



CLONTARF & SCOTS NEWSLETTER



July 2020

Ravi Zachariah, a Christian Apologist who I enjoy listening to, explained the concept of time as the measure of change. We change in all sorts of ways and things around us change for all sorts of reasons.

I have included some photos and notes from the congregation's past which show some of the changes that have been made to the buildings and ministers. Taking the time to look back, both over my 14 years here and the history that goes back 100's of years and includes several different congregational families, has helped me to be encouraged with the changes this pandemic has forced upon us.

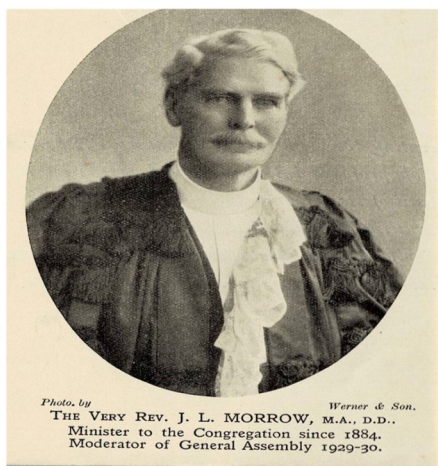
Now that we are moving towards meeting again, change is the order of the day. Please read through the letter from the Congregation, as well as the 'Stay Safe' notes from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. *(sent by post and email)*

We will of course, continue to have the service online (and yes it will follow the same fore-shortened pattern) so if you can wait a little longer please do. We will of course keep you up to date as we go along.

More than all this please know of our prayers for each of you. Prayers spoken to the Almighty Unchanging God. And we ask for your prayers too.



Rev Ritchie



Installation of
THE REVEREND J. L. WYNNE
Friday, 3rd November, 1972.

Two of our esteemed ministers from earlier years. Each Minister like each Member bringing a new voice to this Family.

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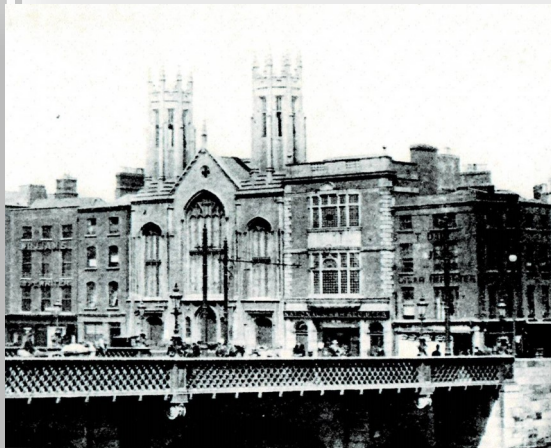
Minister	Session Clerk	Deputy Session Clerk
Rev. Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie The Manse 48 Kincora Grove Clontarf, Dublin, D03 CV90 (01 833 2588)	Hugh Borland Woodlands, Limekiln Lane Saint Doulagh's Fingal, D17 PY67 (087 968 2300)	Hilary Fairman 2 The Mews Brookwood Crescent Artane Dublin 5. D05 H2F5 (01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



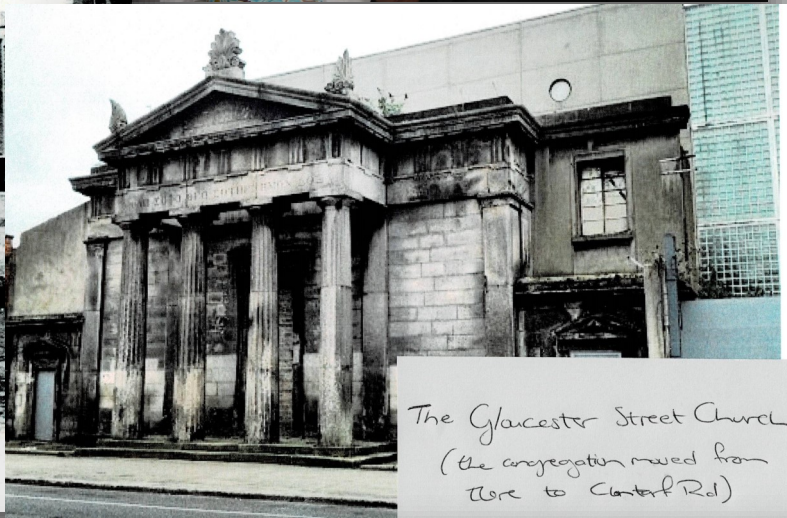
clearly being the Minister here is a good thing!

David Bruce Minister in the 1980's and now Moderator of the Presbyterian Church

Congregation of Clontarf and Scots
 INSTALLATION OF
 The Rev. Lorraine Kennedy Ritchie, B.Th(Arts), L.Th., M.A.
 Friday 9th February, 2007
 at 7.00pm
 Clontarf and Scots Presbyterian Church, Howth Road, Dublin 3.



Ormand Quay
 (before all the changes!)



The Gloucester Street Church
 (the congregation moved from here to Clontarf Rd)



Ormand Quay and Scots as they looked today



Clontarf before the 1950's changes



Proverbs 10:28 The **hope** of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the **hope** of salvation.

Stay SAFE
at church



INTERIOR OF CHURCH
BEFORE PLATFORM WAS ERECTED IN 1962



Linda Weekes (née Curry) - 20th September 1951 to 8th February 2020

Linda was a great friend and always fun to be around. She will be remembered for her big smile, bubbly personality and sense of humour. She was loyal, independent and not afraid to speak her mind. Friends and family will remember her thoughtfulness, as special occasions always brought a card from Linda.

Linda was born in Dublin to parents, Jack and Esther Curry. Her sister, Kathy, followed nine years later. She grew up at 17 Mount Prospect Grove, Clontarf. It is a testament to the closeness of their community that Linda remained best friends with many of her neighbours throughout her life.



Linda went to primary school at Greenlanes National School in Clontarf and then attended Alexandra College for her secondary school education. She was delighted to get back in touch with classmates at school reunions in recent years.

Linda began her working career as a secretary in Jacobs. She moved to Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital on Grand Canal Street in 1971 and worked as a medical secretary in the Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) department. With its closure in 1986, Linda relocated to St. James's Hospital, where she worked until her retirement in 2014.

She was married to Paul for ten years and in 1971 they had their only child Steven, the apple of her eye.

In 1987 she bought her 'little house' in La Vista Avenue, Killester, which she loved dearly. She spent years filling it with happy memories with friends and family.

She enjoyed holidaying with friends and loved to discover new places. She travelled extensively in Europe and visited many far flung places such as India, China, the USSR, the USA, Costa Rica, South Africa and Australia. From each trip she brought back souvenirs and gifts.

She loved her Zumba classes, cinema club every week, crosswords, lunch with friends, entertaining in her house, reading and doing the teas and coffees after church.

She loved her grandchildren, Anna and Sam. She took pleasure in minding them, playing with them and spoiling them at every opportunity. They will miss the shopping trips and the midnight feasts.

She is survived by her son Steven, daughter-in-law, Mairéad, grandchildren Anna and Sam, sister Kathy & Kathy's partner Enda, and a wide circle of friends.

Covid Reflections

Part Two: Less Hectic Lives

Many of us have now spent a lot more time at home or near home, for three months. It is easier for some, less so for others. Some have lost loved ones, their jobs, or have had reduced income. For everyone, it has allowed us to change our perspective on our daily lives and do things differently.

We can reflect on whether we really must constantly travel around, getting into the car to go everywhere for each little thing, as many of us used to do? Or could we instead wait until we have to do a few things at once, or take public transport instead (after restrictions have abated) and do a bit of strolling around to stretch our legs (and raise our step count)? I am sure people will have noticed a significant drop in their petrol expenses with less driving around when we were restricted to 2km and 5km from home (I certainly did!). It also gave us time and incentive to exercise more.

Do we all have to go to work for the things we could do from home? Or can we instead reduce transport costs and pollution, and only go to work for things we need to go in for – maybe once or twice a week? Some employers are thinking about giving their staff that option, where possible, and for many it has worked out well as it gives more freedom to do more flexible hours and get things done around the home which are easier done during the day such as putting out laundry, or gardening, walking dogs, or going to the post office.

We are spending more time with either family or with ourselves, and many are discovering their creative side. We are engaging more with hobbies and chores we never usually get around to. We can cook food from recipe books that might take a little more effort and planning, because we have not had to commute out to work that day and back again. We can try other kinds of food, such as vegetarian, vegan or foreign cuisine because we are in a space away from the hectic come-and-go daily routine. A friend and I have written three letters each to one other by post since March, which has a totally different, and more personal, feel to the use of technology for sending messages.

We can get some gardening done, if we like gardening, and we can spend more time playing with our pets, chatting to our children or playing board and card games with family members. We can get crafting done, whether this is crocheting, sewing, origami or carpentry. There is more time to read novels and non-fiction. The time we spend in our homes can make us feel more like picking up a spiritual book, or watching a spiritual Youtube video, and finding God.

Most people like to live as part of a routine, some a stricter one and some a more general one. Our new way of living has also become a routine, and in some ways a better one, certainly for letting us see what we took for granted pre-Covid (personal freedom, spontaneity, visiting people, low death rate compared to third-world countries) and letting us see how privileged we actually are. It is teaching us that we can make do with less consumerism and moving about thoughtlessly, and actually benefit from it by living a little more like our predecessors did, by making do with less and being less hectic.

At the same time, we are rediscovering some things which we had forgotten we had: ourselves, each other, and the many possessions most of us have in our homes. When we are not constantly thinking of all the places we need to be in the next month or two, focusing on the day-to-day lets us be more in tune with ourselves and with God.

My soul finds rest in God alone - Psalm 62:1.

Miriam van der Molen

HOME

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland is made up of 210,000 members, in 534 congregations organised into 19 Presbyteries.

The new Moderator for 2020-21 is David Bruce, erstwhile minister of these congregations, back in the late 80s and early 90s. David's theme for his year is 'HOME' - "this island is our home. It is where we have been called to live and serve for the Kingdom of God and the common good. Within that home we have another, for we are the family of God, and our home is his church. Within that home we have yet another, for we have dual citizenship on earth and also in heaven which too, is our home.



Quoting from the first chapter of RUTH: 'Your people will be my people'. 'Your God, my God'. We might say, your home will be my home...For the full speech click on the link below:

<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/News/June-2020/New-Moderator-looks-forward-to-%E2%80%98new-normal%E2%80%99.aspx>

The new Moderator of Dublin and Munster Presbytery is Rev Mark Proctor, minister of Naas and also Chaplain to Tallaght University Hospital.

The Presbytery is being managed by a Standing Commission of 7 persons, until this current 'situation' is passed.
Helen Dawkins

Ormond Quay & Scots Presbyterian Endowments



Applications for 2020 Education Grants

Applications are now open for this year's Primary, Secondary & Third Level Education Grants. To apply, please request an application form by emailing endowments secretary, endowments@clontarfchurch.ie

To qualify for an Education Grant, applicants must be members of Clontarf & Scots Presbyterian Church. Application form for Primary & Secondary School Grants to be completed by the parent/

guardian.

Application form for Third Level Grants to be completed by the student. Students applying for this grant must have commenced the 3rd level course by the age of 21.

Proof of book/education expense receipts to be attached to the application form.

Grants can now be paid directly into an applicant's bank account. If you wish to avail of this option, you will be required to complete a Bank Transfer Authorisation Form.

To date, the Ormond Quay & Scots Endowment Fund has distributed €452,000 to various charities.

Nominations are now open for this year's grants. If you would like to nominate a charity, please send your nomination, in writing, to endowments secretary or forward by email to endowments@clontarfchurch.ie
Your choice of charity should fall within the following categories:

The advancement of community welfare including the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, or disability

The promotion of health, including the prevention or relief of sickness, disease or human suffering

Only one nomination per person please.

The closing date for applications is **30th September 2020**

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Endowment Funding of Solar Panels

Children's Ward, Port Loko Government Hospital, Sierra Leone

Last year Evelyn Dawkins spent six months, working with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health as a volunteer global links mentor, in the children's ward in Port Loko Government Hospital, Sierra Leone. The hospital faced many problems, including an irregular power supply. Power loss was a frequent occurrence and impacted on the hospital's ability to provide a continuous supply of oxygen or to charge vital machines, necessary for the treatment of critically ill children.

Evelyn contacted Endowments and asked if funding could be considered for the installation of solar panels on the children's ward of the hospital. The panels would provide an alternative source of electricity during a power outage and a similar installation had been successfully completed at a nearby hospital. After careful consideration, Endowments agreed to fund this project. A couple of weeks ago we received the wonderful news that the installation was now complete and would significantly improve the outcome of children in the hospital's care.



Longing to return: Thoughts on returning to church

3.7.2020 | Congregational Life, Moderator, Ministry, Church Life, Congregational News, COVID-19 Emergency

With churches able to return to worship this Sunday, writing in today's edition of the *News Letter*, Presbyterian Moderator, Rt Rev Dr David Bruce, offers four thoughts to help churchgoers who may be making their way back to church this Sunday, or in the coming weeks.

Here is a question: How can you be a church if you can't meet? Being in a service of worship on Sunday is only part of what Christians mean by 'church' – but it's an important part. How welcome then, was the announcement from the Northern Ireland Executive that churches could begin to meet again this week.

Much has changed since Sunday, 15 March, since we were last able to go to church. Lockdown has placed significant pressure on all of us, so its gradual relaxation in meeting our physical and practical needs is to be welcomed. As are the reopening of churches, since our spiritual and pastoral needs remain.

Ministers, pastors and priests have been busy working to meet these needs, making a difference to many people during this time. Now they can begin to turn their attention to meeting again. In my own tradition, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland issued a comprehensive set of guidelines for ministers, with advice on everything from designing one-way systems in corridors, to the cleansing of equipment and rooms, which might be used.

The practical detail of how to administer the sacrament of baptism to an infant while remaining at a distance, or how to distribute bread and wine safely during communion, are matters needing an inventive mind. This is church, but not as we remember it.



So here are four thoughts to help church goers who may be making their way back to places of worship in coming weeks.

Firstly, we must stay safe. The virus remains, and the best advice is that it will remain for a long time to come. Your local church leaders will have made arrangements to ensure the safety of everyone. This might mean that a church member will find their usual place is not available to them, or that some of the much-loved patterns of worship may be missing. To be safe, we will need to set aside some things we love to do, and be ready to embrace some changes. Be patient if you find yourself asked to do things differently. Safety first.

Secondly, we need to be wise. While the NI Executive has permitted worship to happen from this week, and some congregations may be intending to go back immediately, many are not and shouldn't be pressurised into doing so. Some have told me they don't think they can return until August or September – and that should be fine with us. The practical arrangements for cleansing and re-organising the flow of people through a building, and possibly limiting numbers at services, will all require signage, some equipment, and possibly training for stewards and others. Wisdom requires patience.

Thirdly, we have made a difference. There are thousands of powerful examples of compassionate caring in the community, which people have continued to do through lockdown. Most of these stories will never be told, but they include organising phone calls to elderly folk who have been shielding, and may feel isolated and lonely, or food distribution to families who can't travel to a supermarket.

Some churches have released funds to purchase computer equipment for children to home study, while others have used Zoom to continue their prayer meetings and Bible studies, or organised virtual social events for teens.



Chaplains in our hospitals have had a special ministry among families facing bereavement without the 'normal' means of support, which comes at such times of loss – and they also have been available to hard-pressed staff teams, who have been working so hard.

Throughout the community, there has been an army of unsung heroes getting on with the job – and we are so very grateful to them. Saying 'well done' to them may seem inadequate, but it's a good place to start.

Fourthly, we plan to emerge stronger. During lockdown, many churches have found new and imaginative ways to gather online for worship – and surveys show that many more people have been engaging with church digitally than might have attended a service in person in the past.

Many people have been asking big questions about life, death and their own place in the world. The relative anonymity of online services has meant they can 'listen in' to a service without showing up in person. This is a cherished

space, which needs to be preserved and encouraged. These months of lockdown mustn't be wasted.

We have longed for and prayed for this return, yet the worst impact of this pandemic remains to be felt in many parts of the world. In our country, we have seen the best of hi-tech western medicine struggle to contain this virus. Imagine then, how things are for half the world's population who do not have access to a properly functioning healthcare system – or for the three billion people who do not have soap and running water in their homes. Many people have been asking big questions about life, death and their own place in the world. The relative anonymity of online services has meant they can 'listen in' to a service without showing up in person. This is a cherished space, which needs to be preserved and encouraged. These months of lockdown mustn't be wasted.

Our joy to be back together in God's house is seasoned **with deep concern that all is not well elsewhere**. Our responsibility as global citizens to act in support of people facing the calamity of COVID-19 among the poor, is a serious and present call of God to all of us. We must not forget them.

Photos: (1) The Moderator, Rt Rev Dr David Bruce (2) the interior of Cregagh Presbyterian Church, east Belfast (credit Murray Dalzell)
Article taken from the PCI website.