

Parishes of Swords Clonmethan
Kilsallaghan Donabate and Lusk
Newsletter December 2020



Notes from the Rector

Illness

We continue to remember in our prayers all those who are ill. In particular at this time, we pray for Jean Ellerker, Peter McMurtry, Cecil Lee and Agnes Wilson.

Parish Registers – Bereavement – Maud Keogh

Deepest sympathy is extended to the Keogh and Lee families on the death of Maud Keogh. Maud spent the last six weeks of her life at her home in Ballyboughal under the loving care of her family. Maud was known as an artist who won a number of awards, and was involved with the Flavours of Fingal festival. She was originally from Donabate, was a great supporter of the annual Church Fete there and also supported fundraising events for Saint Columba's Church in Swords. She was the beloved wife of the late Paddy Keogh, and is sadly missed by her loving children Helga, Glenn, Vanessa, Leigh, Sorrell and Ashley, also her brothers Cecil and John, sister-in-law Doreen Lee, and the wider family. The Rector led a service of thanksgiving for her life, which took place on Monday the 26th October at her home, followed by interment at Saint Mary's, Clonmethan. May the peace and love of God continue to surround you all.

Remembrance Sunday

For Remembrance Sunday this year, we had a YouTube online service to remember all those who lost their lives in the two great wars of the 20th Century and in all conflicts since. Special thanks go to David Scott who sang 'Abide With Me' so beautifully for the service which included scenes of the square and round tower at Saint Columba's Church and also beautiful scenes of North County Dublin. Thanks also to Niall Minto who recorded the service for the Rector and who continues to record the weekly YouTube services for us. Thanks also to Andrea Patterson and Brian Scott who send out the links each week.

Community Carol Services

The community Carol services for Donabate, Swords and Kilsallaghan will take place this year by YouTube. The normal carol services for the three churches are traditionally huge community events but with the current situation with the coronavirus, we may not be allowed to have any services during December, and if we are, the services will have to be socially distanced events, which will severely limit the amount of people who can attend. Hence it has been decided to record a special YouTube service with readers from the three churches. Special singers will be organised by David Scott to sing all the carols. Other Christmas services may have to be recorded for YouTube, depending on the restrictions. Type Donabate, Lusk, Swords, Kilsallaghan into the search bar at YouTube.com to access the parishes' channel.

Parish Registers – Bereavement – William (Billy) Walmsley

Billy was originally from a Church of Ireland family in Fermanagh. He married his childhood sweetheart, Margaret, who was Roman Catholic. For this so-called 'religious' reason, both their families disowned them. Billy and Margaret moved to Cork to make a fresh start, and they spent their married life there. It was a deep sadness to them both that their only child was stillborn. Some years later, further heartbreak was in store, when Margaret died suddenly. Billy devoted the rest of his life and professional career to working and volunteering in the charity sector. He managed the Good Shepherd homeless shelter in Kilkenny, and the Saint Francis Dispensary animal welfare charity in Dublin. He also served on the board of Louth County Enterprise Fund. He was Hon. Secretary of Donabate and Lusk parish for many years, and helped to organise the annual Donabate Fete. Billy died on November 7th following a long illness. He'll be fondly remembered by his goddaughter Siobhan Cashin-Smith (New York, USA), his neighbours, and his many friends. On November 10th, Reverend Deane led a service of thanksgiving for Billy's life, at Saint Patrick's Church in Donabate. Afterwards, Billy was interred with his late wife and infant son.
“Resting where no Shadow lies.”

Billy Walmsley: A Personal Appreciation by Mary Jones

Billy, I'm so glad I met you.

My husband and I met Billy in 1999. There was a long vacancy in the parish and somehow the respectful traditions were still visible. The small close congregation were welcoming. Billy introduced himself as a Northerner, "very black and white" with a deep laugh. I soon learned that Billy was not only an excellent accounts manager, but had leadership skills that distributed well between us all. I was encouraged by him to join the vestry. Baby and all.

Billy loved a discussion and he was a witty debater. Many Sunday roasts were shared, together, even when we had a baby. We never saw the time pass. So many laughs. Billy shared the stories of times with his Margaret and her skills as a cook. She too was a fantastic manager. Billy would have been a great Dad and we told him that. Billy had a kindness of heart, that was based on being interested in you. He always had time for conversation and was really interested to hear others' opinions.

Billy was always looking forward, despite his love of tradition, which was really about doing the right thing with a strong ethical approach. He served dinners with an apron to the homeless every Christmas day. He ate with those he served.

When Billy had his knee replacement, I visited with him. He was so grateful. I really enjoyed the visit. It was during a nursing strike and he updated me on all the daily arbitration.

Once, Billy gave me a compliment, that I treasure. I spoke at a meeting and he said that it was my finest hour. He was such a big hearted boy and I am so glad that he spent time with us.

Slan agus Beannacht.

Website Photographs

The parishes' website – www.swords.dublin.anglican.org – is undergoing renovations at the moment. If you have any images you'd like to see on the website, we would be grateful to receive them. Photos of any type are welcome. Please send them, or anything else you think should be on the website, to the Rector at nealphair@hotmail.com. Thank you.

Christmas Presents for the Refuge A note from Addy Patterson

Last Christmas, so many parishioners kindly donated food items and gifts for children at the carol services, that we couldn't fit them all in the car. So we took some of the non-perishable ones and stored them away carefully. Yesterday, we took the boxes of toys and donated them at the North County Dublin domestic violence shelter for women and children, where they were gratefully received. If you were in a position to donate back in 2019, thank you for brightening up Christmas for some deserving kids, last year and this year too.



Notes from The 45th Company Girls' Brigade by Captain Caron Neale

We are delighted that Girls Brigade resumed on Wednesday last over Zoom, with our existing members only for now!

A little different for us all.

The girls got a chance to say Hi and wave at their GB friends.

We hope to run fun activities with the girls over the next few weeks. Until we can all meet again Face to Face, Stay Safe.



Church Services for December

The churches are re-opening. Please note that Covid-19 precautions are in place as before, including mask-wearing, strictly observed social distancing, and hand hygiene.

Date	Saint Patrick's Donabate	Saint Columba's Swords	Saint David's Kilsallaghan
Sunday 6 th December Advent 2	Holy Baptism 10am	Morning Prayer 11.30am	---
Sunday 13 th December Advent 3	Holy Baptism 10am	Morning Prayer 11.30am	Holy Communion 11.30am
Sunday 20 th December Advent 4	Morning Prayer 10am	Morning Prayer 11.30am	---
Friday 25 th December Christmas Day	Holy Communion 10am	Holy Communion 11.30am	Holy Communion ***1pm***
27 th December Sunday after Christmas Day	Morning Prayer 10am	Morning Prayer 11.30am	---

Online Services via YouTube

In addition to the above in-person services in the church buildings, there will also be YouTube services over the Christmas period, as follows:

December 6 th	YouTube	Swords, Donabate and Kilsallaghan Morning Prayer
December 13 th	YouTube	Donabate Sunday Club Nativity
December 13 th	YouTube	Swords Sunday Club Christmas Service
December 20 th	YouTube	Carol Service for Swords, Donabate & Kilsallaghan
December 24 th	YouTube	Donabate Midnight Christmas Eve Service
December 25 th	YouTube	Swords Christmas Morning Service

Quote of the Month

What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present,
hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow
with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.
- Agnes M. Pharo