

CARRIGROHANE UNION OF PARISHES

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

www.cupcork.ie 021-4877260

APRIL 2022

...AND CUP ANNUAL REVIEW of 2021

(reports for AGM – General Vestry – to be held on 27 April 2022)



A few highlights of 2021 in pictures!

- Bishop Paul commissions Matt as Lead Evangelist and Community Leader in The Carraig Centre
- Harvest is celebrated in St Senan's
- Life & Light at Blarney in the Christmas Festival
- All Ireland Mothers' Union President walking 21 km in every diocese during '21

 raising funds for Mums in May – which funds projects across Ireland













St. Peter's Carrigrohane The Carriag Centre, Ballincolic St. Senan's Inniscarra Church of the Resurrection Blarney Cork 10-12 December 2021 Christmasfestivalcork.ie

- TCC garden grows thank you to the gardening team!
- Adventurers Zoom Treasure Hunt!
- 'Old' young people make a video to thank Matt for his years as Youth Worker!
- 'MOVE' happens in the TCC
- Christmas Festival goes ahead!
- MU prayer diary for 16 days of action against gender based violence is circulated across Ireland

MothereUNIGN



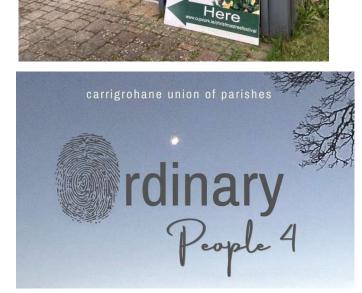


- The Toy Library opens!
- Glow and Glow Max run as they can
- Plants and cards are

taken to neighbouring nursing homes and parishioners

- Christmas Market
- Ordinary People 4 is launched!





Art

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL This Weekend

- Sunday PM is busy!
- 'Glow' Summer special!
- A wonderful new Holy Communion table for TCC is made
- Our first lunch party in The Carraig Centre!





THE CARRAIG CENTRE, BALLINCOLLIG P31 PV20. Join us for games, crafts, soccer, basketball, spikeball and more!







- Trees for eco planting in St Peter's Field
- Live Crib and choirs singing in different locations as part of the Christmas Festival 2021
- Night-time outside in TCC garden space with awnings and fairy lights!
- Young people's bake off!





The Mothers' Union/Ladies' Guild group didn't meet in person in 2021 – but had one zoom coffee



time and have all been keeping in touch! MU midday prayers

via Facebook Live has been a real 'silver-lining' in the days of Covid joining members and friends across the globe – every day!





- Lovely Prayer Stations in St Peter's at the Christmas Festival thank you Paula!
- The 'West Wing' of TCC ready to welcome everyone at the launch of Ordinary People 4, with thank you bags for all contributors
- The Holy Family, shepherds and wise men at the Live Crib in St Peter's Field
- THANK YOU to everyone who worked and helped in any way at the Christmas Festival – including Chuck with his mallet!





2021/2 - a Year of Small Steps and Big Decisions

It is a joy and a delight to write this report after my first full year as Rector of Carrigrohane Union.

As with any year – it is full of highlights and also darker moments. This report of the year brings together many of the highlights and the product of so much work by so many people across the Union.



As your Rector I firstly want to say a great big thank you to each and

every person who calls Blarney, Inniscarra, Carrigrohane Churches and The Carraig Centre your home. Since being appointed here 10 years ago – (my appointment was announced on the 1st April 2012), I have been so appreciative of every kind comment, every encouragement and also the deep bonds of love and care of this place. This parish needs every single person!

Over the past years as a parish, we have been sharing God's love in our communities and beyond – that certainly has been the case this year. A year of small steps forward and big decisions.

The small steps have been carefully made as we have slowly and steadily re-opened many of our groups, with a few still to come in the near future. I want to thank our leaders for your diligence and forward thinking as we have tried to keep everyone safe during a pandemic.

We continue to make some small steps forward on Sunday mornings – I look forward to working with all of the congregations, as we prepare to welcome new families and new post holders across our buildings.

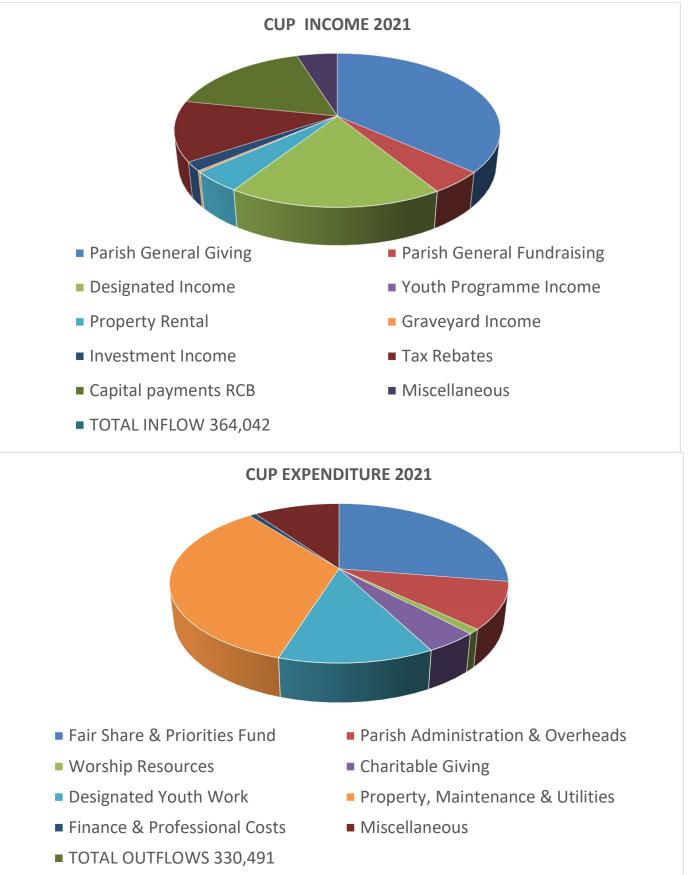
This year has been a strange year, but we hope that we can build upon the foundations laid on in all of these places.

This year has also been a year of **big decisions** for some – on the staff team Katie Gould has stepped down from her role as youth worker. At some point in the near future we will have the opportunity to thank her for her work, her faith and her leadership in the youth programme. Also, we have seen Matt, Katie's husband, move from his youthwork role to a completely new Role as Church Army Lead Evangelist and Carraig Centre Community Leader. This is a big change for Matt, and we thank him for his faithful ministry in this place and at this time.

Other big decisions have been taken – for instance Patsy, working faithfully in the Parish Office has decided to retire at the end of June. This is a big decision and in the fullness of time we will have the opportunity to thank her for her faithful work – stepping into an entirely new role in the office will be Deirdre Lightbody!

At Easter General Vestry I hope to reflect further upon these, and other themes coupled with our Financial reporting– I do invite you to read some of the things which have been going on as well as popping along to the meeting in The Carraig centre on **Wednesday 27th April at 8 pm!** *Robert*

Balancing the Books 2021:



INCOME 2021	
Parish General Giving	133,170
Parish General Fundraising	16,870
Designated Income	65,313
Youth Programme Income	0
Property Rental	15,730
Graveyard Income	1,100
Investment Income	6,712
Tax Rebates	45,960
Capital payments RCB	61,710
Miscellaneous	17,477
TOTAL INFLOW 364,042	
EXPENDITURE 2021	
Fair Share & Priorities Fund	91,057
Parish Administration & Overheads	31,581
Worship Resources	3,276
Charitable Giving	14,090
Designated Youth Work	41,186
Property, Maintenance & Utilities	114,413
Finance & Professional Costs	2,589
Miscellaneous	32,299
TOTAL OUTFLOWS 330,491	
Net Inflow/Outflow 33,551	

CUP Bank Details for Standing Orders or direct lodgements:

Carrigrohane Union Select Vestry Current Account, AIB, South Mall, Cork. Account: 21109077 IBAN: IE89 AIBK 9342 8321 1090 77 BIC: AIBKIE2D

Continued grateful thanks to everyone for generous giving to the life & work of the Parish.

Please note that any lodgements and Standing Orders that are anonymous means your generous giving can't be included in the annual Tax Reclaim that is such a great help in our annual finances. If you prefer your name not to be on the bank statements, but you are willing to let Patsy know who you are, we can do the necessary work to substantially increase the value of your gifts. The members of Carrigrohane Union of Parishes continue to give generously towards the work of the church.

Thank you everyone!

Copies of more detailed accounts will be available – and any questions or queries are welcomed.

A few things to note:

- The Fair Share amount is lower than expected because of our Assistant Minister vacancy.
- The Carraig Centre accounts are <u>separate</u> to the main parish accounts.
- The Carraig Centre has contributed very substantially towards the running of the parish office.
- The large spending on property is accounted for by the works on the Rectory, Blarney and St Peter's. Finance for these projects was from Heritage Grant aid and parish monies held in the RCB in Dublin (see capital payments RCB) – **not** from current parish finances.
- Equal amounts of the Designated Income and the Miscellaneous expenditure is accounted for by the Serge account – an in/out amount.

UPDATES/REPORTS ON 2021

Staffing Group

The staffing group operates under the Select Vestry and attempts to ensure that the Parish meets its legal responsibilities as an employer, and also that good practices are followed in the recruitment, selection and supervision of staff who are employed. Some of the tasks that the Staffing Group undertook during the year was assisting in the development of a job description for the Community Leader post in TCC, together with help in developing interview questions; working on a job brief with the Rector for the vacant Associate Minister post; preparing job descriptions for new Parish Administrator, Finance Officer and Caretaker while also ensuring that staff who left or transitioned to new roles had the opportunity to do an exit interview. (Members of Staffing Group: Robert F, Bill, Paul, Mel and Ivan)

Youth Work Review

As a result of changes in the youth work team, the Select Vestry is in the process of undertaking a review of the Parish's youth work to see if the model we currently operate is suitable or appropriate for the next 10 years or so. A small working group is in the process of getting feedback from young people, parents, volunteers, former staff as well as external bodies such as CDYC and CIYD. It is hoped that a report with recommendations will be made to the SV in June 2022. This will help inform the SV as they consider how to proceed with a replacement(s) for Matt and Katie. (Members of Youth Work Review: Robert F, Hilary, Mary, Matthew H, Sarah Louise and Ivan)

ORDINARY PEOPLE – 4

a collection of faith stories – was launched in November! Thank you to the wonderful editors, Sarah Louise and Ruth Hockey – and to all the generous contributors who shared their stories with us all.



ECO GROUP

In October 2021 the Eco Group, and others from the parish, planted 28 Irish heritage apple trees, in the southeast corner of St. Peter's Field, Carrigrohane. We hope this project will be an educational tool about using green spaces for growing food, especially genetically diverse varieties. These apple trees provide a way of connecting with the St. Peter's neighbourhoods. Our neighbours are welcome to use the St. Peter's grounds for exercise and walks. The apple trees are adding to the visual interest of the field and in time can provide apples to sample!

Our CUP Eco Group continued to provide advice on best use of church grounds and ecomanagement issues for our union of parishes. We continue to set aside parts of our church yards to let the plants grow to flower which provides habitat and food for our pollinators. We also are gradually bringing in more native trees, and shrub species into the churchyards. These varieties tend to survive longer and are more resilient and disease resistant than nonindigenous plants. The natives also help the local wildlife, live and thrive.

The Eco Group strives to care for the creation that God has given to us.

Kathy Hohnbaum, Robert Devoy, Dean & Mary Venables, Lucia O'Donovan, Heather & Matthew Watson, April Gunn, Andrew Watson & Mel Harris

Property and Maintenance

Properties overall are all in a good state of repair. Work done during the year:

Blarney building – work on the exterior included completion of guttering, walls rendering and ring drainage, gable ends and roof ends repaired, defective slates replaced. All contracted jobs by RBR and Southgates Associates complete. These works were part funded by the Heritage Office, Cork City Council. Interior of the church will require decoration in the near future. Blarney church grounds – laurel hedges on western side have been cut back ready for eco planting in 2023.

Inniscarra – drainage works have been undertaken at the rear of the church – completed. Continued tree planting has taken place through the year.

St Peter's building – the long term wall and roof wet issues in the porch area have been addressed and work completed. These works were part funded by the Heritage Office, Cork City Council. Mysterious floor damp problem continues and is under observation! The Vestry door has been renovated.

Trees in the old graveyard area have been cut back and ground works will continue in 2022. Maintenance of the eco wilding areas and active management of the graveyard areas around the church has continued, with an established cutting management plan in operation.

The Rectory – was thoroughly renovated in 2020/2021 to prepare for the new Rector! The Rectory grounds have been cleared. Side fencing to the building/garden has been installed and will be extended in 2022.

St Peter's Parish Centre – internal painting of the main areas of the building were completed in 2021. Car park and ground clean ups have been undertaken, including power-washing. The carpets were cleaned. The playground equipment is under renovation and nearly complete. The fencing is in process of being painted – will be completed 2022.

Aisling Cottage – minor works have been undertaken in 2022, including installation of airvents, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

Robert Devoy & Paddy Heron (Glebe Wardens)

A note on St Peter's Parish Centre, Church Hill in Carrigrohane:

When we came out of lock-down, the 'old' parish centre had suffered from being locked up and left! The red chairs were all mouldy and, along with the rest of the building, needed a good scrub! The re-paint and the carpet cleaning has also put it back into good order and I've been taking bookings for rentals. At the moment, we have Neighbourfood all day on Wednesdays, with Ballet, Cubs, Scouts, Beavers and Venture Scouts, Toddler Sense, Art classes, Puppy Training, Spanish classes, the Coptic Church, the New Apostolic Church and lots of birthday parties and other once-off bookings from groups like Downs Syndrome Cork. It's great to have it so useful to so many people!

Thank you to Daniel, William and Chuck for renovating the playground area, to Barry for fence painting, Charlie & Noah Gould and others (!) for power washing, and everyone else who's helped smarten the place up. Our own parish Wednesday morning fortnightly home group also meets there still! I get there once a week to clean through and set the heat for the week ahead in each area – and occasionally meet potential renters who need to see the place. *Patsy*

Fellowship groups around the parish...



St Senan's Prayer Community

The St. Senan's Prayer Community meets once a week for one and a half hours on a Monday evening - in the Prayer Space in the Carraig Centre, on the first

and third Mondays and on Zoom the rest of the time.

We seek to not be a bible study group in the traditional sense, but create a space for contemplative prayer using liturgy, bible meditation and contemplative silence as a way of hearing the invitations of the Spirit that can so easily get drowned out by the busy-ness of everyday life.

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell has described contemplation as 'a quiet attentiveness to God [where] space is made for God. We look at God and listen to God'. He goes on to say that contemplation is a 'desire to dwell in God's presence, to listen to God's voice...asking that God might shape our minds and our will'. His words sum up what we are trying to do together.

Everyone is welcome to attend. At present we are a men's group, which has allowed us attempt to seek to be open and honest with each other, but we would also love to see a women's contemplative group develop.



Tuesday Growth Group

All during the pandemic, Growth Group has been on-line and even now when things are gradually lifting, the Group still meets on-line on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm. We changed this spring to

Tuesday nights from Thursdays to allow the Post-Alpha course to continue in person in the Carraig Centre. Being on-line offers our members a safe way to participate and for those far afield (Limerick, Malahide and Wimborne in Dorset) to continue in the fellowship! It has been a rich time of digging into the Parables of Jesus, the Prayer Course (Pete Greig - 24/7 Prayer), and most recently using the Ephesians series that was given and recorded starting during lockdown last This series January 2021 vear. is now posted on www.cupcork.ie/sermon-podcasts and is a wonderful way to allow a group or individuals to use the teaching we enjoy at Sunday AM. The Jonah series is there too. **Bill Lane**



There are 4 Wednesday groups!!!

Wednesday Night Ballincollig House Group

The **Wednesday Night Ballincollig House Group** met virtually throughout the year. While we missed being in person, and all that doing so offers, it allowed us to welcome people outside the parish into the group, people that live too far away to attend in person. We did get together a couple of times for a BBQ in the summer and a work-day in St Peter's Centre. Our focus of Bible discussion covered Philippians and Galations. Recently the group moved to a hybrid model: a few meet in person, and the rest virtually. We're always open to new members.

Chuck Hohnbaum

Wednesday night Carrigrohane house group

After an extended spell on Zoom, the Wednesday night Carrigrohane house group has become the **Wednesday night St. Peter's group**. Most weeks we study a Bible passage and pray for ourselves and the world. We try to set aside one evening a month for prayer. Unfortunately, we have yet to return to tea and treats at the start of our meetings, but thankfully there are no public health obstacles to praying and studying God's word. We're in the early weeks of a study of the gospel of Matthew. Anyone interested in trying us out would be warmly welcomed at St Peter's on Wednesday evenings at 8 o'clock. *Mary Venables*

Wednesday morning group

We meet once a fortnight in the "Old Hall", Church Hill in Carrigrohane, ever since we were permitted to meet following the worst of the pandemic (thank you Patsy, for the heating). We all enjoy sharing and praying for those in need of our prayers. Our Bible Study has been 1 John from which we have found pearls of great value!

Our tea/coffee has been kindly supplied by Irene, and members share the teachings. Each time we meet we give a contribution from which we have given to many causes e.g. UNICEF for vaccines, Bishops Appeal, Penny Dinners to name but a few.

We were very sad to lose two of our much-loved friends: Betty Marples and Alec Hales – they have gone home to be with the Lord.

We all look forward to our meetings and if anybody would like to join with us – you'd be welcome.

Sylvia Bolster

Wednesday afternoon group

We meet in the The Carraig Centre on Wednesdays at 2 pm. There are 6 of us in the group at the present time: Jim and Esther; Harcourt and Vicky; Marguerite & Laurel. We are together years now and а wonderful friendship has grown between many us. We didn't meet during the lock-down, but we are meeting regularly now. We are an ecumenical group which adds richness, and a lot of questioning from each other resulting in great debates. At the moment, we are reading Revelation and finding it very thought provoking, realising it can relate very much to today. From time to time, we ask a member of the parish to join us for a group discussion. We have also taken some of the prayers from the Prayer Room wall and prayed over them. We always finish with a cuppa. If anyone would like to join us, they would get a really warm welcome.

Laurel Watts

THURSDAY

The Prayer Course in The Carraig Centre - 2022

As an Alpha Course comes to an end, many of the guests express an interest in continuing to meet, so this year we decided to run The Prayer Course as a fitting follow-on from

our Autumn Alpha. We have 10 guests meeting in the Carraig Centre at the same time as the Spring Alpha on Thursday nights. This provides a great opportunity for both groups to chat together when we break for food halfway through the evening. The Prayer Course is an 8-week course that looks at specific aspects of prayer by focussing on the Lord's Prayer. Like Alpha, the evening consists of a short film followed by group discussion. Episodes include adoration, intercession, unanswered prayer, listening and more. There's an excellent "toolshed" that provides creative ideas on how to develop our prayer lives. It is a wonderfully encouraging course for everyone at any stage of their faith journey.

It has always been a challenge to find suitable material to follow on from Alpha and video courses such as this Prayer course are very helpful. To help with this, we are hoping to generate some more videos based on the Sunday AM teaching material to assist in becoming familiar with the Bible and growing in discipleship.

Deirdre Lightbody, Theresa Cronin & Ruth McLaughlin

Spring Alpha – 2022

The Spring Alpha, while smaller in number than the Autumn 2021 group, is a wonderful time of growing, learning and exploring faith together. We have two French speakers in our number, and so have started using the videos with French Alpha subtitles! At time of writing, we are coming up to our Day Away to be held in Blarney Church of the Resurrection, prayers much appreciated for all on the course!



Bill & Matt

So many are involved in leading these Alpha and post-Alpha sessions! Thank you to Deirdre Lightbody, Theresa Cronin, Bill Lane, Matt Gould, Mary Jo Cronin, Janet Lane, Paula O'Callaghan, Sean O'Callaghan, Julie Oates, Chuck Hohnbaum, Lineke Stam, Tim Jenkinson, Ruth McLaughlin, Kathy Hohnbaum, Erich Stasko.

Autumn Alpha – 2021

The Alpha Course is a 10-week course that looks at the basics of the Christian faith. Each evening consists of a short film followed by group discussion. The course provides a relaxing and informal atmosphere for those interested in finding out about the Christian faith and also for those who need spiritual refreshment. Autumn 2021 was our first Alpha Course to be held in The Carraig Centre and it ran from October to December. We had 30 guests meeting on Thursday evenings in very different circumstances than usual as we had to wear masks, ensure social distancing, and couldn't provide food in the way we normally do for our Alpha guests. Despite the limitations, it was a wonderful Alpha experience for everyone. We all enjoyed a great Holy Spirit Day on Sunday 21 November at which everyone had an opportunity to receive prayer ministry.

Deirdre, Theresa, Sean, Ruth, Kathy, Chuck, Tim, Julie & Lineke

The four congregations in Carrigrohane Union of Parishes...

St Peter's, Carrigrohane:



Emerging from Covid restrictions and making plans was on our mind at St Peter's. There has been joy in being able to meet in person, to begin singing, and offering tea and coffee. Christmas offered us an opportunity to connect with our neighbours. The church building was open for prayer and the field was used for Christmas trees. Around 100 people showed up for the Live Crib. We continue to consider ideas for community connections and to rekindle our sense of

community within the congregation. Our vision to be a welcoming community that is centred on making the goodness of the life-giving God known to our faith family, neighbours and wider community remains a central focus. (Wardens: Jane Moffatt and Laurel Watts)

St Senan's, Inniscarra:

We praise God for his goodness and provision for our community and have found it so good to resume a normal pattern of services and encouraging to see a few new faces coming along regularly. Mel Harris joined us as Rector's Church Warden after the 2021 EGV and is enjoying serving and getting to know everyone better in this part of the Union of Parishes. We are very grateful for those



who were prepared to record music for worship during the height of Covid restrictions, but it is great to be back singing again with Wendy at the helm. Even though our meeting in person was severely curtailed during the last year we did manage to host a concert in Nov 2021 in conjunction with the Inniscarra Twinning Association. Through this nearly a thousand euro was raised for the Unicef World Vaccination Programme. Other highlights included The Christmas Festival which was enjoyed by all who came along. Rounding the weekend off with a very joy-filled "Carols by Car-light Service" was a very special time for all who participated and came to worship in this creative way. Harvest Thanksgiving for CUP was celebrated in Sept, with four Services on the day in St. Senan's - a record! Now that restrictions have been lifted, we look forward to hosting our usual Music Among The Trees concert again this year on June 3rd 2022.

(Wardens: Richard Wood and Mel Harris)



Church of the Resurrection, Blarney:

Over the past twelve months Blarney Church, like most churches, has been much quieter than normal. Meanwhile, the gutterings around the roof of the church were upgraded and a new notice board placed on the railings at the street, the Russian Church met here while St Peter's was being repaired, and members of the Blarney

Community participated in our Christmas Festival.

Since then, as Covid restrictions have lifted, we have seen activities enthusiastically returning, both Sunday services – with a welcome return to in-church singing! – and regular activities during the week. We have welcomed in various groups, including the Youngstars Community Choir, the YMCA Parents & Kids Together programme, and Al-Anon, a support group for those whose family members are affected by alcoholism. These groups really appreciate the space provided by the church and we look forward to opening up to others in the coming months, including our own Toddler groups.

Lighthouse, our brilliant Messy Church for families – which has faithfully continued throughout the difficult times in online form – will resume in the Church itself on 24 April. *Paul Everett* (Wardens: April Gunn and Richard Bolster)

Sunday AM in the Carraig Centre:

For those who are not aware, is a more informal church service in CUP which is shaped by but not tied to the usual liturgical style. Its main features are modern style praise and worship, an expository talk



series that usually walk through a particular book or section of scripture, a time to pray (including prayer ministry) as well as the vibrant 'Adventurers' Sunday school group.

Looking back over 2021, it is striking to remember that we started the year in our living rooms/spare rooms with the church, like so much of the country, in lockdown. It was helpful to be reminded from the series on **Ephesians** that our identity and hope rests in Christ, a hope that transcends lockdowns!





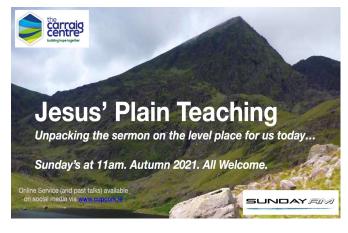
In the Summer, our teaching series focused of **Jonah**, an amazing series that contrasted the reluctant prophet, with the gracious God of second chances. At this stage, we could gather in person, but with so many limitations, not least not being able to sing as a congregation.

The Autumn focus was on **Luke's record of Jesus teaching** from the 'plain', which featured his focus on the Kingdom of God, and how we can participate in

that kingdom now.

Despite the obvious challenges of this last year, it has been **encouraging** to see Sunday AM growing - in that ongoing discipleship love of God growing in our hearts, and in the numbers of people attending, with some new families and individuals, including students, beginning to find their spiritual home in Sunday AM.

As we get up to date in 2022, it is a joy and delight to be able, finally, to **praise and sing together** as the congregation get to add their



voices with our musical leaders in praise of God our king for the first time in The Carraig Centre!

Huge thanks to all the **volunteers** who roll up their sleeves to make this service happen, particularly the **Leadership Team** of: Matt and Katie Gould, Bill and Janet Lane, Michael and Liz Kenning, David Backhouse - all kept an eye on by Rev Robert!



Carraig Centre Community Leader/Church Army Centre of **Mission Lead Evangelist - Matt Writes:**

In Mid November 2021, I had the pleasure of taking up my new role as Community Leader in the Carraig Centre, in partnership with the

Church Army as we become the Cork Centre of Mission. My job brief broadly fits into three areas: 1) helping the building to run smoothly for parish and wider community groups; 2) contributing to church activities like staff meetings, Sunday AM, Alpha and so on; 3) engaging with wider community informal conversations and formal representation on network meetings.

> I'm really enjoying the significant 'people focus' built into this role, with loads of great conversations happening about the vision and values of the Centre, but I must confess to not being so enthusiastic about the amount of cleaning the place needs!

> My hope in 2022 is that I can contribute positively to CUP's engagement with the wider community through current and new ministry opportunities as they arise. In particular, the partnership with Church Army is planned to extend to a Pioneer Evangelist to work alongside me in carrying out this work. Matt Gould

Matt at the Church Army Commissioning Service in Sheffield, with Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell, Marion Edwards and Church Army Chief Executive Peter Rouch.

Robert's Sit Out to raise money for Ukraine - in Blarney on Monday 28 and in Ballincollig on Tuesday 29 March 2022 – thank you to everyone for donations of over €850, which will go through the Bishops' Appeal! Very happily – two sunny days!







Supporting Refugees practically



Together Razem is a group that is currently using the Carraig Centre for Polish Classes every week. They are actively involved across Cork city & county in the refugee response – and have recently released an appeal for some basic packs for those arriving. We, as a parish, are hoping to support their appeal. Details of packs & further responses our parish are making can be found here – <u>www.cupcork.ie/ukraine</u>

The women from Ukraine arrive in Ireland with barely anything – often with just a small purse and documents, one suitcase with the bare essentials, a warm sweater and underwear. But there are no hygiene products or cosmetics because these are just too big and too heavy. In order to support our action, we ask you to donate the following products as one individual package, one bag for one woman.

What should a package consist of: 2 x pack of night / long sanitary pads with wings; 1 x pack of regular sanitary pads with wings; 1 x pack regular panty liners; 1 x toothpaste; 1 x shower gel (for women, girls or boys); 1 x shampoo; 1 x toothbrush (for an adult / child); 1 x antiperspirant; 1 x pack of cosmetic pads; 1 x face and hand cream; 1 x packet of disposable razors; 1 x hair comb / brush

Where do I bring it? - <u>You can bring packs to Church on Sunday Morning or the Carraig</u> <u>Centre during the week</u> and we'll get them over to ...

Together-Razem Center, Unit 2A, Kilnap Business Park, Old Mallow Rd, Cork, T23 V9K3 every Tuesday from 10.00 to 15.00.

Who will the products go to? To bag for every woman who comes to Cork (Cork area) from Ukraine. **Additional information:** We do not collect clothing or used items. Take your time – please make complete sets, even if it takes a couple of days to gather all of the products.



The Carraig Centre

Community Service

Our main focus in the challenging 2021 year was to serve the community by making space available in as many ways as possible. This ranged from renting out space to groups as varied as Enable



Ireland Adult Day Services to several Pilates and exercise groups, to baby and toddler parent support groups, dance and drama groups and the YMCA, covering a wide range of ages and stages of community life. During 2021 over 30 groups used our spaces on a commercial basis. Enable Ireland was particularly important as several of the service users had considerable difficulty being kept at home all the time, and also as an essential service they made it possible for us to stay open during lockdowns.

In addition, during lockdown periods we made our secure play areas available for booking at no cost to the users. Individual families and community groups supporting e.g. special needs groups simply rang up and booked an hour and the space was safely theirs for the allotted time. Many times we witnessed wider family groups coming together, e.g. grandparents able to meet their grandchildren for a safe outdoor play session, sometimes for the first time in a year or more. This was a very popular facility that was often completely booked each day from 10 am to 5 pm. During the summer months we erected shelter awnings over the garden area, and these provided welcome shade and rain protection at varying times right into the autumn period; several birthday parties were made possible due to these shelters as outdoor only gatherings were possible.

Volunteers

During 2020 we assembled a great team of volunteers to provide Reception and general duties around the Carraig Centre. After the general re-opening in the summer and autumn of 2021 we were fortunate to have many of our team back again. It is very clear that this team is an essential part of keeping the Carraig Centre going in multiple ways. Being the friendly presence on the Reception Desk or on the telephone, ensuring that the place is clean and tidy, taking messages and interacting with the many guests who use the various services, we could not adequately keep the Carraig Centre going as we do within its cost constraints, without them! We have had three new members this year and we would be delighted to have more as we do not yet have cover over the entire week.

Of course, there are many others who volunteer in less obvious ways as well, maintaining the premises, gardening, installing signs and fixtures, removing rubbish to the dump, serving on the Board of Directors and working through piles of documentation and procedures necessary to ensure we are working responsibly and with accountability. Some of this work is coordinated through The Carraig Centre Operations Group (TOG).

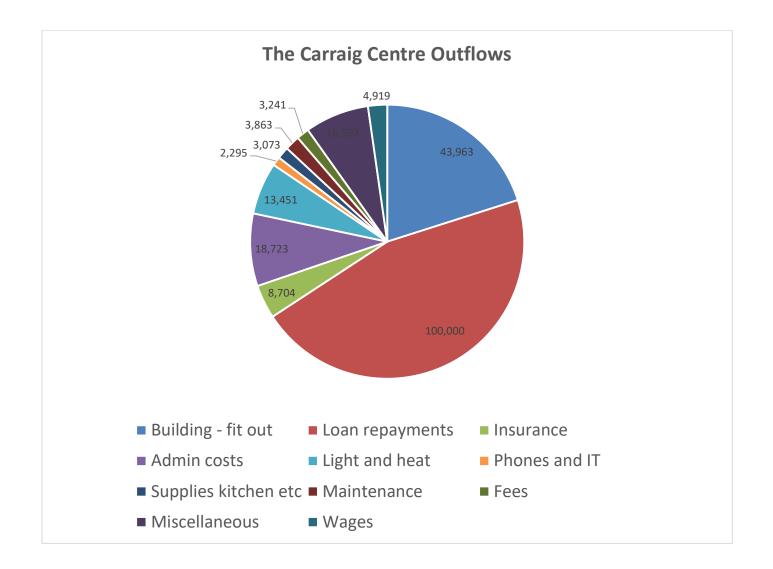
A huge **THANK YOU** to all who volunteer, we couldn't do it without you!

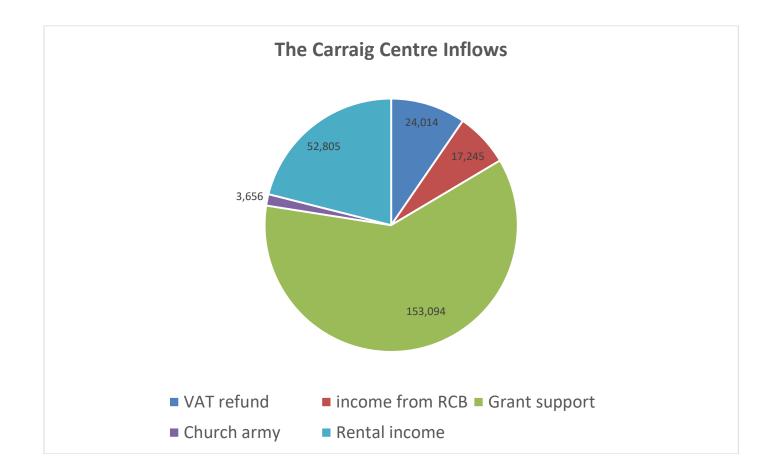
The Future

At this point only about two thirds of the Carraig Centre is refurbished. The West Wing as it has come to be called, still is in its original state. Several options were explored during 2021 including use as a Library, use as a temporary secondary school, use as a remote working hub, use as a medical imaging facility and finally simply extending the existing East Wing facility into the West Wing and running it as an integrated whole. This latter option is now our main strategy, and we are exploring options for funding to complete the refurbishment. The Board will be bringing a proposal to the Select Vestry in 2022 on how this may be done.

Balancing The Carraig Centre books:

Just a reminder – the Carraig Centre finances are separate from the general parish finances!





Inflow	€
VAT refund	24,014
income from RCB	17,245
Grant support	153,094
Church army	3,656
Rental income	52,805
Total	250,814

Apart from being a lovely a venue for the Parish Office, Staff office, the Sunday AM congregation, all the youth work, Alpha, post-Alpha, regular and occasional meeting, some house and prayer groups and all the other parish activities and occasions that begin to happen there – The Carraig Centre finances have contributed greatly to the cost of running the Parish Office!

Outflow	€	
Building - fit out	43,963	
Loan repayments	100,000	
Insurance	8,704	
Admin costs	18,723	
Light and heat	13,451	
Phones and IT	2,295	
Supplies kitchen etc	3,073	
Maintenance	3,863	
Fees	3,241	
Miscellaneous	16,597	
Wages	4,919	
Total	218,829	
Surplus for year	31,985	

CUP YOUTH PROGRAMME

The **Youthwork at Carrigrohane Union** has taken a very different structure to previous years, in order to adapt to the ever-changing social climate as we all dealt with Covid restrictions. There have certainly been disappointments and things we missed out on, such



as the much annual "Bandon Trip" at Easter, however, looking back it's amazing to see how much we *have* been able to do.

The Summer holidays are usually a time when the programme winds down, making room for other events like holiday club and New Wine as well as many normally going abroad. Summer '21 was an opportunity instead, to get into a routine of weekly "Summer Glow" (4th to 6th class) and "Summer Glow MAX (secondary school)" sessions. We made great use of the outdoor

space at TCC, enjoying lots of games and chill time. The response was very enthusiastic from young people and their families and helped build up momentum after a long time on zoom.

Although the CIY Move Youth festival didn't take place in person- we were able to run our own mini version at TCC where a small group of our teens gathered for music, food and fellowship and explored how Jesus is for All, for Us, Forever!

Glow and Glow Max were able to run



monthly throughout the year, as



we continued to meet outdoors as much as possible (braving the elements!) as well as selecting "pod friendly" activities. We even had to split Glow over 2 evenings from December-February to accommodate the high numbers and remain Covid compliant!

Later in the year, Sunday PM, our Bible study group, began meeting again twice a month and we have been looking at creative ways to explore questions of faith with a small group of young people. A lot has changed this year too with Matt's appointment as Church Army evangelist in TCC in November and Katie also stepping into a new chapter in her journey in March. The impact they have had on the young people in the parish over the years is beyond measure and though it's hard to see them move on, we're so excited for all that God will do in and through them in this next stage. Thank you to Katie, Matt and all the Goulds for the love they have poured and continue to pour into this church family.





In spite of the many challenges throughout the year, we have had the opportunity to get creative and experiment with alternative expressions of worship and gathering together. Though we have been limited in some ways we've also experienced God's limitless love and grace at work in the lives of our young people, their families, our leaders and beyond.

Looking forward, as the Youth Review Group works on putting together a recommendation for the programme in the future, it will be exciting to see new growth in the coming year as we continue to build upon both the highs and the lows of this past season.

Thank you to all who have contributed through volunteering, prayer, encouragement and more this past year! *Sarah Louise Hockey*





Sparks, our toddler group, back in mid-March 2020, closed down at the "old Parish Centre" for an expected month to prepare for the move to and start up at the new Carraig Centre. As with many of our ministries, those few weeks of closure turned into 18 months! Finally, this past September 2021, we opened Sparks again, although with a limit on

numbers, new ways of engagement and several more weeks of Covid closure around Christmas.

Many of our toddlers and parents/carers are new to Sparks. A good number of the little ones that come, were born just before Covid or during Covid and have had limited exposure to other children. What a delight to again have Sparks for these parents and kids for indoor play, outdoor playground time, all the while, planting the seed about our good and gracious God though song, story time and in our conversations!

We utilize Eventbrite to register families for Sparks each week and have recently increased our maximum number to 20 families but many more would love to join us. Please pray for wisdom to know the welcoming but safe number as we enter the next few months. Also pray that our Sparks team would have open ears to hear what our mums/carers need to say and open mouths to speak words of wisdom that God would like us to share with them.

Kathy Hohnbaum for the Sparks Team

Following Sparks – but just on the first Friday of each month at the moment – is the new

Toy Library!

We opened in 2021 and have just been brave enough to advertise beyond Sparks into Ballincollig town – and straight away had visitors coming along!

The idea is that a family group pays €2 for family membership (once off) and may then borrow any toy or toys for the month – or longer if they like.

We're not taking donations of pre-loved toys just at the moment, as we've started small and need to sort out more storage – but may be welcoming donations in the future. Things just have to be complete (i.e. puzzles!) and unbroken.

Katie, Patsy & Ruth



- expense
 help families with limited space
- help us to live more sustainably, by sharing and reducing the number of new things people need to buy.

Disclaimer: Parents must ensure the suitability of the toys for their children before they borrow them. The Carraig Centre is not responsible for any accidents or injury involving the toys.



APRIL 2022 Worship in

Carrigrohane Union of Parishes

For links to online services – check out <u>www.cupcork.ie/hall</u>

Date	St Peter's, Carrigrohane	The Carraig Centre, Ballincollig (also on-line)	St Senan's, Inniscarra	The Church of the Resurrection, Blarney
3.4.22	9.30 am Morning Prayer	11 am United Celebration		
10.4.22 Palm Sunday	9.30 am Holy Communion	11 am Sunday AM with Bishop Harold (and Adventurers) followed by lunch!	11 am Morning Prayer	11 am Holy Communion
Monday 11.4.22		7.30 pm with Bishop Harold		
Tuesday 12.4.22		7.30 pm with Bishop Harold		
Wednesday 13.4.22		7.30 pm with Bishop Harold		
Thursday 14.4.22		7.30 pm with Bishop Harold, Holy Communion and the washing of feet		
15.4.22 Good Friday		10.30-11.30 am Friday Family Time – why Good Friday is 'Good'! 7.30 pm Tenebrae service with Bishop Harold		
16.4.22		24/7 Prayer – Guarding the Tomb outside TCC		
17.4.22 Easter Day	9.30 am Holy Communion	11 am Holy Communion for Easter	11 am Holy Communion 7.30 pm – the Emmaus Road	6.30 am Sunrise Service
24.4.22	9.30 am Morning Prayer	11 am Sunday AM with Holy Communion	11 am Morning Prayer	
1.5.22	9.30 am Morning Prayer	11 am United Celebration		



Holy Week 2022

We're looking forward to having Bishop Harold Miller and his wife, Liz, with us in the parish for the whole of Holy Week and Easter – from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday inclusive!

Harold was Rector in Carrigrohane Union of Parishes from 1989 to 1997, so he knows us a little! He was also Rev Robert's Bishop when he was a Curate – so he knows Robert a little too! We look forward to sharing the Holy Week journey together:

- Everyone is welcome to all the services and every evening (Monday-Friday) there will be a service in The Carraig Centre at 7.30 pm.
- On Wednesday there's a new-look lunch opportunity (and a chance to meet Harold & Liz!) with the MELTing Pot lunch to Meet, Eat, Laugh and Talk in The Carraig Centre, 1.45 for 2 pm lunch (adults!).

On Friday there's a family occasion in The Carraig Centre from 10.30 – 11.30 am. Kids – bring your adults – and anyone else who'd like to come along is very welcome (don't need a child with you!)! It would be very helpful to know how many people are planning to come (via the Adventurers Parents WhatsApp group, or phone 4877260 and leave a message!) – but if you suddenly decide to come along – please just arrive!!! We'll be thinking about the events of Good Friday – and why it's 'Good'! It's not Adventurers...it's not Lighthouse...it's not a service...it's not a 'holiday club' – but it may be a little bit of all of those! So come along and enjoy an hour of Friday Family Time!

On Friday, there may also be the opportunity to join with the Roman Catholic church in Ballincollig on the regular Walk of Witness through the village – beginning at 12 noon outside the Church of St Mary & St John, Ballincollig.

- On Saturday we join the 24/7 worldwide prayer movement and will be 'Guarding the Tomb' outside The Carraig Centre! If you'd like to take a slot on the rota (no one will ever be alone!) – contact Matt at <u>matt@carraigcentre.ie</u> or 085 1080067.
- On Easter Day we will celebrate with a sunrise service in Blarney at 6.30 am, Holy Communion at 9.30 am in St Peter's, Holy Communion in The Carraig Centre at 11 am, Holy Communion at 11 am in Inniscarra - and a service in Inniscarra at 7.30 pm.



Family Time in The Carraig Centre on 15 April from 10.30-11.30 am - to think about what's 'Good' about 'Good Friday'!

Friday

Kids – bring your adults – and anyone else who'd like to come along is very welcome (you don't need a child with you!)!
It would be very helpful to know how many people are planning to come (via the Adventurers Parents WhatsApp group, or phone 4877260 and leave a message!) – but if you suddenly decide to come along – please just arrive!!!

This is not Adventurers (Sunday kids' group)...it's not Lighthouse (Messy Church)...it's not a service...it's not a 'holiday club' – but it may be a little bit of all of those!

So come along and enjoy an hour of Friday Family Time!



A DONATIONS BOX WILL BE AVAILABLE – RAISING FUNDS FOR THE BISHOPS' APPEAL UKRAINE FUND THAT GOES FULLY AND DIRECTLY TO CHRISTIAN AID AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY!

(JUST & NOTE AS IT'S SCHOOL HOLIDAYS - THIS IS AN ADULTS EVENT - NOT & FAMILY EVENT !)



MAY 2022 Magazine

Please note that any articles or photographs for the next edition of Connect need to be emailed to <u>patsy@cupcork.ie</u> or left in the Parish office on or before:

Monday 14 April.

PARISH CONTACTS AND OFFICE HOURS:

Carrigrohane Union of Parishes, Rector: Robert Ferris – 085 1800720 - robert@cupcork.ie Community Leader and Lead Evangelist in The **Carraig Centre:** Matt Gould - 085 1080067 matt@carraigcentre.ie Carraig Centre Bookings Manager TCC: Bill Lane bill@carraigcentre.ie Youth Worker: Sarah Louise Hockey sarah@cupcork.ie The Carraig Centre reception desk is open from 9 am – 5 pm each week day. The Parish Office (in The Carraig Centre) is closed Mondays and open on: Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 9.30 am – 12.30 pm; and Wednesdays 9.30 am - 5.30 pm. Phone: 4877260 - office@cupcork.ie Jaki Godfrey, Parish Secretary - jaki@cupcork.ie Patsy Devoy, Parish Administrator - patsy@cupcork.ie WEBSITE: www.cupcork.ie & find us on Facebook and YouTube!

CUP Youth Dates

Glow: 8 April, 20 May **Glow Max:** 1 April, 29 April (Afternoon BBQ Sunday 8 May with **Sunday PM and** visiting Youth Group at TCC – To be confirmed!) **Sunday PM:** 10 April, 1 May, 8 May (29 May TBC) **Contact** sarah@cupcork.ie for details and to be added to a mailing list in case of changes!

Safeguarding Trust

The Rector, Select Vestry and parish leaders are committed to upholding good practice in the Parish's ministry with children, young people, and vulnerable adults. Should you have a concern or suspicion regarding child welfare in the parish please contact a member of the parish panel below or any of the statutory agencies:

Robert Ferris – 085 1800720; Jane Moffatt – 086 8935866; Ivan McMahon – 086 8125792



As Ireland is welcoming ever more nations to call it home, so the Carrigrohane Union is hosting many nations to use our facilities:

St. Peter's Church and Hall

* Coptic Christian Church; * Russian Orthodox Church; * New Apostolic Church Carraig Centre

* Iranian New Year Celebration; * Visit of the Turkish Ambassador ; * Estonian Independence Day Celebration; * Together-Razem Polish weekly language and culture classes



The Lighthouse

Throughout the pandemic we have been unable to meet in person, but developed an online version called Lighthouse at Home, enabling families to continue to share in The Lighthouse each month. This had all the usual elements, welcome, activities, songs, story-time, prayer-time, and Messy Grace, delivered through videos uploaded to the website. Some packs were also sent out, containing activity supplies and treats, to families who signed up to received them

Since last Easter we have covered the following themes: Journeying together with Jesus: The Disciples on the Road to Emmaus; Pentecost; Praising and thanking God: Psalm100; A picnic with Jesus: Feeding the 5000; Light: Jesus is the light of the world and we are to reflect that

light; Advent and waiting: through some prophecies of Jesus' birth; God draws close: the nativity story,; Trusting God: Proverbs 3:1-9; God is with us: Joshua and the walls of Jericho; Mother's day and celebrating those that help us: Moses' mother, Hannah, Ruth, Dorcas, Lydia.

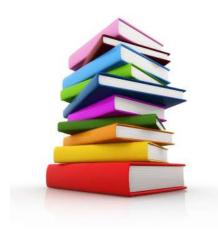
The Lighthouse are looking for the nets for fruit, vegetables and fire logs for activities on Sunday 24th April. Please save any you get and bring them to Blarney church or The Carraig Centre before 17th April. Thanks! The Lighthouse Team

It has been super to be able to use

technology to continue to engage with the families, but we are looking forward to returning to in-person meetings, the first of which is planned for **Sunday 24th April**. *April*

Other bits and pieces!

There are many other ways that members and friends of the parish spend time together and enjoy themselves!



There are two book groups,

opportunities to go on walks and hikes together,

a wine appreciation group of men who meet in person when they can, and by zoom.

Parish lunches didn't happen through 2021 – but are resuming,

sometimes 'bring your own' and now sometimes 'bring and share'!





We are the children's group (aged 3-13!) that meets during Sunday AM!



With all the Covid restrictions

Adventurers still had a





great year in 2021! Our busy year included a zoom treasure hunt – making cards to go with floral gifts for all the senior members of the parish family (thank you Cork County Council for funding all this with a

grant!), painting stones and selling in aid of the Pay it Forward free café in The Haven, planting (and harvesting!) the herb and vegetable corner of The Carraig Centre garden and preparing for and leading a United Celebration all about the Jesse Tree! We also loved being part of the Live Crib and decorating our tree for the Christmas Festival!

2022 has already been exciting as we've looked at Baptism and Holy Communion and held a fund-raising walk for Dogs for the Disabled, raising an amazing €460.72 – Thank you everyone!

Dean, Kathy, Ruth & Patsy – and our wonderful helpers: Emilia, Ashlin, Anne, Lydia and Charlie (Thank you all!)



Joys and sorrows in 2021...

We are grateful for the lives of Betty Marples and Alec Hales...and all those others who we have loved and lost in 2021 and recent months. Our prayers continue for their families.





In amongst the times of restriction and difficulty, we thanked God and celebrated with each other for lots of reasons... Engagements....

New homes....

Degrees....

Births...

Baptisms...

...and so many more!

Publications...









Following on Chuck's sermon at Sunday AM on Isaiah 55: 1-12 – with his helpful emphasis on the importance of celebration...

THANK YOU for joining together to pray for the provision of autism classes in Ballincollig!

The prayers have been answered and a class will begin in Le Chéile Secondary School in September 2022!!! To celebrate we'll have lunch together on **Sunday 24 April** in The Carraig Centre following Sunday AM: a **bring & share lunch** – but if you're able to make a little extra to bring, please let Katie Gould (085 1080030) know as she'll be inviting guests from the wider community who have also helped with this campaign.

Carrigrohane Union of Parishes:

Our Mission:

- Our mission is to be an authentic, open community of all ages and stages:
- Making whole-life disciples of Jesus who live and share his gospel
- Praying, playing, and learning together
- Worshiping God passionately

Our Identity:

Carrigrohane Union is a union of churches whose members are drawn from near and far. Each of our four congregations seeks:

- To be centred on the life and teaching of Jesus
- To grow in his love together
- To express his love in action

Our Purpose:

We seek to be a church for everyone; following Jesus's example of serving our community, making disciples, and enabling people to experience the generosity of God.

Our Values:

We value:

- **Risk taking** which allows us to try new things because we worship a creative God
- A whole life spirituality which encompasses prayer, Bible study, outreach and living out our faith
- **Generosity** of time and resources because we worship a generous God
- Relevance making sure that what we do connects with everyday life in Cork
- Encouragement and support within the community, helping each other through tough times and celebrating through good times
- Enabling people of all ages and backgrounds to find their God given place as we create and celebrate our changing community
- **Developing an inter-generational church** where people from all ages learn, grow, and serve together



St Peter's, Carrigrohane – The Church of the Resurrection, Blarney St Senan's, Inniscarra - The Carraig Centre Ballincollig



