

## SERVICES

**January 1<sup>st</sup>**

11.00 am	New Year's Day Family Service	Revd Lorraine Kennedy Ritchie
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**January 8<sup>th</sup>**

11.00 am	Quarterly Communion	Revd. Jim Carson
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**January 15<sup>th</sup>**

9.30 am	Early Morning Worship	Werner van der Hemel
11.00 am	Morning Worship	Werner van der Hemel

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

9.30 am	Early Morning Worship	Marianne Knoetze
11.00 am	Morning Worship	Marianne Knoetze

**January 29<sup>th</sup>**

9.30 am	Holy Communion	Revd. Jim Carson
11.00 am	Morning Worship	Revd. Jim Carson

**February 5<sup>th</sup>**

9.30 am	Holy Communion	Revd. Jim Carson
11.00 am	Morning Worship	Revd. Jim Carson

<b>Elders on Duty</b>	Doreen Steenson	Maureen Boyd
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<b>Stewards</b>	Joanne Vance Cronin Robert Whyte	Hannah Vance Cronin
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**Christmas Day and a New Year: O come,** let us adore him, born this happy morning, Christ the Lord, The Messiah is born! Let earth and heaven rejoice at the opening of a new chapter in the relationship of God and Humankind. Paradoxically Christ has come as child and King and has made all things new! In the secular world we mark the orbit of our sphere by celebrating the New Year. Christianity is a religion of new beginnings, graciously offered to us from day to day, month to month, year to year. We pray that as time passes we may develop spiritually with childlike humility and draw closer to the infant King. We pray for freshness in our approach to life and more faithful trust in God in the unknown future. We pray for the needs of our community and neighbours, and especially those who share our church building with us - for The Romanian Baptist Congregation, for the employees of the Church, for all those groups of people who use our buildings, and ask that all who come to this holy place may grow throughout the course of their lives with stronger faith and a deeper desire to serve their gracious Lord and Creator. A Merry Christmas and blessed 2017 to everyone!

**We ask your continuing prayer** for **Pauline M.** that she may have a full recovery, for **Jimmy G.** as he slowly regains his strength after a taxing operation. We pray that all those we know who are suffering from illness, seasonal or otherwise, may be healed and filled with a sense of God's infinitely caring presence.

**Vacancy - EGM 28th November - The result** of this at times rather confusing meeting of around 70% of qualified voters was disappointing. Neither candidate had the support of a sufficient majority to warrant a call being made.

**The Kirk Session** met on 14th December, and discussed the vacancy situation. It was felt that a careful review of procedures should be made. A new voters list should be compiled for submission to Presbytery in February. Steps should be taken to encourage members to meet the criteria for voting.

**The Retiring Collection after the January Communion would be in aid of Merchants Quay Ireland.** Future meetings would be on Wednesdays February 1st, March 1st and April 5th at 8pm in the Fletcher Room.

**The Church Committee** met on 6th December. A small attendance considered the report of the property committee. A heritage plaster expert told them that much of the plaster in the church was in bad or very bad condition (See CCR website). Repair was urgently required. The stained glass window was not in urgent need of repair. New audio equipment was very desirable. The Session should be asked to sanction a report by a lighting and heating consultant. (Permission later granted.) A gutter repair would take place in January. The Financial report up to the end of September was also examined. **Next meeting of Committee 10th January.**

**Junior Church Service:** This well-attended service allowed us all to appreciate the work done by the team and the children's enjoyment of the lego and coder dojo themes of the term. See CCR website for pictures! There was lively singing, good reading and spirited playing by a small band. Many thanks to Simon, Bob, Marina, Steven and the other teachers.

**The Explorers'** next meeting on **Monday 16th January** will examine **Romans Ch 9-11 - Jews and Gentiles.** Meetings take place in the Community Room of the Mount Tabor Care Centre, Sandymount Green, and begin at 7.30 sharp. More information online.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity -** Our local service will be on **Sun 22nd January** at 3.00 pm at Zion church. The preacher will be **Sr Geraldine Smyth OP**, past Director of the Irish School of Ecumenics. The theme is Reconciliation - the Love of Christ compels us - 2 Cor, 5 vv 14-20. **Your support will be very much appreciated - please come if you can.**

**Carols for All** - There was a large happy crowd at the Carols for All celebration on December 9th. Many thanks to all who helped, and especially Bob Yeo, the Rathfarnham Concert Band (Intermediate), conductor Robert Treston, our own youth band, and members of the Romanian Baptist church. A retiring collection in aid of the Simon Community raised nearly €1400. A visitor from Rathfarnham writes - *There was a great sense of community and of the neighbourhood coming together at the Carols for All. We were greeted at the church door by the Rathgar Business Association who were serving mince pies and sausages and other goodies. All the churches in the area were represented and the congregation were both young and old. The 12 Days of Christmas brought much merriment!*

**Online/website edition of CCR Bulletin - supplement:** Some additional information about Carols for All, the Explorers, and future Rathgar/Terenure Fellowship events can be found in the website/online edition [www.christchurchrathgar.org](http://www.christchurchrathgar.org)

**Bulletin Editor's Details** - Email address: [bulletineditor@christchurchrathgar.org](mailto: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 February Bulletin - Thursday 2nd February, to appear on Sunday 5th February.

## ONLINE BULLETIN SUPPLEMENT CHRIST CHURCH RATHGAR JANUARY 2017

1 . **Carols for All** - Alison Houston writes - On Friday, 9th December, CCR hosted the annual Rathgar/Terenure Fellowship Ecumenical Carol Service. This is an important event in our church and community calendar, as it not only brings together representatives from all the local churches and people from the surrounding neighbourhoods, but also fills our church to capacity which is an uplifting sight!

Joyful music was provided by the Rathfarnham Concert Band, singers from the Romanian Holy Trinity Baptist Church, an acoustic number from the Youth Group led by Simon. There was much collective carol-singing and the highlight, certainly for the large number of children present, was The Twelve Days of Christmas, which was very ably led by Bruce Carswell who directed the singing and allocated the 'twelve days' to sections of the congregation.

If you have never attended this service, think about doing so next year!

A huge 'thank you' to Robin Simmons, who yet again, co-ordinated the whole event and to all the helpers who served tea and mince pies in the lecture hall after the service.

2. **FUTURE EVENTS organized for spring 2017 by the Rathgar/Terenure Fellowship Group.**

### **SERVICE FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

*Sunday 22nd January,*

Zion Parish Church Rathgar, 3 pm.

Preacher: Dr Geraldine Smyth O.P.

Theme for 2017 : Reconciliation - The Love of Christ compels us: 2 Cor. 5 vv, 14-20.

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

*Friday 3rd March*

Church: Society of Friends Churchtown, Meeting Hall.

Time to be arranged.

Theme for 2017: Am I being unfair to you? (Chosen by the women of Indonesia)

### **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.

**Speakers** : Gillian Kingston, Gordon Linney, Patsy McGarry, Fiona Murdoch, David Norris, Revd Kieran O'Mahony O.S.A.

**Later - ECUMENICAL BIBLE WEEK**

*June 4<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> - Further details to come.*

**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).**

**Paul's Letter to the Romans: eight evening gatherings**

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

Remaining meetings

<b>Monday, 16 January 2017</b>	Jews and Gentiles: Romans 9-11
<b>Monday, 20 February 2017</b>	Grace in practice: Romans 12.1-15.6
<b>Monday, 20 March 2017</b>	Conclusion: Romans 15.7-33; 16
<b>Monday, 24 April 2017</b>	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.