

# Zion Parish Notices

Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> October

Issue 17 2016

## Services during October

**Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October**  
10.30am Holy Communion

**Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October**  
**Thanksgiving for Harvest**  
9.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion  
3.00pm Holy Communion  
*Followed by afternoon tea  
for retired members of the parish*

**Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> October**  
10.30am Holy Communion

**Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> October**  
9.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion

## Mother's Union Notes

Our October meeting is a discussion on 'Living with Alzheimer's' led by Claire Micks. It takes place **this evening in the Parish Hall Meeting Room at 8.00pm.** Everyone is welcome.

### Keeping in touch

Text message and email are our main channels of communication. If you have not been getting messages from either Marina Lalor (text) or Sue Barber (email) please do let us have your contact details. Text Marina (086) 224 3573 or email jameson.sue@gmail.com to be included in our message service

A letter from the Rector,  
the Rev'd. Stephen Farrell  
*Dignity in Church Life* page 3.



## Sunday Club

Zion Sunday Club is thriving with many new faces joining in our fortnightly meetings in the Parish Hall. All children between 3 – 10 years old are welcome to attend. We meet during the main service at 10.30am and enjoy arts & crafts, dancing and acting, prayer, songs and stories. At present we are preparing a *Praying in Colour* display

**Dates for upcoming sessions may be found on the notice overleaf.**



## Sunday Club Dates

*We meet on the first and third Sunday each month.*

**The next date for your diary is this coming Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**

6<sup>th</sup> November

20<sup>th</sup> November

4<sup>th</sup> December

18<sup>th</sup> December



## Hurricane Matthew

Hurricane Matthew swept through Haiti on Tuesday last week leaving a trail of devastation in its wake.

Thousands have lost their homes, corn and banana crops have been flattened and livestock carried away.

**Christian Aid** has been working in Haiti for nearly twenty years. Their partners evacuated people as the storm approached, stocked shelters with food and mounted rescue operations to reach those who did not find safe ground on time. Now they are assessing the damage the storm has caused and working out how best to help people.

Please give whatever you can today. email to the Dublin office at [Dublin@christian-aid.org](mailto:Dublin@christian-aid.org) or telephone (01) 496 7040



## Christ Church Cathedral Choir

As part of the Diocesan Music Outreach Project, Christ Church Cathedral Choir will visit St. Mary's Parish Church, Blessington, on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> October to sing a Festival Evensong at 3.30pm.

**You are invited to join the congregation for this special service**

## ZION PARISH RECTORY

18 Bushy Park Road, Dublin 6

3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2016

My dear friends,

One of the features of the Church of Ireland is that it is governed by a Constitution, a relatively short document that is generally quite readable and easily understood. Unlike many Anglican Churches, the Constitution of the Church of Ireland does not only apply to clergy, but applies to all church members, the idea being that we all voluntarily submit to being directed by it when we become church members. That said, I am conscious that most of us have never seen a copy of the Constitution, much less read it. With that in mind, I wanted to draw your attention to a recent addition to the Constitution, entitled 'Dignity in Church Life Charter'.

Church membership implies a commitment to relationship. The gospel invites people into relationship with God and relationship with all who are part of the life of the Church. The pattern of Christian discipleship points to how Christian people are expected to behave in their relationships with one another – church life should be underpinned by respect, valuing everyone's human dignity before God and the pursuit of reconciliation when conflict arises. In this context and in the knowledge that relationships in Church life, as in all life, can be imperfect, the Church has introduced this Charter to ensure Dignity in Church Life for all. In the Charter, the Church commits itself to

- Building and supporting harmonious relationships in church life across its structures;
- Upholding the right of all equally to be treated with dignity and respect;
- Seeking reconciliation where there is disagreement or conflict.

We can all welcome this document. For some years we have had policies in place to look out for the safety of children, but now the Church is tackling the often unseen issues of church life, and the issues that are more frequently faced by adults. No church can be complacent in this regard, nor can any individual. The challenge to each one of us is to honestly assess our own behaviour. We need to ask, are my jokes belittling or demeaning, am I respecting personal space, am I overly tactile or inappropriate in my physical contact with others? There is no licence to do in Church what would not be tolerated in any other sphere of life. In fact, we need to hold ourselves to a higher account, recognising in one another a child of God.

The Dignity in Church Life Charter is available at the back of the Church for anyone who would like to look at it, or it can be found at [www.ireland.anglican.org/resources](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/resources). It contains suggestions for how to deal with conflict, a grievance procedure, advice on reconciliation and a policy on long term clergy illness. I commend it to one and all, and ask for your cooperation in ensuring dignity for all in the life of our parish.

With gratitude for our sharing in the work of the Gospel,

The Reverend Stephen A. Farrell M.A. (Oxon), B.Th., LL.M.