

CCR BULLETIN

AUGUST 2016

(web version as at 6/8/16)

SERVICES

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| August 7th | 9.30 am | Early Morning Worship | Ken Gibson, Leprosy Mission |
| | 11.00 am | Morning Worship | Ken Gibson, Leprosy Mission |
| August 14th | 9.30 am | Holy Communion | Revd James Carson |
| | 11.00 am | Morning Worship | Revd James Carson |
| August 21st | 9.30 am | Holy Communion | Revd James Carson |
| | 11.00 am | Morning Worship (Baptism) | Revd James Carson |
| August 28th | 9.30 am | Early Morning Worship | Revd Lorraine Kennedy Ritchie |
| | 11.00 am | Morning Worship (Baptism) | Revd Lorraine Kennedy Ritchie |
| September 4th | 9.30 am | Holy Communion | Revd James Carson |
| | 11.00 am | Morning Worship | Revd James Carson |

Elder on Duty Gary Tennant **Stewards** Armand & Mary Flack

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| Flower Rota | 7 th August | Viola O'Connor | 14 th August | Marina Proseckina |
| | 21 st August | Ann Simmons | 28 th August | Karen Tennant |

Congregational News: We are pleased to note an improvement in the condition of several of those for whom your prayers have recently been requested. **Ian K.** has been back in church and working hard for the flower show, and is much more comfortable. **Alice G.** is back at home with her new shoulder and working to regain her strength and mobility. In spite of her treatment she worked to arrange flowers for the congregation and to contribute to the cake stall at the flower show. We very much appreciate her continuing strong support to CCR and its activities, and the constant help given to her by Tricia. We are aware of other members of the congregation who have been relieved from illness or the threat of illness, and we thank God for the grace and healing power by which our lives are blessed.

We pray that those of us who enjoy holidays may be blessed by a renewed awareness of the creative glory of God which shines through the beauty and variety of their surroundings: and may experience a fresh appreciation of the warmth and generosity of the love God inspires among families at this time, when leisure provides greater opportunity for its expression. We pray for those among us who return at holiday time to a previous home to visit and support members of an older generation whose health gives rise to concern. We pray that their anxieties may be relieved and the health of those they love may be improved and the peace and comfort of the Lord may sustain old and young alike.

Flower Show - The Rathgar Horticultural Society's Annual Flower Show took place a little later than usual last month and was a very charming event which well rewarded the attention of all exhibitors and visitors. Lorraine kindly came from Clontarf to present the cups and garden prizes. Bruce Carswell and his committee were most efficient and created a very friendly atmosphere and we urge even more people to attend and exhibit at next year's event. Warm thanks are due to all those who assisted in various ways, and especially to those who baked so generously to provide delicious goodies for the cake stall and teas, including our friends in the Holy Trinity Romanian Baptist Church.

Televised Service - At quite short notice the congregation was invited to join Clontarf Presbyterian church at the RTE studios to record a service which will be broadcast at 11 am on 28th August. This may be watched afterwards on the RTE Player. Thanks and congratulations to our organist Bob Yeo and a small but loyal group who spent their Sunday afternoon bearing witness to their faith in this way.

General Assembly 2016 - Joan Cowle, our representative elder, has kindly provided this summary note. My overwhelming impression of this year's General Assembly is of the smooth and efficient chairmanship of the Moderator, Very Revd Dr Frank Sellar, formerly Minister of Adelaide Road. Sessions were conducted with efficiency and good humour, and respect was shown in the debates in spite of the often strongly conflicting opinions of the speakers. As well as debates, there were presentations with videos and discussions on the church in the public square, and the global church, and the care of older people. Representatives of other Irish churches and several world and European churches were received, and some contributed to debates. The current dispute with the Church of Scotland was aired and many Ministers deplored the present rift. A meeting this autumn will try to resolve the matter. The Moderator of the Church of Scotland attended the PCI Assembly, but there was no PCI representative in Scotland this year. Rev. John Dunlop remarked that it was easy to be schooled in the attitude of separatism. Other subjects for debate were Ministerial training, procedures for retired Ministers, recent charity legislation on both sides of the border, and the lack of women nominated to Assembly committees. The former Clerk, Very Rev. Dr Donald Watts, urged that the church should use "the whole body of Christ" in contributing to its decisions. Much of this Assembly's business concerned internal procedures, often ending in typically Presbyterian fashion with its referral to committees. Many thanks, Joan!

There is detailed coverage of the Assembly on the website of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland. Put **PCI Assembly 7th June 2016** into your search engine if you wish to know more about the Minutes and the Reports and other papers submitted to the Assembly.

GUJARAT HOSTEL - SISU, the body running the hostels where we support some young women, is celebrating the completion of 25 years of its work. Starting with attempts to prevent the killing of girl babies, and to change the attitudes of the communities involved, the Society moved on to work for the improvement of the conditions of 'Tribal' communities in several parts of India. Look out on our website and on the church notice board for new photographs from our Gujarat project.

Bulletin Editor's Details - Email address: bulletineditor@christchurchrathgar.com. Let's hear from you! Suggestions for those needing our prayers especially welcome. Robin Simmons's phone number will be found in the Phonebook.

Copy deadline for September Bulletin - Thursday 1st September - to appear Sunday 4th September.