

Kilbride Herald

St. Bride's - where Faith and Fellowship grow



A special guest arrived at St Bride's.

January - February 2024

Parish Of Kilbride: St Bride's Church - where Faith and Fellowship grow

Rector-in-Charge: Rev. John McClure (07841 866414)

Parish Reader

David Holmes

Honorary Treasurer

Lilian Lyttle: 9332 3311

Rector's Churchwarden

Vacant - see rota

Parish Hall Organiser

Alex Johnston: 9334 9393

People's Churchwarden

Vacant - see rota

Caretaker

Claire Patterson: 07745 721069

Rector's Glebwarden

Jim Wilson: 2589 8753

Parish Website

kilbrideparishchurch.org

Parish Webmaster: David Holmes

People's Glebwarden

Billy Robinson: 07306 303337

Honorary Secretary

Ivan Topping: 9334 1916

Holy Baptism

This is by arrangement.
Please contact Rev. John McClure
at the phone number above.

FWO Secretary

Fiona Charlton: 07504 813779

Gift Aid Secretary

Phyllis Glenn: 9334 0884

Rev. John McClure would be
grateful for information about
hospital admissions
and discharges.

Organist & Choir Director

Timothy Wilson

Kilbride Herald Editorial Panel

David Holmes, Iris McCormick
& Ivan Topping

Sunday School Superintendent

Eleanor Graham: 9334 0000

Charity Number: 10 35 70



The Services at St. Bride's

Sunday 21 January

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

11.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 28 January

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Holocaust Memorial Sunday

11.00am Morning Prayer

Sunday 4 February

Second Sunday before Lent

11.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 11 February

Sunday before Lent

11.00am Morning Prayer

Sunday 18 February

First Sunday in Lent

11.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 25 February

Second Sunday in Lent

11.00am Morning Prayer

Sunday 3 March

Third Sunday in Lent

11.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 10 March

Fourth Sunday in Lent

11.00am Morning Prayer

Sunday 17 March

Fifth Sunday in Lent

St Patrick's Day

11.00am Holy Communion



Sunday 24 March

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm Sunday

11.00am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 27 March

Wednesday in Holy Week

8:00pm Compline

Thursday 28 March

Maundy Thursday

8:00pm Holy Communion

Friday 29 March

Good Friday

8:00pm Devotion for Good Friday

Sunday 31 March

Easter Day -

First Sunday of Easter

Feast of the Resurrection

11:00am - Holy Communion



Dates for Rural Deanery Wednesday Lenten services were not available at time of going to press. Refer to the church website for details.

New Year's Prayer

At the beginning of a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family, and our friends. Let us resolve to release our grudges, our anger, and our resentments, for these are nothing but binding chains.

Let us live each day in the most loving way, the God-conscious way. May we serve all who are in need, regardless of race, colour or creed and let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.

We express our deepest gratitude for the blessings of the past year and we thank you for your faithfulness, your love, and your constant presence in our lives. Amen

May this new year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.

Bereavements in the Parish

Kenneth (Ken) Ruddock

6th December 2023

Late of Brook Meadow, Doagh

Dates to Note

Thursday 1 February -

Register of Vestry Members is now open for amendment until 11th February. For more details see the church website Diary Dates page or the notice in this magazine on page 19.

Wednesday 14 February -

Kilbride Parish Church Ladies' Group
Lucky Dip Gift Evening & Family
Fortunes Game

Friday 1 March -

Women's World Day of Prayer,
Kilbride Presbyterian Church
8.00pm

Wednesday 15 March -

Kilbride Parish Church Ladies' Group
Tasting Evening

The Walk to School

A mother was concerned about her young son walking to school. He said he didn't want her mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe.

So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbour if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he wouldn't notice her. She said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbour and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbour girl he knew. She did this for the whole week. As the two kids walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to have done every day that week.

Finally she said to Timmy, "Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?"

Timmy nonchalantly replied, "Yeah, I know who she is."

The little girl said, "Well, who is she?"

"That's just Shirley Goodnest," Timmy replied, "and her daughter Marcy."

"Shirley Goodnest? Who is she and why is she following us?"

"Well," Timmy explained, "every night my Mum makes me say the 23rd psalm with my prayers, coz she worries about me so much. And in the psalm it says, 'Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life,' so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!"

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.

May Shirley Goodnest and Marcy be with you today and always!

Quilts on Display

Sandra Weir is an extremely talented and experienced quilter from Cookstown and she was invited by the church ladies' group to display a selection of her many quilts at the ladies' group meeting on 8th November, and to talk about what inspired her to make each one. Sandra travelled to Kilbride with her husband Derek and they set up a number of her larger quilts on display stands around the Parish Hall prior to the start of the meeting. Sandra is a doctor and is employed as a community

paediatrician in the Cookstown area. She is a committed Christian and is deeply involved in Christian witness in her church but still finds time to produce beautiful quilts, all inspired in one way or another by Christian values and verses of scripture. Sandra is pictured with her husband Derek and Joan Lutton in front of one of her many wonderful quilts, this one is based on the Bible and every book of the Bible is represented by a quilted 'book' in her 'Bible' bookcase.



In recent years her son Daniel asked her to make him a piano quilt for his 18th birthday. Technically this was quite a challenge as there were so many small pieces but a quilt which is large enough to place over a baby-grand piano was duly made and dedicated to her son with two verses from Psalm 95 - "Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; Let us shout aloud for the Rock of our Salvation. Let us come before him with Thanksgiving and extol him with music and song."

Sandra's attention to detail in all of her quilts is quite phenomenal and this is also the case for the reverse side of each one. They are truly works of art but importantly each one has a gospel message and she spoke with a passion about every one on display.





Santa Claus visits Kilbride

The weather for most of the day on 7th December had been atrocious with heavy rain and strong winds leading to many roads being flooded for a time but by tea-time the rain stopped, and the wind dropped to make it an ideal December evening for the switching-on of the Christmas tree lights outside the Parish Hall. Members of the Guide Group were there in force and they had organised a Christmas poster competition and the winner of each section was given the privilege of pressing the switch to turn the lights on. This was done at the very start of the evening and a few minutes later a very special guest arrived on the back of a pickup. The man in the red suit, ringing his bell, was none other than Santa Claus, ready to come into the hall and

give out presents to all of the children there. Santa made his way inside and found a very special chair in the corner.

While he was very busy looking after the children and making sure everyone was given a gift the church choir led the Carol singing, with Tim Wilson, together with Ballyclare Victoria Flute Band providing the music. Then it was time for refreshments and everyone enjoyed a hot mince pie, biscuits and a drink. Kerry Knipe brought a rather special friend called 'Romeo' with her and he proved very popular with everyone including Santa.

The church Ladies' Group finished off the evening by having a ballot for some wonderful Christmas hampers. A very enjoyable evening to start the Christmas celebrations.



David Monahan

The Church of Ireland Dioceses of Down and Dromore and Connor run what is known as the organ scholarship scheme where music scholars take on a three year training scheme in service of public worship. Ultimately the aim is to have the scholars become church organists on completion of the course. Sadly an increasing number of churches throughout both Dioceses find themselves without regular organists and are the poorer as a result. There is a board which oversees the scheme and our recently retired rector, Rev. Canon David Humphries, has been heavily involved in the scheme's administration for many

years as had our church organist, Timothy Wilson. However outside of the formal scheme there is scope for guiding young musicians along a similar path with them ultimately gaining proficiency to play and direct the music for an entire church service.

David Monahan, a young man originally from Carnmoney, has been a frequent presence in St Bride's church choir in recent years and the congregation has often enjoyed his solos during services. However David has had a less than conventional introduction to music. A few years ago his father Robert had taken him to help



him do some gardening at the home of Nigel McClintock, former organist at St Patrick's Jordanstown and St Peter's, Belfast. In the course of his visit Nigel asked if David could sing and volunteered to give him a voice test there and then. He passed and soon after he was enrolled into the ranks of Schola Cantorum, a young male-voice choir based in St Peter's cathedral and through tuition there he attained his Grade 8 singing qualification. In the past few years he has been supported vocally by Timothy Wilson's wife, Ruth, an accomplished vocal coach.

In September 2020 David left his home in Belfast to study 'A' levels at the prestigious Winchester College in Hampshire, one of the world's most famous and distinguished schools (founded in 1382). During his time studying there David was also a member of the college's chapel choir. The school boasts many famous alumni including the present Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Rishi Sunak. Sunak was a pupil and head boy of the college, before leaving to study at Cambridge University. Like Sunak, David as a former pupil of Winchester College is now known as an Old Wykehamist, so called in memory of the school's founder, William of Wykeham (1324-1404), former Bishop of Winchester and Lord Chancellor of England.

David successfully completed his studies in Winchester in June 2022 before spending a year in Portsmouth Cathedral as a choral scholar and at the same time working in Portsmouth Grammar School. He then returned to Northern Ireland and enrolled at Stranmillis College, and is currently taking a teaching degree in Post Primary Mathematics. In September 2023 David took a new direction in his musical journey with Timothy as he began studying organ music and under Timothy's expert tutelage he will gain the proficiency and experience to become a fully-fledged organist in his own right. He has been progressing steadily and perhaps largely unnoticed he has already been playing voluntaries on the church organ before and after services. As well as practising in church he can also practise at home on a Johannes organ generously donated by Rev. Canon David Humphries who thought that David would put it to very good use in his own home. David will be devoting a lot of time into studying and practising to reach the standard required and, together with the academic demands of his degree, he has a very busy three or four years ahead.

Everyone in Kilbride wishes him every success for this commendable undertaking.

History of Hymns

“Just as I am, without one plea.”

“Just as I am” is a well known hymn that was written in 1835 by an English woman called Charlotte Elliott (1789 - 1871). It was written originally as a poem by Charlotte but was set to music, originally by William Bradbury in 1849, to the tune “Woodworth.” It has been set to at least four hymn tunes with the current Church of Ireland hymnal using the tune “Misericordia” written by Henry Smart (1813 - 1879). The word “Misericordia” is the Latin word for mercy or compassion.

Charlotte was the daughter of Charles Elliott (a merchant in London) and had two brothers who were Anglican vicars, Edward Bishop Elliott and Henry Venn Elliott. Their father divided his time between Clapham and Brighton and was a member of the Clapham Sect, a group of Anglican social reformers which included William Wilberforce. Charles Elliott moved to Brighton and built the proprietary chapel of St Mary the Virgin in the town. It was consecrated in 1827 and Rev. H.V. Elliott became its first preacher and later its owner when his father died. The capacity of the new church was 947, and 240 free pews were offered at a time when pew-rents were the norm (and helped to pay for Henry Venn Elliott’s stipend). The wider Elliott family was

influential in Brighton’s religious life for much of the 19th century.

In 1832 Rev. H.V. Elliott made proposals for the foundation of a school for the daughters of poor clergymen, to be similar in format to the school founded by his friend William Carus-Wilson at Cowan Bridge, Yorkshire, in 1823. One event in the fund-raising for this venture was to coincide with a turbulent, emotional time in Charlotte’s life and it culminated in her penning the poem “Just as I am.” The event was her brother’s plan to hold a charity bazaar in support of the school.

The full story of how the poem came to be written is described in a book entitled *The Hymns and Hymn Writers of the Church Hymnary*, written by Rev. John Brownlie in 1899 but it can be summarised as follows;

Charlotte couldn’t sleep the night before the bazaar having distressing thoughts of her apparent uselessness and this then led her into a spiritual conflict where she questioned her own spiritual life. Her emotions were in turmoil for a time but she put the thoughts from her mind. However the next day, the day of the bazaar, whilst sitting in the very comfortable surroundings of her home in Westfield Lodge, Brighton, the troubles of the

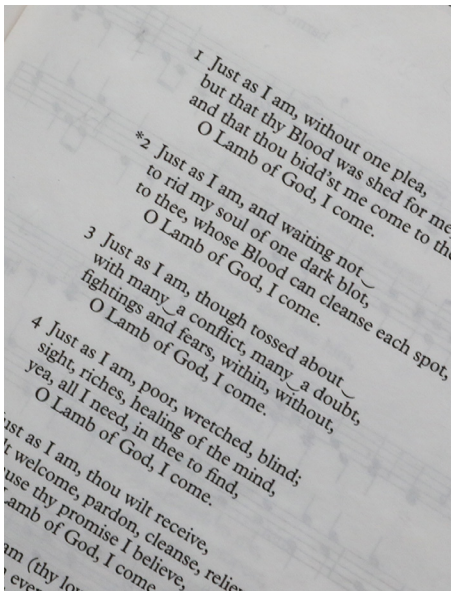
night came back with great force. She felt they had to be conquered by the grace of God. She considered the great certainties, not of her emotions but of her salvation, her Lord and His power and promise. She decided to write down what she termed “the formulae of her faith” and like many things in her life she expressed her heart-felt thoughts in verse. In verse she took comfort in the assurance of the eternity of the Rock beneath her feet and that she was accepted by the Beloved “Just as I am.”

The hymn is popular in many hymnals and the famous evangelist, Billy Graham, converted to Christianity in a revival meeting in 1934 after hearing

it used as the altar call hymn. He used it as his altar call hymn in his numerous crusades in the latter half of the twentieth century and he also used the words “Just as I am” as the title of his autobiography.

Some famous Gospel singers have recorded this hymn over the years including Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson and Carrie Underwood.

A selection of poems written by Charlotte Elliott can be found online by following this link <https://archive.org/details/cu31924013456664/page/n1/mode/2up>



Charlotte Elliott

watchmen

at Kilbride Parish Church

The men's group in Kilbride is called The Watchmen and in the previous two meetings at the end of 2023 the men enjoyed two very different talks given by David Holmes and Robson Davison.

Rev. John H. Freeman

In November David gave a presentation on a former rector of Kilbride, Rev. John H. Freeman. He was rector for a very short period from November 1951 until July 1952 when he sadly died whilst out visiting a parishioner at Fisherwick, only a short distance from the rectory. Freeman had a very interesting background with a family history going back to Kingstown, renamed Dun Laoghaire after the partition of Ireland, where the family lived in 1850. Freeman's grandfather and father, both called John, were both bakers in the town but the younger man moved to Kells, Co. Meath where he worked as a baker. He met and married his wife in Kells before moving to Rathfarnham where their son John was born in 1896. David related the story of how the young Freeman was educated in St Patrick's cathedral in Dublin and Trinity College before moving north to Bangor and later Belfast Cathedral. The story



continued as he accepted different appointments in Belfast, Exeter, Sligo and back to St James's in Belfast in 1945, tasked with rebuilding the church after the Belfast Blitz. In 1951, with deteriorating health and now a widower with three children, he was appointed rector of Kilbride. His life story is fascinating and to read his biography in full go to the 'History/Vicars & Rectors' page of the church website and follow the link to Rev. John H. Freeman.

Battle of Antrim, 1798

In the December meeting a local historian called Robson Davison gave a fascinating talk on the Battle of Antrim, which was the focus of the 1798 rebellion in the north of Ireland instigated by the United Irishmen.

Children's Outlook on God

Robson was formerly a history teacher in Ballyclare High School before leaving to go to the Inspectorate. Since he retired he has researched extensively on many topics of interest around the Ballyclare area and he has written a number of excellent books, including in recent years the history of rugby at Ballyclare High School and the history of Ballyclare Comrades. The talk began with Robson setting the political scene in Ireland, and indeed Europe, prior to the insurrection and he explained the involvement of a number of prominent people in Belfast and Ballyclare in preparing the way for rebellion. He continued with a graphic account of the Battle of Antrim in June 1798, the defeat of the rebels and the retribution meted out by Crown forces in the aftermath of the rebellion. A wonderful and extremely interesting talk which was enjoyed by everyone.



Letters to God - a selection of letters addressed to God from young children from a book compiled by Eric Marshall and Stuart Hample.

Dear God

Last week it rained three days.
We thought it would be like Noah's Ark. But it wasn't. I'm glad because you could only take two of things, remember, and we have three cats.

Donna

Dear God

I know it says turn the other cheek but what if your sister hit you in the eye.

Love Teresa

Dear God

Where does everybody come from? I hope you explain it better than my father.

Ward

Dear God

I would like to be a teacher and boss people around.

Jennifer

Dear God

I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that O.K.

Neil



Carol Singing

On the 16th December the Christmas shoppers at Coleman's Garden Centre in Templepatrick enjoyed some wonderful Carol singing as they walked around the shop looking for Christmas presents or while they enjoyed a coffee. A choir made up of singers from local Ballyclare churches, as well as some from Portrush, sang everyone's favourite Carols and raised money for Christian Aid. Kilbride Parish Church was well represented and thanks must go to Pamela Gray from Ballyclare Presbyterian Church for organising this wonderful event, and to Coleman's for once again hosting the choir. A total of £240 was raised for Christian Aid on the day.

The choir then welcomed weary travellers back to Northern Ireland as they sang Carols in the Arrivals Hall of Belfast International Airport on 22nd December.



Autumn Tidy Up

The leaves on the beech trees held on a lot longer this past year and delayed the autumn tidy up until the first Saturday in December. A good number of volunteers turned up with leaf blowers, rakes, shovels and brushes and in a few hours the vast quantity of leaves carpeting the lawns were lifted, bagged and taken off to the green waste facility at Bruslee. Not wanting to miss any of the fun it was good to have Rev. John McClure and his wife Margot there to give a hand for their first time! Thanks must go to all the workers on the day who left the grounds so neat and tidy. Now if the oak tree would just let go of its foliage the job could be finished.....



Food Bank Donation

There was a wonderful response by parishioners to the appeal for food and toiletries in the lead up to the Christmas period. Sunday after Sunday boxes in the church filled up and in the week before Christmas volunteers took the large quantity of provisions to the Food Bank depot in Carnmoney for distribution to needy families. Sincere thanks must go to everyone who donated to this very worthy cause. The appeal will continue in the weeks and months ahead.

Badminton Club

Kilbride Parish Church Badminton Club meets on a Tuesday Night in the Parish Hall from 8pm until 10pm. Players of all abilities will be made very welcome. A typical evening consists of a few games of badminton, plenty of chat and most importantly a cup of tea and a biscuit.

1st Kilbride Scout Group

Meeting times

Squirrels - Wednesday evenings from 5:45pm until 6:45pm.

Beavers - Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm until 8:00pm.

Cubs - Monday evenings from 6:30pm until 7:45pm.

Scouts - Monday evenings from 8:00pm until 9:30pm.

For more information please contact Simon Charlton via email **kilbridescouts@hotmail.com** or by phone **07900 053885**

1st Kilbride Guide Group

Meeting times

Rainbows - Thursday evenings from 5:45pm until 6:45pm.

Brownies - Thursday evenings from 6:50pm until 7:50pm.

Guides - Thursday evenings from 7:45pm until 9:15pm.

Rangers - Thursday evenings (2nd and 4th Thursday of each month) from 8:00pm until 9:15pm.

General Vestry Membership - A Message to all Parishioners

Have you ever thought about registering as a member of the parish's General Vestry? The General Vestry meets annually at Eastertime and is an important meeting at which registered members deal with a variety of matters including the way in which the financial affairs of the parish are conducted. It also includes electing the members of the Select Vestry (which is the group managing many of the parish business & financial matters), the People's Church & Glebe Wardens as well as other office holders, notably in certain years the Nominators (who select a new Rector when a vacancy occurs.)

Registration entitles you to take a full part in this meeting and if you haven't registered you are missing out on this important role. So why not consider it?

Registration is now open and has to be completed by 11th February. The Select Vestry will carry out its annual review of the Register of General Vestry Members at its meeting in the Parish Room at 7.30pm on the 12th February 2024.

All that is required to register is that you fill in a simple Declaration form, available from the Church Wardens, and return it to them by 11th February. They or any member of the Select Vestry would be only too pleased to discuss it with you.

Please do consider becoming a member of the General Vestry. It's a once-only declaration, lasting as long as you want it to last, which allows you to take an active role in your parish's affairs.

Church Website

Kilbrideparishchurch.org contains a lot of very important and useful information that everyone should find interesting and informative. It is updated on a regular basis by our webmaster, David Holmes, and he is keen to get details of anything that is

happening in relation to the parish of Kilbride. Contact him with anything you think might be of interest using the contact page on the website or in person at the church.



Share the news!

Undoubtedly when The Herald has been read cover-to-cover many copies will be discarded into the recycling bin. When you have finished with your copy please do consider passing it on to someone in your family or circle of friends for them to read.