

SERVICES

April 2nd 11.00 am **Quarterly Holy Communion** Revd Lorraine Kennedy Ritchie
 There will be no 9.30 service

April 9th 9.30 am Holy Communion Revd James Carson
 11.00 am Morning Worship Revd James Carson

April 13th 8.00 pm Maundy Thursday Communion Revd Lorraine Kennedy Ritchie

April 14th 7.00 pm Good Friday Reflection Revd Lorraine Kennedy Ritchie
 joining Clontarf and Scots Presbyterian Church **in Clontarf**

EASTER SUNDAY

April 16th 9.30 am Holy Communion Revd James Carson
 11.00 am Morning Worship Revd James Carson

April 23rd There will be no 9.30 service
 11.00 am Morning Worship Rev. Purvis Campbell*
 (*nominee for Ministerial vacancy – see note re voting under the Meetings section below)

**April 30th
& May 7th** 9.30 am Holy Communion Revd James Carson
 11.00 am Morning Worship Revd James Carson

Elders on Duty Julie Cobbe Terry Cobbe

Stewards James Lunney Linde Lunney

Flowers 2nd April Joanne Vance Cronin 16th April Julie Cobbe
 9th April Stephen Loughlin 23rd April Carol Ormiston Esmonde
 30th April Robin Simmons

MEETINGS

The Kirk Session on 5th April at 8 pm in the Church.
The Church Committee on 11th April at 8pm in the Fletcher Room
An EGM of voting members of the Congregation on Monday 24th April at 8 pm in the Church will make important decisions about the vacancy. This meeting will be to ascertain whether the qualified voters of the congregation desire to give a call to the eligible minister. All are warmly invited to attend and the Vacancy Commission will lead the qualified voters through the voting and if so indicated Call process.

EASTER : God's loving purpose, set out before us in the gift of the Christmas child, now moves towards its fulfilment. Jesus's death on the Cross demonstrates God's boundless love for His people, calling us to be reconciled to God and to each other and to practise forgiveness ourselves in our transformed lives. God's forgiveness is costly and sacrificial, and we are called to follow His Son's lead in the hope of rising with Him to a new life and new world in which all will be according to His will - surely an offer we cannot refuse and must hold out to others.

PRAYER : We were very sad to hear last week of the death of **Jack Lee**, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday. In his youth he was a prominent sportsman especially with a racquet in his hand. His gentle and loyal courtesy and love for his family will be dearly missed by his wife **Elizabeth**, and the rest of his family, and our prayers and sympathy are with them at this time. Jack's funeral will take place at CCR at 11am on Tuesday 4th April. We were shocked to discover last Sunday that **Audrey S.** had suffered a serious stroke, and now faces a battle to recover her mobility and speech. We pray for her recovery and for a comforting awareness of God's loving presence in her frustrating situation. **We were delighted to see Jimmy G.** with us once again, and thank God for his recovery from a very testing illness. Congratulations to **Jenny and Randal Gray**, and to **Coral and Gordon Ruddle**, who recently celebrated significant wedding anniversaries - we pray that they may enjoy many more happy years together.

BROWN COINS COLLECTION - Louise Potts wishes to remind you all that she is continuing her collection for CCR funds! Keep your purses light and let her have the proceeds!

The Retiring collection to-day is for Christian Aid's appeal for South Sudan where famine is once again a threat to more than a million people, and more than 3 million are displaced. Please give generously to these most vulnerable people.

GOLF OUTING - A Golf Outing and Fellowship Dinner is being organized at **Rathfarnham Golf club for Friday 28th April**. Tee times: 1.00-1.30p.m: Dinner 6.30 for 7 pm. **Cost:** Golf - €30 p.p. / Golf & Dinner - €50 / Dinner only - €20 p.p. The CCR Golf Outing (last held in 1991!) is being revived and combined with a Congregational Fellowship Dinner. We hope as many as possible will be able to attend either one or other or, indeed, both! Please contact Alison Houston or Jennifer Moffett to reserve places. If you would like to donate golf competition prizes or 'lucky dip' presents, please also tell Alison.

The Explorers' Bible study group's meeting on **Monday 24th April** at 7.30 sharp will complete its study of Romans, examining **Romans for to-day's church**, with **Rev. Kieran O'Mahony**. Meetings take place in the Mount Tabor Care Centre, Sandymount Green. **More online.**

Lenten Lecture Series

Rathgar Methodist Church will be the venue for the final two Lenten presentations called "Christianity From Where I'm Sitting", on Wed. 5th April and Wed 12th April at 8.00 pm. **Fiona Murdoch (April 5th) and Patsy McGarry (April 12th**, postponed from March 15th), will share their experiences and their impressions of Christianity today and of its possible future. Admission is free, but there will be a retiring collection on both evenings in aid of each speaker's nominated charity. Everyone is very welcome. **More information about speakers online.**

Ecumenical Lenten Meditation - until 12th April - Silence in the Parish

This programme of early morning silent meditation during Lent will continue on weekdays, Monday to Friday, from 7.45 am to 8.15 am, at the Church of the Three Patrons, Rathgar Road.

Ecumenical Bible Week - an event will take place in CCR on Tuesday 6th June. Rev Dr Maurice Elliott will speak on Mark - The Fulness of the Gospel. **More information online.**

Rev Ruth Patterson will lead an all-day retreat - **Called to Pilgrimage** - in Donnybrook on

29th April - **more information online.** Take a break from the everyday and refresh your spiritual life!

The Tallaght Food Bank run by Cross Care continues to collect food on behalf of the many families who urgently need their support - please remember to buy basic easily-cooked storable food and to bring it to fill the boxes at the back of the Church.

Notes from Committee March 3rd - Property - Causes of damp in the NE corner of the church have been found - Leaking downpipe, damaged pointing and misplaced tiles. A quantity surveyor will be employed to help assess the cost of repairs needed and the extent of the damage will be tested. Work proceeds on church vents. Negotiations continue with the owners of the damaged apartments near the garden. Work will go on with soundproofing the Orwell Hall, and restrictions on the use of balls were put in place - soft balls only and no kicking allowed. Useful discussions took place on the renewal of sound, heating and lighting systems in the church. A new fire safety system had been installed in the Lecture Hall. Work on the lodge central heating and drains had been completed. **Other - A First Aid course** - 3 days for 10 people - would be made available for youth club leaders and congregation members.

Online/website edition of CCR Bulletin - supplement: Some additional information about future Rathgar/Terenure Fellowship events, the Explorers, and Rev. Ruth Patterson can be found in the website/online edition www.christchurchrathgar.org

Bulletin Editor's Details - Email address: bulletineditor@christchurchrathgar.org
Let's hear from you! Suggestions for those needing our prayers especially welcome. Robin Simmons's phone number will be found in the Phonebook. **NB** Copy deadline for May Bulletin - Monday 1st May, to appear on Sunday 8th May.

ONLINE BULLETIN SUPPLEMENT CHRIST CHURCH RATHGAR March 2017

1 Rathgar/Terenure Fellowship - LENTEN LECTURE SERIES

Christianity - From where I'm sitting

Wednesday nights, commencing Wed. 1st March - Wed. 5th April inclusive.

At Rathgar Methodist Church, Brighton Road, Rathgar, 8 pm

5th April **Fiona Murdoch** - an eclectic Christian who has enjoyed worship with various denominations over the years, but returned to the Society of Friends where she is an Elder of the Rathfarnham Quaker Meeting. Her interest in Celtic Christianity led to her travelling many Irish pilgrim paths - drawn to Christian mysticism and meditation she also enjoys retreats at Glenstal Abbey and Ards Friary. A graduate of TCD and the University of Wales, she has written for papers and magazines on both sides of the Irish Sea, and has had three books published by Veritas. She was communications officer of Eco-Congregation Ireland, and currently plays the same role with Irish Girl Guides.

Nominated charity: VITA - a small charity fighting hunger and climate change in Africa.

12th April **Patsy McGarry** - A graduate of UCG, his varied student life involved drama and journalism. He taught briefly before becoming a journalist at first in independent radio, setting up the first independent radio newsroom, then in print media. In the 1990s he worked with the Irish Press and the Sunday Independent before joining the Irish Times, where he has been the Religious Affairs correspondent since 1997.

Nominated Charity : The Alice Leahy Trust - a social and health Service for the Homeless.

2 ECUMENICAL BIBLE WEEK

June 4th - 11th 2017

Events to be linked to the 500th anniversary of Luther's Reformation - The theme is - **Faith comes from hearing the word of Christ.** All information at www.bibleweek.ie

Event at CCR - Tuesday June 6th 7.30 to 9pm

The Gospel in all its Fulness: A re-visiting of the teaching of Mark

Rev Dr Maurice Elliott Director Church of Ireland Theological Institute

More later on other Rathgar/Terenure events

We hope very much that you will be able to support as many as possible of these events.

Churches connected in the Rathgar/Terenure Fellowship Group, *Churches working together in the Unity of the Spirit:*

CHRIST CHURCH RATHGAR (Presbyterian)

CHURCH OF THE THREE PATRONS (Catholic)

CHURCHTOWN SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

RATHGAR METHODIST CHURCH

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, TERENURE (Catholic)

THE SALVATION ARMY

ZION PARISH (Church of Ireland)

3. The Explorers are an informal ecumenical group based in Sandymount and environs, who gather to read Scripture together.

You are most welcome to join us for the 2016-2017 season, during which we will be exploring Paul's Letter to the Romans. For further information, please contact Anngret Simms (269 4374).

We will be meeting again this year in the Community Room of the Mount Tabor Care Centre, Sandymount Green, next to Christ Church. We meet from 7.30 - 9.00 pm, beginning and ending promptly. All evenings will be led by Kieran O'Mahony, OSA

Monday, 24 April 2017 - Romans for today's church - Dr Kieran J O'Mahony, O.S.A. is Biblical Studies Coordinator, Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Dublin.

All are welcome to any or all evenings of this series. Please bring a Bible with you.

The Community Room is used for residents' activities during the day, and is available for wider community use in the evenings. We are grateful to the Director, Ms Jane Butler, and to the Dublin Central Mission of the Methodist Church for their hospitality.

4. More information on Ruth Patterson and the retreat on 29th April 2017

Ruth Patterson, the first woman to be ordained as a Minister in Ireland (1976), has been director since 1988 of Restoration Ministries, a non-denominational Christian organization committed to peace and reconciliation, based in Northern Ireland.

The retreat - Called to Pilgrimage - will explore the nature of the Christian journey. It will be held from 10am to 4pm, 29th April 2017, in the Avila Carmelite Centre in Bloomfield Avenue, Dublin 4. The cost will be €40 and includes a light lunch. Booking at 01 643 0200