



Kill O'The Grange Church of Ireland

Vol. 5 No. 1

1ST QUARTER

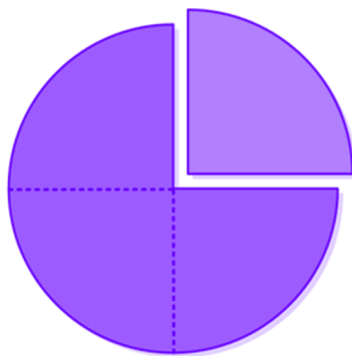
JANUARY

TO

MARCH

2023

PARISH

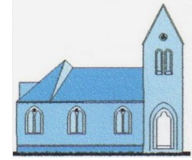


NEWSLETTER



To Love and Serve the Lord

CHURCH SERVICES



SUNDAYS

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (*Indoors*)

11.00 a.m. Indoor Gathering (*including Sunday
Worship and teaching*)

The 11.00 a.m. service is also available online at
kotg.ie/sundayservices.

WEDNESDAYS

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

OTHER RESOURCES

- Tuesday evening Prayer Meeting in Parish Centre at 7.00 p.m.
- Moment of Prayer booklets
(*Distributed by Bert Van Embden*)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Friday Coffee:

Coffee is served at 10.30 a.m. each Friday in the KOTG Parish Centre.

Parish Office:

The Parish Office Team work weekday mornings. The Parish Office is open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. On occasion, the team may work remotely.

The Parish Office can be contacted by:

- E-mail at office@kotg.ie
- Phone on (01) 289 6442 or
- Parish Office mobile on (089) 476 7881.

REFLECTION

from the Rev. Tom O'Brien

JANUARY—MARCH 2023



The past few weeks in KOTG, we have focussed on Advent. Advent is a wonderful time of year because we are asked to pause, reflect and repent in advance of our Saviour's birthday at Christmas.

This is especially important this year when we are being swept away with work commitments, growing anxiety about inflation, grappling with COVID, the war in Ukraine and planet sustainability. The danger here of course is that we may understandably miss the great opportunity Advent offers us to prepare ourselves for the coming of our Saviour.

In a recent conversation with our Archbishop, he reminded me that without repentance there can be no healing for the two are connected. Without looking deep within ourselves and acknowledging our brokenness there can be no rehabilitation. The love of God, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, reconciles us to the cross, bringing healing and restoration.

This Christmas one radio news broadcast informs us that spending is up and returning to pre-COVID norms. In alarming contrast, another channel tells us that rising costs of inflation and energy are causing panic and worry for many in the population. Keeping our focus in Advent (which means coming or arrival) on preparation for Christ, allows us to re-engage with the mystery of the Gospel and become people of hope in a time of despair. This was a key theme in one message brought to us by our visit to KOTG by Jenny and Billy Smyth from CMS Ireland. We are all connected and we must keep the Good News of Christ central to all that we do. Christmas is a wonderful time to promote healing, restoration and hope and get us into the right mindset for the New Year.

Rev'd Tom

Being a Christian

A personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the heart of the Christian faith.

Men and women are created in the image of God yet separated from Him by our rebellion against Him. In His unconditional love for us, God entered our world in the person of Jesus Christ – fully human and fully divine – to give a new life through the cross which reconciles us to God. Thereafter we begin a new life with Jesus as Lord which continues into eternity as He has conquered death through His resurrection.

The Apostles' Creed affirms our belief in God as Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and that Christ was born to the Virgin Mary, died and rose again from the dead, ascended into heaven, and will come again.

We have the privilege and opportunity to approach God in prayer and to receive His teaching through the Bible. The Ten Commandments teach our duty towards God and towards our neighbour, as affirmed by Jesus: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" In the Lord's Prayer, we express our worship for God and our desire to see His kingdom come on Earth as it is in Heaven.

The Church of Ireland has two sacraments – Baptism and Holy Communion (also known as the Lord's Supper or Eucharist) – which are outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace given to us by God, and also a means to receive that grace.

Baptism is administered by water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Infants are baptised on the understanding that they will be brought up in the fellowship of the Church, taught the Christian faith, and then confirmed by the Bishop and admitted to Holy Communion when they have publicly confessed the faith. Adults are also baptised, if they have not been baptised as infants, as they too place their faith in the promises of God.

In Holy Communion, Christians continually remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross through the taking and receiving of bread and wine. A variety of interpretations of the meaning and significance of the bread and wine exist within the Church of Ireland, although our doctrine would not include transubstantiation. Holy Communion strengthens and refreshes the souls of those who receive it by faith.

Further information is available through the Association for Promoting Christian Knowledge (APCK) Study leaflets.

Source: *The Church of Ireland website:*

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/our-faith/being-a-christian>



WELCOME HOME, ALAN!



We welcome back our Rector, the Rev. **Alan Breen**, from his leave in 2022. Alan, we've missed you! We wish you every blessing as you return to 'business as usual.' We trust that you now feel completely refreshed and in good health. Our love and good wishes go also to your family, Ruth, Naomi and Andrew; you all remain in our prayers.

We would like to say a big 'thank you' to the Rev. **Tom O'Brien** for his faithful service during the past six months, and also to our Rural Dean, the Rev. **John Tanner**, Rector of Tullow, who has so ably kept the wheels in motion, especially in the chairing of the Select Vestry.

Thanks are also due to the Rev. **Cecily West**, who has so faithfully celebrated Holy Communion on Wednesdays.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

"Christian giving is to be marked by self-sacrifice and self-forgetfulness, not by self-congratulation ."

*The Rev. John Stott
(1921—2011)*

SOME IMPORTANT CHRISTIAN EVENTS: JANUARY TO MARCH 2023

January

6th January: The Epiphany

Collect: O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



18th –25th January: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Collect: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your apostles, Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you: look not on our sins but on the faith of your Church, and grant it the peace and unity of your kingdom; where you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit; one God, now and for ever.

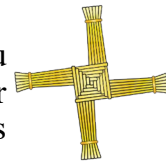


Churches
in Ireland
Connecting
in Christ

February

1st February: Saint Brigid's Day:

Collect: Father, by the leadership of your blessed servant Brigid you strengthened the Church in this land: As we give you thanks for her life of devoted service, inspire us with new life and light; and give us perseverance to serve you all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Lent: Ash Wednesday 22nd February:

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

March

17th March: Saint Patrick's Day:

Collect: Almighty God, in your providence you chose your servant Patrick to be the apostle of the Irish people, to bring those who were wandering in darkness and error to the true light and knowledge of your Word; Grant that walking in that light we may come at last to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Note:

- Collects are taken from the Book of Common Prayer.
- The image of the young Patrick with his wrists bound in captivity is taken from a postage stamp issued by An Post in 2016 for Saint Patrick's Day. The artist is John Kindness.

BRF Bible Study Notes



For many years Heather Jackson was the agent for the Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) Lent and Advent books as well as the four-monthly study note booklets. We are indebted to Heather for the cheerful, tireless and patient way she handled it.

While I can never replace her, since Easter I have been the new agent, but for the study booklets only. The Lent and Advent books can be easily ordered online. I will be happy to help where requested.

The study booklets—*Guidelines* and *New Daylight*—remain good value at €6 per copy. A variety of authors contribute the material from a wide spectrum of backgrounds. Many readers have found, and continue to find it, a great way to explore the Bible throughout the year.

Bert Van Embden

THE STOREHOUSE COLLECTION

For the year ahead, KOTG Parish have been asked to collect hygiene products for the Storehouse in Crinken e.g. deodorants, shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes and toothpaste. The Storehouse include a hygiene product in each care package every week, so these items are always needed and put to great use.

Donations can be left in the shopping trolley in the Parish Centre foyer, and the Parish Office also accepts donations.

Thanking you in advance for your continued support in 2023.



Our Mission Contacts

Bishop Levi Marandulu Yepete —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

New Rector Appointed to Naas Union of Parishes

Archdeacon **Craig McCauley** has been appointed to be the new Rector for the Naas Union of parishes, Diocese of Meath and Kildare.

Currently Rector of the Virginia group of parishes in Kilmore Diocese, he is married to Vida and they have two children, Laura who is 22 and is a final year business studies student at Dublin City University and Matthew who is 18 and in 6th year at the Royal School Cavan.

Craig was born in Dublin but grew up in Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan. Vida is originally from near Boyle in Co. Roscommon. Describing his faith journey he says, "I became a committed Christian when I was 18 and at that time, I also sensed a call to ordained ministry. I was ordained in 1999 and have served in Banbridge, Co. Down, Kill O'The Grange in Dublin and for the last 18 years as Rector of the Virginia Group of Parishes in Co. Cavan."

Craig says, "As I person I would describe myself as down to earth, what you see is what you get. Family is very important to me. I am a keen follower of Leinster Rugby and Liverpool FC and since September 2019 I've taken up running *via* the local parkrun and at the end of October 2022, I completed my first marathon in Dublin." He continued, "My passion is building through word, deed and action a welcoming, caring Christian community centred on the person of Jesus Christ within the parish and out in the community."

Talking of the move he commented, "I am sad of course to be leaving the Virginia Group of Parishes and Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh Diocese but I am excitedly looking forward to coming to Naas and to the Diocese of Meath and Kildare in early February 2023 and seeing what God has in store as we begin this new chapter of ministry. Until then I ask you to pray for me and my family as I will be praying for you."

[Source: Diocese of Meath and Kildare website: <https://meathandkildare.org>]



The Ven. Craig McCauley

Many of you will have fond memories of Craig when he was Curate at Kill O'The Grange Parish from 2002 to 2004.

The Church Pews

Dear Parishioner,

We are writing on behalf of the Select Vestry, to explain about the church pews.

We were all fond of the wooden church pews, they had many virtues. There was a place to store a Bible, hold your keys, hang a kneeler and you could grab the one in front to pull yourself up. They seemed like a comforting permanent part of the church we could all rely on.

During the Pandemic the pews were removed from the church building to facilitate social distancing. Chairs were placed in bubble groups. This revealed the church to be a very flexible space. We have laid the church out with one aisle or two aisles, we had a giant circle for the Stedfast Brass Band. The church is now being used by youth groups who avail of the AV facilities. There can be children's games, band practice and the church can be an exhibition space.

The Church is not the building or the furniture and decorations, it is us. We have changed together many times, including moving from the old parish centre across the road, the renovation of the church in the noughties and building the glass foyer at the back of the church. Together, we have shown we are able to change the ways we live, our language and the way we worship.

Sunday service without pews is a change that your Vestry hope everyone will come alongside with.

With our neighbours the Gaelscoil being facilitated in the meeting room, half of the pews are now in the storeroom. After much deliberation, the Vestry has collectively made the decision to replace the pews that have served us so well.

Our next steps will be to gather information on suitable seating options and make a decision on these with everyone's needs in mind. We intend to prioritise sourcing a limited number of orthopaedic seats.

We recognise this will be a change to our church experience, and we ask everyone to pray that we can come to terms with it; and in doing so provide a versatile space for all seven days of the week. We are a community who wish to serve the needs of as many people as possible. We want to provide a comfortable and usable space for church and community activities.

Sincerely,

Kill O'The Grange Vestry.

CMSI and our Link Partnership with Yei Diocese



There is quite a bit to report this quarter . Many of you will have seen the ‘Outline of how the Coffee Project will Work’ which we are putting in here again in case you missed it. This will be our fundraising project for the next few years for CMSI and we hope as many as you will give as generously as possible, whenever you can. The Latrine project which we were supporting has now ended. Left is a picture of a new Latrine which we supported and helped to build. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your contributions: it has been a long time coming. Norman Thompson started this project when he was Youth Worker in the Parish and that is some time ago (2011-2014), but it is great to see the results finally.



[Photo: Peter Rooke]

It was great to have Billy and Jenny Smyth with us on Sunday 27th November to launch the Coffee Project and give us updates on the Diocese and Vocational Training College. Linda Abwa was due to come but unfortunately was sick. Billy and Jenny are no strangers to Kill, having gone out as mission partners from Kill about 20 years ago. It was great to be able to welcome them back and for them to catch up with some people.

Bishop Levi has written with the following information *re* the coffee project: He says they have been given a piece of ;and about 10 feddans (a feddan = 60 metres x 70 metres) for starters. The community is going to give more land for the project. Next year the project will be expanded to the archdeaconries and parishes.

Work Plan for 2023:

- Preparation of land for transplantation
- Transplantation of seedlings to the farm
- Training of coffee extension workers from parishes on nursery management
- Raising more seedlings

Should you wish to donate to this ongoing work, donations can be given to any committee member or to the Parish Office. The Committee is Bruce Johnson, Brian Lambert, Ruth Mann , Peter Rooke and Heather Jackson who is an honorary member.



**Billy & Jenny Smyth
at Kill O’The Grange Church
27th November 2022**

[Photo: James Darling]

CHURCH REVIEW AND CHURCH OF IRELAND GAZETTE

The *Church Review* and *Church of Ireland Gazette* will be available to collect on the first weekend of the month, and may be collected from the Parish Centre foyer. If you are unable to collect, the office team will ensure you receive delivery of your magazine.

If you have a subscription to either magazine, or would like to subscribe or renew for 2023, please contact the Parish Office. [Contact details on page 31.] The cost for this year will be €40 (*Church Review*) and €50 (*Church of Ireland Gazette*.)

Church Review: 11 issues, including combined issue for July/August.
Church of Ireland Gazette: 10 issues, including combined issues for December/January and July/August.

PASTORAL VISITS

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@kotg.ie

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.





Youth and Children's Ministry

December was an exciting month for all of us here at KOTG Youth and Children.

Our older teens were able to do some Carol singing for a local Nursing home. This was the first time since December 2019. It was a lot of fun and really encouraging to see events like this start to return. Following this our whole group went Ice Skating in Dundrum. We want to say a huge thank you to the Dundrum on Ice team for letting all 40 of us take over the Ice and teach us a little about how to Ice Skate.

Our Kids ministry were happy to be able to hold a Nativity Play for the church. The kids did a great job at practising and putting on such an amazing production.

Here at KOTG we have our Sunday School for kids up to 6th class, Maxpack, for 5th and 6th class kids and Core for all teens in Secondary School. We are now looking forward to the year to come and all the fun we can have in the coming summer, as well as the warmer weather!

*Jonathan Byford
Youth Pastor*

*E-mail: youth@kotg.ie
E-mail: children@kotg.ie*



KIDS' PAGE

This is the story of 3 brave Hebrew men Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who obeyed God and not King Nebuchadnezzar. You can read it in the book of Daniel, chapter 3!

Three in the Fire Crossword Puzzle

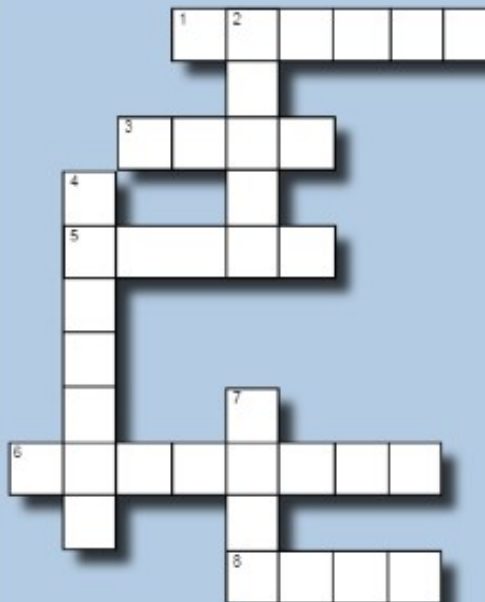


ACROSS

1. Another name for sculpture, carving or art figure
3. A match can start this.
5. Who was the fourth being in with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
6. Another name for army persons
8. Not silver but _____

DOWN

2. Number after two and before four
4. Country where the story takes place
7. Not a queen but a _____



KOTG Christmas Celebrations 2022

Christmas 2022 at Kill O'The Grange Parish was once again a joyful experience!

On **Sunday 18th December** at 11.00 a.m. a splendid Nativity Play was staged by the children. That evening we held the traditional Carol Service at 6.00 p.m.—followed by mince pies and mulled wine!

On **Christmas Eve** we celebrated Holy Communion at 8.00 p.m.

On **Christmas Day**—a Sunday this time—we held a Service of the Word at 10.00 a.m.

Christmas Trees:

Once again we would like to thank Graham and Seb Dungan for their 8th sale of Christmas trees. 100% of the profits go to charitable causes, including support for the homeless and the Alone charity.

Christmas Donation Appeal for Ukrainians:

In December we supported a community collection of items for Ukrainians living in Ireland this Christmas. These included:

- * Colouring books , drawing pads, crayons , markers;
- * Shampoo, deodorant, soap, toothbrushes & toothpaste, sanitary pads;
- * Chocolate selection boxes and chocolate biscuits.

Thank you so much to all who donated. A huge thank you to all those who donated gifts for Ukranian families living in our community. The trolley was overflowing! Please remember in your prayers Ukrainians adjusting to a new life here.



Україн



Éire



DIOCESAN SYNODS

United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough

Third Session of the 51st Diocesan Synods

IMPRESSIONS OF THE DIOCESAN SYNODS HELD ON 4TH OCTOBER 2022

The meeting of the Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan Synods began with a celebration of Holy Communion, led by the Archbishop in Taney Parish Church. All seemed well. We were reminded that the word 'synod' is taken from two Greek words $\sigma\upsilon\nu$ ('syn' = together) and $\acute{o}\delta\omicron\varsigma$ ('hodos' = road). Synods, in other words, are about walking and exploring together. In the process, however, many administrative details have to be addressed.

It was, as always, heartening to hear so many reports from voluntary and charitable bodies within the two dioceses, working with refugees, the homeless and the marginalized. Among the appeals were for reconsideration on the accepted venues for church weddings, accommodation for students, help with refugees and the place of gay and lesbian men and women in the Church.

The main topic of the evening, however, was a Bill introduced to reform the makeup of the two Diocesan Councils of Dublin and Glendalough. It was thought that, as a recognized charitable body, the Church needed to be brought more in line with other charitable bodies in the makeup of its governing officers. The proposed measures would reflect on numbers and co-opted expertise. The proposal naturally provoked much discussion. At times it got heated.

The Bill had fourteen clauses. Each had to be voted on separately by clergy and laity. It made for a long night, which finally ended with the Grace and a sigh of relief from more than one delegate. We were, however, walking the same road.

Bert Van Embden
Lay minister, pastoral caregiver.

Please note: *The Kill O'The Grange elected members of the Diocesan Synod are currently Peter Rooke, Bert Van Embden and Mary Williams.*

At the 2023 Easter Vestry, there will be new elections for Synod members and Parochial Nominators.



Parish Prayer Diary 2023

1st—7th January

At the start of the year, we thank God for it and look forward to new beginnings. We thank God on the feast of Epiphany for the Wise Men who travelled those many miles years ago to see the new born King.

8th—14th January

We give thanks for the return of Alan our Rector; we continue to pray for him and Ruth, Naomi, and Andrew. We give thanks for the leadership of Tom O'Brien while Alan was on leave, and pray for him as he continues to help out in the parish.

15th—21st January

We think of the parish and all who live and serve in it. We give thanks for the Select Vestry, for the Churchwardens, Glebewardens, the Office staff, those who lead us in worship in the Music Group, the sound people and those who provide coffee. Thank You, Lord, for these people.

22nd—28th January

Wintertime: Let us not forget our neighbours, the elderly, those who live alone, the sick, or those who need some love. If we know of someone who needs some attention, let us pray for them and given them some practical help as well if needed.

29th January—4th February

This week sees two important days fall on the same day. St. Brigid's Day and Ash Wednesday both fall on 1st February. It is also a bank holiday this year. Let us praise the Lord by coming to Church. Today is also the first day of spring. So let us give thanks for St. Brigid and the start of Spring. It is also the start of Lent.

5th—11th February

Kill National School shares its grounds with us. Let us pray for all the teachers and pupils who attend it. We pray for the "Nest", the new building in the car park as it prepares to open. We also remember all the helpers and teaching assistants as well.

12th—18th February

Love is the air this week. We celebrate St. Valentine's Day. Let us not get caught up too much in the commercial side of things. Let us think of the love we have for our Lord in heaven above and the love He has for us. Be thankful for that love.

Parish Prayer Diary 2023



19th—25th February

We think of our link Diocese in Southern Sudan, the Diocese of Yei. We think of Bishop Levi and Mama Agnes who visited us in August last year. We pray for their work in the diocese as they lead their people and for Mama Agnes' work with the Mothers' Union. We pray also for the coffee project which we support: we pray that the seed will grow and that there will be a bumper crop this year.

26th February—4th March

We pray for the Church of Ireland as a whole, remembering especially our Primate John McDowell and all the Bishops and Clergy who serve You so faithfully. May they know Your wisdom and understanding and be able to preach it. May they also have knowledge and compassion where needed. Lord, in Your mercy.

5th—11th March

We pray for countries where there is war. We pray that You will open the minds of those who are warring with each other and give them peace. We pray for those who have been conscripted to go to war, that they may have peace of mind in what they do.

12th—18th March

This week the country goes green. Yes, it is St. Patrick's Day. We thank God for His faithful servant Patrick. We thank Him for the legacy he left on this island of ours. In our prayers today let us give thanks for the life of Saint Patrick.

19th—25th March

This Sunday we give thanks for all mothers. This means every mother, grandmother, great-grandmother. We thank You, Lord, for them and we really want to give thanks for them. We praise them for the work they have done for us and on this their special day we just want to give thanks for them.

26th—31st March

As this month draws to a close, let us give thanks for it and we start to look forward to Holy Week and Easter which all fall in April. Let us look forward with anticipation and hope in our hearts to the coming of our Lord again.

Many thanks to **Peter Rooke**, who has written this Prayer Diary.

The rota of prayers for Parishioners is on page 18.

Prayer Diary


January—March 2023

Pray for:

Eddie and Muriel Ahern; Brenda and Herbert Alexander; Lynn Alexander, Jamie, Joey and Molly Madigan; Omar Al-Kaisy; Audrey Al-Kaisy; Phyllis Atkinson; Arthur and Maureen Austen; Jonah Bailey; Keith and; Rosemary Bailey; Zara Bailey; Nigel and Bairbre Ballantine, and Charlotte Ruth; Joy Barratt; Terry and Barbara Barrett; Jane Barrett; Arthur and Gillian Barton; John and Jane Bateson; Hannah Bateson; Greg Bateson; Lara Bateson; Albert and Veronica Beattie; Nigel and Edel Bell, Lucy and Edward; Katie Bell; Ron and Annette Black; Penny Bleakley and Brendan Fogarty; Cameron and Irene Boardman, Joel and Ross; Joyce Bowmer; Nicola Boyle and Michael Concannon, Daragh and Beth.

Aodhan and Lorna Breen; Alan and Ruth Breen, Naomi and Andrew; Averil Brennan; Jean Brook; Geraldine Burke; Matthew Burke; Graham Buttanshaw; Margaret Buttanshaw; Jonathan and Jennie Byford; Suzette Byrne; June Campbell; Leanne Campbell; Anastasios and Sharon Carlyle; George and Norah Castle; Clive and Sandra Chapple; Mary Chapple; Heather E. Checkett; Max Ryan Checkett; Gerry and Emma Jane Clabby, Hannah and Daniel; Dave and Mya Clarke, Taedhg, Levi and Isaac; Helen Collins; Olive Combe; Pat and Johanna Connolly, Ellen and Eavan; Lauren Connolly; Andrew and Grace Cooke, and Josh; Joe and Audrey Cooke; Ivan Cooke; Ross Cooke; Alan and Geraldine Cooper; Blanche Cooper; Ronnie and Olive Cotter; Helen Court; Marjorie Cox; Nicola Cummins.

I believe in God not
because my parents
told me to, not because
the Church told me
to, but because I've
experienced His
goodness and mercy
for myself.
Amen.



Dear God,
I'm not asking for
anything today, I just
want to say thank you
for always being there
for me. Amen

THE VICAR IS A BEATNIK

(by Sydney Carter)

"Good morning," said the Vicar, with a banjo round his neck.
"We're digging up the crypt," he said, "to make a discothèque."
**So we're writing to the bishop to say that we are shocked,
The vicar is a beatnik, he ought to be unfrocked.
The vicar is a beatnik, he ought to be unfrocked.**

At early morning service he plays a mandolin.
I've never been to hear him, but I know it is a sin,
**So we're writing to the bishop to say that we are shocked,
The vicar is a beatnik, he ought to be unfrocked.
The vicar is a beatnik, he ought to be unfrocked.**

We love the merry organ and the bells across the snow.
We love the Church of England, although we never go,
And we love the dear old Bible, with "Jehovah" and "begat,"
It's not that we believe in it or anything like that.
It's not that we believe in it or anything like that.

Just marry us and bury us the way you used to do
With a blast upon your organ and not on your kazoo,
**So we're writing to the bishop to say that we are shocked,
The vicar is a beatnik, he ought to be unfrocked.
The vicar is a beatnik, he ought to be unfrocked.**

We love the merry organ and the bells across the snow.
We love the Church of England, although we never go,
**So we're writing to the bishop to say that we are shocked,
The vicar is a beatnik, he ought to be unfrocked.
The vicar is a beatnik, he ought to be unfrocked.**

Sydney Carter (1915-2004) was an English poet. He wrote this song as a satire on some people's attitudes to the Christian Church. He is the author of the songs "Lord of the Dance" (Hymn 93) and "One more step along the world I go" (Hymn 658*).*

The song above dates from 1968 when the long out-of-date term "beatnik" referred to rebellious young people. You can hear it sung on YouTube.

** In Church Hymnal 5—our current red Hymn books*

Anglican Affections

A poem by Louis Hemmings

Upturned ton-weights toll abstract melodies,
suspended bells swing in old apex towers:
sonorous and nostalgic, ancient elegies,
pulled ropes release that majestic power.

Well-known hymns by congregation sung,
biblical and poetic most turns of phrase,
stained-glass glows, biblical banners hung,
God's granite house aims to anchor our days.

From perched brass eagle the gospel read,
candles flicker on prayer-incensed altar;
all of life blessed by wine and bread,
readings rendered from Anglican Psalter.

From carved pulpit clergy sermons shared,
most congregants in Sunday best,
benedictions, blessings and prayers declared:
some listeners bored, others richly blessed.

Christian life happens mere minutes after:
ear-piercing screams, children chase about,
ones and twos bare hearts, share laughter:
collective their common faith and doubt...

On a Lighter Note ...



SIGN OF THE TIMES

A five year old was discussing Noah's Ark with Grandma.

Grandma asked, "How many animals went into the Ark?"

The youngster replied: "One mail and one e-mail."



Age Action Digital Training courses

Classes are scheduled for January / February 2023 in Deansgrange Library. Details on the poster below.

Contact details:

Michelle Houlden, Community & Events Senior Executive,
Dublin Simon Community, 5 Red Cow Lane, Smithfield, Dublin 7.
Tel.: (01) 671 3245 / (085) 887 7864
CHY5963 ; www.dubsimon.ie



Learning opportunities!

Getting Started face-to-face (f2f) classes now reopening!

We are delighted to announce that our Getting Started f2f digital literacy classes are now beginning to re-open as government restrictions ease.

We are looking for course participants, or learners, in the below venues, please email the Getting Started team at gettingstarted@ageaction.ie, or call **0818 911109** if you would like to sign up.

D'grange Lib Friday	Location: Deansgrange Library Date: 06/01/23 - 03/02/23 Times: 10:30 - 12:30
D'grange Lib Wednesday	Location: Deansgrange Library Date: 11/01/23 - 08/02/23 Times: 11:30 - 13:30

FROM GILL AND CARLOS OLAACA IN UGANDA

December 2022



Dear KOTG family,

Hello to everyone in the KOTG family, and we trust you are well and in good form. As I write this in December, I know the winter must be closing in fast with dark evenings and coldness; we do hope and pray that things are going despite challenges with heating and the economy in general. We are still facing a very high cost of living here, with fuel prices pushing expenses high, and this has been one factor that meant all schools closed two weeks earlier than normal, as schools have not been able to manage their expenses against their income. The other major reason is related to an ebola outbreak that has been ongoing for a couple of months; thankfully, it is being contained quite well, but some districts are on localised lockdowns to try to limit the spread. This is a ferocious disease, with a 50% mortality rate, though thankfully, it is not spread as easily as other viruses such as COVID-19, as people are only contagious when symptomatic. We do pray that the peak has come and that we will enter the new year without this shadowing over us; Uganda schools have just closed for their end of year, the school terms being three starting February and ending in December, and so we are praying for a normal opening in February 2023.

Elsewhere in Abaana, the last three months have been full of exciting activities, for which we thank God. These include the following:

- In partnership with some local mission agencies, we were blessed to have some special Christian outreaches run in schools in their last term, and this was a wonderful time for the gospel to be shared. We pray each child with whom we have contact would know what it means to follow Christ and make that choice for themselves.

Continued on next page.

From Gill and Carlos Olaaka in Uganda

[Continued from previous page]

- We ran a 6-week project called 'Zuri' (meaning beautiful in Swahili), teaching pre-teens and young teenagers in primary school (as often children are above the rightful age here) about menstrual hygiene and sexual health. Girls learned how to make washable, reusable pads and boys and girls both participated in the life skills sessions. We ran the project in three schools as a pilot and hope to extend this to other schools next year. It was very encouraging that the post-project analysis showed an increase in knowledge of, on average, 18% across schools.
- Scott Baxter, the Abaana founder, visited Abaana for two years after a hiatus of 2 ½ years due to COVID-19. It was good to have him 'on the ground' again, and he especially enjoyed meeting beneficiary children, including the choir children and New Life Homes boys. Special meals or meetings were held for different groups of children, and it was especially encouraging to meet with a group of alumni who have completed their studies and are generally doing well in the working world.
- We ran child safeguarding training sessions in all schools to establish safeguarding committees to try to deal with child protection issues in the community. It is very unfortunate that culturally, it is very normal for girls as young as 14 to be 'married off', yet this is clearly against the law and never in the child's best interests. As school leaders face these kinds of situations regularly in village areas, doing this training will hopefully deter families who take it as a norm once they understand it is actually a criminal case.
- We were blessed to be able to give out different items in our 16 partner schools, such as textbooks, footballs, learning charts, Bibles, curricula and new classroom furniture. As schools have struggled to manage their budgets this academic year, these donations were a real boost to encourage them in their work providing education in low-income communities.
- We are currently giving out a small Christmas package, including a food parcel and a gift to children, and it is a joy to see their delight. We were also able to give out some other items to individual children and families, such as animals like goats and pigs and mosquito nets. One of our staff Hannah had this to say about this vital project:

Many times we go to schools to do our routine visits, but we find some children missing, and we are told that they are suffering from malaria. Malaria has been a very serious problem for the children, but we thank God that among the grants was the distribution of mosquito nets. The children at New Foundations School were very happy about these, and one of them called Harriet said, "I am very happy Abaana has given me a new mosquito net because mosquitos have been disturbing me in the night and I would doze in class because I did not get enough sleep and I would often fall sick of malaria, but now I am going to be safe. My siblings, too, will be safe because we will share it. Thank you, Abaana, for always caring about my health. God bless you."

Continued on next page.

From Gill and Carlos Olaaka in Uganda

[Continued from previous page]

Through a company called 'Give Clarity' which made a special donation, Gertrude is one of the 91 beneficiaries who received a she-goat. She was so excited upon receiving her goat: "*I am so pleased with this gift of a goat I have received today. I never in life thought of anything like this; it is a surprise. We are going to ensure we provide good care for this goat so that it will multiply and help us meet our future needs.*"

We are delighted that Josiah and Judah completed their first term back at school very well, and we are so grateful that everything went extremely well. They have both made lovely friends, with one family living within walking distance from our house, which is amazing (especially considering the school is 15 km away!) They have been enjoying the extracurricular activities of sports and things like art, which were difficult during home school. Although the days are a bit long with the commute, overall, we are very pleased with how the Lord led us to send them back and grateful that the new school leaders are doing a great job.

Thank you as ever for the support and care; this will be read, I know, in the New Year, after the Christmas season has passed, so we do hope and pray it was a joyous and restful time for you and your loved ones, and that as 2023 begins, we can all look to Christ for His peace and presence in the year ahead.

With love from

Carlos, Gill, Josiah and Judah

Please pray:

- We thank God for all the blessings of special activities and donations that have been possible over the past few months and ask that the Lord would continue to work in the lives of the sponsored children and their families so they can make good choices and have fruitful lives.
- We continue to ask God to help us here in Uganda manage the difficult economic situation and for provision where it is needed.

[Photos on the following 2 pages: Gill Olaaka]

Continued on next page.

From Gill and Carlos Olaaka in Uganda

[Continued from previous page]



Teritary boys with Scott



Zuri girls—NFK

Continued on next page.

From Gill and Carlos Olaaka in Uganda

[Continued from previous page]



Learning charts



Gospel mission St. Julian



Goats from Give Clarity

PARISH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE !

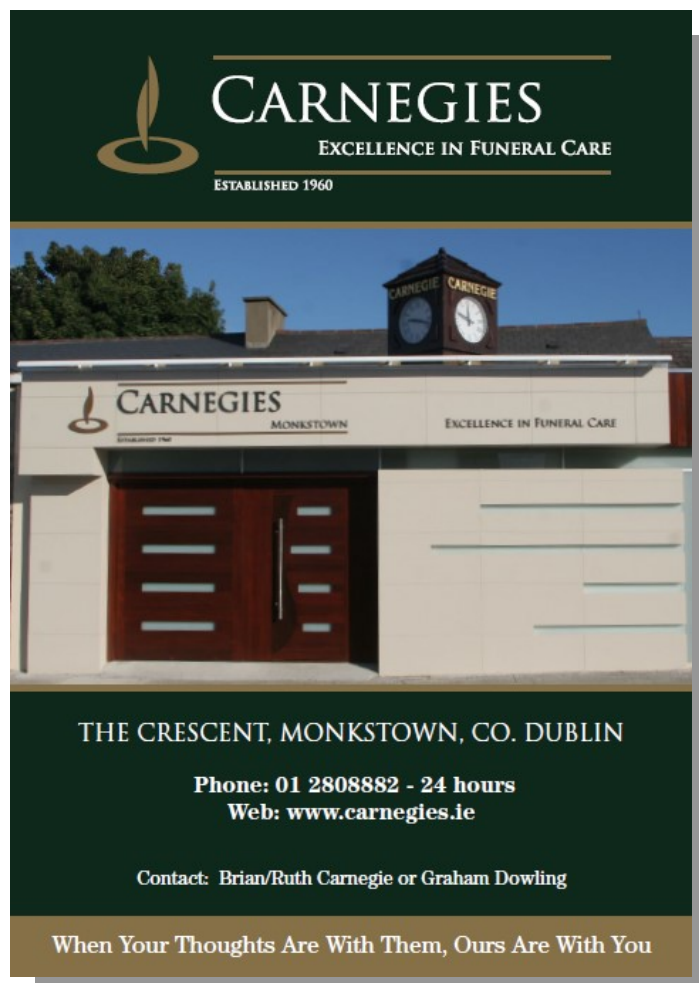
THE NEXT ISSUE— APRIL TO JUNE 2023 –WILL BE PUBLISHED IN APRIL.

FOR THIS, CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE SENT

NOT LATER THAN 15th MARCH 2023

TO JAMES DARLING BY E-MAIL:

nletter@kotg.ie.



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 office@kotg.ie
Parish Visiting:	The Rev. Alan Breen rector@kotg.ie Bert Van Embden lpw@kotg.ie
Prayer Chain: <i>(Home based)</i>	Blanche Cooper
Prayer Meeting: <i>(Every Tuesday at 7.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre.)</i>	Bert Van Embden lpw@kotg.ie
Young at Hearts:	Rosemary Knight
YOUTH GROUPS:	
Girls' Brigade: (Age 3 – 18)	Clare O'Kennedy (Captain)
CORE Youth: (1 st – 6 th year) <i>Saturdays, 7.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m.</i>	Jonathan Byford youth@kotg.ie
Maxpack: (5 th & 6 th class) <i>Every 2nd Friday, 7.30 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.</i>	<i>To be announced</i> children@kotg.ie
Kids' Club: (Junior infants to 4 th class)	<i>To be announced</i> children@kotg.ie
GAMES & SPORTING:	
Parish Bowling Club: <i>Monday/Thursday, 7.15 p.m. – 9.15 p.m.</i> <i>(September/May)</i>	Ruth Mann
Clonkeen Bowling Club: <i>Tuesdays. 8.30 p.m. – 10.30 p.m. (September/May)</i>	John Toomy

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 Reader & Pastoral Worker:	Bert Van Embden	lpw@kotg.ie
Youth Pastor	Jonathan Byford	youth@kotg.ie
Children's Worker	<i>To be announced</i>	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):	Parish Office	office@kotg.ie
Parish Centre Committee:	<i>Vacant</i>	
Administrator-Repairs & Maintenance:	Derek Scott	
Parish Safety Officer:	Brian Lambert	
<i>Safeguarding Trust Panel:</i>	The Rev. Alan Breen	rector@kotg.ie
	Aideen LaCombre (Tel.: 087 222 1275)	
	Michael Lynn (Tel.: 285 6006)	
	Fiona McGrath	
<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. – 12.30 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

BANGERS & DARTS

On November 12th we were delighted to run a Bangers and Darts social night for those within the parish and their friends. It was a wonderful evening for all those in attendance with a tasteful supper served with special mention to Les and Suzanne Richards for all their help.



They say a bullseye is a hard thing to get but not for our guests with 11 bullseye on the night with one scoring a double!!



Thanks again for all those who joined in the fun and to all those who helped out on the day.

See you at the next one!

The Social Team

Some images of the event below: (Photos: Mark Faulkner)

