the See House, a short distance into the cycle, and wished them well on their journey.

They were greeted by clergy and/or parishioners at a number of locations and were very grateful for water and snacks as well as for the moral support. St Jude’s even laid on a troupe of young dancers to cheer them on!



Lisa and Yvey bade farewell to the three men at St Jude's but appeared again with their families at a number of points along the way to give great encouragement.

It was quite a dull day to begin with, and the sun made only an occasional appearance along the way, but overall, conditions were good for cycling. That is with the exception of a strong headwind over the hills from Kells to Ballynure which made progress a little slower.

By the time the riders had reached St Bride's again they had covered an overall distance of 83 miles but they were all still in high spirits having accomplished a very worthwhile fundraising event. Congratulations to them all; Lisa, Yvey and Simon from Christ Church, Peter from All Saints' and David from St Bride's - well done. Sincere thanks must go to everyone who has contributed to this charity. On the day the total stood at £2,000, but we think that by the time you read this, it will have ascended somewhat. Many thanks to all the cyclists, and also to those who sponsored them. A great way to get our parish family off to a good start at the beginning of another session!



Sorry, Lord, I just couldn't make it.

The bells ring out on Sunday morn,
O did you hear their call?
They call the faithful ones to prayer
To Church they summon all.

But Lord, I cannot come today,
I live a busy life,
Still, when there's something special on
I'll try and send the wife.

It poured with rain last Sunday
An inch or two, I bet.
You surely can't expect me then –
I'd get my new suit wet.

Today the sky is blue and clear,
but the car's as black as ink
And if I do not clean it soon,
What will the neighbours think?

You know I do my bit, dear Lord
I have a golden rule,
I sometimes send my kids along
To be at Sunday school.

But I really couldn't come as well,
There's grass to mow, and beds to weed
Shelves to fix, a dog to walk, and
Sunday newspapers to read.

And now this day has ended, Lord
How fast the weekends go!
I ask for faith and strength this week
For I feel (spiritually) quite low.

Inflame, O Lord, my feeble faith
My lamp burns rather dim,
For God depends on me, of course,
And I depend on Him.

FREEWILL OFFERING ENVELOPES

FWO Envelopes are due to be delivered with an issue of THE HERALD.

Anyone who has moved to Standing Order and no longer needs envelopes, please let Ashley Hurst know or return the envelopes to the person delivering the magazine.

This will help us keep costs down and will reduce paper in line with our environmental policy.



LADIES' GROUP

Sadly it has been many months since we were last able to meet, but we are hopeful that we can restart in 2022, although we do not have a starting date as yet.

We look forward to seeing you all then, and if you know of any prospective new members, they will be very welcome too.

If you have any ideas for our programme, let Diane, my-

self or any committee member know. In the meantime I hope you all keep well.

Patricia.





HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Morning Prayer on Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday was a happy celebration for everyone.

Covid 19 regulations warned that allowing a lot of people into church to do the usual Harvest decorating would not be a wise move, so we called on our churchwardens to do the lot!

It meant that there weren't quite as many flowers, fruit and vegetables as there have been in past years, but the church was beautifully embellished, as was appropriate for the worship of Almighty God at that time.

Tim and the Choir excelled themselves as you might expect, and we managed to fit all of the congregation into the church, even though some had to sit in the side-chapel.

The preacher at the service was Canon John Auchmuty, Rector of Knock, who gave us plenty to think about.

STOP PRESS

Just before going to print we're hearing that the total raised through the Sponsored Cycle Ride was £5,000. That's £5,000 going to Chest, Heart, Stroke which probably wouldn't have gone, had the Cycle Ride not taken place.

Warmest thanks and congratulations to the cyclists and sponsors!



JUST **THINK** ABOUT IT...

**Sometimes we get visitors
to our church.**

**What do you think they want
—or don't want?**



They want to be noticed, but not spotlighted.

They want to be treated respectfully and greeted warmly.

They want to be listened to—but not talked at.

They want to be given guidance so that they can participate in the service.

They want to meet the Rector, if possible.

They want to meet other people similar to themselves.

They want to have their name remembered.

They don't want to be bombarded with a hard-sell approach to membership of the church.

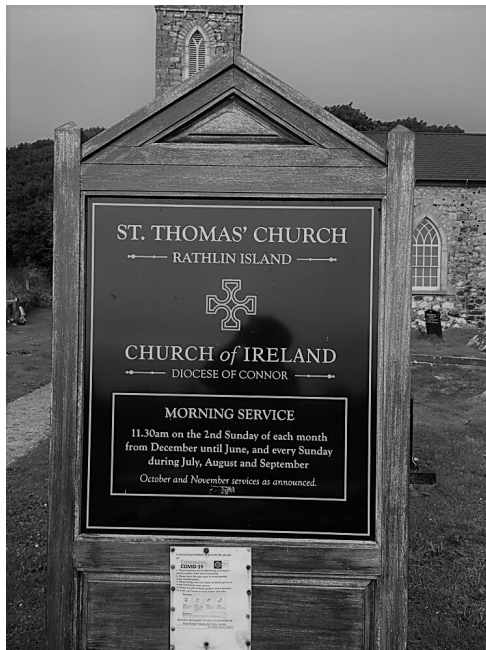
RAMBLERS AT RATHLIN

by reporter David Holmes

St Bride's Rambling Group had its last walk at the beginning of September and visited Rathlin Island for the first time, with a large party numbering 18 making the trip.

It was an early start to be at the slipway for 9:30am but everyone made it on time. The forecast was for a warm and sunny day and Ballycastle harbour was bathed in early morning sunshine as everyone boarded the 'Spirit of Rathlin' ferry for the 35 minute trip across to the island. The ferry was fully booked and passengers included a party of around 48 from Grimsby in England.

On docking in the harbour in Church Bay it was a short walk up to find the bus which took everyone to the West Light where the bird sanctuary run by the RSPB is located.



A number of walkers who hadn't been there before descended the long flight of steps down to the observation gallery, overlooking the rocks, to view the birds below. Sadly no puffins were there as their breeding season was at the start of the summer.

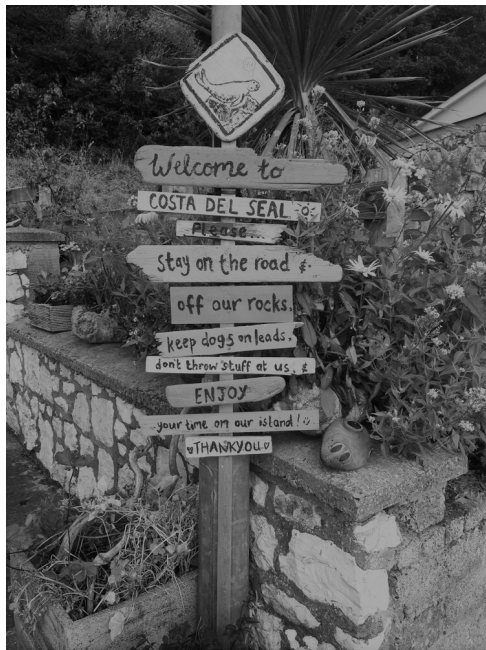
The remainder of the ramblers started on the 4.5 mile walk back to Church Bay, stopping off for lunch at picnic tables overlooking the

harbour. Sadly what started as a bright, sunny day slowly changed as sea mist and low cloud began to roll in, obscuring the view and creating a very damp atmosphere. Luckily it was still pleasantly warm and the walkers continued to explore the island, with a number venturing as far as



the East Light, well that's what the sign said as the lighthouse itself couldn't be seen in the very low cloud, even only 30 metres away.

Dropping lower to the harbour area it was much brighter with only the higher parts of the island obscured and there was an opportunity to walk a short distance to view seals swimming just 100 metres from the rocky beach.



As the time approached for the last ferry back to the mainland the various small groups came back together again at the slipway, exchanging stories of where they had been and what they had seen.

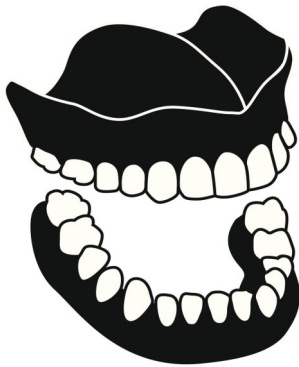
With all accounted for the ferry pulled away from the island at 5:00pm just as the mist and low cloud was lifting to be replaced by a blue sky. However twenty minutes later the island disappeared completely as the sea mist once again engulfed it. By the

time the ferry was docking in Ballycastle the mainland was almost completely clear of any mist and it was a lovely September evening.

To finish off the day everyone enjoyed a fish supper or similar from the very popular chip shop at the harbour. A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all and we'll definitely have another trip to Rathlin in the future.



TIME FOR A LAUGH



The Rector had all of his remaining teeth pulled out, and new dentures made. The first Sunday, he only preached 10 minutes. The second Sunday, he preached only 20 minutes. But on the third Sunday he preached for over an hour without even drawing breath.

When asked about this by some of the congregation, he explained: "The first Sunday, my gums were so sore it hurt to talk. The second Sunday, my new dentures were working fine. The third Sunday, I accidentally grabbed my wife's dentures..."

DOG FOULING

- A SERIOUS PROBLEM -

What? What does this mean, and how can anything to do with "man's best friend" be a problem?

Well, its *dog poo* we're talking about, and just ask a grass-cutter! A great many folk walk their dogs in the church grounds. We should be pleased about this, because a walk by the church helps their morning or evening meditation as well as giving folk a little bit of exercise—so that's good.

But some people don't realise how serious dog poo on the grass can be, and they just leave it there, making no attempt to pick it up and dispose of it in their own homes. So it stays in the grass and becomes a serious risk of infection to many other people, especially children, and a "pain in the ear" to our grass-cutters.



So we say to them, seriously, but respectfully, please help us out on this one. You really should dispose of your dog poo properly. It isn't fair to us, and the only alternative is to ban dogs from the church grounds altogether. That would be a very difficult decision for us to make, and we genuinely don't want to do it. So, if you're responsible,



SCOOP THAT POOP!



ECO NEWS

In November the days are darker and cooler, and everything in the garden slows down, so there's plenty to do there.

First of all, if you've forgotten to plant the spring bulbs, you can still do it, but try to get them in and settled before the frost arrives.

You can also tidy up your garden in November. It's a funny thing, but the soil in the garden retains a lot of heat, right up to this time of year.

Give your plants a stern pruning and add compost or leaf mould to the soil. This will make it easier to plant or sow in the spring.

Lift the leaves and put them in a heap at the bottom of the garden, or place them in a punctured plastic bag. This allows oxygen to work on the

leaves, helping them to decompose.

Now, how about encouraging the wildlife in the garden this winter?

When you're tidying up the garden, expose those pests which hide under leaves and stones. This encourages the birds, which will make short work of slugs and snails.

If you have any berries growing in the garden, cut them right back to soil level; this will encourage them to shoot rapidly when spring comes.

There are also quite a few winter bedding plants which you can plant, such as wallflower and winter pansies. These will keep some colour in the garden through the dismal weeks of winter.

More Eco News on the next page: 

CARING FOR CREATION

This month sees the eagerly anticipated COP26 climate conference in Glasgow. As Christians, we need to hold together two key insights, if we are to engage with the challenge of climate change:

1. The world is not ours:

'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it' (Psalm 24:1). The world is not ours, but God's! If we understand this, we will rediscover the responsibility of our calling to care for God's world: *'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.'* (Genesis 2:15). This challenges our consumer mindset, that says the resources of the earth are both limitless and exist for our pleasure. As well as caring for the planet, we also need to care for its people, for it's the poorest who will suffer the most from climate change. According to the World Bank, 100 million could fall into poverty by 2030. We cannot properly address the climate crisis until we re-learn our place in God's world!

2. We belong to Christ:

We also belong to the one in whom: *'all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.'* (Colossians 1:16). We can look forward to the climax of history when God will restore the broken world and make everything new. We are empowered by Christ to take our proper place as stewards of the earth, as we share in this hope. We are called to love God and neighbour, and care for the planet by living simply, recycling, conserving energy and choosing reusable options.

However great the climate crisis gets, as Christians, we can engage in it with faith and not with fatalism!

ST CECILIA

22 November

No, St Cecilia doesn't feature in the calendar of the Church of Ireland, but she is an important saint, and one which we in St Bride's wouldn't want to forget.



She is the patron saint of musicians, and for churches which place emphasis on the highest and finest production of music in worship, her feast day (22 November) should not be ignored.

Cecilia is one of the most famous of the Roman martyrs of the 2nd century. As far as is known, she was born a noble lady of Rome who, despite her vow of virginity, was forced to marry an older pagan nobleman named Valerian. During the wedding, as the musicians played, Cecilia sat apart singing to God in her heart, and for that she was later declared the saint of musicians.

When the time came for her marriage to be consummated, Cecilia told Valerian that watching over her was an angel of the Lord, who would punish him if he sexually violated her but would love him if he respected her virginity.

Understandably startled by this, Valerian then asked to see the angel for himself. Cecilia replied that to do so, he must go to the third milestone on the Via Appia and be baptised by the Bishop of Rome. Valerian seems to have been a good-

natured husband, because the story goes that he followed her suggestion, was baptised a Christian, and sure enough, saw the angel protecting his wife.

Being a Christian in those days was dangerous, and when the next wave of Roman persecutions began, Valerian and Cecilia were among those arrested. It is said that they died at the hands of the Roman prefect Turcius Almachius, perhaps in Sicily sometime between 176 and 180 AD.

One story goes that Cecilia was struck on the neck with a sword, and as she lay dying, asked that her house be converted into a church. Certainly an early Roman Christian church, Santa Cecilia, was founded in the fourth century in the Trastevere section of Rome, reputedly on the site of the house in which she lived.

In the centuries since then, a number of musical compositions have been dedicated to her, and her feast day has become the occasion for many concerts and musical festivals.

St Cecilia is frequently depicted playing a small organ or other musical instrument.



We will celebrate the Holy Communion on St Cecilia's Day, to which choir members and all who appreciate music in worship are invited.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

As you may know, each year the Rector conducts a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

He has been doing this for nearly 30 years, and he regards it as part of his ministry. In that time he has brought approximately 400 people on pilgrimage.



His pilgrims come from literally everywhere, and from every denomination. The countries the pilgrims represent have included Ireland, England, Scotland and Canada. Here at home there have been pilgrims from the dioceses of Connor, Down & Dromore, Armagh, Tuam, Clogher, Dublin and Cork.



The motto of these spiritual journeys is:

**See the places,
Meet the people.**

In other words, pilgrims follow in the footsteps of Jesus and see, in a very tangible way, the places where our Lord preached, taught and healed; where he was born, where he lived, where he was crucified and where he rose from the dead.

Over the years, the Rector has made many friends in the city of Jerusalem and surrounding towns and villages; many of these local folk are willing to assist the groups as they travel through a different but fascinating culture.

Pilgrims are also introduced to others who live in the Holy Land today. They get to



communicate with Israelis and Palestinians, with Jews, Muslims and Druze, as well as local Christians.

Each individual pilgrim experiences things very differently in the Holy Land as the Holy Spirit works within them, and journeying there provides folk with the unique opportunity to touch, to see, to feel, or just to sit and listen, as the prophet Elijah did, to the still, small voice of God.

Of course, people also enjoy delicious food and warm hospitality, and other delights such as floating in the Dead



Sea, swimming in the Sea of Galilee, and shopping for the crafts and products unique to the region.

They walk the narrow streets of Old Jerusalem, take in the dramatic grandeur of the Judean Wilderness, and admire the vibrant coloured wildflowers of the fertile Galilee region.

All-in-all, pilgrims find the Holy Land a land of abundance and blessing.

If you find that you have an interest in pilgrimage to the Holy Land and perhaps feel called to travel there, do have a word with the Rector, who can give you more information. Meetings are currently being held, as members of all denominations prepare for their pilgrimage next May. You are free to join their meetings.





*Above: Our Harvest Preacher,
Canon John Auchmuty, with the Rector.*

*Below: Our lovely, freshly decorated parochial hall,
available again for all our organisations.*

