

CCR BULLETIN

September/October 2018

CALENDAR OF SERVICES – SEPTEMBER

September 2nd	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Revd Purvis Campbell
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Revd Purvis Campbell
September 9th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Revd Purvis Campbell
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Revd Purvis Campbell
	Robert White will talk about his time in Cambodia		
September 16th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Revd Purvis Campbell
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Revd Purvis Campbell
	Sacrament of Baptism		
September 23rd	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Revd Purvis Campbell
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Revd Purvis Campbell
	Lawrence Proseckin will talk about his time in Uganda		
September 26th <i>Wednesday</i>	8.00pm	Healing Ministry Service in the Chancel	Revd Purvis Campbell
September 30th <i>Self Awareness Sunday</i>	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Revd Purvis Campbell
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Revd Purvis Campbell

Elders on Duty Jenny Gray Randal Gray **Stewards** George Jenkinson Jessie Jenkinson

Flowers 2nd September Carol Esmonde 16th September Karen Tennant
9th September Louise Potts 23rd September Elizabeth Campbell
30th September Robin Simmons

The Church Committee will meet on Tuesday 11th September at 7.30 pm. in the Fletcher Room.

Renaissance Group joins at 8 pm

Golf Outing and Fellowship Dinner - 21st September - Sign up a.s.a.p. for this most enjoyable event - Alison Houston or Jenny Moffett will arrange. Full details later in Bulletin.

Thurs. 27th September - **Faith in Conversation Lectures** - Orwell Hall 7.30 pm. **Revd Dr Celia Kenny** will open this series with a talk on **Faith and Secularity**.

The Choir will resume practices at 10.30 am in the Committee Room on September 2nd. New members, especially sopranos, always needed. Please consider helping to lead the congregation in praises old and new. Reductions in our average age very welcome!!

CCR Mothers and Toddlers Group continues to meet at 10am on Thursdays in the Fletcher Room. Volunteers willing to give occasional help very welcome - please contact Jenny Gray.

CALENDAR OF SERVICES – OCTOBER

October 7th	11 am	Quarterly Holy Communion	Revd Purvis Campbell
October 14th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Revd Purvis Campbell
<i>Harvest Thanksgiving</i>	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Revd Purvis Campbell
October 21st	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Revd Jonny Fraser
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Revd Jonny Fraser
October 28th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Revd Purvis Campbell
<i>Self Awareness Sunday</i>	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Revd Purvis Campbell
October 31st	8.00 pm	Healing Ministry	Revd Purvis Campbell
<i>Wednesday</i>		Service in the Chancel	
Elders on Duty	Julie Cobbe	Terry Cobbe	

The Kirk Session will meet on Wednesday 3rd October in the Committee Room at 8 pm.

The Church Committee will meet on Tuesday 9th October in the Fletcher Room at 8 pm.

Tues 23rd October - **Faith in Conversation Lectures** - Orwell Hall 7.30 pm. **Professor Linda Hogan** of the Irish School of Ecumenics will speak on **Faith and Human Rights**

Wednesday “Enneagram Groups” will recommence in October at 10.30 in the Committee Room, on Wednesdays 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th October. Meetings continue on 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th November. Advent reflections on December 5th, 12th and 19th

SPECIAL DATES IN NOVEMBER

Sunday 11th November Scouts Centenary service 3 pm

Tuesday 13th November Church Committee meeting 8 pm

Wed 14th November Dublin Gospel Choir, Friends of St Luke’s Hospital Fundraising event 8 pm

Saturday 24th November Craft Fair – Wilma Ormiston will need helpers and goodies for teas and coffees and the delicatessen stall. Please note this date if you can help or cook!!

Wednesday 28th November Healing Service, Chancel 8 pm

Thursday 22nd November 7.30 pm Orwell Hall. **Dr Sylvia McCracken** of Maynooth University will speak on **Faith and Identity**.

This last edition of the Bulletin edited by me is a bumper edition! It may be a little while before we find someone who feels that CCR needs a hard-copy/online newsletter and is willing to take the editorship on. My view is that all jobs of this sort should start with a time limit, and I took it on for three years. My thanks for the privilege of being allowed me to express myself publicly, for the help I have received, the tolerance of my mistakes and especially to Ann for both these things! I have included some items which I have wished for a while to publish, but which had insufficient priority – please excuse this self-indulgence.

Congregational Record – The Sacrament of Baptism was celebrated on 19th August and we were delighted to welcome Daniel Andrew Fry into the community of the Christian church. We wish him and his family all the joys that family life and church membership can provide. On 28th July we attended the funeral of Alan Corsini, an Englishman with an Italian name, living in Ireland, who brought the Scottish dancing society he founded to dance in Wales. A kind, lively and unusual person who worked in the art department of the RTE Guide, he will be missed by all who knew him, and especially by his wife Kathleen and children Janet and Adrian, to whom we express our sympathy. We are glad to report that Ian and Ivy have recovered very well from recent medical procedures and can be seen as regularly and as cheerful as always. Audrey has taken up an interest in painting – dogs mainly, of course – with her left hand, and this provides her with some comfort.

Faith in Conversation, a series of talks arranged by The Minister and Dr Celia Kenny, and continuing into 2019, will provide us with the chance of hearing first class speakers on interesting subjects relating to the future of religion in the modern world. You are warmly encouraged to make arrangements to attend these talks when you can.

Letter to the Clerk of the Assembly The Clerk of the General Assembly, Revd Trevor Gribben (TG), has replied to the letter sent by our Session Clerk, Paul Fry (PF) and a brief account of the correspondence follows. PF expressed CCR's shock and dismay at the controversial decisions taken at this year's General Assembly, and regretted that the matter of loosening of ties with the Church of Scotland had not been passed to Sessions and Presbyteries for comment. TG replied that the matter had been discussed for four years and no suggestion had been made that it should be sent down to Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions for discussion. PF had pointed out that public views on LGBTI issues had changed greatly in recent years and that it was wrong to deny full membership of congregations to couples in long-term same-sex relationships, and to refuse to baptise their children. TG replied that the Assembly had a right and a duty to make clear what constituted a credible profession of faith. TG concluded by offering his assistance in the process of drawing up a memorial (requesting that the decisions should be reviewed) and his help to ensure that the memorial was in order for consideration.

Presbyterian Herald – the PCI magazine – will keep you up to date on what is going on, and the letters page provides a variety of views. Under recent editors it is not the old prejudiced item which needed to be hidden from one's relatives, although of course it contains disagreeable material at times. Presbyterian matters are well covered in Northern newspapers – In the *Belfast Telegraph* the steadfast liberal Alf McCreary makes no concessions to silly conservatism. .

Explorers – The ecumenical bible study group resumes on Monday 17th September at 7.30 pm at the Mount Tabor Care Centre, Sandymount Green, with the first of four studies of Paul's Letter to the Galatians, the earliest book of the New Testament, with Professor Seamus O'Connell, Maynooth.

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.

ECUMENISM

Readers will be aware that the Editor is an enthusiast for ecumenical matters. The Bible makes it clear that the church should be one, that we are all branches of the same vine, parts of the one body; that those who propose divisions show their lack of understanding of God's saving grace, and have no right to pass judgement on others whom God calls to his table.

Ballina Churches Together is an exciting example of interchurch evangelization. The Big Blue Bus is making its presence felt in suburban housing estates. Check it out online or on Facebook.

The World Council of Churches has continued to flourish, without the help of PCI, and much to our loss. This year it celebrated its 70th birthday, and Pope Francis visited the Council's annual meeting and reminded them all that the Gospel demands that Christians forgive those from whom they differ seven times seven – infinitely. Keep an eye on the WCC website, and that of its local equivalent CTBI.org.uk – Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

The Catholic and Lutheran churches last October made a statement at the conclusion of the year of common ecumenical celebration of the Reformation which is well worth reading in full in the online bulletin. In summary the statement expressed gratitude for 50 years of dialogue which has removed prejudices and misunderstandings and produced important theological agreements. The year has been a sign of hope for a world to overcome division and fragmentation. It allowed the sharing of spiritual gifts, and the asking forgiveness for mutual offences and wounds to the body of the Lord. The Joint Declaration on Justification has now been agreed by the World Methodist Council, the World Communion of Reformed churches and the Anglican Communion. Recognising the real need of their members for inter-communion, the Pope and Lutheran President committed themselves to continue to journey together towards greater unity with further work on matters of Church, Eucharist and Ministry.

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Joint Statement by the Lutheran World Federation and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity on the conclusion of the year of the common commemoration of the Reformation, 31st October 2017

On 31st of October 2017, the final day of the year of the common ecumenical Commemoration of the Reformation, we are very thankful for the spiritual and theological gifts received through the Reformation, a commemoration that we have shared together and with our ecumenical partners globally. Likewise, we begged forgiveness for our failures and for the ways in which Christians have wounded the Body of the Lord and offended each other during the five hundred years since the beginning of the Reformation until today.

We, Lutherans and Catholics, are profoundly grateful for the ecumenical journey that we have travelled together during the last fifty years. This pilgrimage, sustained by our common prayer, worship and ecumenical dialogue, has resulted in the removal of prejudices, the increase of mutual understanding and the identification of decisive theological agreements. In the face of so many blessings along the way, we raise our hearts in praise of the Triune God for the mercy we receive.

On this day we look back on a year of remarkable ecumenical events, beginning on 31st October 2016 with the joint Lutheran-Catholic common prayer in Lund, Sweden, in the presence of our ecumenical partners. While leading that service, Pope Francis and Bishop Munib A. Younan, then President of the Lutheran World Federation, signed a joint statement with the commitment to continue the ecumenical journey together towards the unity that Christ prayed for (cf. Jn 17:21). On the same day, our joint service to those in need of our help and solidarity has also been strengthened by a letter of intent between Caritas Internationalis and the Lutheran World Federation World Service.

Pope Francis and President Younan stated together: “Many members of our communities yearn to receive the Eucharist at one table, as the concrete expression of full unity. We experience the pain of those who share their whole lives, but cannot share God’s redeeming presence at the Eucharistic table. We acknowledge our joint pastoral responsibility to respond to the spiritual thirst and hunger of our people to be one in Christ. We long for this wound in the Body of Christ to be healed. This is the goal of our ecumenical endeavours, which we wish to advance, also by renewing our commitment to theological dialogue”.

Among the blessings of this year of Commemoration is the fact that for the first time Lutherans and Catholics have seen the Reformation from an ecumenical perspective. This has allowed new insight into the events of the sixteenth century which led to our separation. We recognize that while the past cannot be changed, its influence upon us today can be transformed to become a stimulus for growing communion, and a sign of hope for the world to overcome division and fragmentation. Again, it has become clear that what we have in common is far more than that which still divides us.

We rejoice that the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, solemnly signed by the Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church in 1999, has also been signed by the World Methodist Council in 2006 and, during this Commemoration Year of the Reformation, by the World Communion of Reformed Churches. On this very day it is being welcomed and received by the

Anglican Communion at a solemn ceremony in Westminster Abbey. On this basis our Christian communions can build an ever closer bond of spiritual consensus and common witness in the service of the Gospel.

We acknowledge with appreciation the many events of common prayer and worship that Lutherans and Catholics have held together with their ecumenical partners in different parts of the world, as well as the theological encounters and the significant publications that have given substance to this year of Commemoration.

Looking forward, we commit ourselves to continue our journey together, guided by God's Spirit, towards the greater unity according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ. With God's help we intend to discern in a prayerful manner our understanding on Church, Eucharist and Ministry, seeking a substantial consensus so as to overcome remaining differences between us. With deep joy and gratitude we trust "that He who has begun a good work in [us] will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Ph 1:6).