



CLONTARF & SCOTS NEWSLETTER



April 2020

Rev Ritchie



Paul writing to Timothy reminds him 'to be prepared in season and out of season'

(2 Timothy 4). It seems to be a truth that is being tested in a new way these days. We have to be prepared to do life, church, community and worship so differently in this Season.

Another truth I have seen in a new light is the symbol of Presbyterians world-wide;

The Burning Bush

'*Ardens Sed Virens*' means 'Burning yet flourishing', the truth that we remember from the story of the Lord calling Moses to serve. We are 'burned' by the same troubles common to all humanity in this broken world. Yet, we can flourish. The great love of our Heavenly Father, the saving Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Helping Guide of the Holy Spirit. May each of us learn new ways to flourish in this unusual Easter Season.

Staying in Touch:

Our services are posted online on the website: www.clontarchurch.ie

If you cannot access this please let us know and we will help in anyway. Phone the Manse on 01 833 2588.

There are also all sorts of extra services and connections. The obvious ones are on radio and TV. But also some good websites. Look-up the Bible Project at bibleproject.com. It has great videos on all parts of the Bible story but also in preparing for Easter. This is a great time to send out Easter cards and letters. Hand make them if you can and send them to the loved ones you cannot visit. Or design them online and send them online. If, like me you are more comfortable with paper we can print things out and either post them or drop them at the front door. We will post as much information as we can on the website but also text and call as we can.

Easter Week Services:

Traditionally we have held a Good Friday service every year—of course that is not possible this year. So I have divided our reflective service that I had planned for this Friday into five parts and a new part will be uploaded to our website each evening this coming week.

Minister	Session Clerk	Deputy Session Clerk
Rev. Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie The Manse 48 Kincora Grove Clontarf, Dublin, D03 CV90 (01 833 2588)	Hugh Borland Woodlands, Limekiln Lane Saint Doulagh's Fingal, D17 PY67 (087 968 2300)	Hilary Fairman 2 The Mews Brookwood Crescent Artane Dublin 5. D05 H2F5 (01 846 5888)

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTISM

On Sunday 1 March we welcomed into the congregation, by baptism, Piper Autumn Murray, daughter of Steve and Lesley (nee Adams) Murray. Piper was born on 30 October 2019 and is a little sister for Ava Willow, Kayla and Bonnie. Granddaughter of Dave & Elaine Adams and Martin & Barbara Murray.



WANTED: An adult bicycle

Please contact The Manse—(01) 833 2588 or
Marianne—086-365-2226

Church Leaders encourage the community and call Ireland to pray

In a joint statement and following a video conference, the leaders of the Church of Ireland, Methodist Church in Ireland, Roman Catholic Church, Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Irish Council of Churches, have paid tribute to everyone in the health and social care services and those in the frontline, for their courage in the battle against the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The leaders of Ireland's main Churches, together with other denominations and Christian organisations, also issued a call to pray, which will take place on **Palm Sunday, 5 April from 3pm-4pm.**
(first circ. 27.03.20)

COVID-19 Congregational Committee Actions

The committee may not be able to have face-to-face meetings but the work is continuing and some of the sub-committees have gone all 21st century on us and are now doing video meetings.

Our church boiler continues to give problems – it does not always start on Sunday mornings – Paul is chasing the service engineer to find the problem.

Just in time for the crisis we got the phone texting service we use transferred from what was become a very unreliable provider to a new provider based in Northern Ireland.

We are taking advantage of having no school, no church and no hall renters on the premises in order to get the trees sorted out. While the advice was to completely remove at least one of the trees we have resisted and have sought to rather cut the offending tree by 50% and hopefully the roots will stop doing so much damage. In getting quotes I met some lovely tree surgeons, including one, who gave each tree a hug as he examined them and admired our Lime Tree (closest tree to the church entrance).



This is the Sycamore tree outside the Scots Hall – too tall, large limb growing perpendicular to the trunk, overhanging the wall, sap staining the hall walls and the roots working to split the boundary wall.

Reducing it by 40 – 50 % will hopefully overcome all the problems and we can leave the tree in place for another decade or two.

Samuel Ritchie
Congregational Committee Secretary



Hello folks,

I hope you are keeping well out there. Just a reminder that the Minister records a mini-service each week and it is available as a podcast each Sunday morning – just check out www.clontarfchurch.ie/covid-19-sermons and hit the Play button. If you can, please try to access it at 11 am on Sunday morning as a form of corporate worship.

Our Clontarf & Scots CareLine (God's Love in Action) remains active. If you can help, or need any support, please call 018332588 and the Manse elves will set about making the necessary connections. You can also contact me at any time on 0879682300, as we seek to support each other and our neighbours in whatever ways we can, and demonstrate God's Love in Action.

I will close with more from *Matthew*, this time chapter 8, verse 27 ‘The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey Him”’

Take care out there,
Hugh

Hugh Borland, Clerk of Kirk Session



