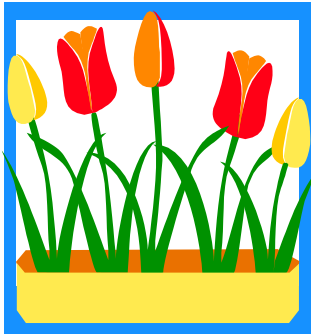




St. Philip & St. James and St. Thomas

NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2004

The Rector writes ...

I was interested to read the article by the Rev. Ted Woods' in the Church of Ireland *Gazette* about the challenges of clergy moving. He listed a number of reasons why clergy move to a new parish, and I tried to identify which one (or more) of them was my reason:

- You've done all you can and need a new challenge;
- Family circumstances – children's education, spouse's occupation;
- Desire for a 'lighter' parish due to advancing years;
- Preferment or ambition;
- Financial reasons.

However, I don't know that any of those reasons explain our reason for moving. Since the announcement in January of my appointment as Incumbent of the Boyle and Riverstown group of parishes, people, quite understandably, have been asking 'Why?'. Why are we moving? Why do we want to go? Why Boyle and Riverstown? The reply, 'because we believe it's the right thing to do', is rather too glib and predictable, even if absolutely true.

As I have said (and written) before, we had no plans to move from these parishes. I did not set out to seek a new appointment

somewhere else. It happened through a series of doors opening, through a gradual realisation that God was showing me a new direction, and that his Holy Spirit was prompting me to respond to His guidance. We often wonder how we know God's will, or how we know what He wants for us. I believe that part of the answer to that is knowing His peace. If we are uncomfortable, or not at peace with a decision, it may not be His will, and we need to explore it further. When eventually, after much soul-searching and prayerful agonising, I accepted the Bishop's invitation, I felt a great sense of peace. It was a sense of peace which helped to confirm that the decision I had made was the right one. While there may have been peace in the decision, it did not cloud the enormity of the challenge which lies ahead. Compared to the parishes of Booterstown and Mount Merrion, Boyle and Riverstown has three times as many churches, probably half the number of people and approximately ten times the geographical area to cover. I can only trust that God knows what he's doing.

Yours in Christ,

Arthur

PARISH DETAILS

RECTOR:

Rev. Arthur Barrett,
The Rectory,
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Blackrock,
Co. Dublin.

Tel: 2887118

Email:

booterstown@dublin.anglican.org

LAY READER

Jason McCann

PARISH SECRETARY:

Mrs. Deirdre Donovan

PARISH OFFICE:

St. Thomas' Rectory,
Foster Avenue,
Mount Merrion,
Co. Dublin.
Tel: 2835873

Email:

mountmerrion@dublin.anglican.org

Open: Monday-Friday
9.00am - 12.00pm

Visit us anytime at

www.booterstown.org

CONFIRMATION

We are delighted to have nine candidates currently preparing for Confirmation. There are seven from St. Philip & St. James', one from St. Thomas' and one from Monkstown Parish. They are currently in sixth class at Booterstown National School, or in first year in St. Andrew's, Newpark and Wesley.

The Confirmation Service will take place on Sunday 23rd May in St. Philip & St. James' Church.

As these young people prepare to make this serious commitment, and take this step of faith on their Christian journey, please remember them in your prayers, and encourage them when you meet them in church.

The candidates are:

Christopher Jeffrey, Ian Bruce-Smith, Mark O'Callaghan, Alex Mason, Dylan Greene, Evangeline Thanaseelan, Iseult Gillespie, Leah Morgan and Elizabeth Thompson.

St. Thomas' Indoor Bowling Club

Since our last notes appeared I am glad to report that all our injured players, Jean, Phyllis and Liam are fully fit again. We have had mixed luck in our Cup Matches, our men's team having lost to Whitechurch and our ladies have reached the last eight in the Hope Cup. By the time these notes appear they will have played Clontarf at home on Thursday the 19th. We hope that they will have been successful. Our McIlwaine team performed reasonably well without winning their section. The Rohu team have still a few matches to play and are still in with a chance.

We will be hosting the final of the Price Competition on the 1st April next and are looking forward to this event.

*Bill Semple,
Hon. Secretary.*

Coming Wedding

As most of you know now, Jason and I are getting married at the beginning of May this year. So I thought that it would be a great idea to write a little about the planning so that we can share our joy with you all. When we were first engaged the whole wedding seemed more of a dream than a reality but now it is the other way around. However, it is still a dream—one that has come true...ah! It first felt all true the day Jason's aunt and I went and bought the materials for the dress, which will be fabulous. A beautiful combination of ivory silk and satin, with spectacular embroidered leaves of pearl around the bodice. I have told Jason that he is wearing a dress too, a tartan one that is!

When we first started making the arrangements for the day, it all seemed to be a huge task. But I have been amazed at how easily it has all come together. Well it was difficult at the start but once I told himself just to let me organise it all it has been so much easier, you know what men are like. Waite till I tell you about this, we were speaking to Kevin Dalton about the ceremony and Jason declared that he wanted the traditional service where I would have to say things like, 'love, honour and obey...' Obey who? I says to myself. So I simply insisted on the alternative to which Jason replied humbly, 'yes dear!'

But all joking aside, we are both very excited about our coming big day and hope dearly that you will all bear us in mind on the day. Our invitations have arrived from the printers, the hotel is full paid for and our band is super, just super. We also have so many people to thank for all their help and support, people like MaryEllen and Bernard, who you don't know but we will be giving them a copy of the magazine; and Jason's Mum and Dad who have done all the leg work in Scotland. And thanks also to you, for all your support and kind words.

*Maria O'Regan
(soon to be McCann)*

WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

St. Thomas's & St. Therese
The Service will take place on
Friday 5th March 2004
in St. Thomas' Church at 12 noon
Speaker:

Rev. Vanessa Wyse-Jackson
Followed by a light lunch
in the Monk Gibbon Hall

St. Philip & St. James'
The Service will take place on Friday
5th March in Monkstown Parish
Church at 3 p.m.

Speaker: Mary Hanafin

Antiques Road Show

Antiques Road Show

in aid of

Monk Gibbon Hall

on

Friday, 12th March 2004

at

**Monk Gibbon Hall, St. Thomas'
Church, Foster Avenue**

at

8.00pm

Come along and meet James O'Halloran of James Adam & Son and Alan Kilpatrick of Weirs, amongst others who will be happy to value some of your Antiques and family heirlooms

€10 – Valuation, Wine &
Savouries

Each additional Item €5

Tickets available from:
Parish Office Tel. 2835873
Christine: Tel. 2889869
Hilary: Tel. 2880500

SUNDAY CLUB St. Thomas'

The Sunday Club continues to meet on two Sundays each month and we would ask parents to make a special note of these dates:-

March	7 th & 21 st
April	18 th
May	2 nd , 16 th & 30 th

On Sunday 29th February a team from the Sunday Club entered the Brainarama Quiz in St. Andrew's College and tied for 1st place with Clontarf. There were 120 children participating and our heartfelt congratulations go to our team members: Catherine Thanaseelan, Adam McConnell, Charlie Barrett and Paul Mullen.

On May 30th we will have our Prize Distribution Day and we would like **all** the children to attend, as everyone gets a prize. Also on that day there will be coffee and a book stall in the Hall kindly loaned to us and manned by a representative from the Scripture Union Book Shop, Dunlaoghaire and we thank them most sincerely for this service.

Jacqueline, Rachel & Jeanette

DIOCESAN FAMILY FUN DAY

The Sunday School Society and the Mothers' Union are jointly organising a Diocesan Family Fun Day, to mark the UN International Year of the Family.

There will be fun for all the family so come along on **Sunday 9th May 2004** to King's Hospital

SUNDAY CLUB St. Philip & St. James'

Sunday Club is proceeding each week in St. Philip & St. James. Attendance has been extremely good with up to 14 in the senior class on one occasion. We are delighted to have some new members in the junior classes. There are some children who have been absent for a number of weeks and we look forward to welcoming them back.

Over the Christmas period the children were very busy singing, performing and dressing up. They sang Away in a Manger, most beautifully during the Ecumenical Carol Service. During the Christingle Service they performed a nativity scene under the direction of Gail. The lighting of the Christingle candles was an exciting part of the service when the children with candles in hand and guided by the leaders proceeded down the aisles and the glow of the candles created a cross.

We are currently looking forward to a Table Quiz – Brainarama organised by the Sunday School Society in St. Andrew's College. We will be doing some revision for this event so that a reasonable result will be achieved.

Barbara Plant

Pilates @ Monk Gibbon

Following a very successful 10 week course David Byrne will commence a new course of Pilates on 15th March in the Monk Gibbon Hall from 7—8 pm.— All are welcome!

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

During Lent (Sunday 29th February - Sunday 4th April) a number of visiting preachers at our morning services, will address the subject

"My Life—My Faith"

Sunday 29th Feb.
Rev. Bernie Daly,
*Church of Ireland Theological
College*

Sunday 7th March
Mr. Vere Wynne-Jones

Sunday 14th March
Senator David Norris

Sunday 21st March
Rev. Gillian Wharton,
Chaplain, Rathdown School

Sunday 28th March
Miss Nicola Halford
Parish Youth Officer

As we hear each of our speakers, Sunday by Sunday, it may help us to review on our own life journey, and to explore and reflect upon just how our faith has directly influenced our life-choices. Sometimes it is only with the benefit of hindsight that we can see the hand of God upon our lives, and realize how he has guided and upheld us. Please pray for each of our speakers, that God may bless them, and that we might be open to hear his word in what they have to say.

Carysfort Bridge Club

BRIDGE – every Wednesday at 7.30 pm in St. Philip & St. James Community Centre. Partners available – Friendly Club - Contact: **Martha Brawn 2761631**

EASTER GENERAL VESTRY

The Easter General Vestry is the 'Annual General Meeting' of our parish. It is an opportunity to reflect on the past year, and look to the future. At the General Vestry Meeting we elect the Select Vestry for the coming year, those who, along with the Rector, are responsible for the proper running of the parish, its property and its finances.

EVERY PARISHIONER is invited to, and should attend the Easter Vestry Meeting.

Attendance at the General Vestry Meeting does not mean that you will end up on the Select Vestry. All those nominated for election to the Select Vestry should be asked and give their permission to allow their name to go forward, prior to the meeting.

Please demonstrate your interest, commitment and support for **YOUR** parish by attending your Easter General Vestry Meeting. As this will be the last General Vestry Meeting for our Rector, your attendance would be all the more appreciated.

Easter General Vestry meetings will take place as follows:

St. Philip & St. James' - Thursday 22nd April at 8.00pm in the Parish Centre

St. Thomas' - Thursday 29th April

I.C.A. BLACKROCK GUILD

The I.C.A. Blackrock Guild has been going strong for 33 years. We are non-denominational group who meet every 2nd and 3rd Thursday of the month in the Community Hall beside the Catholic Church in Blackrock. We organise Talks by interesting people, Walks, Outings, Arts & Crafts demonstrations. As a Member there is a wide variety of subjects available to those who would like to

further their knowledge, e.g., History, Literature, Drama, Photography, etc. Visiting foreign countries and having cross-border exchanges are another aspect of the I.C.A. New members are always welcome—just drop in any 2nd or

Launch of PARISH WEBSITE

On Sunday 1st February, St. Philip & St. James' parish launched their new website. It is the brain-child of the parish Communications Group (William Burgess, Sue McDonnell, Mel Sharp and Jeremy Bruce-Smith) which has been set up to review and explore how the parish communicates with its parishioners, and with the wider community. Jeremy Bruce-Smith designed the website and we are truly grateful to him, and to all the members of the Group for their generosity of time and talents in this project. You can visit the site at

www.booterstown.org

Please be sure to tell your family and friends about our site, and especially those who are abroad or living away from home.

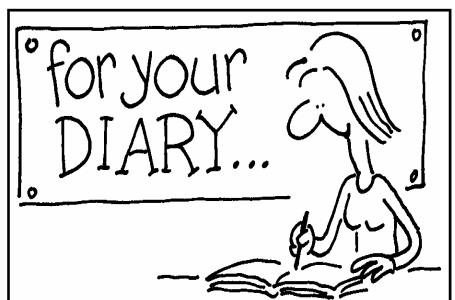
GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE at St. Thomas'

For some time now the Rector and others have recognised that the current area of St. Thomas' Church grounds set aside for the burial of ashes is no longer suitable. The level of traffic noise and the lack of privacy make burials along the Foster Avenue side of the church far from peaceful and often less than dignified.

A sub-committee of the Select Vestry has been charged with the task of drawing up plans and proposals for an alternative site for the burial of ashes. The Select Vestry has recently agreed to the

development of a section of the Rectory garden, to create a purpose-designed Garden of Remembrance. Designs and outline budgets have been received, and it is hoped that this project can be advanced this year, pending approval from the Representative Church Body, and subject to local planning requirements.

The Select Vestry is very grateful to Jeanette Hunt and her committee for the huge amount of time and hard work which they have put in to this project. It is hoped that further news on this plan will be forthcoming in the near future.



Saturday 13th March - Daffodil Day Coffee Morning in the home of Vi & Bob Hoffman 10.30-12.30 pm.

Monday 22nd March - Young Mum's Video Night in Sue McDonnell's house.

Sunday 28th March - Summer-time begins. Clocks go forward one hour!

Sunday 28th March - Parish Women's Fellowship Parish Lenten Lunch in St. Philip & St. James Parish Centre, following the United Family Service at **11.30am** - please note the time!

Easter General Vestry meetings will take place on Thursday 22nd April for St. Philip & St. James' and Thursday 29th April for St. Thomas'.

Mount Merrion Ecumenical Golf Outing - Monday 19th April in Milltown Golf Club. Further details from Ken Wilson.

Parish Bar-B-Q at St. Philip & St. James', Friday 28th May. Watch for further details.

FOXROCK GIRLS GAA CLUB

Foxrock Girls GAA club has been established for just over three years and is based in Cornelscourt, next to Dunnes' Stores, in South Co. Dublin. We occupy a particular niche in the GAA being the only club focussing on all-girls GAA football. The girls are drawn principally from schools in the Dublin 18 and South County Dublin areas such as Stillorgan, Dun Laoghaire, Blackrock Leopardstown and Deansgrange. We have over 100 members, and affiliate teams in the Dublin Ladies Gaelic football leagues (from U.10s to minors). At the beginning of last year we added a nursery group for 6-9 year olds, running sessions every Saturday morning from 10-11 am at Clonkeen College. In addition to participation in the leagues and championships we train every week, and successfully ran our own Summer Camp in affiliation with McDonald's Restaurants.

We have enjoyed considerable success to date and we won the Under 12 Shield championship for the first time. Additionally, some of our girls represented Dublin, and helped them win both the Leinster U-14 and U-16 championships last season.

The club is young and dynamic, and run by volunteers—we work hard both on and off the pitch, but very much enjoy what we do! We're always looking for new members, both children and adults so if you might be interested give Derek McArdle, Club Secretary, a ring on 086 817 5236

FORTHCOMING WEDDINGS

Weddings are always wonderful occasions. But they are also serious occasions. A wedding is the commitment of a man and a woman to each other for the rest of their life. A church wedding also indicates the couples' desire to have God's blessing upon their union, and for His love to be the bond and strength between them.

We wish the following couples God's richest blessing and every happiness as they prepare for their forthcoming weddings, and for their future together:

**Alison Burgess
and Isaac Hernandez**
(May 1st - in St. Philip & St. James' Church)

**Jason McCann
and Maria O'Regan**
(May 1st - in Scotland)

**Michael Petyt
and Sandy Robertson**
(May 15th - in St. Thomas' Church)

A REPORT ON A FORMER PARISHIONER LIVING ABROAD

Gary Hunt, a former parishioner of this St. Thomas' Church (son of Ken and Jeanette Hunt) and for several years one of the leaders of the St. Thomas' Scout Troup, is at present helping in a Mission in Mazatlan, Mexico, where he stays for one month each year. Mazatlan is north of Mexico City.

Gary now lives in Los Angeles and is a member of one of the Vineyard Churches in that city.

The Mission visits the dumps around Mazatlan city each day with their mobile kitchen and Gary (who works in catering and waitering) prepares five hundred hamburgers and puts them in buns and these are given to the scavengers around the dumps, who are the poorest of the poor. They sing Christian choruses with them in Spanish, play games with the children and tell a simple story from the Bible.

The Vineyard has just opened its seventh church in Mazatlan in the prostitution area of the city and Gary says they flood into the church. Medical teams come down from the USA and Gary translates for the doctors and dentists who offer their services free. The other day they had 90 patients at their

clinic. A Lutheran team arrived with hundreds of shoes for the children and their foot-prints were drawn on pieces of paper, so that each child could be fitted perfectly. Gary says the children are really beautiful.

The church gets Gary to organise menus for the groups coming down to help, and also for the women organising a Dinner which they have each year as a fund-raiser.

Please pray for this wonderful work.

DIOCESAN SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS

The annual Dublin & Glendalough Summer Youth Camps will again take place this year in Gurteen Agricultural College, Co. Tipperary. The 'Youth Alive 2004' camps will take place on the following dates:

Camp A
10-12 year olds – 4th-10th July

Camp B
13-15 years old – 11th-17th July.

Both camps cost €170.

The camps are run by our own parish Youth Officer, Nicola Halford. They are a week of great fun and adventure, with a varied programme of activities. The facilities at Gurteen are very good, including a sports hall and swimming pool. As well as an excellent team of Leaders, there is also a resident Chaplain for each camp.

Application Forms (which should be completed and returned as soon as possible in order to ensure a place) are available at the back of the church, or from the Rector.

For further details, please contact Nicola Halford, 087-1233338.

25th MOUNT MERRION SCOUT GROUP NEWS

Scouting Ireland SAI, to which the Group belonged, dissolved itself on 31 December and joined with a similarly disbanded Scouting Ireland CSI to form a single new scout association called Scouting Ireland on 1 January last. The new association has about 35,000 members with some 5,000 leaders, making it the largest organisation for young people in the country. 25th Dublin has been bringing scouting activity to the community for the past 54 years based in the Monk Gibbon Hall. The change of affiliation will not halt this service. The Group now finds itself in a new district grouping for administrative purposes having been transferred to Three Rock scout county from Dublin SE District. This means we are in the same county as 86th Dublin (Mount Merrion - St. Therese), up the road from us, along with ex-SAI Groups based in Dundrum, Kilternan and Rathfarnham. We have to make new friends in the process!

Cubs and Ventures will be building on the success of their exchanges with 1st Bangor Scout Group over the past two years, which won Royal mail Peace Award recognition for cross-Border mutual understanding work, but without continuing Co-Operation Ireland funding. Sponsorship only lasts so long! Each section has committed itself to participating in at least one annual joint event.

We did not sell Xmas trees this year as we did not have sufficient numbers of 15+ adolescents to operate a selling roster - for safety reasons we cannot ask Cub or young Scout age children to undertake this activity. However we will be bag-packing at Tesco Mount Merrion Centre on Thursday 19 (evening), Friday 20 (evening) and Saturday 21 (all-day) February to raise much needed funds, so please come and do your

shopping on those days and throw a few € into the buckets!

CUB PACK NEWS

The Cub Pack continues to grow and has 24 members organised into four Sixes. There are now six girls so the Pack has finally become co-educational! It has seven leaders. The Pack is truly multi-cultural and multi-faith with some children having one or both parents from either Portugal, Belgium, UK or USA. Nathalie Scharwatt, the chief leader, is from Mulhouse in Alsace (France). She is also a Montessori teacher, teaching in a local school, so the children are well looked after. The Cubs went on a hike around Tibbradden and Three Rock forest trails with the rest of the District in November. They made Christmas crafts in December and these were sold to their families. In early February, 15 Cubs attended, along with about 70 other Cubs, the last old-District run event, which was a weekend staying at Ovoca Manor adventure centre and hostel. They love this event because the centre has a climbing wall, three assault courses, an aerial-runway (zip-wire) and an indoor sports arena as well as good dormitory and cooking facilities. Many of the Cubs had never been away from home before and so these situations can be stressful for some children but all coped well on this occasion! In a few weeks time they will be visiting Donnybrook fire station and in March they will spend a weekend at Tiglin hostel to hike along the trails in the beautiful Devil's Glen forest. For summer camp they will be joining up with 1st Bangor at Crawfordsburn scout centre in Co. Down over June Bank Holiday weekend.

*Mike McKillen
Group Scout Leader
608 1613 (W)*

25TH (MT. MERRION) DUBLIN VENTURE SCOUTS

Venture Scouts restarted on 11 January with some members still recovering from the outdoor survival weekend over Christmas. Since starting back we have had a cooking competition, been to UCD for night navigation practice, indoor climbing, first aid training, a day hike and an overnight bivvy-wak. Over the next couple of weeks we are planning a trip to the Isle of Man, more day/night hikes and outdoor rockclimbing in Dalkey Quarry to name a few. This year we have 4 Ventures completing their Gaisce Award so they are planning days/weekend trips to suit their award.

This summer some Ventures are preparing for the Challenge expedition, a competition that requires them to walk 100km in pairs, live on a budget, complete a set of projects while carrying all their own gear. The older Ventures are preparing for the coveted Explorer Belt expedition which is similar to the Challenge except longer and outside of Ireland, they walk 200km in 10 days, living on a budget with more projects. This year the expedition is heading to Germany. The exact location is a secret until they arrive there.

Venture Scouts meet every Sunday evening between 8 - 10 pm and is open to everyone between the ages of 16 and 21yrs.

For more information or to join please call :

*Gina Liuzzi at 086.8413871 or
email liuzzigina@hotmail.com*



in
The Parish Centre
at
ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES'

WHAT

Sunday Club

Montessori School

In Fit Health

Yoga

Whist

Bridge (Merrion)

League of Health

Parish Women's Fellowship

Carysfort Bridge

Badminton

GAA Foxrock Girls

Badminton

Youth Club

Boosterstown Community Bridge

Stagecoach Theatre Arts
School

WHEN

Sunday
11.30am

Monday-Friday
9.00am -1.00pm

Monday
7.00pm-8.00pm

Monday
Wednesday 8.00—9.30pm

Monday
8.00-9.30pm

Tuesday
7.30-10.30pm

Tuesday
7.45-8.45pm

Tuesday (2nd of month)
8.00-10.00pm

Wednesday
7.30-10.30pm

Thursday morning
10.15am-12.30pm

Thursday
6—8 pm

Thursday evening
8.30-11.00pm

Friday
7.30—10.30 pm

Friday
7.30—10.30 pm

Saturday
10.00am-1.00pm
2.00pm-5.00pm

CONTACT

Barbara Plant
2880202

Marion Gartland
087 9236340

Sarah MacLachlan
087 2445425

Ann Murphy
087 2200407

Yvonne Laycock
2885660

Ann Murphy
2886337

Yvonne McGuinness
2896162

Sue McDonnell
2881182

Martha Brawn
2761631

Brigid Barrett
2887118

Philip McAnenly
087 2599394

Maureen Millington
2809826

Nicola Halford
087 1233338

Patricia Byrne
2880619

Helen Roche
2803336
2803441

cut out and keep for handy reference



in
The Monk Gibbon Hall
at
ST. THOMAS'

WHAT

WHEN

CONTACT

Sunday Club

Sunday (1st & 3rd)
10.15-10.45am

Jeanette Hunt
2880777

Pilate

Monday
7-8 p.m.

David Byrne
087 6251211

Mother & Toddler

Mon/Thur/Fri
10.30am-12.00am
Tuesday
3.00-4.30pm

Shona Ashmore
2945824

Cubs

Friday
7.00-8.30pm

Natalie Scharwatt

Venture Scouts

Sunday
8.00-10.00pm

Gina Liuzzi
086 8413871

Dance Class

Monday
8.45-10.00pm
Wednesday
3.00-6.30pm
7.00-10.00pm

Flora Millar
2888455

Yoga Class

Tuesday
6.30-9.30pm
Saturday
12.00-1.00pm

Emma Stafford
087 9606908

League of Health

Tuesday
11.00am-12.00pm
Wednesday
10.00am-12.15pm

Alison Galbraith
2888761

Indoor Bowls

Thursday & Saturday
7.30-10.30pm

Bill Semple
2882194

cut out and keep for handy reference