



Kill O'The Grange Church of Ireland

Vol. 3 No. 1

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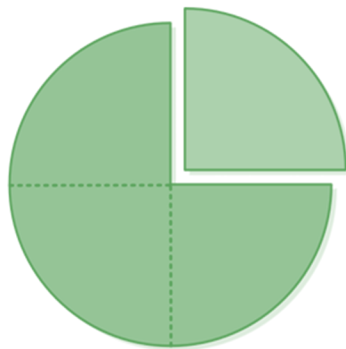
JANUARY

TO

MARCH

2021

PARISH

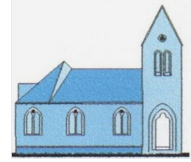


NEWSLETTER



To Love and Serve the Lord

CHURCH SERVICES



PLEASE NOTE: Please read the Rector's Letter on page 4. Online services continue on our website www.kotg.ie: choose **ONLINE SERVICES.**

SUNDAYS (AVAILABLE ONLINE)

8.30 a.m.

Holy Communion
(Every Sunday)

10.30 a.m.

Service of the Word
(1st & 2nd Sunday)

'All In' Service
(3rd Sunday)

Holy Communion
(4th Sunday)

Holy Communion or Service of the Word
(5th Sunday)

Sunday Evening Prayer

OTHER

- ♦ **Daily Devotionals:** Available online daily
- ♦ **Tuesday Evening Prayer:** 7- 8 p.m. In lieu of our usual Prayer Meetings. Please pray in your homes at this time, enabling us to pray together while staying apart.
- ♦ **Special Service Booklets** distributed *via* mail by Bert Van Embden. Please see page 4.

RECTOR'S LETTER

JANUARY-MARCH 2021



There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.- Paul.

When many of us are experiencing separation and grief during this lockdown it is good to be reminded of Paul's words from Ephesians. All of us even in separation are one in Christ. Our stories intertwine with one another and are important for us to know, and to share.

Karen Armstrong in her book *A Short History of Myth* wrote:

"Human beings fall easily into despair, and from the very beginning we invented stories that enabled us to place our lives in a larger setting, that revealed an underlying pattern, and gave us a sense that . . . life had meaning and value. . . . [Story] is not about opting out of this world, but about enabling us to live more intensely within it."

The stories that we live now will be looked back on with some disbelief and/or wonder. May I encourage you to live your story well and true. May you know God's role in your story as you are encouraged to love well and help those around you live intentionally.

Blessings,

Alan

REVISED COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PARISH CHURCH AND OFFICE

A message from the Rector

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Ephesians 4:1-6

Friends,

I know that there is heart-break, frustration, fear and questions that many have in relation to this lockdown. As always as a community we want to do the right thing for all. The above passage encourages us to be many things: Love, Unity, Hope Peace etc. What do you need/desire to be for you and for others?

We as a community have not got a relationship with God based on whether a building is open or closed. I know that it helps when it is open, but during this trying time we need to love well those around us.

As part of the efforts in our community to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission, the church building will not reopen for private prayer during the month of January as previously planned. We will relook at this at the beginning of February.

The Parish Office team will return to working from home, and can be contacted by email at office@kotg.ie . You can also contact me directly at rector@kotg.ie. We will respond to emails as soon as possible.

Our online services and daily devotionals will continue to be released on www.kotg.ie

Please continue to check in on one another and do what you can to bring the above words from Ephesians to life in the safest ways possible in these days.

Blessings,

Alan and the Office Staff



FUNERALS:

* 18th December 2020 Edith Merton, *née* Marx (Died 10th December 2020 in her 93rd year.)

We extend our deepest sympathies to Edith's sons Nicholas and Oliver, her grandchildren Barbara, Alice, Robert, Matthew, Christopher, Harry, and Philip, and to all her family and friends.

[A service to commemorate Edith's life will be held at a later date.]

* 19th December 2020 Dr. William (John) Holmes (Died 10th December 2020 in his 92nd year.)

Our deepest sympathies go to John's daughters Audrey, Linda and Zandra, his son Roy, and his extended family and friends.

* 8th January 2021 Sarah Mumford, *née* Hastie (Died 4th January 2021.)

Our deepest sympathies go to Sarah's husband David, their daughter Abigail, and to all her extended family and friends.

[* Private funerals for family and friends only, owing to present circumstances.]

PLEASE NOTE!

While the COVID-19 pandemic remains with us:

- Monthly services in nursing homes, organized by Bert Van Embden, are suspended until further notice.
- Special services, e.g. Evening Service, have been prepared by Bert Van Embden, and can be distributed in booklet form. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact the Parish Office at office@kotg.ie or leave a voicemail on the Parish Office phone which is checked on an *ad hoc* basis during the current restrictions.

DO YOU NEED HELP?

There are volunteers within our Parish that are available and keen to help anyone with shopping or other tasks while COVID-19 is so active in our community. Please contact the Parish Office at office@kotg.ie if you know of anyone who might need this help.

Lent Book 2021

I suggest with so much uncertainty around, that people would be advised to order their own Lenten reading this year. They can be ordered online or from Footprints in Dún Laoghaire (Tel.: 663 8773.) The BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship) recommended book for 2021 is 'Opening our Lives' by Tristan Owain Hughes. "Lent is not about giving up or taking up, but a radical opening up....."

BRF daily notes

By now those who ordered New Daylight hopefully have received them. This year, if I include postage (as they may need to be posted in future) the cost for 2021 will be €24 per annum which you can send me when it suits.

Heather Jackson



As you may know, Crosslinks is an international mission society working principally within the worldwide Anglican Communion. If you would like to keep up to date with the work of Crosslinks, please visit their website at www.crosslinks.org.

They recently published a number of 'good news stories' in these challenging times, which can be found at <<https://www.crosslinks.org/people-and-places/europe/blog/2020/04/is-there-any-good-news/>>

The Parish's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Here at Kill O'The Grange we want to make sure that we don't stop being a community during this difficult time. It is in times like these that we need to look out for each other and take care of each other.

On our website, www.kotg.ie, we provide the option ONLINE SERVICES, where you can find:

- Sunday Services;
- Prayer Resources;
- Prayer Requests;
- Daily Devotional.

We would also like to remind you that if you need assistance in any way, the Church also has a team of people who are willing and ready to help. We could bring groceries to your home, collect medicines or even help you with some work in the garden! Please do contact us at office@kotg.ie or rector@kotg.ie.

THE STOREHOUSE COLLECTION

The Storehouse would normally welcome donations of food items at this time of year. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions this year, should you wish to donate, they would very much welcome a Lidl voucher of any denomination you wish. These vouchers can then be put to good use purchasing required items. You can drop vouchers into the Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Averil Brennan.



“As with gladness men of old”

On The Epiphany (6th January) we mark the visit of the Wise Men to the child Jesus (Matthew 2:1–18.) In the original Greek of the New Testament they are called Ὁι Μάγοι (Hoi Magoi) – The Magi, wise men or astrologers from the East.

They were Gentiles: the first hint in the Gospels that the Good News is for all people, not only for the Jews. They came with gifts of gold (Jesus’ kingly nature), frankincense (His divinity) and myrrh (for His burial.) We guess that there were three Magi because of three gifts. It has been suggested that these were strange presents: Mary and Joseph had probably never seen gold before.

A legend says they were kings, named Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar.

They were looking for a king and at first they found the wrong one – King Herod. However the star then led them to the King of kings.

We can be encouraged that Jesus is still with us through the power of His Holy Spirit.

All hail the power of Jesus’ name!

A happy, blessed and coronavirus-free year to all our readers.



Stewardship Scheme

The stewardship envelopes for 2021 are now available.

Please contact the Parish Office at office@kotg.ie if you wish to obtain envelopes for this year.

News of Simon Scott!

The Rev. Simon Scott has served as Bishop's Curate in the Diocese of Kilmore for three years, in the Kildrumferton Group of Parishes, Co. Cavan. Previously he had been Deacon Intern in the Edenderry Union of Parishes (2016—2017.)

In September 2020 he was welcomed to the Diocese of Ardagh as the new Minister-in-Charge of the Longford Group of Parishes (Ballymacormack, Clongish (St. Paul, Newtownforbes), Clooncumber (Bornacoola, Co. Leitrim), Killashee (St. Paul), Templemichael (St. John, Longford).

Simon, son of Derek Scott and brother of Stuart, was of course a much loved parishioner of Kill O'The Grange before his ordination as priest (presbyter) in September 2017.

Here are some pictures taken at his installation in his new position:



Above:
Simon with the Right Rev. Dr. Ferran Glenfield, Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh (and our former Rector.)

Right:
Simon, his wife Tam, son Micaiah (4) and daughter Aviyah (1)

[Photos: Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh website.]





Youth Clubs



Like everything, the past few months for us here at KOTG Youth have been interesting. Unfortunately, we have had to put both of our weekends away, for Core and Maxpack, on hold due to government restrictions. And as down as we were to miss these events, Core was blessed with a few weeks of being able to meet.

In the run up to Christmas we were able to hold Core indoors, socially distanced, and masked. This time was extremely valuable and renewed us as a group. We took Core easy with a lot of hang out games and quizzes.

As Core looks at the new year, we will be meeting back online for the foreseeable future. We are currently looking at the summer seeing what we might be able to do together as a group.

Please do pray for all of us here as we make plans in hopes that we can meet; ultimately we want to be safe and wise about how we meet.

Here at KOTG Youth we have our weekly Youth Group Core, meeting Saturday nights, online, from 7.30 to 9. We have also started a Sunday Morning Bible study meeting at midday online.

For more info on what we do and how you can get involved, send a message to [Jonathan @ youth@kotg.ie](mailto:Jonathan@youth@kotg.ie)

*Jonathan Byford
Youth Pastor*

SAFEGUARDING TRUST

Please note that all children and teens must have fully completed a consent form in order to attend their respective group. Kill O'The Grange fully complies with the Church of Ireland's **Safeguarding Trust Policy** for the protection of children and young people under 18 in our care. Details are available on our website and upon request.





Children and Family

Happy New Year all! Over the last few months, we have been running our Wednesday Kids' Club over Zoom. This is a club for primary school aged kids, and it is running on Wednesday evenings from 6.30-7.30. This is a time where we get to see each other's faces and have a bit fun through some games and exploring a part of the Bible. It has been such great fun and we are excited to be continuing it. If your child is not part of this, and they would like to be, please contact me either by e-mail at children@kotg.ie or by phone/WhatsApp at (089) 472 3063, and I'd love to get them involved.

From January 4th until January 8th, the Messy Church Team of Sonya Fromholz, Hilda Shepherd and I hosted the online event "New Year, New Hope". This was running over WhatsApp. Each day, a prayer or idea would be posted into the WhatsApp group for us to take some time to focus on, help find some peace in our busy lives and share any responses we had. If you were not involved in this and would like to be involved in any future Messy Church events, please let me know.

If you would like to know more about any of this, or about any other children or family ministries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Seb Dungan
Children's and Family Worker*

SUNDAY CLUB

MaxPack

CRECHE

Messy Church



CHURCH OF IRELAND GENERAL SYNOD 2020



History made as the General Synod takes place Online

In a year of firsts for the Church of Ireland, 2020 brought us a General Synod like no other, as proceedings of the Church's annual gathering were beamed into people's homes throughout the island of Ireland. Synod took place on Zoom on 1st and 2nd December 2020, and over 400 people joined each of the three sessions which covered a greatly reduced agenda.

In his first Presidential Address to the General Synod, which was recorded in advance and shared online shortly after the start of business, the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Most Rev. John McDowell, spoke on three themes:

Reconciliation: The idea of reconciliation, within the island of Ireland and between Great Britain and Ireland, and a greater recognition of the skills, insights and perspectives of members of the Church from a Black, Asian and minority ethnic background.

Pastoral mission: Deepening the pastoral ministry of the Church's mission, recognizing that the very old and the fairly young in our society have "suffered more than most and lost more than most" in the pandemic.

Gratitude: The Archbishop expressed his personal gratitude to God for calling him to the office of Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland (which he took up on 28th April 2020), and to the Church for the messages of support which he has received.

Future General Synods – Dates and Locations

13th–15th May 2021, Armagh City Hotel, Armagh

5th–7th May 2022, Croke Park, Dublin

Adapted from Church Review, January 2021 and from the General Synod website:

www.synod.ireland.anglican.org

[Please see this link for full details.]

CHURCH REVIEW AND CHURCH OF IRELAND GAZETTE

If you have a subscription to either magazine, or would like to subscribe or renew for 2021, please contact the Parish Office for your copy at office@kotg.ie

Cost for 2021:

***Church Review* €40**

***Church of Ireland Gazette* €45 (for 10 issues, including combined issues for December/January and July/August.)**

VOX

If you wish to receive VOX magazine during 2021, please contact VOX directly. Their website is www.vox.ie

FUNDRAISER

As you may know, our dear friend Sheila Murphy is recovering in the National Rehabilitation Hospital after a life changing illness in September 2020.

Her family and friends are all looking forward to welcoming Sheila home as soon as possible. We enclose a link to a fundraising effort which her family have launched to help fund the essential work needed to Sheila and Peter's home to enable a comfortable homecoming.

We encourage you to please visit this page and donate if you can: <https://gofund.me/c9344140> or alternatively you can drop a cheque into the Parish Office post box.

PASTORAL VISITS

Pastoral visits at bedsides, in homes, in nursing homes and hospitals are taking place by 'phone call instead of through personal visits during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you know of anyone who would like to be contacted by 'phone, please use the numbers below.

If you know of anyone who would like a pastoral visit, please contact us by 'phone or e-mail (details below.) The Rector and Bert Van Embden will follow up on all requests received.

Bert Van Embden – Lay Pastoral Worker

Tel. (Mobile): (087) 063 8772

Tel.: (Parish Office): 289 6442 E-mail: office@kotq.ie

A PRAYER WRITTEN BY ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL JACKSON IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Almighty and All-loving God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we pray to you through Christ the Healer for those who suffer from the
Coronavirus COVID-19
in Ireland and across the world.
We pray too for all who reach out to all those who mourn the loss of each
and every person who has died as a result of contracting the disease.
Give wisdom to policymakers,
skill to researchers,
comfort to everyone in distress
and a sense of calm to us all in these days of uncertainty and distress.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord
who showed compassion to the outcast,
acceptance to the rejected
and love to those to whom no love was shown.
Amen.

KIDS' PAGE

The Book of Acts

This book of the Bible tells the story of the earliest Church. Can you sort out the names of the people who appear in it? You'll find them in Acts chapters 11 and 12.

Kids' Bible Wordsearch



People in the
book of Acts
Puzzle #4

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Acts Chapter 11-12

ABRAHAM
ALEXANDER
ANANIAS
ANDREW
ANNAS
BARSABAS
CAIAPHAS
DAVID
ISAAC
JACOB
JAMES
JESUS



JOHN
JOSEPH
JOSES
MARY
MATTHEW
MATTHIAS
PHILIP
PILATE
SAMUEL
SAPPHIRA
THEOPHILUS
THOMAS

BARTHOLOMEW
BARNABAS

<http://biblewordgames.com>

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Parish Prayer Diary 2021

10th—16th January

Psalm 119:114

You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word.

Lord, may we feel safe in Your arms. May Your mighty strength be our shield, our strong tower, our refuge.

17th—23rd January

Psalm 27:14

Wait for the Lord;

Be strong and let your heart take courage;

Yes, wait for the Lord.

Lord, may I be patient and know Your timing is perfect in all things.

24th—30th January

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Lord, encourage me to spend time with You, encouraging others and sharing my Christian faith. Bless all those who are active in our communities as they share Christian witness.

31st January—6th February

Hebrews 9:28

So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

Lord, our hope is in You. Grant me Your hope, knowing that You know all of my struggles.

7th—13th February

Psalm 39:7

“And now, Lord, for what do I wait?

My hope is in You.

Lord, my hope is in You. Grant hope to all my family in Kill, and in the wider community.

14th—20th February

Psalm 123:2

Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,

As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

So our eyes look to the Lord our God,

Until He is gracious to us.

May my hands reach out this week in support of those around me. This is my prayer. Help me to do it.

The rota of prayers for Parishioners is on page 18.

Parish Prayer Diary 2021



21st—27th February

Psalm 25:5

Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation;
For You I wait all the day.

Lord direct our leaders in our land to lead with truth and honesty and Your wisdom in the days ahead.

28th February—6th March

Romans 8:23

And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

Let my hope rest in You, Lord. Work with my anxious heart.

7th—13th March

Micah 7:7

But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me.

Lord, help me to praise Your name, for Your goodness and salvation.

14th—20th March

Lamentations 3:24-26

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I have hope in Him.”
The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him.
It is good that he waits silently for the salvation of the Lord.

This week, try an exercise to give God thanks each day for one thing—big or small.....

21st—27th March

Mark 15:43

Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus.

Give me courage this week, to face what I have to face.

28th—31st March

1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Many thanks to **Mark Groves**, who has written this Prayer Diary.

Prayer Diary

January 2021

Pray for:

Eddie and Muriel Ahern; Audrey Al-Kaisy; Omar Al-Kaisy; Lynn Alexander, Jamie, Joey and Molly; Ben Andrew; Bruce Andrew; Heather Andrew; Clive Armstrong; Phyllis Atkinson, Arthur and Maureen Austen; Keith and Rosemary Bailey; Jonah Bailey; Zarah Bailey; Nigel and Bairbre Ballantine, and Charlotte Ruth; John and Joy Barratt; Terry and Barbara Barrett; Jane Barrett; Arthur and Gillian Barton; Glenys Bateman; John and Jane Bateson; Greg Bateson; Hannah Bateson; .

Ken Bateson; Lara Bateson; Maya Baum; Albert and Veronica Beattie; Nigel and Edel Bell, Lucy and Edward; Katie Bell; Ron and Annette Black; Penny Bleakley and Brendan Fogarty; Emma Fogarty; Cameron and Irene Boardman, Joel and Ross; Alastair Boles; Alex Boles; Doreen Joyce Bowmer; Nicky Boyle and Michael Concannon, Daragh and Beth; Tony Bradley and Wendy Mulholland, and Jamie; Ivan and Betty Bradshaw; Shirley Bradshaw; Aodhan and Lorna Breen.

Alan and Ruth Breen, Naomi and Andrew; Averil Brennan; Jean Brook; Geraldine Burke; Matthew Burke; Jackie Burns; Margaret Buttanshaw; Jonathan and Jennie Byford; Suzette Byrne; June Campbell; Leanne Campbell; George and Norah Castle; Clive and Sandra Chapple; Muriel Chapple; Heather Checkett; Max Checkett; Gerry and Emma Jane Clabby, Hannah and Daniel; Aaron Clarke; Liam Clarke; Dave and Mya Clarke, Tadhg, Levi and Isaac.

Jasmine Clery; Jessica Clery; Aidan and Anne Coleman; Helen Collins; Edmund and Olive Combe; Pat and Johanna Connolly, Lauren and Eavan; Ellen Connolly; Andrew and Grace Cooke, and Josh; Ross Cooke; Ivan Cooke; Joe and Audrey Cooke; Alan and Geraldine Cooper; Blanche Cooper; Ronnie and Olive Cotter; Helen Court; Marjorie Cox; Nicola Cummins; James Darling.

Maurice and Tillo Deverell; John and Janet Dockrell; Debbie and Jarleth Dolly, Jake and Luke; David Donohoe; Jamie John Donohoe; Holly Donohoe; Jonathan and Chloe Douglas, Joel and Tristan; Charles John and Regina Downie; Colin and Clair Dumbleton, Finn, Ethan and Lara; Carol and Dominic Dunbar, Edie and Astrid; Graham Dungan, and Sarah; Emma Dungan; Sebastian Dungan.

Pause for Thought

I have learned to kiss the wave that
throws me against the Rock of Ages.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon
1834—1892

Young at Hearts

We hope you are all well, and that you keep in touch with other members.

Happy New Year to you all—till we are able to meet again!

Rosemary Knight
Tel.: 289 6026

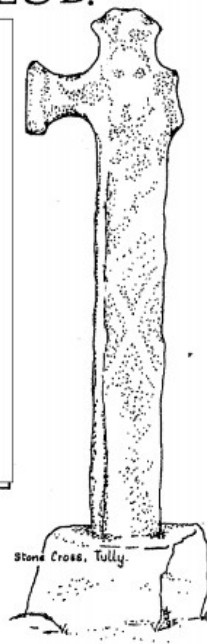
FOXROCK LOCAL HISTORY CLUB.

PUBLIC LECTURES TUESDAY 12TH (1) AND 19TH (2) JANUARY 2021
VIA ZOOM AT 8.00 P.M. SHARP

MAIN TALKS (1) **The Lost Story behind the 'Harry Clarke' Stained Glass Window Panel in Foxrock Church** BY LIAM CLARE (ON THE 12TH)
(2) **William Orpen. By Declan Lee (on the 19th)**

INVITE FOR THIS ZOOM MEETING:

Members will receive an e-mail with the invite password.
Non-Members please send an email to:
info@foxrocklocalhistory.ie for a password to this meeting.
website: www.foxrocklocalhistory.ie



Stone Cross, Tully.



St. Finian's Church.

Ballycorus Chimney.

Carrickmines Castle.

BrennansTown Dolmen.

Milestone, Cornelscourt.



Olaakas—December 2020

FROM GILL AND CARLOS OLAAKA IN UGANDA

December 2020

Dear KOTG family,

Warm greetings from Kampala and happy new year to each of you. I can only imagine some of the challenging days that many of you have gone through over the Christmas season, but we do pray that there has been some sense of hope and joy as Christ's birth was celebrated. We also trust that God will continue to sustain each one of us as we leave 2020 behind and move forward, with a lot of unknowns, but with assurances that despite of everything, we can know the Lord Jesus is right beside each of us, every step of the way.

From 200 to 300 positive COVID-19 cases a day a couple of months ago, numbers have remained fairly stable, though we have jumped to over 700 cases in Uganda some days of late, but we are still so grateful that the majority of the people are not displaying severe symptoms, and many are recovering quickly, with the death rate remaining mercifully low. There is still so much uncertainty though, not least because the news of vaccines is certainly very welcome, but there is some scepticism that a developing country like Uganda will obtain access to sufficient doses in the near future. However, we trust and pray that God will continue to see us through this time, and are hopeful that schools may open, at least in part, in 2021. At the same time, we have elections in mid-January, and this can be tumultuous, and sometimes violent, and so schools have stayed closed during previous election periods, so we wait to see what will happen.

In Abaana, we closed our office on 18th December for a 2 week break, much needed for all staff. We had a special prayer and thanksgiving day on 17th, and we took time to reflect back and thank God for His goodness over a very challenging and unexpected year. We truly do not want to any credit for ourselves, as we know it is only God that has enabled so many blessing to be seen in a year of great stress and challenge. Some highlights of our testimonies of God's goodness included:

1. Every sponsored child received a mattress and 2 mosquito nets, with savings made from school fees that could not be spent.
2. Food parcels were given out to over 1200 sponsored children, with some particularly in need receiving these on 2 or 3 occasions over the extended lockdown period.

Continued on next page.

Doreen with new tank

From Gill and Carlos Olaaka in Uganda *[Continued from previous page]*

3. Sponsored child received educational materials such as workbooks to be able to continue some kind of learning.
4. Over 10 health centres and 15 supported schools received hygiene supplies such as soap and cleaning items.
5. Abaana was a key member of a network that supported over 200 street connected boys in a temporary hostel during the most severe lockdown, resettling 11 of these back to their homes to be reunited with their families and supplying food and other items so that over 70 older boys could access vocational training to help them start a new life with a skill post pandemic.
6. Abaana staff and a teacher from each supported school did home visits to sponsored children over the months they were at home, to provide pastoral care and to deliver special items that had been bought for them, as donors gave especially for individual gifts.
7. A Christmas gift package of basic food, special food like sugar (a luxury), soap, masks, a watch and a sweater were given to each sponsored child, with 15 teachers from each sponsored school also getting food, masks and soap.
8. As an organization, we added 3 new Directors to our board, and managed to have 4 board meetings and 2 general meetings *via* zoom, and also successfully submitted all legal reporting requirements to relevant offices, even though they closed for a period.
9. We started a new school project at Atukubui, for which we were fundraising during the ‘6000 miles’ run, and enough money has been raised over time to build 2 classroom blocks and 2 latrines, and in December work began as foundations were due to be dug by the local community.
10. The New Life Homes boys were blessed through a special grant to learn some new skills including paper bag making and also received training in phonics and accessed specialist counselling, activities that were possible due to the increased time they had at the centre with schools closed.
11. Due to special appeals for COVID-19, Christmas, and Atukubui, Abaana received close to £100,000 in one-off donations – which is incredible, considering the financial hardships that many people have gone through.

The unbelievable generous giving has greatly made up for the loss of income that occurred as no teams were able to visit, and also the potential reduction that will be seen in 2021, as there had been plans for a third choir to travel to UK and Ireland, but the training programme that was due to start in mid-2020 naturally had to be postponed. We are still unsure how next year will be, and could expect some challenging times, but for now we are just so thankful to God for His sustaining hand, and appreciate each person in KOTG who has given to our work this year.

Continued on next page.

From Gill and Carlos Olaaka in Uganda

[Continued from previous page]

For us at home, we have continued to be thankful for our health and for the Lord's provision, and the boys have managed to cope very well with the home-school environment for 8 months of the year, not least because we were able to do occasional meet-ups with some close friends, which has been of enormous benefit. We await to see what happens next, though we are looking to potentially employ a tutor to cover their educational needs as we wait to see how things progress. We have been thankful for everyone who has supported Mum and Dad as well, and the distance, though hard, has been manageable, due to His peace and presence. We have found great comfort from our church family in Kampala, and have been glad to be able to meet in person since November, and singing again on the worship team has been a particular pleasure for Gill. All in all, we can truly count our blessings, as we also pray for the year ahead, that we may continue to serve Him, as God wills.

With much thanks for all your support, best wishes and love from

Gill, Carlos, Josiah and Judah

Prayer points:

- We pray for continued wisdom and direct so that we can do all things in God's strength and for His glory in Abaana, especially as we wait to see if schools will open again in January.
- We continue to pray for the election period to be peaceful and productive.
- We pray for the Lord to be centre of all we do at home, church and work, and for protection, provision and good health.



Child enjoying mattress

[All photos in this article from Gill Olaaka]

Continued on next page.

From Gill and Carlos Olaaka in Uganda

[Continued from previous page]



Food parcel and health materials



Making Chocolate trees



Kira Health Centre

Continued on next page.

From Gill and Carlos Olaaka in Uganda

[Continued from previous page]



Street connected children together in a hostel



Special gift

Continued on next page.

From Gill and Carlos Olaaka in Uganda

[Continued from previous page]



Our Mission Contacts

Bishop Hilary Luete Adeba—Yei, South Sudan:

yei.anglican.org

Gillian and Carlos Olaaka—Uganda:

gillolaaka@yahoo.co.uk

Rev. Ken Gibson—Mission to End Leprosy:

ken@kengibson.ie

On a Lighter Note ...



YOU'VE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19. I NEED A LIST OF EVERYPLACE YOU'VE BEEN.



SOUTH SUDAN NEWS



We were told a sobering statistic in the Irish Times on Saturday 9th January. The United Nations index, ranking countries based on average longevity, education and income, showed Ireland as 2nd only to Norway, while South Sudan ranked 185. (4th from the bottom of the list.) Yei diocese is busy preparing for the retirement of dear Bishop Hilary and planning to elect a new Bishop to lead his scattered people.

Let us pray for wisdom in this choice.

Let us also pray with much thanksgiving for all that Bishop Hilary has contributed to peace processes, to pastoring and encouraging his flock in South Sudan and in Ugandan refugee camps. He has been unbelievably wise, courageous and selfless in all his work, relying totally on his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. A wonderful example to us all of perseverance under enormous adversity.

May he and Mama Joyce be able to enjoy a more relaxed retirement together.

Let us continue to pray for Rev. Cosmas Gwagwe back in the refugee camp with Cecelia his wife as the College is closed due to COVID-19.

Heather Jackson



*Left: The Right Rev. Bishop Hilary Luate Adeba and Mama Joyce
Right: The Rev. Cosmas Gwagwe*

PARISH NEWSLETTER:

WE RETURN TO THE NORMAL PATTERN OF QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS THIS YEAR.

THE NEXT ISSUE— APRIL TO JUNE 2021—WILL BE PUBLISHED IN EARLY APRIL.

FOR THIS, CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE SENT

NOT LATER THAN 15th MARCH 2021

TO JAMES DARLING BY E-MAIL:

nletter@kotg.ie

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When Your Thoughts Are With Them, Ours Are With You

BODY CONDITIONING - PILATES

Stretching, posture improving and muscle toning.
Exercises to re-shape problem areas, concentration on toning tummies,
thighs and core. Work-out thorough but not exhausting.
(Weight loss monitored if required.)

**KILL O'THE GRANGE PARISH CENTRE,
MONDAY & THURSDAY, 10.00 a.m.—11.00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY, 9.30 a.m.—10.30 a.m.**

Evening classes in Foxrock.

Booking and enquiries: 289 7291

**Please note: Classes are not being held at present owing to the
COVID-19 pandemic, but will resume in the future.**

Church Activities

	Contact / E-mail:
Choir:	<i>Vacant</i>
Church Flowers:	<i>Vacant</i>
Church Music Group:	Diane Faulkner
Growing Groups: <i>(Fortnightly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays, usually 2nd & 4th weeks of month)</i>	Parish Office
Parish Visiting:	The Rev. Alan Breen / Bert Van Embden
Prayer Chain: <i>(Home based)</i>	Blanche Cooper
Prayer Meeting: <i>(Every Tuesday at 7.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre Den upstairs.)</i>	Parish Office
Young at Hearts: <i>(1st Friday of each month)</i>	Rosemary Knight
YOUTH GROUPS:	
Girls' Brigade: (Age 3 – 18) <i>Tuesdays, 3.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m. (Sept./April)</i>	Clare O'Kennedy (Captain)
CORE Youth: (1 st – 6 th year) <i>Saturdays, 7.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m.</i>	Jonathan Byford
Maxpack: (5 th & 6 th class) <i>Every 2nd Friday, 7.30 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.</i>	Seb Dungan
Shake, Rattle + Hum: (pre-school) <i>Wednesdays. 9.15 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.</i>	<i>Suspended</i>
Crèche (0 – 3 years old): <i>At 10.30 a.m. Sunday service</i>	Seb Dungan
Sunday Club: (Age 4—3 rd year secondary school) <i>At 10.30 a.m. Sunday service</i>	Karl and Cathryn Schäckermann
GAMES & SPORTING:	
Parish Bowling Club: <i>Monday/Thursday, 7.15 p.m. – 9.15 p.m. (September/May)</i>	Ruth Mann
Clonkeen Bowling Club: <i>Tuesdays. 8.30 p.m. – 10.30 p.m. (September/May)</i>	Grainne Fitzgerald

Please contact the Parish Office (office@kotg.ie) if you would like to get in touch with anyone listed above or on the following page.

KILL O'THE GRANGE PARISH DIRECTORY

E-mail

Rector:	The Rev. Alan Breen	rector@kotg.ie
Curate:	<i>Vacant</i>	
Lay Readers:	Blair Halliday David Williams	
Lay Reader & Pastoral Worker:	Bert Van Embden	lpw@kotg.ie
Youth Pastor	Jonathan Byford	youth@kotg.ie
Children's and Family Worker	Seb Dungan	children@kotg.ie
Stewardship Recorder:	Mark Groves	steward@kotg.ie
Rector's Churchwarden:	John Riseley	
People's Churchwarden:	Aideen LaCombre	
Rector's Glebewarden:	Bruce Johnson	
People's Glebewarden:	Mark Faulkner	
Hon. Secretary, Select Vestry:	Keith Syms	
Hon. Treasurer:	Tim Roulston	treasurer@kotg.ie
Church Administrators:	Jane Winning and Caroline Plascott	office@kotg.ie
<i>Church Review:</i>	Parish Office	office@kotg.ie
<i>Church of Ireland Gazette:</i>	Parish Office	office@kotg.ie
Organist:	<i>Vacant</i>	
School Principal:	Hilary McBain	
Parish Centre (bookings):	Olive Combe	
Parish Centre Committee:	Olive Combe Sandra Faulkner Peter Rooke	
Administrator-Repairs & Maintenance:	Derek Scott	
Parish Safety Officer:	Brian Lambert	
<i>Safeguarding Trust Panel:</i>	The Rev. Alan Breen Aideen LaCombre (Tel.: 087 222 1275) Michael Lynn (Tel.: 285 6006)	rector@kotg.ie
<i>Parish Newsletter:</i>		
Editor:	James Darling	nletter@kotg.ie
Distribution:	Parish Office	office@kotg.ie

Parish Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Parish Address:	Kill O'The Grange Parish Church, The Parish Office, Kill Lane, Blackrock, Co. Dublin. A94 FC80
Tel.:	(01) 289 6442
E-mail:	office@kotg.ie
Website:	www.kotg.ie

COMMUNITY SUPPORT INITIATIVES ON CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

Please see below some useful information regarding COVID-19 support initiatives that have been set up by various community groups. The Church also has a team of people who are willing and ready to help if you need assistance in any way. Please do contact us at office@kotg.ie or rector@kotg.ie.

Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown (DLR) Community Support Forum and Helpline

DLR have set up a new dedicated helpline focussed specifically on ensuring the cocooning elderly, vulnerable members of the community or those living alone can access deliveries such as groceries, medicine and fuels. **The DLR Community Call Helpline can be reached on (01) 271 3199 (Monday to Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., 7 days a week).**

An Post

Special measures to help fight COVID-19 have been put in place by An Post for elderly, cocooning and vulnerable people who can't get to the post office to collect their pension or any other social welfare payment. You can now allow somebody else, known as a temporary agent, to collect it. The Temporary Agent form is available in all post offices, online and is also attached with this e-mail. ***We would highly recommend that a family member or trusted friend does this for you.*** In addition, post offices will hold all payments for up to 90 days if your nominated Temporary Agent is not available on your normal pension collecting day, and the timing of payments is now every two weeks. For further information, please see gov.ie/welfare.

SeniorLine

SeniorLine provides a National Helpline, where people will receive the most up to date guidance on COVID-19 as recommended by Government sources. Good health practice is reinforced at all times. This information is updated daily as the situation changes and is available to each of our volunteers at the phones. SeniorLine is a FREEPHONE service and is available between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. every day of the year on 1800 804591.

Website: www.thirdageireland.ie.