



CARRIGROHANE UNION OF PARISHES

St Peter's, Carrigrohane
St Senan's, Inniscarra
The Church of the Resurrection,
Blarney

www.cupcork.ie
021-4877260

May 2019

Thank you....



A huge thank you to Jim Casey for the last few years as our parish Honorary Treasurer! It's been a massive and demanding role – and Jim's handled it with grace, efficiency and integrity. Thank you too to Sarah – for her patience! We're very grateful to Michael O'Dea for offering to fill the role for an interim year as our systems & procedures are reviewed by an accountant – to ensure we run our finances as efficiently, economically and clearly as possible.

Thank you too to the rest of our dedicated Select Vestry – from 2018-19 and now the new team for 2019-20. Appreciation has been expressed to Sarah Hockey, Jean Gunn & Ciaran Mckeown who have stepped down this year.

The new Select Vestry is:

Wardens for St Senan's: Andrew Watson & Richard Wood

Wardens for Blarney: April Gunn & Richard Bolster

Wardens for St Peter's: Laurel Watts & Jane Moffatt

Glebe Wardens: Paddy Heron & Robert Devoy

SV members: Sylvia Bolster, Ruth Hockey, Michael Kenning, Chris Hockey, Cian Jenkinson, Liz Kenning, Doug Venn, Mary Venables, Marion Murphy, Bill Lane.

(Robert Devoy continues as Hon Secretary and we welcome Mick O'Dea co-opted as interim Hon Treasurer.)

The Carraig Centre – progress report

The last few months have been a great mix of the exciting, the challenging and the merely routine as we push on with The Carraig Centre project. As we get closer and closer to the process of selecting a contractor to re-fit the existing shell of the former Gunstore we get caught up in details of priorities and finishes, extras and necessities. We applied for several grants over the last months and were approved for two, one from our church Insurers (All Churches Trust) of €62,600 and one from the EU Leader/SECAD program for around €120K cash value. These grants cover such things as the outdoor sports field, the playground, the lift to the mezzanine and the audio visual equipment for the Main Hall and the Recording Studio.

We have also started to engage much more closely with our anchor tenant and have had several meetings to discuss their design requirements and clarify how much we pay for and how much they need to cover, along with time-lines for commitment and completion.

We have been delighted to welcome Chuck Hohnbaum on board to help with governance structures and organisation. While this has been a bit of a "trial by fire" for him as he gets used to the charity sector and Church of Ireland's structures, his highly organised approach to such matters has already been of great value as we meet with the Diocese to get the approvals needed to establish The Carraig Centre Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) to manage the building and its services and tenant and casual renters. We have also received a report from our solicitors and accountants on the appropriate approach to establishing the CLG structures and VAT issues which has been an essential part of allaying any uncertainty in the Diocese and RCB as we pioneer this new approach. It has been tried in the North previously with the Jethro Centre in Lurgan but never here in the South before.

If all goes according to plan our hope is that we will begin construction work this summer.

Prayer points:

- Thanks for success in the awarding of grants to date.
- Approvals needed from the Diocesan Council and RCB for the setting up of the CLG and leasing arrangements
- Completion of the tender process and building contractor selection for the main build over the next 2 months
- Successful negotiations with our anchor tenant

TCC Committee



An Easter Season Thought - Mission

As I write this, I am very aware that the last time I preached in Blarney Church was Christmas Day and I am just about to preach the Easter Day texts having just completed a 3-month sabbatical. I'm very glad to be back in the community in which I love and am called under God to serve.

The past 3 months have provided me with the opportunity to research and interview many people who are doing creative ministry right across the Republic of Ireland - communities which are reaching out and discovering fresh ways of sharing the message of the Easter in a fresh and relevant ways today.

My research for an MA in Mission focussed on some of those factors which have inhibited the Church of Ireland over the years and these were named - a few of which were:

Historical realities - those events in the past which have caused hurt to individuals or communities and which have been remembered to this day and for those we might need to acknowledge and even repent or forgive.

Leadership Support - Perhaps there are areas where those in church leadership may need extra support, training, mentoring and even as is common practice in other helping fields, supervision.

An internal challenge - In discussing what mission looks like today there do seem to be two extremes (neither of which I think exists entirely), which pose a useful dialectic tension - a Cosy club mentality that says 'I like things the way they are, I'll keep things the way they are, people can join on my terms', and on the other extreme - a 'gimmick church' mentality that says let's change everything. Somewhere between these poles there is a possibility of growth and working through of what our priorities need to be.

As an Easter People - we are people with a message to proclaim - Christ is Risen! It's a message that we proclaim in a society which is sceptical but searching for the authentic. I find myself wondering if there are ways in which we need to recreate some of things which we have come to know as constants? Perhaps with the changes being enforced on parishes via the forthcoming change in charity status (where every parish will have to register as a charity in its own right) there is an opportunity to think about our values

and our priorities and how we do mission in the places we find ourselves with the above factors taken into account.

Yes, the past has to be acknowledged and ways found to heal wounds but there is a growing realisation that we are in a new era, somewhere we haven't been before and that is exciting. In his book - A Vast Minority, Stuart Murray writes (p179):

'We need not be a despondent, isolationist, grumpy or frightened minority. Nor need we become compliant and conformist, relinquishing our convictions in return for social and cultural acceptability. We can choose to interpret this emerging context as an opportunity to recover our nerve, our soul, our missional identity and our primary allegiance. We can choose to be a creative minority, a prophetic minority and a hopeful minority – a community that unmask idols, pioneers new possibilities and engenders authentic hope ... pointing many others in this direction'.

I'm excited about what is to come. We have the hope of a better future - but as ever - the decisions and the mind-sets that shape us today need to be critiqued as they have implications for what will be tomorrow: this is both exciting and scary. But as an Easter people let's hold on to the hope that is within us.

Robert Ferris.

Cork Autism Conference 2019

Autism: No Limits, Just Possibilities,

Sunday September 22nd, Silversprings Hotel,
Tivoli, Cork.

The conference provides a unique forum for
Parents, Families, Caregivers, Autistic Adults,
Employers, Educators, Professionals, Agencies,
Advocates and anyone with an interest in autism.

All are welcome. More info here:
www.bookwhen.com/autismcork
or call 089 239 8900

Thank you

to everyone for the lovely
flowers, card, afternoon tea-
time date together and gift
vouchers, marking the 20th
anniversary of the parish
office – we really appreciate
them all !

Jaki & Patsy

St Senan's Festival Weekend – Music and our Living Planet

- **'Music Among The Trees'** Friday 31 May at 8 pm in St Senan's
- **United Celebration & Parish Picnic** at 11 am on Sunday 2 June

'Flowers Among The Trees' on Saturday 8 June from 11 am – 4 pm hosted by
Ballincollig Flower Club €5 entry in aid of Pieta House & Breakthrough
Cancer Research. Come along and bring your friends!