

SERVICES Unless otherwise noted, all taken by **Revd Purvis Campbell**

- August 6th** 9.30 am Holy Communion *Gospel: Luke 19: 28-36*
 11.00 am Summer Praise
Meet & Greet: Vestry. Wed 2nd 10.30 am
- August 13th** 9.30 am Holy Communion *Gospel: Matthew 14: 22-33*
 11.00 am Summer Praise
Meet & Greet: Vestry. Wed 9th 10.30 am
- August 20th** 9.30 am Holy Communion *Gospel: Matthew 15: 21-28*
 11.00 am Summer Praise
Meet & Greet: Vestry. Wed 16th 10.30 am
- August 27th** 9.30 am Holy Communion *Gospel: Matthew 16: 13-20*
 11.00 am Summer Praise
Meet & Greet: Vestry. Wed 23rd 10.30 am
- September 3rd** 9.30 am Holy Communion *Gospel: Matthew 16: 21-28*
 11.00 am Summer Praise
Meet & Greet: Vestry. Wed 30th 10.30 am

MEET and GREET offers the opportunity for Purvis and Elizabeth Campbell to meet members of the Congregation, and for Purvis to introduce the coming Sunday's Gospel.

Elders on Duty Elspeth Haren Victor Laing
Stewards Armand Flack Mary Flack

Flowers 6th August Ann Simmons 20th August Iris Burns
 13th August Karen Tennant 27th August Marina Proseckina

The KIRK SESSION will meet on **Wednesday 30th August** in the Fletcher Room at 8.00 pm

Transfiguration - An amazing occasion when on a hillside with Jesus Peter, James and John experienced a revelation of His divine glory, attested to by the Word of the Father. Since they had recently been made aware that Jesus the Messiah was destined to die they found it hard to understand and react appropriately to this startling information. It is hard for us modern disciples to see our lives from the perspective of the divine and to align the priorities of our ordinary lives with the demands of the spiritual reality we are pledged to serve. But perhaps holidays whether in the mountains or elsewhere may give us the chance to assess our lives from a truer perspective and give transcendent values a greater priority. We pray that all those on holiday may return to their ordinary lives refreshed and renewed for the routine times ahead.

We are pleased to hear that Audrey S. is starting to make progress and we pray that she may be encouraged by small improvements and enabled to persevere positively with her rehabilitation. **We think of the young people** of our congregation and

elsewhere awaiting examination results, **and we pray that those who assess their work** may do so accurately and fairly. **We pray that Robin Aicken**, who assisted us as a student in 2015, and who was recently licensed by his presbytery, may have a successful career as he witnesses to the Gospel. **We pray that Purvis and Elizabeth may be encouraged** by the warmth of our welcome as they settle into their new environment, and be inspired to lead us into new areas of service.

Retiring collections - The retiring collection at the installation of Purvis Campbell raised just over €1200 for the Student Bursary Scheme, **a fine result**, and no doubt we must thank our visitors from across the border for their generous assistance in producing it. The retiring collection after July's Communion service yielded €500 for Crosscare, and we thank you for continuing to support this cause with liberality.

The Flower Show took place on a fine summer's day on 8th July. A well-supported community event, its charm and good spirit revives memories of the simpler pleasures of a former age. Very many thanks to Bruce Carswell and the Committee for their hard work and good humour and to those who assisted them in their preparations, made tea and marvellous cakes, potted up and sold plants. Thanks also to the Rathgar Residents Association for offering garden prizes. The numbers attending were greater than last year, but uncertain weather earlier reduced the number of entries, which however appeared very beautiful. Next year we hope that more of you will be able to enter produce in the competitions.

2017 General Assembly - Joan Cowle reports: The debates at this General Assembly tackled many issues common to the wider church - delegates from Hungary, Latvia, Syria and East Africa spoke movingly of their own difficulties - as well as those more local to us. Eleanor Petrie, formerly of CCR, spoke about the ongoing problems of entry to faith-based schools while Very Revd Dr Trevor Morrow gave an extensive report on the abortion debate and our attitude to the 8th amendment. Members of the Youth Assembly urged greater use of social media in ministry. Particular concern was expressed at the shortage of students coming forward for the Ministry - only 5 this coming September - and discussion especially focussed on the lack of female students. Questions relating to same sex attraction caused some emotional responses. A series of workshops on this subject has been held, and it is planned to open these to Kirk Sessions also. There are no plans for the Irish Moderator to attend the Church of Scotland General Assembly next year, the third such absence. The cause of the difference is the Church of Scotland's policy of ordaining gay Ministers. The Scottish Moderator told the General Assembly "We don't ask you to agree with us, just simply to be with us, agreeing to disagree". On the bright side the PCI has agreed to enter discussions with the Roman Catholic church on the contemporary understanding of the doctrine of justification, the first time in living memory that such a theological discussion has been held. Subscribers to the Presbyterian Herald will find a summary of all the major reports in its July/August edition. **The Editor adds: The PCI website** is now more user-friendly, and also contains this information. Those interested in the decisions taken during the summer by the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church to allow same-sex marriages to be celebrated in a church should look online at their websites and at newspaper reports. The Herald includes a letter by Mary Hunter's brother John about the decision for our Moderator not to visit the Church of Scotland Assembly.

Re Gujarat - The girls we support have returned to the Vyara Hostel for the beginning of the new school year, and our contribution of €3775 to support the Hostel

has been most gratefully received. The Monsoon this year has been generous, and there has been flooding. Our prayers have been requested for the safety of their elderly buildings. In Tamil Nadu (SE India), where SISU works for the welfare and protection of female children, there has been a drought, and we are asked to pray for SISU's work in that area also.

Lorraine Kennedy Ritchie writes: Here are the **vacancy statistics** as I have them - I took part in 2 weddings, 17 Funerals, 10 Baptisms. There were 15 different preachers and Ministers. 34 months this wonderful congregation journeyed. 149 Services in all.

Online/website edition of CCR Bulletin supplement: Contains Paul Fry's address at the Installation www.christchurchrathgar.org. **Bulletin Editor's Details-** Emailaddress:bulletineditor@christchurchrathgar.org Suggestions for those needing our prayers especially welcome. Robin Simmons's phone number will be found in the Phonebook. **NB** Copy deadline for September Bulletin - Wed 30th August, to appear on 3rd Sept.

ONLINE BULLETIN SUPPLEMENT CHRIST CHURCH RATHGAR August 2017

Clerk's address 16 June 2017

As Clerk of Session it's my joyful task on behalf of the congregation, friends, adherents to extend a warm welcome to Revd Peter Purvis Campbell and Elizabeth and their family to Christ Church Rathgar. Welcome welcome welcome to one and all in the Campbell family. It is our wish that you will have a happy, healthy, rewarding and enjoyable tenure with us in CCR. You will have our support in every way that we can be of assistance to you. You join a congregation that has stood at the road junction in Rathgar village since 1859 and has worshipped Christ and engaged and embraced the community within which it exists. You will come to feel the warmth both of our congregation but also that of our neighbouring parishes and religious communities. I know that you will come to appreciate how good a fit CCR is in all these areas. It is my opinion that you also will be a good fit within CCR our local community.

These last two-and-a-half years we have been on a journey in this congregation and Revd Lorraine Kennedy Ritchie of Clontarf and Scots Presbyterian Church has provided tireless guidance, support, council, prayer, shepharding and leadership during the Vacancy. It was our good fortune that she was appointed as our Interim Moderator LKR set-to straight away in getting the show on the road and progressing us through the various phases of the process, leading the congregation through two "preaching for the post" phases which were disappointingly unsuccessful before arriving at the final victorious process which tonight we are gathered to celebrate! I think a word of thanks must also go to Samuel, Lorraine's husband, rock and supporter, also a great friend of CCR as without his help in the background Lorraine's task could have been overwhelming.

The link between Christ Church Rathgar and Scots Church goes back to the very origins of CCR. In 1859 the sought-for permission to form a congregation

was granted by the Presbytery early in November and an interim Session was duly appointed. Worship began in a nearby school house under the leadership of ministers drawn from the city churches, with the Reverend John Hall of the Scots Church in particular being most engaged in the process!!

I think it more than just a coincidence that 158 years later the Revd Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie of Clontarf AND SCOTS Church should be appointed our Interim Moderator to guide us through the vacancy journey to find our new Moderator.

As a mark of her devotion and care and prayerful support for CCR through the vacancy it gives me great pleasure as Clerk of Session and on behalf of all in Christ Church Rathgar - to present Lorraine a gift which I hope will be a special reminder to her of the successful journey which we have made together.

Those who attended last Sundays services will have heard Lorraine provide some statistical details surrounding the vacancy. The vacancy has lasted 34 months and has organised and/or conducted 149 services which have included a wide range of preachers, which I will now recall - and hope that I have gathered each one up and left nobody out!!

THEY WERE:

REVD LORRAINE KENNEDY-RITCHIE.

REVD SAM MAWHINNEY

VERY REVD DR TREVOR MORROW

REVD DAVID BRUCE.

REVD DAVID GODFREY

REVD JAMES CARSON 13 X 2017; 18 X 2016; total = 31!

Mr WERNER VAN DER HEMEL

Mr JOHN ELLIS

Ms MARIANNE KNOETZE

Ms UTA RAAB

MR ALAN FINLAY

Mr KEN GIBSON, LEPROSY MISSION.

REVD GORDON LINNEY

REVD HARRY LEW

Mr ROBIN AICKEN

And from CCR –

PROF RUTH WHELAN

MR ROBIN SIMMONS

DR NEVILLE COBBE

Obviously there have also been four ministers preaching for the post, the last and most recent one being the Revd Peter Purvis Campbell.

So in total 22 have graced our pulpit and provided thoughtful and considered guidance and teaching to us at 0930 and 11 am family services of worship. By and away the most prolific preacher whom we have been graced with, appearing on at least 31 occasions, has been the Revd Jim Carson. Jim and Valerie have cemented a great friendship with our congregation; Jim has sustained us in faith when things weren't going as fast as we thought they should, when they didn't go as we thought that they should, when the process apparently slowed or stopped in its tracks and he lent his shoulder to the wheel with Lorraine and encouraged us not to despair and to persevere. The Session has been conscious of Jims' care and concern for CCR's wellbeing over the course of the vacancy and consider that it should be marked by a small gift from CCR to Jim and Valerie which we hope will serve to remind them in the future of the special place they occupy in our hearts.

PAUL FRY