



# CHURCH OF IRELAND

## The Clogher Diocesan

# MAGAZINE

Member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

March 2021 **£1.50/€1.65**

# LENT

## *At Home*

PARISHES OFFER ONLINE  
LENTEN REFLECTIONS

*Also Inside...*

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HAVE RESPONDED TO THE  
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## YOUR MAGAZINE IN MARCH 2021

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### Next Magazine in April 2021

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### Advertising rates are available upon request.

Advertising charges for material submitted in addition to the routine diocesan and parish submissions will apply.

### Order your magazine

For ordering additional copies or amending orders for parishes, contact Mrs Eleanor Lynn Tel. 028 66 324603.

### Front Cover

With churches closed for worship, people can mark Lent at home by following services online and using simple resources. This simple idea of a Lego cross was provided by Revd Colin McConaghie of Carrickmacross Union of Parishes.

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## NEW DATES FOR KEY DIOCESAN SERVICES



There has been some re-scheduling of dates for the official farewell service for Archbishop John McDowell to mark his departure as Bishop of Clogher and for the service of consecration of his successor, Revd Canon Dr. Ian Ellis as the new Bishop of Clogher.

The farewell service for Archbishop McDowell will now be held online via Zoom on Thursday, 25th March at 7.30pm. The Service of Consecration of the Bishop-Elect, Revd Canon Dr. Ian Ellis as Bishop of Clogher, will now take place on Monday, 26th April at 7.30pm in St. Macartin's Cathedral, provided in-church services can take place by then and also complying with Covid-19 protocols in terms of numbers attending.

The re-arranged dates have been necessary due to the extension of lockdown restrictions until the beginning of April.



## *Letter from the Archbishop's Commissary, Archdeacon Brian Harper*

It has been an exceedingly difficult winter for many in our parishes and rectories. There have been moments of light and hope followed by sorrow and despair, often within the same news bulletin! For me personally, the most frustrating thing has been going for days without seeing a parishioner other than a passing wave on the street. I'm not an "administration" person or even a studious person who enjoys sitting in the study pushing paper around. I prefer to be out, whether that is in a meeting or on a pastoral visit – it is what I believe ministry is about.

That frustration is also present in many homes. It exists for the pupils and students who want to be in class and for the teachers who want to teach. It exists for the housebound and those in care homes who relish the visits from family and friends and there is frustration also for the families and friends who are very wary of visiting.

Over the past month, I have had most of the weddings planned for the early summer postponed so there is frustration for those families. There is surely frustration, too, for our bishop-elect in anticipation of his consecration!

Frustration can lead to anxiety and failure to accomplish your plans can bring a sense of failure and depression.

It is therefore important that we strive to maintain a climate of hope and support for one another. We need to point to the rainbow, the symbol of the promise and covenant of God. We can inspire one another with encouragement and kindness. Perhaps it could be your Lenten project!

When Paul is writing to the church in Galatia (chapter 6), he is encouraging them not to argue and fight but to take every opportunity to do good. He urges gentleness, sharing of burdens, sowing to please the Spirit. This theme of kindness is echoed in several parts of Paul's correspondence. It is good advice at any time but especially important right now. It has been exemplified



by those in the health and caring professions whom we appropriately support with the rainbow symbol. I've also witnessed this kindness in many other professions and in individuals. This is a good thing and brings light into darker times.

*"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ."* (Galatians 6:2)

# PARISH NOTES

## Aghalurcher and Cooneen with Mullaghfad



Rector: **The Revd John McClenaghan**

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### SERVICES

#### FEBRUARY

##### Sunday 14

10.45am Colebrooke Morning Prayer

12.15pm Cooneen Morning Prayer

##### Sunday 21

10.45am Colebrooke Morning Prayer

12.15pm Cooneen Morning Prayer

##### Sunday 28

10.45am Colebrooke Morning Prayer

12.15pm Cooneen Morning Prayer

The above timings are provisional to normal worship in church being resumed.

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)

***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 three 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)

### 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.

### Mothers' Union

The Branch Leader applied for funding from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council under a Covid Recovery Grant, to undertake a project which would bring support and encouragement to families in the parishes. A grant of £500 was awarded in mid-December. A busy week of shopping

resulted in 'Celebration Bags' for 37 families who had children 16 years of age and under. Each bag contained a tin of Celebration sweets from Co-op, a box of easy peel Clementine oranges from Spar, books, pens and colouring pencils from Val Irvine Oasis Bookshop appropriate for each child in the family, a packet of anti-bacterial surface wipes from McKeevers Chemists, a Mothers' Union Christmas card signed by all branch members and the new Mothers' Union leaflet. These goodies were presented in a beautiful Christmas bag purchased from Poundstretchers.

As MU members distributed the bags to each household, the reaction on the doorsteps was surprise, amazement at being thought about and delight with the contents e.g. my son loves those oranges. Letters, cards, phone calls and texts of thanks have also been received since.

Mothers' Union members were again fulfilling their aim of 'Christian Care for Families.' They acknowledge sincere thanks to FODC for the grant which enabled them to provide the contents of the bags.



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## Ballybay, Clontibret & Muckno



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### Services via “Zoom”

As we still can't gather to worship in our churches at present, parishioners are invited to join together via “Zoom” for a short service at 11.15 a.m. each Sunday. The service will be followed by a coffee meeting where everyone will have an opportunity to chat to one another. The links to join the aforementioned will be sent out by email.

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/>

### Thank you

Very many thanks to Andrea Johnston who continues to provide the music during our Sunday services via “Zoom”.

### Holy Week and Easter

At the time of writing it seems likely that we will not be able to meet together in our church buildings during Holy Week or at Easter. Parishioners will be notified by email with regard to services during this period.

### Select Vestry News

Each Select Vestry met online via “Zoom” at the end of January in order to revise the General Vestry register.

The registered members of each parish, along with the Rector, constitute the General Vestry, which meets annually to hear the Rector's report and to elect churchwardens, glebewardens and members of the Select Vestry for the forthcoming year.

### Parish Lockdown Quiz!

Two successful quizzes were held via “Zoom” on Saturday 23rd January and Saturday 13th February. Many thanks to all those who participated.

### Lent 2021

A service was held on Ash Wednesday, 17th February, via “Zoom” to mark the beginning of Lent.

By tradition Lent is a time of giving up and doing without, a season for us to reflect and take stock of our lives. It originated in the early days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter when the faithful rededicated themselves, and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism.

By observing the 40 days of Lent we, as Christians, are invited to imitate Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for 40 days. Let's try to use Lent 2021 to be better people – let's use it as a time of reflection in order to help us discover the will of God.

### 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 past number of months, the Sunday School teachers in each parish have prepared activities which the children are able to do at home. We thank all of them for their help and support.

### Email

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

### 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.

In addition, please give thanks for family, friends and all in our community who have recovered from the Covid-19 virus or other serious illness.



## Carrickmacross Union, Magheraclone and Ardragh



Rector:  
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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 able to return to in-church worship in March. If the numbers remain high, we will make a decision for each church even if a return is permitted by the government. If we are back into the church buildings our services times will be:

St Finbarr's, Carrickmacross - every

Sunday at 10.30am plus Holy Communion  
Wednesday at 11am

St Molua's, Magheraclone – every Sunday  
at 12noon

St Patrick's Ardragh – 2nd and 4th Sunday of  
the month at 1.15pm

If the church buildings remain closed  
worship will be on our Facebook page  
(Carrickmacross Group Church of Ireland)  
Sunday's at 11am and Wednesday's at 8pm.

Please check our Facebook page for up-to-  
date information. Parishioners will also be  
notified of all changes via text message.

### Youth Group

Unfortunately, our Youth Group has not  
been able to meet for almost a year now,  
however, we still want our young people to  
know they are a valuable part of our church  
family. Following on from last year's Youth  
Reflections we are currently using a CIYD  
course on Mission looking at Creation and  
the environment.

The study is sent out each month for the  
young people to look over in their own time.  
We really look forward to meeting up again  
as soon as possible.

### Sunday School at Home

Sunday School at home continues with



Art from Sunday School at Home.

resources (using Roots on the Web) sent out  
to our young families each week. It's always  
great to receive some of the brilliant artwork  
and worksheets the children have been  
enjoying doing at home.

### Lent 2021

This year's Lent Course will be online only  
each Wednesday evening at 8pm on our  
Facebook Page from 24th February until  
25th March.

This year we will be using a study produced  
for Roots on the Web entitled "Here – and  
There". The study reflects on the global  
pandemic in the context of Jesus' journey to  
the cross.

Revd Colin will be leading the study and  
adding a few thoughts of his own as well as  
enlisting the help of some parishioners.  
Throughout Lent there will be daily  
reflections on our Facebook Page (every  
day except Wednesday and Sunday) it is  
hoped that these will be led by a number of  
parishioners.

We will be using the Live Lent app produced  
by the Church of England for these  
reflections.

### Holy Week 2021

For Holy Week this year we have lined up a  
great list of guest speakers who will unravel  
the story of the week for us as part of our  
worship each evening. Due to the continued  
uncertainties around restrictions the talk for  
each evening will be pre-recorded.

Our worship at 8pm each evening will be:

▶ ON THE MONDAY THE TABLES WERE  
TURNED

▶ ON THE TUESDAY THEY DIDN'T LIKE THE

ANSWERS – ALL AGE WORSHIP

▶ ON THE WEDNESDAY PERFUME WAS  
WASTED

▶ ON THE THURSDAY HE SERVED, THEY  
BETRAYED – MAUNDY THURSDAY AGAPE  
MEAL

▶ ON THE FRIDAY THE WORLD WENT DARK  
There will also be An Hour at Cross on Good  
Friday at 12noon.

It is unclear at the time of print whether we  
will be able to meet in church or if our Holy  
Week worship will be online only. Full details  
will appear on our Facebook Page.

### Carrickmacross Foodbank Collections

Our collection of non-perishable food items  
for Carrickmacross Foodbank will continue  
even when the church buildings are closed.  
Items can be dropped in anytime to the  
Rectory with the food items brought to the  
store room usually after the third Sunday of  
each month.

### Condolences

As a Group of Parishes, we were deeply  
saddened by the death of George Hill,  
who was a stalwart of St Finbarr's including  
serving on the Select Vestry for a number  
of years. George was a real gentleman and  
quite a character who always had a joke or  
yarn at the ready.

We remember his wife Jill, their children  
Richard, Valerie, Jennifer, Alan, Jackie and  
Emma and the whole family circle in our  
prayers at this time.

## Cleenish & Mullaghduin



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Since the previous notes, the third Lockdown has been extended to March 2021 and subsequently, we have not been able to have in-church gatherings. We continue to be mindful of those known to us who are currently in hospital affected by this pandemic or with non-Covid ailments. With prayer and the power of God's healing we trust that all will have full recovery.

### Nature awakens

It is at this time of year, when daylight hours are becoming longer, that we experience wonderful sunsets and sunrises, and nature awakens with birdsong and little bursts of primroses and snowdrops in bloom. In the midst of the global pandemic, we are reminded of the power of Almighty God and His Wondrous Creation. "This is the day that the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it" based on Psalm 118:24

### The Rector writes...

Learning how to rest in the Lord is one of the most important but challenging things that Followers of the Lord Jesus Christ need to learn.

Our human nature finds it much easier to strive, push ahead and keep going rather than stepping aside and allowing God to control our daily lives.

We can achieve far more for God when we take time for rest and reflection.

Let me share with you a story which I recently came across about two wood cutters.

One man challenged another to a contest to see how much each person could chop in a day. One of the men worked very hard stopping only for a brief lunch break. The other man had a leisurely lunch and took several breaks during the day. At the end of the day, the challenger was surprised and annoyed to find that the other person had



An evening view of Laragh Lough, Bellanaleck taken from the path at The Moorings end.

chopped substantially more wood than he had. 'I don't understand', he said. 'Every time I looked in your direction you were taking a rest, yet you chopped more wood than I did.' 'But you didn't notice,' said the other man, 'that I was sharpening my axe when I sat down to rest.'

In his book, 'The Art of Rest', its author, Adam Mabry, said the following 'Regular rest is the practice by which we say with our lives, the God who made the world, rules the world, and I trust Him to do it better than me.' Let us consider the four letters of the word 'Rest' ...

**R** is for repentance - we need to repent from trying to run our own lives at our pace.

**E** is for every day - it's good to begin each day by handing what lies ahead into His care.

**S** is for stillness - we are reminded of our need to be still in God's Presence throughout each day where we give God the time and space to set His agenda for our daily lives.

**T** is for thankfulness - at the end of the day - let us thank God for being our perfect manager throughout the whole day.

### Collect

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: Teach us to offer ourselves to your service, that here we may have your peace, and in the world to come may see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- Revd. Canon G P Bridle

### Cleenish

The work on the Vestry Room of Cleenish

Church has taken place and is approaching completion. This work was necessary due to cracks in an outer wall, poor heating/ventilation and defects in the flooring. During the works, a leaking radiator was discovered in the church and some small minor defects. The project involved dry lining of the gable wall, new windows, and new floor covering, new toilet and wash hand basin. Additional radiators were installed.

The work was carried out by The Keys Bros., Bellanaleck. Thanks are extended to those members from the Select Vestry and parishioners who volunteered in clearing out the Vestry Room and cleaning it ready for repainting.

### Cleenish and Mullaghduin Mothers' Union sharing information from the web

Looking after our wellbeing is more important than ever. Fortunately, we are becoming increasingly aware of the value of taking care of our physical and mental health. However, with all the focus on different health and fitness practices it can be difficult to know what to prioritise. Similarly getting your head around all the different advice can be quite tricky. Mothers' Union Worldwide is building on the five Cs framework created and recommended by Dr Radha Modgil. Using this as a basis we are bringing you a whole new selection of resources to look after your body and mind.

#### So, what are the 5 Cs?

The first of the 5 Cs is **control**. This means identifying and acknowledging what things are in your zone of control and learning how



to stop thinking about those things that are not. This is easier said than done at first, but over time, with practice it is possible to limit distractions and fears.

The second of the 5 Cs is **care**. This relates to self-care such as exercise and taking daily action to look after our mental health. It is simple to start getting into good habits relating to exercise and it is ok to start slow. Even the most basic of stretching or movement routines done every day will produce benefits over time.

The third of the 5 Cs is **continuity**. This means creating a sense of routine and grounding yourself in certain activities. Just because the wider world is a lot different to how it was before the pandemic does not mean your daily life has to be. In fact, keeping to as near a normal life as possible is reassuring for your mind on a deeper level. As the saying goes, "keep calm and carry on".

The fourth of the 5 Cs is **creativity**, which as you would expect relates to continuing with hobbies and interests, particularly those that you can get absorbed in. This could be anything really, but the idea is to carry out practices that take you away from your worries and concerns.

Finally, the last of the 5 Cs relates to **compassion**. It is a well-known Christian value to be kind to others and especially the most vulnerable. Research has shown that helping other people has benefits for your own psychological wellbeing.

How are Mothers' Union using this?

We are producing a range of resources under these different headings, launching with a selection of each and adding to this over time. Our hope is that you will find a range of resources to support you in keeping up your spirits, staying healthy and feeling connected to wider society. Please visit resources [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org) for further information.

## Mullaghduin

Visitors to Mullaghduin have often admired a piece of lacework pictured with the wording of the Lord's Prayer. The work is crochet lace and was handcrafted by Mrs Caroline Little, a parishioner of Mullaghduin. It took her several months to complete, working from a chart. She presented it to Mullaghduin Church in the early 2000s and rather than having it hung on a wall, the Select Vestry of Mullaghduin acquired the framed easel to display the lace work. The lacework is on display at the back of the Church but whenever there is a Baptism in the Church, it is brought



The Vestry Room with new radiators, replastering and new floor covering.

up to the Chancel.

## Freewill Offerings

Throughout the period of the pandemic and no in-church gatherings, both Parishes continue to have ongoing costs and your contributions are vital in sustaining the work and ministry of both Parishes. If wished, a Standing Order with your Bank or Building Society can be set up by speaking with Mrs Caroline Nixon, Treasurer, Mullaghduin Parish, or Mr Robert Forde, Treasurer, Cleenish Parish.

## Bereavements

The Rector and Parishioners of Cleenish Parish extend sincerest sympathy to the families of:



The Vestry Room with refurbished toilet.

■ Mr Robert Donaldson, Raceview, Enniskillen whose death occurred on January 22, 2021 in hospital.

■ Mrs Muriel Balfour, Portreagh, Mackan, whose death occurred on February 11, 2021 at her home.

■ Mr Harry Carson, Skea, Arney whose death occurred on February 12, 2021 in hospital.

## Bellanaleck Community Group

During the current lockdown due to Covid-19, the village has been noticeably quiet over the past weeks, the majority of residents are adhering to the rules, and staying at home. Unfortunately, the Loughshore Path which is widely used by pedestrians was closed for two and a half weeks due to extensive flooding. At the time of writing, it has now re-opened.

During the prolonged period of wet weather and heavy rainfall on 20th August, part of Waterhen Lane has damage to the foundation of the road surface and pavement. Investigations are at present ongoing by both Roads and N. I. Water.

An application made to the Fermanagh Trust has been successful, and a grant of £550 has been received. This sum together with £100 committed by the Group means that finance is now in place to receive Community Information maps. Three years ago, the Group had approved a draft of what was to go on the maps, and this has now been updated by the Secretary to include new facilities within the village.

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



The lacework in Mullaghduin church.

## Clones, Killeevan, Currin and Newbliss



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This past month has been another month of lockdown, which means that yet again we have been unable to open the doors of our churches for public worship. We all know how hard this is, and we in this group of parishes continue to pray that the situation will soon change sufficiently so as to allow us to gather together again as a church community.

At the time of writing we do not know, of course, whether we will be able to worship in church or not during March – but if we are, services will take place as follows:

### **7 March**

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

### **14 March**

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

### **21 March**

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

### **28 March - (Palm Sunday)**

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

### **5 March**

Clones 8.00pm: Joint Group Service of Reflection for Good Friday

### **4 April - (Easter Sunday)**

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

## Condolences

We all understand that the strict regulations currently in force make funerals during this period of lockdown particularly hard for families and church communities who long to come together in their grief. That being the case we offer our heartfelt condolences to all who mourn for John Irwin (Sr) of Clones Parish, who died in January at the age of 75. He was well loved by his family, fellow parishioners, and a great many others throughout the



country. He will be greatly missed.

## Our WhatsApp Group

Whilst our churches are closed we have a Group WhatsApp forum, in which we warmly invite all our parishioners to participate. Any parishioners who wish to join simply need to telephone the Rector on 0892239646, and he will explain what to do. One of the weekly items that appears each Saturday on the forum, however, is a short sermon that aims to prepare us for the readings that we will hear at virtual services on the following day. The collection of these is now growing, but for interest here is the sermon for 31 January – a Sunday when we would have been united for a Joint Group Service in Clones Church:

*Tomorrow is The Fourth Sunday after The Epiphany, and the Gospel reading set is Mark 1: 21-28. The action takes place as Jesus goes into a synagogue. The word 'synagogue' comes from a Greek word meaning 'to bring together' – and having started as places of assembly where Jews could maintain their identity during their period of Babylonian exile in the 6th century BC, by the time of Jesus there were hundreds of these buildings all over Israel. But what did they look like – and what happened there?*

*Well, synagogues were almost always either the highest building or placed on the highest ground in any town or village – symbolising the importance of living in God's presence, and outside each synagogue was a 'mikveh' (ritual bath), where worshipers symbolically cleansed their hearts before entering the synagogue. Inside the synagogue, the pattern was usually very similar. Only the men entered the main door of the*

*building – whilst women entered through a separate door and sat in a gallery at the back. At the end of the building, opposite the entrance, was a curtained alcove where the cupboard (often called 'The Holy Ark') containing the scrolls of scripture was kept. In the centre of the building was a raised platform ('bimah') with a lectern where the prescribed portions of the law and the prophets were read and the sermon was preached. Those called to read ascended by the stairs nearest to them and descended by another set of stairs. 'Moses Seats' faced the congregation from the end of the synagogue by the 'Holy Ark', and they were occupied by the most important scribes and Pharisees. Other important people sat on benches, called chief seats, which lined three sides of the synagogue – whilst common people sat on the floor, made of dirt or flagstones (or elaborate mosaics in later synagogues).*

*As for the normal service, it usually fell into five parts which included prayers, psalms, blessings, readings from the Scriptures, and commentaries on the sacred passages. However, there was no standard liturgy – and although a rabbi might be recognized as the leader because of his distinguished teaching, there were no official clergy either. In fact, any Jew who felt himself qualified could ask for permission to teach the Scriptures – which is the situation we find as we begin our Gospel reading today. It's a reading which describes Jesus's first miracle, set in a synagogue 2000 years ago – in a small fishing town called Capernaum, which was the home town of Simon, Andrew, James and John ... the four men whom Jesus had just called to follow him (directly before tomorrow's reading begins) as 'fishers of men'.*

So much, then, for the background to tomorrow's Gospel. But as my old tutor at university used to say: What does it all mean? As I prayed about that question this week, three answers have stood out to me, which I will call: a question / warning / call.

Let me begin with the question. It seems to me significant that Jesus does the first miracle of his public ministry in a place of worship – and that as he teaches in that place the people around him are amazed at his words. They find his words inspiring and powerful, because he does not speak in a dry academic way about God like the teachers of the law – but rather he speaks in a new and direct way that conveys he is speaking with the personal power and authority of God ... and the truth of that power is emphasized by his healing miracle. We have no idea what Jesus said to those people – only the effect his words had on them ... and therein lies the question to us as we come to worship! When we listen to the words of Jesus, do we allow the words of our Saviour, this amazing God become man, to stir not just our minds but our hearts and souls? Do we feel astounded by what we hear? Because that's an important starting issue in our life of faith ... it's only when we really open our eyes to how amazing God's grace is that it takes on a new reality for us ... and, in the light of that new reality, amazed people can do amazing things!

Let's consider next the warning in tomorrow's Gospel passage – and to hear that warning we need to think about the demon-possessed man. This man

with an unclean spirit walks freely in to the synagogue (and presumably past the 'mikveh') because he was probably a part of the synagogue community – a community which, for all the erudite arguments of its teachers, had been unable to heal him ... and had maybe been unwilling even to try! There, in the midst of that community, the man recognises in his mind who Jesus is: "I know who you are, the Holy One of God." And there, in the midst of that community, he speaks without any warrant on behalf of that community: "What do you want with us, Jesus? Have you come to destroy us?" Us, and our well-established ways? What a warning that is: that just because we come into a religious building and engage in the ritual of worship alongside likeminded others – and just because we recognise Jesus as the Holy One of God in our minds – that does not in itself bring healing. Healing only comes to the demon-possessed man when Jesus speaks his word of power simply and directly to him ... and the same is true for us. Jesus is God in the flesh, the words he speaks are ones of power and authority, grace and love ... but until we set aside our defences and open our hearts to experience that power and that love, whether inside or outside a religious community we will not experience his power to save.

Which brings me to the final message of today's Gospel reading, which I think of as a challenge, a call. You see, once the people in the synagogue have been amazed by the authority and power of Jesus' words and actions – and once they have witnessed the healing and

transformation he brings into the life experience of even the most troubled person in their midst – then they are stirred into action. Old entrenched ways seem redundant, and they say to themselves: "What is this new teaching, with such authority?" And they are unable to keep quiet! They go and tell everybody about Jesus and his message and his power to transform – and the Gospel tomorrow tells us that news about him spread quickly throughout the surrounding area. In fact, if we read on a few verses we would see that the same evening people started to bring to Jesus all kinds of sick people to be healed ... with one man even being lowered down to Jesus by a rope from the roof because the crowd around him was so dense. The hope, the expectation, the faith of these people is palpable – and they have it because others, amazed by the effect of Jesus in their lives, have gone out to spread the good news. And that is surely the call to us as well – if we know in our hearts that amazing love of God, then how can we stop from singing his praises not just on Sundays but every day of our lives?

Three messages, then, in tomorrow's Gospel reading: a question, a warning, and a call. Are we amazed by the amazing love of God revealed in Jesus? Do we allow Jesus into our hearts and not just our minds? Are we stirred by our faith to joyful action? Surely these are important issues we can all ponder as we worship tomorrow morning – but whichever virtual service we attend, let's pray that all three will in reality be so!

## Colaghty



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## Services

### MARCH

- 7th - Holy Communion 11.30am
- 14th - Family Service 11.30am
- 21st - Morning Prayer 11.30am
- 28th - Palm Sunday/Family service 11.30am

### APRIL

- 1st - Maundy Thursday 8.00pm
- 2nd - Good Friday 8.00pm
- 4th - Holy Communion 11.30am
- 11th - Family Service 11.30am
- 18th - Morning Prayer 11.30am
- 25th - 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.**

While we have found ourselves closed to public worship at the direction of the church leadership, and services in-church limited to recording, weddings, and funerals, at the time of writing, it is hoped that this month will see churches reopened again for public worship. It is important that we look forward with hope, plan for the tomorrows, yet leave our plans with God, who knows how they will unfold. In all of this, let's not lose heart, or become distracted by what we hear and see, but remain confident that God is with us. With new growth emerging, snowdrops flowering, new shoots popping up, lambs playing in the fields and with the days lengthening, may it brighten the darkness of mid-winter and put a spring in our step and give us cause to rejoice in the goodness of God. Like the Psalmist to sing out with joy, **"This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it."** 118: 24.

## Mental Health

As you read these notes, the first of the mental health zoom meetings will have taken place on Wednesday 3rd March about selfcare in the time of the pandemic, and the second on 10th March will look at social media and its impact on our mental and well-being. It is hoped that these online meetings will be of benefit to those who signed up to participate. We thank Revd Charlie Eames for arranging these meetings, and to Conor McCafferty, the speaker on both evenings.

## Isolation/Loneliness

I feel, it's important to praise and commend you for what you are doing for those who live alone, or maybe don't see family or neighbours on a regular basis, in line with the current guidance. I know that it has and is appreciated by all. We hear much of the impact this has on people's health and well-being, particularly among the more mature in our localities. While protecting life has been to the forefront of this pandemic, neglecting the most vulnerable cannot really be deemed acceptable. History will judge the measures in how this pandemic was handled, rightly or wrongly, though the textbook to the best of our knowledge wasn't written on how to deal with COVID-19 from the outset. I trust the historians, politicians among others will bear that in mind. The reality is, if while preserving life, it has had a greater detrimental effect on health and well-being in the long term, what then? Lamentations reminds us, "Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They



are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness." 3: 22 – 23.

## Artistic Talents

As the hall is not in use during the present closure, it seemed an opportune time to give it a freshen up, following social distance guidance. A big thank you to those who came along and did just that, it is greatly appreciated.

## Easter General Vestry

A meeting of the Easter General Vestry is set for 24th March 2021 at 8.00pm in the parish hall. The presentation of the parish accounts and the election of the Select Vestry for 2021/22 will take place at this meeting. A good attendance is encouraged but only those registered will be entitled to vote. (subject to Covid-19 restrictions)

## Home Sunday School

We commend all those children who take part in our home schooling of the Sunday School and Confirmation class. It is very encouraging for the teachers for the notes returned for marking, and thanks must go to our teachers for the extra input required.

## Parish Auction

Saturday 1st May 2021 is the date for the parish auction. More details to follow later. (subject to Covid-19 restrictions)

I leave you with some words from Zephaniah 3: 17 "The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

## Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale



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## Worship

At the time of writing we are not able to say when in-Church public worship will resume and we are currently offering a recorded act of worship online each Sunday. We are also very grateful to our musicians and singers who have contributed video recordings too. You will find included here some photographs showing musicians and singers from Castle Archdale and Derryvullen North. It was also great to use this technology to have a video link up to Wales and have Gwenan Lyttle (one of our Castle Archdale musicians) join in too with several of the acts of worship.

## Lent – more than just giving up chocolate!

Part of Lent this year falls within the period of restriction and so those midweek Lenten Services will certainly

only be online. As I wish to minimise the times that people are gathering, at the time of writing I am anticipating that the remainder of the mid-week Services will also be online too. Here are the themes being explored this year.

### Lent - Walking the Jericho Road

- Wed 24th February - Into the Promised Land (Joshua 6:1-7)
- Wed 3rd March - The Valley of Darkness (Psalm 23)
- Wed 10th March - Zacchaeus meets Christ (Luke 19:1-10)
- Wed 17th March - Jesus heals Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52)
- Wed 24th March - The parable of the talents (Luke 19:11-27)
- Wed 31st March - The parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)



Dr. Margaret giving the Bible reading.



Gwenan joining from Wales

Lenten worship is a season for personal and corporate spiritual renewal. It is a time for intense study of God's Word, for meditation, for prayer, and for self-examination. According to the Christian calendar, the season of Lent encompasses the 40 days - the six Sundays do not count towards the days of Lent as they are always festivals of the Resurrection.

Biblically, 40 is an important number: in the story of Noah, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights; God's chosen people wandered in the Sinai for 40 years; and Jesus fasted in the desert for 40 days before He began His public ministry. Historically, the early church developed

a 40-day period of examination and study prior to one's baptism. This time of pre-baptism examination coupled with a desire each year to walk with Christ in the way of the cross led the early church to develop Lent as a season of preparation prior to Easter Sunday.



Carol, Marion and Florence.



Billy McBride playing the organ in Castle Archdale.



David leading with the guitar.



Paddy and Florence.



Paula Moore giving the Bible reading.



Sharon and David.

Giving up something can be part of the season but Lent is more than just about giving up something sweet to eat for a few weeks before Easter. This time should be a time of revival, personal renewal, and a spiritual experience. Lent is all about preparation to understand and experience Christ's resurrection from the dead.

### Derryvullen North Christmas Fair

While this might a little out of sync I


would like to update you about the amount raised from the Derryvullen North Christmas Fair this year – yes we managed to hold one but in an online form and not in the hall. We are so very grateful to everyone who helped with the craft work, Christmas wreaths and also with the packing arrangements and dealing with things within Covid-19 restrictions. All of this gave a great focus to our energy in the weeks before Christmas and using

social media also helped spread the word that the church here is active and doing something positive.

The total raised came to £1199.10;  
 - £569.10 from craft and raffle,  
 - £320 from sale of wreaths,  
 - £310 donations from parishioners

Thank you to everyone who supported the event by purchasing items.

**Devenish & Boho**



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### Services for March if Covid restrictions allow.

- Sunday 7th March**  
 10.00am. Holy Communion, Boho Parish Church  
 11.30am. Holy Communion, Devenish Parish Church
- Sunday 14th March**  
 10.00am. Morning Prayer, Boho Parish Church  
 11.30am. Morning Prayer Devenish Parish Church

- Sunday 21st March**  
 10.00am. Morning Prayer, Boho Parish Church  
 11.30am. Morning Prayer, Devenish Parish Church
- Sunday 28th March**  
 10.00am Morning Prayer, Boho Parish Church  
 11.30am Morning Prayer, Devenish Parish Church

### Looking forward

It has been a very unusual winter with no church services and people unable

to visit each other in their homes. People are walking a lot more and it is giving people great opportunities to meet their neighbours. A number of our parishioners have been unwell and we pray for their speedy recovery. We are looking forward to Spring with the longer days and hopefully we will be seeing a relaxation of the covid restrictions. A number of our parishioners have received the vaccine. We wish to thank all the health service staff for all their work at this difficult time. Please remember the health service staff in your prayers.

## Donagh & Tyholland with Errigal Truagh

Chancellor **Ian Berry** is in charge.

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

### Radio programme

St Salvator's Church, Donagh Parish has been featured in two recordings recently. Last summer the BBC recorded an Ulster Scots "Hame" programme in the Glaslough area which included a tribute to Richard Hayward who was a film actor, writer, musician, broadcaster and folklorist. In his early days at the BBC in Belfast in 1924 and in the Ulster Theatre, he worked alongside Tyrone Guthrie. Hayward travelled right across Ulster during his life, and in particular along the border, where he collected the air 'Down in Glaslough' close to Castle Leslie Estate. The BBC team was



Some of the scenes from the nativity in the Donagh Group before Christmas.

keen to feature this same tune being played on St. Salvator's pipe organ.

### Congratulations

More recently, local musician Orla Corrigan's entry for "The Fiddler of London" competition was recorded in the church. We are delighted to report that, at the time of writing, Orla has been shortlisted in

the top 10 internationally – a magnificent achievement and we send our best wishes as she records once more for the final of the competition.

We welcome these opportunities to welcome the wider community into St Salvator's, to showcase our local heritage and to encourage young musicians.

## Dromore



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### Victory!

It was June 18, 1815, the Battle of Waterloo. The French under the command of Napoleon were fighting the Allies (British, Dutch, and Germans) under the command of Wellington. The people of England depended on a system of semaphore signals to find out how the battle was going. One of these signal stations was on the tower of Winchester Cathedral. Late in the day it flashed the signal: "W-E-L-L-I-N-G-T-O-N---D-E-F-E-A-T-E-D--." Just at that moment a fog came down over England making it impossible to

read any further messages. The news of defeat quickly spread throughout the city. People throughout the land were sad and gloomy when they heard the news that their country had lost the war. Suddenly the fog lifted, and it was discovered there was more to the message. The message had four words, not two. The complete message was: "W-E-L-L-I-N-G-T-O-N---D-E-F-E-A-T-E-D---T-H-E---E-N-E-M-Y!" It took only a few minutes for the good news to spread. Sorrow was turned into joy, defeat was turned into victory!

When Jesus was crucified on the cross, Satan thought that Jesus was defeated and a great sadness fell on Jesus' closest friends. We can feel the disappointed and confusion in the words of the two disciples who were travelling to Emmaus (Luke 24:20-21a);

"The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel."

However, when Jesus rose from the dead, despair was turned into hope and mourning into joy. Paul tells us that Jesus was victorious through the cross; 'And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of

them, triumphing over them by the cross.' Col 2:15  
So, when the fog cleared from the minds of the disciples, the full message came through to them; "J-E-S-U-S---D-E-F-E-A-T-E-D---T-H-E---E-N-E-M-Y".

### Sunday Services (March)

#### 7th March

11.00am S o W, 'He Knows Me' (Psalm 139:1-4, 13-18)

#### 14th March

11.00am S o W, 'Their part and our part' (2 Timothy 1:5-7)

#### 21st March

11.00am HC2, 'The Passion' (Luke 22:7-23)

#### 28th March

11.00am S o W, 'The Crucifixion' (John 19:16b-30)

### Midweek Services (March)

#### 3rd March

8.30pm HC2, 'Ransom for Many' (Matthew 20:17-28)

#### 10th March

8.30pm S o W, 'House of Prayer' (Mark 11:15-19)

#### 17th March

8.30pm S o W, 'Directive & Directed' (Acts 16:6-10)

#### 24th March

8.30pm S o W, 'The Good Shepherd & His



Homemade feeding for the birds.

Sheep' (John 10:1-18)  
 S o W – Service of the Word  
 HC2 – Holy Communion 2

### Holy Week

#### 31st March

8.30pm S o W, 'Running The Race'  
 (Hebrews 12:1-3)

#### 1st April

8.30pm HC2, (MAUNDY THURSDAY)  
 Preacher: Canon W. Quill

#### 2nd April

8.30pm S o W, (GOOD FRIDAY) Reflection:  
 Canon W. Quill

### 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, lasting no more than 40 minutes, while our Midweek Service is aimed more at adults (with more in-depth teaching from the Bible – currently picking up on one of the passages set

for that day), usually lasting no more than 45 minutes. Both services will also be livestreamed on Facebook (uploaded later to YouTube), offering services during the current lockdown and after restrictions are lifted, a way for those who for one reason or another would prefer not to come back yet to 'In-Church' worship to continue to join in on corporate worship.

### CLB/GFS

Activity packs continue to be put together for the children to have a bit of fun and learn at the same time over the lockdown. In February, CLB and GFS were focusing on wild birds, feeding them and knowing which breed of birds come to our gardens. They made fat balls using pinecones with peanut butter/lard and bird seeds. They were also making peanut butter and oat bird's nest cookies.

### YouTube Channel

([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwj585CXIqOq6W6h7\\_2AiYg/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwj585CXIqOq6W6h7_2AiYg/))



Our online resources are continuing to grow on our YouTube Channel. There will be a special playlist created in mid-March entitled 'Holy Week & Easter' to help those preparing services to be able to find song and hymns as well as other video resources. Please subscribe to be kept informed of new uploads.

### 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/UCwj585CXIqOq6W6h7\\_2AiYg/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwj585CXIqOq6W6h7_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





## Drumkeeran, Muckross and Templecarne



Vacant;  
Non-Stipendiary  
Minister, Revd  
Charles Eames

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As I thought about what I wanted to say I was drawn to the readings for Ash Wednesday which will have passed by the time that you read these words. I believe that they have much to say to us in the times in which we live.

*'Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?' Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.*

*Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?*

*Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?*

*Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?*

*Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?*

*Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?*

*Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator\* shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.*

*Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. Isaiah 58.3-9*

These words from Isaiah give us a pointer to how we should be behaving today as we journey through Lent.

As I read these words, I was struck by the thought that for many our faith is one that is based on appearances. I think that is what we see described in the first part of this passage from Isaiah.

As we move on, we see a change of emphasis as instead of acts of piety we see acts of charity which has something to say to us today.

As followers of Jesus Christ we are called to be different if we take the positive aspects of these words and apply them to our lives. This means thinking about others before ourselves and spreading kindness rather than spite.

All the things that we see described here should be part of our lives and we should do all that we can to make them a reality for all people.

As I said last month, I will not be suggesting that you give anything up this year as I feel that we have all made quite enough sacrifices over the past year. We could consider making a donation to charity or mission in light of these words.

I hope that we will be able to celebrate Easter together this year and if we can I would like to have a Service of Celebration, Thanksgiving, Reflection and Remembrance around that time, but we will have to wait and see what happens as regards the restrictions.

### Diary

- Sunday 7 March Morning Prayer 10.00 Templecarne, Morning Prayer 11.30 Tubrid
- Sunday 14 March Holy Communion 10.00 Muckross, Holy Communion 11.30 Tubrid
- Sunday 21 March Holy Communion 10.00 Templecarne, Morning Prayer 11.30 Tubrid,
- Sunday 28 March Morning Prayer 10.00 Muckross, Morning Prayer 11.30 Tubrid
- Thursday 1 April Holy Communion 7pm Muckross
- Friday 2 April Service for Good Friday Tubrid 7pm
- Sunday 4 April Holy Communion 10.00 Templecarne and 11.30 Drumkeeran

At present all services are online and will continue until we are permitted to meet in person. The times of the services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday may change if public worship has resumed by that date.



## Ematris with Rockcorry, Aghabog, Aughnamullen and Drum

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

Chancellor Ian Berry is in charge.

### Aughnamullen

#### Fundraising

We have now received planning permission from Monaghan County Council and this has been approved by Clogher Diocese Council and RCB. We have received a grant through the Rural Agricultural Fund for Rural Development of €174,500.97 towards the development of Christ Church Aughnamullen to remain open for religious worship and a third of the building to be developed as a memorial centre in memory of the late TD and Senator Billy Fox.

However the parish will have to raise €50000 and as we are in lockdown due to Covid-19 restrictions we are unable to organise fund raising events but donations can be made on the go fund page and the link is [gfm.me/u/xczcr7](https://gfm.me/u/xczcr7).

All donations are most welcome and we the select vestry and parishioners wish to acknowledge our appreciation to those who have already donated towards this fund.

#### Congratulations

Congratulations are extended to Kevin and Amy Carey on the birth of their baby daughter Gwen.

#### Welcome home

We are glad that Alice Forde is home hospital and recovering well.

#### Prayers

We continue to remember in our prayers those in residential care, especially Mavis Weir at this time.

#### Dartrey and Rockcorry

#### Covid-19

We are all tired and weary of the Covid restrictions and hope and pray that the current lockdown, about to be extended, will be a lockdown to end all lockdowns. Human interactions have had to change. We miss so many things that we once took for granted. We miss the face- to-face conversations. We miss the cup of tea with a friend. We miss the opportunity to give a hug or handshake to someone who needs it.

As this horrible virus continues to take its deadly toll we still need to follow the guidelines laid out for us.

#### Sympathy

We send our good wishes to all who are suffering and sincerely sympathise with those who have been bereaved.

#### Looking Forward

However all is not doom and gloom. With a swift rollout of the vaccination, a discernible stretch in the evenings and signs of Spring all around we can look forward to better times. God bless. Keep safe.

#### School enrolment

Rockcorry National School is now enrolling for September 2021. For those interested please contact the principal, Julie Coalter, by email; [rockcorrins@gmail.com](mailto:rockcorrins@gmail.com)

#### Infant enrolment

Enrolment applications for junior infants at Drumcorrin National School Drum for the year beginning September 2021 is open from 1st February until 23rd April 2021.

More information on admissions available on the policies page of the website; [www.drumcorrins.scoilnet.ie](http://www.drumcorrins.scoilnet.ie) or email; [Principal@drumcorrins.ie](mailto:Principal@drumcorrins.ie) to request a form or for more information.

## Enniskillen Cathedral



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**Mr Will Stevenson**

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### March Services

#### Sunday 7th March – The Third Sunday in Lent

11.00am – Holy Communion

#### Sunday 14th March – The Fourth Sunday in Lent (Mothering Sunday)

11.00am – Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 21st March – The Fifth Sunday in Lent

11.00am – Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 28th March – The Sixth Sunday in Lent (Palm Sunday)

11.00am – Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 4th April – Easter Day – The First Sunday of Easter

11.00am – Holy Communion

### Christian Burial

30th January - Etta Loughlin, Ard-Na-Lee, 41 Tempo Road, Enniskillen.

8th February - Mary Scott, 6 Elliott Place, Enniskillen.

### Holy Week and Easter Services

*These services are planned but may be cancelled if restrictions are in place.*

#### Palm Sunday

28th March at 11.00am

#### Holy Week

Monday 29th at 7.30pm

Tuesday 30th at 7.30pm

Wednesday 31st at 7.30pm

Maundy Thursday at 7.30pm

Good Friday at 7.30pm

Easter Sunday at 11.00am

Celebration of the 'Joyful Resurrection'

Hallelujah!



## Bishop Ellinah of Diocese of Swaziland

The Dean of Clogher, the Very Revd Kenneth Hall records his shock and sadness at the news of the death of the Right Revd Ellinah Wamukoya, the Bishop of the Diocese of Swaziland. He extends his deepest and heartfelt sympathy to her husband Okwaro, her children, grandchildren, and to the Diocese of Swaziland. Bishop Ellinah was the first woman in the Anglican Church of South Africa to be elected Bishop and the first female Bishop to preach in the Diocese of Clogher on her visit to St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen in January 2015. Bishop Ellinah sadly died due to Covid-19 on 19th January.

We were delighted to have had the Bishop of Swaziland, visit and preach in St Macartin's on the last Sunday in January 2015. The Bishop is pictured below with Jim Elliott, Peoples Churchwarden, Rev Olie Downey, Dean Hall, Rev Rob Clements and Maud Shaw.

## Spring – a time of hope and joy!

*'See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.  
Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come,  
the cooing of doves is heard in our land.'*  
Song of Songs 2:11-12

March is the month that we associate with the coming of Spring, a beautiful time of the year, and such a relief after the darkness and gloom of Winter. This verse beautifully describes the joy that most of us feel as the days begin to brighten, and Nature starts to awaken once again.



These words also speak to us about a new season in life, one that is filled with hope and expectation. Sometimes we experience the darkness of winter in our lives – maybe in the form of depression, bereavement, chronic illness, family difficulties, financial problems and so on. These long winter months of the soul may seem to last forever. Our joy disappears, our energy dissipates, our mood is low. A thick black cloud hangs over us and it seems as if the sun will never shine again.

Then we have this reminder that no season lasts for ever. The cold grip of Winter gradually thaws and gives way to warmer days. The sun does shine again, and the temperature rises. Birds sing and flowers blossom. The sap rises. Love is in the air. And in the spiritual realm the same happens. Eventually we will enter a new season of the soul. Joy returns and life gets back to something like normality. No darkness lasts for ever. We experience our own awakening, a kind of mini resurrection. We start to feel alive again, to see possibilities and to dream again. In the depths of Winter, we can look ahead to the certainty of Spring. Faith enables us to believe that the winter of the soul will soon be past as well. In the darkness we choose to hope in God.

## Cathedral Restoration Project

### Dear Parishioner/s

Very soon the scaffolding will be erected around our Cathedral building which commences the major task of re-roofing our historic building dedicated to St Macartin, which has stood the test of time for 400 years and is now a well-known landmark in Enniskillen town, as well as witness to the Christian faith handed on to us from generations past!

This is an ambitious and mighty task to

gather in over £400,000 during a pandemic. Had circumstances been different we would have been able to hold many fundraising activities – concerts, coffee mornings, sales etc, but all of that is not now possible. Coupled with that, many families are struggling to make ends meet after a very difficult period with finance not plentiful at present, and we do appreciate what you can affordably give the church in your Freewill Offering. This year we have also asked each family to contribute what they can afford in 12 yellow monthly envelopes at the start of each month towards the Cathedral Roof Fund. Thank you to those who are using these, and we are grateful to those who have already very generously contributed single donations to the Cathedral Roof Fund. Rather than try and raise all the money from parishioners, we are asking the parishioners to help raise some money for us from non parishioners. In doing so you could provide us with 20 slates for the roof! There are 10,000 slates on the roof and if we ask each family to provide 20 slates, we could raise £100,000 in this venture alone and this will bring in about 25% of the overall cost. This is an opportunity for you do something



in Christian service and provide something extra for God's House by selling some slates at £10 each to family members, friends, acquaintances, or neighbours who are not parishioners – just 20 slates to sell. When doing so please fill in the stubs with name, address, and postcode, and tick the box if a taxpayer so that we can reclaim tax at no extra cost to the buyer of the slate. When you have completed the sale of the 20 slates can you please return the stubs and money to the Cathedral Office, the Churchwardens, the Treasurer or myself as Dean of the Cathedral. Please do not give

any money or stubs to anyone not personally known to you. We really appreciate your effort in helping us in these very difficult times and we hope to have all returned before the end of June. The Select Vestry will have the responsibility of seeing that all the slate tickets/stubs are returned to protect those that have contributed. Thank you once again and may God Bless you in the days ahead.

Yours very faithfully,  
**Very Rev Kenneth Hall (The Dean)**  
**Mrs Linda Kingston (Rector's**

**Churchwarden)**  
**Mrs Audrey Williamson (Peoples'**  
**Churchwarden)**  
**Mrs Hope Kerr (Honorary Treasurer)**  
**Mr Sam Morrow (Honorary Secretary)**

### Prayer

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

shifting end date. It feels like a never-ending journey.

I notice it in this leaflet. There isn't any guidance to share about confirmation because a decision hasn't been made. There isn't guidance about baptisms other than we have to wait until we are able to gather. A lovely set of gifts from a family are waiting to be dedicated in memory of loved ones; that too is waiting. Couples preparing for marriage are waiting to see if the restrictions will change. And families journeying through a bereavement have been very patient as we adjust to very restrictive guidance in what is already a very difficult time. Today's Old Testament reading from Proverbs bring us back to first things. It speaks of Wisdom, often associated with the Holy Spirit,

*The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning, when the world came to be. When there were no watery depths ... when there were no springs overflowing with water ... before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills ... before he made the world or its fields or any of the dust of the earth. I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when he gave the sea its boundary so that the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. Then I was constantly at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in the human race.*



*Over the land freckled with snow half-thawed  
The speculating rooks at their nests cawed  
And saw from elm-tops, delicate as flowers  
of grass,  
What we below could not see, Winter pass.*  
Edward Thomas

### Words of Reflection For days when all we hear is, 'We don't know.'

These days, when I write asking for dates, guidance or information, the answer is often, 'We don't know.' The unknown is sometimes more difficult to negotiate and navigate, that working with the difficult known. That's my abiding memory of the first lockdown, learning that even a difficult time is made easier if you can see light at the end. It might be someone actually making a decision about exams dates or putting in place what must have been a difficult decision to close Church buildings for the first time. Sometimes when the decision is actually made, we are able to make the adjustments necessary when living through even the most challenging times. One of the notable stresses of this current lockdown is the

## 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

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### Ash Wednesday Quiet Evening 'Behold, I make all things new!'

A very positive Quiet Evening was held at 8pm on Ash Wednesday 17th February, by Zoom.

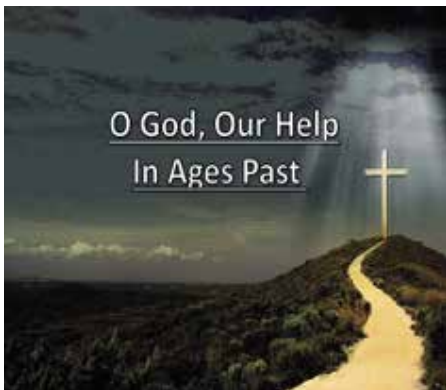
The theme at the beginning of the penitential season of lent, was the phrase from Revelation Chapter 21: 'And the One seated on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."' About twenty parishioners and friends linked in and formed a praying community similar in number to attendances when we meet in person as Breathe.

Some words of encouragement shared at this time of year:

Sometimes in the uncertain we look to what we know.

Familiar routines, much loved walks, the unchanging views of local hills. Proverbs would have us look much deeper and further, to something which is unchanging and everlasting. Scripture reminds us of the Lord God, whose deeds are from of old, who brought this world into being, and caused the springs to overflow, and set those familiar hills in place; He established the cloud, and set the foundations in place. Wisdom tells us that she *'was constantly at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in the human race.'*

We have a God who made this world, and who delights in us. He is more stable and dependable than even the most beautiful familiar walk, or the loveliest mountain view.



I have been listening today to the familiar lyrics of the hymn;

*O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:  
Beneath the shadow of thy throne, Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting thou art God, To endless years the same.  
A thousand ages in thy sight Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.*

Much as I look forward to gathering again for Sunday services, and many of the other aspects of parish ministry, knowing that I like and benefit routine of what is familiar, in these days I am learning again to look to the greater strength and hope who is the Lord God. I am continuing to learn to trust the God

of our ages past, and to find shelter beneath the shadow of His throne.

We continue on in the unknowing of these days, the 'We don't know' responses of those from whom I would like answers, and the loss of the familiar choices we would make in our daily lives, knowing that the One who brought this world into being will uphold us in these set apart days. Amen.

#### **Precentor Hanlon**

Please find enclosed some information from the parish that I hope is helpful to you, even if sometimes the answer is, 'We don't know.'

#### **PASTORAL CARE**

Although house visiting is still not allowed, there are some positives to pastoral care contact by telephone:



One afternoon recently, I was able to contact six households, where usually three visits would be possible in person. I am greatly heartened at the goodwill on the other end of a phone, or a video-call, and both Canon Robinson, myself and Elvina Funston are visiting in this way. Parishioners have been very supportive to us, asking after our own families, and expressing their appreciation at the pastoral contact. We plan to keep going through the District list as best we can.

**If you need a phone call or card sent to someone, please advise.**

#### **Spring Letter from Canon Dennis**

'I'm ok when I can get to do things in the garden. 'Almost one year on since Covid 19 seriously impacted our daily life and work in a way which we never could have anticipated. As you will be aware Government introduced regulations and pleaded for our compliance to control the spread of the virus. Among them 'social distancing' – a term we've become so familiar with – was a vital part of this to control the spread of the virus.



As a result, parish life and visits by clergy to parishioner's homes – and in particular the vulnerable – were curtailed and contact maintained through telephone calls (or possibly online for some but not for me). I found that my calls were much appreciated by the parishioners I spoke to and were very happy to chat, pray, and share with me how they and their families were managing and what they were doing with themselves.

One particular conversation I recall reinforced just how vital it is for us as human beings to keep in touch with one another even when that means just a simple telephone call. This is especially so for the vulnerable, elderly and those who live alone as the remark from that conversation brings home to us - "I'm ok when I can get to do things in the garden, but when night comes – 'it's lonely.'"

Praise be to our God the dark nights of winter will soon be behind us and springtime will once again reveal new life, hope and encouragement for us all. Trust God that Covid-19 and the restrictions will be a thing in the past and we will be able once more to rub shoulders together in the comfort of your homes - and for those who are able - to gather again as a Church family to worship and pray together to our God.'

#### **Canon Dennis**



#### **Church gift**

This lovely Bridal Chair and Table is a gift to the Parish from the Lendrum Family. Made from oak, the Chair is in memory of Herbert and Anna Lendrum, and the Table in memory of Hiram Lendrum. They will be used on many occasions, and in particular for the Bride and Groom in signing the Parish Marriage register.

#### **Holy Baptism**

Seven baptisms took place since August, and another six little people have recently arrived to parish families, with requests for Holy baptism. Baptisms hopefully should begin again after Easter.

#### **New Parents' Visitor - Hilary Kenny**

Owing to covid-19 it has not been easy to visit new mothers, but I have given them a phone call and prayed with them. They are very thankful and appreciate this. A small gift is then left on the doorstep for baby.

#### **Confirmation**

This is overdue, but having asked for information, as yet there is no date settled

for the consecration of a bishop, or guidance regarding Confirmation. Further information will be made available as soon as it is known.

## Weddings

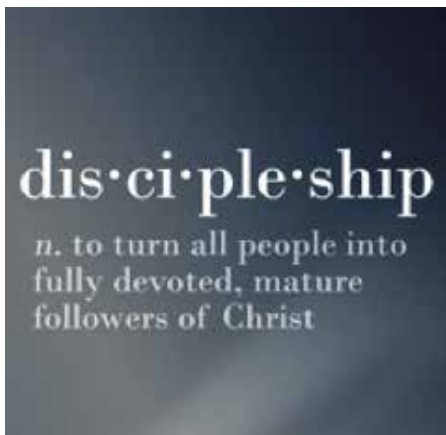
Seven weddings are booked to take place going forwards, and we send our best regards to all those couples and their families. As yet, the restriction of 25 persons attending, including the bridal party, Incumbent and Organist is in place. Any changes will be advised.

## Funerals

The Rector and Select Vestry made the decision to open St John's Church at a time of bereavement, in keeping with the guidance given by the Church of Ireland. Regrettably pastoral visiting is very restricted, and a service at the family home before the Church service, is as yet not permitted. Pastoral care continues by telephone or other.

## Parish Prayers

At 11am each Wednesday prayers are said for all who have requested prayer. Nine members of the parish carry on this work. At 11am each Sunday prayers are said when we gather as a Church, or during this time of services online.



## Lent And Easter 21

### Read, Pray and Worship

*'Read, mark, learn and inwardly digest...'*  
BCP Collect

During Lent and Easter this year, the teaching and praying focus is on DISCIPLESHIP. Put simply, helping each other carry on as followers of Jesus, in our working and home life.

It will be the focus of the Parish Prayers said at 11am each Wednesday, praying that all of the ministries and groups will take 'Following Jesus' as a normal emphasis in their part of the ministry.

Discipleship will also be the teaching focus at the Sunday services, at present online, and

soon hopefully, when we are next able to gather for worship.

A service is recorded each week and made available both as a podcast linked through the parish's Facebook page, and sent as a CD to any who ask through the parish office.



And Discipleship will also form the focus of devotional reading and study groups during Lent and Easter. Would you join us in reading together?

Three great books are recommended:

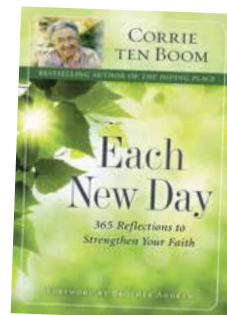
One is John Stott's THE DISCIPLE.

John's chapters look at How we listen to God, how our mind and emotions help shape our responses to Him, how we serve God, and how the Holy Spirit equips us to live faithfully. The book is already at the parish office, priced £3.50, and available on request.



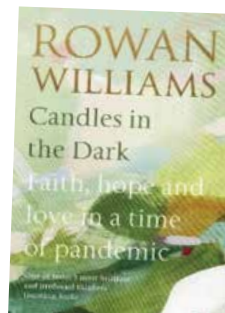
Another is Each New Day, by Corrie Ten Boom.

365 Reflections to strengthen your faith. Although a daily reading for the year, you can begin at any point in the year. Corrie is always encouraging and very worth reading. Copies are very hard to get, so please phone asap and we will try to order for you. Approx. £10.99



Lastly, a slightly more reflective read is Rowan Williams's Candles In The Dark: Faith, Hope and Love in a time of pandemic. Much quoted, 'As I was putting out the bins,' is an opening line of one of his blogs written for his local parish church.

It shows the way he can relate God's work to our very ordinariness. A great and encouraging read in very short chapters. Approx. £7.99



## Holy Week 21

There are no settled arrangements yet for Holy week, as we do not know whether the guidance will change regarding the use of Church buildings.

However, it would be very disappointing is for a second year, we are not permitted to gather for worship in some form, during this important week.

## Great News from the Sunday School

- Heather Kirkpatrick

Sunday school is continuing to grow despite the current circumstances.

We are engaging with our children through monthly zoom meetings and activities.

A big Thank you to our Sunday Children and Parents for engaging with us and knowing God's love is with them. Sunday school teachers remain committed to praying for all the children of Sunday school. We look forward to being reunited physically when we can.

## Letter to Parents from Precentor Hanlon for Lent 21 Sunday School Project:

'Sunday School has had a very encouraging year. Amazingly, 100 children and young people registered from 53 families during this year. Well done everyone. Teachers have worked hard to plan classes for on-line, prepare and deliver all the packs across the parish, and to share something of our faith together. Attendance has been above 50%, which is encouraging given tech problems, and the times we are living through. We hope to have a Lent Project displayed each week in a shop window on Main Street, Fivemiletown.

Each week we will display a board of someone Jesus met.

It will be the Name of the Week for the worksheet/ competition sheet attached.

It would be great if you would drive by/ walk and collect the Name and complete the sheet together. After Palm Sunday, the sheet can be posted to the office, or given to Heather Kirkpatrick, and we will send a small gift for each completed sheet returned by Wednesday 31st March 2021. We really enjoyed the Harvest and Christmas Displays, and look for tom this project too. Keep well, and we look forward to gathering again soon as a Christian household.'

## Update on the Kiltermon Project

- Glebes

Work at Kiltermon is progressing well and on target to finish by early to mid-March.

The inside of the extension has been plastered and the finished floor is due to be completed in the next week. The final work to complete the fixtures and fittings will follow immediately upon the walls and floor drying out properly. A path will also be laid to



enable access to the external entrance of the extension.

When the church is complete the Glebes committee will discuss the car park with the Select Vestry to explore if sufficient funding is available to finish the development of it.

If anyone is considering offering a donation to the building fund now would be a great time please as it could be what is needed to finish this work properly. Thank you to everyone who have supported the work of Glebes in either thoughts, prayers or money. We hope and pray that Covid will soon leave us and that we can all once again meet and enjoy the facilities in Kiltermon.

**Alywin Barton, Glebes Chair.**

## A Thank you From Finance

**Dear Parishioner,**

When I last sent a communication to our Parish at the beginning of December 2020, the lockdown due to the Covid-19 Pandemic was having a serious impact on our financial position with our Freewill Offering down by £12,500 compared to the same time in 2019. However by the end of the year we had recovered approximately £6,000, so I want to thank all those who were able to donate in December to leave us in a better position at the end of the year.

As we have now continued in lockdown since the beginning of this year, our Freewill Offering has been minimal and the indications are that we will not be able to open our churches for services until sometime in March at the very earliest or beyond.

Despite this position we still need to pay various bills and continue to pay the quarterly Church of Ireland assessment of approximately £13,000 to the Diocesan Office. It is my hope that we will be in a position to open our churches soon but if you would like to contribute you may contact me on telephone number 028 8953 1624

(evenings) or the parish office on 028 8952 2422 to make the necessary arrangements.

- If you would prefer you could pay directly into the parish bank accounts by e-banking online to our Parish Bank accounts. The details are noted below.

- Set up a standing order for crediting to our parish bank account on a regular basis – forms to enable you to do this and for completion can be requested by contacting the Parish Office by e-mail @ [fivemiletownparish2@gmail.com](mailto:fivemiletownparish2@gmail.com) or by telephone at 028 8952 2422. On behalf of the Select Vestry I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for all your financial help over this very difficult period and look forward to your continued support.

**Yours sincerely**

**Edwin Humphreys, Parish Treasurer**

### General Account

Account name : Fivemiletown Parish Church  
Sort Code : 95-03-21  
Account Number : 31002635

### Gift Account

Account name : Fivemiletown Parish Church - Gift Account  
Sort Code : 95-03-21  
Account Number : 60066923

Free Will Offering, Easter and Harvest gifts are lodged to the General account (31002635). The Gift Account is mainly for monies for the Building Fund, and monies in memory of parishioners.

### Prayer Notes

*'they were holding golden bowls ... which are the prayers of God's people'* Revelation 5:8  
Sundays and Wednesdays are two days with a time set aside for parish prayers.

Nine parishioners pray through the list of all requesting prayer. You are very welcome to send in a Christian name or a second name

only if you would like to be prayed for. William Morrow is secretary to the parish's Prayer Group, and he wrote recently about keeping prayer going during lockdown:

'In what at this stage is almost a year and has been a very difficult time, the prayer Ministry of Healing continued to operate. During this time Churches, prayer groups and many other forms of worship were cancelled. However the Ministry of Healing and Prayers of Intercession for those that requested prayer continued in individual houses.

During this stressful time of Covid-19 we as a prayer group kept our faith and we fully depended on the power of prayer knowing that prayer is powerful. God is all heart and he knows what is in our hearts. We continue in this work with the love and grace of our Heavenly Father.

As we continue in faithful prayer and the study of God's Word we can face the challenge together. When in trouble we turn to the Lord. Psalm 107 verse 28:

'Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble and he brought them out of their distress.'

## Love Never Fails

Even in the darkest moments love gives hope

Love compels us to fight against coronavirus alongside

our sisters and brothers living in poverty  
Love compels us to stand together in prayer with our neighbours near and far.

Love compels us to give and act as one. Now it is clear that our futures are bound together more tightly than ever before.

As we pray in our individual homes – around the nation and around the word - we are united as one family.

So let us pause and find a moment of peace, as we lift up our hearts together in Prayer.

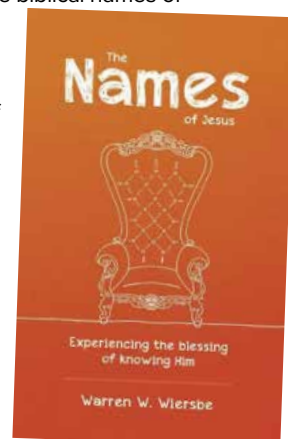
Amen **Wm Morrow**

## Bible Study Notes

On Tuesday 9th February we finished this great study through the biblical names of Jesus. Very worth reading at any time, here are some responses from two of the group participants:

**'The chapter that stood out for me**

in The Names of Jesus book, was Our Surety. Jesus is always with us no matter what happens to us through our lives, people will come



and go and let us down, but one thing for sure is our lord never does, it brings me great comfort to know and believe in him. The Names of Jesus book is a great and comforting read. 'In this Covid-19 season that we find ourselves in, I have tried to use the time to draw closer to our Lord and have really found the bible study on The Names of Jesus written by Warren Wiersbe so good.'

**Zena McQuigg**

**The book starts** with the introduction and asks 'What's in a name?' and leads on with listing 5 names from Isaiah chapter 9 verse 6, Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. The writer breaks down the names of Jesus in such an easy way to follow. We have heard these names many times but when you read this book you learn so much more. It also goes on to give the names from the New Testament and describes every name to make you think of the names of Jesus in a more complete way. I would highly recommend you read it.

We all need to find ways that help us stay close to God everyday. In this time many of the things we used to do are no longer possible due to restrictions so why not use this time to ask yourself - Where are you with God? The relationship with Jesus is like that of a friend. The more time we spend with our friend the more we get to know Him. The more we study about Jesus the more we get to know Him. Let's dedicate this time to know Him better.' **Chris Bloomfield**

**'In The Names of Jesus,** Warren Wiersbe explores fourteen names of Jesus from both the Old and New Testaments and explains their meaning as well as their relevance to believers today

What a joy to read and study this book via zoom with others, with all the discussion it was taking about two weeks to get through a chapter. Warren Wiersbe describes some names of Jesus referencing the Bible in a beautiful way. I knew most of these names but I definitely didn't apply the knowledge to the lesson I received from reading this book. I learned a few new things, and I believe that the names of Jesus tell us much about him and His character. Well researched and written and detailed explanations given. This will help you get to know Jesus better and more excited to go back to scripture. I found this book to be a wonderful guide through the names of Jesus, and I liked the approach the Warren Wiersbe used.

I do recommend reading this book, it is informative and encouraging, and he truly brings your understanding to the next level without talking over your head.'

**Mamie Alexander**



## KNIT PRAY LOVE UPDATE

- Michele Magee

Our major project for 2020 was the stitching of simple cotton squares. More than 600 hand stitched dishcloths, in a rainbow of colours, were given to Men's Ministry for their 'Bless Fivemiletown Together' Outreach Project during Advent. A cotton cloth for every home made with love and stitched in prayer. The hand knit Nativity figures, that were part of Sunday School's 'A Journey To Bethlehem' Project during Advent 2019, were placed in the Church porch to help welcome parishioners and visitors attending Christmas services.

We have been able to send adult hats to the 'Hats For The Homeless Appeal' organised by the UK Hand Knitting Association. Children's hats, scarves, jumpers and toys were donated to Knit For Peace to help meet the demand in refugee camps.

If you know someone who would like a handmade item to help give them comfort and warmth during this winter season please leave your contact details with Judith in the church office and we will get in touch with you and try to help in any way we can. We are currently enjoying our winter break and are due to restart on Wednesday 24th February in the safety and comfort of our homes, together in spirit and love. A new year, with new projects, new possibilities, and renewed HOPE.

May the God of HOPE fill you with all JOY & PEACE As you trust in Him so that you may overflow

With HOPE by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
ROMANS 15:13

## Lockdown May 2020

- Beverley Weir

*There is a little corner of my garden, where  
In springtime, speedwell,  
violets and bluebells grow  
As nature paints the reawakening earth  
The palette turns through  
lilac, blue and indigo.*



*Down where the meadow slopes towards  
the lough  
Sunlight is filtered through the lacework of  
the trees,  
(Contrasting patches, now of light and then  
of shade)  
Revealing swathes of buttercups and wood  
anemones.*

*In these surreal and uncertain days I wander  
here,  
To feel the slow rhythms of Creation, as  
evening falls,  
And swallows, searching insects, swoop and  
dive  
Above the hawthorn hedges and the  
farmyard walls.*

*It is no hardship then to spend long days,  
confined  
Here, in these pleasant places where my  
boundary lines are lain.  
There is a little bit of Heaven here on earth,  
In Screeby, Aghingowley, Aghinlark and  
Aughtentaine.*

*And like the swallows, I can let my spirit  
soar  
And rise above the anxious cares of earthly  
things.  
can escape beyond the marches and be  
free  
Uplifted by the Father's love and sheltered  
by His wings.*

## Administration and Parish Office

It is very helpful if you let us know of any change of address, contact details etc., to help us keep our parish lists and records up to date. Send any amendments to the office asap. Thank you.

## Easter Vestry

As yet there has been no communication to the parish regarding the arrangements for the Easter Vestry. Last year's was held in October. Information will be communicated when made available.

## Rectory

160 Ballagh Road, Fivemiletown, BT75 0QP  
Tel: 028 8952 1030

## Parish Office

23 Murley Road, Fivemiletown,  
BT75 0QS. Tel: 028 8952 2422  
fivemiletownparish2@gmail.com  
Open by telephone and email:  
Wednesdays and Fridays: 10am-3pm

The Parish Halls remain closed at this time, except with specific permission of Rector and Select Vestry.



# Galloon, Sallaghy and Drummully



Rector:  
The Revd  
Lorraine Capper

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## Choose not to worry

Lent is a time when we often think about giving something up or indeed taking something up. Have you ever thought of giving up worrying. Many Christians are familiar with Jesus' rhetorical question, "Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?" But not many of us actually let it get into our hearts and allow the love of God to free us from our habit of worrying.

The truth is, no amount of worrying can lengthen your life or add anything to your physical person. Instead, worrying robs you of sleep, health and many good years. In fact, it is only when you are worry-free that God's anointing flows freely in you, strengthening, healing, restoring and adding to you.

Many Christians make the mistake of



thinking that God is too busy taking care of the "big things" to be interested in the little problems they are facing. Are you one of them? God wants to take care of every area of your life, even the smallest detail. He loves you so much that He knows the number of hairs you have on your head. And if your loving heavenly Father knows and is interested in the small details of your life, then you don't have to overcome any problem on your own. My friend, your heavenly Father cares for you in the same way as He lays out His plans for you. You are on His heart all the time as He carefully considers and makes plans for every aspect of your life, both big and small. And the very thought of you puts a smile on His face because He knows that the plans He has for you are plans to bless you (see Jeremiah 29:11).

So no matter what problems you are facing right now, you can rest in His love for you.

There is no problem that is too insignificant for Him to handle. If it matters to you then it matters to God. He is not just God Almighty, He is also your heavenly Father who loves you!

## Zooming it Up!

During January and February we held group services via Zoom each Sunday at 10.30am. It was good to see each other albeit virtually! Thanks goes to all who have shared their experiences through Covid-19. We have been greatly encouraged by sharing our stories together.

## Services in March

If the Government restrictions allow the following services are planned:

### Sunday 7th March 2021 - The Third Sunday of Lent

9am: Drummully Parish Church:A



During lockdown the children have shown us their creative skills. Emma and Zara are creative in the snow.



Delenne displaying her own artwork.



Little Rueben with his coloured picture.



Little Hugo and Alfie with their beautiful paintings.



Sisters Charlotte and Emily with their beautiful tree decoration.

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 14th March 2021 - The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)**

10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church: A Group Family Service

**Sunday 21st March 2021 - The Fifth Sunday in Lent**

9am: Drummully Parish Church: Morning Prayer

10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church: Morning Prayer

12.00 noon: Galloon Parish Church: Morning Prayer

**Sunday 28th March 2021 - The Sixth Sunday in Lent (Palm Sunday)**

9am: Drummully Parish Church: Morning

Prayer

10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church: Morning Prayer

12.00 noon: Galloon Parish Church: Morning Prayer

If restrictions do NOT allow for us to meet in our church buildings we will continue to have Zoom services each Sunday at 10.30am.

**Holy week Services**

■ Maundy Thursday: 1st April 2021 at

8.00pm a Group Service held in Galloon

■ Good Friday: 2nd April 2021 at 8.00pm a Reflective Service held in Sallaghy

■ Easter Sunday: 4th April 2021 at 10.30am a Group Service in Drummully

**Easter Vestry Dates**

■ Galloon: Wednesday 7th April at 8pm in

the Sunday School Room

■ Sallaghy: Tuesday 13th April at 8pm in the Church Hall

■ Drummully: Monday 22nd March at 8pm in the Church Hall

If restrictions do NOT allow we will meet via Zoom.

**Christian Burial**

Mrs Edith Whiteman, Magheraveely, called home 29th January 2021. We express our sympathy to all of the Whiteman family at their time of loss. To all who have been recently bereaved we extend our deepest condolences.

*"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. They are blessed indeed says the Spirit, for they rest from their labours."* Revelation 14:13

**Garrison, Slavin, Belleek and Kiltyclogher**

Vacant  
Vacancy and Pastoral cover provided by the Rural Dean, Canon Alan Irwin (Colaghty)

Facebook Services provided by Rev Maureen Desborough with readings contributed by parishioners.

**Church Services Diary**

Church Services will resume when it is deemed safe to do so and the Coronavirus infection rate has reduced, in the meantime we pray for the safety of everyone.

**Thanks During Vacancy**

Thanks to Canon Alan for his continued supervision, pastoral care and for carrying out Vestry meetings via Zoom. Continued thanks to Revd Maureen for her excellent contributions to our Facebook services. An immense thanks to Doreen Earls who co-ordinates all of the videos, music and readings and looks after the administration and postings on Facebook. Thanks to all of the parishioners for their willingness to record their readings for Doreen.

**Prayers**

Our thoughts and prayers are with those from our group of parishes who have been unwell in recent weeks. We remember in particular the housebound and those who are shielding that we will get through this next phase safely until everyone is finally vaccinated. Please remember Lowry Somerville who has

been unwell in recent times. We offer all our prayers for those struggling in any way during this pandemic up to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Due to the lack of events during the pandemic this month we have included some photos of two of our churches in the group: Garrison and Slavin. Next month we will feature Kiltyclogher and Belleek churches.

Each church's history which is included has been taken from extracts of the book entitled: Four West Clogher churches, which was written by the late Valerie Irwin from Kiltyclogher Parish.

**Garrison Parish Church**

Garrison church is located in the centre of the village, close to lough Melvin. The original church in Garrison was built as a chapel of ease in 1761 at the cost of £4 -11s. A new church was agreed to be built on the same site in 1788, however the

church was not actually built until 1827 by a gift of £738-9s from the "Board of First Fruits". The clock was installed in 1906 but ceased working in 1977. In 1994 with the support of the parishioners, and funding the clock was restored to full working order. Extensive renovations to the exterior of the church which included the restoration of the amazing stonework of the Tower and pinnacles was carried out in 2014.

### Miss Laura Thompson, Garrison Parish

My name is Laura and I am studying Animal Science in University College Dublin. I chose this degree as I grew up on a farm and knew I wanted to work



Miss Laura Thompson, a Garrison Parishioner helping on the farm.

with animals in some aspect in the future. My interests specifically involve animal genetics and how they can be applied to further advance livestock production and breeding.

Therefore, UCD was an obvious choice for me because of how advanced globally they are in terms of animal genomics research. I have continued this passion right through to third year and am really enjoying the modules learning from some of the world's best geneticists. This year is my professional work experience and although I may not have been able to go abroad due to COVID, I have been given the opportunity to complete some of my time in the National Cattle Breeding Centre. They are responsible for Ireland's largest dairy and beef breeding programmes so to learn from this team of people will be a great experience. Although I am confident the rest of my studies will also be this exciting, I am still hoping to return for on campus learning for my approaching final year!

### Slavin Church

Slavin church is situated at the north-west shore of lower lough Erne at Roscor, four miles from Belleek on the Enniskillen road. It was built sometime between 1688 and 1710. It was established as a chapel of ease to accommodate worshippers who lived a considerable distance from the parish church of Benmore and the chapel of ease at Finner. It belonged to the parish of Inishmacsaint but joined Garrison parish in 1896.

Slavin Church was extensively and beautifully renovated in a major restoration in 2008-2009 under the supervision of Revd. Noel Regan. The kitchen/vestry and toilet facilities were added during this renovation. A re-dedication service was held on 5th April



Mrs Greta Ovens, a senior parishioner of Slavin church with her grandson, Mark at his wedding in Slavin Church in 2018.

2009 with the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd. Michael Jackson.

### 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.



Garrison Church.



Slavin Church.

## Inishmacsaint



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

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E: inishmacsaint@clogher.anglican.org

### Thanks

**Thanks** to Leeann Muldoon who has been doing a sterling job on keeping us all informed, enlightened and encouraged during lockdown via lockdown.

**Thanks** to Andrew Khew who has taken our Sunday morning services to a whole new level by his expert editing and producing. Thank you Andrew.

**GFS** has continued remotely thanks to our creative, imaginative and hard working leaders! Thank you and congratulations to all the GFS girls.

**Thanks** to all those who have cheerfully recorded themselves reading lessons, prayers and songs etc for our online services. Your contribution really makes it a huge difference.

**Thanks** to Canon and Mildred Hemplebottom for recording a children's talk each Sunday for our online service.

### Mothers' Union

#### Happy Birthday, Dorothy!

One of our members Mrs Dorothy Acheson (pictured below), has recently celebrated

The wellbeing bags sent to MU members.



a special birthday. As Dorothy could not meet up with all her family in the usual way, she was overwhelmed by the number of members, parishioners, friends and neighbours who telephoned and sent gifts and messages of goodwill. We wish her every blessing.

#### Well Being Bags

At the time of writing each of our members is due to receive a 'Well Being' bag prepared by members of Omagh Forum with an additional contribution by Revd. Stephanie. These bags include items to keep the mind, body and soul active and also include wool and needles to allow members to continue knitting teddy bears, hats and blankets for the South West Acute Hospital. We would like to thank Omagh Forum for their generosity and know they have been very active in the Community

during the current pandemic.

### World Day of Prayer

Inishmacsaint parish were due to host this service in our church on Friday 5th March. As the church will still be closed, this service has now been cancelled.

### Sympathy

As a parish we would like to extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of the late Ian Kettyles, formerly of Maguiresbridge.



Pictured with award from the Girls' Friendly Society.



Young people with awards from the Girls' Friendly Society.



## Kilskeery and Trillick



Rector:  
Revd Philip Bryson

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### WWJT

We will be reaching the milestone later this month when it will be one year since the first lockdown. I'm sure that none of us imagined the journey we'd all be on from that day to this. It's been hard to focus on anything else over this last year other than the pandemic but I wonder if there may be a challenge for us as we move towards Easter through Lent and Palm Sunday and Holy Week towards that Resurrection Sunday, to make a very conscious effort to have a focus on Jesus. Is it possible that this coronavirus has caused us to take our eyes of Jesus, just a little too much and concentrate, just a little too much upon fear and uncertainty, upon our horizontal struggles rather than our vertical, spiritual priorities? Some may be quick to say that the pandemic is of great concern and a focus upon it is justified, but surely the greatest concerns, and arguably the greatest concern of all lies with humanity's relationship, not with a virus but with the Lord God. Jesus said, "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: fear him, who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell." (Luke 12:4, 5)

Eric Morcambe once said, "There is only one thing I'd like to do before I die, live a long time," a sentiment wished by most, but is death as bad as it gets? We are shocked by news reports of the latest death total but WWJT, What Would Jesus Think? From the verses above, Jesus seems deeply concerned that people would recognise that although death at the end of this life is not eagerly welcomed by most, there is a more pressing concern, where a person will go after that death. Easter is about death; the death of the only Son of God, Jesus Christ; but it is more importantly about God's



Kingdom life, here and now and our own life after death. Jesus came into the world, not to condemn the world but to save the world. On the cross He died our death in our place so that beginning from that moment when we reach out and receive the most precious of all gifts – salvation through forgiveness, as we confess our sins and our need of His amazing grace - we begin to live that new life as the Spirit comes to us. Our journey through Lent has provided an opportunity for us to re-examine our internal life and spirituality but, in the face of this pandemic will we find room to consider, with all seriousness the words and concern of Jesus read above. When faced with all concerns for ourselves and for others, where does this concern fit in? In Jesus' thinking it has top priority! May our approach to this year's remembrance of the crucifixion and celebration of Resurrection Sunday allow us to think again about the reason why Jesus gave himself for us, that it had everything to do with this life, yes, but also where we will find ourselves and our family members, our neighbours and work colleagues, and all people, in the next life. Maybe this is a concern that could rise above all other concerns – and a concern that we could redouble our efforts in addressing, as Christian people, as a Christian Church, "...for God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

### Joint Drive-in Services

We are fortunate to have, what has been so far, sufficient space around the grounds of Kilskeery Parish Church to organise our joint drive-in services each Sunday, weather permitting. It has been great to see so many out and it continues to provide an opportunity to gather together, even in this limited way, to worship and pray and read

God's word and to hopefully hear a word of teaching and encouragement. It has been a blessing to have an opportunity for the church to function even in this limited way, as a church. There are committed teams of people who faithfully give of their resources, time, skill and effort to make the Sunday morning services happen, and to them is offered grateful credit. At the beginning of January we began a series looking at the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, entitled "Growing and Sowing... (whatever that week's particular fruit happens to be)." The encouragement, as it comes from the Apostle Paul's words in Galatians 5:22, 23 is to not only develop the particular fruits of the Holy Spirit, as the Christian connects with Jesus, but also the purpose of fruit is that it is the reproductive part of the tree, and as the seed of the fruit falls off it reproduces that same fruit somewhere else when the tree becomes mature. Our drive-in services continue to be posted later on on Sunday afternoons for those who as yet cannot get out to our gatherings for worship.

### A Celebration of Wholeness & Healing

From mid-January through to mid-February we engaged with a Celebration of Wholeness & Healing, found in the Book of Common Prayer from p457 onwards, as I'm sure you know. This service provided the framework for our thoughts on healing. We looked at the healing of Naaman in 2 Kings 5 and thought of principles and theological conclusions that might better prepare our hearts and minds to have a biblical understanding of healing. For those who don't know, the service leads the participants through confession of sin, the acceptance of forgiveness, and through prayers to receive healing in different forms. In a time when we are

constantly surrounded by stories of illness and health concerns, to consider the Lord God, whom the Bible calls Jehovah Rapha (God our healer) was thought to be a timely emphasis. These services were posted online via our Facebook page.

### What's ahead?

We look forward to our churches opening again and beginning to make possible a growing list of baptisms and weddings. It's great that the vaccines are making their way through our older church family members and it would be a particularly wonderful blessing to welcome them back into their church buildings, into their usual seats with their usual smiles, and their usual rustling of sweet papers as the sermon is about to begin. All of these things are sorely missed at present. We look forward to and give special permission for our children to run up and down the aisles and let us know that they're there (during a special period of grace anyway). We are looking forward to our young people finding their way back



to our organisations and being encouraged to get confirmed and remain as part of the family. We look forward to there being no more excuses for anyone to stay away and to there being a real opportunity to sit down and have a cup of tea and perhaps a chocolate biscuit with our friends again,

like we used to. We look forward to proper community celebrations and barbecues and coffee mornings and trips out. We look forward to gathering to pray together. But until then we will wait and hope and do our best, with God's help and trust that it will all come about sooner rather than later.

## 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 during Lockdown

Warmest thanks to the Revd Colin, who in preparation for each Sunday morning during the current lockdown has pre-recorded and forwarded a short service of Morning Prayer from his home. Thanks too to Lynda, now well recovered from COVID, who has been playing and singing in church for each Sunday so that the services can be shared on Facebook.

### Lent and Easter

At the time of writing when it is uncertain as to whether and when churches will reopen in March it is difficult to be specific about upcoming services.



The Vestry meeting on Zoom.

### Vestry Meeting by Zoom

Our second Vestry Meeting by Zoom was held on Thursday January 28th and another one is currently planned for Thursday 18th February.

### Warm Packs

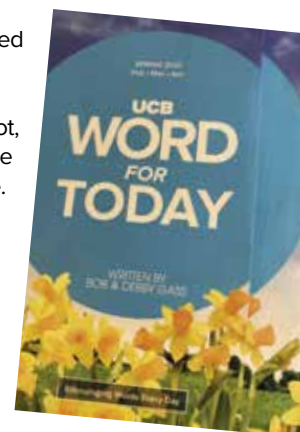
Warm Packs which included a blanket, a body warmer, a hat, a scarf, gloves and thermal socks were distributed to 30 of our parishioners at the beginning of February as part of the "Warm, Well and Connected" Initiative, supported by the Omagh Forum for Rural Associations.

### The Word for Today

Hopefully parishioners will by now have received their copies of the February-April issue of the Word for Today. If not, please contact us via the Church Facebook Page.

### Deaths

The sudden death in January 2021 of Peter Mark Hicks, beloved son of Winston and Eveline





Preparing the warm packs.

and brother of Andrew, Richard, Ruth and Gary caused great sadness in the parish and in the village. After a Funeral Service in Ballycassidy House Funeral Home, conducted by the Revd Colin Brownsmith, Peter was buried in Tattygar Cemetery on Monday 18th January. The parish and the wider community were shocked again to learn of the sudden death on 10th February 2021 of Kenneth Robert (Kenny) Forde, partner of Charmian, dearly loved brother of Keith (and his wife Sarah) and devoted uncle of Rebecca, Lucy, Jessica, James, Thomas and Emily. After a funeral service in the Parish Church on 14th February conducted by the Revd Stephanie

Woods, Kenny was buried in Lisbellaw Churchyard.

### Prayers

We continue to remember in our prayers all in our parish and community who are grieving, especially those families who have been recently bereaved. We pray too for all who are ill, in hospital, undergoing tests or treatment, waiting for operations or recuperating. We remember too all who are lonely, in nursing homes, or at home, but separated from the company of their families and friends due to the continuing lockdown.



Revd Colin.



Lynda Lindsay who has been leading the praise.

## Lisnaskea



Rector:  
**The Revd  
Alan Capper**

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### Burial

■ Tuesday 26th January  
Ronald Lyttle, 4a Sylvan Hill, Lisnaskea.

■ Saturday 13th February  
Cyril Archibald Cecil Armstrong,  
Castlebalfour, Lisnaskea.

Our sympathies and prayers are with both the Lyttle and Armstrong families at this time and everyone who has been recently bereaved.

As these notes are being prepared our church buildings still remain closed but thankfully a good number of parishioners and friends have been able to join together on Sunday mornings at 10.30 a.m. via zoom for morning prayer. If you haven't yet been part of this please contact Rev. Capper or the parish office and we will pass you on the information required to join in.

### Jesus tempted by the devil

Matthew 4:1 - 11

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights,

afterward He was hungry.

Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

(Matthew 4:1 - 3)

Then Jesus...

And when...

Now when...

Our language is not always straight forward Anyone who has ever had experience with a lawyer or solicitor can testify to that



I remember thinking as a young man  
That it was a funny statement to make  
About Jesus in the wilderness  
That after 40 (forty) days of fasting  
"He was hungry"

Who wouldn't be!?

Some people might be hungry after  
Missing the first meal

Then we get all spiritual and say  
"Ah well that was Jesus  
He could do that easily  
After all He is the Son of God"

And our "wrong thinking"  
Comes into play  
And we don't stop to think...

So STOP

AND think

While Jesus was living on the earth  
He WAS just like us  
In every way  
And yet, without sin

which then begs a question:  
If Jesus could do it  
(Fast for forty days and nights)  
Then so can I

Now some of you reading this  
Are hoping that I am going to  
Move on - and NOT make a point here

BUT...

Have you ever thought of fasting  
For forty days and forty nights?  
Or am I the only one?

NOT... that I have done it  
Though I know of people who have  
And in my life time

People who have given up all food  
And drank only water for forty days  
As a fast onto the Lord

But again...

This is where we can get side tracked

I had started by talking about the use  
Of the English language  
And how we read what is written down

I'm not sure that the devil  
Only came to Jesus at the END  
Of the forty days to tempt Him

And Matthew only records three  
Incidents or stories of what  
His temptation was about

Or have you ever asked yourself  
"What was Jesus DOING?"

During the 39 days  
Leading up to day 40  
When He was tempted?"  
Matthew doesn't tell us

And we are left to surmise and assume

Now obviously the Holy Spirit  
Was with Him

As the Spirit had led Him there

In the first place

But as to what exactly took place  
We are left in the dark  
We do not know  
What we do know  
Is that the devil tempted Jesus  
By attacking His identity  
"IF you are..."

So in a similar vein  
"WHO are YOU?"

Do you know who you are?  
How do you see yourself?

If you claim to be and believe  
Yourself to be a Christian  
What difference does that make to you?

Because, in a very real way,  
If Jesus can do it  
Then you can do it too

"Most assuredly, I say to you,  
he who believes in Me,  
the works that I do he will do also;  
and greater works than these he will do,  
because I go to My Father."  
(John 14:12)

Now I know I have digressed here slightly  
Quoting from John

When you read the Bible  
Don't just do it to gain knowledge  
But examine yourself as you read it

## Magheracross



Rector:  
**Archdeacon  
Brian Harper**

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I have a brass plaque in my study which  
reads "In 1742, nothing much happened  
here". I can't help but feel that this is what I  
should write for February and March 2021!  
Of course, I would be mistaken, for things  
do happen!

### Services

Our Sunday services have switched from

being recorded to being live whilst the  
church is closed. Once the church reopens  
for public worship then recorded services  
will resume, though we will be looking at  
occasional live streaming.

### Youth services

Our youth worker, Naomi, has introduced a  
regular children's service on a monthly basis  
using Zoom with a variety of craft activities  
and stories at 5pm on Sunday evening. The  
Youth Fellowship has also been continuing  
each Sunday evening on zoom.

### Senior lunches

In partnership with Ballinamallard United,  
our Friday Club has been able to deliver  
a hot lunch to some of our seniors once  
a week. So our community is still holding  
together and we look forward to building  
back better.

### Lent reflections

Throughout Lent, there will be a weekly  
meeting at 8pm Wednesday which will be  
either a service on Facebook or a meeting  
on Zoom. We will be looking at the issues  
we have faced over the past year – isolation  
and loneliness, anxiety, change etc.



### Top butcher

Congratulations to Robert Graham of K.  
Moore Meats, Ballinamallard, who has won  
the title of UK Young Butcher of the Year.  
Robert entered this nationwide competition  
last July and was put on a shortlist of three  
in October.  
So the plaque for 2020 and 2021 will not  
read "Nothing Happened Here". Although  
socially distanced and apart, we are still  
together!

## Magheraculmoney



Rector:  
**The Revd  
Francis Rutledge**

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### Marinating in Mark

'Marinate' is a word associated with food - in particular to put fish, meat or vegetables in a mixture of oil, vinegar or wine and spices (the marinade) before cooking in order to flavour it or make it softer. It essentially involves steeping and soaking the fish, meat or vegetables in the marinade for a period of time.

During the period of Lent we are encouraging 'the people of God' in Ardess to 'marinate in Mark' - essentially to steep and soak in the Gospel of Mark. This is not merely some sort of academic exercise or about the simple acquisition of more knowledge about Jesus as it is recorded in the story of Mark (although that is part of entering the story of Jesus). But with open heart and mind to allow ourselves to be drawn to 'new places' in our knowing of Him and the subsequent implications for our lives. The desire is for the Holy Spirit to lead us and to transform us as we enter this story of Jesus. And in doing so, being careful not to be detached observers but committed engaged participants in soaking in the Gospel of Mark in order that we may encounter Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the reading process (or listening if using an audio version), people are being asked to consider five simple questions:

- (1) What is something that you have noticed for the first time?
- (2) What questions did you have?
- (3) Was there anything that bothered you?
- (4) What did you learn about loving God?
- (5) What did you learn about loving others?

There is one other question, one that arises from the Gospel of Mark itself in Chapter 8 - here Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do you



say I am?". A foundational question for all apprentices of Jesus.

Alongside 'marinating in Mark' during Lent, the 'people of God' in Ardess have been encouraged to get hold of 'The Life You Have Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People', either book or audio version, by John Ortberg. If we believe Jesus is the way to life - and not just after death - but life here and now - then it makes sense if we are to follow him that we would adopt, or at the very least attempt to discover and employ some of his practices. Hopefully this book will help us in doing this.

*'Practices such as reading Scripture and praying are important - not because they prove how spiritual we are - but because God can use them to lead us into life.'* John Ortberg.

So often we struggle with spiritual practices such as reading scripture and praying - and to overcome this struggle, it is not so much about trying harder but about training, a bit like we would need to do if we were running a marathon. We need structure and support if we are to live as the ambassadors (and collectively as church as the embassies) of the Kingdom of God in the realities of our day-to-day living and in the public square. Together this Lent let us enter God's story, the story that in flesh and blood finds expression in Jesus Christ and answer His question "Who do you say I am?".

### Holy Week and Easter Gatherings

At the time of writing there is still the possibility that we will be under Covid-19 restrictions when we get to Holy Week and Easter - we will keep everyone updated.

### Ardess In-Stitches Group

The lockdown has not hampered the ladies of the Ardess In-Stitches group as they have tirelessly continued their knitting and crocheting at home throughout this period. So far this year, they have distributed 22 blankets and 22 twiddle-muffs to various nursing homes throughout Fermanagh. They have provided 72 hats, 22 blankets and 10 blessing gowns (for babies born sleeping) to the Royal Hospital and the SWAH. The Craigavon Hospital Covid Ward has been provided with handmade hearts which come in a pair - one is given to the patient and the other is given to the relative. They have continued to make hats and scarves for the homeless which unfortunately have not been able to be delivered with the current restrictions but once restrictions are lifted, they will be distributed to the homeless. They have also raised £239 for the British Legion from the sale of handmade poppies. All in all, In-Stitches continues to bless others through their skills and we are very thankful for their endeavours to help others.

## Monaghan, Tydavnet and Kilmore



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

T: 047 81136  
E: monaghan@  
clogher.anglican.org  
Diocesan Pastoral  
Assistant: Mr Walter  
Pringle

### Sunday Services

With COVID restrictions we are limited to holding services online. We will be on Facebook live at 10:30am each Sunday morning.

During Lent our theme on Sundays is "worship in the wilderness - journey with Jesus through Lent" using material from [engageworship.org](http://engageworship.org). In the Bible the wilderness, as well as being a place of testing, was a place of provision, transformation and encounter with God. Each Sunday we will look at our journey with faith in Jesus seeing how it is a Spirit-led, simple, sorrowful, sacrificial, truth-speaking and surprising journey.

### Lent

The season of Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday, this year on 17th February through to Easter Day on 4th April. In one of the penny pamphlets for Irish Churchmen from the 1800s, the late Bishop of Ossory, J.F.D. Day talks about Lent having a threefold purpose. First to prepare for Easter, as we travel through Lent we are getting ready to celebrate Easter, to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead that shows death and sin have been defeated and the way to God is open through faith in Jesus. Second to remember that Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness where he was, as Hebrews 4v15 tells us, "tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.". Since Jesus was tempted he can help us in our lives with him. Third to take some extra time to spend with God. He writes that Christians can "spend daily a little more time than usual in considering their ways, repenting of their sins, reading and thinking about the things of God, and thus gaining refreshment

and strength for meeting the difficulties, temptations and sorrows of their lives, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.". Another retired Bishop, Richard Chartres (of London), gave us two figures of Tom and Gus for Lent. Tom stands for Take on more and Gus for Give up something. This is what we can do as we journey through Lent. It is a season in the church's year to draw closer to God. It is different this year as this is the first Lent we start in lockdown.

So during this Lent can I encourage you to maybe give up something or take on more. Do try to take some more time to spend with God in worship, in Bible reading, in prayer. With this letter there are some activities and ideas to help in Lent and some details of what we'll be doing in church and Bible study during Lent. These can be done individually, together and by all ages.

We come to the season of Lent even if it looks and feels stranger and we can't do what we would normally do. But we cling (which at times is the best word I can use) to the constancy of God whose love meant God the Son would give up the glory of heaven to come to live as one of us, but perfectly, and to offer himself to die for our sins and to be raised to show that death is defeated and the way to heaven is open for those who trust and believe in Jesus. This is the message of our faith. These are the events we are getting ready to celebrate at Easter.

### Bible Study

(Wednesdays at 8pm on [www.facebook.com/stpatsmonaghan](http://www.facebook.com/stpatsmonaghan))

At the start of the pandemic there was a lot of baking being done. For our Bible Studies we are going to bake our way through Lent (though the actual baking is optional) and look at some readings from the gospels as we follow Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and that first Good Friday.

### Holy Week (29th March - 2nd April)

Last year we kept our tradition of joining with the other town churches online through a Facebook page we created for the week. We're planning to do the same this year. It is, as the Psalmist says, good and pleasant when we come together in unity. Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter are events that we remember and share as fellow Christians. We will have more details how to access the livestream nearer the time.

### Condolence

We offer prayerful sympathy to Mrs Hilary Workman and family on the death of her uncle and to Mrs Suzanne Graham and family on the death of her grandmother.

### Illness

Please remember in prayer those who are ill or recovering from illness, the housebound and those in residential care and their families.



## Rossorry



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

Rossorry Rectory, Kinarla, Enniskillen,  
Co. Fermanagh. BT74 5PX

T: 028 66 320239

E: rossorry@clogher.anglican.org

Parish Office: T: 028 66 329889

Diocesan Pastoral Assistants:

Mrs Sue Hogg & Mrs Joan Nelson

### A message from the Rector

#### Lent – seeing more clearly.

During the first lockdown last year, many people found that they began to see things around them much more clearly than before. In daytime walks we discovered nature afresh in all its beauty with birdsong seeming very much louder. At night-time the stars and planets seemed brighter and sharper too. Reflecting about this, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, wrote this; ‘there are times when it’s as if a whole layer of mess and mist and drifting fumes is cleared away and we see things in their proper outlines’.

‘Layers removed’ is a good image for what Lent and Passiontide is about. It’s a period when we let some cleansing wind blow through our lives so that the landscape of our spirits stands out more clearly. Yes, this is a season for seeing ourselves more clearly and seeing with fresh clarity the profound story of our salvation. It’s about reflecting on our needs, our resistance to change and our hopes for new beginnings.

Perhaps you can find ways of journeying through this special time which let the wind of the spirit refresh your life – maybe through prayer, Bible reading and quiet meditation. To help us do this together, each Wednesday in Lent, I plan to post on our Facebook page, a short reading and reflection. Our aim is to help clear the view and see afresh in the cross and resurrection of Jesus the steady radiance of his God’s love and find his healing and well-being.

**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.*

#### Our new Bishop

At the time of going to press, the plan for the Consecration of our new Bishop is scheduled for late April – but of course in the current situation this may change. Keep an eye on the Facebook pages for Rossorry Parish Church or Clogher Diocese for any update.



#### Sunday School

Sunday School materials for the second term have been sent online by Carol (Sunday School Superintendent) to all those families who opted to take part in keeping Sunday School going during this difficult time.

A big thanks to all the parents who are taking part, on top of all the home schooling and other restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic and to Carol for coordinating the effort.

#### Rossorry Mothers’ Union

The first meeting of 2021 for Rossorry Mothers’ Union was a Zoom meeting due to the current COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. This was held on Thursday 21 January and for some it was their first experience on Zoom and they enjoyed this. Members said that during COVID they missed being with family and friends and not being able to attend Church. All were keeping busy. Heather, the Branch leader, congratulated Catherine Irwin on her latest position as High Sheriff of Fermanagh 2021 as well as being awarded the MBE in the Queen’s New Year’s Honours list for her services to Girlguiding. Catherine informed the



group that she was Chairperson of the Board of Trustees for Girlguiding UK since 2018. This is a voluntary position and Catherine outlined that her role involved giving guidance to the safety of members. Today a lot is done digitally with different challenges. In her role as High Sheriff she will receive the High Court Judge if he is in Fermanagh, greet members of the Royal family if they come to the County and is an ambassador for the county.

### 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

As you probably know, by now, the Church has had to close again, as part of the plans to combat the recent upsurge of Covid-19.

There is one Sunday service each week at 10am, pre-recorded and available on the 'Rossorry Parish' Facebook page.

### Online services

In the current situation, the Rector prepares and publishes, on Facebook on Saturday afternoon, weekly services of Morning Prayer or Holy Communion as appropriate.

In addition, for the Season of Lent, the Rector plans to post, online, on our Facebook page, each Wednesday, a short reading and reflection, which will help you prepare yourselves about reflecting on your needs, your resistance to change and your hopes for new beginnings.



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.



 <h1 style="margin: 0;">ROSSORRY</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">PARISH CHURCH</h2>	<p><b>Sunday 14th</b> <b>FEBRUARY 2021</b></p> <p><i>The Sunday before</i> <b>LENT</b></p>
 <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28 (NIV)</p>	<p><b>No Service in Church for the next few weeks, due to Covid restrictions</b></p> <p><b>Check online over the weekend for video of the recorded Service on Facebook :- Rossorry Parish Church</b></p>
<p><b>MORNING PRAYER – 14th Feb., 2021 – The Sunday before LENT .</b> (Using the Book of Common Prayer- BCP)</p> <p><b>Introduction and Opening Hymn - 52</b></p>	
<p><b>1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies,</b> Christ, the true, the only light, Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night; Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-spring, in my heart appear.</p>	<p><b>3. Visit then this soul of mine;</b> pierce the gloom of sin and grief; fill me, Radiance divine; scatter all my unbelief; more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Charles Wesley(1707-1788)</p>
<p><b>The Greeting</b> The Lord be with you. And also with you.</p>	
<p><b>A Sentence of Scripture</b></p> <p style="font-style: italic;">' Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest '</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Matthew 11,28</p>	

### 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 housebound, 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.

## Freewill Offerings

### FREEWILL GIVING

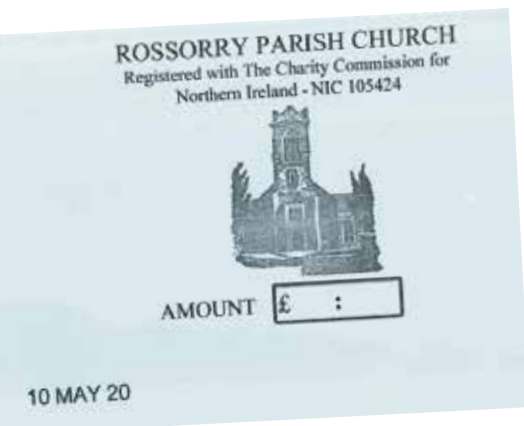
Even though Services have resumed at Church many of you may not be able or ready to attend but you may still contribute your weekly collection envelopes and other donations.

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 (now on Yellow envelopes for 2021)— 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 or envelopes 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 for March 2021

Online until the Church reopens.

### Sunday 7th March

10.00am - Holy Communion

### Sunday 14th March

10.00am – Morning Prayer.

### Sunday 21st March

10.00am - Morning Prayer.

### Sunday 28th March

10.00am - Morning Prayer

### Wednesdays in Lent

Online- a short reading and reflection

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, particularly any additional material for Lent.

## Parish Register

### Bereavement

Sincerest sympathy from the Parish to the families of four of our Parishioners and former Parishioners who recently passed away and the family and friends of one of our Leaders of Rainbows and Brownies.

■ BROWN, Albert Irwin, peacefully, of Shandon Park, Belfast (formerly Dublin Road, Enniskillen) who died on 27th January 2021. His funeral service took place at Rossorry Parish Church, at 2pm, on 31st January 2021. Followed by interment in Rossorry Parish Churchyard.

■ JOHNSTON, Charlotte “Lottie”, peacefully, at The Graan Nursing Home on 31st January 2021, in her 106th year (the oldest parishioner in our Parish), formerly of Burnside Park, Enniskillen. Her funeral service took place on 2nd February 2021 at 2.30pm at Kilskeery Parish Church with interment afterward in her family plot.

■ SCOTT, Mary of Elliott Place, Enniskillen, peacefully, on 6th February 2021. Her Funeral Service took place at St. Macartin's Cathedral at 11am on Monday 8th February 2021 with interment afterward in her family plot at Rossorry Parish Churchyard.

■ SHANNON, Rachael, daughter of Wendy and Andrew and sister to Harry, of Ballinamallard, died after a very brief illness on Saturday 13th February 2021. Rachael was a parishioner of Magheracross Parish Church but for a number of years had been a leader of Rainbows and Brownies in Rossorry.

■ BUTLER, Helen, of the Tilery Nursing Home (formerly Swanlinbar Road, Enniskillen) died peacefully on Sunday 14th February 2021, beloved wife of the late Jim Butler and mother of Mark and Anne. Her funeral service took place at 2pm on Wednesday 17th February at Rossorry with interment in the adjoining Churchyard in her family plot.

## 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**

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W: www.parishesoftempoandclabby.com

### Funerals

- 20/12/20 - Mr. Robert George Little  
Cloghtogle Road, Lisbellaw.
- 17/01/21 - Violet Louisa Little, Cloghtogle  
Road, Lisbellaw  
Our sympathy and prayers are with their  
daughter Hazel on the loss of both her  
parents within a month of each other from  
COVID-19 virus.
- 5/01/21 - Mrs. Margaret Eleanor (Pearl)  
Wilson, Main Street, Clabby.  
Mrs Pearl Wilson died peacefully in her  
sleep at Northwick House Care Home,  
Brookeborough aged 91. Mrs Wilson had  
spent most of her life in Clabby from her  
marriage to her late husband George. She  
was widowed in 1973 and was left to rear  
the family of seven children. She was a  
faithful member of St. Margaret's Parish  
Church, Clabby from her marriage in 1952  
and also of the Mothers' Union. She was a  
thrifty, hard worker all her life, she looked  
after all the catering at funeral teas and

other events for many years. She only  
stopped attending Church a couple of years  
ago due to advancing years. Our prayers  
are with her large family and family circle  
especially Harold (Rector's Glebewarden)  
and also Georgina, Ruth, Anne, Sammy,  
Valerie and David.

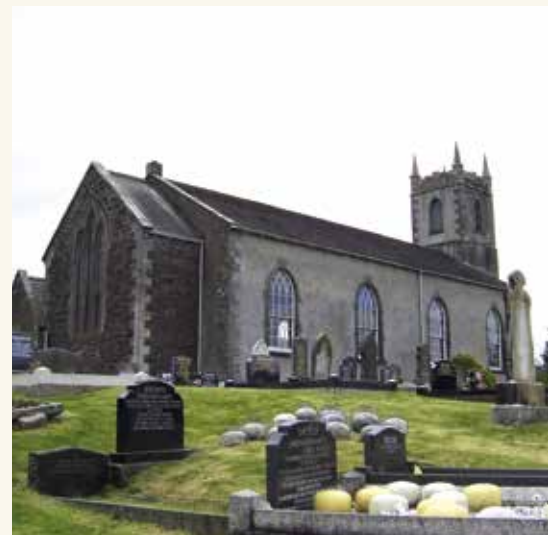
### The Time Had Come

These words are found in John 13 v 1 They  
are the opening words which form part of  
the account of washing of the disciples  
feet by Jesus on the evening before he  
was betrayed and arrested. John's gospel  
only deals with this event, he leaves it to  
the other gospel writers to give details on  
our Lord's institution of the Last supper, our  
Holy communion service narrative. Other  
versions of the Bible use the word "hour" It  
is generally used by John.

Here in Chapter 13 Jesus is clearly aware  
that "the time(hour) had come for him to  
leave this world and go to the Father". He  
knew clearly what lay ahead of him the  
next day. He kept his focus on his disciples  
and the teaching and example he needed  
to leave with them before his death,  
Resurrection and Ascension, read chapters  
13 to 17.

In chapter 17 in Jesus' real Lord's Prayer or  
High Priestly prayer He says "Father the  
time has come". I want us to focus on the  
phrase the right time. Galatians 4 v 4 "But  
when the time had fully come, God sent his  
Son of a woman". In God's perfect timing  
after centuries of prophecies and promise  
God fulfilled them.

When Jesus ministered on earth 'several  
time he said his time (hour) is come that  
the son of man should be glorified".  
This God appointed time would mean  
humanly speaking suffering, but from God's  
point of view it meant glory. Jesus came in  
God's appointed time, ministered, died and



rose again and finished His work on earth  
and returned to His Father to his place of  
glory which he had before he came to earth.  
Jesus will return again, not as Saviour but  
as judge (Hebrews 9 v 28) but only God the  
Father has set the time and he alone knows  
(Matthew 24 v 36). What is the message  
of Jesus and God's word? "Keep watch,  
because you do not know the day or the  
hour".

We are called to come and trust in Christ as  
our Saviour and Lord now, as we have no  
guarantees about to-morrow in terms of our  
life or the return of Christ. Paul says "I tell  
you now is the time of God's favour, now is  
the day of salvation".

God, in and through Christ has completed  
all that is necessary for our salvation once  
for all by his perfect offering of his life and  
shed blood on the cross. Now he calls us  
to respond by coming to him by simple  
humble faith and trust him as our sin bearer  
and know his forgiveness and new eternal  
life.

## Trory and Killadeas



Rector:  
**Revd Mark  
Gallagher**

The Rectory, 138 Killadeas Road, Rossfad,  
Ballinamallard.  
Tel 028 66388477  
E: revdmarkgallagher@gmail.com

At the time of writing, we are still in  
lockdown 3.0. So, firstly, and most  
importantly, I hope you are all keeping well  
under the current circumstances, wherever,  
and however you are reading this.  
Even though lockdown is tough, we in  
Trory and Killadeas have been pulling  
together as a community and are looking  
after each other in whatever ways you can  
think of, using creativity, imagination, care,  
and compassion which the congregations  
possess in abundance, and has been at  
work since the first lockdown began.  
Now, the content... In what I am labelling  
the church hokey-kokey (we're in, we're out,  
we're getting shook all about, rah, rah, rah)  
it looks highly likely that we are heading into  
another Lent fully in lockdown. Having said

that, it is tempered with always remaining  
aware of how quickly guidance can change.  
Please be assured, when safe to return to  
our buildings we will be back in.  
Lent and Holy Week are being labelled here  
as 'in lockdown' but as soon as we are told  
we can safely move back into our buildings,  
we shall. Services will then be both online  
and in building. Please use your own  
common sense and choose which you are  
comfortable attending.

### Lent in Lockdown

This year our midweek lent services will  
take a theme of 'symbols of Christian  
worship.' As usual, these services will  
be broadcast on our Facebook page (@  
troryandkilladeas) on Wednesdays at 7pm.

These themes are slight altered, but taken up through tactile faith, science and nature lessons through a home pack and a short All Age video, uploaded to Facebook on Saturday mornings, to be watched at a convenient time. This video is accompanied by packs which was sent out to all Sunday School families. The intention is for parents to tell the specified bible story pitched at the appropriate level for the child(ren), switch on a five-minute video taking your young people through what we do with the symbol in church, and a related (slightly messy) activity.

### Holy Week in Lockdown

The services for Holy Week come from the resource 'Week of All Weeks' by the Church of Ireland Liturgical Advisory Committee. We will be using these books for years to come, in both churches. Please note this is a lend, and we will need them back. If you decide to keep it, there is a charge of £4.

### Drive through, drop off, pick up

We had another Macdonald's 'drive through' style envelope drop off on Saturday 27th February to collect Trory Envelope freewill donations, as well as allowing parishioners of both parishes to pick up (borrow) copies of the Holy Week resource 'Week of all Weeks' to join in the services fully at home. Please note, one of these books can still be delivered if you missed the drive through.

### Smarties Tubes (Trory only)

Finally, it has been said before of the Church of Ireland when changes are made, the first year, it is hated by all, the second year it is a tradition, but by the third year it is a sacred tradition which must never be changed. Therefore, the Lent Smarties tubes are by now a sacred tradition in Trory, and are going ahead, but like with everything in the last year, differently. This year in order to reduce non-essential travel, and contact surfaces (i.e. someone extra touching the smarties tubes, and making extra journeys in order to deliver them) we are asking you to buy a tube of smarties along with your weekly shopping, and fill the tube with 20p or £1 coins as usual. Then when we can meet together again in our church buildings, the filled smarties tube will be exchanged for a packet of sweets of your choice.

### Online Pancake Battle

To mark Shrove Tuesday in a fun way, we ran a virtual competition through a thread on Facebook for all parishioners to take a funny, artistic, or cute photo of their pancakes. All of the entries were great, and some photo entries have been included with the notes.



Pancake making in Trory and Killadeas parishes.



### Sympathy

Our heartfelt prayers, sympathies and condolences go out to the families of the late Jim Brown, Gladys Armstrong, and Brian Ternan. All were well known locally, well loved, and will be sorely missed.

### Lent Services in Lockdown

#### MARCH

#### Wednesday 3rd

Midweek reflection, Oil as symbol

#### Saturday 6th

Children in lent 2, Mini Messy Church at home -Oil

#### Sunday 7th

Lent 3, Parish Holy Communion

#### Wednesday 10th

Midweek Reflection, Light as symbol

#### Saturday 13th

Children in lent 3, Mini Messy Church at home – Light

#### Sunday 14th

Mothering Sunday Morning Prayer 2

#### Wednesday 17th

Midweek Reflection, St. Patrick

#### Saturday 20th

Children in lent 4, Mini Messy Church at home – Nature

#### Sunday 21st

Lent 5, Morning Prayer for Passion Sunday

#### Wednesday 24th

Midweek reflection, Salt as symbol

#### Saturday 27th

Children in Lent 5, Mini Messy Church at home – Salt

#### Sunday 28th Palm Sunday

Morning Prayer for Palm Sunday

Holy Week

#### Monday 29th Holy Monday

Monday from Week of all Weeks @7pm

#### Tuesday 30th Holy Tuesday

Tuesday from Week of all Weeks @7pm

#### Wednesday 31st Holy Wednesday

Wood/the cross as symbol @7pm

#### APRIL

#### Thursday 1st April Maundy Thursday

Tenebrae @7pm

#### Friday 2nd April Good Friday

A service of the hours @12 noon

#### Sunday 4th April Easter Sunday

Parish Holy Communion



# MOTHERS' UNION

## Rebuilding Hope and Confidence - Living with Covid- 19

On Saturday 6th February 2021, Mrs Liz Greer, All-Ireland Young Members Contact (Southern Diocese) and Mrs Wendy Halligan, All-Ireland Young Members Contact (Northern Diocese) hosted an All-Ireland Mothers' Union Zoom Breakfast entitled, Rebuilding Hope and Confidence - Living with Covid- 19.

This was a first for Mothers' Union and we are indebted to the perseverance and creativity of the planning committee to organise a virtual alternative to the Women's Getaway.

The Zoom breakfast commenced with prayers led by Mrs June Butler, All-Ireland President Mothers' Union.

The first speaker was Lydia Monds who is the Education Advisor to the Bishops' Appeal, which is the Church of Ireland world aid and development programme. Lydia highlighted how the Mothers' Union literacy and community projects have benefitted thousands of women in Burundi alone. Not only have the women become literate, there has been a significant reduction in violence as people understand relationships. In Egypt where Mothers' Union have provided long term support with Literacy Circles and Peace and Reconciliation groups, it was found at the end of these programmes people were less likely to engage in conflict. Lydia then proceeded to talk about the importance of investing in self-care. Take time, slow down and notice God's presence with you. She suggested the following mindfulness activity as you brush your teeth each morning.

### TOOTHBRUSH CHECK IN

- **Who am I?** Say and acknowledge who you are.
- **How am I?** Check in on yourself.
- **Whose am I?** I am GOD'S TREASURE .

The second speaker was Karen Gray an eco-trauma therapist, who joined us from Australia. Eco therapy is based on the idea that people are connected to and impacted by the natural environment.

Karen said that spending a total of two hours during the week in a natural setting, particularly near trees can improve our emotional and physical well-being and boost our immune system by 50%. She advocated taking natural control of your health and



well-being. Gardening or going for a walk is good for you!

The Zoom Breakfast concluded with Midday Prayers including a celebration of Annabelle Hayes led by Avril Gillatt.

It was a thought-provoking, inspiring and encouraging morning as we live with Covid-19 and endeavour as members of the Mothers' Union to Rebuild Hope and Confidence, mindful of God's presence with us.

## FIRST COUNCIL MEETING GOES AHEAD ON ZOOM PLATFORM

Mothers' Union members have embraced modern technology and successfully held their first Council Meeting by using the platform of Zoom.

Members signed into Zoom on 3rd February 2021 at 7.30pm and it was very encouraging to see 69 members on the screen.

Mothers' Union business was conducted and reports were delivered including the results of a recent 'Loneliness Survey' and an update on the Teleconferencing project. The President thanked everyone for their reports.

Mrs Irene Boyd, President, thanked the branches for coming up with new, exciting and innovative ways of working during these difficult times. Sincere thanks were expressed to all Branch and Committee members who had produced newsletters, kept in touch with their members via phone and email, organised Covid-related activities and crafts to keep connected with members.

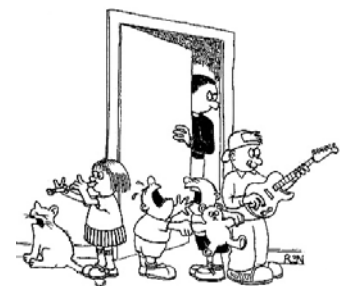
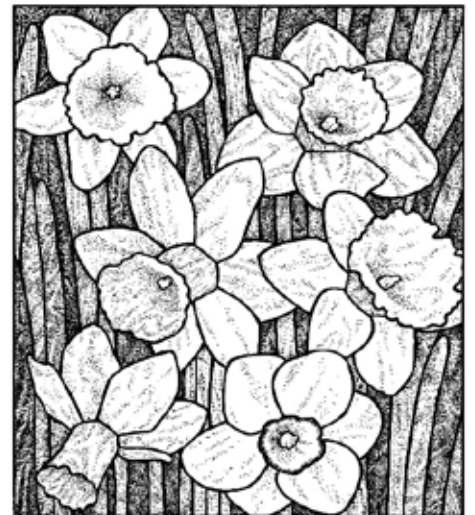
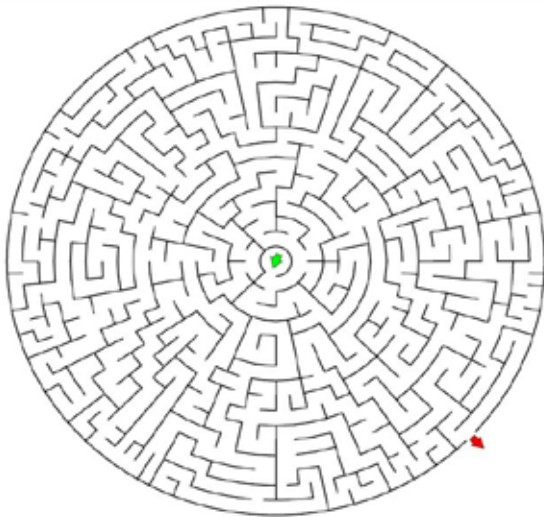
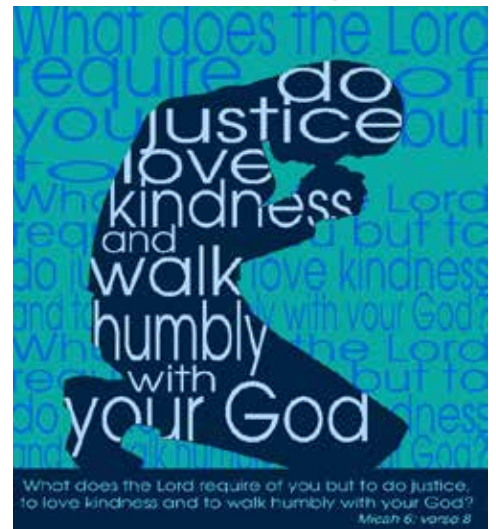
A new magazine 'Connected' will be delivered to members twice yearly with the first edition in April. The cost is included in the membership contribution.

Some Trustee Board members concluded the meeting with prayers and everyone said The Grace together.

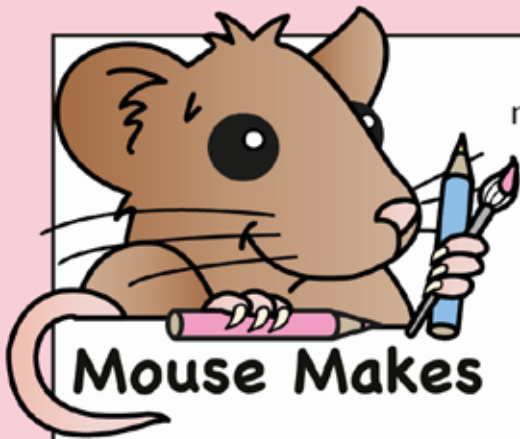


# CHILDREN'S SECTION

The Last Supper



Kevin took himself off to his study to pray for peace



## Mouse Makes

**Who is my mother?**  
Look up the Bible verses then find the mother's names in the word search

**CAIN and ABEL**  
*Genesis 4:1-2*

**JOSEPH**  
*Genesis 30:22-24*

**ISHMAEL**  
*Genesis 16:15*

**TIMOTHY**  
*2 Timothy 1:5*

**RUBEN**  
*Genesis 29:32*

**GAD**  
*Genesis 35:26*

**SAMUEL**  
*1 Samuel 1:20*

**OBED**  
*Matthew 1:5*

**ISAAC**  
*Genesis 21:3*

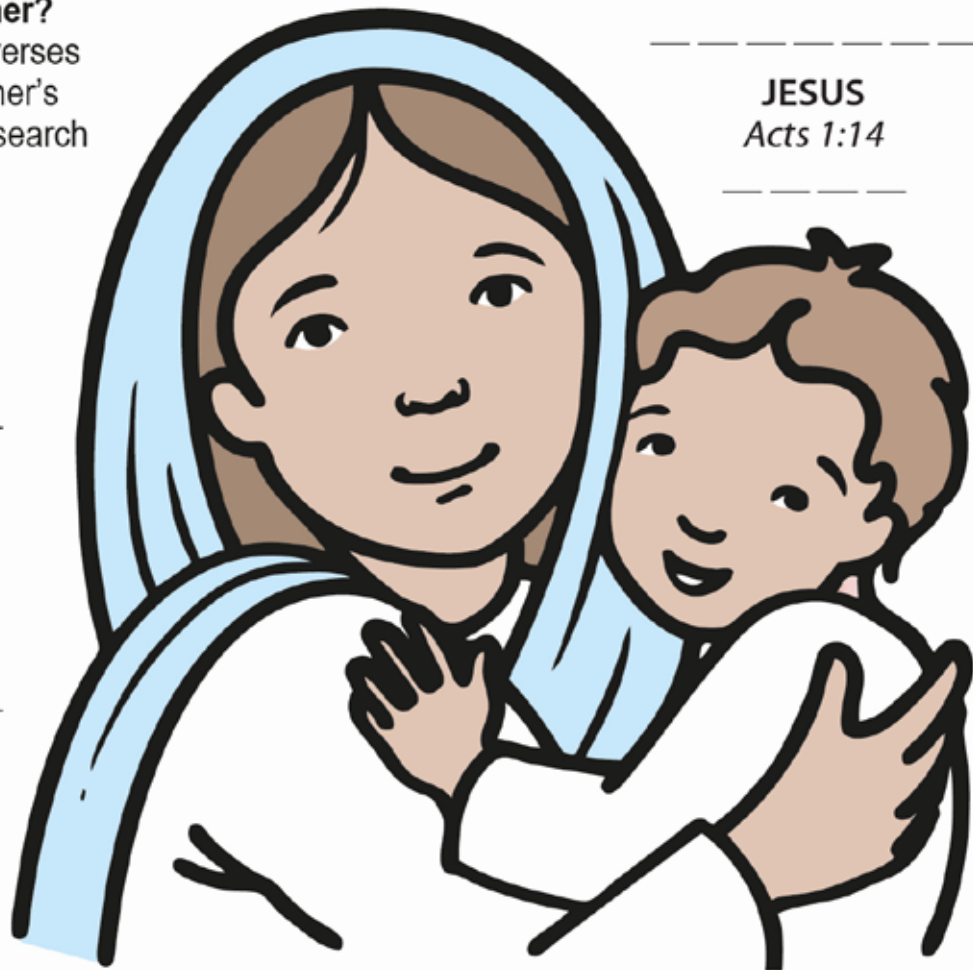
Jesus was **loved** by his mother Mary, she looked after him, worried about him and prayed for him. She **cuddled** Jesus when he was born, **cried** when he died and **rejoiced** when he rose from the dead.

**SOLOMON**  
*1 Chronicles 3:5*

**JOHN**  
*Luke 1:57-60*

**ESAU and JACOB**  
*Genesis 25:24-26*

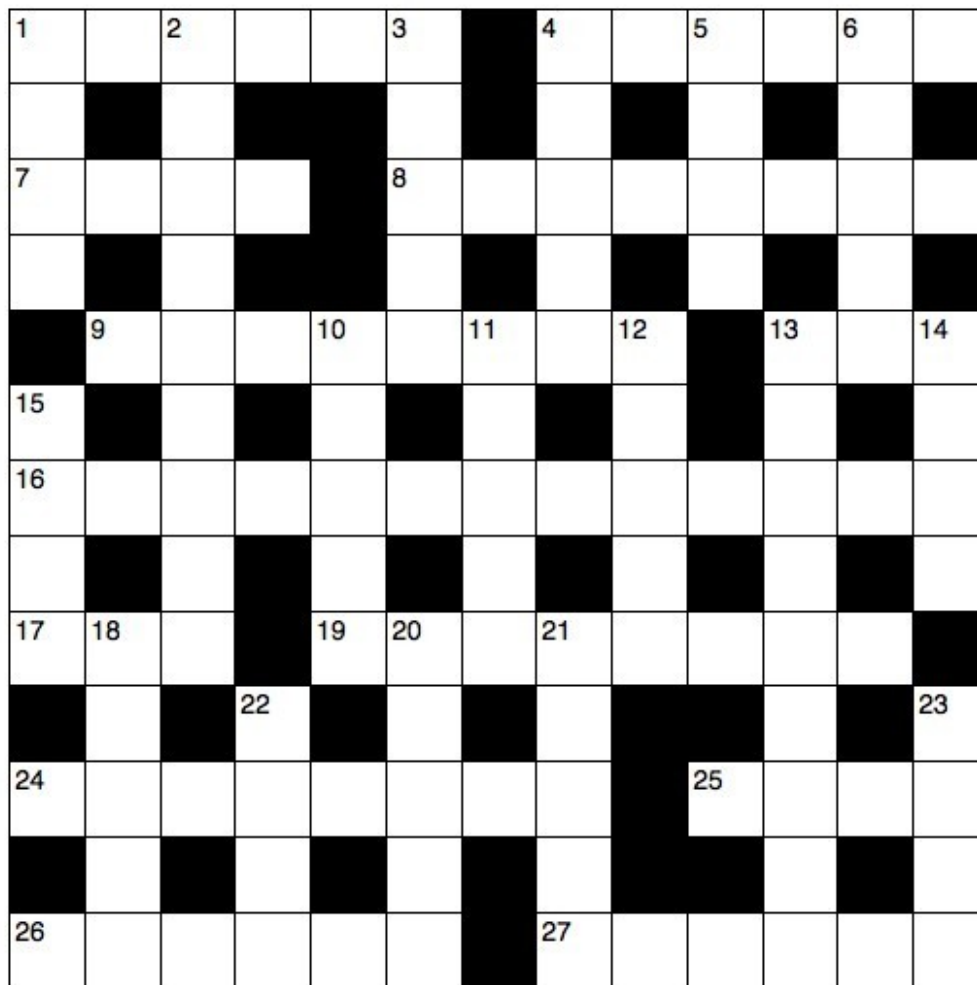
**JESUS**  
*Acts 1:14*



R	A	C	H	E	L	M	A	R	Y	A	V	Z
E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	H	E	V	I
B	Z	D	R	E	B	V	S	U	A	U	O	L
E	T	M	U	M	L	E	A	H	N	N	L	P
K	M	O	T	H	E	R	R	T	N	I	E	A
A	I	S	H	H	A	G	A	R	A	C	G	H
H	S	T	A	B	A	T	H	S	H	E	B	A

There are two other words in the word search, can you find them?

# PUZZLE PAGES *for Adults*



## ACROSS

- 1 The earth is one (6)  
 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)  
 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)  
 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1) (8)  
 9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus' (Philippians 2:5) (8)  
 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this (Luke 8:16) (3)  
 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)  
 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)  
 19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)  
 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)  
 25 The Venerable —, eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)  
 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)  
 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

## DOWN

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)  
 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)

- 3 Gospel leaflet (5)  
 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)  
 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)  
 6 To put forth (5)  
 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)  
 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)  
 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel' (Genesis 25:26) (5)  
 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha's request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)  
 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me' (Luke 22:34) (4)  
 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)  
 18 'When I —, I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)  
 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)  
 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)  
 22 Does (anag.) (4)  
 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this (Genesis 41:19) (4)  
 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)  
 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)  
 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

■ Crossword Puzzle answers on page 55

# DATES FOR THE DIARY

## March 2021

• Wednesday 3rd March – **Mental Health Support Sessions online** hosted by Clogher Diocese with speaker Conor McCafferty. The first session will look at self-care in the time of the pandemic and the second session on 10th March will centre on social media use and the impact that this can have on our mental well-being. Each session will last for an hour and a half. To register, please email Revd Charlie Eames; ceames@talktalk.net

• Wednesday 10th March – **Mental Health Support Sessions online** hosted by Clogher Diocese with speaker Conor McCafferty. The first session last week looked at self-care in the time of the pandemic and the second on 10th March will centre on social media use and the impact that this can have on our mental well-being. Each session will last for an hour and a half. To register, please email Revd Charlie Eames; ceames@talktalk.net

• Thursday 25th March – **Farewell Service by Zoom for Archbishop John McDowell** to mark his farewell from Clogher Diocese at 7.30pm.

## April 2021

• Friday 2nd April – **Good Friday services** throughout Clogher Diocese. Check the Clogher Diocese Facebook page for online services.

• Sunday 4th April – **Easter Sunday services** will be held in Clogher Diocese either in-church and/or online. More details following review of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions on 18th March.

• Monday 26th April – **Service of Consecration of Revd Canon Dr. Ian Ellis, Rector of Rossorry Parish as Bishop of Clogher** is scheduled



to take place in St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen at 7.30pm. More details later in view of the current Covid-19 restrictions.

## May 2021

• Saturday 1st May – **Colaghty Parish Auction** in Colaghty Hall. More details to follow later. (The event will take place subject to Covid-19 restrictions).

## September 2021

• Thursday 30th September - Saturday 2nd October 2021 – **New date for General Synod for 2021** in the Armagh City Hotel, Armagh is now moved from the original date of 13-15th May 2021. Further details later.

## May 2022

• Thursday 5th - Saturday 7th May 2022 – **General Synod for 2022** takes place at Croke Park, Dublin.

CHURCH OF IRELAND

## Daily Worship

An app for Apple and Android phones.  
Content from Book of Common Prayer.  
Grow in relationship with God  
through daily prayer.  
Read and meditate on Scripture.  
Browse by date. Adjustable text size.  
Low light mode.


Content also available at  
[www.ireland.anglican.org/prayer-worship](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/prayer-worship)

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Statement from the Church of Ireland Bishops in Northern Ireland in relation to Public Worship

Following the Northern Ireland Executive's decision to extend the current Covid-19 restrictions to Thursday 1st April 2021, representatives of the Churches met with Ministers from the Executive Office, the Minister of Health and the Chief Medical Officer. At that meeting the Chief Medical Officer stressed that it would make a significant difference and be of huge benefit to public health and safety, if churches were willing to continue, for the time being, not to gather in-person for services and other meetings.

In the light of the Executive's extension of the current restrictions, and on the basis of the continued and unequivocal public health message that people should continue to stay at home, we have agreed that all in-person Sunday gatherings for worship, along with all other in-person church gatherings, should remain voluntarily suspended for the time being in all Church of Ireland parishes in Northern Ireland until Thursday 1st April 2021 - with the exception of weddings, funerals, arrangements for recording and/or live-streaming, drive-in services and private prayer (as permitted by regulations).



We have also agreed to further assess the situation immediately after the next NI Executive review of current lockdown provisions on Thursday 18th March 2021, in the cautious anticipation that, from Friday 2nd April (Good Friday) onwards, our parishioners in Northern Ireland could return to in-person gatherings for worship, with all necessary precautions and mitigations in place.

This recognises the importance of Easter, the significance of which was acknowledged by the Minister for

Health and the Chief Medical Officer at their most recent meeting with Church representatives.

We welcome that a similar approach is also being taken by the Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church and, in a slightly different form, by the Roman Catholic Church.

*+John Armagh  
+Andrew Derry and Raphoe  
+David Down and Dromore  
+George Connor*





Taking part in Bishop John's consecration were (from left); Right Revd Ingeborg Midttømme, Bishop of Møre in the Church of Norway, The Archbishop of Armagh, Most Revd Alan Harper; Bishop John; Dean Kenneth Hall and the Bishop of Jerusalem, Right Revd Suheil Dawani.



Attending the G8 service in Enniskillen in June 2013 were (from left): The Revd Alistair Warke, The Revd Rob Clements, Archbishop John Sentamu, Bishop John McDowell and Dean Kenneth Hall.

## DIOCESE TO HOLD FAREWELL SERVICE ON ZOOM

A farewell service for Archbishop John McDowell to officially mark his departure as Bishop of Clogher last year before he took up his role as the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, will take place on Thursday, 25th March 2021 at 7.30pm online via the Zoom platform.

The service will include contributions from various sectors within the Diocese.

From his consecration as Bishop of Clogher on 23rd September 2011 until his translation as Archbishop of Armagh, Archbishop McDowell has led and participated in many different services and events.

His consecration was led by the Most Revd Alan Harper, Archbishop of Armagh; The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin, The Rt Revd Harold Miller, Bishop

of Down and Dromore; The Rt Revd Ken Good, Bishop of Derry and Raphoe; The Rt Revd Trevor Williams, Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe; The Rt Revd Patrick Rooke, Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry; and a number of retired bishops including The Rt Revd Lord Robin Eames, The Rt Revd Brian Hannon, The Rt Revd Dr Sam Poyntz, The Rt Revd Edward Darling, and the Rt Revd James Mehaffey. Also consecrating were the Rt Revd Suheil Dawani, Bishop of Jerusalem, and the Rt Revd Ingeborg Midttømme, Bishop of Møre in the Church of Norway, representing the Porvoo Communion of Churches.

On this page, we highlight some of the events Archbishop McDowell took part in.



Attending the Ecumenical Prayer Service for Pentecost at St. Molua's Church, Co. Monaghan, were Bishop Lawrence Duffy and Bishop John McDowell.



Church leaders (from left): Bishop John McDowell, President of the Irish Council of Churches; Archbishop Richard Clarke, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh; Archbishop Eamon Martin, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh; the Rt. Rev. Dr. Noble McNeely, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Rev. Dr. Laurence Graham, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland at a meeting when they urged political parties to go the extra mile for an agreement on the restoration of the Assembly.



Bishop John McDowell at a Commissioning Service of Parish Readers on Sunday 22nd June 2014 in Magheracross Parish at 7.00pm (From left): Mrs Heather Harper, Mr David Atwell, Mrs Heather McMorris, Bishop John McDowell, Mrs Sarah Maguire and Mr Nick Hamby.

# FAITH COMMUNITIES: THEIR ROLE IN COVID-19 PANDEMIC IS EXAMINED IN ONLINE WORKSHOPS

On one evening each week during February, a group of people from different faiths met online to discuss the role of faith communities in society during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The workshops, "Faith Communities as Agents of Change" were delivered by The Churches Trust based in Londonderry and facilitated by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

The workshops over four weeks attracted around 12 participants and examined the issues facing faith groups when many people were restricted to their homes for months during the Covid-19 lockdowns.

The Trust's Chief Executive Office, Fiona Fagan, put forward discussion points each week and then provided a summary of findings following the online discussions.

One of the encouraging findings reported by Fiona was the statistic that 84 per cent of the population in the United Kingdom belonged to or identified with a faith tradition which she said was hugely influential.

In the first workshop, those attending discussed if faith communities had survived the impact.

**Views were varied but the impact of Covid-19 on faith communities was largely identified as;**

- Some have been dealing with an element of fear with a certain amount of scaremongering about the virus and even the vaccine.
- There has been a social impact with opportunities to meet people being taken away and replaced by technology.
- The pandemic proved to be a major change for people involved in faith and forced everyone to do things differently because of the restrictions.
- With prospects of restrictions being lifted, people are still looking forward to meeting up again.
- Some people have voiced concerns that certain people may not want to return to church but instead continue to join services online.



**"Faith can give people strength and make everyone more resilient"**

- Everyone has had to adapt to change especially with regard to funerals, hospital visits and education in schools and this has been difficult for many.
- There is a fear of mental health issues developing in the community although it is difficult to know how people are really coping and what lies ahead.
- All churches are dealing with similar problems so there is a feeling of solidarity.
- Since the lockdowns and restrictions placed on people's lives, everyone has had to become more educated on technology and this has highlighted other community issues such as the provision of or lack of good broadband speeds. With livestreaming taking place from church buildings, the need for Wi-fi has become more apparent.
- People have the opportunity now to shop around for services. The social media platforms have showcased the many different ways of bringing worship to people's homes.
- The past year has demonstrated a new way to communicate.
- However it has been shown that faith communities build faith and hope and

therefore build resilience.

Taking the subject, "The role of faith communities in civic society today" there were plenty of ideas put forward.

**The participants examining the role of faith communities in societies identified a number of positive developments;**

- The role of faith can be used as a tool to reach out to others.
- Faith can give people strength and make everyone more resilient.
- Faith helps people to unite whether using a volunteer helpline and reaching those isolated / vulnerable.
- Faith helps with foodbanks to reach those in society in need.
- Faith may help those who have mental health concerns due to pandemic and especially young people.

When it comes to the question if church leaders should influence government policy, some people from some faith backgrounds felt leaders should only concentrate on looking after their own members rather than get involved at a wider level but others said church leaders should sometimes take the lead.

Some people felt that faith was a private matter and had no place in wider society.

It was widely recognised that faith set the moral compass in which people practice a living faith and being a good neighbour can bring peace and harmony.

In another discussion, the question, "How have faith communities supported community cohesion" was posed.

Discussions concluded that faith produced resilience to overcome challenges and that people of different faiths often came together for a common purpose.



Following discussions it was realised that society does not yet know the full impact of the pandemic and that further research would identify the real social fallout or sources of strength even though we are aware of the mental health impact.

The 'new normal' has certainly taught everyone how to go back to basics.

Staying positive and never losing hope was considered the best option to take going forward.

It is certainly the time to listen to people, especially children, listen to each other; make quality time and take ideas from young people.

Some of those taking part in the workshops felt they and others have had positive experiences through the crisis.

As a result of this, the faith communities represented said they should pray for change and create a better structure that incorporates the positives that have emerged from the pandemic.

There is a feeling of gratitude to God for



**"Technology is likely to become part of most peoples' lives in the future."**

helping people move around and provide food for our tables.

Even though no-one can travel internationally, many people can attend funerals virtually, logging in from different countries which is a positive.

The pandemic has resulted in many problems created but many had been solved as well.

Experience from previous epidemics had shown that faith communities are particularly well-placed to build trust and hope, to counter fear, and to build community resilience as well as individual mental and spiritual resilience.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, there was excessive individualism, increasing commodification and a societal norm that prioritised consumerism.

In the final workshop, participants discussed what religious practices would become the new norm in a post Covid-19 world.

One of the main responses to this was technology which is likely to become part of most peoples' lives in the future, in addition to conventional church or faith services.

Some people thought that some worshippers might be slow to return to in-church worship again although many others have expressed their desire to return to worship in church buildings as they missed the physical contact with friends and fellow worshippers. Those people who were regular church attenders would likely continue to do so in the future.

With a wide range of online services and worship formats available, it was suggested that there will be a considerable amount of mixing and matching as people seek to



**"It was widely recognised that faith set the moral compass in which people practice a living faith and being a good neighbour can bring peace and harmony"**

find a preacher or a worship style they will benefit from.

In terms of faith communities acting as agents of change it was indicated that church leaders had certainly come to the fore with support for food banks operating quickly and phone calls made to those who felt isolated during the early lockdowns.

It was widely expressed by participants that those with faith were encouraged by hope during the pandemic as well as the importance of faith from healing.

Other suggestions offered at the final workshop were that church buildings could become informal information points keeping people posted with various aspects of community news.

The Churches Trust was pleased to deliver the series of workshops and hopes to be involved in future dialogues.

## About The Churches Trust

The Churches' Trust is an interdenominational organisation established by the leaders of Christian churches to respond to deprivation in the area.

The Churches Trust was founded by the leaders of the mainstream churches over 20 years ago in response to a recognition of the level of deprivation in the area and the necessity to work together to provide essential services to those in need.

The Churches' Trust supports local people in crisis, respecting their dignity at all times, whilst signposting them to community groups and other agencies to address circumstances leading to the crisis situation.



The Churches Trust work is characterised by two main facets: on the one hand addressing deprivation and social injustice, working with people at the margins of society; and on the other hand, churches standing together with a united voice in an area plagued with the legacy of division through the troubles in Northern Ireland, aiming to create a shared and better future for all. Hence, The Churches Trust says its

goals for the future include;

1. To pro-actively enhance and support the economic, social and cultural development of all our communities within the North West region.
2. To develop and provide quality services that tackle deprivation and disadvantage focusing on social inclusion, equality of opportunity, and improving community relations.
3. To promote a more united, shared and cohesive society working in collaboration with churches from various faith traditions, schools and a diverse range of community groups.

# POLICE ON BOTH SIDES OF BORDER WARN AGAINST VACCINATION SCAMS

Police on both sides of the border are advising members of the public to be aware of potential scams relating to the Covid-19 vaccine.

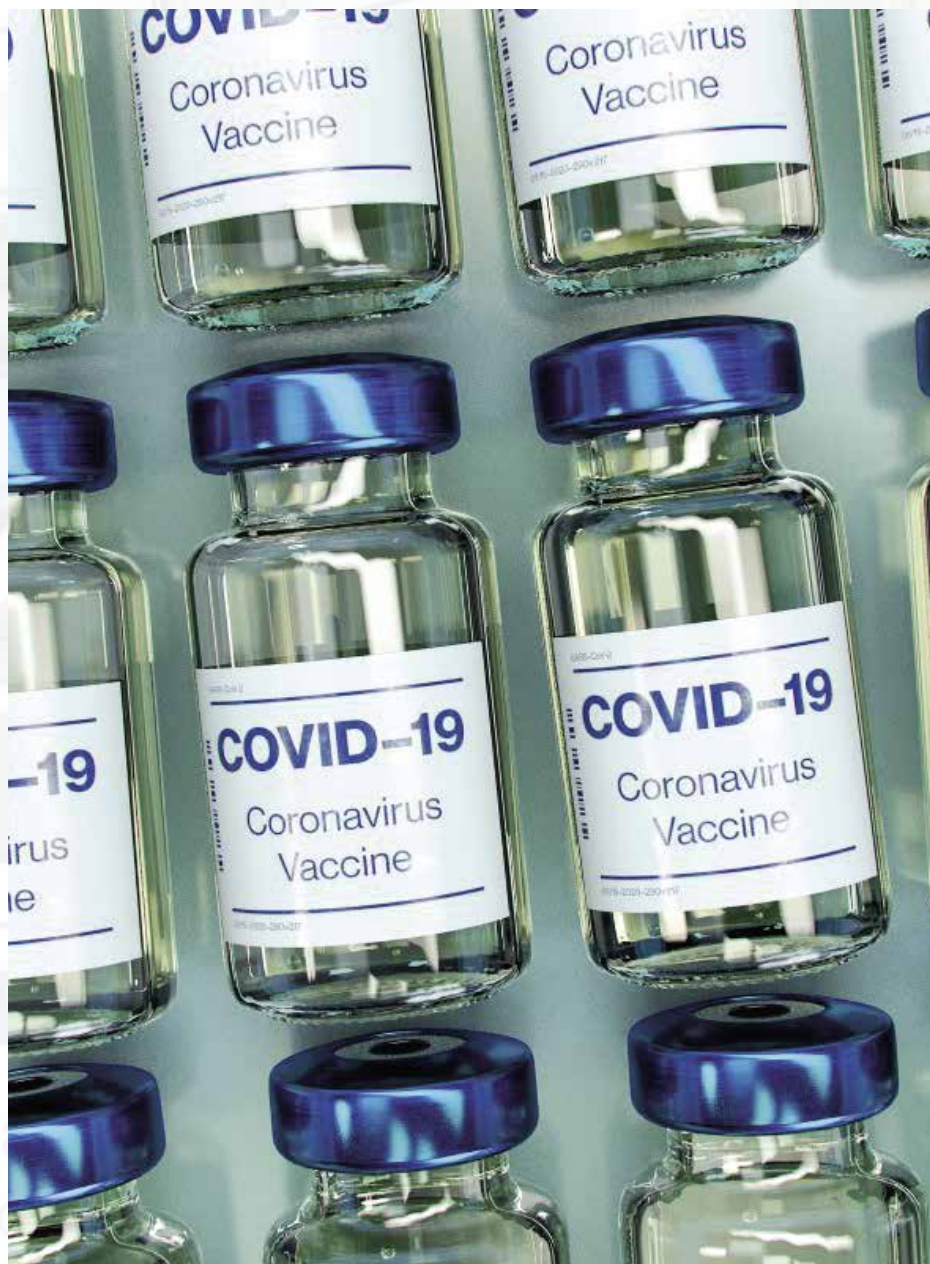
In Northern Ireland, several members of the public have received a text message which reads 'we have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine' and links to a convincing, but fake, NHS page which then asks for bank details.

In the Republic, members of the public have received fraudulent text messages and calls regarding Covid-19 vaccination. The text messages have made requests for people to confirm private and sensitive information such as their PPS number, date of birth, and address. The phone calls have included requests that they make an appointment for a Covid-19 vaccine jab at a random hospital.

In most cases, the person receiving the call will say that they are not in a position to travel to the hospital. This allows the caller to extract further personal details. Some individuals might confirm that they live alone or reveal their home address. The caller will then offer to come to their residence to administer a vaccine.

***You can protect yourself and your relatives, friends and neighbours with this advice:***

- Do not open attachments or click on links in emails or texts from numbers you don't know.
- Never give out your personal information, banking details or passwords in response to an email, text or phone call without verifying that the caller is who they say they are.
- Block any numbers you find suspicious.
- Always go to a website directly, by typing out the address yourself, when logging into an account. Do not click on links.
- Keep an eye out for spelling mistakes in messages and emails.
- Never disclose who you may live with or if you live alone.
- Remember that the NHS and HSE will never request payment for a Covid test or vaccine.
- If you receive a suspicious call, just hang up.
- If you have questions or concerns relating to Covid testing or vaccination, contact your local GP.



## REPORTING A SCAM

Anyone who is concerned they have been a victim of a scam in Northern Ireland can either report the matter to Action Fraud via their website: [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by phoning 0300 123 2040. Police can be contacted on the non-emergency number 101 or you can submit a report online using the PSNI's non-emergency reporting form via [www.psnipolice.uk/makeareport](http://www.psnipolice.uk/makeareport). Residents in the Republic should report any suspected scams to their local Garda station.

Find out more about spotting a scam: For further advice and information in

Northern Ireland, visit [www.nidirect.gov.uk/scamwiseni](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/scamwiseni) or the ScamwiseNI Facebook page @scamwiseni

Frequently asked questions and answers about scams and other types of fraud are available on An Garda Síochána's website at [www.garda.ie/en/crime/fraud](http://www.garda.ie/en/crime/fraud). Vaccination information: Official public health information on the Covid-19 vaccination programmes in Northern Ireland and the Republic is provided at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus) and [www.gov.ie/coronavirus](http://www.gov.ie/coronavirus)

*Photo courtesy of Daniel Schludi.*

# Connect4Creation this Lent and support the natural world

The Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal for World Aid and Development is encouraging parishes across the island to take part in its #Connect4Creation project for Lent 2021. This initiative helps members of the Church to connect with God, who is in our midst, and with their surroundings and the natural world.

#Connect4Creation provides activities for taking time to learn about the wonder of bees, doing simple actions to support them, and getting involved in supporting communities and bees across the world. Christian Aid, a Bishops' Appeal partner agency, is working in communities in Zimbabwe where beehives form a crucial part of complex, flourishing ecosystem that contains bees, crops, woodlands and people; each needing to play their part for the flourishing of the whole. The resource has also been put together with help from Eco Congregation Ireland and Muddy Church.

Locally, parishioners can plant flowers to increase the number of habitats for



pollinators, make bee hotels, and explore their local areas, using specially designed Muddy Bee Trail prompt cards full of interesting facts and Bible verses to help you wander and wonder this Lent. Actions that can help to focus on global issues include fundraising (it costs around €67/£60 to fund the building of a beehive in Zimbabwe), prayer, and creating crafts, a bee trail, or honeycomb crunchie bars, which can help as a fundraiser too.

Donations can be saved up and sent in after the end of Lent; see [www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give](http://www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give) for options for bank details and how to increase the value of what you give through Gift Aid or charitable tax relief.

Have a great time exploring God's creation over these next few weeks as spring starts and the days get longer. And feel free to share how you're getting on with the hashtag #Connect4Creation.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Transferor Representatives' Council thanks schools for commitment, professionalism and service

The Transferor Representatives' Council (TRC) has written to the principals and boards of governors of all controlled schools in Northern Ireland to thank them and all of their staff for their continuing work. In particular, the TRC thanks principals, teachers, all other school staff, and governors "for their commitment to pupils and their mental health and wellbeing, the delivery of education, their dedication to the schools and for their service at this time of global disruption and anxiety."

The letter adds: "Their professionalism is recognised and their service deeply appreciated."

The Chair of the TRC, Miss Rosemary Rainey OBE, said, "At a recent meeting of the TRC Executive, many heartfelt tributes were paid to school principals, senior leadership teams, staff and governors for the manner in which they had all responded to the additional demands and extra workloads associated with the delivery of the curriculum to pupils throughout the

current pandemic.

"In writing as we did, we wanted to commend principals and staff for putting in place arrangements to enable remote learning and for maintaining regular communication between teachers, parents and pupils. Together, the TRC recognises that boards of governors have continued with their responsibilities for oversight of the curriculum, finance, health and wellbeing of pupils, the provision of education for pupils with special educational needs, and maintaining links with the community. We also wanted to recognise those teachers who have undertaken further professional development to enable pupils to learn by means of online teaching and supervision over the past year all of which is a credit to them and the profession."

All school governors in Northern Ireland serve in a purely voluntary capacity and, in respect of controlled schools, boards of governors are representative of the Department of Education, the Education

Authority, the TRC, and parents and teachers.

The TRC concludes by encouraging "everyone who believes in the power of prayer" to keep school principals, senior leadership teams, teachers, support staff, pupils and school governors on their regular prayer list: "All need support, encouragement and pastoral care at this time."

The Transferor Representatives' Council represents the interests of the Church of Ireland, Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and Methodist Church in Ireland in matters of education policy in Northern Ireland, following on from the statutory transfer of schools managed by the denominations to the first government of Northern Ireland.



# CHURCH OF IRELAND NEWS

## DAILY WORSHIP APP ON YOUR SMARTPHONE

The Church of Ireland's Daily Worship app brings content from the Book of Common Prayer and the Bible to your smartphone by presenting their content in one place, including readings and liturgies for each day of the year.

The app provides liturgies for five services of worship; Holy Communion, Daily Prayer (Morning), Daily Prayer (Evening), A Late Evening Office, and Compline and draws on the rich liturgical resources of the Church of Ireland.

Subscribers can grow in relationship with God through daily prayer, read and meditate on Scripture, prepare services with ease and all with the help of Daily Worship from the Church of Ireland Lectionary.

Daily Worship features:

- Complete Lectionary readings for every day of the church year, including Bible passages (from the NRSV translation)
- Instant access to Bible readings, prayers and responses, Collects and Canticles
- Each day's Lectionary on a single page



- Browsing by date to future or past readings
  - Adjustable text sizes to suit the reader
  - Low light mode to avoid disruption in a service
  - Options to show pointing in Canticles and to save data on device for quick offline access
  - Authorised Church of Ireland content for all services
- Bible readings may differ between the app

and the Book of Common Prayer.

How Daily Worship can help you;

\* Personal daily reflection with readings and prayers shared with Anglicans and other Christians across the world.

\* Anyone taking part in a Church of Ireland service can use the app in their preparations for preaching, leading worship, intercessions, and reading the Bible.

\* Daily Worship can also be helpful for preparing orders of service or screen projections for use in a parish setting.

Feedback

If you have any queries or concerns regarding the functioning of the app, please email [dailyworshipapp@ireland.anglican.org](mailto:dailyworshipapp@ireland.anglican.org) and a member of our team will get back to you as soon as possible. If your question is regarding payment or refunds, please contact the appropriate app store directly.

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## Property grant applications deadline

Parishes are reminded that applications for the current rounds of the Church Fabric & Development Fund and Marshal Beresford's Fund must be returned by Monday, 1st March, to [ian.walsh@rcbdub.org](mailto:ian.walsh@rcbdub.org). For application forms and guidelines, please visit the Church of Ireland website with information on both funds. For further information about either Fund, please contact Ian Walshe through the email above.

The Care for Your Church leaflet is also available and designed to help parishes plan ahead with preventative maintenance, and includes suggestions for maintaining roofs, walls, gutters and downpipes and doors and windows.

You can also download a copy for your parish or email [property@rcbdub.org](mailto:property@rcbdub.org) for hard copies.



# Standing Committee approves changes to Synod dates for 2021

The Standing Committee of the General Synod met in an online format on Tuesday, 26th January 2021. Mr Ken Gibson opened the meeting with a Bible reading from Matthew Chapter 11 and in prayer, remembering in particular those who are unwell at this time, their carers, and all who have responsibility for public health and order.

The Standing Committee agreed to change the dates for the 2021 meeting of the General Synod from 13th–15th May to 30th September to 2nd October and authorised the Honorary Secretaries to conclude the necessary arrangements.

Mr Ken Gibson, Lay Honorary Secretary for the Province of Armagh.

Further to the resolution of the Representative Church Body, of 9th December 2020, the Standing Committee approved the transfer of Straid Parish (Foxford) from the Diocese of Killala to the Diocese of Achonry, and the consequent alteration to the boundary between the two dioceses.

The Standing Committee approved a resolution that specified bodies or committees should be asked to begin the work of analysing, exploring and, if appropriate, implementing the Facilitation Committee's recommendations, and should report on their work in this regard at the September meeting of the Standing

Committee. The Facilitation Committee was established in 2017, to follow up on issues arising from the work of the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures, and submitted its final report to General Synod 2020, in which its recommendations were made and referred to the Standing Committee.

The Honorary Secretaries reported that there would be no meaningful benefit in carrying out a collection of census data from parishes in a year when in-person worship is suspended or governed by restrictions on the numbers who may attend church services. It was therefore considered that the collection of data should be postponed until 2022, when, hopefully, in-person attendance at church services will have returned to pre-pandemic levels.

The Standing Committee approved a grant of €4,500 from the General Synod Royalties Fund to support the production of SEARCH Journal during 2021.

Ms Bridget Rippey was reappointed as the Complaints Administrator for the Church of Ireland, for a further one-year term. Mr Patrick Good and Ms Beverley Turner were appointed as members of the Complaints Committee. Mr Good was appointed as the Chairperson of the Committee and Archdeacon Leslie Stevenson as its Vice-Chairperson.

The Revd Malcolm Kingston was appointed

as a member of the Standing Committee's Budget Sub-Committee.

The Revd Aonghus Mayes was welcomed as the new clerical member of Standing Committee, under the age of 45 years, for the Diocese of Armagh.

Members were invited to submit nominations for the Church of Ireland members on the Secondary Education Committee in the Republic of Ireland. The SEC has to be elected/appointed each year. In addition to the outgoing members who are willing to let their names go forward for nomination, there is also a casual vacancy amongst the Church of Ireland members on the SEC. The closing date for nominations was Sunday, 28th February 2021.

A call for expressions of interest for a voluntary Church of Ireland Director on the board of Christian Aid (resident in the Republic) was issued following the meeting with a closing date of Friday, 26th February 2021. This is now available at [www.ireland.anglican.org/vacancies](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/vacancies) and expressions of interest or requests for further information can be sent to Dr Catherine Smith at [honsecs@ireland.anglican.org](mailto:honsecs@ireland.anglican.org). Applications will be brought to the March meeting of Standing Committee.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT SESSIONS ORGANISED BY CLOGHER DIOCESE

Mental health support sessions are being hosted online by Clogher Diocese at the beginning of March.

There are two sessions with the first on Wednesday, 3rd March, looking at self-care in the time of the pandemic and the second session a week later on Wednesday, 10th March, will centre on social media use and the impact that this could have on people's mental well-being.

The speaker on both evenings is Conor McCafferty (pictured right) from the charity, Zest, based in Londonderry.

Conor previously spoke at events for young people and adults on Health and Wellbeing in North Fermanagh several years ago.

Each of the sessions are expected to last around one and a half hours.

Anyone who wants to register, should email Revd Charlie Eames; [ceames@talktalk.net](mailto:ceames@talktalk.net)



# ARCHIVE of the MONTH

## Church of Ireland Gazette

### Digital Archive completed as Archbishop John McDowell reviews 1990s editions

The Church of Ireland Gazette Digital Archive is now complete.

All editions of the newspaper from its foundation in 1856 up to and including 2010 are freely available electronically, allowing the worldwide audience to view and search it using any name, place, or other search term. This gifts everybody from the cursory reader to the academic researcher with access to this extensive resource here: <https://esearch.informa.ie/rcb>

Written and read by lay and clerical members and others, the Gazette provides the longest-running public commentary on the Church's affairs, and as such is recognised as a valuable primary source for understanding the complexities and nuance of Church of Ireland and indeed wider Protestant identity, as well as the Church's contribution to political and cultural life north and south. From 2010, as regular readers will know, the Gazette becomes available as an e-paper.

In 2013, the RCB Library's ambitious goal to digitize and make freely available the complete run of the newspaper began modestly with the content of the 1913 editions uploaded. Since then, a combination of state funding, private sponsorship and the support of central Church funds has enabled evolutionary growth of the project, and thanks to the generous grant from the Irish Government's Reconciliation Fund, administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs, this is now complete, with a permanent digital archive available online for future generations of researchers.

The Reconciliation Fund grant has further allowed for the 'Borderless Church' series (which commenced last September) to analyse the content of the paper during each of the five decades between 1950 and 1999, in six contrasting and varied presentations by a variety of writers. This is now also available through the Library's online exhibition space.

The final 'Borderless Church' presentation, on the 1990s, is by the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd John McDowell, and is entitled 'Flicking Through the Pages'. This aptly titled piece is all the more engaging because he was ordained right in the middle of the decade – on St Columba's Day (9th June) 1995 for the curacy of Antrim (Connor). Looking back, he reflects that "to read through the Gazettes of the 1990s is to be transported to a different aeon, never mind a different century".

The decade "was also the aeon of the Celtic Tiger, Drumcree, the Downing Street Declaration, the first and second ceasefires, the Good Friday Agreement and the Omagh bombing" and represented "very difficult years" for the Church of Ireland, not least in the context of "the event/standoff/siege" that was Drumcree.

As the crisis deepened in 1996, "letters from North and South and the comments by regular contributors make it clear that this issue had become one of major tension within the Church. So much so



that the Archbishop of Armagh [Archbishop Robin Eames] wrote a long, detailed article for the edition of 26th July of that year ... [attempting] to address some misconceptions which were widespread at the time, particularly the impression that nothing had been done since the debacle in 1995 to address the problem. On the contrary, Eames explained, he and others had been active throughout the intervening period trying to mediate and moderate. In the same issue, [the columnist] Cromlyn cautions against a hasty rush to judgement until the full picture became clearer." Archbishop Eames urges political dialogue in the Church of Ireland Gazette, 26th July 1996.

Archbishop McDowell pays tribute to several of "the dominant personalities" who led the Church through these times, not least "Robin Eames as Archbishop of Armagh with his resilience and steady diplomacy in Church and in society." Reflecting on the many challenges with which he had to contend, the current archbishop concludes how his predecessor "steered a course between urging greater openness and Christian compassion on the one hand and providing a shepherd's care and reassurance to a fragile if resilient community on the other. His General Synod speeches and other major interventions during this period were reported exhaustively in the Gazette and are without exception weighty, considered and conciliatory. There is nothing florid or even particularly eloquent in the conventional sense about them. But they were what was needed, not only for the hour, but for the long haul, a prodigy of steadfast and sometimes painful endeavour."

In addition to paying attention to the lofty issues of national and international significance, Archbishop McDowell further reflects on the miscellany of other issues where the Gazette provided the platform for discussion and discernment.

From the RCB Library, Dr Susan Hood, Librarian and Archivist, thanked Archbishop McDowell and all the 'Borderless Church' contributors (David Bird, Dr Marie Coleman, Dr Ian d'Alton, the Revd Clifford Skillen and Professor Brian Walker) who had used the source so effectively to deepen public understanding of the period between 1950 and 1999. She also thanked the current Editor and Board of the Church of Ireland Gazette who have collaborated so positively with the Library since the inception of the project, and the Gazette office staff whose input of PDF documents for the period between 2004 and 2010 had allowed the final bonus years to be added to the database, expertly overseen by service provider Informa. Finally, she sincerely acknowledged the Department of Foreign Affairs' Reconciliation Fund whose generous grant ensured that this worthwhile project could be completed.

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### Rural Development grant for church interpretative centre

Aughnamullen Parish, Co. Monaghan, has been successfully awarded a Rural Development grant of over €174,000 towards restoration of their church, Christ Church and the development of a memorial centre in memory of the late TD and Senator Billy Fox. It leaves the parish with a further €50,000 to raise to be able to complete the project.

The parish has been unable to organise fundraising activities due to the lockdowns from Covid-19 restrictions but has instead set up a go fund page; [gf.me/u/xczcr7](https://gf.me/u/xczcr7).

The re-roofing project and development of the interpretative centre in memory of the late Billy Fox has been in the planning for a number of years.

Billy Fox, a Senator and TD was a parishioner and is buried in Christ Church graveyard. He was killed during the Troubles. The parish needs support from outside the parish as it has only around 15 dedicated members of the congregation.

The parish has already repaired the belfry at a cost of €30,000 and now faces a bill of over €300,000 to re-roof the church. The church and graveyard are of heritage interest with some of Cromwell's soldiers and monks dating back to the year 865.

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS from page 44

**ACROSS:** 1, Planet. 4, Rugged. 7, True. 8, Augustus. 9, Attitude. 13, Bed. 16, Participation. 17, War. 19, Hillside. 24, Baldhead. 25, Bede. 26, Census. 27, Arisen.

**DOWN:** 1, Path. 2, Adulterer. 3, Tract. 4, Rigid. 5, Gust. 6, Exude. 10, Irish. 11, Uriel. 12, Esau's. 13, Blindness. 14, Deny. 15, Spew. 18, Awake. 20, Ideas. 21, Lydia. 22, Odes. 23, Lean.

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