

## CALENDAR OF SERVICES etc.

<b>December 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Advent Sunday</b>		
	9.30 am	Holy Communion	<b>Revd Purvis Campbell</b>
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	<b>Revd Purvis Campbell</b>
	<b>SAS SUNDAY</b> Parallel and Crossed Transactions		
	<b>Robert Whyte</b> Coffee Fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity		
<b>December 10<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	Holy Communion	<b>Revd Purvis Campbell</b>
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	<b>Revd Purvis Campbell</b>
	<b>Focus on Gujarat - followed by Fellowship Curry Lunch</b>		
<b>December 17<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	Holy Communion	<b>Revd Purvis Campbell</b>
	11.00 am	Lessons and Carols - Children's Gift Service	<b>Revd Purvis Campbell</b>
<b>December 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>		
	9.30 am	Holy Communion	<b>Revd Purvis Campbell</b>
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	<b>Revd Purvis Campbell</b>
<b>December 25<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00 am	Holy Communion	<b>Revd Purvis Campbell</b>
	11.00 am	Festive Family Service	<b>Revd Purvis Campbell</b>
<b>December 31<sup>st</sup></b>	9.30 am	Holy Communion	<b>Revd Purvis Campbell</b>
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	<b>Revd Purvis Campbell</b>
<b>2018</b>			
<b>January 7<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	Holy Communion	<b>Revd Purvis Campbell</b>
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	<b>Revd Purvis Campbell</b>

**Elders on Duty** Randal & Jenny Gray  
**Stewards** Alison Houston Gary Tennant

**Flowers** 3rd December Gary Tennant 17th & 24th December Anne Walsh  
 10th December Gary Tennant 31st December Anne Walsh

**The Kirk Session** will meet on **Wednesday 6th December** in the Fletcher Room at 7.30 pm.  
**The Church Committee** will also meet on **Tuesday 12th December** in the same place at 8.00 pm.

**The Renaissance Panel** will meet on **Thursday 28th November** in the Fletcher Room at 8.00 pm.

**Mid week events:**

**10.30 am Each Wednesday from 6th December until 20th December**

Reflections and prayers for Advent - in the Committee Room.

**Friday 15th December - Carols for All 6.45 for 7 pm** Please don't forget to leave time for this traditionally joyful event when we open our doors to our local neighbours to celebrate the birth of Christ together as the Rathgar community with fun and good feeling, the Twelve Days of Christmas and the Rathfarnham Concert Band. Join us for Faithful Good Fellowship.

## **Advance Notice - Quarterly Communion will be celebrated on 14th January 2018**

**Advent :** We have a very busy programme ahead of us this Advent, the time of preparation for the coming of the long-promised Saviour. Advent challenges us to work together for the restoration of God's Kingdom. Much of this preparation involves proclamation, celebration and building up the effective fellowship of God's people so that we can support each other in our discipleship. On the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Hope, we celebrate our young adults, recently received into full membership of our church. On the second Sunday, the Sunday of Peace, we celebrate our recent most welcome arrivals from overseas, and focus on our overseas work providing resources to benefit young women in Gujarat. On the third Sunday the Sunday of Joy, we have a service of Lessons and Carols and celebrate the members of our Junior church and their teachers, and on Christmas Eve, the Sunday of Love, we await with eager anticipation the arrival of the Christ child on the morrow, bringing the fulfilment of God's faithful promises for the restoration of the long-promised life of love and grace and the supremacy of God's rule and fulfilling values - the most abundant life for all.

**We were greatly saddened** by the death of **Jean McMullen** on 3rd November. Her life was celebrated by a memorial service on 8th November, when a packed church heard of her gentle and friendly personality and love for people, music of every sort, and hill walking, and of her faithful commitment to her church. Much of her married life was overshadowed by illness, which she bore with courage and determination. We sympathise most deeply with her mother May Wilkes, and her gentle and supportive husband Richard. **We remember also** those of our number who experience chronic illness or have recently undergone operations or tests, especially Audrey, Brian, Elaine, Elizabeth, and Ian. We pray that they may be relieved from their suffering and comforted by their awareness of the close and caring presence of God.

### **Gujarat Sunday and Curry Lunch - December 10th.**

This will be an important day in the life of CCR as we welcome our recent overseas members, and celebrate our overseas activities in Gujarat, North West India. Our first Minister, William Stevenson was prominent in the early Missionary movement in Irish Presbyterianism, and his son founded a mission school in Gujarat. Our Communion table, made in Gujarat, was presented by his family in 1901. Since our 150th Anniversary we have been supporting work in the Dangs, a hilly area in SE Gujarat, to help provide a stable base for the education of tribal children, more recently supporting a hostel for girls in Vyara. We will be launching a new appeal to sustain this project, and enjoying a curry lunch encouraging members of the congregation to welcome and get to know some of the newer members from overseas who have joined us recently. Infants at Baptism are promised that wherever they go they will be welcome in the Christian churches there and it is important that we welcome those who come to us with joy and make it easy for them to settle happily among us. Even if you are not interested in the Gujarat project, please come and join us and make this an occasion of real fun and happy fellowship for everyone. New members, we are so happy to welcome you! There are sign-up forms for the lunch in the porches. If you are in church before 10th December, please use them to help the caterers know how many to expect.

**Decorating the Christmas Tree** and church will take place on **December 7th at 2 pm** under the guidance of Jill McQuillan. Your help would be greatly valued. Bring lots of ivy with you!

**The Congregation may be interested to know the composition of the Renaissance Panel on 2nd October 2017** - The Minister, The Session Clerk, David Walsh (Convener), Douglas Carson, Bruce Carswell, Maurie Cotter, Randal Gray, Alison Houston, Simon Moore O'Donohoe, Doreen Steenson, Gary and Karen Tennant. The Panel agreed that its mission was the mission statement of CCR taking into account the future church and its

congregational needs. It acknowledged the importance of communicating with Session and the Congregation what it was proposing and why.

**World Development Appeal:** Material will be in the pews during Advent. This year's theme will be: **A beautiful idea: women's voices in fragile states.** It focuses on that huge African nation, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but the risks to women are similar in all the very poor and insecure states of the world. Some of this material may appear at Wednesday morning in Advent meetings.

**Ian Kelly** points out there is as yet no memorial in CCR to our beloved and very faithful Minister **Robin MacDermott**. Robin cared for the congregation of CCR with grace and wisdom from 1970 until 1989, and died in 2015 after further ministries in Ballina and Sandymount and retirement in Co Wicklow. The session would be delighted to receive your suggestions for a suitable Memorial.

**The Explorers** Ecumenical Bible study group will meet again on 27th November to discuss **The Samaritan Woman** (John 4), and on 11th December for **The Sequence of Feasts** (John 5-10) at 7.30pm at the Mount Tabor Centre, Sandymount Green under the expert and inspiring direction of Rev. Dr Kieran O'Mahony OSA. New Explorers most welcome.

**Committee Meeting 14th November - Very brief Notes.**

There was further discussion of the best way to deal with the unstable wall behind the Tennant Hall. Enquiries would continue. A tax rebate had been received which it was expected was merely a first instalment. Our Bank account details should be published in the Bulletin. The Minister was considering initiating a men's group meeting fortnightly on Tuesday mornings. The WhatsApp group was noted and other new methods of communications were suggested. The Minister and his wife Elizabeth offered to look after the Housekeeping for a while.

**CCR Bank Details:** For those who would like to make direct financial contributions to Christ Church Rathgar, please note the Bank details are as follows

**AIB Bank    BIC: AIBKIE2D**  
**IBAN: IE94 AIBK 931225 05581090**

**Minister's contact details:** Manse address and 'phone details with the Bulletin Editor – please contact for details [bulletineditor@christchurchrathgar.org](mailto:bulletineditor@christchurchrathgar.org)  
Minister email-[minister@christchurchrathgar.org](mailto:minister@christchurchrathgar.org)

**Bulletin Editor's Details:** Email address: [bulletineditor@christchurchrathgar.org](mailto: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 January Bulletin-Thurs 11th January, to appear on 14th January.**

**ONLINE BULLETIN SUPPLEMENT CHRIST CHURCH RATHGAR December 2017**

The Explorers (Sandymount Inter-Church Scripture Reading Group) 2017-2018.

The Gospel according to John: eight evening gatherings.

We are meeting again this year in the Community Room of the Mount Tabor Care Centre. We meet from 7.30 - 9.00 pm, beginning and ending promptly.

All evenings will be led by Rev. Dr Kieran O'Mahony, OSA, Biblical Studies Coordinator, Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Dublin.

Monday, 27 November 2017	The Samaritan woman (John 4)
Monday, 11 December 2017	The sequence of feasts (John 5-10)
Monday, 15 January 2018	The man born blind (John 9)
Monday, 19 February 2018	The washing of the feet (John 13)
Monday, 19 March 2018	Jesus' death (John 18-19)
Monday, 16 April 2018	Jesus' resurrection (John 20)

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.