

Services:

April 3 rd	9.30 am	Early Morning Worship	Ruth Whelan
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Revd Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie
April 10 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Very Revd Dr. Trevor Morrow
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Very Revd Dr. Trevor Morrow
April 17 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Very Revd Dr. Trevor Morrow
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Very Revd Dr. Trevor Morrow
April 24 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship (<u>No</u> 9.30 a.m. service)	First candidate for Minister vacancy

Elders on Duty: Ann & Robin Simmons

Stewards: Linde & James Lunney, & Susan Taylor

Flower Rota: April 3rd Stephen Loughlin; April 10th Carol Esmonde;
April 17th Joanne Vance Cronin; April 24th Coral Ruddle.

Vacancy/ Session News:

The Session will meet on Wednesday 6th April at 8 p.m. in the Fletcher Room.

Vacancy - Preaching for the Post

Two candidates will preach for the post of Minister of Christ Church Rathgar at 11 am Morning Worship on Sunday 24th April and on Sunday 1st May. There will be no 9.30 a.m. service on those Sundays. On Thursday 5th May an Extraordinary General Meeting of voting members of the Congregation of CCR will take place at 8.00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall beneath the church. The business of the EGM will be the Election of a New Minister. We hope that as many members as possible will make it their business to attend worship on these Sundays and to participate in the EGM.

We continue to pray earnestly for God's gracious wisdom and guidance as we seek to decide rightly in choosing the person to guide the next stage of the life of our Congregation.

We pray also for all those of the congregation who are suffering, and especially from illness of body or of mind, or who have recently been bereaved, that they may be comforted and be always conscious of the presence of God's healing power working in their lives. We pray for strength and encouragement for those who love and support or minister to them.

We thank God for the birth on 11th March of Joshua Thomas, the grandson of Gary and Karen Tennant, and pray for God's blessing on the family at this time.

We thank those who contributed so generously to the **retiring collection** in aid of **Médecins sans Frontières**, which totalled €705.00. The Session and Treasurer always welcome suggestions for charities we might support.

Fiona Timlin recently held a coffee morning to raise funds to assist refugees arriving in Lesbos, where her brother Iain and his wife Anna are returning to work as volunteers to meet the urgent needs of the refugees arriving from nearby Turkey, and reduce the pressure on the local population. **LATER** Iain and Anna moved from Lesbos to Piraeus when deportations began. If you would like some eye-witness information, ask Fiona Timlin or Robin Simmons to show you a copy of their interim report.

Church Committee - The dates for future Committee meetings will be Tuesday 3rd May and Tuesday 7th June. All at 8 p.m. in the Fletcher Room.

Report on Church Committee Meeting of 8th March. The Hon. Treasurer confirmed that out statistical information had been passed on to Presbytery after the AGM. Carol Esmonde kindly agreed to prepare service sheets for Sundays 8th and 15th May. Relevant information for announcements etc. to her please. Property - Recent weather extremes had revealed problems with the Lodge roof - A top-class survey and assessment of the roofs of church and lodge would be arranged after the winter. Attention would also be given to assessing the condition of the Geddes window. The action required to deal with problems in the elderly drains of the church would also be evaluated and costed. The replacement of the Orwell Hall light units with LED ones and their protection were also discussed, and costs would be ascertained. Necessary work on the manse would soon be completed and the manse would be in good condition to receive our new Minister. The replacement of cupboards in the Coffee Dock below the chancel should be completed before the end of March.

Bible Study: The Explorers, the Sandymount Inter-Church Scripture Reading Group, concludes its study of the Acts of the Apostles at the Community Room of the Mount Tabor Community Centre from 7.30 to 9.00 p.m. on **Monday 4th April** when Revd Dr. Kieran J. O'Mahony will explore the characteristics of the Preaching in The Acts. Dr. O'Mahony is a first rate scholar and the evening should be most interesting.

Gary Tennant's article on our stained glass window by Wilhelmina Geddes:

Gary Tennant has very kindly contributed the item below about our stained glass window - St. Peter preaching to the Jews - by Wilhelmina Geddes. We are happy to receive for publication items submitted by you our readers on subjects which might be of interest to other members of our congregation, especially in those months when other activities for your notice may be fewer!

We are very lucky to have some wonderful stained glass in Christ Church Rathgar. We go in and out and accept the windows as part of the furniture but maybe we should take a closer look at them.

The colourful window nearest the pulpit was designed by Wilhelmina Geddes, who worked with Sarah Purser. Geddes was an inspirational figure in the Arts & Crafts movement and together with Purser was in the forefront of the revival for Irish Stained Glass. Nicola Gordon Bowe has just published a wonderful book chronicling the life and work of Wilhelmina Geddes. The book is illustrated with all the windows Geddes created, including our window depicting St Peter preaching to the Jews. The window was commissioned by the

congregation to commemorate the Revd Dr John Stewart, minister of CCR 1898-1913. The window was installed in late 1915 and dedicated in January 1916.

The subject depicts a specifically Presbyterian interpretation of Peter's calling and ministry. The window is full of symbolism. We would need Nicola Gordon Bowe to explain all to us, maybe we should invite her to inform us.

Geddes took advantage of new glass available at the time to make a wonderfully colourful window. Presbyterian Churches are known for their restrained interiors, so our forbears were very daring in their choice. Another curious choice is the inclusion of a woman depicted in the one of the panels. Can anybody spot her?

ADVANCE NOTICE - Ecumenical Bible week runs from 15th-21st May with local events in Rathgar; Christian Aid Week takes place between the same dates. Look for more information in the May Bulletin, and please lend your support.



St. Peter preaching to the Jews - by Wilhelmina Geddes