



CLONTARF & SCOTS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023



I can remember my first Christmas Day Service here in 2007, as if it happened just last year. Over these 16 years of Celebrating Christ's birth, I have fallen in love with these traditions. Not an easy journey as the Irish traditions are so different from those of my childhood. I think it has grown from time spent with loved ones in this extraordinary family of God, which has changed my heart. I pray you will be able to take time this Christmas to remember, time to reflect on past Christmases, but most importantly time to read the original stories again. That we may all remember why we celebrate and why all these traditions matter so much. Why Jesus came the first time and has left us with the promise of His return. Every blessing in your remembering.

I also ask you to make your memories matter please. As you take time to intentionally think back, take up a pen and paper, or keyboard, and write down some of those remembrances please. I am looking for memories anchored in this Family of God. It may be from long ago, or just last month. Something amusing or moving or an epistle. I hope to collate these into a book that we can share. As we hear each other's stories we can encourage each other in our journey together.

Christmas Blessings
Lorraine

p.s. Please send your 'memories' – by email or typed/handwritten to Hilary who is collecting them for me. Email - hfairman@gmail.com

Organist- Nathan Whitley

Sadly, Nathan will be leaving us at the end of the year, I know we will all miss him. Nathan will be playing on 17th, 24th, 25th and 31st December so do take the opportunity to wish him well in his next endeavours. Many of you will remember another super organist – David O'Shea – and I asked him for a "few words" about Nathan. Hilary.

From David O'Shea

Nathan began learning the organ with me in the summer of 2021. In two and a half years he has made marvellous progress: amongst many achievements, he won first prize at in the Feis Ceoil Junior Organ category in spring 2022, and just recently he achieved an extraordinarily high mark in the Archbishop's Certificate of Church Music examination.

His progress in that time has been greatly helped by the generosity and support of Lorraine and the members of Clontarf and Scots, who have given him wonderful support as he learned the ropes of being a church musician. I knew when I recommended him to the congregation in early 2022 that he would be warmly welcomed, as I was welcomed by the congregation (now 18 years ago) when I was also young and inexperienced. Thank you to all at Clontarf and Scots for your encouragement of Nathan. I am sure he will, as I do, look back fondly on his time with you.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR 2023

Well done

Everyone

Total raised was

€11,285

A big **THANK YOU** to the fantastic team of volunteers who rolled up their sleeves and generously gave of their time to assist with this years Christmas Craft Fair. It was hard work and long hours but there was plenty of fun, laughter and friendly banter along the way.

To those who moved pews, put up the Christmas tree and decorations, set up tables and chairs, put up banners, administered our Facebook page, wrapped lucky dips, made up hampers, baked cakes, served teas, washed dishes, manned stalls and doors, directed cars, carried out security, cleaned and tidied up afterwards – thank you for making our fair such a successful event.

Thanks also to our generous sponsors - Traditional Craft Ltd, SuperValu Killester, Hemline Sewing, Poolbeg Press and Davy Finance.



Notes from Congregational Committee

Church Chimney – The work has been completed on the relining of the chimney. Hopefully consistent heating for the winter!

Work by Handyman - The first tranche of work, which included the painting of the porch and vestry, as well as various 'odd jobs' has now been completed.

Harry Clarke Window – An initial inspection of the window has been completed by a conservation architect. The committee has approved a further detailed report and recommendations of work to be considered.

Dublin City Council – letter written to them by Cong. Sec. concerning workmen accessing the grounds to use taps. Child safety concern.

Dublin City Council – letter written to them by Cong. Sec. concerning the obstruction caused by the bollards on the Howth Road.

Advent Calendar

As usual, there will be an online Advent Calendar. Advent starts on 3 December so do check the website.

Andrew White

Andrew White passed away on 16th October, peacefully after a long illness, and his funeral took place in the church on 20 October. We send our sympathies to his wife Patricia and children Catherine, Annie and Peter.

ORMOND QUAY AND SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN ENDOWMENTS

Charity Grants

Thank you to the church members who nominated their preferred charity in 2023. Grants totalling €31,200 were distributed amongst the following charities:



Christian Aid - Moderators Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal
Presbytery of Dublin & Munster Education Fund
Irish Red Cross - Humanitarian Crisis Appeal in Gaza
Unicef - Humanitarian Crisis Appeal in Gaza
Presbyterian Church in Ireland United Appeal
Presbyterian Children's Society
Dublin Christian Mission
Bertrand & Rutland Education Fund
Merchants Quay Ireland
St Francis Hospice
TWR - Benin (Supports cashew farming for small scale farmers in Benin)
Friends of Clontarf Hospital
Charity Water (Provides clean water in developing countries)
Oscars Kids (Children's Cancer Support Charity)
As I Am (Autism Charity)
Dignity for Girls (Education Programme in South Africa)

These grants bring the total distributed by our Endowments Charity Fund since 2005 to €568,000.

Education Grants

Grants totalling €4,500, were awarded to 38 students (22 Primary, 10 Secondary and 6 Third Level). Donations were also sent to Lindsay Road and Howth Road National Schools. To those who received an education grant, please remember to return an acknowledgement.

Greetings From Seoul

It was lovely to meet up with our friend and former organist, Seho Lee, on a recent stopover in South Korea. Also, to meet up with his family and hear him play at a concert in Seoul.

Seho asked to say hello and sends his love to everyone at Clontarf & Scots.

Margaret Conologue



Seho, with from left, his brother in law, sister, mum, aunt and friend following a concert in Seoul



Baptism

On 10 August we welcomed into the congregation Hugh Girvan Archer (aged 3) son of Carina Girvan and Thomas Archer and grandson of Patricia Girvan. Godparents are Anne Doyle and Thomas Slater.



*Children are a gift from the LORD;
they are a reward from him. Psalm 127:3*



Remembering Alexander Corry

In September 2023, while working in a very hot London city I took the opportunity to visit the memorial of one of the men named on the Harry Clarke window.

Alexander Corry was the first engineer on the S.S. W. M. Barkley, a 569 ton British steamer that was owned by A. Guinness, Son & Co. Ltd. On 12 October 1917 the ship was sailing from Belfast to Liverpool with a hold full of essential war supplies in the form of barrels of Guinness. She was sunk by one torpedo fired by the German submarine UC-75 and sunk 7 miles east of the Kish light vessel.

Eyewitness accounts tell us that the ship was trying to break in half and would have sunk a lot quicker if it was not for the Guinness barrels fighting their way up through the hatches. This kept her afloat and reduced the death toll to just 5, giving 7 others time to reach and launch the life boat.

Alexander Corry was 48 years old, lived at 3 Victoria Villas and was married. As with all men and women of the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets who died in both World Wars and who have no known grave, Alexander is named on the Tower Hill Memorial. This Memorial stands on the south side of the garden of Trinity Square, London, close to the Tower of London.



The Tower Hill Memorial – “the Shard” skyscraper can be seen towering in the background

In the noise of a busy London and under the gaze of “the Shard” I bowed my head and remembered Alexander Corry.

Samuel Ritchie



Memorial Panel

December 2023 Services

Sunday 3 December	First Sunday in Advent
Sunday 10 December	Second Sunday in Advent Service where members of the congregation will share their musical talents.
Sunday 17 December	Family Carol Service Tea/Coffee and Christmas cakes, biscuits will be served after service. All monies, above the FWO will go to Aoibhneas See details of this local charity below
Sunday 24 December	Holy Communion Non-stated
Monday 25 December	Christmas day (Word Development Appeal collection See details below. Envelopes will be in the pews) Service at 10.30am
Sunday 31 December	

Presbyterian Church in Ireland - World Development Appeal

There will be a collection on Christmas Day for the World Development Appeal 2023.
This year called - "Starting from Scratch: Hope for the displaced."

The 2023 World Development Appeal focusses on people who have been forced to leave their homes and land and start their lives from scratch.

Conflict, climate change, land grabbing – these are just a few of the reasons for displacement. The Appeal highlights those who have been forced to leave the homes they've lived in and the land they've worked for, people who have had to ask, "how do we start again?"

More information can be found on the PCI's website.
<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/worlddevelopment>.



Special Christmas Collection in aid of Aoibhneas

Aoibhneas (pronounced eevnass) is a local charity, which provides 24-hour support, information and referral services and access to safe accommodation, for women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

When C&S Presbyterian Church donated all the foodstuffs collected at Harvest to **Aoibhneas**, the ladies could not express thanks enough, particularly for the fresh fruit and vegetables. The chef was thrilled to have such good food, and no doubt, prepared delicious healthy meals for all those staying within the 4 walls. These gifts are much needed, more than food, without being too crass, money is needed. Any financial donation you can give this Christmas time, will be used to support the mums and the children who have lost the safe and secure homes they thought they had; with YOUR help **Aoibhneas** can deliver gifts and food hampers to women and children victims and survivors of domestic abuse this Christmas.



Please give according to your means, on **Sunday 17th December**, which is the **Family Carol Service**. All offerings over and above the Freewill Offering at that service will go to **Aoibhneas**.



Volunteer Helpers provide practical support with food hampers, clothes packing and gift wrapping to assist donations reaching families around seasonal celebrations like Christmas as well as special celebrations.

Aoibhneas – when translated from Irish – means Happiness or Joy, that we experience from external things. Aoibhneas is to fill our senses with the world around us. Our support means that these women and children can feel a bit more secure to do this.

Website: <https://aoibhneas.ie/> For **General Enquiries**, email address: admin@aoibhneas.org
Call free - 1800767767 – Immediate Support, open 24 hours. This helpline is also a support to professionals, agencies, family and friends concerned about a loved one.

DUTY ROTA FOR DECEMBER 2023

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Keys</u>	<u>FWO</u>	<u>Welcome</u>	<u>Hospitality</u>	
3 December	Paul Collins	Carolyn O'Neill	Cronje Family	Valerie Hughes	Joy Dolan
10 December	Paul Collins	Carolyn O'Neill	Cronje Family		
17 December	Ian Jackson	Carolyn O'Neill	Roelien V Molen	Noelene Brown	Jenny Collins
24 December	Ian Jackson	Samuel Ritchie	Roelien V Molen		
25 December	Alan Bothwell	Samuel Ritchie	Manuel Pedro		
31 December	Alan Bothwell	Samuel Ritchie	Manuel Pedro		