

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

March 2022

MESSAGE FROM REV NIAL STRATFORD

History is filled with many momentous occasions and events, all of which revolve around dates or numbers - for example 911.

The number 242 or 224 as an alternative format, is less familiar. Tragically, however these are numbers that will become only too familiar in the days, weeks and years to come. They represent 24 February 2022 - the darkest of days for humanity- the date upon which the sovereign nation of Ukraine was invaded by Russian forces. As these words are written, unimaginable terror, horror and pain, death and destruction is being inflicted upon the people living in Ukraine.

Spring brings new life to the world. Just as many birds, animals and insects enter forth into the daylight for the first time, following hibernation or new birth, we as humanity had taken the first tentative steps of coming out the other side of the Covid 19 pandemic. With all the loss of life and heartache that this pandemic has brought- we had again witnessed the very best in humanity- neighbourliness, caring, friendship and respect. We were looking forward to a new beginning. Just as this was happening, self-interest, power and greed raised its ugly head. 24 February 2022 will be forever remembered as being the day when war once again broke out in Europe.

Our prayers are, and will continue to be with all those affected by this horrific war. We also remember the very many Russian citizens who are totally opposed to their country's actions and those whose minds are filled with 'Fake News' and propaganda.

As with many aspects of life – if we look hard enough and long enough – there is often a 'silver' lining. The war in Ukraine has resulted in a resolute resolve by people throughout Europe to express love and solidarity with their neighbour- exhibiting the hand of friendship, compassion and love amidst and in the midst of unconscionable suffering. We here in Ireland are putting our shoulder to the wheel and demonstrating the hospitality for which we are famous. In our parish and in our community we will rise to this call- to support those in Ukraine and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing their homes in the face of war.

A sense of excitement is building here in St Matthews in preparation for the arrival and welcome of the new rector, Leonard together with his wife Hazel. This commences a new chapter in the life of this parish. We extend to you our '*Céad Mile Failte*'.

"May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you". Psalm 33 v 22

Best wishes

Niall

Rev Niall Stratford



INSTITUTION SERVICE FOR NEW RECTOR

The Institution Service for Reverend Leonard Ruddock will take place in St Matthew's Church on Friday the 8th April 2022 at 8pm.



SERVICES IN MARCH 2022

- 6th March 2022 - **Family Service** -
10.30am
- 13th March 2022 - **Holy Communion** -
10.30am
- 20th March 2022 - **Service of Morning Prayer** - **10.30am**
- 27th March 2022 - **Mothering Sunday-**
A service of celebration
of all 'Mother' figures -
10.30am

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH ENVELOPE SCHEME



If you would like to donate through the Church Envelope Scheme, you can put an Envelope on the Collection plate at Sunday Service. As a registered Charity St Matthews can depending on amounts donated reclaim Income Tax on Parishioner donations.

For more details please contact the Parish office on 087 254 0378, or ask one of the Church Wardens.

FIRST SIGNS OF SPRING



EASTER VESTRY MEETING

The Easter Vestry Meeting will take place on Sunday the 1st May following Morning Service.

PARISH CONTACTS

Rector (Acting)

Rev Niall Stratford 086 607 8290

Pastoral Care

Canon Andrew McCroskery 01 269 4813

Parish Administration

Jonathan Bell Tel: 087 254 0378

Nicky Bell Tel: 087 688 7049

Hon Secretary

Lindy Farmer Tel: 087 2246203

Hon Treasurer

Jonathan Bell Tel: 087 254 0378

Church Wardens

Miriam Hollowed (Rector's), Dr Virginia Stewart (People's).

Glebe Wardens

Robbie Hamilton (Rector's)

Select Vestry

Lindy Farmer, Jonathan Bell, Gordon Kelley, Miriam Hollowed, Gladys Raethorne, Robbie Hamilton, Claire Wheeler, Steve Griffiths, Virginia Stewart, Karen Woods, John Wallace.

To contact by email:

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