

# Parishes of Swords Clonmethan Kilsallaghan Donabate and Lusk Newsletter September 2020



## **Parish Registers – Baptism**

Pictured, Holly Kane, who was baptised by the Rector on Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, at Saint Columba's church in Swords.

Many congratulations to her parents, Linda Forsyth and Alan Kane.

Wishing Holly and her parents and family every blessing for the future.

## **Parish Registers – Bereavement**

It is with regret that we report that Philip Dow passed away suddenly on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August.

Philip was a son of Robert (Bobby) Dow, the last Sexton of Saint Columba's church in Swords, and his wife, Alice. Philip's unexpected death came as a shock. He'll be fondly remembered as a wonderful colleague and friend, and as a gentleman.

Philip, who was predeceased by his brother Robert, will be especially missed by his beloved sons Craig and Graham, his partner Tracy, his sisters Alice and Linda, all his relatives, and everyone who knew and loved him.

Due to government advice regarding public gatherings, Philip's funeral was a private affair and took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August at Saint Columba's church in Swords, with the service led by Reverend Norman Gamble from Malahide.

Sincere condolences to Philip's family and friends at this very sad and difficult time.

May Philip's soul rest in peace and rise in glory.

## **Notes**

### **Re-opening of Churches**

Our churches re-opened on the 5th of July for Sunday morning services, and in September, Holy Communion services will begin to be held. Please see below for safety measures to do with this.

### **Online Services**

Online YouTube services are still being provided for those who do not wish to or who cannot return to church at the moment. Many thanks to Niall Minto who does the technical work of recording and editing the online service each week for the Rector, and to Stephen Vincent for his assistance. Sincere thanks also to all those who have read lessons for the YouTube services and thanks also to David Scott who has sung so well for us. Also we are grateful to Andrea Patterson and Brian Scott who have sent out the YouTube Service link each week to all parishioners in this group of parishes.

### **Easter General Vestries**

The General Vestries which were due to take place much earlier in the year are now to be held in September.

The Donabate and Lusk Easter General Vestry will be held in Saint Patrick's church in Donabate, on Wednesday the 2nd at 8pm.

The Swords, Clonmethan and Kilsallaghan Easter General Vestry will be held in Saint Columba's church in Swords (not in the parish hall as originally planned) on Thursday the 3rd at 8pm.

As this is a triennial election year, Diocesan Synod Members and Parochial Nominators must be elected along with a new Select Vestry, Church Wardens and Glebe Wardens.

These meetings are similar in many ways to an AGM, when those present will hear a brief review of the main happenings of the past twelve months, get a chance to hear and discuss plans for the future including the ongoing significant challenges posed by Covid-19, and be presented with the parish accounts for the year ended 31-12-2019. The meeting will also elect members to the new Select Vestries, one for each parish (the management committees, if you like), People's Church Wardens (who assist on Sunday mornings and other events) and Glebe Wardens (responsible for upkeep of Rectory and the church grounds). The Rector will announce his choices for the appointments of Rector's Church Wardens and Rector's Glebe Wardens too.

While only those on the official parish general registers are entitled to vote, everyone in attendance is welcome to speak. Numbers will be limited by the national guidelines in place at the time, the meetings will be kept short (45 minutes maximum) and social distancing will be in line with current safety protocols.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

## **Important Safety Measures**

We are pleased to announce that Holy Communion services will begin again this month. These services will be socially distanced affairs where only members of the same family can come forward to the Holy Communion rail at the same time to receive the consecrated bread. The bread will be dropped into each person's hands, so there will be no contact of any kind, for safety reasons. There will be strict observance of social distancing; please be guided by the churchwardens.

Also, *please do not attend Church* if you are in a high risk group, have any suggestion of symptoms of Covid-19, e.g. cough, fever or shortness of breath, if you have been in contact with a coronavirus case in the last 14 days, or have been advised to self-isolate by your doctor.

- ◆ Please wear a face covering in church if possible. Hand sanitiser is available at back of the church for you to use when you come in to services. Tissues have been placed in each pew.
- ◆ Churches are marked up to block pews, allowing two metres between occupied pews.
- ◆ Pews will be filled from the front as people come in, and people will leave from the back of the church first, at the end of the service.
- ◆ Please only sit with members of your own household.
- ◆ New service sheets are being placed on pews each Sunday.
- ◆ There is a contact tracing card to be filled in, in each pew, with your name and number. Please place this in the box at the back of the church when you leave.
- ◆ There'll be no hymn singing at services but music will be played as a time for reflection.
- ◆ At the end of a service, please take your service sheet and any other items home with you.
- ◆ There will be no tea, coffee, or refreshments at the end of a service.
- ◆ There will be a retiring collection only. If you wish, you can setup a standing order to avoid having to bring cash.
- ◆ We are also advising that there's no congregating at back of church and in the car park etc.
- ◆ If you become unwell during the service with symptoms of Covid-19 and are unable to make your way home, please go to the back of the Church where you'll be looked after.

Thank you and stay safe.

## **A Prayer in the time of Coronavirus**

Almighty and All-loving God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
we pray to you through Christ the Healer  
for those who suffer from the Coronavirus Covid-19  
in Ireland and across the world.

We pray too for all who reach out to those who mourn the loss  
of each and every person who has died as a result of contracting the disease.  
Give wisdom to policymakers,  
skill to healthcare professionals and researchers,  
comfort to everyone in distress  
and a sense of calm to us all in these days of uncertainty and distress.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord  
who showed compassion to the outcast,  
acceptance to the rejected  
and love to those to whom no love was shown.

Amen

## Clonmethan News

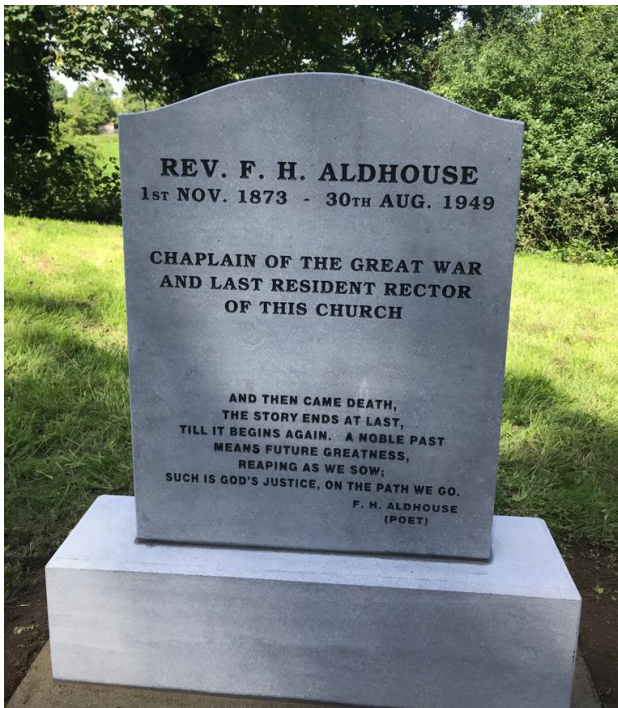


The local community in the Clonmethan area is uniting to remember the last resident rector and wartime chaplain. A local community group, the Friends of Clonmethan, have been working for some time to improve the churchyard and grounds of Saint Mary's Church in Oldtown, which is part of the parish.

The church had become overgrown since its closure in 1960, but an active group of people have been working away, mowing the grass, removing ivy,

and restoring the entrance gates, to help conserve this heritage site. All the work has been done against the background of Covid-19, while adhering to HSE protocols on social distancing.

As soon as government safety guidelines make it possible, it's planned to have a service where Archbishop Michael Jackson will bless a new headstone to the last resident Rector of the parish, the Reverend F H Aldhouse. Also planning to participate are our Rector Neal Phair, and Father John Keegan who will be representing Rolestown parish.



A noted writer and poet, Reverend Aldhouse came to Saint Mary's initially in 1914. He saw service as a Chaplain in the First World War, returning to Clonmethan in 1919 and remaining as Rector until his death in August 1949. Frederick Aldhouse provided comfort to soldiers as their Padre during the Great War, to the Church of Ireland members of the village, and to his neighbours and friends of all faiths.

Thanks to the efforts of the Friends of Clonmethan, his final resting place is marked with a beautiful headstone inscribed with some of his poetry.

The Friends of Clonmethan would appreciate any information or old photos that people might have, especially photos of the gates. A piece of the detailed ironwork is missing which they would like to recreate. If you have any items of

interest, the contact is [andyabcanderson@gmail.com](mailto:andyabcanderson@gmail.com)

Clonmethan Church is located 750 metres from the village of Oldtown on the R122 in the direction of Naul.

There are some photos of the church before and after the Friends of Clonmethan started working on it on the parish Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/swordsdonabateandkilsallaghan>

Visit [www.clonmethan.org](http://www.clonmethan.org) for more about the campaign.



### Church Services For The Month Ahead

Date	Saint Patrick's Donabate	Saint Columba's Swords	Saint David's Kilsallaghan
6 <sup>th</sup> September	Morning Prayer 10am	Holy Communion 11.30am	---
13 <sup>th</sup> September	Holy Communion 10am	Morning Prayer 11.30am	Holy Communion 11.30am
20 <sup>th</sup> September	Morning Prayer 10am	Holy Communion 11.30am	---
27 <sup>th</sup> September	Holy Communion 10am	Morning Prayer 11.30am	Morning Prayer 11.30am

**And finally...**

