



Whitechurch News

Autumn 2025

Rectors Letter

We are all firmly back on the tracks now after the Summer with so much going on, it's hard to keep up!

It is some people's favourite time of year, with God's creation looking amazing with all the Autumnal colours and when we celebrate our Harvest Thanksgivings!

All our organisations are back in full flow, Badminton, Bowls Club, Mothers Union, Sunday Club, Youth Club, Montessori, Whitechurch National School, Creche (in near future) etc. You will see reports on further pages about some of these organisations! It is great to be such a vibrant parish, full of fellowship.

As a Christian Church of Ireland Parish, I hope that your spiritual needs are being fulfilled. Our 'Bible Reading Together' is such an integral part of what we offer and Rev'd Michael along with Rhodanne are wonderful in providing this invaluable opportunity to deepen our understanding of the Bible. Don't forget, of course our Sunday services (last but definitely not least!!!)

Thank you to those who make all this possible!

See you about the parish!

David

***Reverend David Bowles
Rector Whitechurch Parish
089 2364969***

WHITECHURCH PARISH

Dream Auction

Friday 7 November 2025

7.30pm for **8pm**

St John's GAA Club, Grange Road, Ballinteer

Fund raiser and social event. Please invite your friends, neighbours and family to come along for a fun evening's entertainment for just €5 including sandwiches during the evening.

Any business who wishes to include a small advert to illustrate their donated service can send it for inclusion on slides to view on the night, by 3rd November to office@whitechurchparish.com

Ryan Baird signing rugby jersey and tickets for a Leinster rugby game.

Book signing / interview with Marian Keyes.

Tour of the Dail & lunch for two.

Sing & harp playing at a celebration event.

Tour of Coffee Factory and Barista Lesson.

Celebration cake.

Christmas hamper.

Manicure and pedicure voucher.

Hamper from a pharmacy.

Half day Scout Experience.

Kite surfing lesson.

Whitechurch NS - 3 x Golden Homework passes.

Yoga lessons.

Computer lessons.

Part membership of a gym.

Session on Professional Motor Racing Simulator.

Session on a golf simulator.

Voucher for Per Se Italian Café.

Christmas wreath-making for 4 people.

Rector to cook meal for 4 at home with wine.

Case of wine.

Gift wrapped bottles of wine.

Tickets for Carol service at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Wash and blow dry from Ebano.

Service for car €250.

Valet for car.

Car wash by the Guides.

Restoration of a small item of furniture.

Several paintings from our art group.

Professional dog walking.

Grass cutting.

Baby sitting (Alexandra Stewart-Miller).

Baby sitting (Zoe Mulligan).

Piano lessons.

Scottish dancing lesson.

Ukulele lesson.

Guitar lesson.

Painting of a favourite place or a loved one.

and much more.....!

We look forward to seeing you there for some great chat and some very special shopping.

www.whitechurchparish.com

Harvest Thanksgiving

Our parish Harvest Thanksgiving took place on Sunday 12th October. We welcomed the Very Reverend Dermot Dunne as our speaker, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral. The church looked fantastic, thanks to our wonderful team of flower arrangers and also Mrs Olive Wilson's amazing, knitted harvest fruit, veg and harvest mice!



Young People's Harvest

On Sunday 19th October we held our Young People's Harvest. The church was full of noise and joy as we worshiped together. The Whitechurch National School Choir sang 'Harvest Samba' and Sunday Club led us in prayer. The Rev'd Rob Clemence talked to us about journey together and looking after God's works!



Back to Church & School Service

On Sunday 14th September we held our annual '*Back to Church and School*' Service. The first half was child centred, followed by Sunday Club.

Immediately following the service many parishioners, young and otherwise, enjoyed a treat from the ice cream van!

We look forward to a fun and busy season of Sunday Club and New Family services.



Whitechurch National School

(School website: www.whitechurchns.biz)



We've had a very positive start to the new school year, with the arrival of our group of new Junior Infants as well as some pupils in other classes. Our new Autism Class has opened in temporary accommodation in one of the prefab SET rooms. The 6 pupils enrolled in the class have 1 class teacher and 2 SNAs and move between their mainstream classes and the Autism Class, depending on their individual needs. 4 pupils were already in our school, and we also welcomed 2 new pupils to our Autism Class. They have all made a great start to the year and we look forward to our new Autism Classroom building which will have more space and a sensory room area for the pupils to avail of. Even though it is early days, we have already seen a hugely positive impact across the whole school with the addition of our Autism Class. We hope that the expertise gained in the Autism Class will also benefit all the pupils in mainstream classes who are neurodivergent.

We have also welcomed several new members of staff - Ms June Tector (SET Teacher), Ms Jean McAdam (job share teacher), Ms Alannah Cooke (6th Class teacher), Ms Gemma Santiago (Autism Class teacher), Ms Nichola Hosie and Ms Samantha Squire (SNAs). We hope that our new staff members will be very happy with us at WNS!

As ever, the PTA have been extremely helpful in welcoming our new families and parents with the Buddy Parent system, events such as the new parent coffee morning and the recent PTA AGM. We were delighted to welcome guest speaker, Fiona Hall, to our AGM at the end of September. In addition to being a past parent at WNS, Fiona is also a psychotherapist, counsellor, and gives workshops and talks around the country on supporting children with a diagnosis and coming to terms with that as a parent. With permission from her son, Fiona spoke of her own personal experience of coming to terms with and supporting a neurodivergent child. Her talk was practical, entertaining but above all else, she provided an extremely insightful perspective that moved all present. Fiona also spoke about how parents can support each other and how to talk to others about your child's needs. The PTA Committee also presented their financial report and end of year report to the meeting. Rev'd David noted his thanks on behalf of the BOM to the PTA for all they do to support the work of the school which was further endorsed by Gerry Pullman. Rachel O'Donoghue was thanked for her 3 years as PTA Chairperson and the enormous contribution she made over that time. We welcome Stefania Ivaturi as our new PTA Chairperson for this school year.

Our enrolment application process is underway for school places for the 2026/27 school year. If you are considering enrolling your child, please see our website for further details and forms. Like most Dublin schools, we are oversubscribed each year, so it is important to send in applications on time and to fully complete forms in order to secure places.

As ever, we have lots of things happening in addition to class lessons. 4th Class took a recent trip to visit the Follies in St Enda's Park, having completed projects about

these in History. All pupils are completing a term of Gymnastics lessons each Thursday with coach, Aysun Kubra. We held our Anti Bullying Week at the end of September, and all classes enjoyed a really super workshop on Bullying and how to stand up to bullies from Pat Forde of Stop the Bully Ireland. In our school, we use the STOP sign as a reminder to pupils about Bullying in our school - it is displayed on every classroom wall and stands as a reminder for what bullying is - 'Several Times On Purpose' and reminds us what to do if we come across or experience bullying - 'Start Telling Other People'. Of course, bullying is more complex than this, but our STOP signs keep it on the radar all year round!

The 3 student voice committees have been elected, and we look forward to meetings over the year with the Green School Committee, the Active School Committee and the Student Council. It is always really interesting and impressive to see how the pupils take these roles so seriously and put effort and thought into their plans and ideas! Upcoming events that we are looking forward to include Maths Week, Science Week, our annual Book Fair, and Dress Up Day in aid of Purple House and the Irish Cancer Society just before the Mid Term Break!

Sarah Richards,
Principal

Whitechurch Guides

Guides enjoyed a terrific week at International Camp Orbit in August in Clongowes College with over 1400 other girls from around the world. We survived Storm Floris, although not all our tents did, and we learned lots about the challenges of camping in different weathers! Our New York guests thoroughly enjoyed their visit, and their few days after camp seeing the sights of Dublin. They hope to visit one of the Guide World Centres, Our Chalet in Adelboden, Switzerland in 2027, and we would love to catch up with them again there.

Meanwhile we might try another stay in Cultra, the Ulster Folk Park and who knows where else. We got off to a great start this term, with lots and lots of new members. It's lovely to have the hall full again. We enjoyed two ski lessons in Kilternan with Tivoli Guides and have started work on our Healthy Friendships badge, soon to be followed by our Rambler badge. We're looking forward to our cottage weekend in Enniskerry and lots of other activities.

We're very excited that one of our past Guides, Lily Conway, (and now also a young leader with Whitechurch Brownies), has been selected to travel to India next summer to visit Sangam, one of our 5 World Centres. Sangam will be celebrating 60 years of bringing Girl Guides together from around the world for very special events, learning about international understanding, peace-building and lifelong friendships. We can't wait to hear all Lily's stories afterwards, but first she'll be fundraising to help defray some of travel and other costs.

Ruth Hughes



Whitechurch Brownies

We were delighted to welcome eight new girls to our Brownie unit in September! We were also thrilled that Chloe, our TY student from last year, has returned to help us again this year. The girls absolutely love her, and she continues to be such a wonderful role model for them.

Although it's a short term, we still have plenty of exciting activities planned. The girls will dress up for our annual Halloween party in October, followed by a sleepover in Portmarnock in November, where they'll learn how to pitch tents - and hopefully sleep in them! We'll also (hopefully) enjoy a visit to the beach and a nature walk during the trip.

We'll finish off the year in festive style with a visit to the Panto at the Civic Theatre in December.

Hazel, Mairead, Zoe and Lily
Whitechurch Brownies Leaders

Junior Youth Club

It's been a fantastic start to the year at Whitechurch Junior Youth Club - we've had loads of young people getting involved each week and enjoying all the fun and games. We've enjoyed playing a variety of games together, including *Never Have I Ever* and *Relay Race Noughts and Crosses*. Also, this year we started a kid-run tuck shop - and it's quickly become a favourite part of the night!

Our Halloween meeting in October was extra enjoyable - we kicked off the night with a sweets-themed quiz and the ever-popular chocolate game. We ended the night with a glow-in-the-dark disco.

We're now really looking forward to our start of year trip to JumpZone on the 17th October.

On Friday 17th October our Junior Youth Club went to Jump Zone. 19 of our young people attended and had a great time!



Zoe Mulligan



Rwanda Link

Our health centre at Nyanagama is now picking up greatly in volume of patients, as a result of its recent inclusion in the Rwandan national health insurance scheme. Under the scheme, an annual fee of €20 gives any participant family entry to our clinic.

We still have some funds on hand and are now discussing with our colleagues in Rwanda, what projects we should next involve ourselves in. There appear to be very interesting opportunities in the area of new water and electricity supply to poor villages presently without such.

Our colleagues there are involved in discussions with local authorities to identify such projects, undertake feasibility studies, and bring us the results. We intend to travel out there in late February or early March to finalise arrangements and agree budgets, timeframes etc.

We have a group from our own committee free to travel at that time but would love for any Parishioner or School Parent who might have an interest in joining us, to contact us for a chat. This could also extend to a secondary school pupil and parent with an interest to travel together. Though each traveller pays totally for their own costs, it is not an overly expensive trip.

As usual, we will be selling our Christmas Cards, our very popular model Giraffes and Elephants, Cadbury eggs and cosies, after church in Whitechurch and neighbouring parishes.

The Link committee

Whitechurch Badminton

Badminton has started again for the season on a Wednesday evening from 8.00pm-10.00pm in the Old Schools Hall. We are a small group of ladies and occasionally one gentleman who play social badminton and enjoy the chat as much as the exercise.

Sadly, two of our members Susan and Jane retired this year but we extend a warm welcome to Susan who has just joined us. We would love to see a few new faces so if there is anyone over 18, male or female, interested in a spot of exercise and good fun please do get in touch with me.

We play from September to May, do not play league matches and as we are of mixed ability, any standard of player would be very welcome, even beginners.

Please contact me on 086 3647746.

Sylvia Simpson

Mothers Union

Our first meeting after the summer break was the Diocesan Service which was held in Drumcondra Parish church on 7th September, the preacher was Right Rev'd Dermot Dunne, Christ Church Cathedral.

We had our branch Opening Holy Communion Service on 7th October which was led by Rev'd David and was very meaningful in the lovely atmosphere of the Stables. Many thanks to Jackie Jolley for setting up the table and chairs for us.

We also want to thank Richard Jolley for going to endless trouble and precision to make a new flagpole to hold our MU flag as the other pole was unmanageable because of its size and weight.

Our November meeting is a day trip on the 'train special' to Kelly's Hotel in Rosslare for lunch. Also in November we are collecting the Christmas Bags for the children in Darndale Crèche which have to be in by 23rd November. The children are very excited to get these bags.

Gillian, Hazel & Susan



Whitechurch Indoor Bowls Club

Another season is under way and all the gang are back playing and looking forward to the challenges of a new season of bowls with club and league competitions to test our mettle.

Whitechurch is part of The Dublin & District United Churches Indoor Bowling Association which grew out of a group of indoor bowling clubs that had been playing each other on a regular, but informal basis for some years in the 1950s. Our club members Jackie Jolley and David Williams have served with distinction on the Executive Committee of the Association for a number of years with David elected as President for the 2019/20 season and Jackie elected as President on two occasions, the 2013/14 season and the 2024/25 season. At the moment the Association organises four league competitions and two knock-out competitions and Whitechurch are lucky enough to have the numbers to enter all six competitions.

We are a competitive club but the beauty of league competitions is that you meet old friends from other clubs and put the world to rights during a competitive game of bowls and especially during tea and biscuits. This is our 35th Season and all we can hope for is to have as much fun as we had in the previous 34.

Peter Osman
Club Captain



The Rohu
Cup



The McIlwaine
Cup



The Price
Cup



The Kerr
Trophy



The Hope
Cup



The Miller
Trophy

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.

A special word of thanks to all the intercessors and to those who attend the monthly services to pray for the sick. It is always a short but meaningful service. Should you wish to submit the name and brief note of the illness or need of any person known to you who is in need of prayer please contact me at any time.

Currently there are more than 50 people on the lists, many of whom are unknown to me. So if you know of anyone who has been prayed for or has been on a prayer list for more than TWO years, please let me have an update as soon as possible so that I can change the lists accordingly.

Hazel Crawford
0872448228

Bible Reading Together – BRT

Over 7 weeks in July and August we have been looking at the Lord's Prayer. An email with the details was sent each week to the 37 participants. On each occasion a sentence from the Lord's Prayer was taken and related to verses from the Bible. There were suggestions for personal prayer based on the sentence. There was a short prayer and then a hymn/song to conclude.

The Seven Sessions/Days are now available in a small booklet. There are copies at the back of the church. **Please do take one!**

For any information on The Lord's Prayer Sessions and the forthcoming Autumn Sessions [*ZOOM] on 1st Timothy, please contact me at rev.mheaney@gmail.com. If you are not already one of the 37 and would like to participate in **Bible Reading Together**; please contact me.

*Sessions on ZOOM are on:
Monday or Tuesday evenings 8-9pm or Thursday Morning 10.30-11.30am.

Rev'd Michael

A way to help us read the Bible on a more regular basis.

We all find it difficult to just open the Bible and read! This is where about 25 of us have gained so much help from dated Bible Notes. Here is the one I really recommend and 20 of us here are using. These are in a 4 monthly booklet from contributors world-wide who have picked out a portion that they find helpful and then shared it with us the readers.... From countries such as India Indonesia, Denmark. UK, India, Indonesia, and Germany.

Then there are other Bible Notes I can suggest, so do get in touch, text or a call, and I will order some for you starting in January and I will then post direct to you.

Rhodanne Heaney
086 8371040

Financial Scheme Appreciation and Acknowledgement

Our Financial Scheme is a vital element in sustaining the day-to-day operations of our Parish. On behalf of the Financial Scheme Committee, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those involved, particularly the Financial Visitors whose dedication and commitment are greatly valued by the entire Parish community.

The role of the Financial Visitors is both demanding and indispensable. Their tireless efforts in supporting the Financial Scheme reflect a unique commitment that does not go unnoticed.

The contributions received through the Financial Scheme serve as the operational lifeblood of the Parish. These funds are essential for keeping "the doors open", especially during challenging times when many families face significant trials. Your ongoing support of the community ensures that the Parish can continue to provide essential services and maintain its facilities.

Our Parish is proud to offer a wide range of valuable amenities and activities to the community. These include the school, many social activities, the Sunday Club, community initiatives, and, of course, the Church itself. Participation in voluntary activities through the Time and Talents programme is also greatly appreciated, as it strengthens our sense of community and shared purpose.

We would like to thank everyone who participates in the Financial Scheme and supports the Parish in any capacity. Your attention, cooperation, and assistance are invaluable. Together, we ensure the continued vitality and vibrancy of our Parish community.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and dedication.

Bruce Burgess
Ruth Gaskin

Book Review by The Rev'd Michael

Sabbath As Resistance (insert image of book)



Saying NO to the CULTURE of NOW by Walter Brueggemann

Have you ever wondered what has happened to Sunday? If you have you are not alone. Theologian and writer Walter Brueggemann has written an excellent book 'Sabbath Resistance' responding to this question.

He was overcome with the prevailing sense of restlessness in this and the last generation. Such restlessness he understood had come about through a sense of general unfulfillment, and the pursuit to 'achieve, accomplish, perform and possess'. There was he saw, a necessity to 'want more, have more, own more, use more, eat more and drink more'.

Driven by this 'market ideology' such inescapably anxiety so often becomes unmanageable and when pursued energetically enough, leads to violence against the neighbour - in search of what rightly belongs to the neighbour.

Brueggemann reflects on how this may be seen as a regression to the Biblical times of Pharaoh. Pharaoh pursued his own 'unquenchable' needs by enslaving his people - principally the Israelites. God freed them through the Exodus, a fact that they constantly forgot. The Old Testament narrative describes how their 'waywardness' repeatedly led to renewed enslavement.

He sees how the demands of Society today encourage everyone to be enslaved into a 24/7 restless drive to succeed, achieve and possess! He points out that the freedom offered by the teaching of Jesus is something to be grasped and something which will quench the restless and constant activity which is troubling society today.

He says that The Ten Commandments are the basic guidelines for our daily living. He sees Commandment 4 as the pivot of human life. To 'remember the Sabbath' - now the Sunday and 'to keep it holy' (literally to make it different), will allow time to reflect on our relationship with God [Commandments 1,2,3] and our relationship with our neighbour [Commandments 5,6,7,8,9,10].

Jesus reduced the TEN to TWO. He said love God totally and love your neighbour totally. Brueggemann's understanding is that, until we get these relationships right, we cannot lose our restlessness. We can only get these relationships right by pausing for the God given 'One Day' in seven.

All that God created was Good and He rested on the Seventh Day. We constantly get things wrong if we ignore this God given command. Walter Brueggemann's 'Sabbath As Resistance' is a timely book that challenges us to rethink the place of

rest in our lives. It is a profound call to resist the forces of anxiety, consumerism, and empire (Pharoah and Market) by taking on board the God given rhythm of work and rest. In his book he explores the theology, the culture, and the wisdom which points to The Sunday/Sabbath and he invites us to reclaim the day as a gift of liberation and grace. In the relative calm of a well-spent Sunday, we may find the strength and clarity to face the week anew.

Westminster John Knox Press / WJK / ISBN-13: 978-0-664-26329-4

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

Rector: Rev David Bowles.

Tel: 4934972 and 089 2364 969

Email: rector@whitechurchparish.com
office@whitechurch parish.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 2025-26:

Nadya Dunne - Rector's Warden.

Sam Jessup - People's 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 2025-2026: Stefania Lauciello (Chairperson); Zoe Phelan (Deputy Chairperson) & (Extra Curricular Activities); Shauna Gowan (Secretary) Etain Magennis (Treasurer); Sarah Richards/Judy Brown (Principal/DP); Elaine Murphy (Teacher Representative); David O'Donoghue and Sinéad Mc Goran (Board of Management Representatives); Jill Moffett (Hockey Representative); Catherine Bell (PTA Class Rep Liaison); Niamh Cacciato (Communications) Jennifer Donnelly (Purchasing); Jenny Sherwin (May Fete Committee Rep); Shóna Browne (Parent Representative)

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. Pamela Sheil. Tel 4933 359

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