

CALENDAR OF SERVICES

August 5th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Revd Celia Kenny
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Revd Celia Kenny
August 12th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Revd Jim Carson
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Revd Jim Carson
August 19th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Revd Purvis Campbell
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Revd Purvis Campbell
August 26th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Revd Celia Kenny
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Revd Celia Kenny

Elder on Duty Ann Simmons

Stewards Armand Flack Mary Flack

Flowers 5th August Ann Simmons
19th August to be arranged

12th August Robin Simmons
26th August Marina Proseckina

The 14th Chapter of Luke's Gospel reminds us of the high cost of discipleship - Healing service has priority over ritual rules for behaviour - as guests at God's feast we must be humble - our own hospitality must remember those in need. Those invited to God's banquet must accept wholeheartedly or they risk being replaced by the poor and outcasts. The salt must preserve its sharpness or it is worthless. Our mission would seem to be to serve those in need without self-righteous presumption. We pray that God may make us gracious enough to obey his will, and serve humbly at his rich feast.

We regret to announce the very recent death of **Alan Corsini**, and send our sympathies at their loss to his family, especially his wife Kathleen and children Janet and Adrian. Please remember them in your prayers together with those in our congregation who are sick, especially Ian and Audrey, those who are awaiting the results of tests, and those who through weakness are no longer able to be with us at worship. May all those in need be conscious of the richness of God's love for them each day. We pray for those on holiday that their love of life may be revived and their grateful appreciation of the gifts of God renewed. We pray especially for the growth of mutual love within families at this time and thank God for the continual blessings of family ties.

The 64th Annual Flower Show of the Rathgar Horticultural Society took place very successfully early last month. Especial thanks to Bruce Carswell, whose thoughtful charm made its organization look easy, and to those who helped so kindly and tastefully with the cake stall and in preparing delicious teas. Entries and attendance were up in spite of the very dry weather conditions. and members of the congregation who won prizes included Bruce himself, Heidi Kelly, Robin Fraser and James Lunney.

Revd Dr Robin Boyd, greatly admired Director of the Irish School of Ecumenics 1980-87, died in June, aged 94. After service as a missionary in Gujarat from 1951 until 1974, working especially in Theological Education, he then moved to parish ministry in Australia, and he returned there after his time in Dublin. He went to Scotland in 1998 after his wife Frances died. Search the web or ask the editor for full text of the tribute by Revd Dr Liz Hughes, of PCI's Council for Global Mission.

CHRIST CHURCH RATHGAR GOLF OUTING AND FELLOWSHIP DINNER
Rathfarnham Golf Club, Stocking Lane, Dublin 16 Friday, 21st September, 2018

Golfers: Singles Stableford Competition in 3-balls (extra shot accorded to non-Rathfarnham members!).

- Tee time reserved from 13.00h-14.00h
- €55 per person, golf and dinner; €30 per person golf only
(€30 p.p. golf and dinner for Rathfarnham Golf Club members)

Diners: Please join us for this year's Congregational Fellowship Dinner.....good food, chat and there may be music too!

- Dinner – 18.30h for 19.00h
- Venue – Rathfarnham Golf Club
- €25 per person

Bookings to Alison or Jennifer via email at: webmaster@christchurchrathgar.org or in person ASAP, please, to assist organisation. Payment in advance preferable; please put your name/amount on an envelope and give to one of us at church.

CCR over 50 Years - there is a short note in the online bulletin discussing information about the finances and membership of CCR in 1968. Briefly, 17 of the 500 or so members remain 50 years later, and about 30% of our present congregation descend from the families of members at that time. FWO contributions made up 84% of the congregation's income at the time, and of the £8200 income, £1060 went to reserves and £2438 to others.

Reaction to General Assembly decisions - at a well-attended congregational information meeting on 26th June some 60 members discussed motions passed at the General Assembly about formal relations with the Church of Scotland and the URC, and the treatment of same sex couples requesting communicant membership or Baptism of their children. Recent public events relating to Union College were also mentioned. General outrage was expressed at what seemed to some to suggest we now belonged to a new denomination, and the Clerk of Session was asked to inform the Clerk of the General Assembly of our members' unhappiness with the situation. The session was asked to consider proposing a memorial looking for the reversal of these decisions as soon as possible. (Certain members of the congregation were moved to join the Dublin Pride march behind a banner "Presbyterians for Equality and Inclusion.") Later a letter signed by more than 200 Ministers and elders was published in Belfast Telegraph and reported as a news item in other press outlets. The text of this letter may be found in the online bulletin. More information on these matters is available online, from the editor, and from the July/August edition of the Presbyterian Herald.

Minister's contact details: email – minister@christchurchrathgar.org

Bulletin Editor's Details—Email address: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 –Thurs 30th August, to appear on 2nd September. The online Bulletin includes items on CCR over 50 years and the letter of 232 PCI ministers or elders.

CCR Over 50 years - 1968 - 2018

The Dublin and Munster Presbytery Year Book for 1968 contains detailed information about the Congregation 50 years ago. No data protection regulations in those far off days! One of the 32 elders survives. The congregational list included some 500 names on the Communicant Roll. but it is hard to break them down accurately into families, perhaps 220 at a minimum, 350 at a maximum, compared with 185 to-day on our current list. I will make brief comments on the extent to which our present congregation has descended from earlier generations and the financial changes that have occurred during the fifty years.

One might assume that many of our current congregation would descend from the families of 50 years ago. 16 individuals and two families survive, but only 32 families, say 15%, have descendants on the current list. Ten of these are descended from the 32 elders, and six from the 26 committee members. So half the families who descend from those of 50 years ago were related to members of session or committee. Looking at the matter another way, roughly 70% of current families have arrived within the last 50 years, and have no connection with the earlier days. We are mainly blow-ins. The present congregation does not depend mainly on those whose families belonged 50 years ago. A successful Junior church is great for our children but benefits others as much as our own future congregation.

Financial changes - The accounts for 1967 showed receipts of £8206, and of the equal value payments £1060 went to reserves and £2438 was spent on 'others', including £172 for Christian Aid, and £604 to Central Church Funds. 84% of church income came from FWO contributions. There were about 349 offering numbers in use. There was no revenue from advertising or lettings.

In 2017 CCR's income was €215,000. 40% came from FWO offerings and tax returns, some €87,000. There are now 99 FWO numbers in use. More than half our income does not come directly from members of the congregation. Income has increased by 26 times in the 50 years.

Annual FWO offerings in 1967 ranged from 4/- (25cent) to £159 (or £3 a week). Seven people contributed less than £1 a year, and nine gave £2 or more a week. The median contribution was some £12 in the year, about 5/- or 30cent a week. In 2017 the range of FWO offerings was between €10 and €3400 in the year, and the average(mean) was €650 or €12.50 a week.

“A cry from the heart” - 6th July 2018. A letter signed by 232 teaching and ruling elders in the Presbyterian church in Ireland, including Revd Purvis Campbell and all those CCR elders who could be contacted online.

“As teaching and ruling elders in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, we acknowledge, and indeed share, the profound sense of hurt, dismay and anger currently being expressed in the wake of decisions taken at our 2018 general assembly. This level of feeling is unprecedented in our pastoral experience. We are committed to doing all we can to ensure that the decisions which have prompted such a level of concern will be subject to the urgent attention they deserve, and for which many in the church are calling.

We gladly acknowledge that we ourselves have been constantly enriched and challenged by the diversity of views found in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Therefore, as we participate in this work of critical engagement and discernment, we hold that any unnecessary narrowing of the range of acceptable theological perspectives within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland will damage our credibility and limit our future.

We make this statement: as a prayerful expression of appropriate loyalty to the Presbyterian Church in Ireland at this moment in our history; as a necessary consequence of our ordination vows, which we take with the utmost seriousness; and by the grace of God, as an imperfect yet credible witness to our trust in Jesus Christ alone. To God alone be the glory.”