



Dear Readers

Advent has arrived! We move into a reflective cycle.


Mentioning cycles (!), up to now I thought both bicycle wheels had the same number of spokes. Not so apparently! And intriguingly one type of spoke is called the 'J bend' spoke. The J or elbow bend ends are attached to the wheel hub and the tread ends are attached to the rim. This ensures the wheel remains secure, durable, fit for purpose. Maybe in 2023 some of the life spokes that kept your faith moving securely have become worn, loose or broken. Certainly, world events and developments are faith shaking, integrity challenging, emotions assaulting.

Christmas reminds us that it was into such a world of turmoil 2000+ years ago Jesus arrived with a mission to strengthen our faith, establish truth and to teach that loving God and neighbour is God's fundamental ask of us. Imagine the J spoke representing Jesus' presence in our lives, which connects us to the hub of God's power and the rim of the world where we live out our lives. Jesus holds us securely in God's hub and enables us to minister in this needy world. Of Jesus it was said: 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' Of God's people in the slipstream of God's grace may we know much blessing so we can pass it on to whoever inhabits the rim of our world. *Nollaig beannaithe dhaoibh.*

Adrienne



Parish Diary for December - January

The 10.30am Sunday service is live-streamed and is also available on the Parish YouTube channel after 24 hours at www.youtube.com/channel/UCso-NPjtC4skX-mIKICJ-jA. 


Each Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion 2 service in the Millennium Side Chapel


Each Sunday 8am and 12 noon Holy Communion Form 1

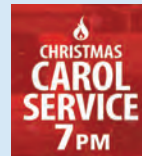
DECEMBER 2023

Sunday 3rd 10.30am Morning Prayer


Sunday 10th 10.30am Holy Communion

Saturday 16th 2pm Outdoor Nativity Service for families. Come dressed as a character in Jesus' birth story. 

Sunday 17th 10.30am All Ages Worship Service. Refreshments afterwards courtesy of the Guides. 



7pm Candlelight Carol Service. Refreshments afterwards in aid of the Simon Community 


Tuesday 19th 7.30pm Remembering Loved Ones Service. 

Sunday 24th **CHRISTMAS EVE**
10.30am Holy Communion
10pm Holy Communion 


Monday 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**
8am Holy Communion 1
10.30am Family Communion
12 noon Holy Communion 1

Sunday 31st 10.30am Service of The Word


JANUARY 2024

Sunday 7th 10.30am Morning Prayer 

Sunday 14th 10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 21st 10.30am Pet Service and All Ages Worship. Refreshments afterwards on behalf of The Hope Foundation. 



Sunday 28th 10.30am Holy Communion Also Confirmation Service for Rathfarnham, Zion & Crumlin candidates in Zion Parish Church at 10.30am. 

www.rathfarnham.dublin.anglican.org

Parish News Round-up

Sunday Club

For the past few weeks in Sunday Club we have been looking at The Fruit of the Spirit - can you name them all?

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Kindness, Faithfulness and Self-Control. As you can see from the display in the transept window, our focus last Sunday was, appropriately, Peace and Kindness around the World.



If you're new to Sunday Club, please feel free to pop in with your little one to try us out. We welcome all children from pre-school (starting primary school in 2024) to 2nd class. We meet roughly twice a month in the Parish Centre during the 10.30am service, where we explore the bible in a fun, child-friendly, child-centred and interactive way. If you would like your child to join us, just get in touch with me (**Linda 087 638 3844**) or drop in to one of our sessions to see what we're up to.

Sunday Club Dates for December:

Sunday 3rd & 10th: 10.30am in the Parish Centre.
Focus on **Getting Ready for Christmas**.

Saturday December 16th: Pop Up Outdoor Nativity 2-4pm.
Come dressed up as your favourite Nativity character and join us for a novel re-telling of the Best Story Ever. Followed by Christmas crafts, and festive refreshments. Hopefully lots of you will be able to make this.

Sunday Club Dates for January:

Sunday 14th: 10.30am in the Parish Centre.

Sunday 21st: 10.30am Pet Service.

Sunday 28th: 10.30am in the Parish Centre.



Toddlerzone

Toddlerzone meets most Tuesday mornings during school term in the Parish Centre from 10-11.30am.

If you would like to join us for some sensory play, story and sing-a-long, please get in touch with either Lynn or Linda. We welcome babies and toddlers with their mums, dads, grannies, grandads and minders, to name just a few, and would love to see you. So come and try us out. For more information contact **Lynn Storey 087 695 7061**, **Linda O'Connor 087 638 3844**, **Susan Christie** and **Helen Sheridan**.

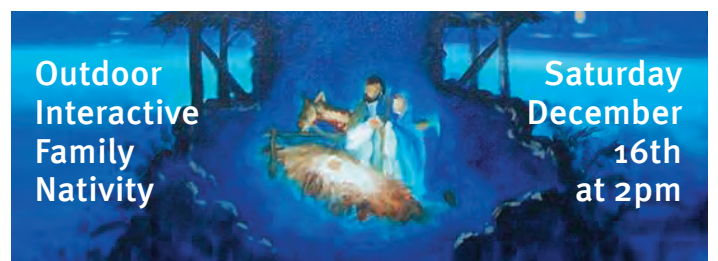


Good News Club

We have recently made story boards of 5 miracles Jesus performed and then acted out the story. GNC members are now choosing their character and costumes for participating in our **Outdoor Interactive Family Nativity on Saturday 16th Dec at 2pm** in the church grounds, followed by seasonal refreshments. Everyone is guaranteed a role to play, and the "audience" is our Lord and his celestial friends!

Good News Club is for 3-6th class children, Tuesdays 6.45pm-7.45pm, in the Parish Centre.

We'd love to see you there! AG



Outdoor
Interactive
Family
Nativity

Saturday
December
16th
at 2pm

Church Decorating for Christmas

Thank you in anticipation to all who will come along on Saturday 16th December from 10am-12 noon to help seasonally decorate the Church.

New helpers are always welcome and you don't have to be an expert flower arranger. There is always a great buzz in the church while this is going on and we'd love to see you there. Refreshments provided! AG



Confirmation 2024

Classes have begun with 15 young people stepping up and looking forward to discussing topics of their choice covering liturgical practices, scripture and ethical issues.

Please do pray that they enjoy exploring their Christian faith together. The confirmation service will be on **Sunday 28th January at 10.30am this year hosted by Zion Parish.** There will be a rehearsal on Thursday 25th January at 7pm in Zion Parish Church.



Garden of Remembrance

The artwork for the centre wall behind the oak tree is taking shape beautifully in Joan's studio. Sadly the current oak tree has died and needs replacing. Our Glebewardens George and Alan have this in hand so don't be alarmed when you see necessary uprooting taking place. AG



Safeguarding Trust

We are very grateful to all who volunteer to assist with Childrens' Ministry in the parish and, since September 2023, 8 new volunteers have been Garda vetted, now helping in Toddlerzone, Sunday Club and Good News Club. 12 leaders have renewed their training as is required every few years by SGT regulations. Also one parishioner has completed training since September for working with Vulnerable Adults.



Isabel's Hair-raising Fundraiser for LauraLynn

Isabel Craigie is 9-years-old and has never cut her hair - until now!

She's taking part in *Locks of Love for LauraLynn*, Ireland's Children's Hospice. Isabel will be cutting her long tresses to donate 12 inches or more of her hair to *The Little Princess Trust*, who in turn provide free, real hair, wigs to both children and adults who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions.

If you'd like to support Isabel please check out her fundraising page below. All funds raised there will go directly to LauraLynn.



www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/IsabelCraigie

Christmas Toy and Gift Appeal

At this time of year, we are always grateful for donations of new toys, books, puzzles and toiletry giftsets for children and teenagers in need.

We are also hoping to make up Christmas Hampers for families in need. If you would like to donate a tin of biscuits/sweets, Christmas puddings, mince pies, selection boxes or any other luxury item we would really appreciate it.

If you are in a position to help, please bring your gifts to church in December on Sunday 3rd, 10th, Saturday 16th (2-4pm) or Sunday 17th.

For more information, contact either Linda (087 6383844) or Catherine (087 2669066)

Thank you so much

Please be mindful that to maintain the magic of Christmas for children, all items must be new, and un-open if at all possible.

Freewill Offering Envelopes

The 2024 envelopes will be ready for collection at the back of the church from Sunday, 10th December. We would be really grateful if you would collect yours!!

Anyone wishing to opt in, or out, of the scheme for 2024, please contact me, Beryl Dawson, ph. 4933203, or by email at rw_daws@yahoo.co.uk. If you would like your subscriptions for the current year to qualify for the 2023 Tax Rebate Scheme, please make sure they are all in by Sunday, 31st December. BD

On behalf of everyone on the Vestry and in the Parish can I thank Beryl for giving 36 years service in overseeing this crucial part of Parish financing. Beryl has now indicated that she wishes to hand over this role to her successor. We really do appreciate all Beryl's work and commitment over the years. AG

Select Vestry

We are very grateful to Gerry Wilson for faithfully serving on the Select Vestry for 6 years and in particular for being our tech 'go-to' person in recent years. In October Gerry advised us that he has to step aside from the Select Vestry and on behalf of parishioners can I now acknowledge his great contribution to the discussions and workload. Gerry remains on our Sunday Service Streaming Team so we will still be seeing him regularly, thankfully. AG



The Way We Live

Our homes, and the things that we put into them, have a significant environmental impact on the environment.

The houses and buildings in which we live offer us an opportunity to take a look at where we can lower our environmental footprint, for example by reducing energy leakages or choosing sustainable building materials. Not only have we the opportunity to lower our environmental footprint, but the opportunity to live in more comfortable, efficient and sustainable homes.



The buildings in which we live and work account for 36 per cent of global final energy consumption and 37 per cent of energy related CO₂ emissions. It is a substantial amount, but it provides the opportunity to have a significant impact in reducing these figures.

Reducing Energy Use

The generation of heat (or cooling in warmer countries) consumes the largest amount of energy and thus reducing it will have the highest impact. The increased use of electrical appliances over the years such as TV's, phones and tablets has also increased household energy consumption in recent years. Here are few simple tips to reduce your energy use without spending a penny! And you could save yourself over 20% on your energy bills:

- Turn down the thermostat in living areas to 19 degrees.
- Lower the temperatures in hallways and landings to 15-18 degrees.
- Turn off the heat in rooms that you are not using.
- Wear warmer clothes indoors!













Of course, many of our homes were built in a time where energy efficiency was an alien concept. There has never been a better time to invest in upgrading your home with a plethora of grants available:

- VAT on domestic solar panels has been removed. Coupled with an SEAI grant of up to €2,400 a domestic solar installation can pay for itself in under 7 years and can also hedge against energy price fluctuations. And, you can now get paid for the excess energy you produce!
- Grants are available for attic and wall insulation, heating controls, heat pumps, window upgrades and home EV car charging points.
- In 2023, to bring an average Semi-D / End of Terrace with a BER rating from E1 to A2 cost €60,292 attracting a grant of €21,694 giving a nett cost of €38,598.
- For a detached house with a BER rating going from E1 to A2 cost €64,507 attracting a grant of €24,098 giving a nett cost of €40,408.
- Low interest green loans are available for energy efficiency home improvements.
- One Stop Shop companies available who will look after the whole process for householders.

For more information visit

<https://www.seai.ie/grants/home-energy-grants/>

12 Tips To Save Energy At Home

1  Turn off lights when leaving a room	2  Switch to energy efficient appliances	3  Use LED lights
4  Unplug devices when not in use	5  Keep thermostat at low temperature	6  Reduce water consumption
7  Use smart automated devices	8  Switch to double glazing	9  Cook with the lid on
10  Use a smart meter to track usage	11  Wash at a cold temperature	12  Use solar powered devices

More Sustainability Actions for your Home

There are so many simple actions we can take to live more sustainably in our homes. Last month, I spoke in depth about food waste which has a huge environmental impact. Here are some top tips to make small changes which collectively can have a huge impact.

1. **Be Water Wise:** Just 0.4% of the Earth's water is fresh-water, and far too much of that gets wasted every day. You can make a huge impact by reducing your water usage, taking shorter showers, fixing any leaky pipes around the house, or even sticking something heavy into your cistern to reduce the amount that gets flushed down the drain. Install a water butt to harvest rainwater for watering your plants.
2. **Unplug Electronics:** A surprisingly large amount of electricity is wasted by devices left plugged in. These devices continue to use power even when not in use, particularly TV's, phones and tablets. Make a habit of unplugging things that you don't use regularly. Top Tip: I use remote control sockets for device plugs that are hard to reach!
3. **Have a Nature Friendly Garden:** If you are lucky enough to have an open area, try to keep hard landscaping to a minimum. Plant pollinator friendly native plants and flowers. Get your neighbourhood involved too! For a quick guide on creating pollinator friendly areas view my blog www.markjlynch.ie/post/quick-guide-how-to-create-community-pollinator-areas
4. **Avoid Unnecessary Plastics:** Most of the yogurt cups, plastic cutlery, cosmetic packaging, shipping materials, coffee pods, and to-go containers that you've been dutifully placing in your recycling bin end up getting incinerated or sent to the landfill. Until this recycling deficit is addressed, the best option is to phase out your consumption of these plastics.
5. **Know how to Recycle:** Many goods are only as recyclable as what they're in the bin with. Broken glass or spilled sauces? To the landfill they go. And that oily, cheese-encrusted pizza box? Unusable unless you cut the contaminated portion off. For a guide on how to recycle visit <https://repak.ie/recycling/what-can-i-recycle/>

I wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year and leave you with this thought. The gift of Christmas is spending time with those you love and celebrating the birth of Jesus, not spending a small fortune buying unwanted or unneeded gifts!

Next month I will examine the way we move and the impact it has on our environment.

Mark Lynch is a Green Party Councillor representing Rathfarnham/Temploeque in South Dublin County Council.

Fundraising Event for the Hope Foundation

There will be a coffee morning in the Parish Center after the 10.30am Pet Service on Sunday January 21st where we will be collecting donations for the Hope Foundation.

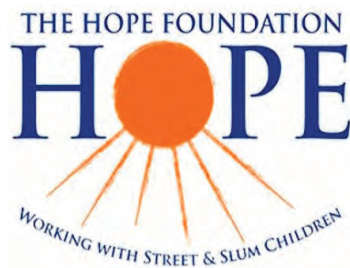
Myself, Lara MacWilliam, and four other transition year pupils of The High School, will be joining their team this Easter to learn, look and assist with their work to protect children from exploitation, abuse, starvation and sickness on the streets of Kolkata.

If you are unable to make the coffee morning but would still like to support the cause you can do so by making a donation via the QR code on the right.

100% of all the money raised goes directly to the charity.

Thank you for your support - it will be very much appreciated. Lara MacWilliam

If you would like to know more about the work of the Hope Foundation, please go to www.hopefoundation.ie/what-we-do/child-protection/



What a memorable afternoon was had at the 2023 Winter Fair in the church grounds!

The place was jammed with people from the outset, aided by the amazing Rathfarnham Ukulele Band who played at the gates. After the switching on of the lights (congrats there to Rathfarnham Tidy Towns Committee) the village came alive!

There was a terrific community atmosphere and it was a source of great pride to see so many visitors enjoying seeing the inside of our church and listening to the wonderful music from the Junior and Senior Choirs, The Charming Soubrettes, and our own Paul Mullen on the organ.

Parish Stalls worked incredibly hard and in some cases sold out. Art activities delighted the youngest visitors who made their way to the Committee Room. Our guest traders were really happy too and reported excellent sales.

It was wonderful to see our Church as the focal point for an outpouring of community spirit, common enterprise, friendship, joy and fun.

Thank you to every single person who baked, sorted, publicised, attended, sang, collected, bought, sold, swept, washed, dried, served, set up, put away, cheered and generally helped make the day such a success.

We also thank Zion Parish for the loan of their tables, which saved us renting and helped keep the costs down. Final totals are still being prepared, but it looks as though we raised approx €6,200 (with all the costs deducted.)

A great effort and a great result! Gill Perdue

Many thanks to all of our parishioners, village neighbours, friends and visitors - from all in Rathfarnham Parish!



Sunday January 21st, 10.30am.

Please join us for our Pet Service and bring a friend - feathered, furred or scaly - all welcome! Refreshments afterwards by Lara MacWilliam and friends on behalf of the Hope Foundation.

Church Review and Gazette

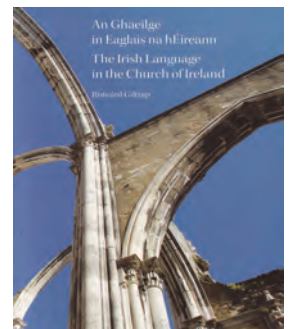
The subscription for 'Church Review' for 2024 remains at €40. Please place cash or cheques (made payable to 'Pam Shorten') in the envelope provided with the December issue and post or drop into myself at 114 Longwood Park, Rathfarnham, phone 4937179/085 7135848 before 31st December. If anyone would like to receive or discontinue receiving the magazine from January 2024 contact me before 2nd January.

Many thanks, Pam Shorten.

The subscription for 2024 for the monthly format Church of Ireland Gazette will be €52.50 and is now due. Please contact Andrew Shorten on 01 4937179 if you would like to take a copy.

Parish Library

Tá leabhar nua sa leabharlann paróiste - *An Ghaeilge in Eaglais na hÉireann* - scríofa ag ár bparóisteach Risteárd Giltrap roinnt bliain ó shin ach anois é aistriú go Béarla leathanach ar leathanach. Cuireann an leabhar seo síos ar thraidisiún na Gaeilge san Eaglais agus na hiarrachtaí ag daoine éagsúla le fada an lá an teanga a choimeád beo i saol agus i seirbhís an Eaglais. Tá réamhrá ón Easpag Michael Burrows.



A new book is available in the parish library - *The Irish Language in the Church of Ireland* - written by Risteárd Giltrap of this parish (some years ago now) but recently translated into English page by page. The book describes the tradition of Irish in our Church and the heroic efforts of various people, from long ago up to the present time, to promote Irish in the life and liturgy of the Church. This new edition is introduced by Bishop Michael Burrows, patron of Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise which facilitated the publication. Copies are also available for purchase. AS



The logo for the Rathfarnham Parish Church of Ireland Winter Fair. It features a stylized white tree on a blue background. The text 'Rathfarnham Parish CHURCH OF IRELAND' is written in white above the main title 'Winter Fair', which is in a large, red, cursive font.



From The Registers

Funeral

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to **Sam Mahon** and his family on the very sad passing of his wife **Margaret** on the 7th November in the Glebe Nursing Home Kiltarnan. Margaret's funeral service was held in Rathfarnham Parish Church on Friday 10th November followed by a service of committal in Mount Jerome Crematorium.

We also offer our prayerful support to our choir director **Jacqueline** and her family on the death of her mother **Barbara** in Scotland.

May all families know God's comforting presence during these days of sadness and adjustment.

Wedding

Congratulations to **Joan Cooke** and **John Ellis** on their marriage on 26th October 2023 in Zion Parish Church. Surrounded by family and friends on this heartwarming occasion, John's sister **Rev Gabrielle Farquhar** brought the address while her husband **Maurice** was the organist on the day. We wish John and Joan much joy for the future.



Baptism

On Sunday 19th November during the Worshipping God Together service **Janey Willow Elizabeth Ware** (right) was baptised and welcomed into God's family. Janey's parents are **Jamie** and **Kelly**, Godparents **Lottie** and **Matthew**. We pray Janey enjoys learning about God and God's love for her.

This issue of NFY is sponsored by



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Rathfarnham Village and Grange Road
 Open Sundays 12-2pm. Open late until 7pm weekdays



Parish Contacts

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Choir Director & Organist Jacqueline Mullen, Paul Mullen
 Email: music.rathfarnhamparish@gmail.com

Diocesan Reader Joan Forsdyke 087 947 5548

Sunday Service Streaming: Gerry Wilson, Joan Carty, David Howe, Josh Farrell

Parish Secretary Kim Bardon 01 490 5543
 Monday - Friday mornings 9.30am-12.30pm
 Email: rathfarnhamparish@gmail.com

Hon Secretary Leslie Deacon 087 815 8221

Hon Treasurer Jonathan Mills 01 494 3605

Churchwardens (Rector's) George Kennington 086 836 6637
 (People's) Andrew Shorten 087 774 8208

Glebewardens (Rector's) George James 087 988 8754
 (People's) Alan McMillan 087 260 1799

Stewardship Beryl Dawson 01 493 3203

Toddlerzone Lynn Storey 087 695 7061

Sunday Club Linda O'Connor 087 638 3844

Good News Club Corinna O'Dwyer 087 666 3594

National School Principal Joyce Perdue 01 494 3470

Church Review Pam Shorten 01 493 7179

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