

NEWS — from the — PEWS

The Hearing Test.

Every year as the 6th class leaves school and with the Confirmation Group, I recount a story we had been told by Dr. Maurice Elliot during one of his sermon's at College Chapel one day. It is a wonderful example of how we can bear the light of Christ in our daily lives. The story is called 'The Hearing Test' and, wanting to give the writer full dues (she being the main character in the story itself), I trawled the internet entering various searches which yielded nothing. So, I will recount the story which many of you may recall hearing in church over the short past. I tell this story as an example of the type of love Jesus was talking about when he asked us to 'love one another'. All names used in this case are fictional for the purposes of relating the story.

Mary was born with a cleft palate. As a tiny child she lived happily at home with her parents and it was only when she started in primary school that things began to change. Within the first week Mary noticed that people were starting to look at her strangely. This had never happened before and the more curiously they looked at her the more she stepped away and retreated into herself. This situation progressed rapidly until it became the way for Mary to stand apart from the others in her class in every situation. The free-spirited little girl became removed and anxious. Now there was a teacher in the school who was greatly loved by everyone. Mrs Murphy was a larger-than-life, sparkling type of an individual who had the ability to make people feel good just by being in her presence.



It was Mrs. Murphy's job to carry out hearing tests on the pupils once a year. Being in the 1950's the school operated a very different system than these days with modern technology available. The children would queue up outside Mrs. Murphy's classroom and, one by one, enter and take their place behind a cupboard door; they would then place one ear against the door itself and cover their free ear with their hand. On the other side of the door Mrs Murphy would utter a random sentence such as '*The sky is blue*' or '*I like your red jumper*'. to test whether the child could hear her or not.

Mary recounts a hearing test that changed things for her completely. She remembers standing in the queue, apart from the body of children waiting, as was the norm for her. When her turn came, she took up her position behind the door and pressed her ear against its wood. What happened next was to change the trajectory of her life forever. Very softly Mrs. Murphy said, 'I wish you were *my* little girl.' Words spoken with no other meaning than to build up the child in her own self-worth.

Mary grew up to be a writer. Looking back on her life, she remembers that moment in its innocence as a changing point in her life from which a new life began. Mrs. Murphy had noticed a soul who was in pain and had used her kindness and her words to build up and, as it happened, change that soul's belief in itself. As followers of Christ, perhaps what is asked of us is both simple and profound; that in every encounter we look to the other, we listen and observe and, sometimes in the most subtle ways, we give of ourselves to ensure that they fully realise their own light and potential.

Over these past weeks I have seen kindness like this in the parish. Although we were isolating, gifts were left on the doorstep and messages

sent that both nourished the body and soul and for this, we in the Rectory are deeply grateful.

What did Jesus say about Love?



'The first commandment is this, Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.' Matt 22: 37

You have carried the light of Christ for us. May we, in turn, do the same for you!

Cathy

Celebrating a Week of *Love*

**"If I speak with the tongues of men or of angels,
but do not have *love*
I am only a resounding gong
or a clanging symbol."**

1 Corinthians 13:1

Powerscourt Parish News



With news emerging that the national lockdown is to continue, we are fortunate that we live in such a vibrant community with plenty of recreational outlets at our fingertips. We have any number of walks including Knocksink, Crone, Curtlestown, Rathmichael Woods and Carrickgollogan Forest Park.

Remember to support our local traders by *shopping locally* - if we continue to support them, they in turn will be there to provide us with a service. Over the coming weeks, we will focus on the Village traders, providing you with information on what they stock and hours of opening.

WINDSOR'S SPAR – *opening hours: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.*

Monday to Saturday; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays.

When we came to the village over 30 years ago, Windsor's was a small shop in the Village run by Jack Windsor with his wife Nora who also ran the post office.

Sean and Charlotte have developed and expanded the business set-up by Sean's parents many years ago. Now operating under the SPAR franchise, there is always a warm welcome from a very friendly and helpful staff. In



addition to what we all expect to find in *a local shop*, Windsor's also have a fresh meats section, dairy wall selection, frozen food

section which includes prawns, smoked salmon and vegetables. Vegetarians are also catered for. You can also order from their deli or buy fresh bread and cakes, flowers, cards and wines. In the vegetable section, I even found fresh ginger. They also stock coal, briquettes and calor gas cylinders (one of the cheapest rates in the area). You can buy postage stamps, avail of their photocopying service (for small runs) do your Lotto, buy daily newspapers and magazines and have a takeaway coffee. Local residents who have been isolating are very appreciative and touched by the kindness of Sean and Charlotte who delivered groceries to their homes.

MAGEES PHARMACY – *opening hours: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Closed on Sundays.*

Magees is a long-established pharmacy in the Village. They stock a wide range of health and beauty products and gifts. If anyone needs a repeat prescription filled, phone the pharmacy in advance on 012863515. While you may have to queue (observing 2m rule) to collect your order, you won't be delayed for too long.



COUNTRY MARKET- *opening hours: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Saturday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays*

Tony and Patricia Collins opened the Country Market three years ago at the junction of Forge Road and Kilgarron Hill. They stock a wide range of fresh fruit and vegetables. Try their tasty free-range eggs (you are guaranteed to be addicted). They also have tasty homemade brown bread, a variety of cakes, a selection of tarts (rhubarb, apple and berry)

and jams. If you like cheese, you have a choice of either Cashel Blue or Cratloe Hill's award-winning Sheep's cheese from Co. Clare.

ENNISKERRY POST OFFICE (MINI MARKET) Ik outside Village on Glencree Road, opening hours: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5.50 p.m. Monday to Friday; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday

Postal collection: 3 p.m. daily

There is also a post box outside Kingfisher's with a 3 p.m. collection time. If you miss the collection deadline, there is a post box opposite Rathmichael Church and another opposite the petrol station in Kilternan with a 5.30 p.m. collection time.

Remember to support our local traders.

'Powerscourt Parish News', submitted by Barbara Davis

Kilbride news

Thanks to Gordon for ringing the bell in Kilbride church on Sunday as we continue to hope and pray for an end to the Covid pandemic.



The church grounds are in great order and Spring is definitely in the air with a fine crop of snowdrops on show and daffodils about to. Thanks to Stuart for the upkeep of the grounds.

We continue to keep everyone who is sick at home or in hospital in our thoughts and prayers.

Keep safe and keep well!!

Submitted by Georgina Masterson



What is your favourite poem?
We would love to print it in our weekly
News from the Pews.
All suggestions to
office@powerscourtnts.ie

My favourite poem is **“The Lake Isle of Innisfree”** by *William Butler Yeats*.

Innisfree was an uninhabited island within Lough Gill visited regularly by Yeats as a young boy when he spent his summers in Sligo. It was a place of natural beauty where he found peace and tranquillity and where he got the inspiration to write this poem.

By Barbara Davis

*The Lake
Isle of Innisfree*

Innisfree
10 3 20

THAWANE

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made:
Nine bean rows will I have there, a hive for the honeybee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a-glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

William Butler Yeats

© Spirit of Ireland

Celebrating a Week of *Love*

If I have the gift of prophecy
and can fathom all mysteries
and all knowledge
and if I have a faith
that can move mountains
but do not have *love*
I am nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:2



Constance Elaine Graham 1929-2014

Always known to us in the parish as Elaine, she worked for 40 years with Interserve, and interdenominational missionary society in Asia and the Middle East. Twenty-two years were spent in India and Pakistan, as secretary and librarian at Kinnaird High school in Lahore. She was appointed a church worker for the Church of Pakistan, serving in St Andrews church until she returned in 1977 to the Society's office in London. She became the Director of Interserve in the Republic until retirement in 1994. Elaine was then commissioned as a Diocesan Lay Reader, serving Powerscourt and Kilbride parishes. She became President of the YWCA, writing a history of the Association in Ireland.

She grew up in the Rectory at Castlecomer, where her father was the Rector. She remembered her father remonstrating with the farmers on market day for fouling the footpath outside the Rectory gate. The Rev Malcolm Moore Graham 1898-1965 served in Castlecomer for nearly 30 years and was Chancellor of Ossory. He retired to Glencormac where Elaine lived after him. He was one of a family of 10, several of whom were doctors, including two RAMC Lt Colonels.

One of the brothers, Rev Henry Colles Graham, a missionary with the DU Fukien Mission to China, was shot and killed by Chinese pirates in 1918.

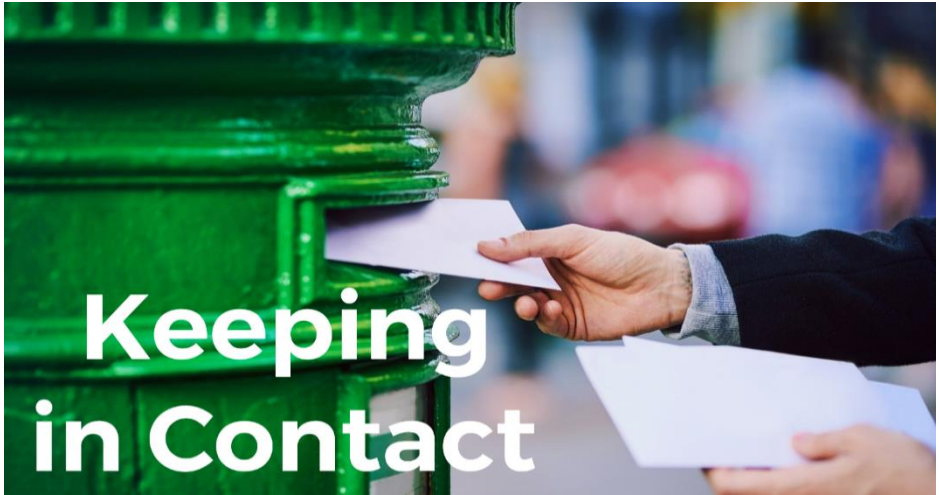
A notice translated to English, in the Chinese Christian Newsletter in 2018, celebrating the centenary of the Fukian church, comments that the Rev Harry Colles Graham, a British (sic) Missionary arrived to preach the gospel in 1911 and was killed by pirates aged 32. "In memory of his evangelism, the local people purchased the land on which the church was built for 1000(£?)...."

Elaine's mother, Constance Hilaire Vaughan, who died in 1991, had a sister and an aunt who were both principals of the Hall School, where Elaine was educated. Lily Colletta Vaughan took over the work in 1929, from her aunt Colletta Rose, who was one of the first women Graduates of TCD, taking a BA in 1909. Lily Colletta had progressive views on educating girls, insisting that there was no reason to believe that girls were bad at maths, and should be encouraged to study biology and French as well.

Also, in this grave is buried Frances Graham who died in 1979, the Rev Malcolm's sister.



'Headstone of the Week', submitted by Judy Cameron



'Headstone of the Week', submitted by Judy Cameron

Dear Parishioners,

During these days of isolation is it important for us to keep in touch with you and a good opportunity for us to update our parish lists.

Would you be kind enough to take 30 seconds to respond to this email by typing out your full address and Eircode (if you know it) and return this to Mandy at office@powerscourtntns.ie. This would be most helpful.





Disability Grants 2021 available from Wicklow County Council

Please see the attached template outlining a range of Disability Grants available from Wicklow County Council under 3 categories –

1. Housing Aid for Older People Schemes

The grant is for housing repairs, roof, rewiring, repair/replace windows and doors, central heating.

Max Grant €8,000

Grant available for people over 66 or people under 66 in cases of hardship.

Means tested – see attached template

2. Housing Adaptation Grant for people with a Disability

to improve access in the home by adding: Grab rails, ramps, accessible shower, stairlift, an extension to a bedroom.

Means Tested

- Privately owned property
- rented from a landlord, with landlord's permission for adaptation
- provided by an AHB
- communal residence

Max Grant €30,000 –see template for details

3. Mobility Aids Grant

to improve access in the home by adding: Grab rails, ramps, accessible shower, stairlift.

Max Grant €6,000

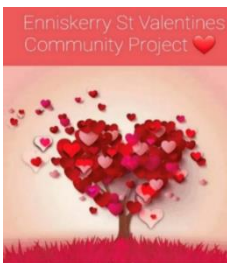
Means Tested – see attached template

Further information email: housingloansandgrants@wicklowcoco.ie

Children's Corner



Love is in the air in Enniskerry this February ❤️❤️❤️



We would like to invite everyone to get involved in creating a heart made out of recycled materials.

Write a name or names of a loved one near or far away. We will display them in the Village & run a competition for 1st, 2nd & 3rd most creative entry ❤️.

You can leave your hearts at the clock tower on Saturday 6th February @ 11am or Saturday 13th February @ 11am and don't forget to leave your details so we can enter you for the competition. Best of luck everyone 🍀

We have been sent some wonderful photos of some of the entries so far.



Evie and Daisy Chambers, with their Recycled Hearts Valentines Entry



Sometimes it's hard to find things to do with children to fill the days at home. Why not visit our Dioceses Facebook Page for ideas!

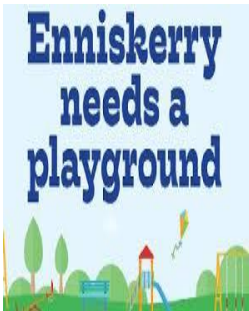


<https://www.facebook.com/Dublin-Glendalough-Kids-107738287592834>



Church of Ireland Children's Ministry:

<https://www.facebook.com/churchofirelandchildrensministry/>



The Enniskerry Playground Committee are at the planning stage and would be delighted for the children of the parish to have the opportunity to have their say on the playground.

Drawings can be sent to our email enniskerryplayground@gmail.com before Friday the 19th.





Lent and Easter, Children's Ministry Websites from above:

Connections

<http://www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/connection-connecting-with-families-and-family-devotionals/>

Activities

<http://www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/activities-trails-challenges-self-care/>

Resources

<http://www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/resources-liturgical-mothering-sunday-songs/>



All videos can be found on our Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Grouped-Parishes-of-Powerscourt-with-Kilbride-1514315732033467>

or on our Parishes YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOXYER9cLb4mj3tuNcYdExQ>