

Whitechurch News

Spring 2025



Rectors Letter

It is great to write to you on the Spring edition of our Whitechurch News. Hopefully the weather is improving by the time you read this and that we have a nice day for the Whitechurch Fete which will be a bit earlier than normal due to Easter being very late this year amongst other things. I love when the days are lengthening, and it reminds me of the glory of Creation and the wonderful world that we live in. The sorrow that some people do not care for it the way that they should. Our (God's) world is in turmoil with war and questionable people in position of power. It is hard to guess when things are going to improve. But all we can do is make that little difference ourselves.

On that note, I want to thank Pamela Sheil who, after many years of loyal service to Eco Congregation in the parish, has decided to step down. The work both she and Reg Richards have done over the years has been invaluable to the parish and environment in a very tangible and practical way. I would like to ask anyone who is interested in maybe coming on board with Eco Congregation or would like to know a little more about it, please contact me. It is a real way of making a difference to the environment in a parish context.

In the meantime, enjoy the Spring air and I hope to see you over the next few months.

All God's Blessings

Reverend David Bowles

Whitechurch National School

www.whitechurchns.biz



Coming up to the end of the first term, all pupils and staff took part in several charitable activities, the first of which was Dress Up Day in aid of Crumlin

Children's Hospital which raised €360! A new school record for numbers of shoeboxes put together for the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal was broken with an amazing 237 boxes brought into school by pupils and staff! This is a charity that we are very eager to support each year as the pupils help to put together their shoeboxes at home and we hope that it helps to teach them about the importance of giving and to realise that other children in the world are not as fortunate as they are. We were all very much inspired by the talk that Sylvia Fry gave to us at an assembly ahead of the shoebox drive. Sylvia is the grandmother of pupils Daniel, Amy and Leah Somerville, and a Team Hope volunteer. Thank you to school families who once again brought in some items for inclusion in the Whitechurch Parish Mother's Union Hampers and also for contributing to the carol service collections in aid of Pieta House, Red Cross and Bishop's Appeal - a total of €672 was collected.

Assemblies have continued this term with some fantastic presentations by our pupils including a friendship and kindness themed assembly by Mrs O'Neill's 3rd Class. 2nd Class and 6th Class led the Junior and Senior Carol Service respectively with their dramas retelling the Nativity Story, while all other classes performed carols and poems.

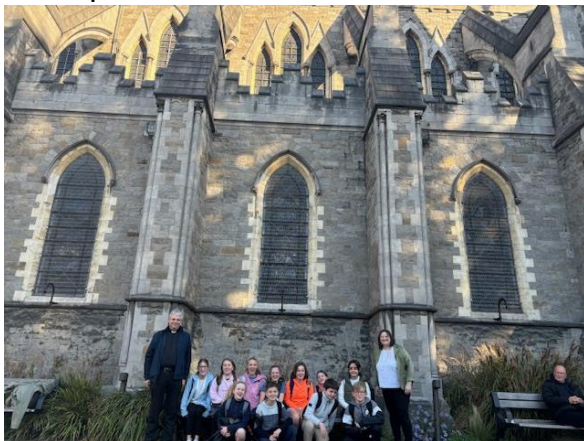
Another highlight of last term was the annual visit to Christchurch Cathedral with some pupils in 6th Class for the Diocesan School's Service. It is a very special occasion, and we always take the opportunity to visit the Crypt while we are there. It is a good opportunity to experience the magnificent setting of the cathedral along with hundreds of other pupils and colleagues from school across Dublin and Glendalough.

Since Christmas, we have been busy with lots of activities and learning opportunities across all classes! Our senior pupils from 3rd- 6th Classes are learning Spanish as part of the PPLI Say Yes to Languages Programme, which we are taking part in for the fourth year following previous success with learning Italian, Irish Sign Language and Polish! All classes have started a module of Gymnastics lessons with our coaches from Olympian each Thursday for PE. 5th and 6th Class went orienteering as part of the Leinster Schools

Orienteering Programme and although tired after all of their running around, most teams managed to find all of the keys on their maps!

Wellbeing Week took place at the end of January and we ran a programme of wellness events for pupils, staff and parents. However, due to the Storm closure for all schools, we had to postpone our parent workshop on Emotion Coaching but we hope to run it very soon on an alternative date - TBC. The Pupil Mini Fair was held once again and was a huge success with just under €1,300 raised towards PTA fundraising but more importantly, the day was hugely enjoyed by all of the pupils who helped to organise and run the 'Mini Fair' themselves (with some help from a few kind parent and staff volunteers)! Now, we look ahead to the Whitechurch Fete and with the earlier date this year, we will be full steam ahead to get ready for the event! We look forward to seeing many of you at the school for the Fete to be held on Saturday 5th April.

Sarah Richards
Principal



*6th Class, Rev'd David and Ms. Richards
at Christchurch Cathedral*



Gymnastics



Mini Fair



Choir singing at Whitechurch Parish

Whitechurch Montessori

What a fantastic first term we've had in Whitechurch Montessori. We explored all things autumn with a wonderful nature walk in Marlay Park, where the children had a fantastic time finding lots of exciting treasures!

As we moved into the festive season, it was of course an exciting few weeks! We kicked off Christmas with a trip to The Mill Theatre to the panto which was a massive hit! The Christmas madness continued with the children putting on an amazing Christmas concert for the family and friends making sure everyone was in the spirit! To top it all off, we had a very special visit from the big man himself - Santa!

Now, as we settle back in after the New Year, we are excited to dive into Term 2. With brighter days ahead and spring on the horizon, we have plenty of fun activities planned!

If you or someone you know is interested in a space for their child, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Abi Acheson



Sunday Club continues to meet at least twice, if not three times, a month during the 10.30am service. We are delighted to have built up a strong group of children who are regularly attending. The fun and fellowship is enjoyed by both them and us, as leaders.

Some upcoming dates for your diaries are as follows

Sunday 2nd March

Transfiguration

Sunday 9th March

Temptation of Jesus

Sunday 23rd March

Fruitfulness

Please be sure to complete all parental consent forms if you have not already done so – just ask a leader at drop off or collection time.

Best wishes

Janine Jamieson

Whitechurch Scouts



And we've been busy cooking on our open fires in "Whitechurch Woods" a lot lately.



The scouts camping in the parish grounds before Christmas.



The new cubs had their first sleepover in the parish hall.



Finally, the scouts on their second practice hike for the big one in May.

Youth Club

The Junior Youth Club are also thriving. It is great to see young people taking part in Parish activities.



On Sunday 9th February the Senior Youth Club went bowling in Leisureplex Tallaght. Thanks to leaders for organising such a fun evening.

Whitechurch Sunday Lunch

On Sunday 16th February we held a Sunday Lunch with parishioners in The Merry Ploughboy. It was a really nice afternoon of fellowship and friendship.

We look forward to more social occasions in the future.



Whitechurch Brownies

Whitechurch Brownies had a fantastic time on their overnight trip to Galway in October. They completed their science badge and luckily got home before Storm Ashley hit.

We finished off the year with a trip to the Civic Panto. The girls had lots of fun learning about the Lunar New Year and making snakes.

We enrolled 5 new Brownies in January, the girls are looking forward to the Thinking Day service in February and helping out at the Spring Fate in April.

We have a few hikes and outdoor adventures planned for the coming months, the highlight being a two-night pack holiday to Edenderry in April.

Thanks to all the leaders and TY students for giving up their time to enable the girls to have amazing opportunities and make memories.

Hazel



Whitechurch Guides

Whitechurch Guides recently held our Enrolment Ceremony, when new members make their Guide Promise, in common with over 10 million sisters around the world. Parents joined us for a lovely evening and we taught them some campfire songs and a game or two before the girls doing their Hostess Badge and Cook Badge served tea, coffee and great cakes. At Whitechurch Enrolments we also add a leaf to our fabric tree, which reminds of the names and years all our past and present members were enrolled. You might see it if you join us for refreshments after our annual World Thinking Day service on 23 February. As 2026 will be the centenary of Thinking Day, when we learn about and fundraise for girls in countries less fortunate than ourselves, the theme this year is Our Story. So we've been exploring a little extra about the roots of Guiding and Scouting, and all the things we have in common. Over the coming few years the theme will turn to Our Future and how we'd like to keep helping to shape our world.

In June we'll camp in Larch Hill with Tivoli Guides from Dun Laoghaire to prepare for our International Camp Orbit in August, when we'll be hosting girls from all over the world. On our subcamp we'll be welcoming girls from New York and learning about how they camp and what they find different at our Irish camp, our food, our weather, our activities, songs and even our version of the English language too. No doubt many badges will also be swapped, as the Girl Scouts USA are big into swapping their "patches". Who knows, we might receive an invitation to travel over to one of their camps in the future.

Doreen, Rosemary & Ruth



Whitechurch Badminton

25TH CELEBRATION

The Badminton Club was founded 25 years ago and on 11th December last year we had a party to celebrate this milestone.

As you will see from the photo, past and present members came together to celebrate and from all accounts it was a resounding success.

Thank you to all the past members who came. It was great to catch up with them all. Some even played badminton!!!! Brought back many memories.

A thousand thanks to the present members who supplied the delicious supper and a special thanks to Sonia Champ who made the beautiful cake for the occasion.

As you probably know, we play social badminton every Wednesday from 8.00pm till 10.00pm. We would love to welcome some new members or even past members who might like to rejoin. If you are over 18, male or female and would like some exercise and craic, please do contact me. You would be very welcome.

Sylvia Simpson
086 3647746



Whitechurch Indoor Bowls Club

At this point we are playing the final matches of the four league and two cup competitions that we have entered.

The teams have done well and everyone who put themselves forward to play in the Leagues/Cups has donned the jersey and kissed the badge.

We are hopeful of reaching some finals and bringing home silverware. Our internal competitions are on track and we have a Ladies Singles winner in Jackie Jolley and a mens singles winner in Peter Burgess. Peter and Jackie faced off in the Zena Baird trophy which Peter won. Our pairs and plate competitions will be starting soon and no doubt will provide the usual upsets and surprises that make these competitions so much fun.

Peter Osman
Club Captain



3-week Lenten Course on Zoom

An opportunity to do a 3-week Lenten Course on Zoom ... All welcome to join in for 3 weeks of Lent! You can participate on either a Monday or Tuesday evening at 8pm or else on a Thursday morning at 10.30am....whichever time is more convenient for you.

Please contact Rev'd Michael for dates and sign in information. The Course will be starting its 3 weeks on Monday 10th March, looking at the first letter of John.

revmheaney@gmail.com 0862651791

Healer Prayer

Our Healer Prayer Union holds a short prayer service on the 2nd Sunday of every month, following the regular Sunday morning service (excluding June, July & August). All parishioners are welcome to attend. This provides an opportunity to take part in intercession for those who have requested our prayers. There are eight intercessors each of whom receives a list of those for whom we have been asked to pray. The first names of those on the lists are read out in the monthly prayer service and the intercessors pray daily for those who are sick or who may be in any special need.

Should you wish to submit a name and a brief note of the illness of any person, please contact me at any time. Also, I would appreciate knowing, from time to time, of those who may have recovered from illness or whose condition may have changed, or indeed of anyone who may no longer need prayer intercession.

Hazel Crawford
0872448228/01 4946918

Rwanda Link

We have just completed recruitment of 8 more donors to our education bursary project in Mount Zion School in Shyogwe. An annual donation of 120 euros provides for full education of a child, covering tuition, uniform, books and lunches. Donors pledge this for a six year period thus ensuring that the child's learning is covered in full. We may look for further donors in the future, but for now this project is paused in order to avoid flooding the school with too many scholarship pupils at one time.

Our Whitechurch health centre formally opened last year and is operating very successfully, covering a large catchment area thus saving sick patients having to travel long distances to get help. Water borne diseases, Malaria, maternal issues and minor injuries are amongst the most common treatments.

We continue to receive significant funding from sources outside our parish, but, as always, many thanks to our vestry and congregation for your continued support.

The Rwanda Committee

www.whitechurchparish.com

Some Thoughts on Church Unity

On Unity Sunday I and a number of us from Whitechurch, joined in a Service of reflection on Christian Unity. We gathered in The Divine Word, Marlay. On the following Wednesday at Holy Communion, I reflected upon that occasion.

Last Sunday many of us from Whitechurch met with others from the surrounding Christian churches in Marlay Parish. We gathered to celebrate our Unity in Jesus Christ. As always on these occasions we shed our organizational differences and concentrated on our belief in the Basic Gospel which points to Christ Jesus - the Call to Repentance, the Acceptance of Forgiveness, the Sign of Baptism and the Gift of Eternal Life both now and forever, Sealed with the Holy Spirit. On all of this we all agree. [Acts 2:38ff] The rest is all added on!

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity challenges us to learn about each other, it challenges us to get to know each other, and to befriend each other - to Love God and Love each other.

It encourages us to dispense with the various Church labels which have made for division. These 8 days help us to see our common ground in our basic belief in Jesus Christ. As the first Christians did, we learn again together to proclaim that '**Jesus is Lord**', and to learn what that means for our lives.

Humans are not the same. God has given us a great variety of body and intellect. We do things differently - as individuals. Our homes are different; our lifestyles are different and the ways we 'do' church, are different. There is no need for a false or inflicted uniformity.

Trying to suppress such differences or demand these differences is not the will of the Lord. *There is one body, one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all* [Eph. 4:6]. This is as it was when the Church began!

➤ **Ephesians 4:1-6 / St John 17:11-23**

Reverend Michael



DAFFODIL DAY
COFFEE MORNING

FRIDAY 28th MARCH 2025

FROM 10.30AM - 1PM

OLD SCHOOLS (in church grounds) WHITECHURCH PARISH,

WHITECHURCH ROAD, DUBLIN 16

ALL WELCOME

(Bring and Buy Cake Stall)



WHITECHURCH NS & PARISH
FETE
@ Whitechurch NS D16 Y1X3

SATURDAY 5TH APRIL
12.00PM TO 15.00PM

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY | LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
bric a'brac | bouncy castle | outdoor games
hot food stalls | market stalls | raffle

Want to Enter Raffle – Raffle / Donation Code 



The Whitechurch Mens' Breakfast

will be held in
Rathfarnham Golf Club
on **Saturday 12th April 2025 at 9.15 am**

Speaker: Rev Trevor Stevenson

To book contact Rev Michael Heaney
revmheaney@gmail.com
086 2651791

The Whitechurch Ladies' Breakfast

The Ladies' Breakfast will be held in

The Stables



on Saturday April the 26th 2025
at 9.30 am

First 40 to reply
€10 sub. at the door

Yes by Text: to 0868371040
or 0876394876

Easter Services

5th March - Ash Wednesday

10.30am Holy Communion

7pm Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday 13th April - Palm Sunday

10.30am Palm Sunday Procession

Followed by Famine Lunch

Wednesday 16th April - Wednesday in Holy Week

7pm Service of the Word - Speaker Dr Bridget Nichols, Lecturer in Anglicanism and Liturgy, Church of Ireland Theological Institute

Thursday 17th April - Maundy Thursday

7pm Holy Communion - Speaker Dr Bridget Nichols

Friday 18th April - Good Friday

7 pm Service - Speaker Dr Bridget Nichols

Sunday 20th April - Easter Day

Early Ecumenical Sunrise Service - Montpelier Hill

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

Whitechurch Parish

Sunday Services

8.30am 10.30am
Wheelchair access at all times

Mid-Week Service (+Prayer for the sick) - 10.30am Wednesday.

Wedding Fee €300

Burial Fees:

Opening of New Grave €1,050

Re-opening of existing Grave €520

Erection of Headstone €350

Erection of Flatstone €350

Erection of Surrounds €350

Cremation Plots 2ft.x 2ft. €600

Re-opening of Cremation Plot €300

Only members of the parish are eligible for graves (apart from those who already own existing grave plots). Advance booking of burial plots not permitted.

Rector: Rev David Bowles.

Tel: 4934972 and 089 2364 969

Email: rector@whitechurchparish.com
office@whitechurchparish.com

Rev Michael Heaney. Tel: Mobile 086 2651791 revmheaney@gmail.com

Parish Overseas Link: Rwandan Projects.

Arthur Milligan Tel: 4932509, Har Allison Tel: 4945931, Linda Milligan, David Hunt, Malcolm Hunt.

Churchwardens 2024-25: Audrey McGrath - Rector's Warden.

Harold Hislop - Peoples' Warden.

Select Vestry 2024 - 2025: Steven Anderson, Bruce Burgess, Audrey Champ, Geoffrey Conn (Hon Treasurer), Ruth Gaskin (Hon Secretary), David Hunt, Janine Jamieson, Tom Jenner, Keith Quinn, Jeremy Russell, Gillian Ryan, Hugh St. Leger.
Parochial Nominators 2023-2026: Rhodanne Heaney, David Hunt, Ruth Gaskin, Steven Anderson.

Supplemental Nominators: 2023-2026: Malcolm Hunt, Janine Jamieson, Sylvia Hick, Hugh St. Leger.

Diocesan Synodspersons:2023 -2026: Harold Hislop, Hugh St. Leger, Jane Kelly.

Supplemental Synodspersons: 2023-2026: Gillian Ryan, Lenore Rothwell O’Kane.
Bruce Burgess.

Authorised to Administer the Chalice: Audrey Champ, Lenore Rothwell O’Kane,
Harold Hislop, Colin Graham, Mena Ogodo, Jane Kelly, Thomas Jenner, David Hunt,
Gillian Ryan, Steven Anderson.

Organist/Choirmaster: Aaron Marchant marchantaaron@gmail.com

Church Flowers: Gillian Ryan gillianstylemama@gmail.com 087 1216445

Glebewardens: Gerry Pullman, Keith Quinn.

Altar Linen: Nellie Gough

Sunday School Superintendent: Janine Jamieson Tel: 4061 847 (For children from 4
years old.)

Youth Group: Zoe Mulligan zoemulligan@gmail.com

Whitechurch National School: Sarah Richards (Principal) Tel: 4942177

School PTA. 2023-2024: Rachel O’Donoghue (Chairperson), Etain Magennis
(Treasurer), Jennifer Donnelly (Secretary) Sarah Richards (Principal), Andrea
Deacon (Teachers’ Representative), David O’Donoghue (Board of Management
Rep), Emma Murphy (Board of Management Rep), Aidan Lonergan and Zoe Phelan
(Extra Curricular Activities, May Fete Committee and Fundraising), Jill Moffett
(Hockey Representative), Sarah Courtenay (Communications), Stefania Ivaturi
(Purchasing), Catherine Bell (PPTA Class Rep Liaison), Jenny Sherwin (May Fete
Committee Rep and Fundraising), Angela Hennessy (May Fete Committee Rep),
Vasilisa Lebed (Fundraising).

Board of Management: Rev David Bowles (Chairperson), Ms. Rowan Hillis
(Honorary Secretary), Ms. Sarah Richards (Principal), Mr. Geoff Sparling (Honorary
Treasurer), Ms. Judy Browne (Teacher’s Nominee), Mr. Gerry Pullman (Patron’s
Nominee), Mrs. Patricia Marchant (Community Nominee), Mr. Hugh St. Leger
(Community Nominee).

Whitechurch News: Editor: Gail Garry gailegarry@gmail.com

Healer Prayer Union: Hazel Crawford. Tel: 4946918.

Mothers’ Union: Gillian Butler. Tel: 086 1536901

Alpha Course: Michael & Rhodanne Heaney. Tel: 086 265 1791

Bible Reading Notes: Rhodanne Heaney. Tel: 493 1167.

Whitechurch Cub Scouts: Glen Vince glenvince2010@gmail.com

Whitechurch Guides: Ruth Hughes. Tel: 087 2959 245

Whitechurch Brownies: Hazel Furlong. hazelfurlong1@gmail.com

Badminton: Sylvia Simpson. Tel: 086 364 7746.

Bowling Club: Peter Osman 087 2254463

C. of I. Gazette: Parish Office. Tel: 493 4972

Church Review: Heather Plummer. Tel: 4944 809

Eco congregation Rep: Vacant

Parish Archivist: Leslie McQueston. Tel: 494 3774.

Parish Financial Scheme: Bruce Burgess (Administrator), Gail McGrane (Treasurer/Recorder), Geoffrey Conn (Parish Treasurer), Lenore Rothwell O'Kane, Current Churchwardens.

Safeguarding Trust Parish Panel: Rector, Hugh St. Leger, Ruth Hughes, Don Lewis.

Select Vestry's Old Schools Administration Committee:

Janine Jamieson (Chairperson) Tel: 086 3175900, Jeremy Russell, Kathleen Swanton, Bruce Burgess.

Stables Management Committee: Jackie Jolley [Chairperson] Tel: 494 3310, Philip Champ, Tony Sutton.

School Secretary: Laoighse De Burca Tel: 494 2177 (office).

Parish office Tel/Fax 493 4972, and office@whitechurchparish.com

Rector's P.A. Janet Gillis (Monday - Thursday 9.00am – 1.00pm)

Parish Website: whitechurchparish.com

External Resources that use the Old Schools & Stables are:

Whitechurch Day-Care

[Age Care] Service [under the auspices of the Health Board].

Supervisor: Isolde De La Cruz 086 0869719.

[Monday/Wednesday/Thursday]

Montessori School. Enquiries to Abi Acheson Tel. 087 6759599