

# NEWS — *from the* — PEWS

It is our hope that this year will bring us all back together again as Church and the Body of Christ, yet, in these past 12 months, in the face of adversity, church as we knew it has expanded beyond its own walls and touched the lives of many who would never enter our doors. The use of technology and the drawing together of different areas and gifts of expertise has unified us in unexpected ways as a family of faith. We now begin to plan our return to church and are offered an opportunity to re-build and re-set; to allow ourselves to investigate and imagine what church could be like if we used all we have learned throughout lockdown.

The water church has been considering this too, drawing upon expert opinion and advice.

At this Sunday's Coffee at 11.00 we take a look at some of the ideas presented in a recent webinar as the starting point for discussion as to how we now grow together as church going forward.



**Re-Imagining Church**

I hope that you can join us.

The link for Sunday will be sent by email closer to the day.

I hope to see you there.

**Powerscourt with Kilbride**

*The below is the address that I gave at Powerscourt Easter General Vestry zoom meeting which was held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April.*

## **RECTOR'S ADDRESS –POWERSCOURT Easter General Vestry 2021**

This has been an extraordinary year. This time last year, we hardly suspected that we would be in a similar situation one year later and it is with regret that we pause for a moment to remember the lives lost due to Covid in the past 12 months. We commend to God today those who are suffering in our hospitals and those who watch and wait with them and apart from them.

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Saviour on Easter day, we are reminded of the light that comes from darkness and as followers of the Christ we are people of the light whose duty it is to identify that light in the darkest of places.

With this in mind I commend the people of these united parishes for their continued support of each other in this pandemic. In uniquely dreadful circumstances we have seen our parish family and community draw together (albeit virtually in some cases) in support of one another. Covid has managed to strip us down to the recognition of the important things in life and my prayer is that this remains when all returns to a new normal.

I thank this parish personally for their support of my ministry among you. This has been a learning curve and continues to be so. For me personally, I had only spent the first year of my new Ministry as first-time Rector when isolation occurred, so I very much feel that we are one year behind ourselves.

I am grateful too for the kindness and support of my family, especially thankful for all the good wishes and assistance given during the months of January and February this year when Covid entered the Rectory. You have shown us the heart of Christ in this place.

From this we saw an incredible outreach and the stepping forward of people willing to participate in our online service and the running of this parish. Thank you sincerely for doing this but please don't leave. You are the leaders among us, whether you consider yourselves to be or not. We have a strong and varied team of individuals of all ages bringing wisdom, expertise, a host of different talents and a fresh new outlook in some cases too. If you look around, you through my relatively new eyes you will see fertile ground for great expansion.

None of the working of the Parish could be done without the strong backbone of Select Vestry and my thanks this year, go to each and every one of you for your patience and support during a time of isolation and uncertainty for the church in general.

I thank Joyce Roe and Hugh and Emma Mahon, Ric Pasquali, Graham MacMullin, Andrew Ramsay, Tim Weldon and Marjorie Dalton for their care as Wardens of this church inside and out and of our Parochial Buildings. I thank Barbara and John Davis for their commitment and care of business as Secretary and Treasurer respectively; Helen Beardsley and Judy Cameron for keeping us in music throughout this pandemic and lifting our Spirits. Thanks to Joyce Roe and Majorie Mold for their continued support of parishioners through the Care Group and for being ready to spring into action again as the church reopens in areas such as church cleaning and Chancel Guild.

I thank the myriad of families and individuals who have stepped forward to assist with our online Service and in particular Edwina Allman and Barbara Davis for their work to continue this with the help of many others during my absence. I thank Edwina Allman and Derek Elders for keeping us safe in their capacity of Safeguarding Trust Officer and Health and Safety Officer respectively and for the work they have done throughout this pandemic.

Across the road, our school community continues to thrive with a strong team of young teachers headed by Mr. Stephen Middleton. If you watched our services, this morning you will get a very clear indication about the ethos of the school and its heart in building up the dignity of every individual and opening up an understanding of difference. At the very heart of this our Parish and School Secretary, Mandy Berkeley draws both together in a combination of efficiency and care. I commend both Mandy and Stephen for guiding their team through the instant onset of uncharted waters. As a new principal this was a particularly challenging and unprecedented time for Stephen, and he has held fast and succeeded in his care of both teachers and children alike. I am grateful to the school for their support and encouragement of God's presence in the lives of the children and their interest in expanding this with the parish in the future.

My final words to you today are these:

In a little while we will return to church. When the pandemic hit and the idea arose to create a new online service, I deliberately took the opportunity to step out of the walls of church, gaining permission to do so from the vast array of services available online. I knew that if my version did not appeal to some, they could, at the press of a button, attend the cathedrals throughout the world. The freedom of the Chestnut tree in the

back garden is designed to offer a new language to those who may not necessarily understand 'church' as well as those who know and love it well and has brought about a new version of church that has an increasingly wide following from people who may never enter our doors. On one hand, we as church need to draw together as the people of God in one place. On the other hand, we need to put first as a priority the word of God 'out there' in whatever shape or form it takes. At a recent webinar about church in the future, a speaker described this past year as opening a vast portal to people's sitting rooms. Now more than ever the Spirit is entering the lives and homes of many unchurched people. I can't tell you how important it is that this continues. How important it is that we grasp now what we have learned and find different ways of amalgamating and recreating the church we love, using these ways as well as the beautiful traditional ways. Now is the time for us to expand our vision to places where we never had the courage to go before. To outreach by a variety of live streaming; online pre-recorded; acutely traditional and wildly family friendly forms of worship in God's name. One thing I can tell you is that one person cannot do this alone. Our leaders are clearly visible among us now. My duty going forward is to draw together a family of Christ that is will to work with me in shining his light throughout this parish, community and far beyond. Now is the time to plan, to set in place and to move with the Spirit forward into our future here.

This begins next Sunday when we meet for coffee online at 11am.

You have my heart and my blessing. It has been a privilege to walk with you through this challenging time and we will emerge more powerful and more united going forward.

Thank you.

## **This week's online Service:**



## **Upcoming Services:**





We would like to encourage your support and welcome you to drop in to our '**May Day Plant and Seedling Swap**' in aid of Powerscourt and Kilbride parishes on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May in The Rectory Paddock.

If you have plants or seedlings to swap or donate, please bring them along with you on the day, all proceeds raised go to Powerscourt and Kilbride parish.

As we are still within Covid restrictions we would like to ask you to wear masks and be mindful of social distancing and congregating rules.

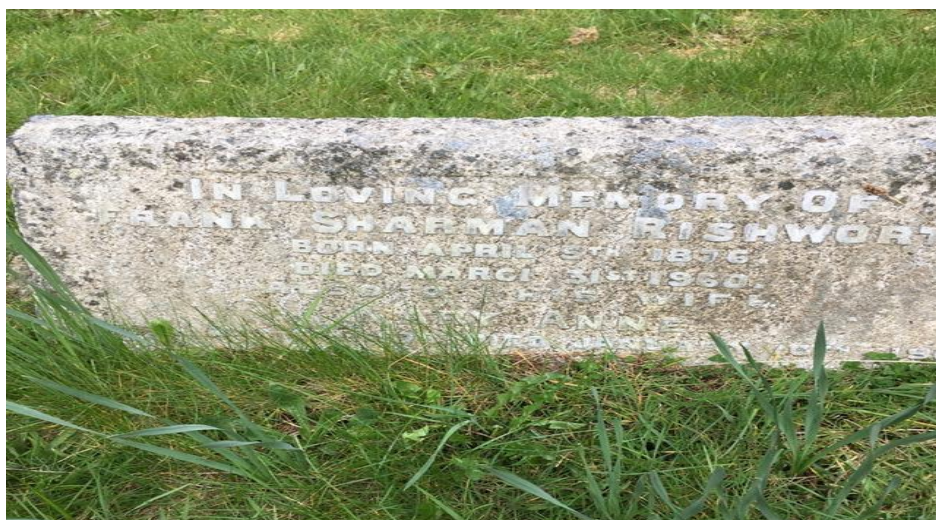




## **Francis Sharman Rishworth 1876-1960**

Frank Rishworth, born in Tuam, became one of the foremost engineers in Ireland.

His grandfather was agent in Tuam for the Yorkshire mills in England, for which Tuam supplied the wool. His father and his uncle, John and Thomas, set up a successful sawmill producing bobbins, cart wheel spokes and much else for the industry, and at one time were exporting 100 barrels of bobbins a week to France. Frank



would have grown up amongst the sawdust observing the ingenuity required to adapt, improve, and maintain the machinery. Understandably, he studied engineering.

He graduated from UCG(now NUIG) with a BA in 1897 and BE in 1898.



He worked first in England on various railway improvements, including the London Underground system, then went to Egypt in 1902 to lecture in the Ghizeh School of Engineering, perhaps attracted to the project there for the great Aswan Dam which had begun in 1899. There he trained engineers for railway, irrigation, and other public works, and was closely involved with the experimental features of the new dam.

When he left Egypt in 1910 to take up a post as Professor of Civil Engineering in Galway, the Khedive of Egypt awarded him the Order of the Medjideh for his work.

Along with teaching, Rishworth spent the next fifteen years advising and consulting on drainage and water supply schemes for the Galway and Tuam areas. The new State was far behind other countries in Europe in the distribution of water and electricity, and there were many years of argument and deliberation on how to rectify this, with plans to harness the power of the Shannon river.

In 1925, Rishworth was seconded from the Engineering school to the government as chief engineer on the Shannon Hydro -Electric Scheme. He oversaw the contract documentation, and supervising the civil construction works of what was a major industrial project. Help was required from abroad and was found in a collaboration with the German firm of Siemens- Schuckert. Siemens had already been involved in Ireland since 1883, building generating equipment for the Giants Causeway Tramway, the world's first hydroelectric railway. (It is worth looking up the history of this enterprise if you don't know it already. Good history and pictures from [discoverportrush.com](https://discoverportrush.com).)

The overall manager of the project, Dr Thomas McLaughlin, was a man of vision, enthusiasm, and perseverance. A colleague of Rishworth's, and influenced by him, he had studied in Berlin and brought Siemens on board. Huge quantities of machinery had to be imported from Germany, along with skilled workers; a railway was built from Limerick to convey

materials to Ardnacrusha; camps had to be set up, and eventually more than 5000 men were needed with all the services required for feeding and accommodating so many. There were many disputes, strikes, threats from rival work gangs, accidents, and deaths.



Though the government was naturally anxious about the cost...the estimate in 1925 was a fifth of the country's entire budget for that year, the project was an enormous boost for Ireland's morale. Thousands of tourists travelled to visit and the new ESB commissioned Sean Keating to create a series of paintings to celebrate and record the work. One shows Rishworth, plans under arm, staring down a gunman, surrounded by figures symbolising the whole enterprise: the clergy, the bystanders, the exhausted workforce, the drinking, shadowed by the great dam itself. When the sluice gates were opened by President Cosgrove in July 1929, Ardnacrusha was the largest hydroelectric station in the world and Ireland was proud.

While the Rural Electrification Programme was rolled out, alongside efforts to persuade sceptical people in remote areas to actually use the electricity for light and cooking, Rishworth returned to academia in Galway in 1930. He remained a consultant engineer, designed and supervised the erection of the engineering building on the University campus, was showered with committee work, conferred with honorary degrees, and when he retired in 1946, had taught for almost 40 years. He died in 1960 in Dublin. Now he rests from his labours in our peaceful churchyard.

I am indebted to Terry for guiding me to the most interesting article by Tommy Kelly about Frank Rishman and his contribution to modern Ireland, from which most of this information comes.

*‘Headstone of the Week’, submitted by Judy Cameron*



## ***SAVE THE DATE!***

***‘Art in the Paddock’,  
May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 1 – 4 pm***

The joint Parishes of Powerscourt and Kilbride are delighted to announce that an art exhibition will be held in the Powerscourt Paddock on ***Friday May 28<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 4 pm.***

*Artists are encouraged to donate pieces to be sold and proceeds will be donated to the Joint Parishes of Powerscourt with Kilbride and Powerscourt National School.*

*Further information will follow shortly.*

*Submission forms will be available via email from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.*