

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

& CUP Annual Review of 2022



Scenes from the stage-play *"Forever Mine"* in the Carraig Centre on Thursday 30 April.

APRIL/MAY 2023

PARISH CONTACTS AND OFFICE HOURS

Rector: Rev Robert Ferris 085 1800720 Robert@cupcork.ie

Associate Minister: Rev Abigail Sines Abigail@cupcork.ie

Community leader & Lead Evangelist: Matt Gould 085 1080067
matt@carraigcentre.ie

Pioneer Evangelist & Youth Worker: Sarah Louise Hockey 085 2774346
sarahlouise@cupcork.ie

TCC Bookings Manager: Bill Lane bill@carraigcentre.ie

The Carraig Centre reception: Monday to Friday 9am—5pm

The Parish Office: Monday to Friday 9.30am—1.30pm

Phone: 4877260 office@cupcork.ie

Parish Administrator: Deirdre@cupcork.ie

Parish Secretary: Jaki@cupcork.ie

Finance Officer: Mary@cupcork.ie

WEBSITE: www.cupcork.ie & find us on Facebook and YouTube!

Parishioners in Hospital ?

We can no longer be certain hospitals will provide us with notifications of parishioners who have been admitted to hospital. If you or any parishioner you may know is in hospital, please let the office know and a visit by the relevant chaplain will be arranged..

Email Update ?

Each Friday we send out a message to all parishioners who have signed up—if you would like to get this please sign up on our website homepage or contact the office.

Holy Week & Easter 2023

YOU ARE INVITED

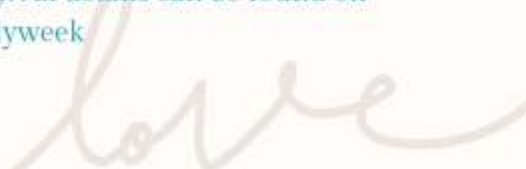
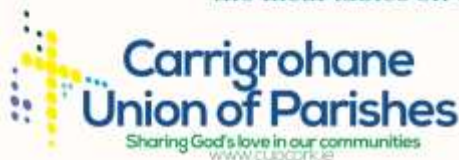
During Holy Week and Easter, Christians remember the events that lead up to the death and resurrection of Jesus and celebrate the central tenet of their faith.

Holy Week culminates on Easter Sunday, which celebrates Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

You are invited to join us for Holy Week services at our church. Experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through song, prayer, and reflection.

Please note changes in service times on the Sundays, and also the need to book a place at the meal tables on Monday and Thursday. All details can be found on

www.cupcork.ie/holyweek



Holy Week & Easter Services 2023

(* denotes Booking Required)
links on
www.cupcork.ie/holyweek

Carrigrohane Union of Parishes 2nd -9th April

Palm Sunday	11 am United Celebration @ The Carraig Centre with Bring & Share Lunch
Monday	6.30pm Community Table Meal @ Blarney Church * 8 pm A Late Evening office service with Lectio Divina in Blarney
Tuesday & Wednesday	8pm A Late Evening Office Service with Lectio Divina Blarney Church
Maundy Thurs	6.30pm Agape Meal (with Holy Communion) @ The Carraig Centre*
Good Friday	10.30-11.30am Family Event @ The Carraig Centre * 12-3pm St. Peter's Church open for private prayer 8pm Tenebrae Service @ St. Peter's Church
Saturday	8pm Easter Vigil Service @ St Senan's Church, Inniscarra
Easter Day	9.30am St Peters. 10am - Blarney. Holy Communion 11am The Carraig Centre. 11.30am St. Senan's .

Annual Report 2023

The changes might have been seen to have been internal but they have been significant. This year I wanted to highlight many of the things which have been happening in the parish. At the Easter General Vestry I hope to look forward to the things are coming up in the next year.

Our Staff Changes

Since our last annual report we have seen The retirement of Patsy Devoy who was in the office for 23 years. Following Patsy's retirement the Select Vestry decided upon the need to employ a new Finance Officer (Mary Gleeson) and Parish Administrator (Deirdre Lightbody) to join Jaki Godfrey in the Parish Office.



We have also said thank you to Katie Gould as she stepped back from her work as Youth Worker.

We also have since employed Sarah Louise Hockey as our Church Army Pioneer Evangelist/ Youth worker joining Matt Gould in our CA Centre of Mission in the Union of Parishes.

Later in Connect you will also see we have Raymond

The other change has occurred in our clergy team as Abigail Sines joined the team in October. Since arriving Abigail has already made a significant impact to the pastoral and liturgical life of the parish as well as the many practical things that have been needing done in Blarney particularly.

Our Current Staff Team now consists of

Revd Robert Ferris – Rector

Revd Abigail Sines – Associate Minister

Matt Gould – Lead Evangelist / TCC Community Leader

Sarah-Louise Hockey – Pioneer Evangelist / Youth work

Deirdre Lightbody - Administrator

Jaki Godfrey – Admin Assistant

Mary Gleeson – Finance Officer

Bill Lane (Volunteer capacity) - Centre Manager

Raymond Prendergast– CE Caretaking

Viktoria Tymoshchuk – Ukrainian Community Worker

Our Volunteer base

Our Volunteer base continues to grow and we are all the richer for this – I want to thank all of those who give so much of their time to help in all sorts of ways across this parish. Here is a comprehensive list of how our volunteers help out in the parish In compiling such a list apologies to anyone I may have missed—please do let me know ! :

Our Musicians

Church Wardens

Glebe Wardens

Toddler Team

Youth Team

Adventurers Team

Welcomers

Select Vestry Members

Diocesan Synod Representatives

Safeguarding Panel

TCC Board

Painting

Gardening Team

Lighthouse Team

MELTing Pot Lunches

Bring and Share Lunch Team

Hospitality Team

Staffing/Volunteer Committee

Flower arranging

TCC Receptionists

Finance	Toy Library Team
Youth Management Group	Church Cleaning
St. Peter's Vision Group	Tech Team
Blarney Missional Community	Eco- Congregation Group
St. Senan's Leadership Group	West Wing Development Group
Sunday AM Leadership Team	Mothers' Union
Family Ministry Group	Lay Pastoral Assistants
Lighthouse team	Lay Liturgical Assistants
	Church Yard Development

There is such a remarkable group of people who are doing so much- and so much more that could be. If you are interested in getting involved in these or other areas please do not hesitate to get in touch with the office or the clergy team.

In addition to these we have committed people who clean and maintain the grounds – Thank you to Linda, Lydia and Humphrey for your hard work throughout the year.

We also have an exciting partnership with the Christian organisation Serge who enable Chuck & Kathy Hohnbaum to serve in Carrigrohane Union. Their ministry is much appreciated in many aspects of parish life. We look forward to this continuing over the coming years.

Our Giving

Here in Carrigrohane so much is being achieved which has only been made possible through the giving of our parishioners. **Thank you for your sacrificial giving.** This year you will see that we have a large positive number in our giving – this has been possible due to the fact that our Associate Position was not filled until October 2022 and that we were able to cut some costs for the year coupled with the donation from the Carraig Centre towards Admin costs. Going forward we will be keeping careful watch on these factors. Especially with the increased costs which we all know about in regards to Electricity and Gas.

I would love to encourage those who would like to join our giving scheme to get in touch with Deirdre in the parish office to find out how to give and also to give in a tax efficient manner.

Our Mission

Carrigrohane Union understands our holistic mission to all parts of life and work. It has been a very encouraging year as we saw faith development in many lives this year. We have also seen much care shown to people across this Union of Parishes. One way to look at our Mission is through the 5 Marks of Mission

5 Marks of Mission

Reaching out with the good news of Jesus

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Employment of our Pioneer Evangelist • The development of new initiatives in Blarney Church • Alpha Course • Encouragement of Faith Sharing across the Union | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday services • Toddlers – with Bible stories • Lighthouse • Online social Media posts |
|---|---|

Nurturing Disciples

- Pastoral visits
- Bible Study Groups 6 Groups
- Sermons online
- Sunday Services
- Prayer Opportunities & pointers
- Musicians
- Pastoral Care
- Availability of Clergy, Staff & Volunteers
- Mental Health Focus

Confronting Injustice

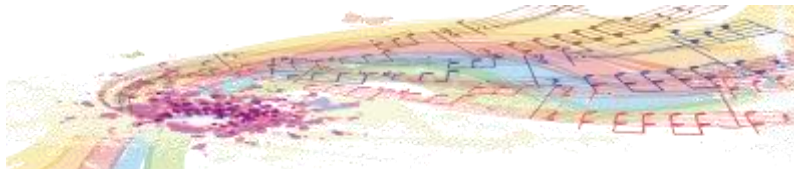
- Ukrainian Response
- Working with the Cork Migrant Centre
- Commitment to Working towards Sanctuary Church Status

Safeguarding the integrity of Creation

- Eco Group
- Decisions around sourcing of supplies
- Climate Justice Candle

Behind each of these things there are many, many individuals who give up their time and energy to see these things happen.

This is simply a glimpse as to what has been happening in the parish and we look forward to seeing what is possible in the coming years.



SPRING CONCERT

Cork ETB School of Music are delighted to feature their young students
in a

Spring Concert

at

St Peter's Church, Carrigrohane.

Thursday 20th April 7pm.

Performances by students of

Flute, Violin, Oboe, Clarinet, Cello, Piano Trio and Irish Traditional Music.

Entrance is free and all are welcome.

MINDFUL MAKERS

March saw the start-up of a new craft group meeting in the Church of the Resurrection, Blarney—the Mindful Makers—with an enthusiastic core group forming from the first meeting! Represented among the crafts were knitting, crochet, slow stitching, and pastels.



Each session has started off with a few minutes for an Out of the Box story, a story-telling method intended to facilitate space for reflection and sharing, towards personal and community wellbeing. At our 22 March meeting, the story was

entitled 'Something Happened', and we had time to reflect on how we respond to difficult and unexpected things that crop up in life. Group members are welcome to work away with the story percolates in the background! We have also enjoyed tasty homemade treats and good company at our first 2 meetings. A few of us on the crochet end of things have taken on the challenge to crochet a large number of bunny and lamb creme egg covers, in order to give away creme eggs around Blarney during Holy Week. We'll see how many we are able to get up to!



Holy Week and Easter mean that April is an odd month, with only one meeting scheduled for the month, on 26 April. In May and June we are going to try the pattern of 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10.00 - Noon, to see if that rhythm suits everyone. The group is open and anyone who may be interested or would enjoy the company is welcome to drop in for one or more sessions! Also,

please share this invitation with others you may know who like to make things and may appreciate the chance to do their work in company!



CUP YOUTH TRIP BANDON | 2023

WEDNESDAY 12TH APRIL -
SATURDAY 15TH APRIL

This year's much anticipated youth trip is coming together wonderfully and we're looking forward to partnering with Trinity Church Dublin's youth group as well as Ardfallen youth in Douglas. The youth trip is a key time for our young people to come away and dedicate time to experience God's presence and be supported to grow deeper in their faith journey.

Help Needed



If you would like to help there are lots of things needed to make the trip happen:

- **Pray**- for the preparations, finances, that God will be at work in the lives of the the young people and the leaders who come. (SL will provide more specific prayer points over the coming weeks)
- Offer a lift - For young people travelling from Dublin to Cork city via bus/train - Drivers from Cork Cityto Bandon on Wed 12th and from Bandon to Cork on Sat 15th would be much appreciated.
- Offer a lift -For our group to visit Bandon town from the Centre on Thursday 13th (Involves ferrying YP between centre and Bandon town (10mins) and back (between 2:30-5:30pm)
- Baking- Some treats to offer parents at drop off
- Help with preparing prayer stations and decorations for themed dinner evening

If you would like to be involved please contact Sarah Louise 0852774346 | sarahlouise@cupcork.ie

The Carraig Centre Toy Library

Do you or your kids want something new to play with but money and space mean it's not possible?
Would you like fewer toys but still the joy of playing with something new?
Why not come and borrow some toys and bring them back when your kids are tired

- Runs on first Friday of the month from 12.15-12.45 pm @ The Carraig Centre
- Toys suitable for ages up to 12 years
- We also have some baby/ toddler equipment available to borrow
- Cost €2 family one off membership fee. After that the library is free to use



Toy Library

Following Sparks on the first Friday of each month.

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.

Katie, Patsy & Ruth

How it works

Toys are loaned for one month. You can let us know if you'd like to keep it longer and extend the loan for up to 3 months. Then we ask you to return it and give someone else a turn!

Equipment is loaned for as long as you need it.

We ask that toys are returned clean, and in good condition, but we know that accidents do happen and toys are meant to be played with! So we ask that if something is damaged or missing a piece, that you let us know when you return it so we can make sure we are not loaning out things that are broken or with pieces missing.

Why we run the toy library

As followers of Jesus we have been given so much; we want to share God's goodness and gifts with others.

We hope the toy library will:

- serve our community by giving kids the joy of fresh toys, to play with and learn from, without the 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.

St Patrick's Weekend

St Patrick's weekend was joyous in the Church of the Resurrection in Blarney!



On St Patrick's Day itself we were delighted to welcome the Revd Andrew Robinson, from Cork Methodist, as our guest preacher and happily about a dozen of his congregants accepted the invitation and came along for the service as well! We were also delighted that trad musician Seamus Sands was able to with us to bring the music, with hymns accompanied by tin whistle or fiddle, and the traditional tune St Patrick's Day to close the service. Scripture readings were done in Irish by Karl Tyrrell.



On the next day, there was a St Patrick's Festival in the village, and not to be left out of the fun, we had the Church of the Resurrection open for the afternoon for visiting, teas and homemade treats, and children's activities. Lighthouse leader April and others from the team offered drop-in craft activities for children. Sylvia

brought in flowers and helped children make small arrangements for Mother's Day gifts. Huge thanks to Paula, for keeping the tea and coffee flowing! The church was packed with buzz and chat for the whole afternoon. By the end of the afternoon we had run out of leaflets, green craft paper and cake!



Carrigrohane Union Finances

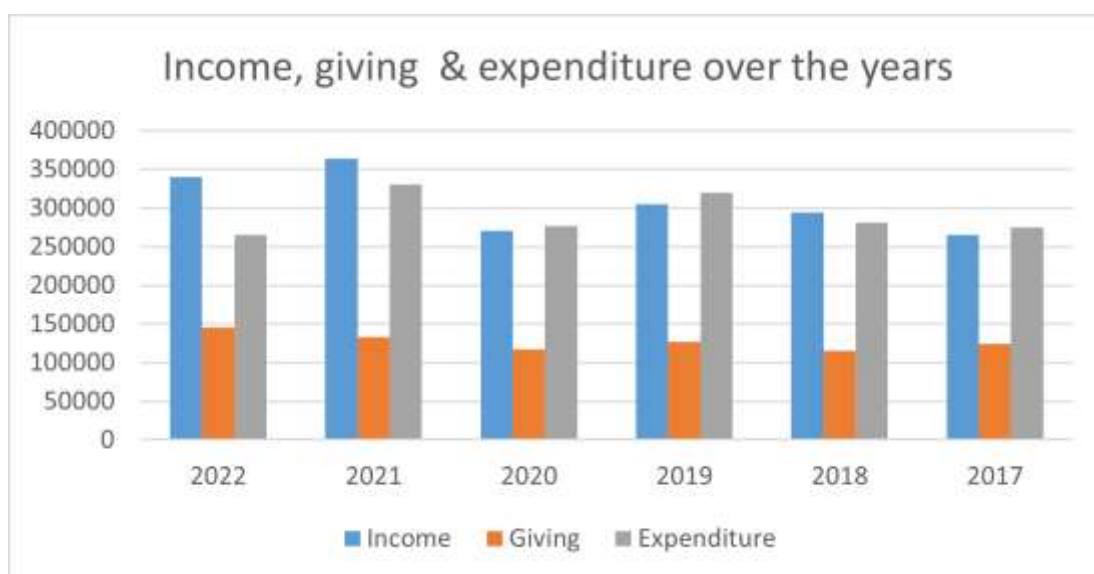
Balancing the Books 2022

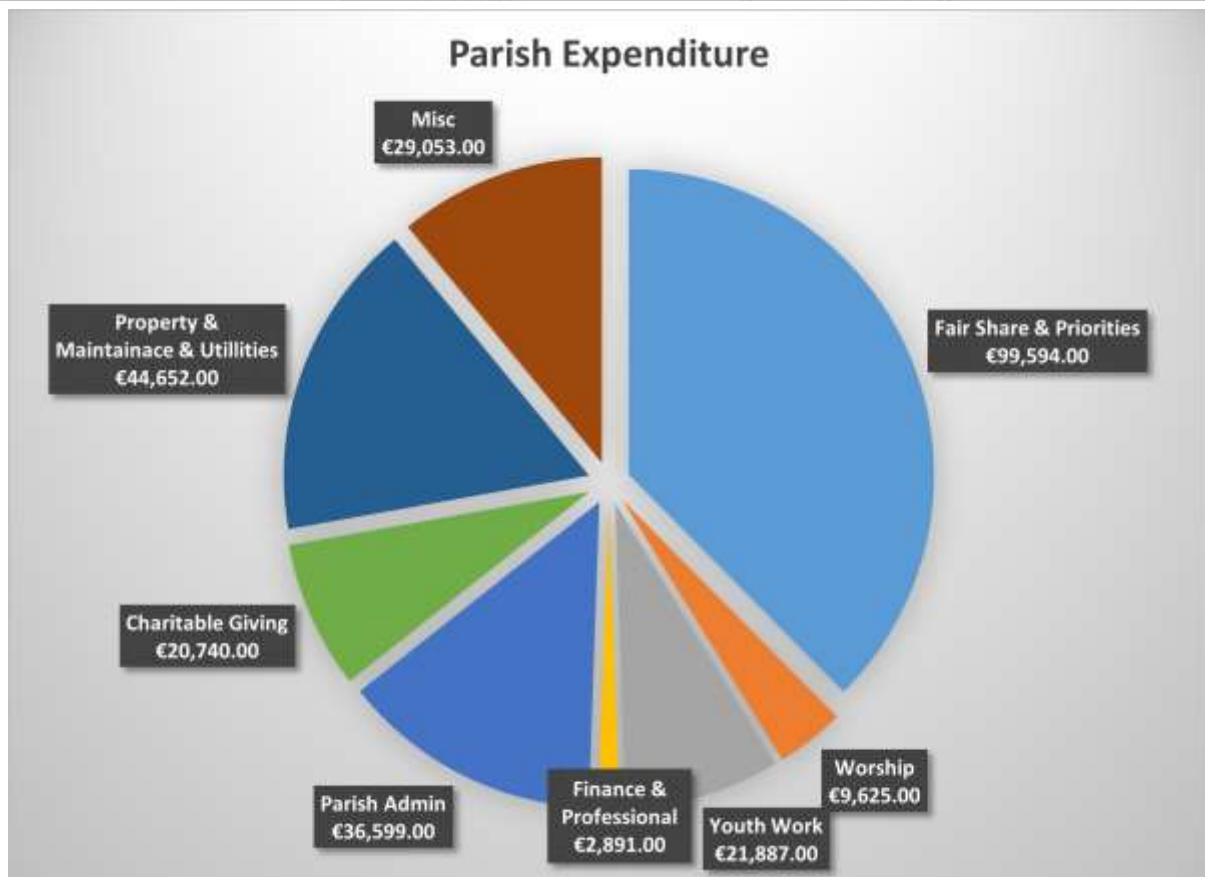
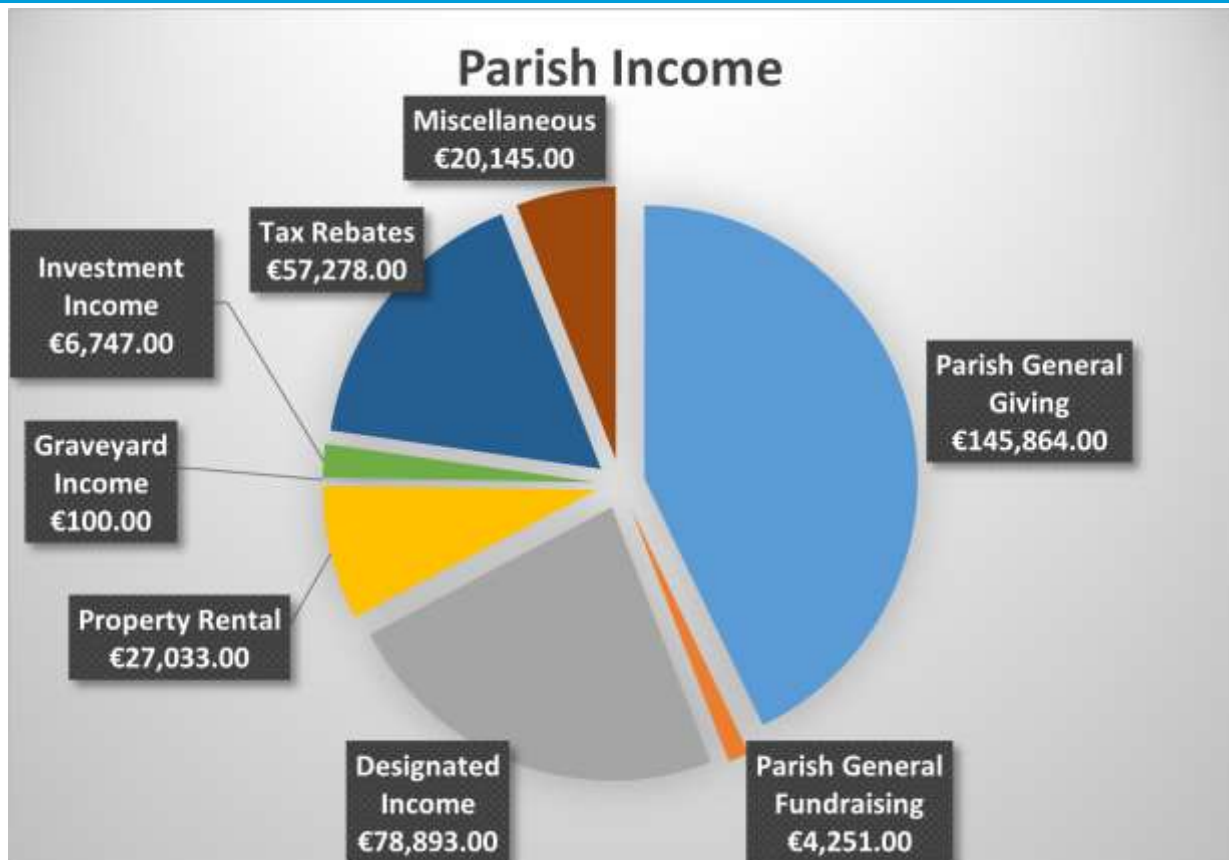
THANK YOU for giving to the work of our Carrigrohane Union community!

Copies of more detailed accounts are available – and any questions welcomed.

Highlights from 2022:

- Parish giving has been very generous, we gratefully received a bequest for Inniscarra from Heather Cochrane and also several grants for our work with the Ukrainian community.
- Though we had budgeted for a full year of the Associate Minister role and full-time youth work, these roles were not filled until late in 2022. Therefore, we ended with a surplus.
- The Christmas Tree Festival was a community success and raised 1560 after expenses.
- Rental income has returned to pre-pandemic levels.
- Parish administrative staff has necessarily expanded to perform the increasing work of running CUP and TCC and therefore expenses are up 16%.
- TCC finances are listed separately; TCC pays for a portion of the administrative expenses to cover the work the staff does for TCC.
- Thankyou to our new Parish Finance Officer, Mary Gleeson, who did an amazing job getting up-to-speed on our community and our finances and helping to publish excellent accounts for 2022



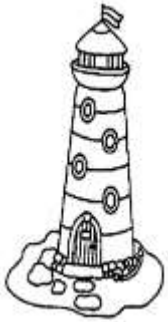


Total Income = €340,311

Total Expenditure = €265,041

Net Income/Expenditure = €75,270

The Lighthouse – Messy Church in Blarney



The Lighthouse – Messy Church in Blarney



The Lighthouse have just completed a year of in-person meetings, after 2½ years of online video sessions due to the covid restrictions. We meet on the 4th Sunday of each month between September and June. At each session we have activities, songs, story and prayer-time, all based around the theme for the day. The sessions end with a meal for all and there is always plenty of chat. The major Christian Festivals of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost always feature in the themes, alongside other biblical themes.



In March our theme was 'God shapes our lives' and we explored the story of Jeremiah at the Potter's house (Jer.



18:1-6). At this session the activities were: Playdough mats exploring who God is; Modelling with clay; Committing the future to God, an opportunity to write a prayer or hope for the future; Jig-saw, learning Isaiah 64:8 and creating a jig-saw of that verse to take home; and creating a photo-frame with 'I am a child of God' on it. The most popular activities were: the clay and playdough and a number of the children spent most of the time at those.



We very much appreciated the help of SundayPm members who came to help as part of their program, an idea that Sarah-Louise and I had been discussing. Thank you so much for all you did.



Thank you also to all the regular team members who help set-up, run and tidy up each month. All your help is so much appreciated and without it 'The Lighthouse' could not happen each month. Since

Christmas we have welcomed Jane Moffatt as a new team member. 'The

Lighthouse' team is looking for new members and if you are reading this and thinking it is something you might like to be part of, please contact April at lighthouse@cupcork.ie for more information.



The Lighthouse meets next on Sunday 23rd April 3.30 - 5.30pm.

April



Blarney Toddler Group

Blarney Toddler group re-started, after a 2½ year break due to covid regulations, in November 2022. Each Tuesday morning during school term time we welcome toddlers and their parents or carers to the church for a time of free play, crafts, refreshments and plenty of chat. This is followed by our circle time where we have an 'Out of the Box' story and some songs. This story-time has become really popular with the children and they are quick to join the circle, sit cross-legged and get ready to listen. It has been amazing to see them develop the capacity to sit quietly, listen and engage with the story over this relatively short time.



Almost every week since we have re-started, we have been booked to capacity. Families from the Toddler group have also come to other activities in the church, such as the Christmas Festival craft afternoon, the St. Patrick's Festival craft afternoon and some of 'The Lighthouse' sessions.

Thank you so much to all the team who faithfully come to set-up, run and tidy-up each Tuesday morning. Your help is very much appreciated and without it, Toddlers could not take place.

BLUEGRASS AT INNISCARRA IN MAY.

HIGH PLAINS TRADITION

Wednesday May 3rd: St Senans Church of Ireland,

Ardrum, Inniscarra, Co. Cork, T23 T934

8.00 p.m., support act Pat Kelleher; Tickets Tel. 087 792 1771 €20

[High Plains Tradition](#) from Colorado are wonderful pickers, great entertainers, and fabulous vocalists.

You are in for a musical treat in a wonderful venue space.

They consist of Doug Elrick (mandolin/ vocals), Steve Gilmore (guitar/ vocals), Bobbie Vickery (fiddle/ vocals), Kenny Pabst (bass/ vocals), and Ron Lynam (banjo/vocals).

<https://www.highplainstradition.com/>



What's the Mothers' Union all about? A quick overview from Patsy...

Just recently I was asked about the Mothers' Union and I think there are other people in our congregations and friends who either haven't heard of MU or have a very limited idea of who and what we are! It's not really a 'Union' like we have unions of teachers or train-drivers! And it's not just for mothers!



So...MU has been around a long time! It was started 147 years ago in England by a shy, but brave lady called Mary Sumner who wanted to create an organisation for women that brought together rich and poor to build a network that would support mothers of all kinds as they brought up their children in Christian faith.

NOW it's an international Christian charity that seeks to support families of all faiths and none – through practical outreach, prayer and advocacy in 84 countries with about 4 million members – women and men. While we have a small staff team in the central building in London, and pay on-the-ground Community Development Coordinators in some countries, MU is a member led movement where the members themselves work together to solve challenges in their communities, and help restore and strengthen relationships. We also work in partnership with local churches, and other groups/charities/NGOs.

Different projects and programmes run in different countries – according to the local needs and challenges. The common threads are supporting families, and working in and through the local communities to combat poverty, reduce violence and encourage fairness and justice. I was privileged to attend a training conference in Uganda 14 years ago...and saw for myself the wonderful Family Life Programme which was changing the lives of families and whole communities. Literacy and development, the worldwide Parenting Programme and financial/agriculture training programmes are just a flavour of what happens, alongside work with refugees, prisoners and reconciliation work in areas of conflict.

Prayer is at the centre of everything we do – and the Wave of Prayer has been circulating the globe daily for many years! At 12 noon every day a small group of dioceses (from all over the world) is prayed for by everyone – and, since Covid, these prayers have been available live (and now recorded) on Facebook. It's been amazing (a real silver lining!) to have so many people joining together from every corner of the world – sharing comments and prayers and getting to know each other! I've been a 'presenter' leading those prayers once a month – an experience that's moving, scary and delightful – all at the same time! We have a wonderful annual prayer diary that goes to each member.

In Ireland, MU's main focuses at the moment are:

16 Days of Activism against Gender Based violence and other domestic abuse work including:

'The Souls of our Shoes' exhibition (this highlights the issues of domestic abuse – through the voices of people who have suffered – and we had it displayed in The Carraig Centre last summer);

A Gender Justice programme 'Equipping the Church To Take Action And End Domestic Abuse' which has been created jointly with Bishops' Appeal and Tearfund Ireland and which will be officially launched in September at two very important and high-profile day-long conferences, 'Changing the Story' (one in Northern Ireland and one in Dublin) and practical support for refugees at local level.

AFIA (Away From it All – short breaks/holidays for people under strain or in need – many of whom have little or no links to the church)

Prison work

Contact centre work (where separated parents are able to meet with their children in a safe environment)

Knitting and craft projects

Fund-raising for local projects and worldwide projects

A fund was set up when MU was 100 years in Ireland – and grants are given each year before Christmas to Ordinands in the Church of Ireland Theological College, Dublin as encouragement and practical support

...and more!

In Cork, Cloyne & Ross: the holiday scheme, AFIA, has been running for many years; we have volunteers who go to help in the visitors centre in Cork Prison; we run a baby-change facility at Cork Show each year; we support women's refuges and the ongoing gender justice projects; run an annual 'women's getaway' weekend conference; and many people knit teddies, blankets for the neo-natal unit, prayer shawls and 'fiddle muffs' for dementia patients.

We also gather together from across the diocese to worship (in The Carraig Centre for the first time on 12 March!) and for business/news meetings – and in parishes we meet for fun, fellowship, prayer, mutual support and to work on projects. Membership in Cork, Cloyne & Ross is €40 a year at the moment – which contributes to the diocese, All Ireland and the central office in London. Robert & I have couple membership – which is only €65 for us both – and no other €65 achieves so much!

Membership can be as simple as paying your annual contribution (for us it's part of our regular giving back to God) and praying for the work – the prayer diary is a great resource to help with that. Any other involvement is completely optional!

I was first welcomed into the parish 45 years ago (yikes!) by a Mothers' Union member – and I was encouraged into membership and volunteering by another! I've been privileged to serve in the parish, the diocese, at All Ireland and on the central Trustee body in London – and I've met amazing, inspirational people, made so many friends and learned so much from all of that!

MU is based in the Anglican Church across the world, but welcomes members from within other denominations. The Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Most Revd John McDowell has said, 'The Mothers' Union has been at the heart of the worship and witness of the Church of Ireland for more than a century, and under the enthusiastic guidance of June Butler (All Ireland President) and the present leadership team continues to serve the Church with cheerfulness, modesty and devotion.'

The Mothers' Union Prayer: Loving Lord,
We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.
We pray for families around the world.
Bless the work of the Mothers' Union
as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.
Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship,
and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.



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

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 Deirdre know who you are, we can do the necessary work to substantially increase the value of your gifts.

Connecting With Us via Social Media

We're on Facebook—facebook.com/cupcork

We're also on Youtube—youtube.com/cupcork

Pastoral Visiting

It is always a great privilege for the clergy to visit parishioners in their homes. If you would like to request a clergy visit, please telephone the Rector (085 1800720) or Parish Office on 0214877260

Don't Forget—The Deadline for Connect Newsletter is the 15th of the month—Please leave any articles in the Parish Office post box or send them to the Connect Newsletter email

connect@cupcork.ie



Ukrainian Response Outreach

All during the late spring and on into the summer and now the autumn, we have been proactive in responding to the Ukrainian crisis as needs arose and opportunities presented themselves.

Since Easter 2022 or before and continuing until early 2023, we cooperated with Together4Ukraine and the Irish Red Cross to promote their appeals for welcome bags for women and children. To date, nearly 300 welcome packs for women and children have been collected, sorted and given to Together4Ukraine in Blackpool and the Irish Red Cross. In addition we have been collecting toys, bikes and scooters for distribution to newly arriving groups in several locations, including Victoria Cross Student Accommodation, Green Glens Arena, the



Ukrainian response warehouse in Blackpool and most recently St. Josephs convent near Dennehy's Cross. The response from the wider community and particularly our own parish members and friends has been extraordinary and continues to this day as well.



During the summer months of 2022 The Carraig Centre offered a wide range of third party provided camps and activities for children. Taking advantage of these and the great goodwill of the providers as well as our own summer fun days, we were able to provide great summer activities for a group of Ukrainian kids residing temporarily in Victoria Cross. Lego, art, music, science and YMCA fun was on offer. The Community Foundation of Ireland and Mother's Union provided very helpful finance to make these particular activities possible, as well as the providers offering free places, and free or heavily discounted camps for the children and teens. The Community Foundation finance also supported a part time Ukrainian speaking worker organising, participating and supporting the activities. An enthusiastic group of Parish people and friends also set up and organised twice weekly English classes to encourage a group of up to 45 Ukrainians of all ages in their English familiarity.

During the later weeks of August 2022 the SV decided that we could appropriately respond to the housing crisis for refugee families by refitting the newer wing of the St Peter's Parish Hall as a residence. With welcome support from the Benefact Trust through the RCB we added a shower, closed off the kitchen area for general use and converted the space into living accommodation. The hard work and generosity of staff and members of the Parish in refurbishing the space made it possible for 5 members of the Ukrainian community to move in last October. Most of our existing rental customers were able to continue, though with a few restriction.

In September we were awarded a further grant from the Community Foundation for Ireland for the year ahead to continue the work of supporting and liaising with the Ukrainian community; this will cover a modest stipend for a part time worker, Viktoriia Tymoshchuk.

Bill Lane

Autumn Alpha 2022

The Autumn Alpha was attended by a small group of ladies including some of our Ukrainian friends, who all quickly connected with each other over questions and exploration of faith. We enjoyed a lovely Sunday afternoon together in the Carraig Centre as our 'Day Away'. It was wonderful to see God renewing faith and revealing His presence to all.

Deirdre, Matt, Julie & Eilish



SPARKS - the toddler and carer group meeting in the The Carraig Centre on Friday mornings - has been going well this term, with lively groups coming for play and social time with other pre-school children. The parents/carers get to enjoy a tea or coffee and a chat amongst the hubbub. It is such a joy to see the hall full of people from the local community enjoying the space and the time together.



The sessions round out with a song or story time, centred on who Jesus is and what he taught us all from the youngest to the oldest about our God's great love.

Huge thanks and congratulations to all the team, and special thanks to Jessie Kindler who has handed over the reigns of the group with Kathy Hornbaum taking on the role of keeping us organised.

Matt Gould

Our new Associate Minister



In September we welcomed Rev Abigail Sines and her husband Karl to our Parish. Abigail is based in Blarney but ministers throughout the Parish. She has already made a huge impact in the Church of the Resurrection and in the Blarney community.

Staff Changes

Patsy's Retirement



After 23 years of faithful service at the helm of our busy Parish Office, Patsy Devoy decided it was time to hang up the office keys and get on with all the other things that she loves to do. On Sunday 3rd July, at the United Celebration, the Parish took the opportunity to thank Patsy for her dedication, compassion and loving approach to everything she does and for the way she kept the Union of Parishes afloat through all kinds of circumstances over the years. We wished her a very Happy Retirement.

A new Parish Administrator & new Finance Officer

In June, Patsy's role was filled by two people! Deirdre Lightbody came on board the team as Parish Administrator and Mary Gleeson took up the new role of Finance Officer.



Thankyou to Katie

Katie Gould stepped down as our Youth Worker in early summer after 15 years of amazing work with our young people. Ivan said a huge thankyou to Katie at our United Service in June when she was presented with a booklet of messages of appreciation and encouragement from young people past and present, their parents and other people from across the Parish.

Our new Church Army Pioneer Evangelist/Youth Worker

Sarah Louise Hockey took up office in September as our Church Army Pioneer Evangelist/Youth Worker. Sarah Louise had previously taken over from Katie as Youth Worker and now divides her time between the two posts.



Our New Caretaker

In September, Ray Prendiville joined the Carraig Centre team as our Caretaker. We are delighted to have Ray with us and have come to rely on him for anything to do with the building because he knows every inch of it!

CUP Youth Update 2022-23

Sunday PM

Our small Sunday Evening Bible study group has developed into a wonderful time of making food together and exploring questions about Biblical Justice and how we can live out principles of faith in the midst of an unjust world.

For our Autumn/Winter term we focused on Climate justice and food waste- Cooking recipes with seasonal produce, less meat and less plastic packaging. We also worked on a market stall for the Christmas festival, raising €150 for Tearfund Ireland and sharing information about reducing food waste.



This Spring our series looked at 'prayer', exploring different themes through the lens of "Open Doors UK" a charity that supports Christians, facing persecution and injustice across the globe.





Glow MAX

Our monthly Friday evening group for teenagers has developed into a lovely community and we've enjoyed getting to spend time together without the restrictions we've experienced over the last few years. It's been lovely to watch these young people grow in confidence, in their welcoming of others and their ability and willingness to discuss deeper questions about faith and life.

We had our first overnighter in 3 years with a Late Late Toyshow watch party. And have made lots of use of the Carraig Centre's kitchen!



We explored questions about faith together using the Scripture Union "Nua" series, thinking about topics like fear, doubt, rules and what Jesus is like.



(And of course found time for lots of ridiculous games, creativity, way too much sugar and general shenanigans)



Glow

Glow has also continued to grow over the past year. Our younger group for 4th-6th class has met one Friday evening a month and it's been great to see the group settle into the Carraig Centre space more and more. We've made great use of the kitchen and outdoor spaces (Boy do we love Nerf battles!!).

We're also delighted that young people from local schools in Ballincollig are coming along and connections are being made through interactions at The Carraig Centre.



This year we introduced "The Big Question," board. Young people can write their thoughts on it throughout the evening and then we all come together to discuss at the end.

Most recently we've been enjoying the Nua:Easter video series, exploring questions about Jesus' death and resurrection and what that means for us.



Youth Space

We are delighted that our long awaited youth space is now up and running. This Thursday afternoon drop-in space for local teens aims to create a place of welcome and safety for young people to just be.

It's been lovely getting to know the teens who come along, through being creative together, playing boardgames and video games, basketball in the outdoor space and general chats over tea and coffee.

We're looking forward to seeing this group develop and hope and pray that God will bless the young people we interact with, that we will have opportunities for healthy and positive discussions and they will experience His love in a new way.



A FREE HANGOUT SPACE FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE OF
SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE

ALL ARE WELCOME!

(WE JUST NEED A CONSENT FORM SIGNED BY A
PARENT/GUARDIAN - SEE BELOW)



CONTACT

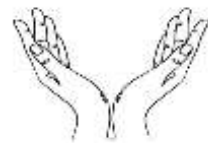
MATT GOULD
COMMUNITY LEADER
-MATT@CARRAIGCENTRE.IE

OR
SARAH LOUISE HOCKEY
YOUTH WORKER
-SARAHLOUISE@CUPCORK.IE

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Fellowship Groups around the Parish



Wednesday morning group

We meet every 2 weeks in The Glade in St Senan's, Inniscarra and have been enjoy praise, prayer and Bible Study together as well as fellowship over a cuppa. We all look forward to our meetings and if anyone would like to join with us, they would be most welcome.

Sylvia

Wednesday afternoon group

We meet every Wednesday in the Prayer Room at the Carraig Centre at 2pm. We have been looking at the Book of Galatians and enjoying some great discussion together. We also enjoy praying over any issues that are arising at the time. We go out for a cuppa afterwards. Always happy to welcome new members.

Laurel



Ballincollig Growth Group

This group meets at 7.30pm in the Playroom of the Carraig Centre. Our numbers include members of the local Ballincollig community. We have been looking at the sermon series on Ephesians and always enjoy some lively discussion and wonderful times of praise and prayer. We're looking forward to hosting another Alpha in due time and also helping those who join us to grow in their knowledge and love of the Lord.

Bill

Wednesday night St Peter's Group

We meet fortnightly in St Peter's Church, Carrigrohane at 8pm. We have been going through the Book of Galatians and from time to time have an evening of prayer together. We look forward to welcoming new members.



Lisa

Wednesday night Ballincollig Group

We meet in the Wardles' home for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. Dan

Blarney Growth Group

We meet every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in the Church of the Resurrection, Blarney. We spent a few weeks doing the Lectio Devina and now we have started the "Freedom in Christ" series. The group consists of members of the Parish and members of the local community. We're always happy to welcome new members.

Theresa

The Parish Centre



The Parish Centre underwent much change in this last year. As the north wing was converted to accommodate our Ukrainian friends, the remainder of the Centre continues to be used by Scouts, Ballet, Spotlight Drama School, Puppy Training, Toddler Sense, the Ukrainian Choir, the Egyptian Coptic Church and the New Apostolic Church. We have a few one-off users from time to time as well. Unfortunately, the new arrangement means we can no longer have birthday parties but the The Carraig Centre now accommodates them.



Michael's big adventure



Michael Kenning is heading off to Ethiopia on 18th April for a 4 week placement alongside CMS partners there. As well as spending time at St Matthew's Parish in Addis Ababa, he hopes to visit St Frumentius' Anglican Theological College (SFATC) in Gambella and one of the refugee camps bordering Sudan. Please pray for Michael as he prepares for his time in Ethiopia, that God will equip and use him to be a blessing to others.



KALYNA Choir

The Kalyna Choir will be performing at Cork Choral Festival on Friday 28th April at 10am.

FAVOURITE HYMN

***'Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
Worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship your holy name.'***

I have been asked to write about my favourite hymn. What an impossible task! Where do I start?!!! I have lost count of the number of hymns that I have played and sung for innumerable services.

Hymns have been part of my life ever since my Swiss mother sang some to me in French, and my Belfast Granny played them on the piano, her fingernails adding a percussive sound! From hymn-singing in both Sunday School and Church in England, and in Ghana, to daily morning services in both junior and secondary school, they all enabled me to praise and worship God.

The ultimate aim of hymns, or songs - whatever we call them - whether old or new, is to bless and worship the Lord, as the above chorus shows. Whether we stand to sing, perhaps clapping hands or jumping about, or sing kneeling in reflection, we are all, in our own God-given way and with our own God-given voice, praising and worshipping the God who gave us the gift of life. Singing is an activity that affects our bodies and souls, drawing us closer to God and covering a wide gamut of emotions - from uplifting joy for searching souls to deep comfort for aching hearts.

What makes a good hymn? Is it the music or the words? Ultimately it is both, but that isn't always the case. The melody of one hymn may outshine its words, whilst the melody of another may mar the poetry. Some people prefer 'old-style' hymns, whilst others the 'modern-style.' Some like organ accompaniment, and others only those with guitar and drums. Some are resistant to new hymns; others hunger for them. In other words, everyone has their own thoughts about them, sometimes strongly expressed! I, too, have my own favourites and *also* my pet hates, and whether I like them or not, I still have to play them!

The following words, applicable in this season of Lent and beyond, represent the reason behind singing hymns:

*Were the whole realm of glory mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

And we can all look forward to the day:

*'When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.'*

I shall leave you guessing which is/are my favourite hymn/s!

Viv Squire

MELTing Pot

Meet, Eat, Laugh, Talk

At the Melting Pot Lunch
In THE CARRAIG CENTRE

From the ashes of a few regular lunching opportunities (like the annual Ladies' Lunch and the 'Seniors' Lunch') has been born the open-to-all-adults 'MELTing Pot Lunch!

An open and informal chance to come along and bring friends to Meet, Eat, Laugh, Talk - in The Carraig Centre about 4 times a year.

Hopefully it's fun (and delicious!) to attend - and it's definitely fun to cook and serve the lunch. Anyone who'd like to be part of the team, chat to Patsy! (087 6413559)

ADVENTURERS



Adventurers have had a busy year! We have enjoyed using all the spaces available in the playroom, kitchen, garden, playground and ball playing areas at the Carraig Centre. We have had new people joining, both as Adventurers and as Leaders and some of our Adventurers have grown into excellent and much appreciated Junior Leaders.



We are part of the Sunday am congregation for refreshments, chat and worship, but except on United celebrations, we then leave the service to adventure and learn about God in our own special style! Sometimes we follow the bible readings that are being explored at the main service and at other times we follow a theme of our own (such as the five love languages, the fruits of the spirit, or the travels of Adam and Addison; cardboard Adventurers who travelled around The States with one of our leaders, Kathy and her husband, and

sent us reports of their adventures!)

We usually have an all-together time where we think and talk about the bible passage or theme and this is followed by games and activities and usually some crafts and/or colouring too. Recently we have added a going-deeper bible study slot during activity time for those who wish to explore the bible passage a little more, and this has been really helpful.



We have had craft sessions, learning to make pottery and preparing our tree decorations for the Christmas festival. At a very popular baking session, we learned to make delicious bread and we have planted and harvested vegetables and fruit from the TCC garden. At the June United at St Peter's, we discovered a time capsule hidden beneath the floor boards by Adventures nearly 20 years ago and we plan to re-fill and hide this again for Adventurers in years to come. We had the opportunity to lead the entire service at the November United celebration and some of our Adventurers have joined in leading sung worship with the band on a number of occasions.

Adventurers is open to all primary school aged children and we are always happy to welcome new members and helpers! We have an Adventurers parents' WhatsApp group where we post weekly updates on our activities and if you would like to be added to this group, just let us know.

Our current team is: *Patsy, Ruth, Kathy, Dean, Paula, Irene, Darlene, Viktoria and Elena.*

Use of the Common Cup in Carrigrohane Union of Parishes



Recently the Church of Ireland House of Bishops communicated to parishes in regard to the use of the Common Cup at Holy Communion.

As you may know, prior to the Pandemic, wine was administered through the common cup during Holy Communion Services as is common with all Church of Ireland Churches. It was withdrawn totally for a short time and was restored with the option of using individual cups with permission of the Bishop.

Within Carrigrohane Union, we sought permission from Bishop Paul for this individual cup option based upon pastoral conversations I had as Rector with numerous people in our parish family.

The House of Bishops recently sent a letter to all parishes saying that permission for the use of individual cups will no longer be valid after Pentecost Sunday.

I circulated the correspondence to Select Vestry members and I'm now making this available more widely to parishioners.

Please read this and speak to me if you have issues about this.

Please be assured that if you do not wish, for whatever reason, to partake of the common cup, that the Church does recognise that when partaking in one kind only (Bread) the sacrament is "fully received".

From the 1st June we will revert to receiving communion as we did before the Pandemic. I am very sensitive to individual pastoral needs, so please speak to myself or Abigail if you have any particular issues and we will see how these can be accommodated.

In St. Peter's and St. Senan's this will mean that we can once again receive at the Holy Communion Rail

Bishops' Appeal

Thank you so much to everyone for your generous donations to the Bishops' Appeal for relief and aid to the people of Turkey and Syria following the recent earthquakes. A total of €3311.65 was raised and forwarded to the Appeal.



The Carraig Centre



As the lockdown gradually relaxed and people were more willing and able to join activities, the Carraig Centre ramped up to facilitate them. We now have over 40 different groups, both from CUP and from the wider community using space in the Centre and a very busy place it has become!

Fulfilling our mandate to be a church, a parish centre and a community centre has been a joyful challenge as we have made space for more and more community based groups as well as faith activities including Sunday AM, prayer and Bible study groups, Growth Group, and Alpha. Outreach activities are described elsewhere but includes a broadening youth program as well as Sparks Toddler group. As additional outreach, we provide free space to a number of not-for-profit community groups including a Garda based Neighbourhood watch activity, First Responders training, and several special needs groups including an Autism Spectrum Disorder playgroup and several summer camps and special needs schools, all who use our safe enclosed playground space.

Our broad range of commercial community groups (i.e. those paying rent) includes our main tenants, Enable Ireland Adult Day Services, as well as three YMCA groups (Bridge, PAKT and Rise-YMCA). The number of smaller clients continues to expand with Headway, Baby and Toddler activities, adult exercise and fitness groups, dance and drama groups, speech and language groups, piano and guitar lessons, Lego and art classes for children as well as birthday parties. Altogether these groups create a lively buzz about the place and we have become well known in the wider community as a great venue with modern facilities for such activities.

The overall staff team has increased with Patsy Devoy retiring in June, Deirdre Lightbody and Mary Gleeson stepping to fill those capable shoes alongside Jaki Godfrey, all working away supporting the Parish and TCC. During the autumn Ray Prendiville joined us on a CE scheme to look after general maintenance and building support and has done stalwart work working alongside our great team of volunteers on Reception who keep the place clean and welcoming. We have also had tremendous support from our Board volunteers and the Operations Group who have moved us into a position where the Carraig Parish and Community Centre CLG will become active on April 1st, 2023.

The plan to refurbish the West Wing has progressed substantially and a full project proposal has been lodged with the Department of Justice and investors have been found under the Immigrant Investor Programme, all made possible by an extremely generous gift from a friend of the Parish. We hope to hear more about the result of this application in the summer of 2023. The plan is to refurbish the West Wing in a similar manner and purpose as the East Wing.

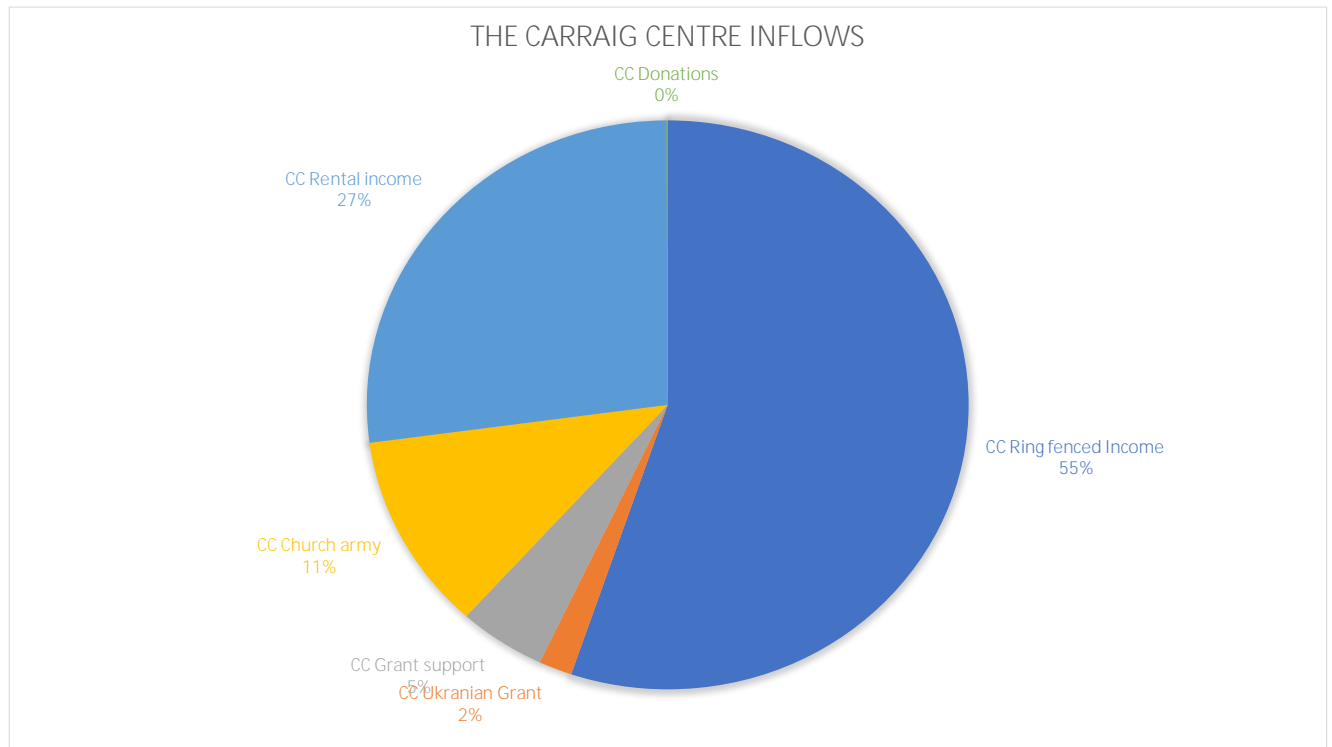
Finances

As usual the Carraig Centre provides substantial financial support to CUP activities, primarily through supporting the joint office function. The charts show the general picture.

Bill

Easter General Vestry
Wednesday 26th April
7.30pm in The Carraig Centre

Balancing the books in The Carraig Centre 2022



Inflow	
CC Ring fenced Income	191,000
CC Ukrainian Grant	6,209
CC Grant support	16,201
CC Church army	38,720
CC Rental income	93,656
CC Donations	230

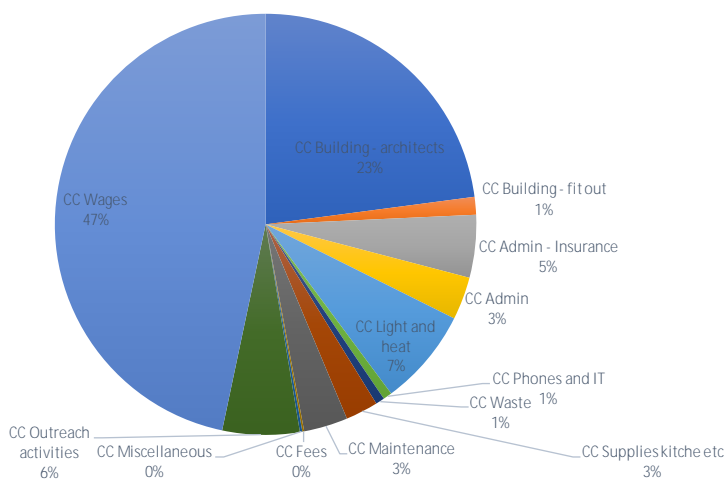
TCC Summary

Inflow Total= 346, 016

Outflow Total = 177,041

Surplus = 168,975

The Carraig Centre Outflows



Outflow	
CC Building - architects	40,559
CC Building - fit out	2,415
CC Admin - Insurance	8,517
CC Admin	5,820
CC Light and heat	13,231
CC Phones and IT	1,197
CC Waste	1,203
CC Supplies kitch etc	4,417
CC Maintenance	5,967
CC Fees	255
CC Miscellaneous	329
CC Outreach activities	10,470
CC Wages	82,661
Total	177,041

APRIL SERVICES (For Holy Week Services see page 3)

Easter Sunday 9th	9.30 am	Holy Communion, St Peter's
	10am	Holy Communion, Blarney
	11am	Holy Communion, Sunday AM (& online)
	11.30am	Holy Communion, St Senan's
Sunday 16th	9.30am	Family Service, St Peter's
	11am	Sunday AM, Carraig Centre (& online)
	11am	A Service of the Word, Blarney
Sunday 23rd	9.30am	Service of Healing & Wholeness, St Peter's
	11am	Sunday AM, Carraig Centre (& online)
	11am	Morning Prayer, St Senan's
	3.30pm	Lighthouse, Blarney
Sunday 30th	9.30am	Songs of Praise, St Peter's
	11am	Sunday AM, Carraig Centre (& online)
	11am	A Service of the Word, Blarney

MAY SERVICES

Sunday 7th	9.30am	Morning Prayer, St Peter's
	11am	United Celebration, Carraig Centre (& online) (followed by 'Bring & Share Lunch')
Sunday 14th	9.30am	Holy Communion, St Peter's
	11am	Sunday AM, Carraig Centre (& online)
	11am	Morning Prayer, Blarney
	11am	Morning Prayer, St Senan's
Sunday 21st	9.30am	Family Service, St Peter's
	11am	Holy Communion, Sunday AM (& online)
	11am	Holy Communion, Blarney
Sunday 28th	9.30am	Holy Communion, St Peter's
	11am	Sunday AM, Carraig Centre (& online)
	11am	Holy Communion, St Senan's
	3.30pm	Lighthouse, Blarney