



Clontarf & Scots Newsletter



December
2011

Message from our Minister

Remembrances

Two hundred and twelve; that is how many we had attending our joint Remembrance and Enrolment service. Together with wonderful traditional hymns, the organ in full flight, bugle calls and the Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade well turned out, it was a wonderful service.

A meaningful atmosphere to remember, each in their own way, those who have died in war but also those who continue to live in the midst of war.

Then to enroll the members of our two youth organisations at the start of a new year allowed us to look forward with hope. I was a little worried how these two important events in our congregational life were going to blend into one service. By God's grace we were able in the same worship space to look back, around and forward. To focus in turn on remembering, on the moment and our hopes for the session that lies ahead of us. And in all of this, was the wonderful reminder that God is not only with us always, His love follows behind us and His grace goes before us.

As we move into this time of preparation for Christmas may God bless each of you, whether close by or far away.

A very merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to all.

Lorraine

Still more pictures of the church building work are now up on our website as well as pictures from the harvest service - go to www.clontarfchurch.ie and then select "C&SPC in Pictures" on the left hand menu and then select "Gallery" - weekly updates as work progresses.

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Minister	Session Clerk	Deputy Session Clerk
Rev. Lorraine Kennedy -Ritchie The Manse 48 Kincora Grove Clontarf, D3 (01 833 2588)	Hugh Borland Woodlands Limekiln Lane Saint Doulagh's Fingal, D17 (01 867 2247)	Myrtle Bailey 16 Rosedale Mill Farm Dunboyne Co. Meath (01 825 5297)

5th Company of the Girls' Brigade



As I write these Notes, it is coming towards the end of November and we're busy practicing for the Choral Speaking Competition which takes place early in December. We are entering a Jnr/Snr Team and wish them well. We are most grateful to Rita Barror, who along with Lieutenant Alison Mahon, trains the girls each Monday.

The whole Company enjoyed the Enrolment Service on 13 November 2011. It was a lovely Service and it was so good to see such a good turn-out of the girls.

The GB Feis took place on 19 November (in Clontarf/Scots Church – the use of which The Girls' Brigade Ireland are most grateful for). The 5th Company was very ably represented in all Sections. Emily O'Connor achieved 1st place in the Junior Section, Claire Lambe achieved 3rd place in the Brigader Section and Lauren Maxwell achieved 1st place in the Associate Section. Well done to all the girls who took part and 'thank you' to Lieutenant Stephanie Maxwell and our pianist Sandra Maxwell who trained the girls.

We are looking forward to participating in the Annual Carol Service on Sunday 11th December.

On **MONDAY 12th DECEMBER** we hope to sing Carols around the houses in the Marino area. Proceeds will go to the Children's Hospice (the LauraLynn Foundation). This is something we've done for the past number of years and is enjoyed by all who venture out with us. We would welcome any members of the Congregation who would like to join us. Please meet in Howth Road School on Monday 12th at 6.30pm. We'll be back in the School for hot soup and rolls by 8.30pm'ish. Do come along – if you don't sing, you can help with the collecting!!! The more, the merrier!

Jacky Anderson (Captain)
086 3336089

Announcements

It was with much sadness that we heard of the death of our former Minister of Clontarf Congregation, Rev. Dennis McKillen. Our prayerful sympathy is with his wife, Myrtle and to his children, Timothy and Denise.

Rev. McKillen ministered in Clontarf from 1966 to 1972 and it was under his leadership that a major renovation of the Howth Road School was undertaken including the addition of the Teachers/Committee room with storage accommodation for the equipment of the church organisations; new toilets were also provided. It was during his ministry that the present Manse was purchased and the move from Haddon Road took place.

Dennis was a much loved Minister who had a great gift for pastoral care. He was at ease with everyone from the youngest child to the oldest member. There must be many who have fond memories of his down-to-earth spiritual guidance and his very practical help in any difficulty.

It was with regret we learned that he had received and accepted a call to Crumlin congregation.

Ormond Quay & Scots Endowments

At a recent meeting of the Governors of the Endowments, grants totalling €20,000 were approved for distribution amongst the following charities:

A.C.E.T. (Aids Care, Education & training)
Arklow Presbyterian Church
Bertrand & Rutland Fund
Chernobyl Children's Trust
Damer Court
Donabate Presbyterian Church
Drewstown House Christian Centre
Dublin Christian Mission
Howth Road School
Irish Bible Institute
Lucan Centre Project
Presbyterian Education Fund
Simon Community
St Vincent De Paul
Unicef



Education Grants totalling €4,880 were approved for distribution amongst 39 students from the congregation: 20 at the primary level, 12 at the secondary level and 7 at third level, together with donations to Lindsay Road School, Howth Road School & The Orphan Society.

Margaret Conologue

Christmas Poem 2011



C is for Christ - a prince has been born
H is for happiness on Christmas morn
R for Redeemer - so loving and wise
I standing for Infant - in a stable He lies
S is for Saviour, our Master and Friend
T for his Teachings on which we depend
M is for Mary, a mother so mild
A tells of the Angels who spoke of her child
S brings the Season where we gather and sing
To celebrate **CHRISTMAS** with Jesus our King



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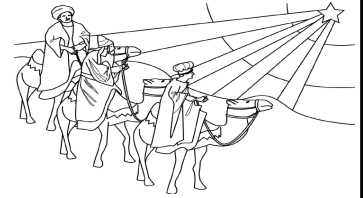
Congregational Dates for December 2011

4	2 nd Sunday of Advent, 11:00 Rev. Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie
5	Decorate the church, 18:30, children especially welcome.
7	PW Carol service, 19:45
11	3 rd Sunday of Advent, 11:00 Rev. Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie Christmas Communion
11	Carol Service , 19:00
15	Lunchtime Carol service, 13:15
17	Sunday school party, Church. 
18	4 th Sunday of Advent, 11:00 Rev. Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie Sunday school nativity play
21	Howth Road School Carol Service, 18:00 with refreshments in the school at 19:00
25	Christmas day service, 10:30

Dates for Early January 2012

1	1 st Sunday of 2012, 11:00 Rev. Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie
3	Presbyterian Women's meeting, 20:00, Manse, WEATHER PERMITTING
8	Morning Service, 11:00 Rev. Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie Stated Communion

Some websites to travel to over the Christmas period.



If you have some spare time when all the Christmas celebrations have died down, then have a look at the following websites:

www.om.org - the home of Operation Mobilisation. OM's role is to mobilise people to share the knowledge of Jesus and His love with every generation in every nation. OM pioneers and leads initiatives to redeem lives, rebuild communities and restore hope in over 110 countries.

www.pcimissionoverseas.org will take you to our own Presbyterian Church in Ireland overseas mission website. This site exists primarily to inform members of our church about the nature and scope of our involvement in Mission Overseas. It also highlights opportunities for service in mission overseas that PCI supports.

www.emf-welwyn.org leads to European Missionary Fellowship - an inter-denominational mission, committed to the Reformed Faith, which seeks to serve evangelical churches in Europe. EMF's over-riding aim is to establish Biblical Christianity throughout Europe.

www.interserve.org - Interserve international is a network of Christians from all over the world who, using their professional skills, work together to serve people of Asia and the Arab world.

Thank you to all contributors to this months newsletter. I continue to seek input from all sectors of the church - If you have something for inclusion in the January 2012 newsletter, then send it to me using my email address by 3 January 2011. (samuel@atlanticisle.com).

The Editor

Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.

Psalm 119.36