

Kilbride HERALD

St Bride's—where Faith and Fellowship grow

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021



**Have you sponsored David Holmes on his
75 mile cycle? Details on page 21.**

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 align="center">Reader Emeritus William Harper</p> <p align="center">Parish Reader David Holmes</p>	<p align="center">Honorary Treasurer Lilian Lyttle: 9332 3311</p>
<p align="center">Rector's Churchwarden Clarence Gibson: 9332 3761</p> <p align="center">People's Churchwarden Diane Hurst: 07595 497487</p>	<p align="center">Parish Hall Organiser Alex Johnston: 9334 9393</p> <p align="center">Caretaker Jean Johnston: 9334 9393</p>
<p align="center">Rector's Glebewarden Jim Wilson: 2589 8753</p> <p align="center">People's Glebewarden Billy Robinson: 07306 303337</p>	<p align="center">Parish Website kilbrideparishchurch.org Parish Webmaster: David Holmes</p>
<p align="center">Honorary Secretary Ivan Topping: 9334 1916</p> <p align="center">FWO Secretary Ashley Hurst 07890 583 962</p> <p align="center">Gift Aid Secretaries Phyllis Glenn: 9334 0884 Irene Paget: 9332 3579</p>	<p align="center">HOLY BAPTISM This is by arrangement. Please contact the Rector at the phone number in the top panel.</p>
<p align="center">Organist & Choir Director Timothy Wilson</p> <p align="center">Sunday School Superintendent Eleanor Graham: 9334 0000</p>	<p align="center">The Rector would be grateful for information about hospital admissions and discharges.</p>
	<p align="center">KILBRIDE HERALD Editorial Panel Iris McCormick, Ivan Topping, The Rector</p>
	<p align="center">Charity Number: 10 35 70</p>



What's in the Herald this month?

David Holmes in a sponsored cycle event, page 21

An important note about CONFIRMATION, page 6.

Our prayers during the Pandemic, page 18.

Opening Hugh's Meadow at Parkgate, page 12.

A reflection on reading the Bible, page 8.

Good news about "Back to Church", page 10.

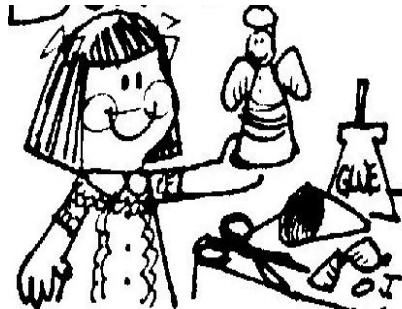
Iran intensifies Christian persecution, page 7.

Photos are back again throughout the Herald (Hooray!)

Our parish Environmental Policy set out on the back page.

A lovely cover photo of the Kilbride Ramblers on one of their walks.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REVERTS TO NORMAL AFTER A YEAR OF "ZOOM" MEETINGS



Sunday School resumes on Sunday 12 September at 11.00am. Children should first be brought to church.

We would request that parents and children follow directions from the Churchwardens, as their seating positions and their leaving operations during the service have been carefully planned out by the Churchwardens, in respect of Coronavirus restrictions.

It will be a great joy to have the children back in church after such a long break, and we're all looking forward to it.

The Services at St Bride's



[1] Sunday 5 September
Trinity 14

11.00am Holy Communion
6.00pm Prayers for Healing

[2] Sunday 12 September
Trinity 15

11.00am Morning Prayer

[3] Sunday 19 September
Trinity 16

11.00am Holy Communion

✠ Tuesday 21 September
Feast of St Matthew

11.00am Holy Communion

[4] Sunday 26 September
Harvest Thanksgiving
(provisional)

11.00am Morning Prayer

✠ Wednesday 29 September
Feast of St Michael & All Angels

11.00am Holy Communion

[1] Sunday 3 October
Trinity 18

11.00am Holy Communion
6.00pm Prayers for Healing

[2] Sunday 10 October
Trinity 19

11.00am Morning Prayer

[3] Sunday 17 October
Trinity 20

11.00am Holy Communion

[4] Sunday 24 October
Fifth Sunday before Advent

****11.00am Morning Prayer**

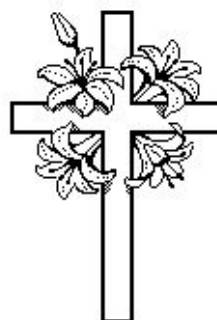
✠ Thursday 28 October
Feast of St Simon & St Jude

11.00am Holy Communion

[5] Sunday 31 October
Feast of All Saints

transferred

11.00am Songs of Praise



NOTES CONCERNING THE SERVICES

** The list on page 4 shows the services to be held over September and October.

Family Services?

People will ask where the family services have gone. They are still there, but not presently titled.

This is because in the past, when there was no Sunday School, children were not brought to church on that particular Sunday.

There is little point in preparing the congregation for a family service on a particular Sunday if there are no "families" present.

We will prepare to hold a Family Service on the fourth Sunday of each month, and if parents come with children, we will have it. Otherwise, the service will be Morning Prayer.

Holy Days

Each month, several Holy Days are included in our calendar. This is because it is right and fitting that we should offer thanks to Almighty God for the saints of the Church, and for their work and witness. Where it is possible, these services will be

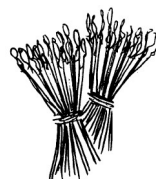
held on their appropriate day. One feast which has been transferred is the Feast of All Saints, which we will celebrate on Sunday 31 October instead of Monday 1 November.

Prayers for Healing

These resume in September and will be held on the first Sunday of each month at 6.00pm.

Harvest Thanksgiving

This is set PROVISIONALLY for Sunday 26 September. There are quite a few problems with decorating the church for our services on this occasion, due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Please listen in church for announcements, and how, if at all, we might decorate the church.



Songs of Praise

We normally have Songs of Praise on the fifth Sunday of the month. There is one of these in October.



CONFIRMATION



Due mainly to the attack of the Coronavirus Pandemic, it is some time since we had a service of Confirmation.

At the moment we have not decided when and where the next Confirmation service will be held, but we nevertheless need to prepare our candidates.

Young people who have been attending Sunday School will be enrolled with the permission of their parents.

Young people who are not church attenders may also be prepared for Confirmation if the Rector feels it appropriate. Parents of those children should contact the Rector as soon as possible.

Young people are usually Confirmed when they are in their 14th year. Children younger than this may be considered, but it is not normally Church policy, so, for those people, preparation may be left until later.

Adults who desire to undergo preparation should also contact the Rector.

In any case, if you are contacting the Rector, please don't wait—best if you do it now!

A woman went into the kitchen to find her husband swatting flies.
“I killed three female and two male ones”, he said triumphantly. She asked him how on earth he knew that.
“Easy! Two were on my beer can and three were on the phone.”



THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD



IRAN SET TO INTENSIFY CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION

The persecution of Christians is set to intensify in Iran, following the election of hard-liner Ebrahim Raisi as the Islamic Republic's new president.

That is the warning from Release International, which is also urging Iran's new president to allow full religious freedom and release all prisoners of faith.

Voters boycotted the election in record numbers. Only 48.8 per cent turned out to choose their country's next president. This was widely seen as a snub for a system that prevented most candidates calling for reform from standing. As former head of the judiciary, Ebrahim Raisi

was responsible for the continuing imprisonment of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, the British-Iranian charity worker accused of spying. Analysts say Raisi is the favoured successor to Iran's ageing supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

82-year-old Khamenei's stated objective is to 'purify the revolution'. His broader aim is said to be the establishment of an Islamic civilisation, which would inspire and rally the Muslim world.

"Time and again we see persecution increase wherever Islamist radicals strengthen their grip on power," says Release CEO Paul Robinson. "In Iran, Pakistan, and in Nigerian states that have adopted Sharia (Islamic law), persecution has been the inevitable consequence of uncompromising Islamist theocratic rule."

Under Islam, politics and religion are inseparable. And as Iran has become progressively more hard-line in its approach, the Church has been swept up in the crackdown against political opponents.

REFLECTING

on the Bible

Many children enjoy boiled sweets – especially trying to see how long they can make them last. The pleasure of holding the flavoured sweet in your mouth is far better than crunching it up in a few seconds!



There is a way of doing much the same with a Bible passage, and it is called *Lectio Divina* or 'holy reading'. Centuries ago, before Bibles were widely available, the abbot of a monastery would gather his monks together and read to them the Bible passage that was set for the day.

He would read it three times and the brothers were encouraged to listen attentively and choose a phrase to remember. They would then go about their daily work in the garden, in the kitchen, in the infirmary or wherever. Through the day they would meditate on the phrase they had chosen and, rather like sucking a boiled sweet, would draw out the meaning for themselves.

You might like to try something similar: choose a passage from the Bible and begin to read it very slowly as if it were addressed to you. A few verses from Psalm 103 would be a good place to start.

Stop when a phrase captures your attention. Maybe it touches you in some way, attracts or even disturbs you. Repeat the phrase slowly over and over again, taking its meaning into yourself. Let it sink in slowly.



What does it have to say to you? Why do you think it caught your attention? Where is the connection for you? What memories does it evoke? Is there a word, a phrase, a sentiment, or an image that you can hold on to?



Move into prayer, expressing to God the thoughts and feelings that have spontaneously arisen in you. Let your mind be at rest and your heart open to the love and peace of God.

When you are ready, carry on with reading the next bit of the passage or just leave it there for the day.

IN NEED OF GRASS-CUTTERS

Over the summer months, just FOUR grass-cutters have been at work on all of the church lawns.

Some folk might think that four is enough, but when you consider the huge expanse of grass around the church, and the rate at which it grows, maybe a change of mind is apposite.

Can you help? If you volunteer, you can cut the grass at almost any time you like; not all the grass-cutters have to be there at once.

So if you can walk the dog, or push a pram, then you can

probably walk a lawnmower!

We really must thank our current grass-cutters, who do their job most cheerfully, and keep the grounds looking absolutely lovely, but really, they could do with some help. So why not have a go?

Contact the Glebewardens.



Back to Church

Our friendly invitation last June seems to have been very well received by a good number of people, which means that our Sunday attendance is sitting at about 60% of what it was before the pandemic began.

The attendance of our Choir has been truly excellent, which is a great encouragement to us all as we worship the Almighty.

We are able to sing again, and to celebrate the Holy Communion (and receive in one kind). We sanitize our hands on entering the church, and we observe the social distancing restrictions as we “mask up”.

As September approaches it is important that we make every effort to do as much as we can regarding our normal parish living.

Of course we must also remember that Coronavirus is

not going away, and we have to learn to live with it.

There will always be “restrictions”, both in church and in the meetings of our organisations, but having spoken to our leaders, we certainly believe that this is possible.

Our parish is doing very well indeed, and that should be an encouragement to us to persist with our efforts to keep things going.

Well done to everyone that we have reached this stage. The determination of our people is both indomitable and truly unwavering, and it shows a resolve to keep our parish moving forward, no matter what!

So thanks to you all—to the workers (of all sorts) and to the worshippers. Let’s continue the regeneration of our parish in every way we can.

FORGET GOOD INTENTIONS



Is your head full of good things that you intend to do...someday? What about now?

Live every day as if there were no tomorrow. Speak that kind word, help that person now, pick up the phone and make the call, spend time with your loved ones. Stop merely thinking about it and DO it.

One malignant cell or one faulty heartbeat could change your priorities in an instant

You get a better perspective of life at a funeral than you do at a party. When you reach the end of your journey, what will you wish you had done with your days and years—when you had the chance?

Do you need to give this some thought today?



A Word or Two about the

KILBRIDE HERALD

For quite a while when the Pandemic first struck, we had only two or three magazine distributors, as our parishioners were (quite rightly) very hesitant to step outside the door. At that time we just had two or three emergency editions which we posted.



But now that the production of the Herald is more-or-less back to normal, this is probably a good time to take stock and revise our reasons for having a parish magazine in the first place.

THANKS TO READERS

So let's start off with a word of thanks to the readers for the continuous flow of positive comments which we get. This helps us to know that the Herald is both read and enjoyed—and that's very encouraging.

READERSHIP

The Herald is distributed, completely free of charge, to every household on the Parish List. It is also sent to a certain number of "friends" of the Parish, and we know too that it makes its way into homes in England and Scotland, Canada, the USA, Australia and Israel! (Remember that we have a pdf version of the Herald, which can be sent to anywhere in the world online).

WHAT'S IT FOR?

We are absolutely delighted about this wide readership—and long may it continue.

So let's remind ourselves of the main aims in producing the Herald.



The magazine is meant to be a regular expression of our Christian presence in the parish—in the neighbourhood where we live. It should also reflect the social life of our little branch of the Body of Christ, and it should reveal, as we think it does, Christian belief and teaching on various issues.

Finally, it contains a timetable of services at St Bride's, showing to the community that not only does the public worship of Almighty God never cease, but that everything else in the parish revolves around it.

YOUR SAY

Please remember that the Herald is *your* magazine, and that anything else you want to say about it, positive or negative, is always welcome. Finally, another word of thanks, to chief distributor Barbara Rea and all those who distribute the Herald every two months. This is a big job, and is much appreciated!



24 of the Ramblers on one of their summer walks. The 25th is behind the camera!

ECO NEWS

HAPPY GET-TOGETHER AT HUGH'S MEADOW

David Holmes and the Rector represented our parish at a meeting in Hugh's Meadow, over near Parkgate in July.

The meeting was a semi-official launch of a handover of a seven acre field of ancient woodland on the farm of Frank Ellison.

Frank is allowing Arocha to use the meadow to plant trees, establish a wildlife pond, and further advance the area in a continuously environmental way. The plans also include some ecological education for children and young people.

[contd p.14]





Left: The delegates in the meadow.

Above: Examining the grasses.

Below: Bertie points out a badger set and the area of the pond.



Represented with the Rector were Mrs Lisa Brown, Principal of Doagh Primary School, with whom our parish has a close link, George Acheson who keeps a keen eye on the birds of our area, David Forde, a former MLA, David Holmes who photographed the proceedings, Andy Webster, official representative of Arocha UK, and several other local environmentalists.

Bertie Stirling, who organised the afternoon, and who has been involved with the negotiations over the past three years, will be co-ordinating activities at the meadow. There was great enthusiasm among the delegates, and we look forward to the involvement of our own parish in all that is to come.

Listen in church for further announcements as we involve our parishioners in a ground-breaking, exhilarating project of being stewards of God's creation in our own back yard.



Above: The delegates introduce themselves in a nearby barn.



Above: Pausing for a break along the lane to the meadow.





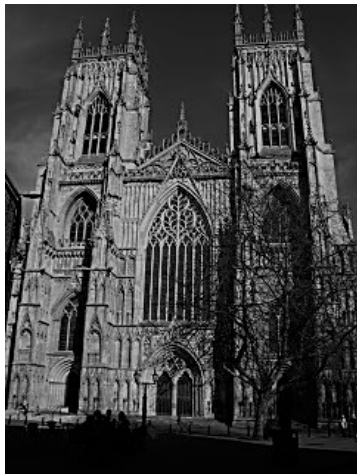
Yet another of the Rector's money-raising wheezes, I see!

THE QUEEN ON YORK MINSTER

York Minster is to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year with a statue of the monarch, placed in a niche high on its medieval west front.

The figure of the Queen will be slightly larger than life, and she will be holding the historic symbols of monarchy: the orb and sceptre. She will be the first British monarch to have reigned for 70 years.

The statue will be the centre point of a makeover of the open space in front of the Minster, where a new Queen Elizabeth Square is to be created. More details are expected in the autumn.

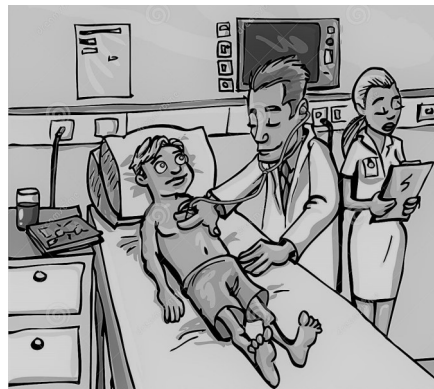


HOSPITAL VISITING

The Rector is always grateful for information concerning hospital admissions and discharges.

Hospital visiting is no longer a straightforward matter. In some cases it may not be possible for the Rector to visit; in other cases he is required to make an appointment. Some Nursing Homes may have similar rules.

These restrictions are perfectly understandable when we consider the pandemic, but it helps enormously if the Rector can be told as soon as possible, particularly if a patient has been discharged. Many thanks for this!



OUR PRAYERS



We are again repeating some prayer suggestions we've been using since the pandemic began. We know that those who believe in the power of prayer have been working hard at this, so maybe some others will join us. Many Christians in this province are on their knees daily in the privacy of their own homes, and we must believe that this is making a difference.

1. Please try to pray daily—and particularly on Sunday afternoon or evening. Encourage your friends to join us, all in the privacy of our own homes.
2. If you wish to fast as well as pray, this is also entirely appropriate. The Church of Ireland has always encouraged this practice, and if you read your Prayer Book you'll find that Friday is always a day of fasting for us (except if a major festival falls on a Friday). That, of course, is where the custom of eating fish instead of meat on Fridays came from.
3. Remember to offer thanks to Almighty God for all that he is doing. Coronavirus is bad, but thank the good Lord that he has saved us from worse.
4. Don't forget to ask God to protect the progress already made through our prayers.
5. Persevere in prayer. Don't let up, on any account!
6. *"And he told them a parable, to the effect that they should always pray and not lose heart."* [St Luke 18]. Read about it—it will encourage you in prayer!

KILBRIDE PARISHIONER TO UNDERTAKE 75 MILE CYCLE FOR CHARITY

David Holmes has organised a sponsored cycle around Antrim Rural Deanery on 4th September and is fundraising for the NI Chest, Heart and Stroke charity.

The route will start at Christ Church in Ballynure and will take David through Ballyclare to Kilbride before heading out as far as Crumlin, Antrim, Randalstown and Kells before returning to Ballynure.

David is really keen to go! He will visit all 14 churches in the

deanery covering a distance of around 75 miles in the process.

More information can be found on the church website where it is possible to donate online. Alternatively there are sponsorship forms available in church if you would like to support David's fundraising efforts.

Come on, folks. Let's give David's excellent opportunity some real funding and encouragement!



*The enthusiastic
David Holmes,
ready for action!*



Here are some questions which people regularly ask. They're placed here with answers in the hope that they will be both interesting and informative.

Are there occasions when people may be asked to pay fees or donate money to the parish?

Yes there are. At the Baptism of a child parents are expected to make a thank offering to the Church. There is no stipulated amount, and it is not obligatory, but it is a long-standing tradition, and it is appropriate.

Fees are certainly required to be paid for a wedding. Individuals may obtain details on request.

In the case of a funeral, a small fee *may* be required, but this depends on many circumstances. Where fees *are* required, they are usually paid by the Funeral Director and will be clearly listed on the funeral account.

Fees are also required to be paid for searches in parish registers, and also for certified copies of entries in the parish registers of Baptism, Marriage and Burial. The search fees are currently £12 per hour, and are laid down by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland—not by the parish. Certified copies of entries begin at £6.00.

In the case of a death, who do I contact first?

Some people contact the Rector first; others first make contact with the Funeral Director. It doesn't really matter, but people should realise that no definite arrangements can be made for a funeral without the Rector's approval. There have been just a few occasions in the past when funeral arrangements had been made and then had to be remade because the Rector, not having been asked if he was free, was unable to meet the original arrangements.

Which Funeral Director should I use?

People are free to make their own choice, but it should be stated that our local Funeral Directors frequently work with the Rector, and are well used to the way he does things.

Can the family of a deceased person plan the funeral service?

The funeral service for all Church of Ireland people is laid down and cannot be changed. The family can certainly have a say in the choice of hymns, although the Rector is required to make the final choice.

Can anyone be married in St Bride's?

It is not as simple as that. There are many rules and regulations regarding marriage in church; some are the rules of the Church, some are the law of the land. Individuals should request information on their own particular case.

If we arrange to be married in St Bride's, can my mum make all the arrangements?

Your mum can do whatever she wishes, but the Rector will deal with the couple to be married, and with no one else.

Will the Rector baptize any baby who is presented to him?

The Rector has never refused to baptize an infant—but he has *postponed* baptisms in cases where he felt that the parents and godparents were not

prepared to take their responsibilities seriously.

The Rector would encourage the baptism of all babies as soon as possible after one month from birth.

Are there preparation classes held before marriages and baptisms?

Yes. The extent of these depends on the Rector's assessment of the persons involved.

Do godparents have to be committed Christians?

Well, they're not going to make very good godparents if they're not!

Do godparents have to belong to the Church of Ireland?

It is desirable that at least some of them are Church of Ireland. This needs to be discussed with the Rector.

Can my child be baptized at any service I want?

No. Parents should discuss this with the Rector, but he has the final say about a service at which a child should be baptized.

We hope this helps!

OUR PARISH ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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.

Ivan Topping, *Hon. Sec.*

W.D. Humphries, *Rector*