



# CHURCH OF IRELAND The Clogher Diocesan MAGAZINE

Member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

Dec 2020/Jan 2021 £1.50/€1.65

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## YOUR MAGAZINE IN DECEMBER 2020

The Clogher Diocesan Magazine is published monthly except January and August. It is usually available from Parish Churches and other selected outlets by the first Sunday of each month. Annual Subscription £15/€16.50. Postal Subscription £32/€47.50.

Views expressed in the magazine are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Magazine Committee, the Diocese of Clogher nor the Church of Ireland. The Magazine Committee reserves the right to decline any material without assigning a reason. No correspondence can be entered into regarding non-publication of material or advertisements. Names and addresses of contributors must be provided with material submitted and may then be published. The Magazine Committee accepts no responsibility for loss, damage or the return of material.

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### Next Magazine in February 2021

Deadline for submission of material **Friday, 15th January 2021.**

Content to be sent to [editor@clogher.anglican.org](mailto:editor@clogher.anglican.org)

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### Front Cover

Revd Canon Dr Ian Ellis, the Bishop-Elect of Clogher Diocese with his wife, Heather at home at Rossorry Rectory.

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## Carols by Runway Lights: a unique drive-in experience

A unique drive-in carol concert, Carols by Runway Lights is being held at St. Angelo Airport, Enniskillen on Friday 18th December at 7pm, under the illuminated backdrop of the runway lights on one side and Trory Parish Church on the other side.

Soloists Jane McKinley (Soprano) and Revd Mark Gallagher (tenor) will lead in a selection of favourite carols and Christmas pieces, interspersed with bible readings and poems.

Revd Gallagher has pointed out this is a carol concert, not a carol service. The sound will be transmitted through your car radio.

There are no tickets for this event, and parking spaces will be allocated on a first come basis. As there is no charge to get in, there will be collection buckets as you leave the airport.



Revd Canon Dr Ian Ellis and his wife Heather, decorating for Christmas.

## At home with the Bishop-Elect

■ Revd Canon Dr Ian Ellis in conversation with **Brian Donaldson**, Clogher Diocesan Communications Officer

The Revd Canon Dr Ian Ellis will be looking forward to 2021 when he will be consecrated and subsequently enthroned as the next Bishop of Clogher. He was elected by the Episcopal Electoral College for the Diocese of Clogher on Monday, 9th November to succeed the Most Revd John McDowell, now Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland. Canon Ellis, who is rector of Rossorry Parish, the second largest parish in Clogher Diocese, says he is still overwhelmed by the honour bestowed on him. "At times I can't quite believe it has happened. I think of the long line of Bishops of Clogher and wonder how I could possibly find my place in that roll call! However, I realise that the work of the diocese does not just depend on me, there is a marvellous team of clergy, people and talented diocesan staff. Part of the work of the bishop is to lead a team, to help clergy to flourish in their ministry and enable every member to use their gifts in God's service. He said at the heart of vocation is trying to discern the call of God. "I have found over the years in my

adventure of following Jesus Christ, that whenever I have taken a step of faith, he provides the grace and strength to fulfil the calling. He once said to fishermen by the Galilean lake 'Come follow me' and I must trust that ancient call once again. "There is a question put to the candidate in the old ordination service for a deacon 'Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon you this office and ministration...?' The answer is 'I trust so'. I find that a helpful reminder that this all began with a stirring of the Spirit of God and step of faith and trust." It was during a career in teaching that Canon Ellis said he felt that calling to the ordained ministry. He explained; "I had seven very fulfilling years teaching Physics in Antrim Grammar School. During that time, Heather and I were attending St Jude's Church in Muckamore and one Sunday the Rector, Revd Ted Hassen, read out a letter from Bishop McCappin appealing to all to consider the possibility that God might be calling them to ordained ministry. That Sunday I felt that that letter had been written to me. And thus, began a process over a couple of years of trying to discern if that was indeed a call to me. After undergoing the usual church processes of testing

vocation, I was eventually sent to a selection conference and was recommended to the Bishop for training. "One of the most difficult things to do though was to resign from the teaching post which I loved and set out on the first step of a new journey. I have never found change easy and this was the first of many steps of faith which took me to training in Dublin for three years then ordination and ministry in Armagh. In all of this Heather has been wonderfully supportive, and there were testing times as we had to live apart during training as did most other ordinands with families - she with two children in Lisburn and I studying in Dublin. Heather always says she married a teacher not a clergyman – not quite what she had bargained for! However together we have faced many changes and with the help of God have been able to adapt and serve him. For many who know the Bishop-Elect, one of his many strengths in ministry is pastoral work. "I have discovered a great privilege and fulfilment in pastoral work - being with people in times of need, sorrow and joy. When I began as a curate in St Mark's Armagh, a retired clergyman, Canon Tom McGonigle, gave me some advice. I met him one day in the carpark of Craigavon

Area Hospital where he said, 'You're about to go in here to visit your parishioners, remember you are 'the parson'. An old word which means the Person – God's man. To those who are sick you are God's man (or woman!) your call is to bring the presence of God to parishioners in great need by who you are and by the prayers you say'.

I have never forgotten that advice and have tried to remember it in all my encounters with my parishioners. To come near to people and try to bring the presence of God. I think pastoral work is one of the unnoticed strengths of our ministry in the Church of Ireland. I'm conscious too from the ordinal that a key role of a bishop is pastoral, 'to lead in serving and caring for the people of God' – I pray that I may fulfil that call in my new role."

Canon Ellis's foundation in active ministry was laid in Armagh Diocese.

"I was fortunate to have two fine rectors when I was a curate, Dean Charlie Combe and Canon John McKegney. Both had different skill sets and I learnt so much from each; I thank God for their influence on my ministry.

"Most of my ministry in Armagh was as rector of Loughgall and Grange parishes. I learnt much about the nuances of rural ministry, Heather with her farming background helped me cover the basics like the difference between a bullock and a heifer! Above all you learn the influence of the seasons on rural life, the importance of the land and a sense of place, history and identity.

"I find that here too in this diocese, many in a rural community have a heightened sense of spirituality – an appreciation of creation and the Creator. Here is opportunity for the church to help people build on that awareness of the divine and develop a living faith in Jesus Christ.

"I have found that parishes in Clogher tend to be fairly traditional in outlook, we treasure the values of our Anglican heritage, and appreciate the regular rhythms of the Prayer Book liturgies. I have also discovered in Rossorry that people are open to a blended approach and enjoy the vitality of modern hymns and music alongside the well-known traditional hymns. We enjoy the best of the old and the freshness of the new.

"Armagh like Clogher diocese suffered much during the 'troubles' period - many parishioners were killed by acts of terrorism and so many families continue to live with traumas of the past. Some of my most enduring memories are of being present in the aftermath of such devastating events and trying to find words of comfort in the midst of searing loss. Those were terrible times and we thank God things have changed, yet there is so much still to be done to help fractured lives find inner

healing and support for their future."

Canon Ellis has had more than parish ministry in his vocation and spent 12 years as Secretary to the Church of Ireland's Board of Education in NI.

"This role was fascinating for me as it combined my experience of being a teacher and parish clergyman. The Board had a responsibility at a policy level in education to represent the Church of Ireland to the Department of Education and MLAs. I also enjoyed working with Presbyterian and Methodist Church educationalists in the Transferor Representatives' Council. Together we were able to secure the rights of the Protestant churches in Controlled schools and the Education Authority as well as establish the Controlled Schools Support Council. I also worked with colleagues from the Catholic Schools particularly around shared education and the RE curriculum.

"The Board also has a duty to advise bishops, clergy and parishes on Safeguarding Trust. We also had a role in Children's Ministry and for many years contributed to the Building Blocks Children's



**"Our challenge is to turn a virtual congregation of 'followers and viewers' into a worshipping congregation in our churches. So many dimensions of church life have been impacted – social interaction, fund-raising, pastoral contact, children's and youth work and finance"**

REVD CANON DR IAN ELLIS

ministry conferences.

"Communication is a key part of both teaching and parish ministry - it is so important to find ways of communicating the Gospel and to expound the scriptures in ways that are relevant and engage with hearts and minds today. That is our challenge every Sunday as we speak to children and adults alike.

"Schools are an important point of contact and connection for the churches. We have an enormous privilege of serving on school boards and speaking at Assemblies. I believe we have a role in ensuring a holistic education for children and that Christian faith is in the ethos of our schools.

Canon Ellis's skillset has been put to good use in Clogher Diocese already. "Although I have only been in the diocese

for five years, I have valued all the experiences diocesan life has brought me. In 2015 Archbishop John appointed me as representative Canon in St Patrick's Dublin. I have enjoyed my residences and opportunities to preach, to enjoy the choral music and ambience of the very historic cathedral. It is one of those reminders that we are members of a very ancient church. "I am very aware of the huge responsibility of the new role! I firstly look forward to getting to know the clergy and people of the diocese. I hope we can further develop the sense of family, to encourage people to find faith in Christ and to grow in their faith, to discover their gifts and offer them in his service, and together to develop a diocese of all the talents.

"Undoubtedly the greatest challenge facing the churches is to rebuild parish life after Coronavirus. So many families have lost a loved one or had their health or livelihood impacted by Covid 19, so many hearts and lives broken. In society too many businesses have had their viability imperiled.

"Parishes have however become very adaptable during the period of high restrictions and most now have some kind of online presence. This would have been unthinkable 12 months ago. Our challenge is to turn a virtual congregation of 'followers and viewers' into a worshipping congregation in our churches. So many dimensions of church life have been impacted – social interaction, fund-raising, pastoral contact, children's and youth work and finance. Somehow, we must re-energise, re-engage with parishioners with a realisation that many norms will have changed," he said.

Canon Ellis likes to relax by playing the guitar and watercolour sketching.

He and his wife, Heather have three grown up children; Mark (Dublin), Timothy (London) and Naomi (Scotland) as well as his mother, .....

..... in Lisburn who are extremely proud. "They are very pleased for me and are a great encouragement as Heather and I make ready for one final move. My mother is almost 90 years old and has told me too that it is indeed a great honour. "She grew up in Fermanagh many years ago and has sisters who still live here – she is very fond of this area and still enjoys reading the Impartial Reporter!"

He finishes off with the following;

"A verse that has helped me over the years is Proverbs 3:5-6;

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not rely on your own insight.*

*In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.*

"And I find great help in challenging situations from Philippians 4:13;

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me'

# PARISH NOTES

## Aghadrumsee, Clogh & Drumsnatt



Church Army Officer  
**Captain David  
Hamilton**

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Stonebridge, Clones, Co. Monaghan.  
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### Services

#### Sunday 6th December

Aghadrumsee 12.05pm Holy Communion  
Clogh 10.45am Holy Communion  
Drumsnatt 9.30am Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 13th December

Aghadrumsee 4.00pm Morning Prayer  
Clogh 10.45am Morning Prayer  
Drumsnatt 9.30am Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 20th December

Aghadrumsee 4.00pm Carol Service  
Clogh 10.45am Seven Lessons & Carols

#### Christmas Day

Clogh 10.00am Holy Communion

#### Sunday 27th December



Clogh Church in a winter scene.

Aghadrumsee 12.05pm Morning Prayer  
Drumsnatt 9.30am Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 3rd January

Aghadrumsee 12.05pm Holy Communion  
Clogh 10.45am Holy Communion  
Drumsnatt 9.30am Holy Communion

#### Sunday 10th January

Aghadrumsee 4.00pm Morning Prayer  
Clogh 10.45am Morning Prayer  
Drumsnatt 9.30am Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 17th January

Aghadrumsee 4.00pm Morning Prayer  
Clogh 10.45am Morning Prayer  
Drumsnatt 9.30am Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 24th January

Aghadrumsee 4.00pm Morning Prayer  
Clogh 10.45am Morning Prayer  
Drumsnatt 9.30am Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 31st January

Aghadrumsee 4.00pm Morning Prayer  
Clogh 10.45am Morning Prayer

Drumsnatt 9.30am Morning Prayer  
*(Services in Drumsnatt are subject to  
restrictions being lifted in Southern Ireland.)*

### Baptism

Aaron Luke, son of Dean and Yvonne  
Robinson was baptised in St Marks,  
Aghadrumsee on 15th November. We wish  
them and their family God's richest blessing  
at this special time.

### Sympathy

We would like to express our sincere  
sympathy to Trevor and Thelma Johnston  
and family on the death of Thelma's father.

### Christmas wishes

Finally we would like to wish everyone a  
very Happy and safe Christmas and New  
Year.

## Aghalurcher and Cooneen with Mullaghfad



Rector: **The Revd  
John McClenaghan**

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### SERVICES DECEMBER

#### Sunday 6

10.45am Colebrooke, Holy Communion  
12.15pm Cooneen, Holy Communion

#### Sunday 13

10.45am Colebrooke, MP on Sunday  
7.00pm Cooneen, Carol Service

#### Sunday 20

11.00am Cooneen, MP on Sunday  
7.00pm Colebrooke, Carol Service

#### Thursday 24

11.30pm Colebrooke, Holy Communion  
Friday 25

10.00am Cooneen, Christmas Family  
Communion

### JANUARY

#### Sunday 3

10.45am Colebrooke, Holy Communion  
12.15pm Cooneen, Holy Communion

#### Sunday 10

10.45am Colebrooke, MP on Sunday  
12.15pm Cooneen, MP on Sunday

#### Sunday 17

10.45am Colebrooke, MP on Sunday  
12.15pm Cooneen, MP on Sunday

#### Sunday 24

10.45am Colebrooke, MP on Sunday  
12.15pm Cooneen, MP on Sunday

#### Sunday 31

10.45am Colebrooke, MP on Sunday  
12.15pm Cooneen, MP on Sunday

From the beginning of the lockdown in  
March, recordings of all our services have  
been available each week by phone,  
Facebook and the parish website and are  
still available at these addresses:

Phone-in service number: 028 8927 0927  
[www.facebook.com/colebrooke](http://www.facebook.com/colebrooke)  
[www.colebrookeparish.org/online-services](http://www.colebrookeparish.org/online-services)

## Remembrance Service

Unfortunately, along with everyone else in the country, we were unable to hold our usual Service of Remembrance in Colebrooke this year. In place of the normal parade, a small service was held at each of the memorials on the traditional parade route, from Brookeborough to Fivemiletown. At Colebrooke a wreath was laid at the UDR memorial in the church grounds before the beginning of the Service of Remembrance, during which four wreaths were laid inside at our memorial.

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Holy Baptism

On Sunday 15th November 2020, in St Ronan's, Colebrooke, Emily Morrison, daughter of Susan and Clive, was baptized into the Christian faith. Godparents were Jillian and Alan Moore, and we wish God's blessing on both of these little ones, and their families, for the years ahead.

### Organisations

Due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, our parish organisations will not be meeting. When things return to normal, they will operate as follows:-

#### GFS – Girls Friendly Society

The branch meets on Monday, at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall for girls 3 years and upwards, and new members will be made very welcome, taking part in games, cookery, craft, bible study and especially having lots of fun..

#### Colebrooke/Cooneen Scout Group

The Scouts meet on Tuesday from 7pm-8.15pm for boys and girls aged 4-11 years, and continues to 9.15pm Scouts, 11 – 14 years.

The leaders provide a wide range of Scouting skills.

Squirrels (4 - 6 years)

Beavers (6 – 8 years)

Cubs (8 – 11 years)

Scouts (11 – 14 years)



Remembrance at Colebrooke.

### Bowling Club

The Bowling Club meet in the Parish Hall on Thursday at 7.45pm.

New members are very welcome, whether new to the sport, or an absolute beginner. If you do not have your own bowls, but would like to have a try, come along, spend some time with us, and see if you catch the bug.

### Colebrooke and Cooneen Mothers' Union

The leaders involved in The Pantry Food Bank, Lisnaskea, send their sincere thanks to all parishioners of Colebrooke Parish Church who generously donated supplies at the Harvest Service recently. Mothers' Union members were happy to deliver these to the Food Bank.

The members of Colebrooke and Cooneen Mothers' Union are continuing to keep in touch through phone calls and social media. The Trustees have sent out another newsletter so enjoy the prayers, puzzles, pictures and recipes. The letter includes a Prayer Diary and two bookmarks to highlight the '16 Day Campaign Against Gender Based Violence.' Members are asked to give at least one of the bookmarks away and share the diary with family and friends. Please continue to pray for the issues raised. The letter also includes the MU Prayer



At the baptism for the Morrison family.

Diary for 2021 and The Bible Society Daily Reading guide.

The theme for Mothers' Union next year is 'Rebuilding Hope and Confidence' and meetings will resume when Church of Ireland guidelines allow. We look forward to meeting face to face again soon.

### The Mary Sumner Prayer

All this Day, O Lord,  
let me touch as many lives  
as possible for thee;  
and every life I touch  
do thou by thy spirit quicken,  
whether through the word I speak,  
the prayer I breathe,  
or the life I live.  
Amen

## Aghavea



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McLoughlin**

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Email: aghavea@clogher.anglican.org

## Christmas is upon us

I've heard many people complain that Christmas is cancelled this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic! While there will be a certain amount of curtailment due to the current restrictions, and despite the best planning that we can provide – Christmas will happen this year as usual! I hope that we can continue to celebrate together in church, and our plans are set out in these notes, but we need to be prepared to obey the social restrictions and rules as they develop.

I sincerely wish that everyone can enjoy the Christmas period as best they can.

Christmas is a time of celebration based firmly around the birth of Jesus, and is a time when "family" is at the centre of all we hope for, and we appreciate that this might be difficult this year. While there is a sense of disappointment that we cannot carry on as we always have done, and that our services might follow a slightly different schedule, the "reason for the season" is always around Christ and the love of God given to the world in the birth of God's Son.

### Advent

Our cycle of services has changed completely this year as a response to



the C-19 pandemic. Each day, the rector streams a service of either Morning or Evening Prayer (sometimes both), and that will continue throughout the Advent period. In preparation for the birth of Jesus, we are going to read the four Gospels – one per week until we approach Christmas. Each Sunday, starting on Advent Sunday (29th November), we will have a short introduction to that week's Gospel, and we will read it throughout the week:

**Matthew** – Monday 30th November to Friday 4th December

**Mark** – Monday 7th December to Friday 11th December

**Luke** – Monday 14th December to Friday 18th December

**John** – Monday 21st December to Thursday 24th December

The video streams will be on the Rector's Facebook profile (<https://m.facebook.com/johnny.mcloughlin>), and linked from our parish website ([www.aghavea.blogspot.com](http://www.aghavea.blogspot.com)).

## Thanks

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to our Two Wheeled Adventure. I would like to thank everyone who helped out on a fantastic day. So far we have raised well over £2000 towards our Building Fund. Congratulations! See full report on page 65.

## Condolences

Our prayers and condolences are extended to those families who will be missing their own loved ones in this period. We pray that the peace of God will be given at this difficult period.

## Church Societies

The members of the Mothers' Union in Aghavea would like to thank all their members for their patience and understanding throughout this year. Although we haven't been able to meet as normal, we have been together in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward

to next year, getting back to some sort of normality and meeting again monthly. As soon as we can, we will let you know our plans.

Similarly, our Bowls Club would normally have held their Annual Fun Tournament week at the end of October/start of November, and we would be recording the results in this issue. Unfortunately, the current restrictions have put paid to their plans so far this season. Should anything change, the club will resume with all precautions and risk assessments.

## Sunday School

Our Sunday School hasn't been able to meet yet, but we still consider them as a vital part of our church, and wish to have some input from them this year at our Nativity Sunday - whether they can be there or not! I have managed to find some colouring pages that I'm asking our children to colour in. You can find the pictures on the parish website – just download or print them and send them back. I have three groups - pre-school, early primary and older primary/secondary. Having said that - anyone can colour in any or all of the pictures if they wish! Even the adults are welcome to submit a coloured picture. Just select the image, print it out, send it back to me! Simple!

Make sure you put your name on the page, and have it back to the church, or to the Rectory by 6th December. You can bring it to church, scan and email it, you can take a photo on your phone and send it to me, or post it through the letterbox!

I'd love for everyone to send both pictures, or at least the one with the Nativity scene. We will be showing the pictures on the screens on the Nativity Sunday. If you are able to come along that Sunday, everyone will be very welcome!

## Remembrance

Thank you to Nuala Atwell, leader of our Girls' Friendly Society who took part in the annual Remembrance in the village

before attending the church service. Poppy wreaths laid in honour of the fallen soldiers, civilians and security forces who paid such a dear cost for our democracy and freedom in today's world. This year we also remembered our NHS and keyworkers who served our society throughout the current pandemic. Thank you to all our heroes! All proceeds from the service that Sunday were donated to the Earl Haig Fund.

## Upcoming Church Services

There is a busy period of Church services throughout December and January. Our Children's Nativity Service will be on 13th December at 11am, and the theme of the service will be about the Birth of Jesus and will have a child-friendly presentation. Join us either in person, or online as usual. Our Nine Lessons and Carols Service will be at our morning service at 11am on Sunday 20th December. Due to the restrictions placed upon us regarding using premises within 72 hours, we cannot hold a second service in the evening, and the band would not be able to attend with the social distancing restrictions. Again, join us in person, or online.

There will be a service of Holy Communion on Christmas Eve at 11pm in the Parish Hall. On Christmas morning we will have a Family Service at 10.30am, at which our young people will be allowed (or really expected) to bring some of their Christmas presents – of course, the "young-at-heart" can bring presents too if they feel so inclined.

On Sunday 27th December, there will not be a service in church (as it's less than 72 hours since the Christmas service), so our online service will be a Morning Prayer Service from the rectory. I hope everyone will be able to understand our reasoning, and will join me online that morning. I have a suspicion that it'll have a Christmas theme, and I might even have a special guest or two – you'll have to join me to find out more!

There will also be a Watch-Night Service on 31st December at 11pm in the Parish Hall, to celebrate the end of this year and the start of the 2021. With God's help, it'll be a better year than its predecessor!

Our services will return to their normal routine during January, Holy Communion on 4th January, and Morning Prayer on 11th, 18th and 25th January. Our Family Services will resume when we meet together normally again.

## And finally

Keep safe, keep washing your hands, keep socially distanced, keep well! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all!



## Ballybay, Clontibret & Muckno



Rector: **The Revd  
Elaine Dunne.**

The Rectory, Drumcru, Castleblaney,  
Co. Monaghan.

T: 042 9740483

E: ballybay@clogher.anglican.org

### Election of new Bishop

We extend our warmest congratulations and good wishes to Revd. Canon Dr. Ian Ellis on his appointment as our new Bishop. We assure him of our prayers and support as he prepares for this new phase in his ministry.

### Forthcoming Services

At the time of writing it is uncertain whether or not we will be able to meet together in our church buildings for the annual carol services and Christmas services. Parishioners will be notified once information is available.

### Services via "Zoom"

As we still can't gather together to worship in our churches at present, parishioners are invited to join together via "Zoom" for a short service of Morning Prayer at 11.15 a.m. each Sunday. The service will be followed by a coffee meeting via "Zoom" where everyone will have an opportunity to chat together.

For those unfamiliar with "Zoom", it's an online platform for people to hold meetings and, in our case, worship virtually. You can access it from many devices such as smartphones, iPads, laptops or desktop computers – see <https://zoom.us/>

Anyone who doesn't have a prayer book and a hymn book at home (or enough for everyone in their household who may wish to participate in the service) can contact the Rector who will post an outline of Morning Prayer 2, as well as the hymns and psalms, for forthcoming services to them.

### Advent

*This Advent we give you our thanks,  
O God our Father, for the gift of your*

*Son Jesus Christ,  
whose coming was proclaimed by  
prophets of old and  
who was born for us in lowliness and  
poverty at Bethlehem.  
As we make ready once again to celebrate  
his birth,  
we ask you to fill our hearts with joy and  
peace.  
Help us, in all the busyness of these days,  
to find time to think of what Christmas  
really means:  
of your love for the world,  
of the coming of the promised Redeemer,  
of the wonder of the Word made flesh.  
Enable us to welcome Christ as our  
Saviour,  
so that when he comes again in his glory  
and majesty  
he may find in us a people prepared for  
himself. Amen.*

### Sunday School

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 situation, we have been unable to resume Sunday School. In order to provide for the faith development of the young people in our parishes over the coming months, the Sunday School teachers in each parish will prepare activities which the children can do at home. We thank all of them for their help and support.

### "Team Hope" Shoe Box Appeal 2020

For the past number of years the Parish Hall in Castleblaney has been used to sort, fill and pack shoeboxes for "Team Hope", an Irish, Christian international development organisation working to help children affected by poverty in Africa and Eastern Europe.

Unfortunately, this year, due to Covid-19, it will not be physically possible to collect shoeboxes, fillers or run a checking centre, so "Team Hope" have decided to go online. Shoeboxes can now be donated online for €20 at [www.teamhope.ie](http://www.teamhope.ie). Creating a shoe box is a personal thing. Every box is unique and part of the fun is choosing what goes into your gift. The online experience allows for that excitement and gives you the opportunity to personalise your gift in a number of different ways. "Team Hope" needs you to spread the word about their online appeal. This Christmas share a little joy



Team Hope is going online this year.



Sunday School children can prepare work at home.

and excitement with children who live in circumstances where they have little or nothing. Anyone who wishes to donate, or has no access to the internet, can contact Janet Hill, South Monaghan Co-ordinator, Church Street, Castleblaney.

### Mothers' Union Blessing Bags

Clogher Diocesan Mothers' Union recently provided a "Blessing Bag" for every Mothers' Union member and all of the Rectors in the Diocese. Each bag contained a booklet of practical activities as well as some prayers and insightful scripture passages prepared by some Trustees. The bags also contained, amongst other things, a notebook, a pen, sachets of dried soup, porridge and hot chocolate, packets of tissues and biscuits, and a reusable facemask. We congratulate the Mothers' Union on this initiative.

### Email

If you have an email address and would like to receive emails relating to our group of parishes, please speak to the Rector.

### Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to John Duffy, Clontibret Parish, on the recent passing of his aunt in England. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

### Prayers

Please remember in your prayers all those from our group of parishes who have been unwell, lonely, troubled or saddened in recent months.

Please also remember all those who have been diagnosed with the Covid-19 virus, those in our community who are fearful or isolated, all frontline staff, those who have become unemployed as a result of the current crisis and all who have been affected in any way.

## Carrickmacross Union, Magheraclone and Ardragh



Rector:  
The Revd  
Colin McConaghie

The Rectory, Drumconrath Road,  
Carrickacross, Co. Monaghan.

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### Services

At the time of going to print we have still no certainty as to whether or not we will be allowed to return to in-church worship throughout December and January. If we are back into the church building services will be as follows:

- St Finbarr's, Carrickmacross each Sunday at 10.30am and St Molua's, Magheraclone – each Sunday at 12noon (barring Sunday 28th December).
- St Patrick's Ardragh – Sunday 13th December, 10th and 24th January.
- Christmas Eve – St Patrick's, Ardragh 7pm; St Molua's, Magheraclone 11pm
- Christmas Day – St Finbarr's, Carrickmacross Holy Communion 9am and family worship with Holy Communion 10.30am  
*(Christmas Eve and Christmas day services MUST be pre-booked)*
- Sunday 31st January United Service in St Finbarr's
- Midweek Holy Communion in St Finbarr's, Carrickmacross every Wednesday at 11am except 23rd and 30th December.

Alternatively, services will be on our Facebook Page each Sunday at 11am and Wednesday at 8pm. Please check our Facebook page (Carrickmacross Group Church of Ireland) for up to date information.

### Deeper Into The Bible - Advent Study

This years Advent Bible Study will take place online over the first three Wednesday evenings in December at 8pm. Our overall theme this year will be 'journey' as we together and personally travel through this period of waiting for Christ. Each study will



Revd Colin lays the wreath on Remembrance Sunday.

last approximately half an hour and will be available on our Facebook page.

- 2nd December: The journey from darkness to light
- 9th December: The journey of uncertainty
- 16th December: The journey of hope

### Christmas Services

Due to restrictions, numbers are likely to be limited at our services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. As these services are always very well attended, we have decided to introduce a second service on Christmas morning in St Finbarr's. The Family Service with Holy Communion takes place at the normal time of 10.30am with an earlier service of Holy Communion at 9am (with the church being cleaned between services). Numbers will also be restricted at our Christmas Eve Services. To ensure that people are not turned away, all of our Christmas services will require pre-booking via Rev Colin.

If we are unable to open the church

building for Christmas alternative online arrangements will be made.

### Sunday School Nativity

Unfortunately, due to restrictions our Sunday School has continued at home only since restarting in September. These restrictions mean that we cannot have our annual Christmas Nativity in the church this year. However, all is not lost with the use of technology enabling us hopefully to enjoy the wonderful spectacle of our children in dressing gowns, tea-towelled heads and looking like little angels.

Please look out for what may be revealed on both our Facebook page and on-screen during a church service if that is possible.

### Shoe Boxes For The Homeless – Annual Christmas Appeal

This Christmas for our annual appeal we are supporting the work of a local charity 'Help Our Homeless.' The charity aims to distribute 500 shoebox presents to people who find



Parishioners sharing their favourite scriptures online.

themselves homeless. The shoeboxes can be filled with toiletries, hats, gloves, snack bars, pot noodles, small gift etc. wrapped and labelled either for a man or woman. We are also asking for donations of sleeping bags.

We will be collecting the gifts over the first two Sunday's in December. If the church building remains closed shoeboxes can be left at the Rectory.

Each year we are overwhelmed by the response to our Christmas Appeals so please give what you can to bring some cheer to someone who finds themselves in desperate need.

We also continue our monthly collection of non-perishable food items for the Carrickmacross Foodbank.

### Community Carol Service

While it isn't possible to hold either our Services of Lessons and Carols or the Community Ecumenical Carol Service this year, we feel that it is important to relay the wonderful Christmas message of light and hope to our community in what has been a very difficult year. As a thank you to local businesses we are working with the Chamber of Commerce, the local

Council, local musicians and our friends in St Joseph's RC church to produce an online service with readings from local businesses and messages of hope from local representatives.

We hope that the readings and singing will be a real blessing to our community as we are reminded that Jesus came into the world to bring hope to the world and that the love of our Saviour is for all in our community.

### My Favourite Scripture

Throughout November parishioners from across our three churches recorded short video messages of themselves sharing their favourite verse or passage of Scripture and why it meant so much to them. This was a great way of enabling us to keep in touch while physically apart and allowing us to share something of our faith with the videos being posted on our Facebook Page.

### Carrick Chatter Magazine

Look out for the Christmas edition of our Church Magazine "Carrick Chatter" which will be available in December. The magazine won't quite have as many pictures and stories of church activities as previous years due to so many things being cancelled over

the year but it is a wonderful tool for letting others know what's happening in our Group of Churches so once you've read it why not pass it on to a friend!

### St Finbarr's Cookery Book

There are still copies of our fundraising Recipe Book "From Parish to Plate" available to buy for €10, these would make great stocking fillers or Christmas presents. The cookbook was the brainchild of Emma Merrin who along with Helen Sweetnam compiled a book full of recipes donated to us by parishioners and friends. The book has been beautifully illustrated by Linda Merrin and contains a wide range of recipes savory and sweet for the whole year round. Mixed in with the recipes are a number of little funny stories and prayers written by Rosaleen Coleman and others.

### Congratulations

As a group of parishes, we pass our congratulations to Canon Ian Ellis on his appointment as Bishop Elect of our Diocese of Clogher. We assure Bishop Elect Ian, his wife Heather and their family of our prayers as he prepares for and when he begins his new role of overseeing our Diocese.

## Cleenish & Mullaghduin



Rector:  
The Revd Canon  
Geoffrey Bridle

Cleenish Rectory, Bellanaleck, Enniskillen,  
Co. Fermanagh. BT92 2BA

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W: www.cleenishparish.weebly.com

### Organisations

Due to the present Coronavirus Covid-19 situation, organisations are cancelled for the immediate future. If urgent assistance is required contact Canon Bridle 02866 348259. Rosemary Forde in Cleenish 02866 322795, or Heather Carson in Mullaghduin 02866 323390.

### Sunday Services for December and January

10.00am M.P. Mullaghduin  
11.30am M.P. Cleenish



Dessi Smyth lays a wreath at the Remembrance Service.

### Dates for your Diary

Thursday 24th December, Christmas Eve:  
11:30pm H.C. Mullaghduin  
Friday 25th December, Christmas Day:  
09:30am H.C. Mullaghduin  
11:00am H.C. Cleenish

### Weekly News

Never before during our natural lifetime has there been greater need for prayer, as the Covid-19 is rife throughout our land, and at time of writing it is very common especially in parts of Cleenish Parish. It would not be appropriate to mention those known to us

who are affected by this pandemic, and we pray with God's help to wish each and every one a speedy recovery. Remember to pray for our Doctors and Nurses, and all the Medical Staff treating this terrible infection. Christmas will be different this year especially for our children, as Santa will not be able to meet in public in our Towns and Villages, and more especially in our local Church Halls, for their annual Christmas Party.

We are again grateful to those who give of their time week by week to prepare our churches so that we can continue to worship in a safe environment.



## Harvest Service

Cleenish Parish Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held on Sunday morning, 18th October. Parish Reader Rowena assisted the Rector in leading the Service, and following several months when singing was not appropriate because of the Coronavirus pandemic, it was a joy to be able to join in singing (using masks) two Hymns, "Come Ye Thankful People Come", and "For The Fruits of His Creation." The main theme of the service was the bible readings "Elimelech Moves His Family to Moab" and "Noah and Ruth Return".

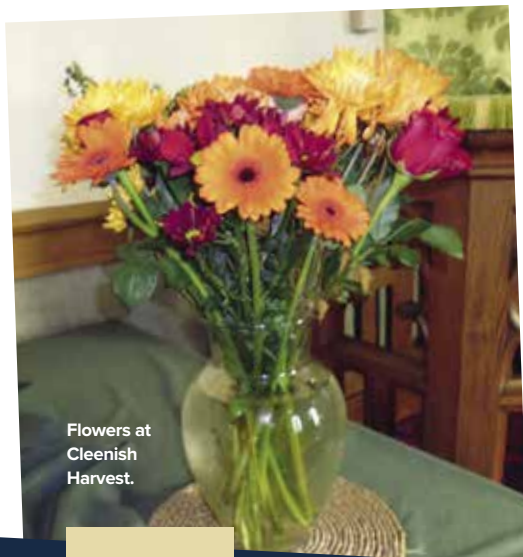
## Remembrance Services

### Mullaghduin

John Ryan assisted the Rector with the Act of Remembrance, with a recording of the Last Post and Reveille being used due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prayers were led by Rowena Sheridan and Elizabeth Hazlett played the organ for the (masked) singing of the hymn "Lord While For All The World We Pray" and the National Anthem.

### Cleenish

The Service was conducted by Canon Geoff, assisted by Rowena. Wreaths were laid by Dessi Smyth on behalf of the security forces, Ashley Beaumont on behalf of the Youth, and Cecil Brownlee, Peoples' Churchwarden, on behalf of the Parish. The lesson was read by George Thornton, and



Flowers at Cleenish Harvest.

a recording of the Last Post and Reveille was sounded. Joan Brownlee played the key-board.

## Cleenish & Mullaghduin Mothers' Union

Unfortunately, meetings remain on hold awaiting direction from our All-Ireland President in line with Covid-19 restrictions. Meanwhile members are encouraged to continue their outreach through practical support, which includes the annual Samaritan Purse Appeal, and food supplies for the homeless.

Members are encouraged to support Mothers' Union Enterprise in the preparation for Christmas through purchasing cards, diaries and gifts.

Leader Lettie trusts we will all continue to pray and support each other, and endeavour to follow guidance to remain safe until we can meet again as a Group.

## Bereavement

### Rosaleen (Rosie) Johnston

We express sympathy with the family circle of Rosaleen (Rosie) Johnston, who passed away in the South West Acute Hospital on Saturday 17th October. Formerly Leonard, Rosie was a familiar figure at Mullaghduin Church where she attended faithfully for many years and was also a member of the Mothers' Union. She was the widow of the late Thomas (Tommy) Johnston who died in 1983; and mother of Gladys (Lancelot), Barbara (Robert) and Foster (Arlene); a devoted grandmother and a much-loved sister and aunt. A Service of Thanksgiving for Rosie's life was held in Mullaghduin Parish Church on Tuesday 20th October. Due to COVID-19 regulations friends and neighbours paid their respects by gathering close to her former home, and along the route to the Church.

### Sympathy

#### Kenneth John Kingston

Deepest sympathy is expressed to Trevor Kingston from the members of Cleenish Select Vestry, following the death of his brother John, Cappog Road, Enniskillen,

who passed away suddenly on Tuesday 3rd November. Sympathy is also expressed to his beloved wife Jacqueline who cared for him for many years during his long illness. John is survived by his children; George, Ross, and Sarah. He was laid to rest after a Service in St John's Church, Florencecourt, on Sunday 8th November.

### Maud Derrick

Deepest sympathy is expressed to Shirley Sheridan on the death of her sister-in-law Maud Derrick who passed away in Manchester on Monday 2nd November. Maud paid a regular visit to Shirley on an annual basis.

### John Carson

Deepest sympathy is extended to Harry Carson, Skea Road, Arney, from the parishioners of Cleenish on the death of his brother, John in the South West Acute Hospital, on Saturday 14th November.

## Congratulations

The Rector and Parishioners in both Cleenish and Mullaghduin send sincere congratulations to Canon Dr Ian Ellis, at present Rector of our neighbouring Parish in Rossorry, on his appointment as Bishop of Clogher. We look forward to having his wife Heather and himself visit one of our Churches after he takes up his new elevated position.

Also congratulations and best wishes to Miss Sarah Louise Collum, who graduated from University of Liverpool as occupational therapist in July and now employed in Warrington Hospital.

## Mullaghduin Car Park

The work commenced March 2020 and should be completed in 2021. The stages that are complete are widening the gate entrance and repairs to original gates, rebuilding one stone pillar, excavation, drainage, fencing, electricity pole removal, construction of retaining wall, paving, kerbing and bases in for the lighting. Next stages include lighting, hedge planting, and then possibly tarmac surfacing. The work was planned and undertaken by Stanley Moffatt who worked on his own during

lockdown with his own machinery, and during the summer had assistance from Tommy Elliott and Geoffrey Lucy.

### **Bellanaleck Community Group**

The Secretary has been awarded a Certificate of Recognition by Fermanagh Rural Community Network for work undertaken to ensure the needs of the Bellanaleck Community are met, and his standard of administration which is well deserved.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions our annual Children's Party is cancelled. A request has been made to Dfi Roads, about damage to part of Waterhen Lane as a result of heavy rain during August. Consultation on the future of the Stroke Unit, in the SW Acute Hospital is on hold due to Covid-19.

A request has been made for an additional litter bin in the Community Garden. Members of the public have made comments on the way the Community Garden has been kept tidy during the summer season. Many thanks are due to the staff from Dfi who keep the



**Owen Wilson with the Certificate of Recognition.**

grass cut in various stages, from a two-weekly cut to three times a year depending on location within the Garden

Should any parishioner in Cleenish require assistance within the public domain in the Village area, contact Owen Wilson (Sec) 02866 349602, or Sharon Elliott 077325 21533.

Reminder, the monthly report is displayed on the notice board immediately to the left of the door into Cathcart's shop.

### **Holy Baptism**

#### **Cleenish Parish Church**

Sunday 25th October 2020

Harley Ree Wilson, infant daughter of Katie and Raymond Wilson  
Ballycassidy

### **Christian Burials**

#### **Mullaghduin Parish Church**

Tuesday 20th October 2020,

Rosaleen Johnston, 3 Heathdale View,  
Letterbreen aged 89 years

#### **Cleenish Parish Church**

Monday 16th November 2020

John Ivan Carson, 40 Crownhall Road,  
Mullaghlevin, Enniskillen, aged 92 years

## **Clogher Cathedral Group**



Rector:  
**The Revd Olivia  
Downey**

The Rectory, 10 Augher Road,  
Clogher, Co. Tyrone. BT76 0AD

T: 028 8554 8804  
M: 07792 728495  
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Diocesan Pastoral Assistant:  
**Miss Isobel Stewart**

### **From the Rector's Desk**

As I write these notes in mid-November the last of nature's beautiful multi-coloured display of leaves are fluttering to the ground. Over the last weeks they have glowed and danced in the breeze, different shapes sizes and colours culminated to form a spectacle no human hand could recreate. When you gaze up to see what has replaced them, the often twisted brown branches seem a very poor substitute indeed, yet within these very dull lifeless looking limbs there is life, and life in all it's

fullness. Just because we can't see it as yet for it's true potential, these branches are simply taking a rest before the cycle is visible to us once more. Perhaps in this strange pandemic time there is an encouragement for us as we gaze up at what we so often term as 'bare branches.' Over the last months and even as we prepare for Christmas, a lot of things which generally bring colour and joy to our lives have either been limited or not possible at all, and for some of us life may well seem a little like those bare branches. But take heart, we have hope, this is why CHRIST is the heart of CHRISTMAS! Over 2000 years ago Jesus was born into a dark world and the light and life which He brought has never been put out, John Chapter 10:10 reminds us that Jesus came that WE might have life, and have it to the full. So, the next time you are missing seeing the things that normally bring that little bit of joy and colour into your life, remember the branches – there is always hope. Most importantly of all remember when things seem dark, remember the light and life and hope that Jesus still (if we ask Him) can bring into and transform even the darkest of situations. Jesus IS the light of the world! "I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46

### **Group Christmas Services**

Carol Services - Sunday 13th December at 10am in St. Mary's Errigal Portclare.



- Sunday 20th December at 11.30am in St. Mark's Newtownsaville.

- Sunday 20th December at 7pm in St. Macartan's Cathedral.

(Please note there is no morning service in the Cathedral on Sunday 20th December).  
Christmas Eve - 24th December at 9 pm St. Mark's Newtownsaville - A Service of Holy Communion.

Christmas Day - 25th December at 10am in St. Macartan's Cathedral - A Service of Holy Communion

Sunday 27th December - Online service only, there will be no services in the group

on this Sunday.

\* Please note that these are the arrangements at time of going to print, however these may be subject to change, please check parish facebook pages and parish news.

### Confirmation

Unfortunately, due to lockdown our planned service of confirmation this May was unable to be held. Hopefully when our new Bishop has been enthroned, we will be able to arrange a date for 2021. I know this is frustrating, however, in the meantime I do encourage our young people to attend our Sunday services within our group of parishes. Please continue to pray for those who are considering confirmation.

### Diocesan Magazine Subscriptions

Miss Heather Fannin has taken over the oversight for the Diocesan Magazine subscription for the Cathedral and Mrs Eileen Bell has taken over the oversight of the Magazine for St. Mark's Newtownsaville. Please help all our magazine coordinators by having your subscription paid at the beginning of the year. If you would like to receive the Diocesan Magazine please speak to the coordinator for your parish.

### The amazing Mrs Violet Clarke

Last month in this magazine I had the great pleasure of marking the 101st birthday of a dear Newtownsaville parishioner Mrs Violet Clarke. Sadly just three weeks to the day after Violet celebrated her birthday (as photographed below) Violet went to be with her Saviour. Violet's funeral cortege paused briefly at her little house before



Mrs Violet Clarke celebrating her 101st Birthday!

making it's way lined with friends and neighbours to St. Mark's Parish Church Newtownsaville, after a brief service conducted by the Rector, Violet returned to her native Cloverhill, County Cavan where again friends and family gathered to say their final goodbye to a little lady who held a special place in so many hearts. Violet lived out her Christian faith with every fibre of her being, and as a result left deep fingerprints of her faith on all she met. Violet will be greatly missed not only by her family, but also her friends and neighbours and church family of St. Mark's.

*"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. They are blessed indeed, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labours."*

Revelation Chapter 14 verse 13

### Marriage

On Thursday 22nd October in St. Macartan's Cathedral we had the joy of celebrating the marriage of Miss Danielle Egerton and Mr David Morgan. We wish them both God's richest blessings as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

### 2020 Shoebox Appeal!

Thank you to everyone in our Group of Parishes who contributed a 'Shoebox' to the appeal. 47 shoeboxes have been sent by our group along with some donations, so well done everyone, you have undoubtedly made a huge difference to a lot of children this Christmas.

### Prayer Requests / Prayer Team

At the beginning of October we launched our 'prayer request boxes,' and I am very pleased to say they are being well used. These little boxes are placed in the porch of each church in our group and clearly marked 'prayer requests.' Parishioner or visitors are encouraged to write whatever they would like prayer for on a piece of paper and pop it into the box. This may be a prayer request for yourself or someone you know, you may be battling with something you haven't told another person, you may be struggling with family issues, relationship issues or perhaps loneliness. All we need is a first name, however, if you would prefer you may use a middle name, that is ok, the important thing is that God knows who you are. If you can note in a few words your request this helps us to pray specifically, however, if you feel you cannot, then simply write a name. Each week the rector removes the requests from the box and together with a small team of folks from across our group we lift your request before



David and Danielle on their Wedding Day at St. Macartan's Cathedral.

God. All requests are dealt with sensitively and confidentially and your request will remain on our list for four weeks. If you would like to be involved in the prayer team, please speak to the Rector.

### Remembrance Sunday

Across our parishes and indeed our nation Remembrance Sunday was very different with the absence of parades and



Mr Gordon Crawford laying a wreath in St. Mark's Newtownsaville on behalf of Agharonan LOL.



Presbyterian Minister, the Revd Revd. Edwin Frazer and Revd. Olivia Downey who conducted a service of remembrance at Clogher Cenotaph.

all commemorations greatly muted this year as a result of covid-19. However, an act of remembrance was marked across our group of parishes and wreaths were laid in St. Mark's Newtownsaville and St. Macartan's Cathedral in gratitude and remembrance for all those who gave their lives in WWI, WWII, and all conflicts since, not least the troubles in our own land. At 11am on the 11th November the Rector read aloud as a mark of respect for all 68 names recorded in the book of remembrance in St. Macartan's Cathedral. These were the men and women who give their lives from the Augher / Clogher area.

### 25 Years of Faithful Service

This Autumn after 25 years of faithful service as Honourable Secretary to St. Macartan's Cathedral Select Vestry, Mrs Kathryn Graham retired. Kathryn's diligence, patience and dedication helped navigate



Serving PSNI Constable James Beck laying a wreath on behalf of the parishioners of St. Mark's Newtownsaville.

and ensure smooth running of the Select Vestry through the ministry and times of various Deans, Rectors, vacancies and multiple parish projects. Her goodwill and wealth of knowledge made her an invaluable asset to clergy and Select Vestry members alike. We wish Kathryn God's richest blessings as she enjoys life without recording 'the minutes!' We are very pleased to say that Mrs Julie Armstrong has been appointed as Secretary to St. Macartan's Select Vestry.

### Gratitude for a Popular Sexton

Sunday 1st November not only marked Mr John Hull's birthday, but it also marked his retirement after 13 years of Sexton at St. Macartan's Cathedral. Over this time



Mr William Crawford (People's Churchwarden) laying a wreath on behalf of the parishioners in St. Macartan's Cathedral accompanied by Mr Trevor McNeill (Rector's Churchwarden).

John's quiet, unassuming, conscientious nature saw him helping and guiding many individuals and families through the best and worst of times which life brings to us all. His role meant careful preparation of the Cathedral for Diocesan Services such as the enthronement of new Bishops, installation of new Canons and also institution of new clergy. From light bulbs to table linen, Christmas trees to walkways, John's cheerful steady nature meant that nothing was missed.

We pray also that John will know God's blessing upon him and will now have more time to carve his walking sticks and tend his garden. We are pleased that Mrs Joyce Stafford has taken up the reins of the role of Sexton.



Mrs Kathryn Graham receiving her gift from the Rector on behalf of the Select Vestry.



Mr Trevor McNeill (Rector's Churchwarden) presenting Mr John Hull with gifts on behalf of the parishioners of St. Macartan's Cathedral with Rector, Revd Olivia Downey looking on.



The Rector's Blessing Bag received from the M.U.

## Appointment of our New Bishop

The Rector, Select Vestries, and parishioners of Clogher Cathedral group of Parishes are delighted to learn of the appointment of Canon Ian Ellis as our Bishop-Elect for Clogher Diocese. We assure Canon Ian of our prayers during this time of transition and look forward greatly to welcoming him to our parishes in due course.

## Mothers' Union Blessing Bags

Although the Mothers' Union is unable to meet at present, lots of work has been going on behind the scenes. All Mothers' Union members of Clogher Cathedral M.U. and the Rector received a wonderful and unexpected package of physical and spiritual encouragement in the form of a

"Blessing Bag". A lot of thought, time and effort went into making these bags and the members of the Clogher Branch wish to thank everyone who donated items and spent time preparing and delivering the bags. The Blessing bags brightened up each member's day and showed God's love in action!

## Christian Burial

St. Mark's Newtownsaville, 25th October 2020 - Mrs Violet Clarke.

## A Christmas Greeting

The rector and Miss Isobel Stewart would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of our group of parishes and the wider community a blessed and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

## Clones, Killeevan, Currin and Newbliss



Rector:  
**The Revd  
Roy Taylor**

The Rectory,  
Scotshouse,  
Clones,  
Co.Monaghan.

E: clones@clogher.anglican.org  
T: 089 2239646

## Services

### Sunday 6 December

Clones 10.00am: Morning Prayer  
Newbliss 11.30am: Morning Prayer

### Sunday 13 December

Currin 10.00am: Morning Prayer  
Killeevan 11.30am: Morning Prayer

### Sunday 20 December

Killeevan: Joint Group Carol Service at 11.00am

### Friday 25 December

Clones: Joint Group Family Worship for Christmas Day at 11.00am

### Sunday 27 December

Currin: Joint Group Morning Prayer at 11.00am

### Sunday 3 January

Newbliss: Joint Group Morning Prayer at 11.00am

### Sunday 10 January

Currin 10.00am: Morning Prayer  
Killeevan 11.30am: Morning Prayer

### Sunday 17 January

Clones 10.00am: Morning Prayer  
Newbliss 11.30am: Morning Prayer

### Sunday 24 January

Currin 10.00am: Morning Prayer  
Killeevan 11.30am: Morning Prayer

### Sunday 31 January

Clones: Joint Group Morning Prayer at 11.00am

Please note that the above schedule of services is dependent on state regulations allowing church services to begin again – and we hope and pray that this will be so. If it is not the case, our Group WhatsApp platform will continue to offer Sunday sermons, news updates, and an opportunity to chat together. The Rector will also remain available to all at the end of a telephone line – just call him on 0892239646.

## Condolences

We offer our sincere condolences to the families and friends of all who have died in recent months. In this group of parishes we pray especially for those who loved and cared for Florrie Faulkner, Florrie McKeown, Sybil Smith, and Jackie Mealiff. We also pray for our Rector and his brother Brian as they mourn the loss of their father, Reginald Clive Taylor, who lived in Lancashire in the UK.

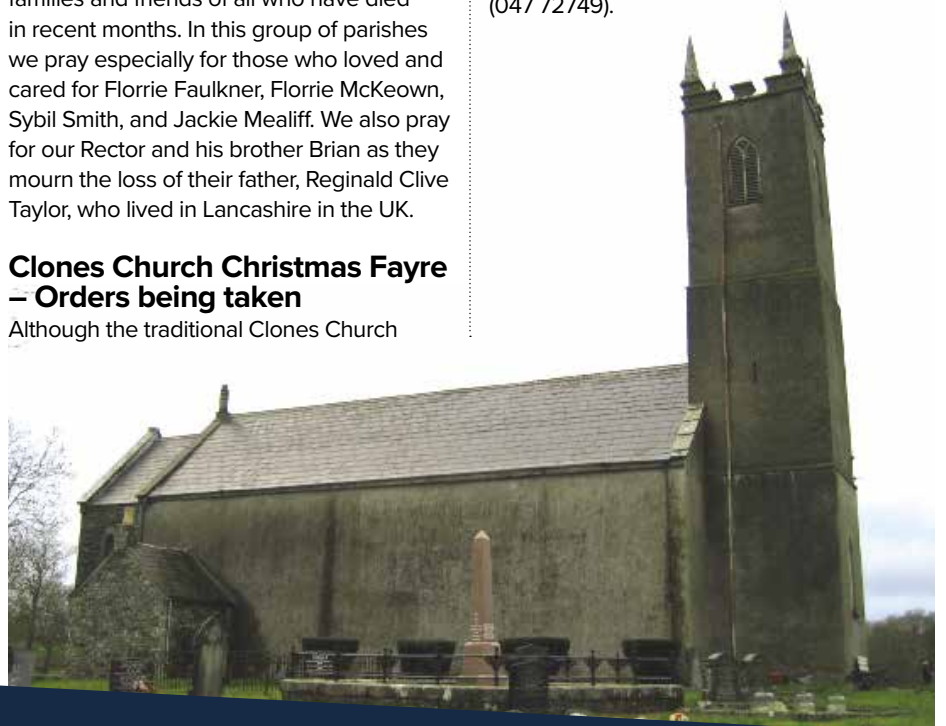
## Clones Church Christmas Fayre – Orders being taken

Although the traditional Clones Church

Christmas Fayre cannot take place this year, we are taking orders for our ever-popular hand-crafted Christmas wreaths. If you would like one, please contact Hazel Siberry (047 51311), Nigel Leech (047 51548), or Wilson Lendrum (047 51394).

## Mothers' Union

Although there are no MU meetings at present, all our members have been given a 'blessing bag' to cheer them up and let them know that they are not forgotten. This is part of a Clogher Diocese initiative, and all MU members across the Diocese are being encouraged to pray at home for women caught up in domestic violence in lieu of attendance at the MU prayer vigils usually held at this time of year. The Clogher MU will also be making donations to two Monaghan-based support services for women: Dóchas for Women (047 62573) and Tearmann Domestic Violence Services (047 72749).





## Colaghty



Rector:  
**The Revd Canon  
Alan Irwin**

The Rectory, Main Street,  
Lack, Co. Fermanagh.  
BT93 0DN

T: 028 686 31689  
E: colaghty@clogher.anglican.org

### Services

#### DECEMBER

6th Holy Communion 11.30am  
13th Family service 11.30am  
20th Morning Prayer 11.30am  
20th Nine Lessons and Carols 7.00pm  
25th Christmas Day, Family Communion  
10.30am  
27th Christmas Praise 11.30am  
31st New Year's Eve worship, 9.00pm

#### JANUARY

3rd Holy Communion 11.30am  
10th Family Service 11.30am  
17th Morning Prayer 11.30am  
24th Family Service 11.30am  
31st Morning Prayer 11.30am

Please note, although services are as listed going to print, they are subject to change as guidance around COVID-19 is changed and updated. Any changes to services times and dates will be notified on the notices and parish Facebook page.

### Christian Burial

5th November 2020  
William James Johnston, Kesh

### Remembrance Sunday

The Service of remembrance was held with some slight changes to the format as of previous years. Due to the current measures in place, the children did not carry out their remembrance tribute during the service, and the wreath normally laid at the conclusion, was done prior to the services commencement. Wreaths were laid in remembrance of those from the parish who died in war, in the church and in the parish hall, on behalf of the parish, UDR and Glassmullagh LOL, during which a lament was played. The rector spoke on remembrance and on sacrifice, posing the question, how much would we sacrifice for another. We extend our thanks to all who



A scene from Colaghty Church on Remembrance Sunday.

contributed to the service, organist, piper, and those who laid the wreaths in church, in the hall, outside and the IT/recording team.

### Sunday School and Confirmation

The second and fourth Sundays, has been an opportunity to teach and encourage all those in the Sunday School and Confirmation classes due to the restrictions currently in place. The bible time lessons assist parents with additional material to enable them to teach and encourage their children in the Christian faith at a time when Sunday school cannot meet. Please, don't forget to send in your completed lessons, if you haven't already done so for marking. These services and lessons will continue until things change and we can all meet again, as we have the habit of doing, Sunday by Sunday, for worship, teaching and fellowship.

### Acknowledgement

The Trustees of Colaghty Parish Church acknowledge with sincere thanks the recent financial support of £11,215 received from the Department of Communities through the COVID-19 Charities Fund. The current financial difficulties caused by



the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the restrictions to reduce the spread brought about increased concerns for the financial viability of many charities, not least ourselves. Due to the financial shortfalls, the trustees appreciate and recognise that this award will help its viability in this financial year going forward. The trustees further acknowledge the efficiency and speed of delivery from the opening of the scheme to the receipt of funds, and the work of the administrators must be admired.

### Samaritans Purse – Shoebox appeal

Your generosity in supporting this year's appeal is to be commended for the gifts of items to fill boxes, to filled shoe boxes, and



Filled shoeboxes for this year's appeal.

to the financial donations towards postage. A sincere thank you to everyone who has contributed, within the parish family and others who faithfully every year knit, for the appeal and donate through our parish. This year due to the circumstances, the need is greater than ever before and these gifts will bring much joy to the children who will receive them. Thanks again to everyone, and to our local coordinator, Irene for preparing the boxes for onward shipping.

### Congratulations

We offer our prayerful good wishes to Revd Canon Ian Ellis on his election as Bishop of Clogher, and look forward to welcoming him to the parish in his role of Bishop in the foreseeable future.

### Accounts

As the end of the financial year approaches, the parish accounts will close on 31st December 2020, and any outstanding monies or payments should be with the Honorary Treasurer before the

end of the month. We would ask that all clubs and groups submit their accounts to the Honorary Treasurer as soon as possible after the 31st December 2020, to assist with accounting purposes. Our sincere thanks to everyone for your continued support in the upkeep of the parish and its mission, in what has been a challenging year for many.

### New Years Eve

It is intended to hold a service, even though we may not be able to have the social as before, but we will look forward in hope commending our plans to God. Let us all look forward in faith and in confidence, not in despair and fear, but with hope that tomorrow will be a brighter day. And as the New Year enfolds, let us with God's help meet the challenges that may come our way with courage and determination, as we focus our eyes on God whose mercies are new every day.

## Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale



Rector:  
The Revd Canon  
Paul Thompson

The Rectory, Enniskillen Road, Irvinestown  
BT94 1BD.  
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E: irvinestown@clogher.anglican.org



Castle Archdale Remembrance

### Worship

The weekly pattern of services continues at the usual times and we are grateful to all the churchwardens and stewards who assist with making sure people enter and leave in a safe manner. The rector will continue to provide a weekly online service and other devotional material as long as restrictions on places of worship are in place. At the time of writing we plan to observe Christmas with the usual services but details will be given nearer the time.

### Christmas Fair (Derryvullen North)

This would normally have been held in conjunction with the turning on of the Christmas Lights in Irvinestown at the end of November. This of course cannot take place this year but we wanted to keep

as much of the spirit of the fair alive as possible. To this end the following will be taking place;

- 1) A knitted doll by Laura McDowell is up for raffle and is located in Klass Designs (thank you Lorraine Humes).
- 2) The team, led by Avril Stubbs, who make the Christmas Wreaths are all set to

make these in time for Christmas. Those who wish to order a wreath are asked to contact Violet Duncan.

- 3) The knitted figures and craft items by Edna Ferguson, Laura McDowell, Noris





Castle Archdale Remembrance

and Doreen Spratt, with kind gifts by Hilda Watson are available online for purchase. Laura is coordinating the purchase and items will be bagged for collection from Coalters' Home and Hardware Shop, Irvinestown – thank you to Russell and Karen.

This all of course is not as good as meeting together but we are very grateful to everyone involved for keeping the spirit of the occasion very much alive.

### BB Enrolment and Queen's Award

At the time of writing the online Service for Sunday 15th November will feature members of the Boys' Brigade Company as this would have been their annual enrolment day. The in-church Service for Derryvullen that day is also planned to include representatives of the BB Company – two will receive their Queen's Award and they along with Joe and Lorna Graham (leaders) will be enrolled and in doing so will represent all the members of all sections of the company.

### Mission Sunday

At the time of writing it is planned to observe the Diocesan Mission Sunday on



The Deputy Lieutenant for Fermanagh and Chairman of the Royal British Legion at the Cross of Sacrifice.

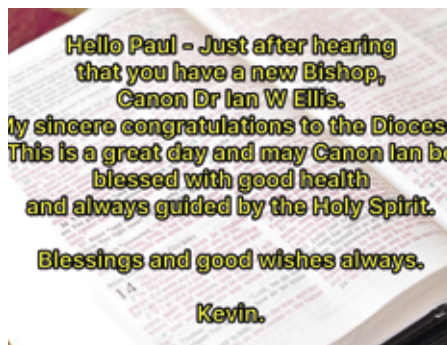


BB enrolment service.

22nd November. The guest speaker will be Mr Alastair McFarland of the Scripture Union E3 Schools Project. He is the full-time schools worker in the region of Fermanagh and Fivemiletown.

### Greetings from Fr Kevin for our Bishop-elect

When it was announced that the Rev Canon Dr Ian Ellis had been elected as the new Bishop of Clogher, the rector was



A message from Fr. Kevin for Revd Canon Dr Ian Ellis.

contacted by Fr Kevin Duffy of Devenish Roman Catholic Parish who passed on his prayers and best wishes to our Bishop-elect and the people of the Diocese. The photograph of this as it appeared on the rector's Facebook page is included here.

### Remembrance Sunday

To ensure that the important tradition of Remembrance continued, an Act of Remembrance took place at each of the morning services. In Castle Archdale (photo supplied) the wreath was laid by Mr Dessie McCubbin. In Derryvullen North it was laid by Mr Jim Morton and the roll of honour was read by Mr David Robinson. Each Church was filled to the new (temporary) capacity. In the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday we would normally have hosted a Community Remembrance Service in St Tighernach's Church, Derryvullen North with the RBL, ex-Service Associations and Youth Groups - all led in parade around the town by Drumharvey Pipe Band. This would have been followed by tea in the parish hall. This year we worked within the restrictions and held a short Service of Remembrance at the Cross of Sacrifice and War Graves, attendance limited to 15 people. We were honoured by the presence of the Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Fermanagh, Major Shaun Pendry who laid the first wreath. Other wreaths were laid by the Chairperson of the Irvinestown RBL Branch and by representatives of the ex-Service Associations. We are grateful to piper Jason Irvine who played a lament and the National Anthem and also to bugler Rachel Fyffe who played the Last Post and Reveille. The Rector wishes to thank the Chairperson of the Irvinestown RBL Branch Mr William Irvine for all this work



Christmas crafts.

in helping organise the event. As well as this Act of Remembrance there were also tokens of remembrance placed at all the War Graves at the Church of Ireland and the Roman Catholic Church here in Irvinestown.

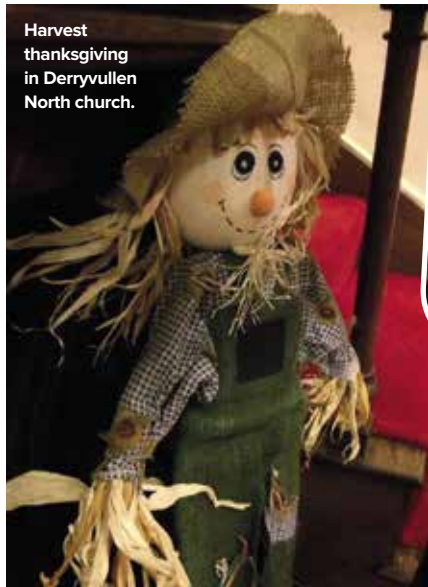
### Mothers' Union

During the month of December there will be information communicated to each member of the branch. The 16 days against gender violence starting on 25th November will of course not involve Church Services because of covid-19 restrictions. For the same reason, Women's Aid is not able to receive gifts of clothing or other items but they are happy to receive vouchers or for the purchase of items.

Sadly our branch lost two very loyal members during November. Mrs Louie Sweeney passed away in the RVH Belfast where she had been cared for since a serious car accident in August. Louie had been a member of the Branch for 35 years. Mrs Pat Keys passed away very suddenly and unexpectedly and had been a member of the Branch for 42 years. She had also served on the Trustee Board as Media Representative. Our sympathies have been extended to both families. Among our members, Mrs Paula Moore and Mrs Winnie Breen also suffered bereavements and we hold them all very much in our prayers, as well as those members who are in hospital or receiving care at home.

### Derryvullen North Harvest

At the time of the previous edition of



Harvest thanksgiving in Derryvullen North church.



the Diocesan Magazine the Harvest in Derryvullen North had not taken place. On the day of the Harvest the church was filled to the new (temporary) capacity and it was beautifully decorated for occasion. It was not possible to decorate or celebrate as much as normal but it was wonderful to meet and see the church looking so well. There was a large amount of non-perishable food items given for the Foodbank in the ARC Healthy Living Centre. There are included some photographs of the occasion.

### From the registers - Christian Burial

Louisa (Louie) Sweeney (5th November) at Derryvullen North  
 Patricia (Pat) Keys (5th November) at Derryvullen North

*"Merciful Father, hear our prayers and comfort us, renew our trust in your Son, whom you raised from the dead, strengthen our faith that all who have died in the love of Christ will share in his resurrection; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen"*

## Derryvullen South and Garvary



Vacant:

Non-Stipendiary Minister:  
**The Revd Canon Betty Thompson**

During Canon Thompson's absence Archdeacon Brian Harper is in charge. Service and pastoral cover will be provided by Mr. Roy Crowe DPA and Dean Raymond Ferguson.

### Services

**Sunday, 6th December**  
 10.30am Morning Prayer Garvary  
 12 Noon Morning Prayer Derryvullen South  
**Sunday, 13th December**  
 10.30am Morning Prayer Derryvullen South  
 12 Noon Morning Prayer Garvary  
**Sunday, 20th December**  
 10.30am Carol Service Garvary  
 12 Noon Carol Service Derryvullen South  
**Thursday, 24th December – Christmas Eve**  
 9.30pm Holy Communion  
**Friday, 25th December – Christmas Day**  
 No Service  
**Sunday, 27th December**  
 No Service  
**Sunday, 3rd January**  
 10.30am Morning Prayer Garvary  
 12 Noon Morning Prayer Derryvullen South

### Garvary

**Christmas Marriage**  
 Congratulations and best wishes to Jill

McVitty and Simon Hicks who were married in Garvary Church on 16th October 2020.

### Birthday Wishes

Best wishes to Mrs Lorna Edwards, Ballyreagh, Tempo, who celebrated her 99th birthday on 30th October. May she enjoy many more of them.

### Remembrance Sunday

On behalf of the congregation, Noel Watson placed the Poppy Wreath on the memorial in the church on Remembrance Sunday.

### Christmas wishes

Best wishes to all parishioners for Christmas and the New Year and we earnestly hope that 2021 will be a happier year for everybody and hopefully we shall see an end to the Coronavirus which has caused such problems throughout the world this past year.

### Prayers

Please remember in your prayers, those of our parishioners who are ill at home, in hospital or receiving treatment.

## Devenish & Boho



Diocesan Curate:  
**The Revd  
Sampson Ajuka**

The Rectory, 10 Castletown Road, Monea,  
Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh. BT74 8GG

T: 028 66 341672

E: [devenish@clogher.anglican.org](mailto:devenish@clogher.anglican.org)

### December Services

#### Sunday 6th

10.00am Holy Communion, Boho Parish Church

11.30am Holy Communion, Devenish Parish Church

#### Sunday 13th

10.00am Morning Prayer, Boho Parish Church

11.30am Morning Prayer, Devenish Parish Church

#### Sunday 20th

10.00am Morning Prayer, Boho Parish Church

11.30am Morning Prayer, Devenish Parish Church

#### Thursday 24th

8.30pm Christmas Eve Service, Reade Hall

#### Friday 25th

9.30am Christmas Day Service, Boho Parish Church

11.00am Christmas Day Service, Devenish Parish Church

#### Sunday 27th

10.00am Morning Prayer, Boho Parish Church

11.30am Morning Prayer, Devenish Parish Church

### Services for January 2021

#### Sunday 3rd

10.00am Holy Communion, Boho Parish Church

11.30am Holy Communion, Devenish Parish Church

#### Sunday 10th

10.00am Morning Prayer, Boho Parish Church

11.30am Morning Prayer, Devenish Parish Church

#### Sunday 17th

10.00am Morning Prayer, Boho Parish Church

11.30am Morning Prayer, Devenish Parish Church



Norman Evans, stonemason and Wesley Scott at the restored Southern Arch in Devenish Churchyard.

#### Sunday 24th

10.00 am Morning Prayer, Boho Parish Church

11.30am Morning Prayer, Devenish Parish Church,

#### Sunday 31st

10.00 am Family Service, Boho Parish Church

11.30am Family/Sunday school Service, Devenish Parish Church

### Marriages

■ Tuesday 20th October 2020 in Devenish Parish Church - Kenny Burrows and Iris Thom.

We were delighted that Kenny and Iris chose our church to get married in and we are deeply sorry that they were unable to have their wedding reception as planned due to Covid restrictions. We extend our congratulations to Kenny and Iris and wish them God's Blessing on their future life together.

■ Saturday 31st October 2020 in Lisbellaw Parish Church - Luke Cathcart and Emma Dunlop.

We are deeply sorry that Luke and Emma had to make last minute changes to their wedding reception due to Covid restrictions. We extend our congratulations to Luke and Emma and wish them God's Blessing on their future life together. We welcome Emma to the parish.

### Remembrance Day Service

The services in both Devenish and Boho were conducted by Revd Sampson Ajuka. In Devenish, the Act of Remembrance was held in the church followed by the Remembrance Service in the Reade Hall. The names of those who fell during two World

Wars and associated with Devenish were read by David Eames, the RUCGC names were read by Ann McCormac, the UDR CGC names were read by David Ferguson. Wreaths were laid by Nicola McCullagh Daley (Parish), Gerry McDermott (RUCGC), James Kells (UDRCGC) and Kay McKeown (Girl Guides). Clive Johnston said the Exhortation and The Kohima Epitaph.

### Congratulations and Best wishes

This goes to our neighbouring Rector, The Revd Canon Dr Ian Ellis on his election as Bishop of Clogher.

### Historic Arch Restored

The South Gate Arch at Devenish parish churchyard has been restored in memory of Violet Scott the gift of her husband, Wesley. The Churchyard Wall and the two picturesque arches at the north and south sides of the church were built in 1761 during the Incumbency of the Revd Philip Skelton, one of the most celebrated clergy of the Church of Ireland.

The foundations in the southern arch gave way a few years ago creating a Health and Safety risk. After a long search for a suitable stonemason, a man with all the necessary skills was found in the person of Norman Evans from County Leitrim. Norman commenced work in December 2019, but after been delayed by bad weather and then been delayed by Covid restrictions, Norman was only able to start work properly at the beginning of September.

Norman went about his work diligently always paying great attention to detail in particular finding a suitable stone for the right space. Norman's work was impeccable



James Kells, Wesley Scott, Norman Evans, Nigel Daley, David Scott and Eric Whittaker at the Arch.



The arch and Devenish Parish Church through the gate



A Plaque in memory of Violet Scott.

and it was fascinating to watch a master craftsman at his work. No matter what the difficulty, Norman always remained calm and was most courteous to all who came in contact with him.

At the conclusion of the work Wesley thanked a number of people for helping with the project; Alan Hassard, George Gott

and Ernie Whittaker for supplying stones, Nigel Daley for helping to put in the foundations, Eric Whittaker for his help and advice and James Kells, Glebewarden for his supervision of the project. He also thanked Seamus Meehan and sons for repairing the gate. Wesley presented Norman Evans with a gift for his work.

The Select Vestry and parishioners wish to thank Wesley for his gift to the Parish in memory of Violet. Violet played a leading part in our parish, a very regular attender at worship, a choir member for many years and played a large part in parish functions especially at the annual sale and auction. Everyone enjoyed her baking and her scones were legendary. Everything she did was with a willing heart and with a smile. She was a deeply caring and kind person and is deeply missed throughout the parish and the wider community.



A floral display for Remembrance Day in Boho Church.

## Donacavey and Barr



Rector:  
The Revd  
John Woods

The Rectory, 247 Tattyreagh Road, Fintona,  
Co. Tyrone, BT78 2DA  
T: 028 828 40863  
T: 07436886769  
E: johnjameswoods@yahoo.co.uk

### Services

#### Sunday, 6th December: The Second Sunday of Advent

Barr: 10.00am Morning Prayer.  
Donacavey 11:30am Morning Prayer.

#### Sunday, 13th December: The Third Sunday of Advent

Barr: 10.00am Morning Prayer.  
Donacavey 11:30am Morning Prayer.

#### Sunday, 20th December: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Barr: 10.00am Morning Prayer.  
Donacavey 11:30am Morning Prayer.

#### Thursday, 24th December: Christmas Eve

Barr: 8:00pm Carols by Candlelight

#### Friday 25th December, Christmas Day

Donacavey: 9:00am Family Service.

#### Sunday, 27th December: The First Sunday of Christmas

Barr: 10.00am Morning Prayer.  
Donacavey 11:30am Morning Prayer.

#### Sunday, 3rd January: The Second Sunday of Christmas

Barr: 10.00am Morning Prayer.  
Donacavey 11:30am Morning Prayer.

#### Sunday, 10th January: The First Sunday after the Epiphany

Barr: 10.00am Morning Prayer.  
Donacavey 11:30am Morning Prayer.

#### Sunday, 17th January: The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Barr: 10.00am Morning Prayer.  
Donacavey 11:30am Morning Prayer.

#### Sunday, 24th January: The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Barr: 10.00am Morning Prayer.  
Donacavey 11:30am Morning Prayer.

#### Sunday, 27th January: The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Barr: 10.00am Morning Prayer.  
Donacavey 11:30am Morning Prayer.

## Food Parcel

Barr and Donacavey are collecting non-perishable food, children's clothes and basic sanitary items over the next few weeks. These will be distributed to those in need prior to Christmas. There are many who are really suffering in our communities and this is a wonderful opportunity to show our concern in a tangible way. Sadly, for many it is not just a seasonal problem but a continuous burden throughout the year. "When did we see you, a stranger and take you in, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the king will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me." Matthew 29:38-40



## Donagh & Tyholland with Errigal Truagh

Chancellor **Ian Berry** is in charge.

Services and pastoral cover provided by **Rev. Margaret Pringle**

### Services in December 2020

#### Sunday 29th November 2020 - The First Sunday of Advent ( Purple)

Donagh 10.30am H.C.  
Tyholland 12.00 Noon H.C.

#### Sunday 6th December -The Second Sunday of Advent

Donagh 10.30am M.P.  
Errigal Truagh 12.00am H.C.

#### Sunday 13th December - The Third Sunday of Advent

Donagh 10.30am M.P.  
Tyholland 12.00am M.P.

#### Sunday 20th December - the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Donagh 10.30am M.P.  
Errigal Truagh 12.00am M.P.

#### Thursday 24th December - Christmas Eve

Tyholland 9pm H.C.  
Friday 25th December - Christmas Day

#### Sunday 27th December - The First Sunday of Christmas (white)

Donagh 10.30am (Group Service)

Services as above and for January 2021 will take place according to Department of Health regulations. Parishioners will be advised at a later date as to the New Year services in the group.

### Illness

We remember those in our group of parishes who had been hospitalized for some time and are now at home with their families.

### Hope

We have heard the word HOPE used so many times over the past months, and we have looked at the artwork of many boys and girls showing the symbol of HOPE using the rainbow.



The greatest hope has been realised in the past week of the possibility of a Covid 19 vaccine and again today the breaking news of a second vaccine. It is early days and the department of Health is cautiously optimistic.

Looking up the dictionary I found the definition of HOPE as "A desire for something, combined with a belief or feeling that the thing we desire will come; an expectation of something good, something that gives grounds for hoping".

We hope that the things we took for granted in the past will soon be restored albeit in a new way in many cases.

We are hopeful that worship within our churches will soon be restored and perhaps we will have a greater appreciation of what church means to us since their doors have been closed to Sunday worship here in the south.

In the church's calendar we are entering the season of Advent which means for us the Second coming of a Saviour. Advent is a holy season leading up to and including Christmas.

It is a time of expectation, hoping, waiting and preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

It is accepted that the first Sunday of Advent is associated with HOPE. The hope that 'whoever accepts the Son' gets it all.' Sometime ago I read a story (I cannot vouch for its authenticity) but it does explain the phrase that 'whoever accepts the son gets it all.'

The story is about a wealthy widower who was left to raise his only son. The father was rich and had an eye for beautiful paintings which in time the son also acquired an interest and they attended many art galleries as well as art auctions. However the day came when the young man joined the army to serve his country. Sadly he was only gone a short time when his father received word to say that his son had been killed while carrying a fellow soldier to safety.

On Christmas morning there was a knock on the old man's door. When the man opened the door, he saw a soldier with a big parcel in his hand. He shook hands with the old man and said "I was a friend of your son who rescued me, but in so doing he lost his own life".

The soldier went on to say that he was an artist and had painted a portrait of the old man's son. He added, it is not the best ever piece of art work but he considered that it captured the son's face and his personality. I want you to have the picture.

After some time the old man passed away and his art work was to be auctioned off. On the day of the auction, there were many collectors wandering around with

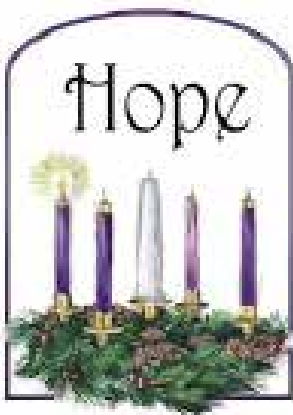
their catalogues viewing the display. They discovered there was a piece displayed that didn't appear in the catalogue.

The auction began with the painting of the old man's son. The bidders were taken by surprise and no one seemed to want to open the bidding. After all it was only a portrait of the old man's son. The auctioneer said my hands are tied, this painting must be sold off at the outset. Eventually someone ventured and put a small bid on it in order to get the auction started.

To the amazement of the bidders the auctioneer then announced 'the auction was over'.

What do you mean it is over said the buyers, what about the other paintings?

The auctioneer replied it is clearly stated in the fathers will, 'whoever takes the son... gets all'.



As we are now entering the season of Advent which means 'the coming of the Saviour' Advent is a holy season leading up to Christmas.

It is a time of expectation, a time of waiting, hoping and preparing for the birth of Christ. It is accepted that the first Sunday of Advent is associated with the whole concept of HOPE.

The story of the portrait collector's son is in essence, the story of Christmas. Whosoever takes the Son gets all HOPE is something to look forward to. The Bible puts it like this, God has given us eternal life in his Son.

Advent promises a new life in Christ.

When Jesus came, he gave us a living picture of who God is.

The word incarnation means, God came to earth wrapped in a human body.

God came to earth in Christ to live among us, so that we could know what he is really like.

God came in Christ to teach us.

He came to die so that we could have our sins forgiven.

He arose from the dead to help us know that we too can be raised.

He promised that he would return one day.



Diane, Eileen and Michelle at the stained-glass windows in St. Salvator's Church.

Romans 12:12 Paul says " Let your HOPE keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times."

### Restoration of Stained-Glass Windows

Restoration work has recently been carried out by conservation professionals on stained glass windows in St. Salvator's church, Glaslough supported by 50% grant aid from the Built Heritage Investment Scheme administered by Monaghan County Council. We very much appreciate the guidance received from Mrs Darina Kierans from the Planning Department and Michelle Atkinson Surveying Limited who led this project on behalf of the Select Vestry. We are very aware that we are custodians of our built heritage and want to ensure that our church building will be conserved for future generations.

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme is administered by local authorities from an overall fund determined by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and is designed as a support to owners and custodians in maintaining and protecting built heritage.

### Heritage Week

Congratulations to the children from Donagh Group Sunday School who have won the Heritage Ireland County Award for Monaghan.

St Salvator's is an enthusiastic participant in Heritage Week annually, is part of the Glaslough Heritage Trail and hosts many visitors throughout the year. Unable to open to the public this year due to COVID instead some young people from the Donagh Group of Parishes took part in a Heritage Week project interviewing older members of their families and recording

their early church and school memories.

An email has been received from Mrs Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation congratulating the Sunday School on bringing home the Heritage Ireland Award for County Monaghan.

### Engagement

Congratulations to Stuart Waller and Sharon Black on their recent engagement. Sharon is a regular visitor to St Salvator's and we wish them God's richest blessing for their future together.

### Donagh Group Sunday School room

The building works have now started at St Salvator's to convert the gallery to accommodate the Donagh Group Sunday School and to add on a wheelchair toilet. We hope that these works will proceed as quickly as possible with minimum disruption during this time when the church is closed because of Covid-19.





## Dromore



Rector:  
**The Revd  
Andrew Quill**

The Rectory, 19 Galbally Road, Dromore,  
Co. Tyrone BT78 3EE

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E: dromore@clogher.anglican.org  
www.holytrinitydromore.org

### The Greatest Gift

*'Long ago, there ruled in Persia a wise and good king. He loved his people. He wanted to know how they lived. He wanted to know about their hardships. Often he dressed in the clothes of a working man or a beggar, and went to the homes of the poor. No one whom he visited thought that he was their ruler. One time he visited a very poor man who lived in a cellar. He ate the coarse food the poor man ate. He spoke cheerful, kind words to him. Then he left. Later he visited the poor man again and disclosed his identity by saying, "I am your king!" The king thought the man would surely ask for some gift or favour, but he didn't. Instead he said, "You left your palace and your glory to visit me in this dark, dreary place. You ate the coarse food I ate. You brought gladness to my heart! To others you have given your rich gifts. To me you have given yourself!"'*



Members of C.L.B. and G.F.S. who made 75th Anniversary cards and poppies for the Remembrance Service.

Author Unknown

*'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.'*  
2 Corinthians 8:9

At Christmas we remember that Jesus not only became poor so that we might become rich, but that he gave of himself. Just like any other gift that you are given this Christmas has to be received, so the gift that Jesus came into the world to give to everyone has to be received. *'Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God'* John 1:12  
If you've never opened up Jesus gift before, let it be the first gift that you open and you'll discover as I have done that it is 'The Greatest Gift' of all.

### Sunday Services (Dec)

**6th Dec**

11.00am S o W, 'Building a Kingdom – Mustard Seed' (Matthew 13:31-35)

**13th Dec**

11.00am S o W, 'Celebrating Jesus – The Nativity (Joseph)' (Matthew 1:18-25)

**20th Dec**

11.00am S o W, 'Celebrating Jesus – The Nativity (Shepherds)' (Luke 2:8-20)

**S o W – Service of the Word**

N.B. Due to Covid-19, Christmas Services will be announced nearer the time on Facebook, when we know more about the situation.

### Midweek Services (Dec)

**2nd Dec**

8.30pm 'Advent Carol Service'

**9th Dec**

8.30pm 'The Christian and the outsider' (Colossians 4:2-6)

**16th Dec**

8.30pm 'Carol Service'

### Services

We continue to offer two services each week – one on the Sunday at 11.00am and a Midweek Service on Wednesday at 8.30pm. Our service on Sunday is an 'All-age' Service (open for all ages to come to 'In-Church' Worship), lasting no more than 40 minutes, while our Midweek Service is aimed more at adults (with more in-depth teaching from the Bible – currently going through Colossians), lasting no more than 45 minutes. Both services will also be livestreamed on Facebook (uploaded later to YouTube), offering the service for those who for one reason or another would prefer not to come back yet to 'In-Church' worship.

### C.L.B. & G.F.S.

C.L.B. and G.F.S. have been busy doing activities from home each week, with a short video going up each Monday to explain what the children are to do that week. Recently Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade in Ulster celebrated their 75th Anniversary so the children made birthday cards and then the following week the children made poppies to be shown during our Countdown Timer for our Remembrance Service. (See photos).

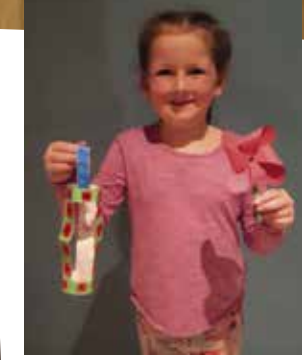
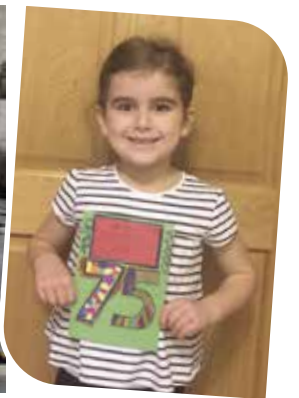
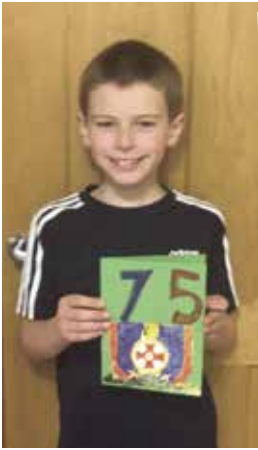
### Remembrance Service

Our Remembrance Service was very different this year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, with no parade and many choosing to watch the service online. The laying of the four wreaths was pre-recorded (keeping social distancing) and then played as part of a video of Remembrance, which focused on the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain during the two minutes silence.

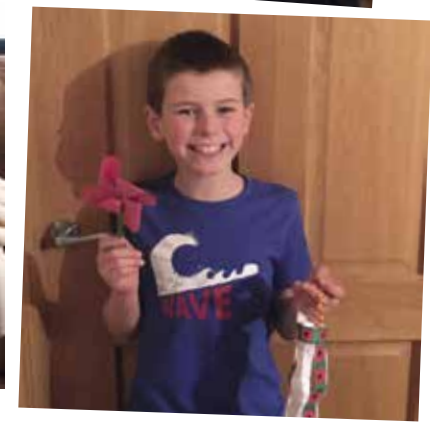
### Keeping up to date

There are several ways that you can keep up to date with everything that is going on in the parish:

- Like our page 'Holy Trinity Dromore' on Facebook
- Watch our Live Streamed Services <https://www.facebook.com/holytrinitydromore/live/>
- Subscribe to our YouTube Channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwj585CXlqOq6W6h7\\_2AiYg/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwj585CXlqOq6W6h7_2AiYg/)
- Watch uploaded Services on YouTube on a smart TV (uploaded usually on Sunday afternoon)
- Follow us on Twitter @HTDromore.
- Get a recording of the service on CD or DVD every week



Pictured are members of C.L.B. and G.F.S who made 75th Anniversary cards and poppies for the Remembrance Service.



## Drumkeeran, Muckross and Templecarne



Vacant;  
**Non-Stipendiary  
Minister, Revd  
Charles Eames**

T: 07809159002  
E: ceames@talktalk.net

As I begin my notes, I would like on behalf of the group of parishes to offer our sincere congratulations to Canon Ian Ellis who was selected by the Electoral College on 9 November to be our new bishop. We look forward to seeing Ian in the group before too long. I am writing these words on 11 November, so Remembrance is very much on my mind. While like most things this year Remembrance Sunday was vastly different than usual, we did of course pause to remember the sacrifices of the past which is right and proper.

This year I was able to share some detail around the names that we read out every year from our parishes who paid the ultimate price in both world wars and other conflicts. My thanks to Mr David Keys from Colaghty parish for providing the information and for allowing us to display banners relating to the dead from our area. I will share information about another of the names that we remember at this time of year, 8154 Corporal James Shute, MM, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers James Shute was a son of David and Annie Shute, Lakeside, Leggs and was born on 24 April 1887. Corporal Shute was a member of the 1st Battalion RIF and received the Military Medal. He was killed on 1 July 1916 on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, and at the War Memorials in Pettigo and in Enniskillen. As we leave the season of Remembrance, our thoughts of course turn toward Advent and Christmas. As with so much of life we realise that they will be somewhat different this year which is something we seem to be getting used to rather too well. Advent marks the beginning of a new year in the life of the church and obviously on 1 January a new year begins in the secular sense. I am sure that many people think that 2021 cannot come fast enough which I can understand but we always need to bear

these words from Romans in mind when we think like this, we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him. While we live in difficult and challenging times and while we may wonder why this year has been as it has and indeed continues to unfold I want to suggest that we continue to trust God and to believe that he is in control.

As regards the services in Advent I hope to make these as normal as possible while of course complying with the regulations that are applicable at the time. I will update details of these services on the weekly newsheets.

We have been blessed by the fact that we have been allowed to continue to meet to worship in Northern Ireland which is something that we should never take for granted again. We do of course hope that we will soon have Sunday School up and running again and that our postponed Confirmation Service will take place sooner rather than later.

I know that when you read these words Christmas will still be a few weeks away but I would like to wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas no matter where and with whom you will celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

### Parish Register

#### Marriage

On Saturday 17 November David Stevenson was married to Rebecca Mahon at Pettigo Methodist Church. Our congratulations to the new Mr and Mrs Stevenson and we wish them a long and happy married life together.

#### Funeral

On Monday 19 November we said our farewells to Isabella Jane (Jenny) Kennedy,

late of 79 Crevenish Road, Kesh who passed away after a period of illness on 16 November. Jenny was one of our oldest parishioners and until last year had been a regular attender at Tubrid.

Our deepest sympathy to her son John, brother Johnny Barton, her nephews and nieces and her wider family circle.

### Diary

- Sunday 6 December Morning Prayer 10.00 Templecarne, Morning Prayer 11.30 Tubrid
  - Sunday 13 December Carol Service 10.00 Muckross, Holy Communion 11.30 Tubrid
  - Sunday 20 December Carol Service 10.00 Templecarne, Carol Service 11.30 Tubrid,
  - Christmas Eve Holy Communion Tubrid 11.00pm
  - Christmas Day Holy Communion Templecarne 10.00am
  - Sunday 27 December Morning Prayer 10.00 Muckross, Morning Prayer 11.30 Tubrid
  - Sunday 3 January Morning Prayer 10.00 Templecarne, Morning Prayer 11.30 Tubrid
  - Sunday 10 January Holy Communion 10.00 Muckross, Holy Communion 11.30 Tubrid
  - Sunday 17 January Holy Communion 10.00 Templecarne, Morning Prayer 11.30 Tubrid,
  - Sunday 24 January Morning Prayer 10.00 Muckross, Morning Prayer 11.30 Tubrid
  - Sunday 31 January Morning Prayer 10.00 Templecarne, Morning Prayer 11.30 Tubrid
- If the restrictions in the Republic of Ireland are not relaxed, then the services scheduled for there will be held in Muckross. However we pray that we will be able to meet in Templecarne soon.*



## Ematris with Rockcorry, Aghabog, Aghnamullen and Drum

Pastoral Cover:  
Mr Walter Pringle, assisted by Canon Charles McCollum.

Chancellor Ian Berry is in charge.

### Dartrey and Rockcorry Congratulations

Congratulations are extended to Graham and Fiona Carleton on the birth of a baby girl, named Isabelle, in Glasgow, a much welcomed grand-daughter for Stephen and Carol.

### Death

We were very saddened to learn of the sudden death of former Rector, Canon Trevor Sullivan, at his home in Ballinasloe on 30th

October. Trevor was Rector in this parish from 1980 until 1984. He is survived by his wife, Doris, daughters Moynagh and Johanne, sons - in law and five grandchildren.

### Thanks

Despite the closure of our churches the work of the parish continues for a number of parishioners. We are grateful to those who continue to work behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the parish.

### Covid-19

As we struggle through these challenging times we are heartened to learn of the good news of an impending vaccine, trials of which are proving to be very positive. We look forward to emerging from the current level of restrictions if we stay focused on what we can do to help others through this pandemic. In the meantime may God bless us all, keep us safe and guide us as we learn to live with the effects on our lives of this coronavirus. Always in our prayers are the sick and bereaved during these days.

### Christmas

Christmas is the season of joy, peace and happiness, a special season set aside to celebrate the birth of Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem. We wish all parishioners and friends all the blessings of this season.

## Aghnamullen

Although our church is closed again due to the present restrictions we continue to remember in our prayers those who have been ill and those in residential care at this difficult time and we also remember all those who are caring for them.

Congratulations to Mrs Alice Forde on the birth of a grandson, a son born to her son and his wife living in Australia.

We welcome the appointment of a new Bishop, Revd Canon Dr. Ian Ellis, Rector of Rossorry and we wish him well.

## Aghabog

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have been ill at home or in hospital or unwell in recent weeks and wish them best wishes for a speedy recovery.

We also remember in our prayers those who have been recently bereaved.

### Good wishes

We extend our good wishes to Rev Canon Dr. Ian Ellis Rector of Rossorry who has been appointed as our new Bishop of Clogher.

## Enniskillen Cathedral



Rector: The Dean,  
**The Very Revd Kenneth Hall**  
St Macartin's  
Deanery,  
13 Church Street,  
Enniskillen,  
Co. Fermanagh  
BT74 7DW

T: 028 66 322465  
E: dean@clogher.anglican.org

Diocesan Pastoral Assistant:  
**Mr Will Stevenson**  
Cathedral Office Secretary:  
Mrs Beth Rennick  
T: 028 66 322917  
E: enniskillen@clogher.anglican.org  
W: www.enniskillencathedral.org

### Services in December

#### Thursday 3rd December

11.00am - Holy Communion

#### Sunday 6th December: The Second Sunday of Advent

11.00am – Holy Communion

Thursday 10th December

11.00am - Holy Communion

#### Sunday 13th December: The Third Sunday of Advent

11.00am – Morning Prayer

Thursday 17th December

11.00am - Holy Communion

#### Sunday 20th December: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

11.00am – Carol Service

Thursday 24th December: Christmas Eve

11.00am – Holy Communion

9.00pm – Holy Communion

#### Friday 25th December: Christmas Day

10.30am – Holy Communion

#### Sunday 27th December: The First Sunday of Christmas

11.00am – Morning Prayer

#### Thursday 31st December: New Years Eve

11.00am - Holy Communion

### Services in January

#### Sunday 3rd January: The Second Sunday of Christmas

11.00am – Holy Communion

#### Thursday 7th January

11.00am - Holy Communion

#### Sunday 10th January: The First Sunday after the Epiphany

11.00am – Morning Prayer

#### Thursday 14th January

11.00am - Holy Communion

#### Sunday 17th January: The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

11.00am – Morning Prayer

#### Thursday 21st January

11.00am - Holy Communion

#### Sunday 24th January: The Third Sunday

### after the Epiphany

11.00am – Morning Prayer

#### Thursday 28th January

11.00am - Holy Communion

#### Sunday 31st January: The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

11.00am – Morning Prayer

### Holy Baptism

15th November – Alfie Rodney Wilson

### Christian Marriage

7th November – Emma Josephine Foster and Jonathan William Coalter

### Burial

■ 16th October - William James Gault, 17 Killyvilly, Enniskillen.

■ 10th November - Thomas William Alexander (Tommy) Hawthorne, Millcroft Nursing Home, Enniskillen.

■ 16th November - Elizabeth Lewis (Betty) McRoberts, Millcroft Nursing Home, Enniskillen, formerly Crest Road, Enniskillen.

### Cremation

■ 4th November - Shirley Geraldine Elizabeth Rowland, 20 Castlewood, Enniskillen.

### The Season of Advent

Advent is a time of impatient waiting, of holding our breath for what's waiting for us just around the corner. We're making preparations to celebrate Christmas Day,



At the Remembrance Service at St. Macartin's Cathedral.

of course, but most importantly, Christians spend this time preparing and waiting for Christ to be born again into the world which so desperately waits for Him. We're not the first people who have longed for a different world – all through history people have waited, just as eagerly, for peace, hope, joy and love.

### Christmas Services

This year we are going to miss out big time on many activities – the senior citizen's dinner, the children's nativity service, the Christmas morning family service with the moments of madness with sweets and gifts! There can be no Home Holy Communion due to the fact that those who are housebound are more vulnerable for infection. However, those senior citizens, who are more mobile and who are already out and about may wish to attend any of the Thursday Holy Communion Services at 11.00am. The numbers at these services are less and people feel very safe with good social distancing. The Carol Service, the Christmas Eve and the Christmas Day Services will be streamed - [enniskillencathedral.com](http://enniskillencathedral.com).

### Remembrance Day

A Remembrance Service took place on Sunday 8th November. Among the dignitaries attending were The Minister of State at the N Ireland Office Mr Robin Walker MP, The First Minister The Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA, An Taoiseach Mr Micheál Martin TD, Mr Bryan Wockley, Deputy US Consul General, Mr Jerome Mullen, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland and Councillor John Coyle, Vice-Chair of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. The Rt Hon Viscount Brookeborough, KG, KStJ. Read the first lesson and Scott Elliott BTh read the second lesson. The Rt Rev Monsignor Peter O'Reilly PP, VG led the Prayers and the preacher was The Archbishop of Armagh, The Most Rev F John McDowell BA Hons, B Th, Dip BS.

### Cathedral Website

Please go to our Cathedral Website: [www.enniskillencathedral.com](http://www.enniskillencathedral.com) for more photographs. We extend our grateful thanks

to Dr William Holmes for maintaining our Cathedral Website.

### The Revd Canon Dr Ian W Ellis has been elected Bishop of Clogher

Congratulations! The Dean offers his personal congratulations to Bishop Ian and wishes him every Blessing in the years ahead. This is not only a great appointment for the Diocese of Clogher but for the whole of the Church of Ireland. He also looks forward to enthroning him in the cathedral (the bishop's throne in the cathedral) very soon. Bishop Ian and the Dean have known each other for over 30 years. The parishioners of St Macartin's Cathedral also send their good wishes to Bishop Ian and look forward to seeing him on many occasions.



### 'Hall Together Now' project

When an application was made, under the Office of the First and Deputy First Ministers' Social Investment Fund, for grant aid on the renovation of the cathedral hall, the project was given the title 'Hall Together Now'. This was a catchy title that obviously impressed the funders as the name has stuck. The grant application was successful and attracted generous funding. One of the conditions associated with the offer of grant aid was that a three-year post construction evaluation would be carried out to check if the objects of the Social Investment Fund had been met.

The evaluation involved detailed record keeping by the Parish Secretary, Mrs Beth

Rennick, and by the Diocesan Office staff. Details of all the events held in the hall were kept over the three-year period. The names of the organisations, the attendance, and the number of volunteers involved in organising each event, were recorded. In addition, random surveys were carried out during each quarter asking those in attendance at functions in the hall to express their satisfaction with the facilities and the reception they received. Respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with the facilities, how they were treated in the hall, and whether their visit helped them. Throughout the

three-year survey period not one person surveyed indicated anything other than satisfaction. At the end of each quarter, during the three-year period, the information collected was submitted to the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister. Now that the period of evaluation has come to an end the Office has produced the attached summary of the 'Hall Together Now' project. The comparisons given are with the pre scheme usage of the hall. The outcome is most satisfying.

### Covid-19 Disinfectant Fogger

We thank all who contributed so generously to the purchase of a disinfectant fogging machine. This machine is perfect to efficiently disinfect and control outbreaks like the COVID-19 pandemic. This system reduces the number of infectious pathogens by dispersing ultra small droplets of our disinfectant solution into the area. These droplets then float in the surrounding air for around 10-20 minutes, for a simple, fast and super effective deep clean.



The Hall Together Now survey results.



Fogging machine for sanitizing.

The surplus money we received was used to buy free standing automatic sanitizers and will be used to purchase the necessary disinfectant as required.

### Messy Church

Messy Church @ Enniskillen Cathedral  
We love Messy Church @ Home! The theme for November was 'Count Your Blessings' and featured some very special guests all the way from Castlerock. This month we painted sunflowers of hope, made prayer bracelets, decorated blessing jars and made Rice Krispie Buns to share with our loved ones. We were delighted to welcome Chris, Sarah, Noah and Fergal back to our Messy Church family as they delivered a talk reminding us to focus on all of the positive things in our lives. Thank you Chris and Sarah - we miss yo

**December's Messy Church is on Thursday 17th December** (craft pick up on Monday 14th December). This month we will celebrate the birth of Jesus with lots of crafts, games and songs. It's never too late to join- just make sure you register (details below). Messy Church is a great opportunity for children to learn about God and the Bible in a relaxed and creative atmosphere. It is a FREE group open to all primary-aged children of all denominations. **This year Messy Church is all online!**

We have created a private Facebook group

to share video messages, worship videos, craft instructions, pictures and updates and packs containing craft supplies are available to pick up from the Cathedral Hall every month. New families are always welcome- please get in touch for more information on how you can get involved!

Messy Church @ Home is held on the third Thursday of each month. A full list of dates for 2020/21 is included below. There will be no Messy Church in January 2021. Our next session will be Thursday 18th February 2021.

Messy Church Dates 2020/21	Pack Pick-Up Date (4-5pm)
17th December	14th December
18th February	15th February
18th March	15th March
15th April	12th April

**All children must register to participate in Messy Church.** Details of this can be found below.

### Xplore and Confirmation @ Enniskillen Cathedral

We are looking forward to holding Xplore and Confirmation classes again once regulations permit. **Until then, please make sure all candidates and participants are registered** so that we can begin meeting as soon as possible. Details of this can be found below.

#### How can I get involved?

Please don't be strangers- if you have any questions please get in touch! We always love to hear from you. Registration forms and details on how to register for all Children and Youth organisations can be found:

On our social media pages and Google Drive  
On the Enniskillen Cathedral website  
From childrenandyouth@enniskillencathedral.com  
From the Cathedral Office

### Sunday Lights + Cafe @ Enniskillen Cathedral

This term we have been learning about lots of different characters in the New Testament. We enjoyed learning about how Jesus met His disciples, the lives of other key characters like John the Baptist, Paul and Timothy, and the stories of people who never got the chance to meet Jesus but followed Him and shared His good news. We look forward to continuing our journey in the New Testament

in the New Year.

Sunday Lights + Cafe will continue until Sunday 20th December. We will resume again in the New Year on Sunday 10th January 2021. Sunday Lights + Cafe allows our children to spend time together learning about the Bible, listening to stories about Jesus and His life, singing songs and participating in crafts and games. Sunday Lights is open to anyone in P1-5 and Sunday Cafe welcomes children in P6-Year 8. Everyone is welcome and we always love to see new faces!

Both Sunday Lights + Cafe are currently online. Weekly sessions are uploaded to our Children and Youth Google Drive every Friday ahead of service on Sunday. Each session contains a Bible passage, a YouTube video link, some discussion questions for you and your family, an interactive activity idea and short lesson as well as some additional resources.

Everyone in the Children and Youth team looks forward to the day that we can all meet in person again. Until then we hope you are enjoying our online sessions. Please stay in touch via social media - we love to see what you are getting up to.

We pray that everyone has a safe Christmas and New Year filled with lots of blessings from heaven above. May your world be filled with warmth and good cheer this Holy season, and throughout the year. We wish you a Merry Christmas and may this year bring abundant joy and happiness in your life.

*From the Children and Youth team*

### The Shoebox Appeal

Thank you to all who took part and supported the Mothers' Union in the Shoe Box Appeal. The shoeboxes have been sent off from our Parish to destitute children in Eastern Europe. These simple items/toys will transform the lives of many and probably the only Christmas present they will receive.

### Season Greetings

The Dean and Cathedral staff, extend to all parishioners and readers good wishes for a Happy and Peaceful Christmas. May the power, and the peace, and the presence of Christ fill your life and your home now and in the year ahead!



Youth activities at St. Macartin's Cathedral parish.

## Fivemiletown (including Kiltermon)



Rector:  
**Revd Precentor  
Kyle Hanlon**

Associate Minister:  
**The Revd Canon  
Dennis Robinson**  
Lisbellaw

The Rectory, 160 Ballagh Road,  
Fivemiletown, Co. Tyrone. BT75 0QP  
T: 028 895 21030

Parish Office  
10.00am-2pm Wednesday and Friday.  
Secretary: Judith Anderson

T: 028 895 22422  
E: fivemiletown@clogher.anglican.org

### Becoming Invisible

**'Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.'** Hebrews 11:1

Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us. That is His promise to us.

We have never seen what is ahead, but we are trusting in the promises he has made to us.

One early disciple wanted to SEE what was ahead, saying, 'Lord Show us the way.'

Jesus reminded him then, and us now, the He was the Way.

**'I am the Way, and the Truth and the Life.**

**No one comes to the Father, except through me.'** St John 14:16.

The writer to the Hebrew Christians picks up this same teaching, and writes of

the confidence, assurance and hope of Christians, exactly because of their faith and trust in Jesus.

In these long months since the 17th March 'notice to close' sent to parishes, we have learned a lot about what it means to trust again in His promises alone, to have faith in the Unseen, to trust Him for the things we cannot SEE.

I cannot see the usual posters and banners in town advertising the ministries and events of the parish; I cannot see the lights on in the parish hall, parked cars lining the Murley Road, full pages of the parish's diary, lists for the ongoing round of meetings, planning, reviews, pastoral visits, visits to nursing and residential homes. There are no school assemblies with an invitation to speak, and few special events planned for outreach. In some ways, parish life has become Unseen. Invisible perhaps.

There has been a lot to get used to. Setting up a first Facebook page in March, working out what is and how to use Zoom and Microsoft Teams, negotiating what worship and ministry might look like in very changed times. There have however been some successes and gains. Children's Ministries have tried to communicate well to families and parents. Letters, packs and work sheets have been sent. Enrolments have moved online. 83 children and young people have registered for one group, 20 in another. Some groups have struggled for leaders. Others have strived as they negotiate an online presence. Some have simply struggled to sort out the audio and video settings on tablets and phones. Reassuringly, I notice how even professional and competent individuals at meetings can lose connection, blunder to find mute and unmute, and how to get the lighting set for the video links. We are not alone. Although there are many examples of pioneering leaders and individuals who have supported and encouraged, some hard truths remain.

Attendance at church services is very low. Somewhere between 48 and 67 people have gathered for worship from a registered church family of 896.

This week I was struck by the visible fear some are carrying in their faces as they negotiate with themselves how to live and worship in a pandemic.

Church could become invisible. In a week where there is much lauded hope of a vaccine, and a return to 'normal' by the Spring, I cannot but wonder what a future normal might be like.

Will we be able to SEE church in the terms we were used to?

What have we gained during 'lockdown' that

perhaps is too precious to give up?

There is a lot to be said for meetings online. It is a joy not to have to travel endless miles to meetings which can take up much of a day. There is a certain benefit in knowing a meeting will be 40 minutes online, or that the contributions are focused because of time constraints.

And there is something to be said too for enhanced family time which this season has given.

It has been lovely to have company for lunch on days where someone can work from home, or take a walk with someone at home on days when schools are closed.



There has been newly discovered time to see the great beauty in Creation, and a new creativity has been discovered in home hobbies and crafts. This was a season to revel in the sight of the Great Spotted Woodpecker, once thought absent from this island, or

seeing local Jays, red squirrel fallow deer, and Red Admiral butterflies basking in Autumnal sun.

**Other parish encouragements include the online Bible study and Reading Group.**

Both groups have an associated book. Bible study are reading The Names Of Jesus, by Warren Wiersbe.

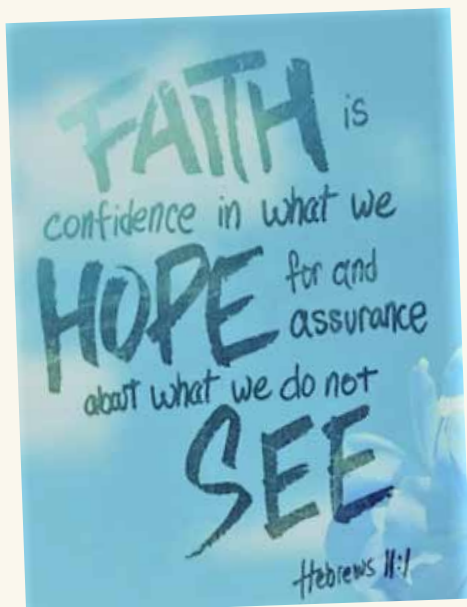
The Reading Group are reading The Grace Of Waiting by Margaret Whipp.

Both books are providing much encouragement, teaching and challenge, and participants are acknowledging their appreciation in their attendance across the weeks.

On Sunday mornings, we have studied many of the passages which tell of the pilgrim people, looking ahead to the heavenly Zion. That too has been a very gripping series of teaching, and a journey to which we are privileged to dedicate ourselves. It links well to a phrase in chapter 7 of The Grace Of Waiting.

'He who waits in absolute seriousness is already grasped by that for which he waits.' It is very telling listening to those engaged with Sunday morning teaching, or online participants of Bible Study and Reading Group, how they are already gaining the Kingdom which Jesus has prepared for those who love Him.

Clearly in these unexpected days, as much of our previous work now seems unseen and unnoticed, God is working out His purposes in ways we do not always have to SEE.



Our hope and faith and confidence then are not in the usual outward and familiar signs of the Kingdom, but in trusting Him for that which is unseen. It brings to mind the words He told:

**'Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.'** St John 12:24

Jesus had every confidence in the outworking of His Kingdom, thinking of the great work of regeneration which goes on even when a seed is hidden in the ground. Every gardener knows the miracle of new growth that comes after the time of sowing in fresh soil.

There is something inherent in His Kingdom that flourishes in times and ways that are not always so obvious.

May that be so in this season of set-apartness. Amen.

Included are some notes from parish ministries and outreach to give a sense of how their work carries on in these days:



## Sunday School

It was with great enjoyment and a lot of long evenings preparing we issued our Sunday School Registration packs to families. This included a registration form, Harvest craft pack and a few treats. With 91 children enrolling in these unprecedented times this is extremely encouraging for us all. We know that the Lord is moving within our families and drawing closer to him.

A shop window was kindly offered in Fivemiletown and a Harvest Window display was made for the community to enjoy by Heather Kirkpatrick and Norma Kerr. This was put together using the children's completed harvest crafts.

It was with anticipated excitement that we opened our virtual Sunday School on 1 November. After all the hard work of teachers preparing to open online we were delighted to connect with our Sunday school children again. This was met with a very positive response from families. Thinking ahead to Christmas we knew that we would have to be creative in telling the story of Jesus' Birth.

It is with great excitement that we have opened our registration process for our first ever Virtual Nativity. Acceptance responses are already coming in and hopefully this will be a great success!

*Heather Kirkpatrick*

*Sunday School Co-ordinator*

## Fivemiletown G.F.S.

We have been sending out packs to the girls from the end of September, these packs included the GFS Bible Programme for this year, some Badge Work and a little craft/cookery activity.

The girls are completing their Bible Worksheets and their Badge Work at home and their parents are sending us in pictures of their work, we are also receiving photos of the craft activities, which have been excellent. We are extremely grateful to parents for helping us out in this way. Our Bible Study Programme is almost completed, and the younger girls hopefully will have their Badge Work completed before we take a break for Christmas. So if you have some completed sheets or pictures that you have not returned to us – please return them now, as we need all of the sheets back to be able to give the girls their Badge and Bible Certificates at the end of the year.

We hope to have our Facebook page up shortly so that we can display the girls work and some of the other activities that the girls have done – their Prayer Hands and the Poppy Colouring Competition.

We have two more packs before Christmas, which will be based on the Christmas Story and crafts to go with it.

The girls are working as hard at home as if they were with us in the hall, and as a group of leaders we are delighted to see this response from the girls.

*Pearl Smyton (Branch Leader)*

## Church Lads' Brigade

While the Church Lads' Brigade are not able to meet in person, that hasn't stopped us from staying in touch. We have been meeting fortnightly with the Martins and Y Team boys over "Zoom" and our numbers have been growing each week. The boys received some craft packs in the post which we have been using to make crafts together which link in with our "Bible Blockbuster Scripture Course".

Each time we meet, we watch a video of our bible story, make a craft and play some games. The boys have been engaging really well and it has been an amazing opportunity for us all to catch up with each other.

*Victoria Jackson, Chief Executive Officer  
The Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade  
Northern Ireland*

## Knit Pray Love

**'Bless Fivemiletown Together' Dishcloth Project**

The final delivery of cotton was made to



each 'Knit Pray Love' lady on Wednesday 28th October. Each pack included five balls of cotton, a sample dishcloth securely wrapped and sealed with a 'Knit Pray Love' sticker and dated. And several sheets of printed and blank stickers. Also included was a postcard giving thanks and encouragement to each

lady with the words of Paul from Galatians chapter 6 verse 9:

*'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.'*

Since March each lady has received 45 balls of cotton. Many have been able to make more than that number of dishcloths. Each one made with much love and prayer. Every lady has been so grateful for this simple project and quite a few have said that it could not have come at a better time!

*Michele Magee, Knit, Pray, Love  
Co-ordinator*

## Men's Group

At the end of last year we put together a 2020 diary full of monthly events with wonderful speakers to encourage the Men in our parish and community to have a closer walk with Jesus.

In March we were half way through an alpha course where we had moved from our church building to our community college as a way of reaching out to men in our community.

Then Covid-19 happened and everything stopped. Our lives as we once knew it changed so much, and the freedoms we once enjoyed were stripped back.

The things we once thought important were shown as temporary whereas Jesus has been shown to be eternal. The one constant, in a time of turmoil. Throughout lockdown we kept a Whatsapp group going, where each man helped to encourage one another to stay strong and stay close to Jesus.





As the year has progressed we again planned our December outreach whereby the Men's group go door to door to give away a bag of potatoes and a UCB word for today (daily bible readings) to every home in Fivemiletown. In this way 550 homes see God's love in a practical way. This year we are delighted that Knit, Pray, Love have partnered with us and throughout the year have been knitting 550 dish cloths for every home with love. We hope and trust that this outreach will be a blessing to every home and God will be glorified in everything we do. *Every Blessing, Andy and Chris*

### Senior Adults

Unfortunately due to events this year the quarterly Senior Adult's Holy Communion and lunch had to be cancelled. This event proved to be very popular with up to 70 people attending each quarter. It is hoped therefore that we will be in a position to recommence next year. May we take this opportunity to wish everybody a safe Christmas and a happy New Year.



### Mothers' Union

Over the past months our Leader, Hilary Kenny, has continued to communicate by telephone with members and indoor members, or their families. During June Hilary and some committee members organised little food treats made up locally by H & H Bakery which were distributed to the senior members of the Parish. Included in each goody bag was a card from the Sunday School children, and a copy of a poem penned by our talented parishioner, Mrs Beverley Weir. These bags were received with surprise and gratitude. Clogher Diocesan M.U. Trustees organized and supplied Blessing Bags which then were distributed to each member of our Branch by Hilary and some committee members. These bags contained a selection of thoughtful gifts including masks made by our own members Emily Kells and Sheila Burke. Our members much appreciated this kind and thoughtful gesture and wish to thank all involved. Sadly we have lost two members. Mrs Margaret Gault died on 4th April. Margaret was enrolled in 2019 and had become an active and very involved member when her health permitted as she was battling cancer

but had attended our last meeting in March. Indeed none of us realized that night how much daily life was about to change. On 2nd June one of our indoor members died. Mrs Eileen Johnston was 94 and had become a member in 1968. She had been awarded her 50 years long membership certificate two years ago. Both members will be remembered with great affection. November was the month when members contributed and prepared Christmas hampers for the seniors of the Parish. Obviously this is not possible this year but nevertheless Hilary and other committee members are preparing surprises!! Elvina Funston communicates and keeps in contact

with the seniors. We appreciate all Hilary and Elvina plan and do on our behalf at this time. *Margaret Bothwell, Secretary to Mother's Union*

### Mums and Tots

Mums and Tots meet on the second and fourth Monday of each month from 10am -11.30 am in the Parish Hall, a time for mums, or carers, and their little folk to have fun together.

A morning with tea/coffee, juice, toast and freshly baked scones, alongside play stations set up around the hall. These include sand, water, play dough, paint/craft, loads of toys and the morning is brought to a close with interactive nursery rhymes.

The morning is enjoyed by everyone and supported by a team of dedicated leaders. Without these leaders Mums and Tots would not function as they set up and tidy after each session. Also, they are a great encouragement to the Mums.

When we met on the second Monday in March 2020 little did we know what lay ahead and that Mums and Tots would come to an abrupt halt because of Covid-19. Now in the month of December Mums and Tots is still closed but we look forward to meeting up again in the near future.

We have fun filled memories of our Christmas Party last year with painted hand prints transferred on Christmas baubles, decorated ginger bread men, and crowns made from foam to celebrate the birth of a King. We had a photo booth with a winter scene to capture those precious moments on Mum's mobile phone. We finished with party food, a visit from Santa and a goody bag for the children.



The Mums and leaders received a gift of a small silver star to place on their Christmas tree to help focus on the real meaning of Christmas, with a poem about following the star that leads to a stable where we find the ultimate gift of Christmas "EMMANUEL", God with us.

In the meantime we look forward to 2021 and meeting up again when it is safe to do so. Until then, we wish you all God's Richest Blessings.

*Mamie Alexander, Mums & Tots Co-ordinator*

### Celebrating the Birth Of Jesus

**Tuesday 8 December:**

Christmas Outreach Project  
Hosted by Men's Ministry and Knit Pray Love. A gift of a bag of potatoes, a handmade cotton dishcloth, a gospel tract, and invitation to parish services this Christmas, to 550 homes in the town and area.



**7pm Sunday 13 December**

Carols and Readings by Candlelight  
St John's Church.

**11am Sunday 20 December,**

Morning Prayer in Parish Hall.  
6pm Sunday School Nativity Service in St John's Church. Booking Only. Limited seating.

**Christmas Eve**

9pm Thursday 24 December, Holy Communion in Parish Hall.

**Christmas Day**

10.30am 25 December, Holy Communion in St John's. Shorter service including a Kid's Talk.

**11am Sunday 27 December**

Morning Prayer in Parish Hall.

**11am Sunday 3 January 2021**

St John's Church thereafter.

**Please note venues for Christmas Services.**

Adjustments of time or venue have been made to some services for Christmas with permission from the Ordinary (the Bishop's Commissary Archdeacon Harper) to account for the Church Of Ireland COVID-19 Guidelines and Protocols at this time, and to minimise cleaning requirements where possible. For the Christmas services, seating is allocated on arrival, except at the Sunday School Nativity Service, when seating is very limited and will be strictly by booking only.



## Galloon, Sallaghy and Drummully



Rector:  
The Revd  
Lorraine Capper

The Rectory, 23 Drumcru Road,  
Newtownbutler BT92 8JD

T: 028 677 37115  
E: lorraine.capper@googlemail.com

### Are you ready?

Christmas should be a time of great joy and real celebration for everyone. But many people struggle through it - getting into debt, feeling pressurised or stressed, guilty or lonely - and unable to participate fully in the meaning of Christmas.

Are you ready for Christmas? This can be such a hectic time of the year with all those cards to write, presents to buy and wrap. Let alone the decorations and the food and the people and family we make contact with, who we maybe only connect with once a year. And it all needs preparation. The supermarkets start preparing for Christmas almost as soon as the summer holidays are over: they replace the aisles of barbecues with tinsel and baubles. The Church also has a particular season set aside for preparing - we call it Advent. Advent in the Church starts four Sundays before Christmas, so this year it begins on 29th November. This is far from a tinsel-filled celebration time. It is a time of penitence, of self-denial.

Because the preparation we need as Christians for Christmas is nothing to do with cards or wrapping paper - it is everything to do with being ready to receive Christ into our world, into our lives. For the Christmas, or more properly Christ-mass, that we celebrate on 25th December is the coming of God into the world as a human being. It is the birth of Jesus, the only Son of God, as a human baby. The scandal is that this Messiah was not born in a royal palace or somewhere of great splendour, but as we know in a dirty, smelly stable. The account of the Nativity is a tremendous one, that points us to the real reason for the season - the wonder that God chose to become a human being out of love for us. Jesus is God's love embodied in flesh. And that love

was not only shown to us in the way that Jesus lived among people in Galilee 2000 years ago, the way he walked around, the things he said, the miracles he performed. God's love was fully demonstrated in the way Jesus died - the way he was totally unfairly executed as if he were some sort of criminal, on a cross - and then when he was raised to life three days later. We only understand the enormity of God's love embodied in Jesus, born at Christmas, if we also look to the events around Easter. We cannot begin to understand why Jesus was born, without understanding that God gave him to the world, to die on a cross for our sins, so that he would rise from the dead on the third day, to provide us with a way to forgiveness for sins. There has never been a time in all of human history, either before or since, when God had reached out in the same way to save his people. The first Christmas is a once and for all event. This is the moment when salvation for humankind came to be.

And so in Advent we prepare as a Church for that time of great celebration, but also as church members, we prepare our hearts to be ready to experience God's love and his forgiveness afresh, as he comes to us in the Christ-child. Advent is a time to have some quiet reflection, to clear away all that clutters up our minds, and to make space within ourselves, for God's love in Christ to come to us in a new and fresh way.

'Quiet', 'space', 'uncluttered', are all words that seem to be almost the opposite of what often happens in the run-up to Christmas.

That is where our approach as a Church is in contrast to the rest of our society.

However we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christmas, may we each of us be prepared to know Christ born within our own lives. Immanuel, God is with us.

To all diocesan magazine readers, from all at Galloon, Sallaghy and Drummully Parishes: May the joy of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, the worship of the wisemen, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmastide and in 2021.

### Services in December

At the time of writing all churches in the Republic of Ireland have remained closed due to Level 5 restrictions in place due to the Coronavirus. If the Government restrictions allow the following services are planned:

#### Sunday, 6th December 2020 - The Second Sunday of Advent

9am: Drummully Parish Church: A Celebration of Holy Communion  
10.30 am: Sallaghy Parish Church: A Celebration of Holy Communion  
12 noon: Galloon Parish Church: A



Celebration of Holy Communion

#### Sunday, 13th December 2020 - The Third Sunday of Advent

9am: Drummully Parish Church: Morning Prayer  
10.30 am: Sallaghy Parish Church: Morning Prayer  
12 noon: Galloon Parish Church: Morning Prayer

#### Sunday, 20th December 2020 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

9am: Drummully Parish Church: A Service of Lessons and Carols.  
10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church: A Service of Lessons and Carols.  
12 noon: Galloon Parish Church: A Service of Lessons and Carols.

#### Thursday 24th December 2020 - Christmas Eve

9pm: Galloon Parish Church: A Celebration of Holy Communion

#### Friday 25th December 2020 - Christmas Day

10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church: A Celebration of Holy Communion. Children are invited to bring a toy with them.

#### Sunday, 27th December 2020 - The First Sunday of Christmas

10.30am: Drummully Parish Church: (A Group service). Come along and sing your favourite carol.

### Services in January 2021

#### Sunday 3rd January 2021 - The Second Sunday of Christmas

9am: Drummully Parish Church: A Celebration of Holy Communion  
10.30 am: Sallaghy Parish Church: A Celebration of Holy Communion  
12.00 noon: Galloon Parish Church: A Celebration of Holy Communion

**Sunday 10th January 2021 - The First Sunday After the Epiphany**

9am: Drummully Parish Church: Morning Prayer

10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church: Morning Prayer

12.00 noon: Galloon Parish Church: Morning Prayer

**Sunday 17th January 2021 - The Second Sunday After the Epiphany**

9am: Drummully Parish Church: Family Service

10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church: Family Service

12.00 noon: Galloon Parish Church: Family Service

**Sunday 23th January 2021 - The Third Sunday After the Epiphany**

9am: Drummully Parish Church: Morning Prayer

10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church: Morning Prayer

12.00 noon: Galloon Parish Church: Morning Prayer

**Sunday 31st January 2021 - The Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany**

10.30 Galloon Parish Church - Group Service

**Remembrance Sunday**

An Act of Remembrance was held in Sallaghy on 1st November. In Galloon a smaller congregation than usual gathered (due to the COVID-19 restrictions) on Remembrance Sunday as Revd. Lorraine led the service giving thanks for all those who had across the ages been examples of courage and stood up to fight against injustices. Rev. Lorraine was delighted that some girls had worn their Girl Guides' uniform and some boys were in their scouting uniform. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the parish, PSNI and UDR. Three generations of the Bell-Noble family led the prayers; grandfather Richard and his daughter Helen and his grandson Alfie. For the first time Mr William Little had researched and paid tribute with a very interesting display to those who had trained in Crom during World War II.

**Galloon Family Harvest**

The young people got very creative in Galloon to decorate their church for harvest. There was a huge range of artwork on display from hand-painted pictures to

models made from recycled materials. Prayers were written and read by Holly, Isaac, Beth and Esther. Emma played two solos on her violin. Thanks to all who helped in any way to make this service very enjoyable.

**Baptisms**

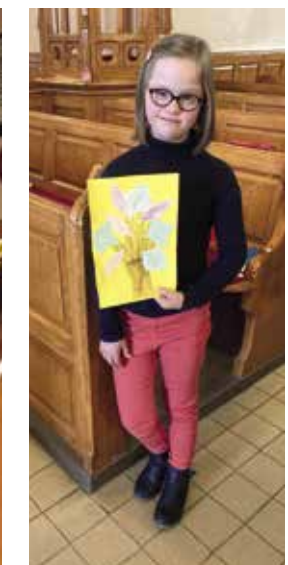
We were delighted to celebrate two baptisms within Galloon Parish. The baptism of Edward Mihail Wiggins, the son of Andrea and Robert on Sunday 1st November; and Bella Louise, the daughter of William and Helen Noble, a sister for Alfie and Hugo on 15th November.

**Congratulations Bishop Ian Ellis (Bishop Elect of Clogher)**

Our sincere congratulations to Rev. Canon Dr Ian Ellis on his appointment as Bishop elect of Clogher Diocese. We offer our prayers for our "new" Bishop as he prepares for his new role. May he be aware of God guiding him in the days ahead as he enters this new chapter with the help of God.



Creative ideas for harvest at Galloon.



# Garrison, Slavin, Belleek and Kiltyclogher

Vacant  
Canon Alan Irwin, Rural Dean,  
is in charge.

Social distancing will be observed and hygiene controls in place at all services. Please rest assured that your church is a safe place to go if you are able to be out and about we would love to see you. It is important that we continue our regular worship during our time of vacancy.

Note services for Kiltyclogher church will take place in Garrison Church as long as the current regulations are in place in ROI for COVID 19. Any changes will be reflected on the Parish's Facebook page.

## Church Services Diary

During the Christmas holiday period the services continue as previous years with a group service in each church for each of the main services. Please try and support your own church and all churches in the group during this difficult time as we encourage each other and give support to the visiting clergy who make such an effort to come and take our services during this time of vacancy.

Sincere thanks to Rev Canon Dr William Johnston who has conducted our services for the last month. We are very appreciative of his ministry to us.

### Sunday 6th December

Garrison 10am HC, Slavin at 11.30am HC

### Sunday 13th December

Group Family Service- Slavin at 11.30am (MP). Special music and participation from the young people.

### Sunday 20th December

Kiltyclogher - 7pm Carol Service (but maybe in Garrison depends on ROI restrictions- will be notified on FB page)

### Thursday 24th December

Christmas Eve Service of HC in Belleek at 8pm

### Friday 25th December

Christmas Day Group Service of HC in Garrison at 9.30am

### Sunday 27th December

Group Service MP (Advent Carol Service) in Belleek at 11.30am

Our Christmas services will have some participation by readers and some solo performances. Limited unfortunately



compared to usual due the pandemic.

## 2021

### Sunday 3rd January

Garrison 10am HC, Slavin at 11.30am HC

### Sunday 10th January

Kiltyclogher 10am HC, Belleek at 11.30am HC

### Sunday 17th January

Garrison 10am Mp, Slavin at 11.30am MP

### Sunday 24th January

Kiltyclogher 10am MP, Belleek at 11.30am MP

### Sunday 31st January

Group Service of MP in Belleek 11.30am

## Church Money for 2020

Thanks to everyone for their continued giving during a difficult 2020. Unfortunately all bills must be continue to be paid and buildings looked after, so thanks everyone for your commitment and dedication.

Due to distinct deadlines by the Charites Commission all payments for 2020 must be received and banked by the treasurer by 31 December to be included for the year ended 2020.

If you wish to pay by Online banking or Direct Debit please contact your treasurer of your church who will be happy to facilitate this.

### Treasurers

Garrison - Lorraine Boyd  
Slavin - Elizabeth Ovens  
Belleek - Lorraine Boyd  
Kiltyclogher - Pauline Carson

## Remembrance Service

Sunday 8th November was our annual remembrance service in Garrison Parish church at 5pm. The service was conducted by the Rev Canon Dr William Johnston. The Poppy wreath in memory of the lost in the First World War was laid

at the memorial stone of Private Thomas Carson by Kevin Barlow on behalf of Garrison parishioners. The other wreath in memory of those who lost their lives in Northern Ireland was laid at the plaque in memory of Mr Johnny Fletcher by The McCallions. Mrs Dot Barlow and Mr John McClure read the lessons. A lament was played by Mr Paul Barton on the bagpipes. Richard McClure read out the names of those who lost their lives. Mrs Audrey Ovens sang "Precious Lord" and read a fitting poem she had written entitled "On Poppy Hill". Canon Johnston thanked all involved particularly the Regimental Association for their presence and to Audrey for your beautiful singing and poem which adds so much to this service each year.

## Prayers

Our thoughts and prayers are with those from our group of parishes who have been in hospital or unwell in recent weeks. We remember Lowry Somerville, Slavin Parish who was in hospital for a short time.

## Keep Up To Date

Keep up to date with news for our Group of Parishes on [www.belleek.clogher.anglican.org](http://www.belleek.clogher.anglican.org). The web manager is Jenna Earls. Photos & articles etc. for the website to be e-mailed to Doreen Earls at Social Networking: Follow us on Facebook using the name Garrison Group of Parishes. Simply 'Like' our page to receive updates on events.

## Inishmacsaint



Part-time  
Stipendiary Minister:  
**The Revd  
Stephanie Woods**

T: 07759949932  
E: inishmacsaint@clogher.anglican.org

### **Used clothes collection is now over.**

Thanks to all who supported this fund raising initiative: total amount weighed 1220kg raising £488 for church funds. A special thanks to Laura and Eddie Rogers for organising this.

**Body Shop initiative** raised £121.80 for church funds. 10% of further orders through Natasha Dane (07544595944) will also go to church funds. Thanks to Natasha for organising this.

**Salvation Army Christmas gifts** for children in need must be in church by Sunday, 6th December at the latest. Items for teenagers particularly needed.

**Harvest food for local food bank** – thanks to all who supported this especially Leeanne who delivered it to the food bank in Enniskillen.

**Church rails** (inside and outside) are still in use so please make full use of them. They are immediately disinfected if used.



Melanie Grimsley with Rev Stephanie after preaching at harvest.

Body Shop orders ready to be dispatched.



### **MU design a Christmas card competition**

with three categories: religious, traditional or child's card. Cards should not exceed A5 size with NO glitter. Completed designs should be sent to Ivy Edwards, 69 Carn Road, Ballyreagh, Tempo BT94 3AG by 27th November OR give to Laura before that date. Put your name, address, branch and diocesan name on back of card. Best two cards in each category will be forwarded for judging at all-Ireland level. Your card may be reproduced.

### **Countdown to Christmas Advent Activity Book:**

there is a copy of this book for each child.

**Sympathy:** the parish extends its sincere sympathy to the family and friends of the late George Millar, formerly of County Armagh.

### **Christmas Services**

COVID-19 regulations permitting, Christmas services will be as follows:



Each week Rev Stephanie produces 'Phew News' - an activity sheet of puzzles and crosswords etc for children based on the service theme. These have proved so popular that many adults are asking for them too. Here is a young enthusiast getting some help from her Gran after taking Phew News home.

### **Sunday, 20th December**

11.30am Christingle Service: bring an orange per person

### **Sunday, 20th December**

7.30pm Carols by Candlelight

### **Christmas Eve**

11pm Holy Communion

### **Christmas Day**

10am Holy Communion

### **Sunday, 27th December**

11.30am Service of the Word for Christmas

**Anti-viral fog sanitizing will take place between services. To preserve social distancing, please contact Elizabeth on 07984121395.**



Countdown to Christmas is an Advent activity book that has been provided for each child by the vestry.

## Kilskeery and Trillick



Rector:  
Revd Philip Bryson

The Rectory, 130 Kilskeery Road, Trillick,  
Co. Tyrone BT78 3RJ  
T. 028 8956 1457  
E. Kilskeery@clogher.anglican.org

"Marley was dead: to begin with", so Charles Dickens pens the opening lines of "A Christmas Carol". Above all, this is a tale about life, even though it opens with such a beginning. The main character, Scrooge, is told that he will face the three spirits of Christmas past, present, and yet to come. After these encounters which lead him to reflect on his life, he comes to the conclusion that some change is in order. He can't change the past but he can make decisions in the present that will alter the trajectory of his future. And so, a story that began in the dark reaches a point where the light is switched on and then ends with the line, "God bless us, Everyone!"

We have faced many dark days in 2020, days that we would rather forget but how have those days affected us? Have we become embittered or despondent by the whole experience of lockdown and restrictions? Have we been affected by the constant barrage of negative news and counting totals? Such difficulties have the possibility of leading us down a particular way of thinking, that causes us to only see the negative, paving a pathway away from hope and fun and life and positive thinking. This could have happened, to varying degrees, to many of us this year but might this Advent and Christmas season present to us an opportunity to reflect on the year past and honestly examine our thoughts to see if there is anything we could change? Scrooge had an encounter with three spirits that led him to change his ways, might we be blessed by having an encounter with the Spirit of God, who is the one who gives life, love, peace and allows all of His fruits to grow in our hearts and gives us God's perspective on the matters at hand. But how could we do this? Verses like Ephesians 5:15-21 point us in the right direction. It is an intentional, prayerful,



open, repentant, loving, desperate, sincere, faith-filled, persistent relationship with the Lord God. It is daily interaction with Him. Maybe over this Advent and Christmas time we would find ourselves blessed, despite a difficult and challenging year, if we were to meet up with the Lord God and be more intentional about our relationship with Him. It might even cause the overflow of our hearts to shy away from the negative to, "God bless us, Everyone!"

### A Service 4 Everyone

Our Sunday Services continue to be aimed at including something for everyone and it has been great and encouraging to see many families as well as a good cross-section of parishioners coming along. We have recently been looking at the lives of heroes of the faith from the Old Testament. We recognise that there are still some who remain cautious and others who are shielding who will not be back into the church building just yet and so we have continued to have a drive-in option offered during the service at Kilskeery.

### Facebook

Facebook continues to be a means of keeping in contact and also getting information out about what's going on and what has been on. We upload a Sunday Service each week along with other words of encouragement, prayers and other general information.

### Worship, Bible Study and Prayer

We've been meeting on Wednesday evenings in the church building for worship, bible study and prayer. This has provided an opportunity for both congregations to meet together which is something that hasn't happened since before the first lockdown. It has been great to spend time together in this way.

### Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday was a little more low key this year than usual. We observed an act of remembrance at both parishes along

with a short act of remembrance in Kilskeery graveyard between the services.

### Samaritan's Purse

We were extremely pleased with the response to the Shoebox Appeal this year. When we have been thinking so much about ourselves and our own needs it is great to spend some time to do something practical that will be a blessing to others.



### Congratulations to Revd. Canon Dr Ian Ellis

We would like to congratulate Revd Canon Dr Ian Ellis on being elected as the next Bishop of Clogher and look forward to his leadership in the Diocese.

### Sunday Service Times:

Christ Church Parish, Trillick - 10:30am  
Kilskeery Parish Church - 11:45am

### December Dates and Times

- Sun 6th - IMMANUEL : An Advent Service 4 Everyone
- Wed 9th - Carols by Candlelight in Christ Church Parish, Trillick at 8:00pm
- Sat 12th - Switching on of Kilskeery Christmas Lights at Kilskeery Community Hall at 5:00pm with a special appearance being made by Santa Claus.
- Sun 13th - THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS : An Advent Service 4 Everyone
- Wed 16th - Carols by Candlelight in Kilskeery Parish Church at 8:00pm
- Sun 20th - WE THREE KINGS : An Advent Service 4 Everyone
- Thu 24th - Christmas Eve in Kilskeery at 9:00pm
- Fri 25th - Christmas Day Service : Trillick at 9:00am and Kilskeery at 10:30am
- Sun 27th - ON THE RUN : A Service 4 Everyone

## Lisbellaw with Coolbuck

Vacant

**Very Rev Kenneth R J Hall**  
The Dean of Clogher  
is in charge.



Services and pastoral cover provided by **Revd. Colin Brownsmith.**

### Sunday Services

**6th December: The Second Sunday of Advent**

11.00am Lisbellaw: Holy Communion

**13th December: The Third Sunday of Advent**

11.00am Lisbellaw: Morning Prayer

**20th December: The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

11.00am Lisbellaw: Morning Prayer.

7.00pm Lisbellaw: Carols by Candlelight  
(Relayed to Parish Centre )

**24th December: Christmas Eve**

10.00pm Carols from Coolbuck (Pre-recorded )

**25th December: Christmas Day**

11.00am Lisbellaw: Holy Communion  
(Relayed to Parish Centre)

**27th December: The First Sunday of Christmas**

11.00am Lisbellaw: Morning Prayer.

**3rd January: The Epiphany**

11.00am Lisbellaw: Holy Communion

*January Services will follow the usual monthly pattern.*



Miss Isobel Stewart, Parish Reader.



Revd Colin Brownsmith and his wife, Olive.

### A message from the Revd. Colin

It seems amazing that I have been at Lisbellaw with Coolbuck for nearly three months now..

By the time you are reading this we will have started our preparations for Christmas. So firstly, let me wish all our parishioners and all in the diocese a very Happy Christmas.

As I write this, I am very aware of the effect that the Covid-19 has had on our community. Sadly, some have lost relatives to the disease; our thoughts and prayers are with them. The disease has also dramatically affected the way that we can 'do' Church. In September we were having 'drive-in church' and now we are able to hold services in Lisbellaw but with very restricted numbers. Some manage to view the services online on our Facebook page but there are some

who have not been able to take advantage of either of these options. I want those parishioners to know that we have not forgotten them and even though we may be physically isolated from them, they are still very much part of our parish family and they are always in our hearts. We earnestly look forward to the time when this situation will be nothing more than an unpleasant memory and we will be able to worship together again.

For those who have missed being able to follow what has gone on in church I would like to give a very quick summary of the messages that we have shared together. Obviously, I cannot fit 12 sermons into one paragraph but in my mind there has been



Children delighted with books received from Sunday School.



a message that has kept repeating itself. That is that we are safe in the certain faith that we have in the Lord, that faith in our salvation comes from our shared belief in the grace of God given to us through his son Jesus Christ. It is in that belief that we have obtained our salvation. However, being saved is only the beginning because our Lord expects us to show our love for him through the lives we lead and the love that we show to others. As he himself told us, you can tell a good tree by the good fruit that it produces.

It would be very remiss of me not to thank all those wonderful people from Lisbellaw and Coolbuck who have played their part in making all the services happen - both physically and virtually. I will not name names because there are many, but you all have my thankful admiration for all you have done.

Finally, may God bless you all. May each of you have a very Happy Christmas and, we hope, a much more normal New Year.

### Remembrance Sunday 2020

Like everything else, Remembrance Sunday was very different in 2020. In recent years there had been two well attended services in our church - one in the morning with the youth organisations present and one in the afternoon with the Lisbellaw Veterans' Association. This year we had just one service - beginning at 10.45am. Unfortunately the children and young people were not able to join us - but we were delighted that a small number of ex-servicemen were present, and able to take part. As the numbers permitted in church are small, the service was live-streamed as



Attending the Remembrance Sunday service.



The bridal party at Luke and Emma's wedding.



usual. Warmest thanks to Lee, Stephanie and David who worked for hours with phones, laptops, data projectors, screens and the sound system to enable the service to eventually be relayed to the Parish Centre.

### New Bishop for Clogher Diocese

We were delighted to learn that Canon Ian Ellis, Rector of Rossorry Parish has been elected as the new Bishop of Clogher and wish him and his wife Heather God's richest blessings as they begin this new phase of their ministry in our diocese.

### Wedding

October 31st saw the lovely wedding in our church of Emma Dunlop and Luke Cathcart - pictured here with Emma's mum and dad, Vivienne and Alan, her brothers John and George and her sister, Karen. We wish Emma and Luke every happiness as they begin their lives as a married couple. 'May The Lord bless you and keep you.'

### Death

It is with deep regret that we record the peaceful death on Monday 26th October in Millcroft Nursing Home of Mrs Una Ellis, late of 39 Cloghcor Road, Lisbellaw. Beloved

wife of the late Davy, Una was the dearly loved mother of Gary, Colin, Arlene and Sharon.

To them, her grandchildren, her great grandchildren and to all the family circle we extend our heartfelt sympathy at this very sad and difficult time. Mrs Ellis was buried at a private service in Tattygare Cemetery on Wednesday 28th October.

### Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those from our parish who have recently lost loved ones.

## Lisnaskea



Rector:  
**The Revd  
Alan Capper**

The Rectory, 3 Castlebalfour Road,  
Castlebalfour Demesne, Lisnaskea, Co.  
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E: lisnaskea@clogher.anglican.org  
Parish Office T: 028 677 23977  
E: lisnaskeaparishchurch@hotmail.co.uk

### Services For December

#### Sunday 6th

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

#### Sunday 13th

10.30 a.m. Carols and Lessons

#### Sunday 20th

10.30 a.m. Carol and Lessons  
(Collection for sponsored children)

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

(Archdale Centre)

8.00 p.m. Holy Communion

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

(Trinity Hall)

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

#### Sunday 27th

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer

### Services For January

#### Sunday 3rd

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

#### Sundays 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer

*\*Please note the alternative arrangements for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services this year. This is to avoid extra*

*cleaning of the church building between services.*

### Special Birthday

On Saturday 31st October, our oldest parishioner Mrs Evie Bowles celebrated her 100th birthday in Gortacharn Nursing home. Although, due to the present restrictions the family couldn't party in the way they had planned, it was still a very special occasion and Evie even made the BBC news looking very well and happy. As a result of an appeal by her grandson, Evie received over 1,000 cards from well-wishers all over the world including Her Majesty the Queen. First Minister Arlene Foster paid a socially distanced visit as did members of Evie's family and the staff of the Nursing Home really pulled out the stops by providing a wonderful celebration while at the same time complying fully with current regulations. Evie's husband who passed away a few years ago also reached the wonderful age of 101 and her advice for a long life was "plenty of hard work as long as you are able". Many congratulations Evie!



Mrs Evie Bowles who celebrated her 100th birthday.



Flowers for Remembrance Sunday



## Remembrance

A service of remembrance was held on Sunday 8th November and although there wasn't the usual parade and large number of organisations in church, this didn't take away from the importance of the day. Wreaths were laid by representatives of the PSNI, Old Comrades, RIR, British Legion and the RNLI. Gary Agnew was our bugler and Lettie Downey our organist. We very much appreciate everyone coming along and making the service possible.

## Shoeboxes

Thank you to everyone who filled shoeboxes again this year for the "Samaritan's Purse" appeal. These are now on their way to some very needy children who will no doubt really enjoy opening them and will have a much better Christmas

as a result of your generosity. In what has been a very difficult and worrying year for everyone, it is good to remember those less fortunate than ourselves.

As we come near to Christmas and the end of 2020 we pray that 2021 will be a better year for everyone. We encourage families to adhere to the regulations over the holiday period remembering that it is vitally important to protect ourselves as well as others at all times. We remember the families who have lost loved ones in the past year, all the people who will spend Christmas in hospital and also the doctors and nursing staff who will be spending their day caring for others.

## Christmas wishes

Wishing everyone a Happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.



## Magheracross



Rector:  
**Archdeacon  
Brian Harper**

The Rectory, 27 Craghan Road,  
Ballinamallard, Co. Fermanagh. BT94 2BT

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E: magheracross@clogher.anglican.org

Christmas 2020 will be a season of considerable uncertainty. We can't be sure which friends and family members we can meet. Our usual social occasions and church events are all provisional and some will be untried and novel. Nevertheless, the key elements of the festival remain the same. Whether we are alone or in a crowd, in a church or hospital or stable, Christ is here.

Our offering for Magheracross Parish, as of the printing deadline, is as follows:

### Services in December

- December 6th, 3pm in the Archdale Hall, Messy Church. Family bubbles, places limited, please reserve a table. This event may be repeated.
- December 13th, 9:00am Morning Prayer
- December 13th, 11am, Family Service for Christmas, priority will be given to families. Please reserve a pew per bubble.



Gordon Lee with sexton, Raymond McBrien and Jenny McCrea.

- December 20th, 9:00am Holy Communion
- December 20th, 11am, Carol Service, pews limited, please reserve a pew per bubble.
- Christmas Eve, 11:15pm, Holy Communion, please reserve a pew per bubble.
- Christmas Day, 10:00am Holy Communion, please reserve a pew per bubble.
- December 27th 10:00am Online Service only, following by zoom chat. Text 07989 743545 to reserve a space at any of the services, but especially those that are indicated. Do not text on 21st/22nd December as I will be celebrating my older son's wedding!

### Sexton's retirement

Sadly, our Sexton for the past 24 years has taken his retirement. Raymond McBrien will be greatly missed in this voluntary role.

His responsibilities were many and varied and often unseen. It ranged from counting the congregation each week to putting up the Christmas Tree and tidying up after the rector. It is many of the unseen touches that will be greatly missed. Last month, on a very wet evening, Raymond had a doorstep presentation of a crystal engraved plate as a token of our thanks. This was presented by the rector and Select Vestry members, Jenny McCrea and Gordon Lee. Raymond's wife, Maybeth, also received a bouquet. Friends from the parish and beyond extended their greetings via Facebook.

### Congratulations

The parish extends its blessings and prayers to our Bishop-elect, the Revd Canon Dr Ian Ellis and we look forward to his ministry.

## Magheraculmoney



Rector:  
**The Revd  
Francis Rutledge**

The Rectory, 47 Main Street, Kesh.

Parish Office,  
The Fountain Centre, Kesh  
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E: office@ardess.org  
Website: www.ardess.org

### INTRODUCTION

This year, the context for everything has changed. Even the context for beginning ministry in a new parish - starting, literally, by being 'zoomed in'. Despite the current circumstances, myself, my wife Julie and mother-in-law Ingrid are beginning to settle into our new home and surroundings in Kesh.

We are so thankful in these strange days for the welcome we have received.

2020 has been a tough year. So as we engage with 'God's Story' in the season of Advent we want our hearts to be stirred to find hope, joy and comfort without ignoring reality.

A while back, I read Tom Wright's book 'God and the Pandemic' and in it he frames the response to our current context like this: "Put Jesus in the centre of the picture and work out from there." He goes on to say, "Jesus is the summons to repent and the clue to what God is doing in the world." In these days, as we seek to follow Jesus, to be the people that Jesus created - the Church - we are called to, in biblical terms, lament.

But as the people of God, we do this in a very different and Christ-like way - a way that brings hope, joy and comfort in the face of reality. In doing so we bring a faith-filled presence to the brokenness and despair we encounter and lament. We are able to lament, mourn and pray in the face of pain and challenging circumstances, but not without being the peddlers of hope, joy and comfort, as we put Jesus in the centre of the picture and work out from there. God's story tells us of the coming of the Christ - the Messiah - one who in flesh and blood (John 1:14a) enters a world of idolatry, injustice, tragedy, human brutality and wickedness of every kind - He comes

as the light that shines in the darkness (John 1:5). May we know this light and as Christ followers in our current context be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer (Romans 12:12).

**Francis**

### Youth & Children's Worker

In June of this year, Mrs Shirley-Anne McCann left her role as Youth & Children's Worker to answer God's calling for her to seek further education and we pray that God will continue to light her path in the future.

Shirley-Anne came to us with a background in mental health and a very strong faith in God. Shirley-Anne not only headed up the youth at The Fountain Centre, Kesh, but also the Children's Church. Shirley-Anne has a wealth of knowledge of the bible through deep personal study and is also a woman passionate about prayer. She was vigorous in her work to teach the children and youth the importance of a personal relationship with God, individual prayer and praying for others. We thank her for the effort and love she has for our children in keeping their faith alive and know this will indeed have a ripple effect in later years and indeed future generations. We are sure we will hear of the effects of Shirley-Anne's ministry to our children in future years.

Shirley-Anne also provided an unseen but extremely important pastoral role to children and the youth. Her personality and nature also drew other people to seek her out when going through difficult times as a confidante and a person to pray with them. We are very grateful to Shirley-Anne for all the work she has done, seen and unseen. Shirley-Anne was presented with a gift from the Vestry.

### Sexton and Caretaker

Our Sexton and Caretaker, Mr Gilmore Maxwell, retired from his position with us in November of this year. We cannot thank Gilmore enough for all his support over the last eight years. Gilmore worked tirelessly behind the scenes making sure that everything ran like clockwork. This included arrangements which were necessary for funerals and weddings, ensuring the cleanliness and maintenance of the Church, the Parish Hall and also The Fountain Centre. There was nothing which was too much bother for Gilmore and he put his hand to anything and everything that needed done to ensure the efficient running of the buildings. We would like to acknowledge and give thanks to his wife, Martha, for supporting him in this role. Gilmore was presented with a gift and Martha with a bunch of flowers from the Vestry.



### BAPTISMS

- 15 March - Bella Flack, daughter of Jordan Flack and Sarah Louise Bryans
- 15 March - Isabella Rosa Ellis, daughter of Jordan Ellis and Anita Doonan
- 12 August - Ernest Robert Noble, son of Timothy Noble and Jennifer Thompson
- 16 Sept - James Bertie Eamon Scallon, son of Sean and Gail Scallon
- 27 Sept - Hannah Emily Helen Farrell, daughter of Darren and Ruth Farrell
- 11 Oct - Scarlett Grace Newell, daughter of Philip Newell and Grace Simpson

### WEDDINGS

- 30 July - Nathan Blair (Newmills) married Hannah Mullan (Enniskillen).
- 1 October - David Knox (Kesh) married Zoe Curry (Fivemiletown).

*Our thoughts and prayers are with those who mourn.*

### FUNERALS

- 15 March - Mary Elizabeth (May) Marshall (70), Kesh
- 24 April - Marie Irvine (73), Kesh
- 6 July - Rebecca Guy (87), Irvinestown
- 30 July - Cecil Andrew White (77), Irvinestown
- 20 August - George Guy (63), Lack
- 26 August - Elizabeth (Lily) Smith (84), Kesh
- 3 September - John James (Jim) Graham (70), Ederney
- 2 October - Joan Evelyn Armstrong (82), Kesh
- 3 October - Zoe Katherine Osborne (38), Kesh
- 7 November - Sonia Amanda Lafferty (41), Kesh
- 9 November - Marion Eileen Anderson (79), Kesh

### Congratulations

Warmest congratulations to Canon Ian Ellis on being elected Bishop of Clogher.

## Maguiresbridge and Derrybrusk



Services and pastoral cover by:  
**Revd Abraham Storey**

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By the time most people read these notes we will have entered into the season of Advent and into a new year in the Church's calendar. Advent is the season that begins the four-week period before Christmas in which we prepare to celebrate the first coming of Christ to earth, as a baby laid in a manger in a stable in Bethlehem. The season also celebrates Christ's anticipated coming again in the fullness of time to rule triumphantly over life in heaven and earth. It begins on the Sunday nearest to 30th November, which this year is Sunday 29th November. The word, 'Advent' finds its roots in the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming".

I am always amazed by the fact that God's first coming to earth, came not in the form of some instant or earth-shattering event, but instead God chose to come into the world as we all do, to be born as a baby, and laid in a manger, in a lowly cattle-shed, because there was no room for the family in an inn. By the world's impatient and seemingly high moral standards of today, this may seem to have been a slow, strange—even a mundane way to have brought human's salvation to the world. But as the Old Testament prophet Isaiah reminds us in; (Isaiah 55:8-9) "... my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts"

God may not always choose the easy answer or the quick fix, as has been evident in this year of 2020, it may often be difficult for us to work out his ways or even where he is in the world. But by his earthly incarnation revealed in his son Jesus Christ, 2000+ years ago. Our creator has demonstrated a total commitment that goes to the very core of humanity. It is also a commitment, to our day by day routines and challenges, it is a commitment to his people from the cradle to the grave and beyond. And in that same incarnational way



that he came to earth at his first coming, God still comes to us day by day, through the working of the Holy Spirit, through his 'Word' and 'Sacrament'. He will continue making the ordinary extraordinary; making the broken whole; redeeming our lives and restoring the past, present and future, whatever they hold to the very end—to his second Advent.

### Remembrance Sunday

The annual Remembrance Sunday Service holds a special place in the hearts of many people, it is a time when people come together in worship of almighty God with thankful hearts, and to reflect, on all those who have served. Especially, people remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice by the laying down their lives so that we can enjoy the freedom that we have done over the past years since the end of WW2. As with everything else this year Remembrance Sunday was very different due to the (COVID-19) pandemic restrictions. Never-the-less, we did come together in both our parish churches of Maguiresbridge and Derrybrusk to remember those who took part in two world wars, and in the many conflicts around the world since, including those who lost their lives in our own troubled past, as we traditionally have done over past years.

### Family service

There is something special about families coming to their parish church on a Sunday morning, sitting together and worshipping God together. We were delighted with the response, in both parishes, to the first of our monthly family services on 25th October. We say a big thank you to the Sunday School teachers for their cooperation and effort.

The 'Family Service' will continue on the fourth Sunday of each month and we hope

to have a special input by our Sunday School children at our 'Family Carol Service' on 'The fourth Sunday of Advent' 20th December in both of our parish churches.

### Holy Communion at Christmas

Our Diocesan Pastoral Assistant, Isobel, has begun to contact, and take note, of those folks who, because of the (Covid-19) pandemic, or other health reasons, have found it difficult to attend 'Morning Worship' over the past months, but would like to receive 'Holy Communion'. We will begin our 'Christmas Communion by holding a special (short) Holy Communion Service' in each of our Parish Churches on Wednesday 16th December. We feel that it would be special for those of you who have not been able to attend church over the past difficult months to celebrate 'Holy Communion' in church at Christmas.

Maguiresbridge Holy Communion Service: (Wednesday, 16th at 2pm.)

Derrybrusk Holy Communion Service: (Wednesday 16th at 3.15pm)

We want people who feel that they would like to attend these special celebrations of 'Holy Communion' to know that every effort will be made to ensure their safety at this time of the ongoing pandemic. We also know that there may be those who may find it difficult to make their way into church, but we intend to make whatever provisions are necessary to accommodate all people. For example, cars can drive to the church door, or transport will be provided from the church gate. People who are unable to attend these services, but would like to have Holy Communion can be accommodated in their home.

### Carol Services

As with everything else throughout this year our carol services will be different. We intend to have a 'Family Carol Service' (in

both churches, at normal Sunday morning church times) on 'The Fourth Sunday of Advent' 20th December, with some participation by our Sunday School Children.

### Birth of a baby

A new baby always brings much joy to its parents, and into a home, we send our good wishes to Stuart and Janet Hall, on the birth of their baby daughter Elsie (05-11-20). Janet is the daughter of our rector's churchwarden in Maguiresbridge, David Graydon and his wife Lorraine. Sadly, for Stuart and Janet, and the wider family circle, little Elsie, had a

twin sister, Grace, who has gone back into heaven to be with her creator. So, it is with mixed emotions that we wish Stuart, Janet, and their children, George, and Elsie, God's richest blessings at this time.

### Worship over the Christmas period

Due to the (Covid-19) pandemic social distancing regulation of people been seated two metres apart; we have decided to hold a Christmas Eve service of Holy Communion in both Parish Churches.  
Derrybrusk: Christmas Eve at 10 pm.

Maguiresbridge: Christmas Eve at 11.30pm.  
Also, on Christmas morning in both Parish Churches;  
Maguiresbridge: at 9.30am.  
Derrybrusk: at 10.45am.  
The select vestries of both parishes and I, wish everyone a Christ-filled Christmas, and a blessed new year, we also thank all of you for your encouragement and support, in what has been a most difficult and strange year for all of us.  
May the love of God surround you, and those whom you love, in 2021. Abraham.

## Monaghan, Tydavnet and Kilmore



Rector:  
**The Revd  
Chancellor  
Ian Berry**  
The Rectory, Clones  
Road, Monaghan,  
Co. Monaghan.

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E: monaghan@  
clogher.anglican.org  
Diocesan Pastoral  
Assistant: Mr Walter  
Pringle

### Services

These arrangements are provisional and depend on what happens with COVID-19 government restrictions after 1st December. We will be continuing on Facebook live each week at 10:30am.

#### 6th December

10:30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)  
12:15pm Kilmore

#### 13th December

10:30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)  
12:15pm Ballinode

#### 20th December

10:30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)  
12:15pm Kilmore

#### 25th December

9am Ballinode  
10:30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)

#### 27th December

10:30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)  
12:15pm Kilmore

#### 3rd January

10:30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)  
12:15pm Kilmore

#### 10th January

10:30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)  
12:15pm Ballinode

#### 17th January

10:30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)  
12:15pm Kilmore

#### 24th January

10:30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)  
12:15pm Ballinode

#### 31st January

10:30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)

As we get closer to 1st December we are looking forward to the end of Level 5 restrictions. Since they appear to be working in bringing down the cases of COVID-19 our hope is that we will be able to be back in church sometime in December. Although this makes it difficult to plan we can still look forward into Advent which is that season of preparation to celebrate Jesus' first coming as we wait for his second coming. During Advent we are going to be using material from [www.engageworship.org](http://www.engageworship.org) looking at the theme of worship in the waiting. There will be some resources sent out to parishioners before the 29th November and if anyone hasn't received these please let the Rector know. We do hope to be in church for some of these

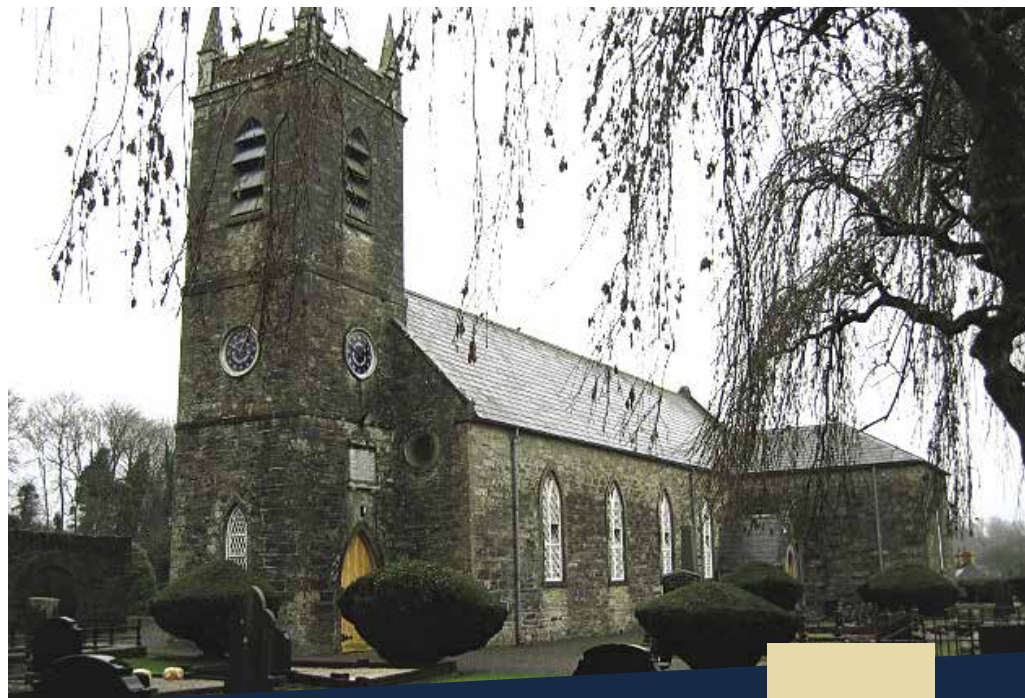
services but we will continue online on Facebook Live.

Advent and Christmas will look so different this year but I want to encourage you all to use this season to draw closer to God, to pray, read the Bible, to be at church (if we are allowed). This will help us as we cope with the changes that COVID-19 has brought.

We look into this Advent season with both disappointment and hope. We are disappointed at what we are not able to do or to plan for. We are hopeful, but with, as the writer to the Hebrews says, a hope that is an anchor for the soul both sure and steadfast. Our hope is in Jesus Christ, the word made flesh, who was born as one us to live and die to save us. Jesus, who returned to heaven to one day return to earth to establish his kingdom for those who have him as their king.

### Illness

Please continue to remember in prayer those who are ill either at home or in hospital, the housebound and those in residential care and their families.



## Parish Organisations

Due to Covid-19 restrictions there are no parish organisations meeting.

## Parish Sale

Our Parish sale was cancelled but there is still an opportunity to make a monetary donation which can be given to the Rector or Treasurer.

## Parish Finances

The year end is fast approaching, our income has suffered greatly because the Church was and is still closed because of the Covid-19 restrictions, and there was also no income from sale or Hall/special services. The Treasurer would appeal to all members of the congregation to return the following envelopes before year end if possible;

- Weekly Envelopes.
- Co. Monaghan Church of Ireland Children's Society.
- Harvest Appeal.
- Bishops' Appeal.

## Sunday Service and Bible Study

These continue on Facebook and are live at 10:30 am Sunday and 8pm on Wednesday each week.

## Christmas Service Arrangements

These plans may change because of Covid-19 Restrictions

### Carol Service

We are hoping to be able to have the interdenominational service online this year but it will look very different and depend on the government COVID-19 restrictions to see what is possible to do. We'll let people know via the Facebook page

### Christmas Day Services

9.am Ballinode Church Traditional Holy Communion Service

10:30.am All age Holy Communion Service

10:30.am All age Holy Communion Service

## Congratulations to Bishop Elect of Clogher

We offer our congratulations to Canon Ian Ellis, the Rector of Rossory, on his election as Bishop of Clogher. The episcopal college

were able to meet using Zoom and the technology held up for the meeting so that all could be heard and votes taken. Please keep Bishop-elect Ian in your prayers as his prepares for this next phase in his ministry.

## The Department of Employment & Social Protection Community Employment Scheme

We are nearing the end of what has been a difficult year, but we have been able during the pandemic to carry out our usual work schedule. We are deeply indebted to and express grateful thanks to our Supervisors Mrs. Elaine Gunn O'Connor and Mr Kevin Clarke and the Participants for all the work carried out.

## Christmas Greetings

We take this opportunity to wish all members of our own group of parishes and the wider community a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas and New Year, stay safe and look out for those living alone.

## Rossory



Rector:  
**The Revd Canon  
Dr Ian Ellis**

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Parish Office: T: 028 66 329889

Diocesan Pastoral Assistants:

Mrs Sue Hogg & Mrs Joan Nelson

## A message from the Rector

You will have all heard by now that on Monday 9th November I was elected by the Electoral College for Clogher Diocese to be the next Bishop of Clogher.

At the moment I have a great mix of emotions - I am truly humbled and very conscious of the honour and responsibility bestowed on me yet also saddened at having to leave Rossory where we have been so happy for these last five years. Heather and I have been so blessed to have been called to serve you here in this wonderful parish of Rossory where

we have many treasured memories and friendships formed. You have been so patient and supportive to me as your Rector as I know you will continue to be so in the future.

However, we are not moving on just yet as the consecration is likely to be in the New Year. I will let you know the date as soon as the Archbishop has decided.

Heather and I would value your prayers as we begin to move forward.

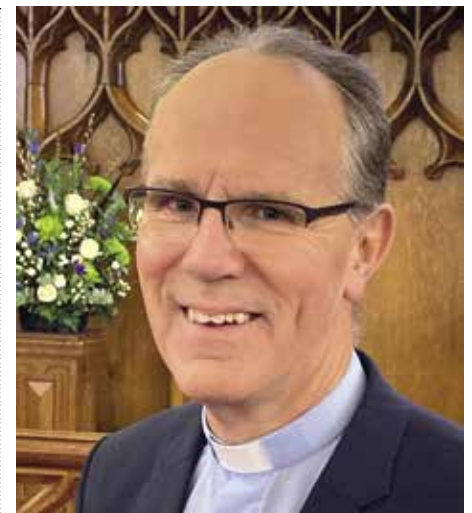
### Christmas Services

Below in the notes you will find some details of our Christmastide Services. The ongoing restrictions due to Coronavirus have caused our usual pattern to be scaled back. This means that unfortunately there can be no Sunday School Nativity and as children are not really coming out to church, the Christmas Day service will be a traditional Holy Communion Service.

We do however look forward to our Carol Service with its familiar rhythm of readings and carols and also to celebrate with joy the Nativity of our Lord on Christmas Day.

### Your friend and Rector, Revd Canon Dr IW Ellis

These notes, below, are prepared by Gerry in the Parish Office on behalf of the Parish. If there are any items you would like me to cover, or photographs of parish events, please let me know before the submission date which is the 15th of the preceding month.



## A new Bishop

As you probably know by now, our Rector, Canon Ellis, has been selected as Bishop-Elect for the Diocese of Clogher. This is truly, wonderful news for the Diocese but terribly sad news for us, as a Parish.

We have been, surely, privileged to have had Canon Ian as our pastor and Rector for the last five years. He has become a true friend and spiritual leader of our Parish, generous with his time and talents, and he will be greatly missed by us all.

But we cannot be selfish and, clearly, his talents and leadership qualities have not gone unnoticed elsewhere, so we must accept in the words of Jeremiah 29:11 :-



Scenes from the Remembrance Service.



11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". With this in mind, we must look optimistically to the future and the next era of ministry in our Parish as we wish Canon Ian, Heather and their families health and wisdom as they embark on this next phase of God's plan for them.

### Remembrance Sunday 2020

Our Remembrance Sunday service was held at 10am on Sunday 8th November 2020. We had a full Church, subject to 'safe distancing' regulations. The Parish wreath was laid by Mr. Ivan Bleakley and Mr Willie Faulkner( pictured above) laid a wreath on behalf of the UDR Association. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Scouts and Guides by Mr Garry Clarke and Mrs Avril Armstrong.

### Samaritans Purse gift boxes

As in previous years, the Parish has been delighted to support this wonderful charity, as they bring a little Christmas joy and the spirit of Christ into the lives of some of the world's most needy children.

Those of us who went on the Parish Mission trip some years ago to Swaziland will remember vividly the joy and excitement of a child who was given a gift of a pencil or a sweetie.

The pain for us was the realization that they had never, before, owned either. It made us very uncomfortable when we reflected on our throwaway culture and our waste.

With no Parish Organisations meeting at present and limited numbers at Church, the number of boxes is down this year, but, nevertheless most gratefully received.





Diane Donaldson demonstrating crochet on Zoom to Mothers' Union members.



A baptism for the Benson family.

### How is the Parish keeping its work going?

The current emergency has changed the way we work- indeed the way we must work- in spite of this, we are managing to keep the work of the Parish moving, as best we can. Below are details of the various methods we have devised to provide some level of services and pastoral support to you, the parishioners.

### Return to in Church Worship

Delighted to report that we are back in Church for services! We went back into Church on Sunday 2nd August for the first service. There have also been a number of funerals, weddings and several baptisms held in Church.

All is going well and with the help of our volunteer Select Vestry members as ushers we find that people have picked up on the new arrangements quickly. There is one Sunday service each week at 10am – to suit everyone.

### Online services

We understand that not everyone is ready yet for in Church Worship, so the Rector prepares and publishes, on Facebook on Sunday afternoon, weekly services of Morning Prayer or Holy Communion as appropriate.

These services will continue to be prepared and placed online for Sundays into the foreseeable future.

He will, also, continue to provide occasional short 'Reflections' aimed at the children of the Parish and he encourages families to allow their children to view these, as they are surely missing Sunday School!

### Parish Website (rossorryparish.com)

The website is still up and running and will contain the Rossorry Weekly News Sheet and usually the printed text for upcoming Services which will be screened on Facebook.

### Rossorry Weekly News

The weekly News Sheet is still being produced. It contains the text of the Sunday service for use in the Church Service, as we cannot have access to our Prayer Book and Hymnal. It will, also, contain useful information on Parish life and how we are trying to keep things ticking over. It also contains a reminder of the Safety Protocol for attending Church.

### CDs for Parishioners

CDs of prepared online services are being prepared and posted out to parishioners who live alone or unable to receive the online postings.

These contain two services (Morning Prayer or Holy Communion) and a Children's video and a copy of The Rossorry Weekly News. These have been well received and are a source of solace for the parishioners who feel isolated and a bit cut off from our Parish life.

### Parish Self-Help Volunteer Group

Our plans to set up a self-help group of volunteers to keep in touch with the elderly and house bound, maybe help with groceries or medication etc. have been curtailed by the change in 'lockdown' regulations.

However a good number of volunteers came forward wishing to help out – so we have been able to consult with the elderly/ housebound and each volunteer has been allocated a number of Parishioners who they keep in touch with, by telephone, in a befriending service.

This is going well – but if we have missed anyone- let Gerry know in the Parish Office (02866 329889) and they can be added in and allocated to a friendly volunteer.

### Mothers' Union

Clogher Diocesan M.U. Trustees organised and supplied Blessing Bags which were then distributed to each member of our Branch by our leader Heather and committee members in October.

These bags contained a selection of thoughtful gifts which were appreciated and thanks to all involved.

As physical meetings cannot currently take place, a 'Zoom' meeting was held in November. Our branch leader, Heather 'hosted' our first virtual meeting.

Diane Donaldson, Branch Secretary, gave a crochet demonstration and taught those on screen how to make a Christmas Star. We had a great evening getting well 'hooked' and we were often 'in stitches'.

We offer our sympathy to our members who have suffered bereavements in recent times.

The Branch would like to congratulate our Rector, Revd Canon Dr Ian Ellis and his wife, Heather, on his election of Bishop of Clogher. While this is very well deserved, we will miss them deeply from our parish life especially Heather as our Branch Leader.



## Freewill Offerings

### FREEWILL GIVING

Even though Services have resumed at Church many of you may not be able or ready to attend but you may still contribute your weekly collection envelopes and other donations.

The end of month Church door collection is now used by so few people that there is no point in keeping it going.

If you are not ready yet to come to Church send your envelopes— with a friend, post them to the Office or drop them through the letterbox at the Office. If these don't work for you—please ring Gerry at the office (02866 329889) and another arrangement can be made.

Throughout the period of the Pandemic, the Parish continues to have ongoing costs and your contribution is vital in sustaining its work and ministry.

If you wish, you may set up a Standing Order with your Bank or Building Society to deal with this matter. If you have online banking, you can do this without even visiting your Bank. Contact the Office for details.

## The Parish Office

The Office is still working, (9am-1pm, Monday to Friday) keeping the day to day machinery moving.

Please, don't visit -but I will be delighted to chat on the 'phone, take emails or a note through the door or in the post, etc—if there is anything I can do to help.

Tel:- 02866 329889

Email :- rossorryoffice@btinternet.com

## SERVICES

### DECEMBER 2020

#### Sunday 6th December

10.00am - Holy Communion

#### Sunday 13th December

10.00am – Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 20th December

10.00am - Morning Prayer.

7.00pm – Carol Service.

#### Thursday 24th December

10.00pm – Christmas Eve. - Holy Communion.

#### Friday 25th December

10.00am - Christmas Day - Holy Communion.

#### Sunday 27th December

10.00am - Morning Prayer

### JANUARY 2021

#### Sunday 3rd January 2021

10.00am – Holy Communion.

#### Sunday 10th January 2021

10.00am - Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 17th January 2021

10.00am - Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 24th January 2021

10.00am - Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 31st January 2021

10.00am - Morning Prayer

The Rector continues to prepare and upload video Services for Sundays and short Reflections for the children.

Text of the services- you will find on our Website (rossorryparish.com) and a link to the recording of the Service.

Video of the services – you will find on our Facebook page (Rossorry Parish Church)

**Please keep an eye on Social Media / Website for any changes to our scheduled Services**

## PARISH REGISTER

### Bereavement

Sincerest sympathy from the Parish to one of our parishioners, Mrs Gretta Mills on the death of her son.

MILLS, Peter Daniel John, on 30th October

2020 (peacefully) at home at The Limes, son of Gretta and the late John. Funeral service was held on 31st October 2020, conducted by Canon Ellis at Ballycassidy, with private cremation afterwards.

Sincere sympathy to the family of Dolly Thompson, one of our eldest parishioners. THOMPSON, Florence Isabel (Dolly), (peacefully) at Millcroft Nursing Home on 29th October 2020 and formerly of Coleshill Park. Her funeral service, conducted by Canon Ellis, took place on 1st November 2020 at 2.30pm in Rossorry Parish Church, followed by interment in the adjoining Churchyard.

### Baptism

BENSON, Holly Donna, infant daughter of Gary and Donna who was baptised at Rossorry Parish Church on Sunday 1st November 2020 at 11.30am.

*'Christ claims you for his own, receive the sign of the cross. Live as a disciple of Christ, fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith!'*

## Contact Us...

Website: rossorryparish.com

Facebook: Rossorry Parish Church

*We update regularly events in the church as well as weddings and christenings.*

E-mail at rossorryoffice@btinternet.com

Telephone at 02866 329889.

## Tempo and Clabby



Rector:  
**The Revd Canon  
Maurice Armstrong**

403 Inver, Tempo Road,  
Tempo BT94 3GQ  
Tel 028 89541232.  
E: clabby@clogher.anglican.org  
W: www.parishesoftempoandclabby.com

## December Diary

■ Saturday 12th December - Outdoor Cake Sale between 9 a.m. – 12 noon in the grounds of Tempo Church Hall with all proceeds towards Church funds. Home baked cakes and tray bakes and other Christmas gifts on Sale. All Welcome.

■ Sunday 13th - Visit of Mr. Alister McFarland Fermanagh and Fivemiletown Scripture Union Schools worker.

■ Sunday 20th - Carol services at usual morning service times. Collection for Bishop Appeal Fund.

■ Christmas Eve 10-30 p.m - Service in Tempo with collection for Bishop Appeal Fund.

■ Christmas Day 10-30 a.m.- Service in Clabby with Collection for Bishop's Appeal Fund.

## Christmas blessings

Jean, Sarah, James and the Rector wish all the parishioners God's blessing for a safe peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Church contributions

Parishioners are kindly reminded to please ensure all contributions to Church Funds to be with the respective treasurers by 31st December 2020 so they can be credited in the Parish report for 2020.

## General Vestry Register

The register is open during the month of January for new members to sign up and join. Those who are over 18 years and have paid at least £50 in the past year are eligible to become members.

## Advanced date

Tempo Annual Table Quiz on Thursday 11th February at 8 p.m. in Tempo Church Hall. This is a provisional arrangement at the moment, depending on government regulations and restrictions that may be current at that time.

## Remembrance Sunday

We held these Annual Services as usual and remembered those who paid the supreme sacrifice in. Two World wars, other conflicts and here in Northern Ireland. In Clabby reference was made to the fact that on 18th November 1920 the Impartial Reporter had reported the unveiling of two memorial plaques in honour of those who served and died in the First World War. The following is the extract:-

### Great Parochial Record

*A Memorial Service was held in Clabby Parish Church on Sunday afternoon when the unveiling took place of the memorial tablets in honour of the young men of the parish who fell in the Great War and those who served in it. The Revd. Arthur Davis, Rector of Derrybusk, read the special lessons, after which Mr. J. Porter, D.L. Bellisle, unveiled the tablets and read out the names of those who fell and served in the Great War:*

*Lieutenant George Morrow, Lieutenant William Murphy, Corporal Crudden, **Sergeant Percy Simpson**, Corporal Robert Irwin, **Private George Morrow**, Gunner Frank Elliott, Private Robert Lynn, Corporal Andrew Morrow, Private William Nelson, Private John Williamson, Trooper Isaac Allen Doherty, Private Christopher Nelson, Private Andrew Gordon, Private Fred Irvine, Private Hugh Dennis, Lance Corporal Samuel Anderson, Private Thomas Irvine, Sapper James Irwin, **Private Charles Anderson**, Private William Rutledge, Corporal Richard Hetherington, **Corporal George Moffatt**, Private Joseph Thompson, Private John Hackett and **Private George Hoy**.*

*Mr. Porter speaking with deep emotion referred to the death of his own son and sympathised with the congregation over the loss of so many young lives. The Venerable Archdeacon McManaway, Rector of Enniskillen was the special speaker, and in the course of his sermon spoke of the loyalty of the young men of the district, and when the Ulster Division went out these young men give a good account of themselves. These young men fought for all that was good, holy and supported a righteous cause. The Revd R.J. Crooks Rector, assisted at the service. In spite of the inclemency of the weather there was a very large congregation present and a very*



*liberal response was given to the offertory. Mrs. Crooks presided at the organ. (The names that are in Bold are those who gave their lives for us).*

## Christmas

As we once again approach Christmas this year and move through Advent we are very aware that it may in many respects be different from other years in many ways because of the Covid 19. But yet the eternal truths of this season and celebrations remain unchanged.

The prophecy of Christ's birth and birthplace Isaiah 9 v 6 "For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his Kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

The Zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this."

Micah 5 v 2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from old, from ancient times".

We will read at our Carol services and over our Christmas services the familiar passages of the Angel Gabriel visiting Mary with news she is chosen by God to be the mother of the long promised Messiah, God's son Jesus Christ. We will read of her response, the announcement to Joseph of who the child was that Mary was conceiving "Emmanuel, God with us".

We will read in Luke's Gospel of the

fulfilment of Micah's prophecy, the birth of Christ and the announcement to the shepherds. "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you, he is called Christ the Lord."

In John's gospel we see Jesus described as the Word, the Word is God, God from before the creation of the World, who became flesh and lived among us. He came to bring light to those sitting and living in the darkness of Sin. He came to bring life eternal, abundant and to the uttermost.

The message of John 1:10-12 is as true as it was when Jesus was born and lived on earth. How do we respond to him today, this Advent and Christmas? How does the world respond to Jesus? We can have such blessing, peace and joy as we respond and receive by faith alone and trust in Jesus whose name means Saviour. In a world today full of suffering, fear, uncertainty and insecurity it is good to have the opposite by receiving Christ as our Saviour and Lord. "He was in the world and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name he gave the right to be called Children of God".

## New Bishop

We offer from the parishioners, good wishes and pray for God's blessing and guidance to the Revd Canon Dr Ian Ellis on his election as our new Bishop and as he in due course assumes the great responsibility of this very important office in Christ's Church in this Diocese.

## Trory and Killadeas



Rector:  
**Revd Mark  
Gallagher**

The Rectory, 138 Killadeas Road, Rossfad,  
Ballinamallard.

Tel 028 66388477  
E: revdmarkgallagher@gmail.com

### Revd's Reflection

My favourite line in the Christmas Gospel is "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5). It reminds us that in the face of adversity and struggles, the Christmas story is one of hope, of family, of love, and that no matter how bad things seem, God is still sovereign and in control. Similarly St. Paul reminds us everything else will pass away, but faith, hope and love remain, and the greatest of these is love. (cf. Corinthians 13:13) These are messages we need to keep close to our hearts, now more than ever.

Lockdown the first time round was tough for many, but with cold, wet weather combined with the shorter days of winter, we need to be beacons of faith, hope and love, perfect love, radiating the light of Christ in a dark time, and being that ray of hope in someone else's loneliness or darkness. As possibilities of where and how we can meet in a socially distanced, yet safe way with vulnerable friends and relatives reduce over winter, please find ways of looking after your family, friends, neighbours and loved ones. For Christmas this year, the Church of England is using the theme of 'Comfort and Joy' (If you are anything like me, the memory trigger of those three words has you now singing 'God rest ye merry gentlemen' inside your head.) What better witness to the world could we give that 'Love came down at Christmas' than to be the joy of a phone call in someone's loneliness, or the comfort of sharing a coffee and chat while braving the weather to walking in a winter wonderland. Equally, if the weather outside is frightful, but the fire delightful, then let it snow, curl up by the fire, and write a letter to someone who is not on the technology which has seen so many of us through the last year.

A cosy family Christmas in the usual way may not be possible this year, but as far

as possible we are planning to have 'in building' Christmas as normal with carol services, Christmas Eve, and Christmas day services. As a backup, and to have some fun events to look forward to and enjoy, we have also planned Covid safe events; an outdoor nativity, and a drive in carol concert. Christmas is most certainly not cancelled! I look forward to seeing you all in some shape or form over the festive season. This festive season I urge you to use your faith to be a beacon of hope to those around you. Show compassion and love to those who will find this Christmas particularly difficult. And, always remember, even if it seems dim at times, "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

### Congratulations

Along with the whole diocese, we would like to add our warmest heartfelt congratulations and prayers to Revd Canon Dr. Ian Ellis on his election as our new Bishop. I know I speak for us all when I wish him and his wife Heather God's richest blessings as they prepare for this new stage in their lives.

### Parish Magazine and Social Media

There is a lot happening and restarting in our parishes at the minute. A one-off parish magazine is being printed, and will be delivered to everyone on the parish lists to keep those on our lists updated. If you are not on our membership lists, but would like to be, please fill in a GDPR form. Otherwise follow our Facebook page @troryandkilladeas to keep up to date.

### Midweek Services

Our Midweek services continue at 7pm each Wednesday evening in St. Michael's, Trory. During Advent, we use a set of reflective poems penned by Revd. Mark, which took life when looking at the nativity scenes (specifically the materials they are made from) which he has in the rectory. Intrigued? Come along in person or tune in to the Facebook live feed of the service.

### Family 'Farmyard' Outdoor Nativity

On the morning of Saturday 12th December the grounds and vicinity of Priory Church



Killadeas shall become a farmyard for the morning for families to experience a 'walk round' nativity, meeting the characters of the nativity story, as well as some of their animals, as we remind ourselves of the true meaning of Christmas.

Follow social media and parish communications for details closer to the time.

### Carols By Runway Lights

This will be a unique drive-in carol concert in the grounds of St. Angelo Airport on Friday 18th December at 7pm. Soloists Jane McKinley (Soprano) and Mark Gallagher (tenor) will lead those present in a selection of favourite carols and Christmas pieces, interspersed with bible readings and poems. Please note this is a carol concert, not a carol service. There are no tickets for this event, and spaces will be allocated on a first come basis. As there is no charge to get in, there will be collection buckets as you leave the airport. Follow social media and parish communications for details closer to the time.

### December Diary Dates

- 2nd December 7pm Advent Midweek Service in Trory
- 6th December 10am Holy Communion in Killadeas
- 6th December 11.30am Holy Communion in Trory
- 9th December 7pm Advent Midweek Service in Trory
- 12th December 11am-1pm Family 'Farmyard' Outdoor Nativity, Killadeas
- 13th December 10am Morning Prayer with Christingle kits in Killadeas
- 13th December 11.30am Morning Prayer with Christingle kits in Trory
- 13th December 1pm Fully interactive Zoom Sunday School
- 16th December 7pm Advent Midweek Service in Trory
- 18th December 7pm Carols by Runway Lights at St. Angelo Airport.
- 20th December 11.30am A Celebration of Christ's Nativity in Readings and Music in Trory
- 20th December 4.30pm Carols by Candlelight in Killadeas\* (Note change of time.)
- 23rd December 7pm Advent Midweek Service in Trory
- 24th December 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion for Christmas, Killadeas
- 25th December 10am An All Age Christmas Service in Trory
- 27th December 10am Morning Prayer in Killadeas
- 27th December 11.30am Morning Prayer in Trory

# CHILDREN'S SECTION

Colour





## Mouse Makes

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas story in Luke 1:1 - 2:21

"I bring you **good news** that will bring great **joy** to all people. The **Saviour** has been born today! ...

*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased".*

from Luke 2 vs. 10,11,14



A picture to colour for Christmas. Colour in one star each day as you count down to Christmas!

Dec20 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

# MOTHERS' UNION

## *A message from Diocesan President, Irene Boyd*

As I write these thoughts, 'Remembrance Day' has been commemorated, where the sacrifice of those who 'GAVE' their lives, has been highlighted.

I am reminded of a story of a mum who was telling her two sons, Mark and Thomas, about Jesus and how he always taught and lived out the message of giving time and using talents to help others and share resources with them. The boys thought about the teaching as they went off to divide the sweets they had been given. Mark, the older boy, took three sweets and handed Thomas one. 'You be Jesus' he told his younger brother!

This is a sentiment that we can all identify with, let others do the giving, the sharing and providing as I am too busy and I want to keep most of my resources for myself.

Thankfully I know Mothers' Union members in the Clogher Diocese are not like Mark.

We are coming into the season of Advent and Christmas, where 'giving' has been the 'reason for the season.' The gift of Jesus Christ was prophesied from the creation of the world and was 'given' freely for our salvation.

Members of Mothers' Union have been 'giving' so much regularly as they faithfully serve their Lord and Saviour and I wish to say a sincere thank you to them for their efforts.

- Praying for local and worldwide needs as recorded in the prayer diary
- Crafting items for hospitals and nursing homes (as pictured here)
- Providing resources for Women's Aid shelters (vouchers given this year)
- Demonstrating love and support for people of all ages in their parish and community
- Using their skills to provide scrubs and bags for the NHS and Care workers as well as sewing masks for others
- Taking time to speak to those living on their own by telephone or at their doorway (wearing a mask and keeping a distance)
- Giving money to MU Worldwide where needy communities receive literacy, financial and practical support from trained facilitators e.g. growing sustainable crops which brings an income as well as nutritious food for the family, gaining parenting skills.

Mothers' Union members have been restricted in meeting together since lockdown hindered the vital communication and friendship which is offered in Branch meetings and through Diocesan events. The outings, coffee mornings and sales have been cancelled. The opportunity to meet casually for



refreshments has had to stop. These limitations have been difficult to bear, causing much anxiety and distress.

As listed above the MU family has rallied to provide support to their members both locally and Worldwide and have GIVEN and not failed. Please keep strong and continue in your efforts.

We will celebrate Christ's birth in the days ahead. We have been GIVEN all we need for daily living and for the future as Jesus is now in heaven preparing a place for those who know him and love him. What a hope we have for now and 2021.

### **The theme for 2021 is Rebuilding Hope and Confidence**

The 2020 theme of Building hope and confidence has been timely and pertinent, as we have reached out to those who are suffering in deep and unique ways because of the global pandemic.

We recognise that the effects of this pandemic will continue to be felt across the world throughout 2021. Therefore, it seems appropriate to develop the theme to encompass Rebuilding hope and confidence.

As people seek to come to terms with loss of all kinds, from bereavement to loss of livelihood, relationships, wellbeing and other challenges, the work of rebuilding hope and confidence will be vital.

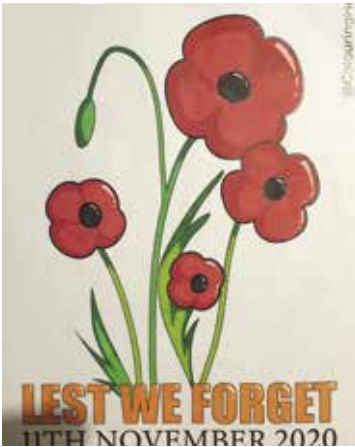


## GARMENTS DONATED TO HOSPITAL WARDS

Amazing items are coming in from Mothers' Union members and friends across the Diocese. All who receive these items are very thankful to you for your generosity, skill and the time involved.

In October, South West Acute Hospital, Enniskillen received donations of 50 teddies for A&E, 10 incubator cosies and 15 cardigan and hat sets most with blankets to Neonatal and 10 angel pouches/gowns and hats, 50 cardigan and hat sets and 80 additional hats to Maternity wards. Please contact Noreen Little on 02867738629 or 07527069828 if you want items collected.



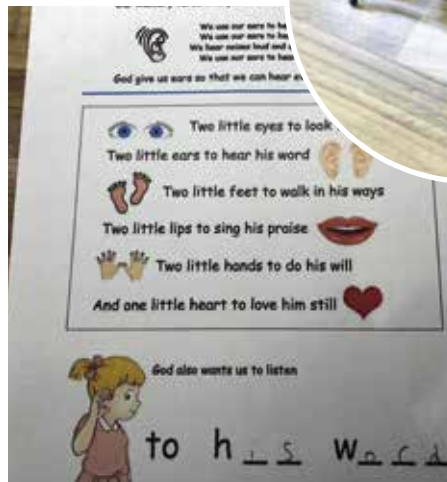


## *Badge and craft work continue with virtual classes*

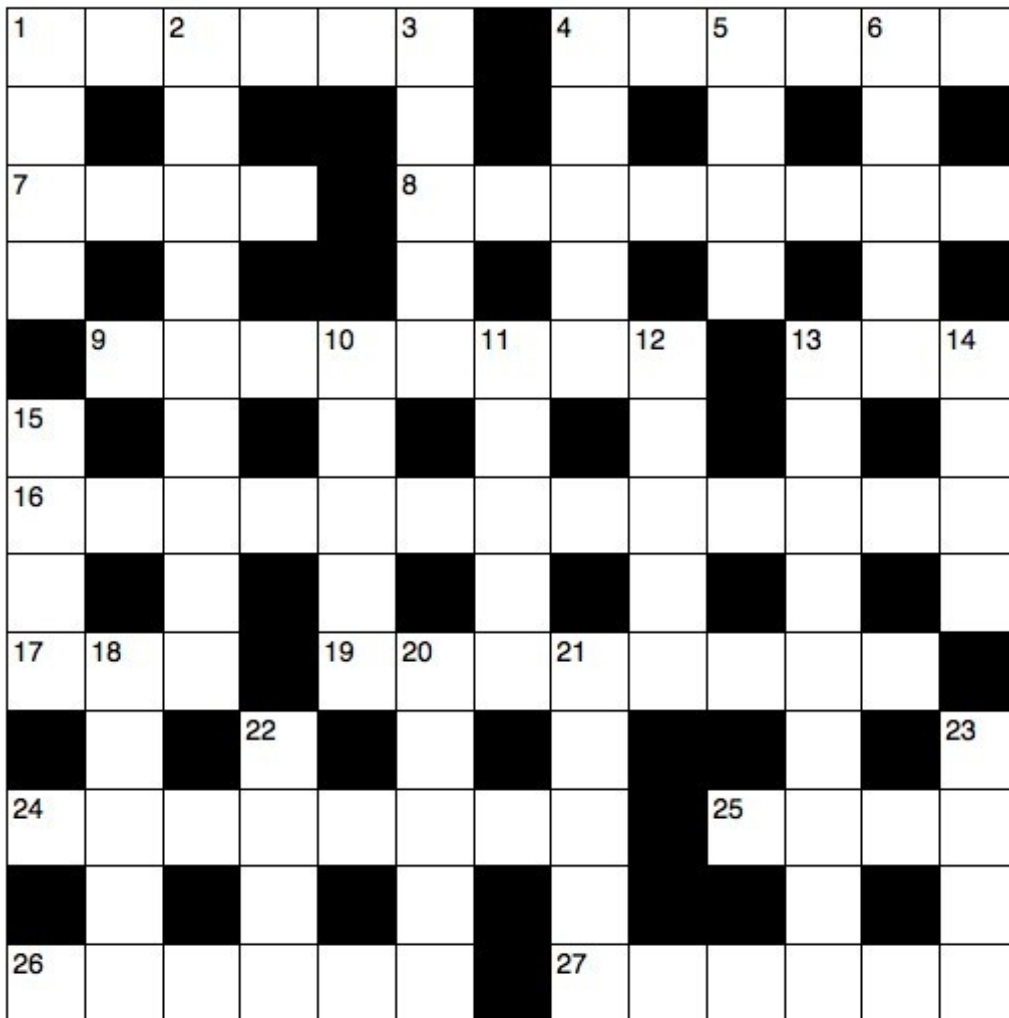
Members of GFS throughout Clogher Diocese have continued with their badge work and crafts through meetings online and by remote learning. The result is this collection of photographs from around the Diocese.







# PUZZLE PAGES *for Adults*



## ACROSS

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)  
 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a —, and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)  
 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)  
 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)  
 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)  
 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)  
 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)  
 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)  
 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)  
 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)  
 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)  
 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)  
 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

## DOWN

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)  
 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)

- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)  
 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)  
 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)  
 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)  
 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)  
 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)  
 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)  
 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)  
 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)  
 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)  
 18 Narnia's Lion (5)  
 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)  
 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)  
 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)  
 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

■ Crossword Puzzle answers on page 70

### Archbishop's Commissary speaks positively about rebuilding church life after challenging year

The Presidential address at this year's Diocesan Synod by Zoom conference was presented by the Archbishop's commissary for Clogher Diocese, Archdeacon Brian Harper.

The Diocesan Synod held on Thursday, 26 November received the report of the Diocesan Council and the 149th financial report for 2019 as well as the report for Diocesan Board of Education.

The Assessor, Right Hon Lord Stephens of Creevloughgare and Diocesan Chancellor, was appointed and the scripture reading and prayers were read by Mr. John Irvine and Revd Francis Rutledge respectively. In his address, Archdeacon Harper noted the deaths of Synod members; John Keating, long-serving member of Council and Synod, former member of the RCB; of Cecil Lancashire who was a member for the parish of Drum; Marion Anderson who was a member for Magheraculmoney; of the Revd Canon Mark Watson, incumbent of Trory and Killadeas and then Maguiresbridge and Derrybrusk. A minute's silence was observed.

He said during the year, the diocese had said farewell to Canon Ngozi Njoku, rector of Garrison, Slavin and Belleek and he and some of her Garrison group parishioners were able to be part of licensing in her new cure of souls in the Wembley area of London. They had instituted by Zoom the Revd Lorraine Capper, Mark Gallagher, Elaine Dunne and Francis Rutledge to their respective parishes and the Revd Stephanie Woods has stepped into the role of stipendiary part-time minister of Inishmacsaint.

Archdeacon Harper continued: "There are very few unused and suitable adjectives to describe 2020 and few people have been left unscathed. As the father of an NHS nurse in Liverpool who has only last week recovered, we hope, from COVID, I am conscious of the many people who have suffered considerable anxiety, illness, death and bereavement, not only in the developed world which has access to medical facilities but also around the world in places already torn apart by war, in refugee camps and in overcrowded cities and slums. I have listened this week



Archdeacon Brian Harper, Archbishop's Commissary.

to those who have complained about the churches being closed and remembered how enthusiastically we embraced the new opportunities last Spring and rose to the occasion, how we reached out to others and discovered new ways of doing things and now we seem to have become tired and angry and critical and trying to find ways of avoiding our responsibilities to society.

"I have watched the news footage of doctors and nurses describing their work. I have two children in the NHS and they brush it off lightly but I admire what they do, even though they don't tell me! In many other careers, education and childcare, businesses, parenting, etc etc, people have made huge sacrifices for the community – loss of income and business, stress and mental issues, facing seemingly insurmountable crises. We need to continue doing good for all.

"Whilst our politicians have made difficult and sometimes mistaken judgement calls, as we all have, whilst researchers and scientists have stumbled into dark corners in their search for best practice and advice and in the church we have argued about the difference between two metres and six foot, about what is legally required and what is only advice that can be ignored, people

have died and society has been rocked, not because of the politicians, but because of a virus that spreads rapidly and that can have indiscriminate outcomes.

"Each of us has a responsibility to reduce the spread of this virus. We have, I suspect, all failed. We have forgotten to use the sanitiser or sing Happy Birthday at the sink. We may have made an unnecessary journey. We may have stood too close to someone. It is difficult to be perfect. So instead of being grumpy or miserable and blaming one another, we should be paying tribute to and encouraging all those who are striving to do what is good. The politicians, the scientists, who are working in a new and unfamiliar arena. The clergy are also in that new arena and, as this is a church gathering, I want to comment on what my colleagues have achieved. The dioceses of Armagh and Clogher formed a joint COVID response committee to coordinate and advise our parishes of the information from both Stormont and the Dail. I have been personally impressed at the way parishes have responded. Compliance has been high and continues. Some have been imaginative in the way they have adapted with technology, drive-in services, support for the lonely. It has also been stressful for people."

He went on to speak of the challenges for clergy and the need to keep them encouraged.

“Clergy have been challenged about why that church can do this but we can’t, that parishioner is upset because you haven’t visited in hospital or at home, and there is a stress in ministry when you know that you want to do more pastorally but can’t. So clergy need to be encouraged. Often, we don’t live near our parents or family circle, we find it difficult being compared negatively with our neighbouring rector or church of another denomination, and we know that the parish is struggling to pay our stipend and whilst our homes are gratefully appreciated and are thankfully spacious and comfortable, it can be as lonely in a rectory as it can be anywhere else.

“But together, we will get through it. We have seen excellent commitment, excellent work at all levels of society. We might be scarred but we can rebuild.

“Personally, I want to pay tribute to our diocesan secretary, Glenn Moore. I want to thank him for the text messages at 11pm on Friday night, for answering my queries almost immediately at 8am on a Tuesday morning, for his advice and knowledge and patience and good humour. To Ashley who has continued to keep the books, to encourage and advise parishes that have struggled, and just worked away. And to Henry Robinson for his work with our parish properties, and Brian Donaldson for communication and magazine, Michael Skuce for directing our Safeguarding and GDPR management, Johnny Phoenix for supporting and encouraging youth work and who have played key roles this year and in 2019 and to Sabrina for her role in the office, fielding enquiries and much more etc.



**“The world may have changed but the gospel is unchanged and continues to be proclaimed to a broken world and the light of Christ continues to shine in the darkness”**

ARCHDEACON BRIAN HARPER

“As we consider this report, let us do so with thanksgiving for the efforts of all those have served us in 2019 and who may have found their vision for 2020 shattered, not just those who have served at diocesan level, but the Sunday School teachers, the youth workers and youth work volunteers, the parish visiting teams, the administrators and vestry members, the choirs and musicians, the vision makers and willing hands, the ‘retired’ clergy, the lay readers and parish readers, the non-stipendiary clergy and the ordained local clergy and the clergy – all listed in the report.

“And finally, two important things that you may be thinking that I’d forgotten but I’ve saved the best until last. Allow me to pay tribute to Archbishop John. I first worked with him when he was chair of the Marriage

Council before becoming Bishop of Clogher. I have found him to be quietly pastoral, fair, dedicated, knowledgeable, encouraging, sensible, approachable, direct. He has taken up the ministry in Armagh at a very difficult time but has already provided a continuation of leadership and ministry across this island. As Archbishop of the Northern Province, he is still responsible for the spiritualities of Clogher so he hasn’t quite left us. I know this Synod would want to thank him for his leadership and service throughout his time here.

“And allow me to welcome my long-time friend of over 30 years to the position of bishop-elect of Clogher. Ian Ellis and I were together in Armagh when he was curate in St Mark’s and I was rector of the Ballygawley group and then he was rector of Loughgall when I was nearby in Mullavilly before he went to education and then to Rossorry. I’m looking forward to when he stops being bishop-elect as are we all.

“As a Synod and as a church, we are together in Christ, whether in person or in spirit. Technology has enabled us to meet together, to share together in fellowship. It is different – your dog will be barking in the background, we will all be admiring the décor in the room in which you are sitting and you might possibly be wearing your slippers, but we are together. May God bless us in our work and ministry in the year that lies ahead as we move forward into a world in which everything will have changed and yet nothing will have changed. Tout a changé, rien n’a changé.

“The world may have changed but the gospel is unchanged and continues to be proclaimed to a broken world and the light of Christ continues to shine in the darkness. The Lord be with you.”

## Mission support for special needs centre in Gambia



The work of the Clogher Diocesan Board of Mission proposed at Synod by Canon Paul Thompson (left) was among the many facets of Clogher Diocese affected by Covid-19 during the first half of the period.

The Board approved support for several projects but only one of them went ahead. That was a mission project to Hart House, a centre for support of children with special needs in Gambia undertaken by Ruth McKane,

formerly from the Diocesan staff. Ruth

undertook her visit during December 2019 and January 2020 and reported;

“We had donated £1000 and brought them four bags of rice, a large bag of laundry powder and a large container of cooking oil.

“They were having a New Year’s party with lots of games, food, movies and the Boy Scouts band. I enjoyed meeting all the kids

and their mums, owner Geoff Hunwicks, the staff and I was given a tour of the house. “There were also visits to local church meetings including 30 orphans in the village of Sambuya where a friend of mine, Yankuba, works hard to support these children with school fees and any medical costs. Nine of the children have lost both parents and 21 have lost their fathers. It is extremely difficult for widows to provide for the children.

“We brought them 10 bags of rice, textbooks, pencils, sharpeners, footballs and skipping ropes and Yankuba had organised various people from the village to come and greet us. A representative of the Village Chief spoke with us and also the local education advisor.

“A group of senior ladies from the village were there, the widows and individuals who are involved in the work with Yankuba.”

The Board of Mission also approved an Exodus 2020 mission project to Romania by Jessica Murray but this was unable to take place because of the restrictions and approved a Habitat for Humanity project to Cambodia by the Revd Colin McConaghie but also unable to take place.

## Diocese to make £2000 payment to each parish to help recovery from Covid-19



The Diocesan Synod has agreed to authorise the Diocesan Council to make a one-off allocation of £2000 or Euro equivalent to each parish church in the diocese.

This came from a motion proposed by Dean Kenneth Hall (pictured left), who said this would financially assist parishes during the Covid-19 pandemic that resulted in lockdown during 2020. The allocation

would be deducted from the 2021 assessment for each parish.

Dean Hall said this had been a very challenging year and he hoped the payment would bring some comfort to parishes, especially those with smaller numbers of parishioners and those who were unable to fundraise as part of their income. He said they had faith in God that would offer hope and a pathway through the pandemic.

The one-off allocation would amount to a total of £140,000 and would be partly offset by savings made this year.

This was seconded by Revd Charlie Eames and passed by Synod.



## Youth Council work badly affected during difficult year

The Clogher Diocesan Youth Council initiative "FOLLOW" had to be put on hold due to the Covid-19 crisis.

However members of the Council are looking forward to moving again believing the deep need there is to connect young people to a living God who "desires that they follow Him and enjoy a relationship with Him," said Revd Philip Bryson, proposing the report of the Council to Diocesan Synod (pictured above). This FOLLOW discipleship initiative was launched in November last in Clogher Cathedral at a youth service at which young people received backpacks "for their journey" with a small selection of person discipleship materials inside.

The Youth Council had planned to mark the year by offering funding and advice on discipleship resource materials for youth groups, confirmation classes, clergy, young people and young leaders, offer financial assistance to parishes towards promoting discipleship among young people and for joint projects and helping with the organisation of a diocesan weekend to celebrate journeys of discipleship throughout the year.

During the year to June 2020, the Youth Council offered grants to 17 different youth ministries across the diocese which helped them offset running costs, programmes and activities.

A group of five young people from the diocese travelled to Dublin to represent them at the Church of Ireland Youth Department National Youth Forum.

## ONE MINISTRY OF HEALING SERVICE HELD BEFORE LOCKDOWN

There was just one Ministry of Healing service held before the restrictions took effect.

This service was held in Tempo Parish Church on 3rd November 2019 conducted by Canon Maurice Armstrong (pictured proposing the report), he is also the Executive Chairman and Secretary of Ministry of Healing. He also preached the sermon.

A service planned for Donagh Parish in May had to be cancelled and the monthly services normally held in the



Iona Room, Cathedral Hall were also not able to take place

however the Ministry of Healing group say that the work of ministering God's healing and wholeness can continue at parish level by rectors and those in charge as well as DPAs and through the prayers of the congregations.

The group reported the retirement of Treasurer,

Miss Helen Humphries who had served on the committee for over 30 years.

## Board for Social Theology has plans for 2021

The Clogher Diocesan Board for Social Theology in Action was able to have one key event during the past year which was a Disability Awareness evening on October 30 2019 when the speaker was Katherine-Alice Grasham, Disability Officer for Diocese of Leeds.

Proposing the report of the Board at Diocesan Synod, Revd Charles Eames (pictured left) said they were disappointed at the turn-out but Katherine gave an engaging presentation, increasing the knowledge of this subject for all those present. The Board has plans to offer mental health First Aid training in 2021 as well as pursuing an event on gambling addiction.



# Parishes to be asked to join Group Energy Scheme

The Group Energy Scheme for Clogher Diocese where parishes would benefit from discounted prices for electricity is still being pursued, the Diocesan Synod was told by Henry Robinson, who runs the Diocesan Properties Initiative.

Seconding the report of the Clogher Glebes Committee, he explained that just before Covid-19 restrictions, the successful provider selected unexpectedly withdrew their bid and now they were going with PowerNI in Northern Ireland and Electric Ireland for parishes in the Republic of Ireland.

However he said before joining the scheme, parishes are being asked to ascertain if they are on the correct tariff for the premises concerned as many are still on a domestic tariff which is not as economical as perhaps a 'weekender tariff'.

"They may also need to have a new meter fitted to allow them to avail of this tariff but most electricity companies will do so free of charge.

"Parishes will receive a communication early next month with an update on the situation," he told the Synod

The report of the Glebes Committee was



proposed by Revd John Woods (pictured above), Rural Dean for Kilskeery.

The core work of the Glebes Committee includes the annual inspection of churches and glebes by the Rural Deans as well as the "Commission of repair" inspections by

the Diocesan Architect on a five-year cycle. The Diocesan Architect also carried out full inspections when parishes become vacant. "Inspection of property by the Diocesan Architect provides an essential service to the parishes of the Diocese as defects to church property are often identified at an early stage when remedial works are needed to deal with the problem and is likely to cost much less.

"The Committee continues to monitor the amount for which parishes insure their churches and glebes, details of sub-lettings of land attached to some glebes, records of church plate, parochial documents and furnishings. Other matters that come before Glebes Committee are alterations to church buildings, proposals to make alterations to rectories which require plans to be submitted for consideration by the Diocesan Architect and Committee, permission to cut trees, the re-letting of former rectories which require legal agreements to be drawn up by RCB solicitors and scrutiny of changes to graveyard rules and fees.

## Bishop's Medal competition suspended until 2021

Normally at the Diocesan Synod, the winners of the Bishop's Medal and Archdeacon Ruddell Prizes would be presented.

However this year's competition organised by the Clogher Board of Religious Education was temporarily suspended due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Plans had been in place to have entries on the theme of "The Parables of Jesus" sent to the Diocesan Office by the end of April, according to Joyce Clingan (pictured left), proposing the report of the Board to Diocesan Synod.

They also had to postpone the Sunday School teacher training.

However, young people are kept entertained with the CDBRE puzzle pages published in the Diocesan Magazine.



## DIOCESAN REPORT ADOPTED BY SYNOD

The report of the 149th report of the Diocesan Council was proposed at the Diocesan Synod by Mrs Ethne McCord who encouraged all parish representatives to fully read it as it contained a reference to what had taken place in the diocese.

She too referred to the election of Revd Canon Dr Ian Ellis as the new Bishop of Clogher, congratulating him. She also said all those in the diocese owed a great debt of gratitude to the large number of volunteers serving in safeguarding panels and in other ways in parishes.

She referred to the Music Bursary Committee and encouraged parishes to avail of grants administered by them to those who make a contribution to music in church and are willing to receive tuition in their instrument or voice. The music bursary will subsidise the music tuition.

She also spoke about the complimentary diocesan magazine available to read online during months when it was not able to be printed and encouraged parishioners to subscribe to the magazine if they already did not do so.

The report was seconded by Canon Colin McConaghie.



Ethne McCord.

# RESULTS FROM DIOCESAN TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS

DIOCESAN COURT		DIOCESAN COUNCIL	
Revd Chancellor Ian Berry	Mr John Irvine MBE	Revd Johnny McLoughlin	Mr Walter Pringle
Ven Brian Harper	Mr Sam Morrow OBE	Revd Precentor Kyle Hanlon	Mr Sam Morrow OBE
Revd Canon Paul Thompson	Mr Henry Robinson	Revd Canon Paul Thompson	Mrs Una Bourke
		Revd John McClenaghan	Mr Robert Forde
MEMBERS OF GENERAL SYNOD		Revd Chancellor Ian Berry	Mrs Ethne McCord
Ven Brian Harper	Mr Glenn Moore	Revd Andrew Quill	Mr Henry Robinson
Very Revd Kenny Hall	Mr Brian Donaldson	Revd Canon Alan Irwin	Mrs Joy Graham
Revd Canon Paul Thompson	Mr Walter Pringle	Revd Canon Maurice Armstrong	Mr Hazlett Moore
Revd Chancellor Ian Berry	Miss Frances Boyd	Revd Lorraine Capper	Mr Michael Skuce MBE
Revd Precentor Kyle Hanlon	Mr Michael Skuce MBE	Revd Colin McConaghie	Mr Chris Treacy
Revd Abraham Storey	Miss Joyce Clingan	Revd Mark Gallagher	Mrs Sue Hogg MBE
Revd John Woods	Mr Robert Forde	Revd Philip Bryson	Mrs Mae Glenn
Revd Philip Bryson	Mr Henry Robinson		
Revd Andrew Quill	Dr John Graham DL	HONOURARY SECRETARIES	
Revd Canon Maurice Armstrong	Miss Irene Knox	Very Revd Kenny Hall	Mr John Irvine MBE
Revd Colin McConaghie	Mrs Ethne McCord	Ven Brian Harper	Mrs Rosemary Barton MLA
Revd Alan Capper	Mr Neville Armstrong		
Revd Mark Gallagher	Mrs Irene Boyd	DIOCESAN NOMINATORS	
Revd John McClenaghan	Mrs Diane Wright-Kendrick	Revd Chancellor Ian Berry	Mr Glenn Moore
	Mr William Allen	Very Revd Kenny Hall	
	Mr Charles Crawford	Revd Andrew Quill	
	Mr Jonathan Keys	Revd Canon Paul Thompson	
	Mr James Hamilton-Stubber DL	<i>Supplemental</i>	
	Mr Joseph Keys	Ven Brian Harper	Mr John Irvine MBE
	Mrs Alison Jackson	Revd Precentor Kyle Hanlon	Mr Walter Pringle
	Mr Stephen Richmond	Revd Philip Bryson	Miss Frances Boyd
	Mr Robert Thompson	Revd Canon Maurice Armstrong	Mr Henry Robinson
	Mrs Jennifer Leathem		
	Mr David Scott	EPISCOPAL ELECTORAL COLLEGE	
	Mr Gerard O'Callaghan MBE	Revd Chancellor Ian Berry	Mr Glenn Moore
	Mrs Eileen Cutler	Revd Canon Paul Thompson	Mr Walter Pringle
	Mr Robert Dane	Revd Precentor Kyle Hanlon	Mr John Irvine MBE
	Mr Bertie Wedlock	Very Revd Kenny Hall	Mr Sam Morrow OBE
<i>Supplemental</i>		Revd Andrew Quill	Mrs Una Bourke
Revd Charles Eames	Mr Gordon Deazley	Ven Brian Harper	Mr Michael Skuce MBE
Revd Lorraine Capper	Mr Gregory Deazley	Revd Johnny McLoughlin	Mrs Ethne McCord
Revd Sampson Ajuka	Mr Alan McDonald	Revd Philip Bryson	Mr Jack Johnston
Revd Colin Brownsmith	Mrs Doris Wilson	Revd Canon Maurice Armstrong	Miss Irene Knox
Revd Olivia Downey	Ms Julie Cooper	Revd Canon Alan Irwin	Mrs Sue Hogg MBE
Revd Roy Taylor	Mrs Doreen Primrose	Revd Charles Eames	Mr Henry Robinson
		Revd Colin McConaghie	Mr Chris Treacy
		<i>Supplemental</i>	
		Revd Stephanie Woods	Mrs Hope Kerr
		Revd Alan Capper	Mrs Mae Glenn
		Revd Mark Gallagher	Mrs Diane Wright-Kendrick
COMMITTEE ON DISPUTED ELECTIONS			
Revd Chancellor Ian Berry	Mr Sam Morrow OBE	MEMBERS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE CHURCH BODY	
Ven Brian Harper	Mr Walter Pringle		Mrs Ethne McCord
Revd Canon Paul Thompson	Mr John Irvine MBE		
MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE			
Revd Chancellor Ian Berry	Mrs Joy Graham		

# REVD CANON DR IAN ELLIS ELECTED BISHOP OF CLOGHER

The Revd Canon Dr Ian W Ellis was elected as the next Bishop of Clogher by the Episcopal Electoral College for the Diocese of Clogher which met via Zoom on Monday, 9th November.

Canon Ellis succeeds the Most Revd John McDowell who was elected Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland by the House of Bishops earlier this year.

The new Bishop-elect is currently rector of Rossorry Parish in the Diocese of Clogher, where has served since 2015.

Canon Ellis is married to Heather, a HR consultant who has been actively involved for many years in the Mothers' Union at branch, diocesan and central level. She is currently President of Enniskillen Rotary Club. They have three grown up children; Mark, Timothy and Naomi who are all married and living in Dublin, London and Dunbarton, Scotland.

After graduating from Queen's University, Canon Ellis taught Physics in Antrim Grammar School until he entered the ordained ministry, being ordained in 1989 for St Mark's Parish, Armagh, serving as Curate Assistant. From 1991 Canon Ellis served as Rector of Loughgall and Grange for 11 years in the Diocese of Armagh, during this time he was Editor of the Armagh Diocesan Magazine for eight years, a member of Armagh Diocesan Ordinands' Committee, General Synod, Standing Committee, Armagh Diocesan Board of Education and Armagh Diocesan Council. Canon Ellis is well known for his subsequent role as Secretary to the Church's Board of Education where he served for 13 years, bringing together his experience as a schoolteacher and his time in parochial ministry. He also served as the Church of Ireland's representative on the Transferors' Representative Council and as secretary of that body, and in 2013 he achieved a Doctorate in Education from Queen's University Belfast.

Since moving to Rossorry, Canon Ellis has served as clerk of the Cathedral Chapter, a member of Diocesan Council and is currently one of its Clerical Honorary Secretaries, he is a member of the Diocesan Board of Education, a Diocesan Nominator and a member of General Synod. He is a clerical representative on the General Synod Safeguarding Board and the Clogher representative Canon on the chapter of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin since 2015. He is a member of the Board of Governors of



**“I pray that I may fulfil the trust that has been placed in me and I look forward to working with the great team of diocesan clergy and laity”**

REVD CANON DR IAN ELLIS

Enniskillen Royal Grammar School where he is vice-chairman of the Board of Governors and chairman of the Education Committee, in addition to being a governor of Jones Memorial Primary School.

Archbishop John McDowell said: 'I am delighted to announce the election of Canon Ian Ellis as my successor as Bishop of Clogher. Everyone who knows Canon Ellis will have been impressed by the

dedication, pastoral care and intelligence which he has brought to his vocation in the Church and in education. I look forward to welcoming him into the House of Bishops and to arranging for his consecration as soon as is practicable.'

The bishop-elect said: 'I am deeply humbled to be elected today by the Electoral College as Bishop-elect of Clogher and intensely conscious of the honour and responsibility bestowed upon me. I pray that I may fulfil the trust that has been placed in me and I look forward to working with the great team of diocesan clergy and laity. This is a wonderful diocese and Heather and I have been so happy serving here during my ministry as Rector of Rossorry, and I look forward to getting to know the people of the wider diocese in the near future. I pray that God may guide us all to serve him in this part of the Kingdom of God.'

Following approval by the House of Bishops, the Bishop-elect will be consecrated as bishop on a date to be determined.

The Bishop-Elect sent his parishioners in Rossorry a message following his election;

## **A message from the Rector to parishioners**

*You will have heard by now that on Monday afternoon I was elected by the Episcopal Electoral College for Clogher Diocese to be the next Bishop of Clogher.*

*At the moment I have a great mix of emotions - I am truly humbled and very conscious of the honour and responsibility bestowed on me yet also saddened at having to leave Rossorry where we have been so happy for these last five years. Heather and I have been so blessed to have been called to serve you here in this wonderful parish of Rossorry where we have many treasured memories and friendships formed. You have been so patient and supportive to me as your Rector as I know you will continue to be so in the future.*

*However, we are not moving on just yet as the consecration is likely to be in the New Year. I will let you know the date as soon as the Archbishop has decided.*

*Heather and I would value your prayers as we begin to move forward.*

*Wishing you every blessing from God.*

**Your friend and Rector  
Ian**





Revd Johnny McLoughlin (right) accompanying the cyclists on his motorbike at the beginning of the sponsored event at Aghavea Church and hall.



Cyclists pass by another of the churches in the diocese.

## A 'wheelie' fun adventure for a parish fundraiser

**E**ARLY in the morning of 29th October, four brave cyclists and a rector gathered at Aghavea Parish Church at the start of this year's biggest Two Wheeled Adventure of the year since Le Tour de France!

Kenny Dunlop, Adrian Dunlop, Raymond Pauley and Iain Lendrum were the brave cyclists who had offered to ride the 106-mile cycle with Aghavea rector, Revd Johnny McLoughlin. Revd Johnny had kindly declined the offer to cycle but had compromised with riding the route on his motorbike!

"The last time I had a serious run on my pushbike was when I was 15, just before I started riding a motorbike on my 16th birthday!" said Revd Johnny. They were ably supported by Noel Dunlop and his grandson.

The adventure had been planned as a fundraising project, raising money for the parish's Building Fund following their recent renovation of the church building. An online GoFundMe page was created to aid the fundraising. The cyclists were determined to help Iain Lendrum complete a 100-mile run before the end of the season and this coincided with the parish hoping to do something new as a project – and a plan was hatched.

The route from Aghavea would take in 25 parish churches on the route that took them through Fivemiletown, Clabby, Tempo, Kilskeery, Ballinamallard, Kesh, Enniskillen, Lisnaskea, Maguiresbridge and back to Aghavea in late afternoon. While the cyclists were riding constantly, the rector's job did involve documenting the route past the churches. A visual log of the day was detailed on the parish's Facebook page. "it was a privilege to have been part of this adventure," said the rector at the end of the day.

"The four cyclists – Iain, Kenny, Adrian and Raymond – have been brilliant! They averaged over 15 miles per hour and although that doesn't sound that fast, their effort was superb. The camaraderie and friendship on the ride were every bit as brilliant as the beautiful scenery we were passing. I am so proud of the whole team, including Helen and Yvonne who provided a supper for the riders when we got back to the church. Overall, it was a day to remember, and the fact that we've been able to raise much needed funds for our Building Fund has been a bonus!"

All was going well until the team reached Derrygonnelly. The rector had ridden ahead of the team to prepare to take a photograph at the church – but when he got into the village, the route to the church wasn't really obvious.

"I stopped at the local garage and asked one of the gentlemen how to get to the local Church of Ireland. He gave me very good directions, follow the main street until you get to the blue railings, turn left and the church is about a quarter of a mile down that road. Not knowing anything different,

I promptly arrived at the local chapel! The team, meanwhile, had arrived at the church and wondered where Revd Johnny was! Happily, all resolved itself soon, and they gave me detailed directions for the rest of the route!"

The rector and parish would like to thank everyone who donated so generously to the event and are pleased to report that well over £2200 has been raised. Of course, the people who deserve the most credit are the four intrepid cyclists who were less exhausted after the 106-mile trek than the rector! Thank you kindly for your support and enthusiasm! If you wish to see the pictures, they can be seen on the rector's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/johnny.mcloughlin](http://www.facebook.com/johnny.mcloughlin)) or donate online via our GoFundMe page, ([www.gofundme.com/two-wheeled-adventure](http://www.gofundme.com/two-wheeled-adventure)). All donations would be gratefully received.

If you ever come across a group of cyclists on the road, please give them plenty of room when passing, and admire the skill involved in keeping moving at the speed they're doing! Believe me, they'll not hold you back for too long!



The route took cyclists past scenic countryside and lakes.



Members of the Moore family at Cuilcagh Boardwalk Trail for the sponsored walk in memory of 11-year-old James Moore.

## Sponsored walk on Cuilcagh Boardwalk raises over 34,000 Euros for Temple Street Hospital

A remarkable fundraising event has touched the hearts of the church and wider community around Scotshouse, Co. Monaghan.

Over 34,000 Euros has been raised for the Temple Street Children's Hospital Foundation in Dublin in memory of 11-year-old James Moore, who sadly died in July this year.

James' immediate family, parents Simon and Heather Moore and his sister and brother, Rebekah and William as well as other family members organised a fundraising climb of the popular Cuilcagh Boardwalk trail during the summer when lockdown restrictions were relaxed.

One of the organisers of the event, Ian Jordan, an uncle of James and Churchwarden of St. Andrew's Church, Currin (Scotshouse), explained how James had wanted to have a fundraiser for Temple Street Hospital as a way of thanking staff



for looking after him on numerous stays there. James loved farming and had wanted a sponsored tractor run. This had been scheduled for Easter Monday but because of Covid-19 restrictions, this was unable to take place before James' untimely death in July.

Ian explained that James' family members

wanted to organise their event in memory of James, who had been a pupil at Darley National School near Cootehill. Ian said there was overwhelming community support and there had also been many generous donations from businesses with people from all over Ireland and internationally logging into the Facebook fundraising page to donate. James' family members wish to say a heartfelt thanks to the many people who supported them in their fundraising efforts.

A letter of thanks was also sent by Temple Street Children's Hospital

Foundation to James' family noting their inspiring gesture would help pay for the replacement of life-preserving equipment or purchase new medical technology for their Intensive Care Unit.

"This letter is but a small act of thanks in return for your great act of kindness.... and an inspiring act of remembrance," the letter concludes.

# Serpents in the Rectory!

*How Ozzy the snake ended up sharing space with reptiles, amphibians, insects and mammals*

When was the last time you called a rector to rescue a snake?

Well that's exactly what happened recently to Revd Johnny McLoughlin in Aghavea Parish!

One of the parishioners, Gordon, of Aghavea Church had been in hospital for a few months, and when it became apparent that he wouldn't be able to return to his old home, his family decided to do a clear out on his behalf. On entering the spare bedroom, they found a large animal enclosure. Upon closer inspection, they discovered that a black snake was inside, presumed dead as it hadn't been fed for almost four months. They had often heard Gordon talk about a snake, but assumed that one of his friends owned one, not realising that he had one in the house. They carefully carried the enclosure down and left it in a skip – only to discover a few days later that the black snake was actually still alive!

Thankfully the family remembered that the rector had mentioned that he was a keen herpetologist – a snake and lizard keeper! They immediately called Revd Johnny to help them, and he discovered that in spite of not eating for over four months, the Mexican Black Kingsnake was actually still in very good condition, and well used to being handled. It is not a poisonous snake, and at four feet long (120cm), it is a very good pet snake.

"I recognised it immediately as I actually have a Mexican Black Kingsnake in my own collection," confirmed Revd Johnny. "Snakes can actually go into a 'low-power mode', almost like your phone does when the power is almost done. In this case, the relative cool of the room helped the



snake bromate, a sort of hibernation mode. Snakes can survive for almost a year without food if they are in a good condition – and Ozzy certainly was well looked after." "Yes, a black snake and a heavy metal owner – what else would you call it by Ozzy (Osbourne)!"

Following a discussion between Gordon and Revd Johnny, the snake has now been fostered at the rectory, and is happily feeding and is at home in his newly decorated enclosure.

"I don't think St Patrick would really appreciate my lizard collection," said Revd Johnny.

"I now have 11 snakes in my collection,

with eight lizards, a tortoise, a pair of salamanders and two very large spiders. In case anyone thinks that we don't like 'normal' pets, we also have four cats and five dogs!"

St Patrick supposedly chased the snakes out of Ireland, and Revd Johnny McLoughlin is on a mission to bring them back!

If you need any advice about a snake or lizard, he can be contacted at Aghavea Rectory. When the current pandemic is over, they can be visited if anyone is interested! All donations to Aghavea Building Fund, of course!!

## CLOGHER DIOCESAN MINISTRY OF HEALING

If any Parish is considering contributing to the Diocesan Ministry of Healing funds, please send them to the Executive Chairman, Revd Canon Maurice Armstrong, 403 INVER, Tempo Road, Tempo, BT94 3GQ.

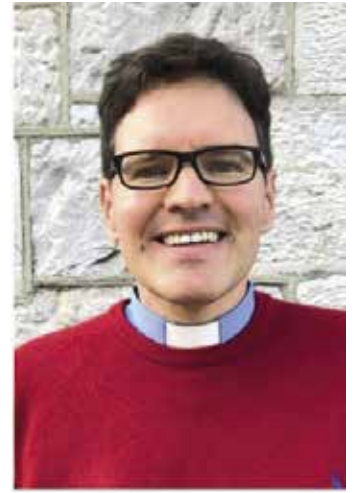
These contributions are then forwarded from the Diocese to the two centres in Belfast and to Dublin for their work and running costs.

The committee appreciate the support of Parishes throughout the

Diocese and realise that financial constraints due to Covid-19 may reduce the contribution this year. However small the amount, it will still be accepted, acknowledged and appreciated.

The committee hopes when government restrictions ease and are completely lifted, they can then safely hold Diocesan services, the monthly service in the Iona room in the Cathedral Hall and organise an event.

# CHURCH OF IRELAND NEWS



The Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod (from left): the Revd Canon Gillian Wharton; Ms Hazel Corrigan; Mr Ken Gibson; and the Revd Malcolm Kingston.

## General Synod takes place online for first time in history

At the time of going to Press, this year's General Synod was scheduled to take place online, for the first time, using the Zoom communications platform, on Tuesday, 1st December, and Wednesday, 2nd December. The Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop John McDowell, was to preside over the meeting. The meeting of the General Synod was to have taken place in the Croke Park Meetings and Events Centre, Dublin, from 7th–9th May 2020, but was postponed by the Standing Committee due to government restrictions to protect public health. Section 30 of the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 2020, enacted by the Oireachtas in August of this year, provides for the validity of remote meetings of unincorporated bodies registered in the Republic of Ireland, on a platform that allows members to hear the proceedings of the meeting and to speak at the meeting. At its meeting on 14th October 2020, the Standing Committee therefore approved the holding of an online meeting of General Synod.

The General Synod Service was pre-recorded predominantly in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, and made available online from 9.30am on the first day of General Synod. It was led by Archbishop Michael Jackson and began with a welcome from the Primate at St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh. The service continued with hymns and readings filmed in the following locations: St Macartin's Cathedral,

Enniskillen; St Eunan's Cathedral, Raphoe; St John's Cathedral, Sligo; Christ Church Cathedral, Lisburn; St Fachtna's Cathedral, Rosscarbery; and St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare, in which Bishop Pat Storey preached the sermon.

As this year marks the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood in the Church of Ireland, a short commemorative video has been filmed, in which over 50 women clerics took part. The Primate's Presidential Address was first to take place before the agenda continued throughout Tuesday and Wednesday.

### BILLS

There were two Bills for consideration by the General Synod:

- Bill No.1 – to provide for the inclusion in the Constitution of the Church of Ireland of certain provisions which are desirable for the purpose of ensuring charitable recognition for Church of Ireland bodies in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland; and
- Bill No.2 – to incorporate the Board of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, as a company limited by guarantee.

The Standing Committee has agreed the recommendation of the General Synod Representation Working Group that the Bill on this matter, incorporating alterations proposed by the Working Group, shall be brought to the 2021 General Synod. It was also agreed that each diocese would be

requested to hold a forum at which General Synod representatives shall be briefed by members of the Working Group on the history and journey of the legislation.

### REPORTS

The reports of the Representative Church Body (RCB) and the Standing Committee were presented to General Synod. The RCB reported that its total funds increased during 2019 by 13% from €179.3m to €203.0m. Allocations remained at €3.6 million in both 2018 and 2019.

Among the significant matters dealt with by the Standing Committee during 2019 were the endorsement of a strategic plan for a whole Church of Ireland approach to Children's and Family Ministry, and the approval of proposed revisions to the Bills process which it is intended to present to General Synod 2021. Its report will also include the reports of the Central Communications Board, the Children's Ministry Network, the Church and Society Commission, the Consultative Group on Disability, the Safeguarding Board, and other committees which are accountable to Standing Committee.

The next General Synod is planned for 13th–15th May 2021 at the Armagh City Hotel, Armagh, whilst the booking for Croke Park for the General Synod of May 2020 has been held over to facilitate the subsequent General Synod meeting from 5th–7th May 2022.

## CHURCH OF IRELAND BISHOPS' APPEAL LAUNCHES MOTHER AND CHILD ADVENT APPEAL

The Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal for World Aid and Development has launched a Mother and Child Advent Appeal, which seeks to raise support for four initiatives in the following countries:

- Nepal – Sundar Dhoka Saathi Sewa, which is being supported through CMS Ireland, provides emergency food to pregnant and lactating mothers whose access to harvests, work and food has been decimated due to the pandemic;
- Cambodia – Tearfund Ireland's work to provide children in crisis situations with emergency foster parents to give them a safe, secure home as an alternative to going into an orphanage;
- Democratic Republic of the Congo – Christian Aid's support for families who have fled conflict and are now living in overcrowded shelters, mostly without water or electricity; and
- Sierra Leone – refurbishment of health clinics alongside support in communities and education for women and their partners who are expecting a baby.

Lydia Monds, Bishops' Appeal's Education Advisor, says: 'This Advent, how apt that as Christians follow the story of a heavily pregnant young woman on an arduous journey, going into labour in an overcrowded town and giving birth next to animals, that Bishops' Appeal would focus on expectant and young mothers today and the challenges that they are facing in keeping themselves and their children safe. In such difficult times, we are grateful to those who are in a position to support this Mother and Child Appeal.'

Donations to the appeal can be made by visiting [www.bishopsappealireland.anglican.org/give](http://www.bishopsappealireland.anglican.org/give) or by post to Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal (Mother & Child Appeal), Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6.

In recent months, Bishops' Appeal has also supported efforts to help communities in Lebanon as they recover from the explosion in Beirut's port (Tearfund Ireland and Christian Aid); agricultural and forestry projects in Burkina Faso and Cameroon (Self Help Africa and Feed the Minds); support for education and girls' health in six schools in Uganda (Fields of Life); vocational training for young adults who attend the Anglican Diocese of Egypt's deaf centre in Cairo (CMS Ireland); increasing literacy and training women in business skills in Burundi (CMS Ireland and Mothers' Union); and helping pea farmers in Malawi to access larger markets and strengthen their ability to sell their produce (Christian Aid).



## Disaster Advice Seminar suitable for parish representatives

The RCB Property Department is encouraging parish representatives from across the island to consider attending a free online seminar on preventing or reducing the risk of disaster striking a property (e.g. by fire, floods, storms, lightning strikes or vandalism), and to lessen the damage caused should a disaster occur.

The seminar is being organised by the Irish Government's Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage but will include advice that would be helpful in both jurisdictions.

The half-day seminar, on Wednesday, 9th December 2020, will commence at 10am with an opening address and launch of Disaster: A guide to prevention and preparedness in the historic built environment by Malcolm Noonan TD, the Irish Government's Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform. The seminar will conclude at 12.30pm.

The purpose of the seminar is to help owners and custodians of an historic property, where possible, to prevent or reduce the risk of disaster striking their property by fire, floods, storms, lightning strikes or vandalism, and to lessen the damage caused should disaster occur. A flyer with more information is available here.

Parish representatives across the island are encouraged to consider attending this seminar delivered by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in partnership with the Irish Georgian Society, the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates, and Ecclesiastical Insurance.

The seminar is free of charge but advance registration is required. Go to the Irish Georgian Society at the link below for more information;

Disaster Advice Seminar | Irish Georgian Society ([igs.ie](http://igs.ie))  
Shared on behalf of the RCB Property Department

## Service of Prayer and Naming and Funeral Service in cases of Miscarriage, Stillbirth and Neonatal Death

The Liturgical Advisory Committee has announced that the Service of Prayer and Naming and the Funeral Service in cases of Miscarriage, Stillbirth and Neonatal Death, as approved by the General Synod, are available in the Prayer and Worship section of the Church of Ireland website.

The Services are accompanied by Pastoral and Liturgical Guidelines for Clergy, and a Certificate of Naming which commends a child to God's ever caring and gentle love. Commending the resources, the Chair of the Committee, Archbishop Michael Jackson, remarked: "While no words can

adequately respond to or address the sense of loss experienced by family members when a child dies near the time of birth, it is our hope that these resources for worship will go some way toward expressing loss and knowing that God is present.

# CHURCH OF IRELAND NEWS

## Entries needed for Church's photography competition

The Church of Ireland's Central Communications Board (CCB) is inviting members of the Church to enter a photography competition with the theme of 'Anything but Covid'.

This year, in a change to the annual communications competition (which traditionally focuses on print and online media), selected entries to this special photography competition win a prize and be featured on the Church of Ireland's website ([www.ireland.anglican.org](http://www.ireland.anglican.org)) and social media platforms.

The competition, which is kindly being sponsored by Ecclesiastical Insurance, calls for photographers of all ages and experience to take part. The idea is to focus on humorous, hopeful or generally uplifting subjects, including people and places, which help to take our view away from the current pandemic, and change our perspective positively.

Bishop Pat Storey, the Chair of the CCB, said: 'It is a delight to launch this photography competition to welcome a bit of light in the darkness. It would be great to have photographs submitted that simply make people smile. As we wait for the world to heal we take joy in the creativity of playful photographers all over this island. Good luck!'

Each entrant to the competition may submit one image which should be submitted via email to [press@ireland.anglican.org](mailto:press@ireland.anglican.org) along with the entrant's name, full contact details, and parish. Images must



be jpegs, and at least 300 dpi in resolution and 3 MB in size but strictly not over 4 MB and be submitted with the date on which the photograph was taken.

The deadline for entries will be 12 noon on Monday, 14th December 2020.

Judging will be undertaken independently of the CCB and prizes will be announced in advance of the Christmas holidays.

## New video celebrates and gives thanks for the ministry of women in the Church of Ireland

A video featuring contributions from 62 female Church of Ireland clergy has been released to mark the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood in the Church of Ireland, which was approved by the General Synod on 15th May 1990.

The video – available at <https://www.vimeo.com/483074576> will also be shown at this year's meeting of General Synod, which will take place in an online format on Tuesday, 1st December, and Wednesday, 2nd December, and as part of a service to be televised on RTÉ One on Sunday, 13th December, at 11.00am. The Revd Irene Templeton and the Revd Kathleen Young were ordained by Bishop Samuel Poyntz, then Bishop of Connor, in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, on 24th June 1990. This followed the ordination of the Church's first female deacon, the Revd

Katharine Poulton, on 21st June 1987. The Church of Ireland's first female bishop, the Most Revd Pat Storey, was consecrated as Bishop of Meath and Kildare on 30th November 2013.

The production features the passing of chalices and candles between clergy, each filmed in an individual video clip, followed by a number of memorable comments about the role of women in ordained ministry which have been heard over the years. In its introduction, the Dean of Cloyne, the Very Revd Susan Green, says: "To mark this moment and to celebrate God's call to be ordained, we've made this video. The passing of the chalices and the candles reflects our shared hopes in ministry.

"The chalices are signs of our ordination as priests, of celebrating Holy Communion and of all we share together. The passing

from one to another symbolises our connections and our unity in Christ. In these Covid-19 times, when we are missing the sharing of the common cup, it is all the more poignant.

"The candles symbolise the light of Christian faith and as we enter Advent, we rejoice in the words spoken by Bishop Storey from St John's Gospel, 'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never overcome it.'"

Music was arranged by the Revd Dr Anne-Marie O'Farrell and performed by her in the Hugh Lane Gallery, with permission kindly granted by Dublin City Council. The name of the piece is 'Chorale Variations on Take My Life and Let it Be', by Dr O'Farrell.

There are currently around 100 female clergy serving in the Church of Ireland, among 500 serving clergy in total.

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS from page 58

**ACROSS:** 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.

**DOWN:** Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.

## ***Social media template for parishes available***

The Church of Ireland's Central Communications Board has produced a template document which may be used by a Select Vestry for drawing up a brief social media policy for its parish. This Word document file includes advice on responding to comments on social media, and encourages Select Vestries to:

\* Consider their parish's objectives for using social media;

\* Appoint a designated administrator of group of administrators to run social media platforms;

\* Decide when social media will be monitored;

\* Follow the Church's social media and digital communications guidelines;

\* Visit [www.ireland.anglican.org/socialmedia](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/socialmedia) for more resources.

The Board has emphasised this is a template document which can be adapted according to the needs of each parish which is using, or considering, social media. Parishes may, for example, have different approaches and preferences in using, or choosing not to use, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Vimeo etc.

The article also highlights two other resources which may help parishes with social media: the Church of Ireland's information page on keeping people safe from scams and their social media and digital communications guidelines for members of the Church (also available at the links below).

**Template for parish social media policy:** [www.ireland.anglican.org/news/10117/template-for-parish-social-media](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/10117/template-for-parish-social-media)

**Keeping people safe from scams:** [www.ireland.anglican.org/resources/574/keeping-people-safe-from-scams](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/resources/574/keeping-people-safe-from-scams)

**Social Media Guidance & Resources:** [www.ireland.anglican.org/resources/484/church-of-ireland-social-media](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/resources/484/church-of-ireland-social-media)



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