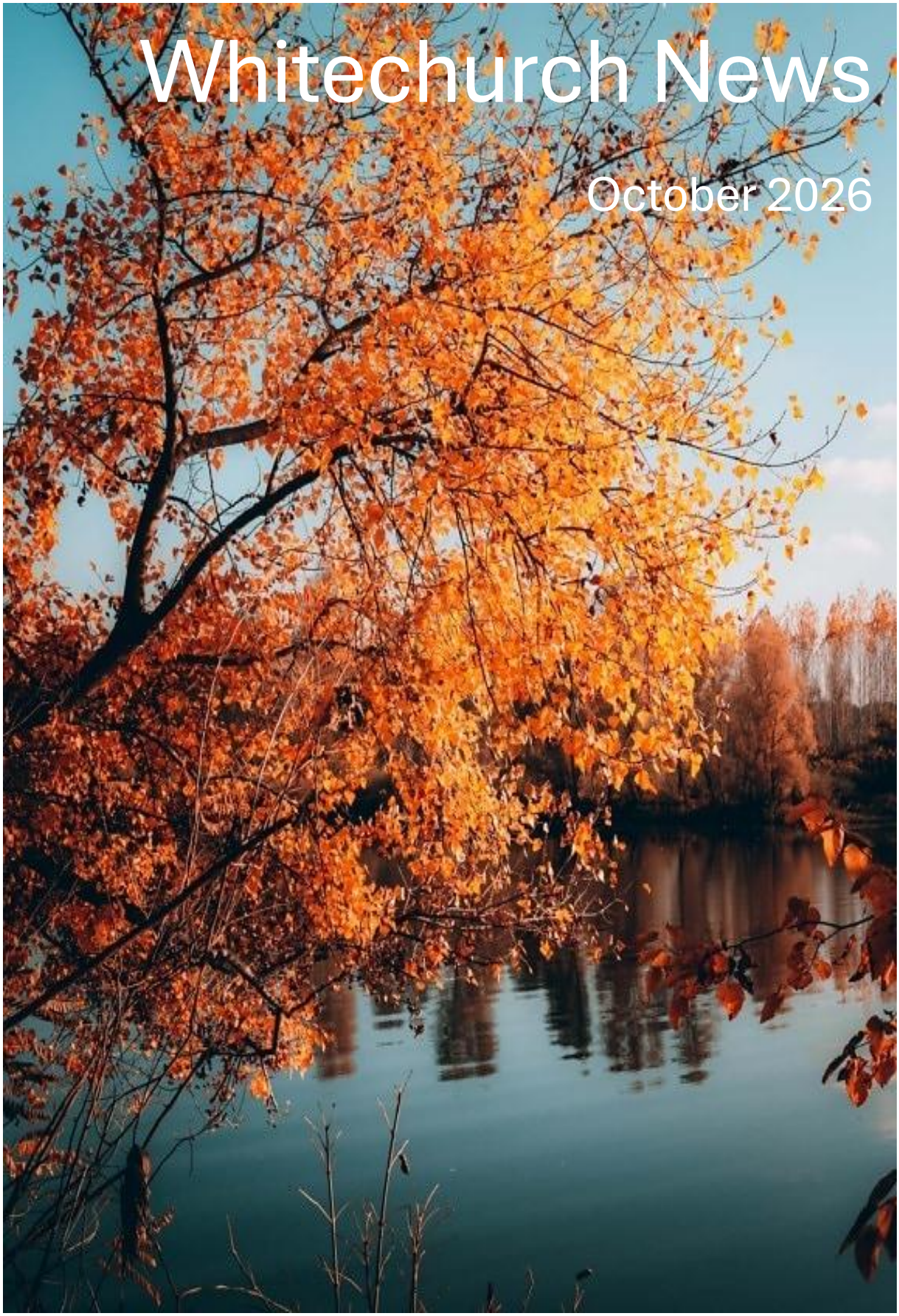
# Whitechurch News

October 2026



# *Rectors Letter*

It is that time of the year again. When I see that the evenings are closing in and the weather is getting a bit more inclement! We have had our Harvest Thanksgivings and I'd like to thank Ven. Ross Styles and Rev'd Cathy Hallissey and also Copper Pot who came to preach to us at our 2 Harvests! Also, thanks to everyone who gave food donations which we gave to Storehouse, the Crinken Parish charity which provides food for those in the community who are struggling to make ends meet.

As we are approaching Christmas (well Advent anyway), we look forward to the festivities, and I hope that you will have a joyous Christmas. So remember a neighbour or someone who may be lonely over Christmas and take the time to call in on them or invite them over. It might make more of a difference than you could imagine.

***Rev'd David Bowles***
***Rector Whitechurch Parish***
***089 2364969***

## *Children's Harvest Service*



What a wonderful Children's Harvest that took place on Sunday 18th October. We welcomed The Rev'd Cathy Hallissey and Copper Pot who talked to us about the wonders of God's creation!

Afterwards we enjoyed hot dogs, juice and cake in the Old Schools. We had a great turn out and thank you to everyone who helped and especially to Cathy and Copper Pot!

## *Harvest Thanksgiving*

On Sunday 11th October we celebrated our Harvest Thanksgiving. Our guest preacher was Ven. Ross Styles, Rector of Newcastle, Newtownmountkennedy and Calary and Archdeacon of Glendalough.



His sermon was really inspiring and challenging. The church was decorated beautifully and we had delicious refreshments following the service! We also welcomed Canon Martin Cosgrove from the Church of the Annunciation as our guest.

Thank you to all who made the day so special.



## *Baptism*

On Sunday 4th October we enjoyed the baptism of 3 members of the Makgothi family. It was really special, a wonderful day.

They were so well behaved, it was a first for me.



## *Wedding Bells*

On Saturday the 19th September we celebrated the wedding of Zoe Shekleton and Ian Condell. It was a beautiful and special day.

We wish them all the best and very many happy years together.



# *Whitechurch National School*

(www.whitechurchns.biz)

We have had a great start to the year with our new Junior Infants pupils all very well settled into school under the care of their class teachers, Mrs. Murphy and Ms. McAdam. We welcomed some new staff to the school at the beginning of the year as well - Caoimhe Maguire is teaching 1st Class temporarily, while Ms. Rachel McGuinness is taking our 5th Class, covering for Ms. Andrea Deacon and Ms. Fiona Masterson, who are out on maternity and parental leave.

As ever, the PTA have been extremely helpful in welcoming our new families and parents with the Buddy Parent system and events such as the new parent coffee morning and the recent PTA AGM. We were delighted to hear about the launch of the PTA's new parent led voluntary smart phone delay agreement. The idea behind this is that parents all pledge not to give their child a smartphone before secondary school and to delay use of certain apps/ social media. This should help to alleviate pressure on parents to get their child a smartphone if the children know that all parents are following the same code. 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. We are very grateful for all that the PTA do for the school, not least the fundraising which this year will be used towards improving the PE hall and providing sensory equipment and a trail outside in the yard. We thank Stefania Ivaturi, PTA Chairperson, along with her team for all that they do!

Our enrolment application process is underway for school places for the 2027/2028 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. We are always happy to show any prospective parents around the school- if you would like to visit us, please contact the school office to arrange!

As ever, we have lots of things happening in addition to class lessons. 6th Class enjoyed a trip to Zipit in Tribradden Wood. All pupils are completing a term of Gymnastics lessons each Thursday with Olympian gymnastics. The annual book fair was held with great success and thanks to the generosity of school parents, we were able to receive a large amount of books for our school as a result! We held our Anti Bullying Week at the end of September and all classes enjoyed a really super workshop on Bullying and peer pressure from Reuben Evans. Reuben is an entertainer and comedian, who now gives school workshops on bullying. He had the children laughing all through his session whilst also getting the message across about the importance of standing up for themselves and others against peer pressure. Maths Week took place recently and the children enjoyed maths trails and the guess the weight of the pumpkin competition organised by Mr. Megarity, our STEM coordinator.

We finished up for Mid Term with a Dress Up Day in aid of Purple House, which saw a super effort with homemade costumes around the school. Rev'd David came to assembly dressed as a backpacker and spoke to the children about his recent trip to the Camino. Despite being excited about the impending Halloween festivities, the children were delighted to see photos and hear all about the adventures of Rev'd David!

As we look ahead to the rest of the year, we are delighted to be focussing on STEM as our chosen area of the new curriculum to introduce. We hope to develop this area with the launch of our own Science Fair later in the year- watch this space!

***Sarah Richards***
***Principal***










# *Whitechurch Ladybirds*

Whitechurch Ladybirds are back in business for a new year. We said goodbye to five of the girls who moved on to Brownies in September and we have three amazing new Ladybirds, so we still have space if anyone has a little girl who would like to join.

We have been teaching the new ladybirds all the songs, doing some artwork and playing lots of games. The girls took part in the Irish Girl Guides International Day of The Girl badge recently and really enjoyed telling us what they wanted to be when they grow up, who they thought were good role models and who they aspired to be like. On covering the topic of whether any jobs were closed off to girls, we were put in our place when one of them replied that they couldn't grow up to be Dads! To close the end of the first half term, we held a Hallowe'en party and dress up with lots of treats but all the while remembering our motto that Ladybirds Care and Share.

Some photos of What do we want to be when we grow up…

***Zoë Phelan and Susan Freeney***







## *Whitechurch Brownies*

Whitechurch Brownies welcomed 9 new brownies to our unit in September and they are all busy working towards their enrolment badge.

We had some spooky scary brownies turn up for our Halloween party.

Our first overnight this year was to the guides cottage in Enniskerry where we followed the trail along the river walk in Powerscourt estate and had a picnic lunch. The girls completed their discovering faith badge, Lily told them about her time volunteering in the world guides centre in Sangam during the summer. They did Bollywood dancing, tasted Indian food, made tea light holders, learned new camp songs and decorated masks. It was lovely to see the older girls reassuring and guiding the younger girls, they were all amazing and actually slept the night!

We have a trip to the Civic Panto planned for December and a lovely glass painting activity before we break up for the Christmas break.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy Christmas and new year.

As always none of this would be possible without Lily, Zoe or Mairead who are already planning activities for 2027

***Whitechurch Brownies Leaders – Hazel, Mairead, Zoe, and Lily.***

## *Whitechurch Guides*

Whitechurch Guides had a great summer camp in Wexford's IOAC campsite near Tagoat. Despite the rain while travelling down and pitching our tents, it soon dried up and then sun-cream and water bottles were often the top priority. Along with 300 others from around Eastern Region we took on the challenges of raft building, crate-stacking, high-ropes and team-building activities. The instructors were great at encouraging us all to join in and give it a go. We finished off the last night with a brilliant campfire, all seated round an Amphitheatre shaped hill watching a beautiful sunset over the lake.

We welcomed 8 new Guides in September, keeping our numbers up over 20 again this year. We're also delighted to have most of our TY / Gaisce young helpers back this year - they really help keep the inter-generational balance developing constantly. Tivoli Guides kindly invited us for a ski lesson again up in Kilternan, enjoyed by all. We look forward to more joint activities with them during the year.

We've enjoyed seeing photographs and tasting chocolates from a summer trip to Our Chalet, World Guide Centre in Adelboden, Switzerland for one of Guides, Leah. The scenery looks amazing and the smiling faces say it all. Such amazing opportunities come round from time to time, just waiting for us to send in our applications!

Lily, one of our Brownie Leaders, went even further afield, to Sangam, World Guide Centre in Pune, India. We can't wait to hear all about her adventures some evening and perhaps try some sari-tying, Indian foods and games.

Well done to Nyah, our only Trailblazer Awardee at this year's National Guide Awards in the O'Reilly Hall in UCD recently. Nyah was also invited to be on the flag bearers among all the colours carried in. She follows several other Whitechurch Guides in the last few years who likewise put in the extra time and effort to complete a lot of extra badges and we hope to see lots more blazing a trail in the future.

At the end of October 11 girls and 4 leaders head off to Pax Lodge, World Guide Centre in London for a few days exploring the sights, navigating the tube stations and learning more about Guides around the world.

Before we know it, our new members will be making their Guide Promise at our enrolment ceremony near Christmas, followed a week or two later by enjoying our seasonal activity outing. In 2027, our cottage weekend will be in the Spring, when renovations are complete in Enniskerry.

Many thanks as always to the parish for all their support and encouragement, and for the use of such a great hall. We look forward to helping celebrate the bicentenary over the coming year.

***Doreen, Rosemary and Ruth***









## *Whitechurch Scouts*

We were late starting back this term, but started off with three of our cubs moving up to scouts with our swim ceremony. Our new sixers and seconders took part in the County Training Day in Whitechurch.

Our scouts started off the season by climbing 2000ft Djouce Mountain in Wicklow. It's a tough climb from Glencree, but they did well and we came back down off piste where they rolled around in the ferns and scrambled across a stream and through the heather.

***Glen Vince***







## *Whitechurch Junior Youth Club*

We are so excited to be back to Junior Youth Club this year.

We have had a great turn out so far of 5th and 6th class. We've made a contract, played games, eaten biscuits and drunk hot chocolate. We look forward to starting back the tuck-shop at our next meeting.

The November dates are November 6th & 20th at our new time of 1845-2015. We will have December dates soon.

***Zoe, Chris, Sophie, Katie-Tara & Sammie.***

## *Mothers Union*

On Sunday 9th August four members represented Whitechurch at the 150th Anniversary Mothers' Union Service in a packed to capacity Christ Church Cathedral! People attended from all over Ireland and it was a lovely service.

On Sunday 20th September five members attended the Annual Diocesan Service in Taney Parish and the preacher was Rev'd Alistair Doyle, the new Mothers' Union Chaplain for Dublin & Glendalough.

Our Opening Holy Communion Service is on Tuesday 27th October in the Stables at 8pm, led by Rev'd David and followed by a cuppa and a chat! Thanks to Jackie Jolley for setting up for us on this occasion.

On Tuesday 10th November we are booked to attend The Wedding Singer in the Civic Theatre, Tallaght. On this night our members are kindly bringing the Christmas bags for the children in Darndale Crèche.

On Saturday 21st November Mothers' Union are holding their Autumn Council meeting in Whitechurch Old School at 10am.

We will be packing our Christmas Hampers on Tuesday 9th December in aid of Whitechurch Community and the Mustard Seed Soup run Charity. We will leave boxes at the back of the church and in Whitechurch National school (by kind permission) from Sunday 22nd November for three weeks for donations of nonperishable food and torches, flasks, hot water bottles, scarves, hats and socks for people living on the streets of Dublin via Mustard Seed.

We have a very interesting programme in 2027 and we always welcome new members! We are a very happy and friendly bunch and enjoy great chats and fellowship!

***Gillian Butler***
***Chairperson***

## *Whitechurch Badminton*

Badminton takes place 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.

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***

## *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.

***Hazel Crawford***
***0872448228***

## *The Bible…..The Inspired Word of God gifted to us*

Nowadays most people use their smartphone or iPad for nearly everything, so handling the Bible has become far less familiar, this is sad, but be that as it may, Bible Notes can help you understand the Bible [the Good News] and you can of course download the Bible on your Electronic Device.

There are between 20 and 25 people within Whitechurch who like to have Bible explanatory and devotional Notes with an organised number of verses set out for each day rather than maybe random reading.

Do let me know if you are interested in these Bible Reading Aids. I can supply them.

***Rhodanne Heaney*** ***rhodanneheaney@gmail.com*** ***Mob 0868371040***

# *Extract from Con Power's Sermon Sunday 2nd August 2026*

*I'll Walk with God* is a sacred-themed song written by composer Nicholas Brodzsky and lyricist Paul Francis Webster (1907-1984) specially for the 1954 musical film *The Student Prince*, and famously popularized by tenor Mario Lanza. The role of the Prince in the film was played by Edmund Purdom, with vocals dubbed by Mario Lanza.

The song is essentially a hymn which is a spiritual reflection focusing on faith, trust, and divine comfort during life's journey. The emphasis is on faith and divine guidance.

This song was written by American lyricist Paul Francis Webster (1907-1984). It is usually sung to a tune by the Russian composer Nicholas Brodszky (1905-1958).

*The Student Prince* was first shown in Dublin at the Adelphi Cinema (1939-1995) on Middle Abbey Street, a major single-screen movie theatre which, when opened, had an official seating capacity of 2,304 people.

**Lyrics**

I'll walk with God from this day on. His helping hand I'll lean upon.
This is my prayer, my humble plea. May the Lord be ever with me.
I'll lean on Him forever, and He'll forsake me never.

He will not fail me as long as my faith is strong.
Whatever road I may walk along. I'll walk with God.
I'll take His hand. I'll talk with God, He'll understand.

I'll pray to Him, each day to Him and He'll hear the words that I say.
His hand will guide my throne and rod and I'll never walk alone,
while I walk with God.

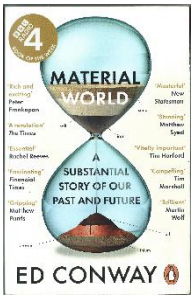
***Con Power***

# *Book Review by The Rev Michael Heaney*

## Material World by Ed Conway

*(a substantial story of our past and future)*

**Edmund Conway** (born 1979) is an English journalist who is the Economics Editor of *Sky News*. He is a former correspondent for the *Daily Mail* newspaper and the Economics Editor of *The Daily Telegraph* and the *Sunday Telegraph* newspapers. As Christians we need to be aware of the resources available in the world and their uses and abuses. There is a prayer which admits that; *'We have found out so much knowledge and can posses so little wisdom'.* It continues, *'Help us to learn the right use of nature, no less quickly than we unlock her treasures'.*




We can thank Ed Conway that in his Material World, he has taken a look at the compelling modern civilization of today. He has carefully outlined the materials that are needed to maintain that civilization. As a journalist he has investigated the critical roles that raw materials like sand, copper, and lithium play in shaping the economies, societies, and even geopolitics of today. His 'storytelling' is captivating!

Each chapter of the book takes one specific material. Each mineral is given an historical background and an outline of its importance to industry and thus to each one of us - for example Lithium and batteries!

There is a human a consequence and cost to the sourcing of these materials. He uses cobalt in the DRC as one dramatic example and copper in South America. One chapter outlines the complex supply chain of demand for phones and electric vehicles which have both human and environmental consequences. Another chapter explains the markets for copper, sand, oil and the other rare metals. Many of these he observed are controlled by one or other of the powerful countries – China [rare metals], Middle East Countries and increasingly the US [oil].
Ed Conway's book is thought provoking, and it is also disturbing! He has created a work that is as enlightening as it is unsettling. His ability to blend storytelling with rigorous analysis makes this book a must-read for anyone interested in the intersections of technology, economics, and sustainability.
For the Christian; for the student of environmental science; for the advocate for social change, or simply for a curious mind - 'Material World' offers valuable insights into the complex web of resources that connect us all. It challenges the reader to look beyond the products they use and consider the intricate, and often troubling, systems that bring them into existence. In a world increasingly defined by its resource dependencies, Conway's book is both a mirror and a guide — reflecting our current realities while urging us toward a more conscientious future.
*Heavenly Father, Creator of all things, we thank You for the hidden treasures of the earth and the abundance of mineral wealth You have placed beneath our feet. These resources fuel our industries, build our communities, and connect our world. Help our leaders, scientists, and industries to prioritize sustainable practices, fair labour, and ecological preservation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.* ***Amen****.*

**Material World – A Substantial Sory of our Past and Future by Ed Conway**

# Sunday Services

***8.30 a.m.*** ***10.30 a.m.***

***Wheelchair access at all times***

**Mid-Week Service** (+Prayer for the sick) - 10.30 a.m. Wednesday

**Wedding Fee** €300

**Rector:** Rev'd David Bowles
Tel: 4934972 and 089 2364 969
Email: rector@whitechurchparish.com
office@whitechurch parish.com

Rev'd Michael Heaney. Mobile 086 2651791 revmheaney@gmail.com

Parish Reader: Con Power

**Parish Overseas Link:** Rwandan Projects.
Arthur Milligan Tel: 4932509, Har Allison Tel: 4945931,
Linda Milligan, David Hunt, Malcolm Hunt.

**Churchwardens 2026-27:** **Sandra Stewart Miller** - Rector's Warden.
**Percy Griffin** - Peoples' Warden.

**Select Vestry 2026–2027:** Steven Anderson, Bruce Burgess, Geoffrey Conn (Hon Treasurer), Susan Freeney, Sally Hartnett, Harold Hislop (Hon. Secretary), Ruth Hughes, David Hunt, Tom Jenner, Keith Quinn, Jeremy Russell, Hugh St. Leger.

**Parochial Nominators: 2026-2029:** Rhodanne Heaney, David Hunt, Ruth Gaskin, Steven Anderson.

**Supplemental Nominators: 2026-2029:** Malcolm Hunt, Janine Jamieson, Audrey Champ, Pauline Horgan.

**Diocesan Synodspersons: 2026 -2029:** Harold Hislop, Hugh St. Leger, Jane Kelly.

**Supplemental Synodspersons: 2026-2029:** Ruth Gaskin, Lenore Rothwell O'Kane. Susan Ronan.

**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, Dr. Con Power.

**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 P.T.A. 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)
**Board of Management: Board of Management**
Reverend David Bowles (Chairperson)
Mr. David O'Donoghue (Honorary Secretary)
Ms. Sarah Richards (Principal)
Mr. Geoff Sparling (Honorary Treasurer)
Ms. Judy Brown (Teacher's Nominee)
Mr. Gerry Pullman (Patron's 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 Study:** Michael and Rhodanne Heaney PH: 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
**Whitechurch Ladybirds:** Zoe Phelan zoepanayotou@yahoo.com
**Badminton:** Sylvia Simpson. Tel: 086 364 7746.
**Bowling Club:** **Captain:** David McFetridge 087 149 2236. **Club Secretary:** Jackie Jolley
**C of I Gazette:** Parish Office 4934 972
**Church Review:** Karyn Milligan 086 3128286
**Eco congregation Reps:** Brian Redmond, Clive Macken, Sandra Stewart-Miller
**Parish Archivist:** Leslie McQueston. Tel: 494 3774.
**Parish Financial Scheme:** Bruce Burgess (Administrator), Judy McCarthy (Treasurer/Recorder), Geoffrey Conn (Parish Treasurer), Lenore Rothwell O'Kane, Current Churchwardens.
**Safeguarding Trust Parish Panel:** Rector, Hugh St. Leger, Ruth Hughes, Don Lewis.
**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/Tuesday/Wednesday]
**Montessori School.** Enquiries to Abi Acheson Tel. 087 6759599