



# Advent & Christmas 2019

## Parish Matters

### *The Rector writes . . . .*

For me all carols sung at this time of the year fall into three categories. There is the *'let's enjoy ourselves despite the cold wet weather'* type of carol. Here I'm thinking of 'Jingle bells', 'Deck the halls with boughs of holly' and 'I'm dreaming of a white Christmas'. Then there are the *'look at the lovely baby'* carols such as 'Away in a manger' and 'Once in royal David's city'. I'm not opposed to any of these. I like them all.

However, the third category are the carols that really get me thinking. I call them the *'ponder deeply'* ones like the second verse of 'O come, all ye faithful' and the second verse of 'Hark, the herald angels sing'. Why do

I like them? Because they cause me to pause and reflect for a few moments on the whole point of what it is we are celebrating at this time of the year. They try to answer the question about who is at the centre of the Christmas story? In these carols, there is an element of mystery, of deep, tightly packed and profound phrases that have stood the test of time. They point not at the world, or us, but to God, the God who spills from eternity into our time and into the life of a unique individual. Look up the verses yourself and you will see what I mean.

The early Christian writers searched for imagery to try and

communicate what they believed about Jesus. One of the symbols they found helpful was the idea of light. The church fathers did not pick 25 December to celebrate the birth of Christ, because they thought it was the actual day that Mary gave birth, but because it was the time of the year then the pre-Christian people were celebrating the new birth of the sun. Christians adapted this festival season because they believed that Jesus was the true light of the world.

At this cold and dark time of the year, our ancestors would stop their normal activity, decorate their homes with greenery to remind them of new life, they would sit and wait as they tried to woo the sun

god back. Many of our Christmas traditions centred of holly, ivy, mistletoe and Advent wreaths have their origins in



ancient times. For most of this month we are in the season of Advent, a time to clear the decks, a time to sit in the dark and imagine for a moment what it would be like if there was no light. That is not to be depressing or morbid, but to build up a sense of expectation and excitement for the 'light that is coming into the world.' Unfortunately, this idea of pausing and waiting in expectation is something which has largely been lost in the hectic round of shopping and parties in December.

Another hymn which has stood the test of time is 'I heard the voice of Jesus say'. It has nothing to do with Advent or Christmas, but its words are

moving. The final verse is worth quoting in full.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'I am this dark world's light:  
look unto me, your morn shall rise,  
and all your day be bright'.  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my Star, my Sun;  
and in that Light of life I'll walk  
till travelling days are done.

I look forward to sharing with you the joy of the season and end by taking this opportunity to wish you all a very holy Advent and happy Christmas.

Yours in Christ, *Adrian*

## Bishops' Appeal for overseas aid & development

This year to save on printing and postage costs, we will be sending out the Advent/Christmas issue of Parish Matters by email but we will leave a limited number of printed copies in the churches. There you will also find *Bishops' Appeal* envelopes as usual. This is your means to give a donation to the *Bishops' Appeal* for



overseas aid and development. In addition, there will be some information leaflets giving details of the projects supported over the past year. You can read more about the work by checking its website [www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org](http://www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org). The Bishops' Appeal does not engage directly in development work itself, but channels funds through agencies and partner churches that are already in place in areas of need. It is particularly active in the areas of health care, sustainable agriculture and education projects in some of the world's poorest countries. Please support this work by returning your envelope on the collection plate in church or by putting it in a stamped envelope and addressing it to one of the clergy or parish treasurers. We will see that it is included in our collection before the end of the year.

## Parish Carol Services

The first of our parish carol services takes place in **St Mary's Church, Marmullane** on Sunday 15 December at 7.00pm. We anticipate having the usual variety of seasonal music as well as ecumenical input from the Passage West Folk Group. It is always good to welcome many members of the local community to this service each year. On Sunday 22 December there will be morning carol services in **Holy Trinity Church Frankfield** at 10.00 and in **St Luke's Douglas** at 11.15. A service of 'Carols by Candlelight' will be held in **St Michael's Church, Blackrock** at 7.00pm. Again, this year the music will be led by the St Nicholas Brass Band. They will be joined by the Dundanion Singers and the Parish Folk Group from our sister church in Blackrock. This service has grown in popularity in recent years with its festive lighting and evocative setting.



Some members of St Nicholas Brass Band

## School Carol Services

In Blackrock, the school community gathers in **St Michael's Church** on Sunday 15 December, when they will be very involved in the morning service. They are due to perform a special nativity play. Refreshments will be served in the adjoining Old Schoolhouse after the service and this provides an opportunity for parishioners, parents and pupils to meet.

This year the **St Luke's School** senior school carol service is on the evening of Tuesday 17 December at 7.30pm and the junior school service is on the following day, Wednesday 18 December at midday.

## HOME COMMUNION AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a time when we are particularly conscious of the housebound. Each month **Holy Communion** is celebrated with a number of parishioners in their homes or in nursing homes. Please inform us if you would like your name to be added to the list or if you have an elderly relative staying with you for Christmas who might not be able to get to church.

**Church Services for Christmas are as follows:**

Christmas Eve	4.00pm	'Crib Service'	St. Luke's Douglas
	11.30pm	Holy Communion	St. Luke's Douglas
Christmas Day	8.30	Holy Communion	St. Michael's Blackrock
	9.45	Holy Communion	St. Mary's Passage
	10.00	Holy Communion	Holy Trinity Frankfield
	11.15	Holy Communion	St. Luke's Douglas
	11.30	Holy Communion	St. Michael's Blackrock

Please note there will be no 9.15am service in St Luke's this year.

**GIY** The Grow it Yourself group meets in St Mary's Church Hall Passage West on the 3rd Thursday of each month. New members who are keen gardeners and growers are always welcome. For more information

email [pgmgrowityourself@gmail.com](mailto:pgmgrowityourself@gmail.com) or phone 085/8701386.

**Whist Drive** Whist players can look forward to a special Christmas Whist Drive



which will be held on Saturday 21 December in the Canon Packham Hall in aid of Holy

Trinity Church, Frankfield. We thank both Olive Burns and Susan Colton who are organising this again. We hope it will be well supported and all whist players are very welcome. Play starts at 8.30 sharp.

**Christmas Lunch**

We look forward to welcoming everyone to the special Christmas lunch on Wednesday, 11 December at 1pm in the Old Schoolhouse where a delicious hot home-cooked meal will be served. Please phone or text Sharon Kerr on 086/8327653 to secure your place. If you know of any of your friends or neighbours who like to join us for this lunch or any of the other lunches throughout the year, they would be more than welcome as we are always delighted to see new faces. After Christmas the



Some of the catering team in the Old Schoolhouse in Blackrock

Wednesday lunches will resume on the 29 January 2020.

**Parish Book Club** The parish book club meets in the Rectory on the second Tuesday of each month. In December they will gather on Tuesday 10 when readers will discuss 'The hopeless life of Charlie Summers' by Paul Torday. New members are always welcome.

## Parish Drama Evening

We congratulate the casts from both our parish drama group and the Carrigaline drama group, who recently staged 'A Secret Life' and 'The Music Lovers' over three nights in the Canon Packham Hall in Douglas. We thank the directors, production crew, caterers, ticket sellers and all who worked so hard to make it a success, as well as all who came, for their generous support.



The Parish Drama Group

## The Royal British Legion Earl Haig Poppy Appeal

Having organised the Poppy Collection in Douglas and Frankfield for many years, I would like to thank the parishioners for their generosity. It is much appreciated. The collections this year were Douglas €269.03, Frankfield €314.28 and Blackrock €137.72. Many thanks to David Wolfe and Keith Dawson for their help. *Cecil Locke*

## Merry Christmas

From

### The Boys' Brigade – 1<sup>st</sup> Company

Every Boy and Girl welcome!

Every Thursday evening at  
Canon Packham Hall, Douglas

On Thursday **12<sup>th</sup> December** the Farmers' Cross Friendship Group have invited the Revd Hazel Minion to join them for refreshments in the Cork Airport Hotel and talk about her trip to Zambia last July. They have extended the invitation to any of our parish members who would like to join them and see the slides. An opportunity if you missed the last showing! 7.45 p.m.



**Confirmation 2020:** The Rector is looking for expressions of interest from young people in the parish who are considering taking this step in their Christian faith. Already he has been approached by several candidates. Please contact him as soon as possible if you would like your name to be added to this list. A meeting for the parents of the candidates only will be held on Tuesday 7 January at 8pm in the Canon Packham Hall when the arrangements for classes will be outlined. Also parents will have to fill in an application form for child protection reasons. No one can attend classes until all this administrative work is in place.

*A. Wilkinson*



18 candidates with the Bishop and clergy at the Confirmation Service in St Luke's on 28 April 2019

**Hymn Singing** We meet on the first Tuesday of the month to sing hymns around the piano. It is very relaxed, with a cuppa to start, plenty of chat and a feel-good atmosphere. We use the *Church Hymnal*, and *Thanks and Praise*. So far we have had 5-7 people...there is room for a few more, so please contact me if you are interested. You do not have to be a good singer! It's about participation and fun, not performance. Dates: Tuesday 3rd December and Tuesday 7th January at 7.30 p.m. Florence Binions.



**Christmas Tree Sale and Christmas Market** Preparations are all in place for the Christmas Market to be held in conjunction with the Tree Sale on **7 December** (10 am – 1 pm). On sale will be Christmas-themed items – luxury holly wreaths, red berry holly, mistletoe, homemade preserves, homemade mincemeat and mince pies, chutneys, craft decorations and container plants including sage, rosemary and thyme for the perfect turkey stuffing. A modest entry fee will entitle patrons to sip a Badger and Dodo coffee while enjoying the choir in festive mood and to participate in a raffle for prizes which include Christmas cake, hampers, a tree and a half-case of Christmas wines. We would very much like to thank all those who are involved in the various stalls, as well as the tree sellers and supplier.



### The Revd David Bowles writes..

It is with mixed feelings that I send on this message to you. First of all, thank you for the very generous presentation you made to me on my last Sunday with you. The large cheque, garden tubs, book tokens for the children are much appreciated, as is the Munster top! In many ways it seems like only yesterday since I came to Cork to take up my role as your Curate. When we arrived, we were greeted by so many of you and I am delighted that I leave so many of you as

friends. You welcomed me, encouraged me, affirmed me and most of all, supported me in every new venture and idea that I put to you.

I would like especially thank Adrian and Hazel for their wisdom and guidance and sense of fun and, I use the word again, support. I would also like to thank the select vestries and really, all of you for all you have done to make my time in Douglas, Blackrock, Marmullane and Frankfield a truly blessed time.

I leave you now to continue my journey with the good people of Moviddy Union. Also, to travel alongside the staff and patients in CUH. I say goodbye with a heavy heart, but also with excitement for the next path which God is calling me to travel along. I move to Moviddy & CUH secure in the knowledge that I have had a great training from Adrian and also during my CPE experiences with Bruce

Pierce and Daniel Nuzum. I am very grateful for both these opportunities. It is an exciting time for me, a time of adventure and a time of new beginnings for all the family.

I will keep you all in my prayers and wish you many blessings for the future,  
Yours in Christ,  
*David*



Revd David Bowles admiring his new Munster jersey!

## St Luke's School

Pupils in St Luke's School continue to be involved and enjoy many activities both inside and outside the classroom. Our **sporting activities** include hockey, soccer, tennis, swimming, tag rugby, rowing, cricket, orienteering, gymnastics and athletics. This year we were fortunate enough to be able to take part in the Primary Schools Athletic Programme and the very worthwhile Cycle Right Programme.

**Debating**, a skill which gives pupils great confidence in public speaking, was introduced to 6th Class during the year and they proved very successful in debating competitions. Participating in the Credit Union Quiz was another excellent activity which gave the senior classes an opportunity to demonstrate their general



knowledge.

We are all very aware that Climate Change is a huge global issue and many of us could learn from the superb work of our Green Flag Committee. The topic for our 4th **Green Flag** is "Travel" and our committee are encouraging us to walk, cycle, scoot, park n'stride, car pool and use public transport to



travel to school sustainably. They organised a "Bring a friend to school" campaign, which was a huge success, a "Wrapper Free Week" and a "Wear Green Day". Well done, Ms Joyce and her committee.

This year we were delighted to be invited to become involved in the pilot project of the **Creative schools initiative**. The aim of this project is to put arts and creativity at the heart of the children's lives. It inspired the staff and students to develop a host of new and exciting ways of working that impact on learning, development and well-being of the school community. Each class decided on their own



creative activity and we then collaborated with local artists to bring their ideas to the classroom. The experiences included tie-dying, cake decorating, coding, rapping, animation, messy play, drumming and baking.

Our artistic talents were also evident for all the community to see this Christmas when we were asked by Douglas Community Association to help paint the panelling in Douglas

Community Park in preparation for the turning on of the Christmas lights there.

**Visitors** are always welcome to



St Luke's. This year Pat Speight, a storyteller, David Reilly, an author, Wesley Bateman from MEP Engineering, Cllr John Sheehan, our Lord Mayor, Frank Hanover from Cork Penny Dinners and many others came

to our school.

Our pupils always enjoy a "Day Out" and this year we had plenty of days out. Our trips included visits to Cappanalea Adventure Centre, Crafty Hands, Fota Wildlife Park, Nemo

Rangers, Ballybrack Woods, Douglas Gymnastic Club, Ballyhass Lakes, Manch, Douglas Library, UCC, Ashton to see "Alice in Wonderland" and St Fin Barre's Cathedral to sing at a concert in aid of St Luke's Home.

At this time, we have to say thanks to those who served on our outgoing **Board of Management**. We are very fortunate to have had a very committed and talented Board

who have made a huge contribution to our school over the past four years. These volunteers who gave so willingly of their free time are Roger Flack (chairperson), Jenny Miller, Gordon Jermyn, Shane Treacy, Anne O'Driscoll, and Helen Wilson.

Our very active **Parents' Association** is another organisation who work very hard at fund raising and organising extra-curricular activities for the pupils. This year they organised a Halloween Disco, Bag Packing, Coffee to Go Mornings, Valentine's Day Raffle and are at present busy organising a Christmas Fair. Their work is really appreciated by all in the St Luke's School community.

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### St Michael's School

We have had a very exciting term in **St. Michael's School**. For **science week** we had scientists to visit from Lifetime Lab to speak to some classes about energy. Other classes created objects with 3D pens and used Lego to create moving dinosaurs. Juniors did some very cool experiments to explore plant science. Senior classes extracted DNA from fruit with the Cell Explorers from UCC and had visits from engineers. Senior pupils have been working with Lifetime Lab over the term to explore the very serious issue of the impact of human behaviour on the marine environment and 3rd

and 4th class have been busy with junior engineering projects. We are very excited about STEM and well on our way to achieving our 6th Primary Science Award this year.



Róisín ,Liam and Beth represented the school in the **Concern Primary Debating** competition giving very convincing speeches in favour of homework which was not an easy task !! We are looking forward to more debating for the whole class next term. We are working hard to be an **active school** as the benefits of exercise extend to all areas of children's lives. 5th and 6th class have been rowing every Friday in Shandon Boat Club through the Cork Sports Partnership. Middle and senior classes are playing hockey. All classes have coaching each week in Gaelic football and we have introduced a new

programme called 'Playball' to the junior room which improves balance and co-ordination. We are also enjoying the benefits of being adjacent to the beautiful Blackrock walk and Atlantic

pond when weather allows. We are really enjoying **music** this year -all pupils from 1st class upwards are learning recorder with Ms Campbell and Robbie Carroll from the cathedral also takes these classes for choir lessons each week. Pupils also enjoyed a trip to City hall to see the Cork Pops orchestra

perform . Practice is well underway for our Christmas Nativity performance which takes place during Sunday service at 11.30 on the 15th December in St Michael's church . Thanks to Ms Florence Binions for her support with this also. This will be followed by our annual Parent's Association Christmas Fair which will take place in the both the Old School House and the school itself. All are most welcome to attend . We wish Revd. Bowles , Michelle and their family all the best in their new parish. We are thankful for all David contributed to our school which



ranged from serving on our **Board of Management** , leading assembly to bravely standing in goal for our sports day penalty shot game !! Thanks also to our outgoing parent representatives Jim O Mahony and Claire Gavin for their commitment and valued contribution over the last four years. We are grateful to the parishioners of Blackrock for allowing us to use the Old School for our 5th and 6th class as we await our accommodation.

We wish to sincerely thank our dedicated **parent body** for all their support . This term they have been working on maintaining and improving the grounds - gutters ,leaf sweeping , various mending , gardening and the provision of composting facilities and much more. This work has a tremendous impact and is very much appreciated.

We wish all in our school and parish a joyful Christmas.

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Some members of the Parish Bible Study Groups



### Bible Studies

The Bible is full of treasures, just waiting to be explored. Come and join us! All welcome!

Our tour through the Old Testament is exciting...plenty of fighting and intrigue. We are looking at the kings of Israel and Judah, and especially, what makes a good king.

After King David, when many kings went astray, an expectation arose that another good king would come, who would rescue his people. In the New Testament, Jesus, the ultimate King, came, proclaiming the arrival of the kingdom of David (the Kingdom of God), and rescuing his people, by dying for them. We have discovered many such links between the Old and New Testaments, which help to give us an overview of the Bible.

**Venues** Joan Miller’s home, Ballintemple: Wednesdays; 3.00 – 4.00 p.m. 4<sup>th</sup> December, 8<sup>th</sup> January.

Carol Boylan’s home, Moneygourney: Thursdays, 7.30 - 9.00 p.m 5<sup>th</sup> December, 16<sup>th</sup> January

**Further information:** Florence Binions or any of the clergy.

### Carols at Carol’s

**Bible Study Fellowship Night** in Carol Boylan’s home at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 p.m.

**Safeguarding Trust** now has its own dedicated website. You will find updates, information, contact details and other child protection information at [www.sgt.ireland.anglican.org](http://www.sgt.ireland.anglican.org).

Thanks to Sandra Swanton who has served on the parish panel for a number of years. Her position has now been taken by Ann Caird, who joins Noel Locke and the Rector on the parish panel.



**The Team**



**Covered Hospitality area beside rural church**



**Students made us welcome to St. John's**



**Kitwe City Centre**

**Visit to Link Mission Partners in Kitwe in the Diocese of Northern Zambia.**

For 10 Days in July, Rev. Hazel joined Rev Aaron McAllister, Mrs Noreen Hurst and Very Rev Trevor Williams in a CMSI visit to Dr Keith and Mrs Lyn Scott in St John's Theological Seminary. We took part in teaching, ministry and visiting in the area.



**Aaron teaching**



**Kitwe's Book Bus**

From Kitwe city centre to rural villages, Zambia is a land of huge contrasts, natural beauty and ugly slag heaps, crowded city areas and empty rural spaces, but above all, welcoming people.



**Relaxing between classes. The students graduated in November**



**Dry Season Rural Landscape**

Everywhere we were met by the strong faith and joyful worship of the Anglican Church in Zambia, both in the college and in local parishes. We enjoyed our final evening with Archbishop Albert Chama. Thank you to all who encouraged me in this adventure. *Hazel*

