



NEWSLETTER

IN MEMORIAM

ANNE GREALEY



In April, we heard the sad news of Anne’s death. Belovèd wife and best friend of Robert, and loving Mom to Ben. As a Congregation, we loved seeing Anne at Christmas Fairs and celebrations; ready with a smile and encouragement. We know the last few years were very difficult for her and her Family as she struggled with poor health. We pray for the difficult journey for all who knew and loved Anne, and for Robert and Ben at this difficult time.

—THE REV. LORRAINE KENNEDY-RITCHIE,
Teaching Elder.

*The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and
saves the crushed in spirit.*

—PROVERBS 34:18
(E.S.V.)

MINISTER’S MESSAGES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2024 A.D.

For a bit of background, once a year, representatives from across this island gather together to discuss Reports from the many aspects of Ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. This year, it was placed in the third week of June, starting on the Thursday and ending on Saturday—Not a lot of time, but enough to ensure we go through the written Reports, as well as discussions for Resolutions for actions to be undertaken in the years ahead.

We also had time to worship together, hear from people across the global church, as well as celebrate Holy Communion together. The rhythm of the business unfolded well this year. I pass on a few matters that will be of interest to us all.

Sadly, I need to inform the Congregation that the Lucan Centre, a place of meeting and retreat, has been

sold. After 40 years of ministry there, it will be much missed.

With relief to all who work in the function of the Church practices, *The Code* (our book of good practice) has been *re*-edited and updated, and is now ready to be published.

For our own journey as a congregation, there is an encouraging program called *Present* that comes to us from the Council of Congregational Life and Witness.

These Meetings may seem very institutional, but they are very necessary and a wonderful opportunity for us to gather as representatives of this Church Body.

—THE REV. LORRAINE KENNEDY-RITCHIE,
Teaching Elder.

ASYMPTOTIC



“Asymptotic” stems from a Greek root, meaning “not falling together”.

Those who have heard me preach often know that I enjoy discovering words that help me understand our journey as Scripture unfolds it. Here are two

photos of a sculpture outside the Labour Exchange in Copenhagen. Three people seek to complete the circle of life. An amazing image of asymptotic.

The reason I have fallen in love with this word is that through its meaning I have been given a hopeful image of faith. Scripture through story, law and poetry tells us two seemingly contradictory truths. We



are told to struggle, endure, give, make and do. Jesus warns his disciples, recorded in LUKE 9:62: *Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”* (E.S.V.)

We are also told to rest, trust, know peace, rely on, even to stop struggling. We have the great instructions from Jesus in MATTHEW 11:28-30: [“]Come to me, all

who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (E.S.V.)

For me, asymptotic helps me understand the breathtaking symmetry of these two truths. I lean into my life, the comfortable and difficult, with joy and wisdom, using the gifts and resources the LORD has blessed me with. My family, my history, my family in faith, and countless other resources help me to faithfully live each day. All the time knowing that only our Sovereign LORD God Almighty, can and will complete the circle. In His time, He will bring to beautiful eternity all things.

Faith is needed in both these truths. Faith to see and use the resources to do all I can. Faith to trust each day, “Relying on God has to begin all over again everyday as if nothing had yet been done”: C.S. Lewis.

—THE REV. LORRAINE KENNEDY-RITCHIE,
Teaching Elder.

SUMMER LETTERS

Part 1 of *Summer Letters* is now available. Be sure to pick up your copy.

—THE REV. LORRAINE KENNEDY-RITCHIE,
Teaching Elder.

CHURCH MESSAGES

WORK PARTY



The Congregation will recall a work party was sought to tidy up the church grounds (see *Vol. XXI, No. VI, p. 14*). The work party assembled on *Saturday, 8th June* to tackle a large list of maintenance work. Substantial effort and much time was given by the seventeen volunteers given to this enterprise. Thanks to their efforts, the beauty of our beloved Church is maintained for all Members of our Congregation to enjoy; but also enabling passersby to admire the beautiful grounds on this busy corner of Clontarf.

A special thanks is due to the volunteers who gave up their Saturday for this effort, and also an acknowledgement of both Patience Nyathi and Nomusa Sibanda who formed part of the Work Party, but had left before the photograph was taken.

—SAMUEL RITCHIE,
Congregational Committee Secretary.

RECIPE APPEAL

The Congregation will recall that we are planning to compile a *Recipe Book* for the Church as a fundraiser. Should you have any baking (cake, biscuits or tray bakes) recipes, we would love to include them.

Please send them to jennifercoll1@icloud.com, or contact Jenny Collins with a paper copy of the recipe.

—JENNIFER COLLINS,
Elder.

DEACONESS TRAINING

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland is inviting applications for training as a Deaconess. Applications must be received by 4.00 *p.m.* on *Friday, 6th September, 2024* A.D. Training will commence in September, 2025 A.D. at Union Theological College.

Deaconesses play a vital role across our church, including evangelism, prayer ministry, Bible teaching and pastoral care.

Enquiries may be directed to Ms. Helen Johnston, Mission Support Officer, by e-mail to hjohnston@pcinet.org or by phone on +44 28 9041 7265.

DUTY ROTA

AUGUST DUTY ROTA
4th August

Keys	Paul Collins
Welcome	Manuel Pedro
Free Will Offering	Samuel Ritchie
Hospitality	Joy Dolan Noelene Brown

11th August

Keys	Alan Bothwell
Welcome	Valerie Hughes
Free Will Offering	Samuel Ritchie
Hospitality	—

18th August

Keys	Alan Bothwell
Welcome	Valerie Hughes
Free Will Offering	Samuel Ritchie
Hospitality	Valerie Hughes Jenny Collins

25th August

Keys	Ian Jackson
Welcome	David Adams
Free Will Offering	Samuel Ritchie
Hospitality	—