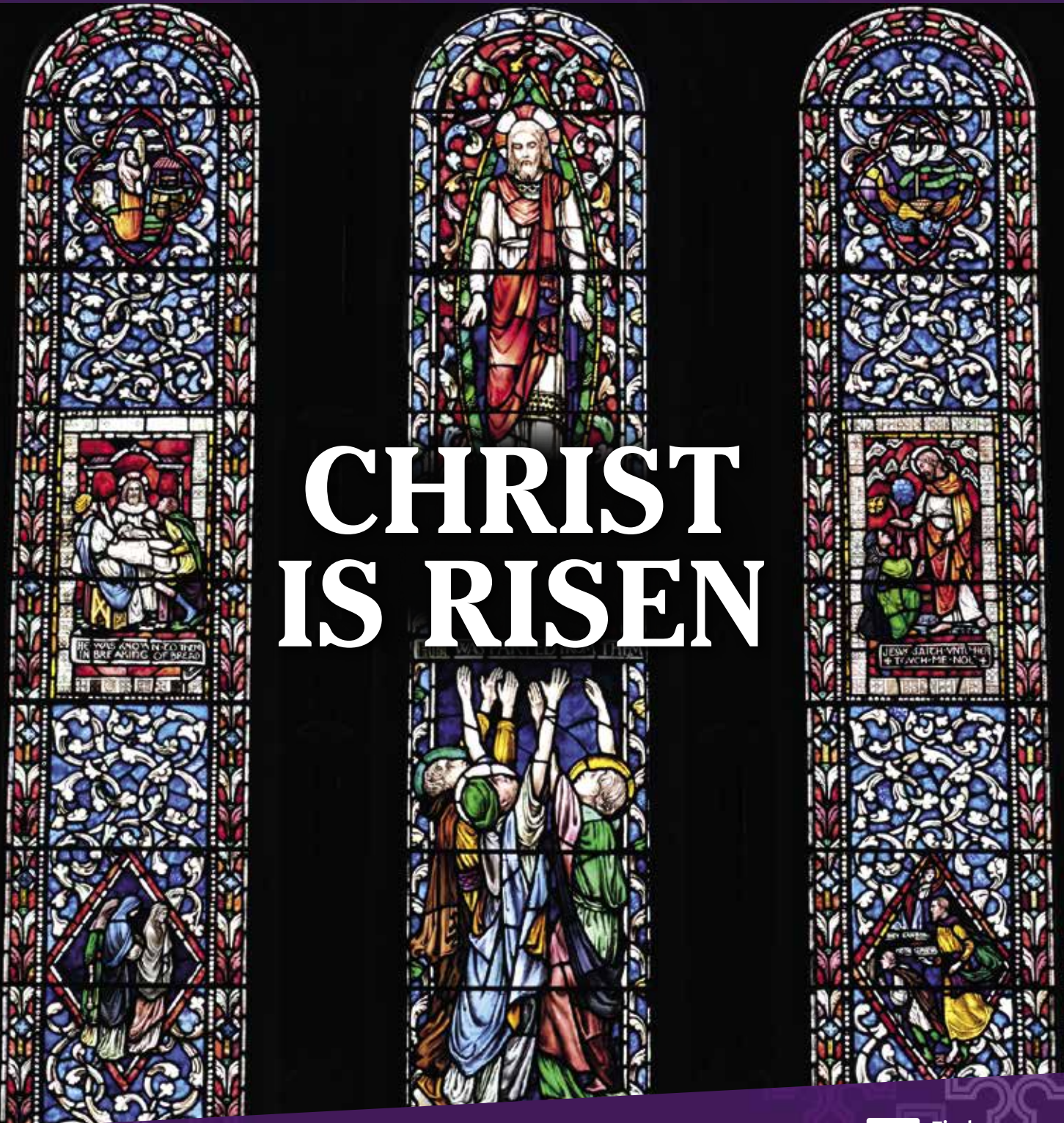




# CHURCH OF IRELAND The Clogher Diocesan MAGAZINE

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## YOUR MAGAZINE IN APRIL 2021

We are pleased to be able to print this edition of the Clogher Diocesan Magazine.

The magazine subscription payable for 2021 has now changed as a result of not having printed editions in February and March 2021. The amount payable for 2021 (8 editions) is £12 or 13.20 Euro. For 2020 subscribers who had prepaid the full amount of £15 or 16.50 Euro (10 editions), there is a credit of £6 or 6.60 Euros against payments in 2021.

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### Next Magazine in May 2021

Deadline for submission of material **Thursday, 15th April 2021**.  
Content to be sent to [editor@clogher.anglican.org](mailto:editor@clogher.anglican.org)

### 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

The East Window in Rossorry Parish Church depicting the Ascension and showing the three women going to the Sepulchre, Peter and John running towards the empty tomb and the Risen Christ appearing to Mary Magdalene. Revd Canon Dr. Ian Ellis will lead his final Service of Holy Communion as Rector of Rossorry on Easter Sunday at the Holy Table under this impressive window.

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## SERVICE OF CONSECRATION OF BISHOP OF CLOGHER TO BE LIVE-STREAMED

Monday, 26th April 2021 is now the date for the Service of Consecration of Revd Canon Dr. Ian Ellis as the next Bishop of Clogher.

The service in St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen at 7.30pm will have reduced numbers attending due to Covid-19 protocols. However the service will be live-streamed on the Enniskillen Cathedral website.

The service will be led by the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd John McDowell assisted by two bishops.

The address will be given by Archbishop Robin Eames.

More details about the service and further updates will be available on the Clogher Diocese website closer to the date.

Bishop-Elect Revd Canon Dr. Ellis will conduct his final service as Rector of Rossorry Parish on Easter Sunday, 4th April at an in-church service but with numbers restricted in line with Covid-19 protocols.

From Easter Monday, Canon Ellis will become Archbishop's Commissary for the diocese continuing this role until his consecration as Bishop, taking over from Archdeacon Brian Harper who has held the post of Commissary in the interim.







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

# **A year of change and frustration, but also a year of opportunity and new skills**

Last Easter, we never imagined that we would still be dealing with lockdown regulations a year later. It is amazing how quickly that year has passed and how our lives have been changed. So many lives have been lost to us across the nation and throughout the world. Our own lives have been restricted and we have had to learn to “live” differently. We have worshipped online, we have missed our friends and family, jobs have been lost, other jobs have been redefined.

For me personally, as it has also been for other clergy, this has been a frustrating year. The normal routine of ministry has been disrupted. It has not been possible to “drop in” to parish activities. It has been difficult to keep up with parish news about illness, bereavement etc. Parish ministry is primarily pastoral and relational and the face to face means of conversation has been lost.

On the “Sunday” part of ministry, clergy and parishioners have had to quickly adapt to new skills in which we were never trained and in which we may feel very uncomfortable. At times, clergy have been put under stress because of impossible demands. Nevertheless, I have also found encouragement through the kindness of people to each other. Families have been very understanding at times of bereavement and co-operated with the restrictions. Many have said that they found the funeral service was very supportive and beneficial.

The question that faces us as the year progresses is “How will we rebuild our fellowship?” “Will we go back to the way things were or will we rebuild even better than before?”

After all, we have adapted to new technology in the space of a few months and it would be a shame to set that progress aside. We can reach further and deeper into our communities and we can extend our walls to enfold those who were previously kept on the outside.



If all goes well, I will no longer be the Archbishop's commissary at some point in April. It has been a longer vacancy in the Diocese than we had expected. I am very grateful for the patience of my own parishioners and the support of my diocesan colleagues over the past 12 months in this role. I now look forward to serving our new Bishop, Ian, as we begin the rebuilding.

# PARISH NOTES

## Aghadrumsee, Clogh & Drumsnatt



Church Army Officer  
Captain David  
Hamilton

The Rectory, Drummarainy,  
Stonebridge, Clones, Co. Monaghan.  
T: 047 20826  
E: aghadrumsee@clogher.anglican.org

The group would like to once again like to wish Archbishop McDowell, our former Bishop well in his new role and at the time of writing these notes, we were looking forward to the special farewell service on Zoom at the end of March. We would also like to congratulate our new Bishop-Elect, Canon Dr Ellis and look forward to his Service of Consecration later this month.



We are delighted to have been given the go ahead for in-church worship to begin again from Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Aghadrumsee will have a service on Good Friday at 8pm, then on Sunday there will be Holy Communion for Easter Day in Clogh at 10.45am. Thanks must go to Captain David for the time and effort he put into producing our weekly Facebook services during lockdown.

The only way we can organise a General Easter Vestry this year will be to hold it immediately after the Sunday morning service. The General Easter Vestry for Aghadrumsee will take place after the service on 18th April with the Service starting at 11.00am. This will mean there will be no service that day in Clogh. The following week 25th April we swap and Clogh will hold the General Easter Vestry after the service at the normal time of 10.45am with there being no service in Aghadrumsee that day. We are waiting to hear when we can meet for a Easter Vestry in Drumsnatt.

### Clogh Knit & Knatter

Throughout the current pandemic the club, with the help of some other ladies tirelessly continued to knit and crochet at home.

So far, they have distributed blankets and tiddle-muffs to nursing homes in the area, both north and south of the border. Hats and scarves were knitted for the seafarers. A number of teddy bears, cardigans, hats and booties were knit and crocheted for neonatal unit and children's wards at the South West Acute Hospital. We are very thankful for these ladies, their skills and for the time they gave up to help others. We are also very grateful for oddments of wool that was given to the club to help knit some of the garments, it was much appreciated.

### Sympathy

We were saddened to learn of the death of Ian Wiggins, Macknagh, Lisnaskea whose funeral took place in Clogh Church. Sympathy is extended to his son John, daughter-in-law Sandra, grandchildren Karla and Matthew and the extended family circle.



## Aghalurcher and Cooneen with Mullaghfad



Rector: **The Revd John McClenaghan**

Colebrooke Rectory, 8 Owenskerry Lane, Killarbran, Fivemiletown, Co. Tyrone. BT75 0SP

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E: colebrooke@clogher.anglican.org

W: www.colebrookeparish.org

### Services

#### APRIL

##### Thursday 1st April

8.00pm Colebrooke Maundy Thursday Last Supper

##### Friday 2nd April

8.00pm Cooneen Good Friday

##### Sunday 4th April

11.00am Colebrooke Easter Day Holy Communion

##### Sunday 11th April

11.00am Colebrooke Morning Prayer

##### Sunday 18th April

10.45am Colebrooke Morning Prayer

12.15pm Cooneen Morning Prayer

##### Sunday 25th April

10.45am Colebrooke Morning Prayer

12.15pm Cooneen Morning Prayer

#### MAY

##### Sunday 2nd May

10.45am Colebrooke Holy Communion

12.15pm Cooneen Holy Communion



These timings are provisional to normal worship in church being resumed. From the beginning of the lockdown in March 2020, 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)

### Mullaghfad Service

In light of the present circumstances, there will be no service in Mullaghfad in April or May. Decisions will be made at a later date in relation to services resuming in September.

### Colebrooke Friends' Service

This service will also be postponed to a later date.

### Parish Organisations

Due to the continuing Covid19 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 every Monday, at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall for girls 3 years and upwards, and new members will be made very welcome, taking part in games, cookery, craft, bible study and especially having lots of fun.

#### Colebrooke/Cooneen Scout Group

The Scouts meet every 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 each 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.

### SNATCH

(Sunday Night At the Church Hall) Youth Ministry

Aghavea & Colebrooke

All young people of secondary school age welcome.

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/snatchyf](http://www.facebook.com/snatchyf)

Website: [snatch.colebrookeparish.org](http://snatch.colebrookeparish.org)

### Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union members continue to keep in communication using social media and the telephone. The Branch Leader received some PPE resources from the Diocese, funded by a grant from FODC, to use when meetings resume.

On the week leading up to 14 March, Mothering Sunday, members distributed a primula plant, a bookmark and a copy of the recent MU newsletter to each lady in Colebrooke Parish. Appreciation and surprise was expressed on the doorsteps and via telephone and social media since. Our prayer is that everyone keeps safe and well and that we will be able to meet in groups again soon.

## Aghavea



Rector:  
**Revd Johnny  
McLoughlin**

The Rectory,  
256 Belfast Road,  
Lurgan,  
Brookeborough  
BT94 4DS

Tel. 028 8953 1210  
Email; aghavea@clogher.anglican.org

### Holy Baptism

Sarah Elizabeth Anna, daughter of Helen and Robert Woods, 28th February 2021.

### Sympathy

We continue to pray and support all those who have been bereaved in the recent months. During these difficult days, when we cannot conduct funerals and memorials in the same way than would have been normal, it has been particularly difficult for all families. As a parish, we will keep you all in our thoughts and prayers for the days to come.

### Church Services

As rector, I would like to thank everyone who have been so patient over the past 12 months. We have hardly known from one Sunday to the next what the circumstances would be – whether the service would be in the church building, in the car park, streamed online only – and I fully appreciate all your help and support throughout these trying times.

As I am writing these notes, the anticipation



is that we will be allowed back into the Church buildings on Easter Sunday – and I am really hoping that this will be the start of the return to a new routine! I don't want to return to the "old normal" – but hope that our experiences over the past 12 months will lead us into a new brighter normal!

With that in mind, we will be celebrating Holy Communion in the car park at 7am on Easter Sunday morning, followed by an in-church Holy Communion at 11am. We will be allowed to sing "quietly" as before – but even quiet singing is much louder than none-at-all. I hope you will join us for our celebration of one of the most important days in the Christian calendar, praising God for the Resurrection of Christ, and the hope of Death defeated! Our plans are set out in our calendar, assuming all government restrictions and rules allow us meet in-church – if not, we will be in our car park – no matter what the weather brings!

### April Calendar

#### 4th April – Easter Sunday

7am, Early Morning Holy Communion, in the Parish Car Park and online

11am, Easter Holy Communion, in-Church and online

#### 11th April – Second Sunday of Easter

11am, Morning Prayer, in-Church and online

#### 13th April – Tuesday, 8pm, Annual Easter

Vestry, Parish Hall, and online, Zoom available (for Registered Vestry Members only)

#### 18th April – Third Sunday of Easter

11am, Morning Prayer, in-Church and online

#### 25th April – Fourth Sunday of Easter

11am, Morning Prayer, in-Church and online

#### 2nd May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

11am, Holy Communion, in-Church and online

#### 3rd May – May Day

Spring Sponsored Walk in Colebrooke Estate

## Ballybay, Clontibret & Muckno



Rector: **The Revd  
Elaine Dunne.**

The Rectory, Drumcru, Castleblaney,  
Co. Monaghan.

T: 042 9740483  
E: ballybay@clogher.anglican.org

### 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".

### Parish Lockdown Quiz!

Another successful quiz was held via "Zoom" on Saturday 13th March. Many thanks to all those who participated.

### 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:  
The Revd  
Colin McConaghie

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

T: 042 9673628

E: carrickmacross@clogher.anglican.org

## Services

At the time of writing these notes we have still no certainty as to whether or not we will be able to return to in-church worship in April.

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.

## Mothering Sunday

It wasn't possible to be together in church for Mothering Sunday so in order to mark the occasion and to spread a little cheer a plant was dropped at the doorstep of all the ladies of the parish along with our service booklet for services throughout Holy Week.

## St Patrick's Day Virtual Parade

With the annual St Patrick's Day Parade in Carrickmacross cancelled for the second year in a row the municipal council along with the Chamber of Commerce decided to host a virtual parade for 2021 with local

businesses and organisations invited to take part by submitting a video clip.

We were delighted for St Finbarr's to be asked to take part and we were able to produce a video of different voices from our church praying a prayer of St Patrick. As part of the town's celebrations the church steeple was lit up green to mark the occasion.

Thanks to all who took part in the video.

## Lent Reflections

Throughout Lent various members of our three parishes recorded daily reflections which were available on our Facebook Page each day. Using the Live Lent resource produced by the Church of England it was wonderful not only to join in the reflections and listen to the Scripture readings as we journeyed through Lent but also to re-connect with each other as we've had to



Taking part in the Lenten reflection.





Celebrating Mother's Day.

continue to stay physically apart. Thank you to everyone who took the time to record the daily reflections.

### Lent Course

While our Lent Bible Studies were certainly different this year it was great to be able to share, reflect and learn together through technology. This year we used a study entitled "There and Then" produced by Roots on the Web which reflected on the global pandemic in the context of Jesus' journey to the cross.

As we read through the passion readings we reflected upon how the themes affected people then at the time and here in the present.

Revd Colin led the series with the help of a number of people who pre-recorded various readings throughout the studies.

## Holy Week And Easter 2021

### HOLY WEEK

Throughout Holy Week we will have a service each evening at 8pm featuring guest speakers. At the moment it is likely that all services will be online only on our Facebook Page.

■ Monday – "On the Monday the tables were turned"

■ Tuesday (all age worship) – "On Tuesday they didn't like the answers"

■ Wednesday – "On the Wednesday perfume was wasted"

■ Maundy Thursday – "On the Thursday he served, they betrayed"

■ Good Friday 12 noon – "At the cross" 8pm – "On the Friday the world went dark"

### EASTER SUNDAY

Dawn Service 6am

Family worship with Holy Communion 11am (unless church buildings are re-opened, then further information will be given)

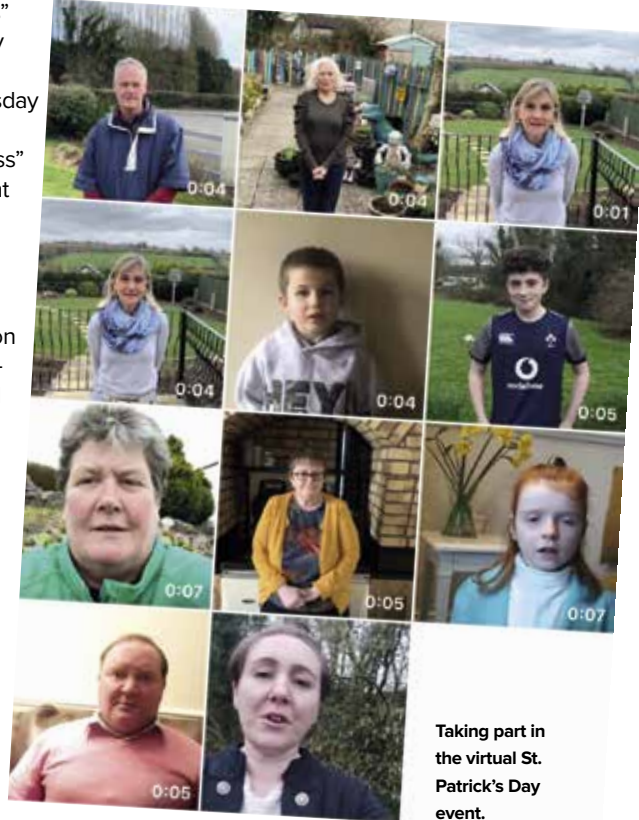
### Easter General Vestries

We hope to hold the three Easter General Vestries in person after Easter this year. While there is the option of holding the meetings online we recognise this would not be possible for our two rural churches given the lack of internet coverage.

Revd Colin will keep everyone updated as to when and how the meetings will take place.

## 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 storeroom usually after the third Sunday of each month.



Taking part in the virtual St. Patrick's Day event.

## Cleenish & Mullaghduin



Rector:  
The Revd Canon  
Geoffrey Bridle

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

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W: www.cleenishparish.weebly.com

### The Rector writes...

Today there is a need for us all to reconnect with the message of Easter. The Early Church firmly believed, taught and lived out

its belief in the Resurrection.

It is **because** of the Resurrection that the lives of the first Disciples were completely transformed. The Resurrection was central to the preaching of the Apostles. This is as true in the 21st century as it was in the first. Even the Roman and Jewish authorities could **not** deny the Resurrection despite the fact that they sought to cover it up (See *Matthew Chapter 28 & Vs. 11ff*).

The fact of the Resurrection is **impossible** to disprove. No other explanation meets the facts: the transformation of the disciples from despair to confidence and triumph: the fact that the Church was founded on the preaching of the Resurrection: the complete failure of the enemies of Christianity to explain it away or give any alternative explanation. If the Resurrection had **not** happened, it would have been easy for them to disprove it at the time. But they failed: and all their successors have **continued** to fail.

So why is the Resurrection so vital today?

### 01) It proved the Truth of Jesus' claims.

Jesus made astonishing claims for Himself. He claimed to be the Son of God, the Saviour of the World, the Way to God, the Bread of Life, the Light of the World. No mere man had a right to make these claims: but He proved His right to make them by rising from the dead. The Resurrection is the vindication of His claims.

### 2) It is the proof that good will triumph.

When Jesus Christ was nailed to the Cross evil seemed to have won its greatest victory. But that victory was short-lived, for on the third day He rose from the dead and turned defeat into triumph.

When we are tempted to despair we can turn our eyes to the empty Cross and be filled with hope for the future. By looking at the Resurrection we can live with the certainty that as good triumphed on the first Easter morning so it will triumph win the end, even though it comes to its triumph through apparent defeat.

### 3) It is the pledge of everlasting life.

There was nothing in the life of the early Christians that made a deeper impression on the pagan world than their contempt of death.

That contempt was founded on the fact of the Resurrection.

Today the Resurrection is the answer to our doubts and fears about the future life with all its uncertainty & insecurity.

**4) It means that Christ is alive for evermore.**

This is the supreme truth of Christianity. Christ is not just a teacher of righteousness who died on a Cross.

He is the living Lord Who is active, alive and powerful in the world to-day.

We all need to grasp this truth.

Only then will the Resurrection be the rock which will enable us to withstand all the storms of life.

**Revd. Canon G P Bridle**

## Arrangements for Easter Services

At the time of writing these notes, we are still adhering to Covid-19 restrictions. According to the Northern Ireland Executive website a review of the current restrictions is taking place on Tuesday 16th March. This review will determine as to whether Churches may commence in-church worship.

Accordingly, if Churches can commence in-church worship, the arrangements for the Easter Services are as follows:

- 1st April - Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 8:00 p.m. in Mullaghdund.
- 2nd April - Good Friday Service at 8:00 p.m. in Cleenish.
- Sunday 4th April - Easter Day:

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service in Mullaghdund.

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion Service in Cleenish.

However, if the Churches do not return to in-church worship, then possibly an afternoon



Children playing on the steep slope overlooking the Loughshore Path

Drive-In Service on Sunday 4th April Easter Day in Cleenish Car Park.

## Arrangements for Easter General Vestry Meetings

■ Wednesday 14th April –  
Cleenish Parish Easter General Vestry Meeting in Cleenish Hall at 8pm

■ Tuesday 27th April –  
Mullaghdund Parish Easter General Vestry Meeting in Mullaghdund Hall at 8pm.

## Bereavements

Condolences are expressed by the parishioners of Mullaghdund to Mrs Hannah Coalter whose grandmother, Jessie Alma Jean Griffin, late of Lisanelly Park, Omagh died on 19th January after a short illness.



## Bellanaleck Community Group

The Quay improvement works is the principal topic for discussion at time of writing, as this major project is moving along and expected to conclude at the end of March, in time for Easter and the beginning of the boating season.

It consists of (a) widening the existing slipway (b) construction of new quay wall, which incorporates a fixed mooring (c) new 16 berth floating mooring connected to the quay

The overall cost of the project is expected to be approximately £0.6m.

Flood damage is still causing a major concern, along part of Waterhen Lane. The Secretary has again raised his concerns with the Department for Infrastructure and has now been passed to NI Water which is in the process of CCTV surveys to determine if any leaks can be located.

Following recent cold and wet weather an email has been sent to Department for Infrastructure enquiring about the Department's policy regarding the provision of grit boxes. Remaining on the subject about recent wet weather, heavy snow fell prior to Saturday 13 February, which give an opportunity for local children to ski down a steep slope which overlooks the Loughshore Path and River Erne. (See photo).

Should any parishioner in Cleenish require assistance within the public domain in the Village area, contact Owen Wilson (Sec) or Sharon Elliott on Facebook



## Clones, Killeevan, Currin and Newbliss



Rector:  
**The Revd  
Roy Taylor**

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This past month has been yet another month of lockdown, and sadly the doors of our churches have not been able to open for public worship. Quite a few of our schoolchildren have returned to school, however, with the remainder due to return after the Easter holiday – and the vaccine programme is being rolled out slowly but surely, albeit somewhat more slowly than in the North. All this leads us to some small sense of optimism that we will be able to gather together again for worship in our own local churches in the not-too-distant future. For now, though, we know that we simply need to hold firm and focus on the light at the end of the tunnel! It's tough, of course, but the results of the next Covid-19 situation review will be announced by the Taoiseach on 5 April, and we shall just have to see where we go from there ... and keep praying for the best for our whole community.

### Services

As for church services in April, we do not know for certain what the national regulations will allow – but if public worship is permitted in church at any point in the month, our service schedule is as follows:

#### Friday 2 April

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

#### Sunday 4 April (Easter Sunday)

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

#### Sunday 11 April

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

#### Sunday 18 April

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

#### Sunday 25 April

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



### Sunday 2 May

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

### Our WhatsApp Group

Whilst our churches remain closed we continue to operate our 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. Throughout Lent the Rector has been using a programme entitled 'Live Lent' to post on the forum every evening a Bible reading, meditation, and prayer for us all to share together the following day. He has also issued a challenge to our Sunday School children to use their creativity – perhaps producing a poem, short video (under two minutes), photos, pictures, songs, etc. – to respond to the question 'What does Easter mean to us in these times?' At the time of writing (just before Mothering Sunday) he has also posted a link to recipes for simnel cake, which is a traditional cake for this 4th Sunday in Lent ... also known as Refreshment Sunday, amongst a variety of other names. Hopefully some of our local bakers (of all ages) will have a go and perhaps even post some photos of their creations – and if anyone else would like to see the recipes, just have a look on the internet at [https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/simnel\\_cake](https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/simnel_cake)

Another feature of our WhatsApp forum is a short weekly sermon from the Rector, which he posts each Saturday in order to give us a little preparation for whichever virtual services we attend on the following day. These preparatory thoughts seem to be appreciated, and for the interest of those parishioners not currently members of our forum here is the sermon for 14

February – just before we started Lent, but with a message applicable to all times of year:

*Good morning to you all, on this lovely day. As usual I want to give you a few thoughts to prepare you for tomorrow's service, at the centre of which lies an inner recognition of the true identity of Jesus. The Gospel story is from Mark 9: 2-9, and it describes how Jesus takes his 3 closest disciples (Peter, James and John) up a mountain, where he is transfigured before them .... his clothes becoming a supernatural dazzling white as he converses with the ancient biblical figures of Moses and Elijah. Subsequently a cloud comes over them, and the voice of God declares to the disciples that 'This is my own dear Son, listen to him' as the spotlight settles on Jesus alone. It's a truly remarkable story – and located as it is, right in the middle of Marks's Gospel, it forms a pivotal climax between the beginning of Jesus' ministry and its conclusion ... connecting the promises of the Law and the Prophets (represented by Moses and Elijah) with their fulfilment in Jesus, the Son of God.*

*It is also a story full of symbolism and biblical parallels – especially with the stories of Moses and Elijah, both of whom had been involved in their own day with mountain-top experiences of God. You will probably remember the story of Moses in the Book Exodus. He waited for six days on Mount Sinai with his companion, Joshua, before the voice of God called to him from the cloud to go alone and to enter into the dazzling light of God's presence ... there to stay 40 days to receive 'instruction / law' which would be part of God's covenant with His chosen people. You might remember too how, as Moses came down from the mountain*

with the second set of stone tablets, his skin was shining so brightly that he had to cover his face with a veil before his people could bear to look at him. Only in the presence of God could Moses, the bearer of God's instruction, ever be unveiled in the future – for he was like a mirror of God's presence, and in the presence of that radiance the people needed a veil to spare them ... for no-one can see the face of God and live.

Elijah too, that other figure in tomorrow's Gospel story, had also had a remarkable mountain-top experience of God in 1 Kings 19. The background to the episode is well-known. Elijah the Prophet had defeated the prophets of Baal by performing a miracle in which his prayers were answered and a bull offered in sacrifice to God was consumed miraculously by fire – whilst his 'competitor' 450 prophets of Baal had cried out prayers which their pagan god was unable to answer ... and as a result they were seized and killed. Following this killing, Jezebel (the pagan wife of King Ahab) was angry enough to want to kill Elijah ... and so he flees ... walking for 40 days (a link to Moses) until he reaches Mount Sinai. As he stays in a cave on that mountain, Elijah – who, according to the prophet Malachi, will appear again in the last days before the appearance of God's Messiah – has an experience of the presence of God as he stands before his cave ... not in the wind, not in the earthquake, not in the fire ... but in the still, small voice of calm. Two stirring stories from the Old Testament, then, both of which offer links to today's Gospel story which Mark wants us to understand ... as made clear in the

first instance by the fact that he records Moses and Elijah standing beside Jesus, talking to him. But these links and their meaning are clear in other ways too! Here are just three examples of what I mean:

- Although Mark rarely mentions timings in his Gospel, he tells us here that Jesus goes with his companions up the mountain AFTER six days ... just as Moses went into the presence of God on Mount Sinai after six days. It's a clear message that God's power and might infuse every aspect of this episode.

- The fact that Jesus' face is shining and the light dazzling whilst Moses appears unveiled next to Jesus must mean that Moses is proclaiming that he is in the presence of God himself ... for in the presence of humans, he must be veiled.

- The very presence of Elijah underlines not only that Jesus is enjoying a moment of respite with his disciples, but also that he is truly the Messiah of God ... whose appearance every Jew believed would be proclaimed by Elijah at the end of time. Moses, then, the symbol of the Law, and Elijah, the symbol of the prophets of God, both appear next to Jesus ... by their presence proclaiming him as God incarnate and the expected Messiah. But then they both disappear, leaving Jesus alone ... highlighting by their absence that they themselves are not centre stage ... for it is Jesus who is the culmination of the Law and the Prophets. He is the fulfilment of what God has been doing throughout history. He is the completion of all the promises of scripture. And to underscore this, the voice of God echoes from the clouds: 'This is my beloved Son, listen to him ... the same words of love

and affirmation as were spoken by God at Jesus' baptism.

At the time they were spoken these words would surely have affirmed and encouraged Jesus in the direction he was now to take – the direction of the cross. But they are just as much an encouragement to us today. This Jesus, they affirm, is truly our invisible God made visible. He is the one prophesied for endless ages through the scriptures. In him God's Law is proclaimed not through stone tablets but through tangible flesh and blood ... and the law he proclaims is the law of love ... a law of self-sacrificial love of God and neighbour ... a law made visible on the cross.

So look at Jesus and listen to him, says the voice of God. Look, listen, and follow his way. For there is no other way ... that's why Peter's offer of building three tabernacles for Moses, Elijah, and Jesus is brushed away in tomorrow's reading. There is only one God, one truth, and one Lord who is alone the way the truth and life ... so get up, says Jesus to us who are his disciples, and embrace that way. Embrace it with joy ... and do not be afraid! Instead, follow me with your faces aglow – and proclaim to the world with your words and with your lives that God has come unveiled into the world to save His children, as He always promised to do ... and in the process let your life be united with the life of the one who is fully Son of Man and Son of God, so that in him you may be transfigured too.

I wish you all every blessing as we come to worship tomorrow, united in prayer even if still not physically together in church.

## Colaghty



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### Services

#### 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

#### MAY

2nd - Holy Communion 11.30am  
9th - Family Service 11.30am  
16th - Morning Prayer 11.30am  
23rd - Morning Prayer 11.30am  
30th - 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. Services will**

**be posted online in the interim period.**

**Any changes to services times and dates will be notified on the notices and parish Facebook page.**

As you read these brief notes, it will be Easter, as we recall Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. In which we take encouragement that by faith and trust we have hope, into a heavenly inheritance. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Peter 1: 3 – 5



While there is clear evidence of spring all around us, of new life emerging, it is what Christ desires of us all, a new life in Him. Cleansed, forgiven, lives transformed as we believe in Him for eternal life. He wants to welcome us into that heavenly inheritance, but first we must see our need of a saviour, confess our sin, and turn to Him in faith. The past year has been a roller coaster, lockdowns, partial openings, restrictive gatherings, one that has been hard to grasp, even live with, and with each new or change of restrictions has brought a mix of reactions. Yet, in Christ, the only barrier to Him is sin, the only restrictive measures are those we put in place ourselves. The half open doors are of our making, because we are still reluctant to let Him in. Yes, life in Him will be a roller coaster, for we are not exempt from suffering, experiencing highs and lows, but in Christ we can overcome because of what He did for us on Calvary's cross. He has gained the victory over sin and death; His grace is sufficient. Let the message of Easter, speak into your life today that you may know Christ as Lord and Saviour of your life.

*"Thine be the glory Risen conquering Son  
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won."*

### Mental Health

We would express again our appreciation to Revd Charlie Eames for organising and Conor McCafferty the speaker over both nights. Both evening zoom sessions were



informative and offered encouragement to everyone.

### Easter General Vestry

Regrettably, at the time of submitting the notes, we cannot give a clear date for the Easter General Vestry. The previous date set for 24th March 2021 at 8.00pm in the parish hall could not take place as restrictions were still in place. The presentation of the parish accounts and the election of the Select Vestry for 2021/22 will take place at this meeting, when a date for holding is known. A good attendance is encouraged

but only those registered will be entitled to vote (subject to Covid-19 restrictions).

### Parish Auction

We are at the time of writing unable to confirm if this can go ahead on Saturday 1st May 2021. It is likely that restrictions will still be in place. (subject to Covid-19 restrictions)

***Please continue to check the parish Facebook for updates, regarding the above and of the other activities, groups that would meet throughout the year for changes.***

## Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale



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### Worship

At the time of writing we are unable to say what form weekly worship will take but we hope and pray that we are able to resume in-church services in the very near future. Notice will be given on the Facebook page @rectorDVNandCA once any details are announced.

Even when public worship may resume we can, I feel, be quite certain that we will have to live with some level of restriction in terms of numbers and social distancing for some time yet. As long as such restrictions are in place the Rector will continue to offer a weekly online act of worship.

Over recent weeks it has been wonderful to have readers, musicians and singers from our parishes being happy to be videoed for inclusion in the online worship. This is all much appreciated.

### Easter

This important and significant time of year has come around again and the message of the season is so applicable

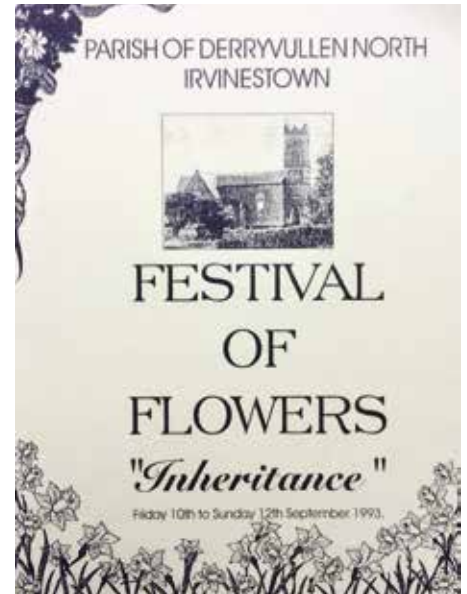
to the times are going through. The first Easter affirmed that life and hope could not be kept down by death and suffering and that, in and through Christ, God would have the last word. These past twelve months have been trying times for many – there have been worries about health, about family finances and work, about mental well being and isolation, about the loss of loved ones. Into all of this though comes the message of Easter that worry, pain and suffering are not the end of the story. The transforming love of God, so evident in the empty cross and stone rolled away, still reaches into our pain and worry to bring here too the healing power of divine love.

### Calculating the date of Easter

In 325 AD, the Church Council held in Nicaea, which agreed upon the basic principles of Christianity, established a formula for the date of Easter as the Sunday following the paschal full moon, which is the full moon that falls on or after the spring equinox. In practice,



Memories of the 1993 Flower Festival.



that means that Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon that falls on or after March 21. Easter can occur as early as March 22 and as late as April 25, depending on when the paschal full moon occurs.

The Council of Nicaea decided that Easter

must always occur on a Sunday because Sunday was the day on which Christ rose from the dead. The paschal full moon is used to determine the date of Easter because this Aramaic word "paschal" meaning "pass over," reminds us that Jesus was crucified at the time of the

ancient Feast of Passover.

In the Jewish calendar, the Feast of Passover fell on the date of the paschal full moon. Jesus Christ was of course Jewish and his Last Supper with his disciples was a Passover Seder. It is now called Holy Thursday by us as Christians and is the Thursday immediately before Easter Sunday. Therefore, the very first Easter Sunday was the Sunday after Passover.

The Feast of Passover celebrates the freedom of the Israelites from an earthly slavery while the Festival of Easter celebrates a spiritual and eternal freedom through Christ established in the cross and resurrection.

### Easter Vestry Meetings

The meetings of our Annual General Easter Vestries are arranged for Monday 19th April 7.30pm (Derrvullen North) and for Tuesday 20th April (Castle Archdale). As was the case with the meetings for 2020 these will be very limited in number due to the required social distancing.

### Women's World Day of Prayer

The local celebration of the World Day of Prayer was due to be held this year in Irvinestown Methodist Church on Friday 5th March but had to be cancelled owing to coronavirus restrictions and instead, the Women of Vanuatu (a cluster of islands in the south western Pacific Ocean) prepared a worship service online – this was shared online and viewed by many. We did miss our local in-Church Service though as it is always a most enjoyable time. Last year it was held in the Sacred Heart Church in Irvinestown (Roman Catholic) and we look forward, God willing, to meeting together again next year. This most positive inter-church



The Derrvullen North choir rehearsing for online worship.



Bobby Beacom reading for online worship in Castle Archdale.

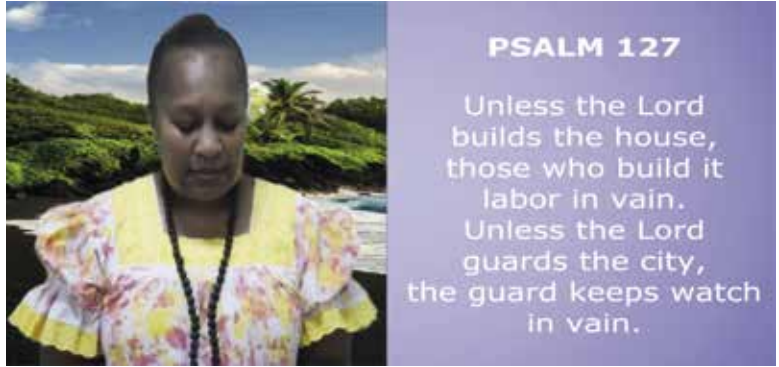


event is organised locally by the following committee and we are grateful for all they do:

Sally Magee and Mary Blake (Roman Catholic)  
Marion Henderson and Ruth Morrow (Methodist)  
Florence Wray and Olivia McKee (Presbyterian)  
Carol Clarke, Dr Margaret and Lorraine Thompson (Church of Ireland)

### Flower Festival

We recently shared a collection of photographs online that were of a Flower Festival held in Derryvullen North in 1993. These brought back a lot of memories for many people and some of them have been included with these notes.



The leaflet for the Women's World Day of Prayer

## Devenish & Boho



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### Services for April if Covid restrictions allow.

#### Sunday 4th Easter Day

10.00 am Holy Communion, Boho Parish Church

11.30am Holy Communion, Devenish Parish Church

#### Sunday 11th April

10.00 am Morning Prayer, Boho Parish Church

11.30am Morning Prayer, Devenish Parish Church

#### Sunday 18th April

10.00am Morning Prayer, Boho Parish Church

11.30am Holy Communion, Devenish Parish Church

#### Sunday 25th April

10.00am Morning Prayer, Boho Parish Church

11.30am Morning Prayer, Devenish Parish Church

### Our Help Comes from God

Dear Brothers and Sisters as we all know, there isn't much going on around the parish and within the community to report apart from the issue of Coronavirus and the ongoing jab for its prevention. I hope

that everybody will be vaccinated as soon as possible. So far, the news around it has been positive, and that gives hope for a better future.

Frankly speaking, I think it has not been easy for everyone, but we thank God for His help. Each time I open Psalm 124, I imagine what David and his people, the Israelites went through that he had to call on them to recognise that their help was in God alone. His words really show that their situation was the type that no one could do anything to help apart from God. He emphasised that it wasn't just that God was present, but that He was vigorously working on their behalf. What comes to your mind when you hear such words as, "If the Lord had not been on our side- let Israel say-" (Psalm 124:1)? This is what David said. A terrible situation might have triggered such statement. This claim can be justified by the subsequent verses: "If the Lord had not been on our side when people attacked us, they would have swallowed us alive when their anger flared against us; the flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us, the raging waters would have swept us away" (verses 2- 5).

Looking at what verses 2-5 say, we can see that they were in a very big trouble, about to be completely decimated. So, if God had not, in a very special way, supported and defended them, they would have all been swallowed up alive, and destroyed without

any survival by their enemies or natural calamity.

Such was the situation of the present generation when the news about Coronavirus broke out. It was even worst when it started killing in thousands. People's hearts melted when the feeling of hopelessness became obvious. So, with what has happened and still happening, we can also join David to say, "If the Lord had not been on our side...".

It is true that many have gone as a result, but for the fact that majority of the world's population is still alive, it is worth giving thanks and praise to God for His mercies over us. David recognised God's mercy towards them and he praised God: Praise be to the Lord, who has not let us be torn by their teeth" (Verse 6). We too should join him and say, praise be to the Lord, who has not let us be torn by Coronavirus. And also proclaim that, "Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth" (Verse 8).

Everything God does will endure forever (Ecclesiastes 3:14), so I believe that His help will continue for ever and ever. We shall continue in our walk with Him, especially this period of Lent which will end in praise on Easter Day. So, I encourage us to keep the faith alive and pray always. May God help us in all we do.

***With continuing Easter Blessings.  
Reverend Sampson Ajuka.***



## Donagh & Tyholland with Errigal Truagh

Chancellor **Ian Berry** is in charge.

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

### Sympathy

It was with sadness that we learnt of the death of Mrs Lyla Steele of Errigal Glebe who recently passed away, peacefully, at home surrounded by her loving family. Mrs Steele and her late husband, Ronnie founded Silverhill Foods, Emyvale and both retained a great interest in the business even in their latter years. Every October Mrs Steele would provide a hamper of Silverhill duckling for the Harvest Thanksgiving in Errigal Truagh - a treat the visiting ministers always enjoyed afterwards.

We extend our deepest sympathy to her son, Stuart and daughters; Christina, Orla and Fenella.

### Grant

We are delighted to receive a grant offer of 25,000 Euros from the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund towards the provision of a Sunday School room for the Donagh Group Sunday School and a wheelchair accessible toilet extension in St. Salvator's Church in Glaslough. The gallery has been very sympathetically converted into a Sunday school Room and a ground floor extension will house the wheelchair accessible toilet. Unfortunately our building work had to pause at Christmas due to government regulations but we are looking forward to

getting started again soon. The drainage for the toilet has been laid and we hope to have the project completed within a month of the builders recommencing the work. This grant from the Priorities Fund will help us modernise facilities for the Donagh Group Sunday School, make it easier to comply with Health and Safety and Safeguarding Trust regulations and help attract more young families going into the future.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Priorities Fund committee for this grant which has been an answer to prayer as we face going into a second year of not being able to fundraise due to Covid.



## Dromore



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### Perfect Dwelling

An aging Harry Rimmer wrote the following letter to his friend Dr Charles Fuller:

*I believe you're going to speak about heaven next Sunday. I'm interested in that land because I've held a clear title to a bit of property there for about 50 years. I didn't buy it, it was given to me without price, but the Donor purchased it for me at a tremendous sacrifice. I'm not holding it for speculation, it's not a vacant lot. For over half a century I've been sending materials up to the greatest Architect in the universe, who's been building a home for me, which will never need re-*

*modelling, because it'll suit me perfectly and will never grow old. Termites can never undermine its foundations, for it rests on the Rock of Ages; fire can't destroy it, floods can't wash it away; no bolts will ever be placed upon the doors, for no vicious person will ever enter the land where my dwelling stands.*

*It's almost completed and almost ready for me to enter in and abide in peace eternally without fear of being ejected. There's a valley of deep shadow between this place where I live and that to which I shall journey in a short time. I can't reach my home in that City without passing through this valley. But I'm not afraid*



*because the best friend I ever had went through the same valley long long ago and drove away all its gloom. He's stuck with me through thick and thin since we first became acquainted 55 years ago. And I own his promise in printed form, never to forsake me or leave me alone. He will be with me as I walk through the valley of the shadow. And I'll not lose my way when he's with me.*

*My ticket to Heaven has no date marked for the journey; no return coupon; no permit for baggage. I'm ready to go and I may not be here when you're talking next Sunday evening but I'll meet you there some day.*

Harry Rimmer died before the following Sunday.  
(*'More Than Conquerors'*, by Simon Guillebaud, Monarch Books, Page 105)

When we trust in what he accomplished and believe his statement "It is finished" we should out of gratitude live for him alone. Living for him also means that we have to be ready to die for him too, knowing that death is not something to be feared. It is simply the route to our Perfect Dwelling.

## **Sunday Services (April)**

### **4th April**

11.00am HC2, "I have seen the Lord!" (John 20:1-18)

### **11th April**

11.00am S o W, 'The Lord's Prayer (1)' (Matthew 6:5-10)

### **18th April**

11.00am S o W, 'The Lord's Prayer (2)' (Matthew 6:11-12, 14-15; Luke 11:9-13)

### **25th April**

11.00am S o W, 'The Lord's Prayer (3)' (Matthew 6:13; 2 Thessalonians 3:2-3)

## **Midweek Services (April)**

### **7th April**

8.30pm S o W, 'Fruit that will last' (John 15:1-17)

### **14th April**

8.30pm S o W, 'Jesus prays for all believers' (John 17:20-26)

### **21st April**

8.30pm HC2, 'Why Jesus was sent' (Luke 4:38-44)

### **28th April**

8.30pm S o W, 'Love your enemies' (Luke 6:27-38)

S o W – Service of the Word

HC2 – Holy Communion 2

## **Services**

One year on from our first online service (22nd March 2020) we have more than

110 videos of services on Facebook and YouTube.

We continue to offer two services each week – one on the Sunday at 11.00am and a Midweek Service on Wednesday at 8.30pm, which we hope will be open to 'In-Church Worship' from Easter Sunday. 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). Can we encourage you to choose a service to attend for 'In-Church Worship' and then you can always attend the other service virtually.

For those attending virtually using Facebook, try to come on at the beginning of the countdown timer (10.50am on Sundays and 8.20pm on Wednesdays) and use the time before the service to say hello to others.

Also, please like (put thumbs up, hearts, etc.) during the service as this will promote the services to others to watch (as it raises the video's level of engagement).

Remember that you can press the thumbs up and heart buttons more than once during a service too.

## **YouTube Channel**

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

We have now more than 100 subscribers on our YouTube Channel (an increase of 10 in the last month), which is a great milestone. Can we encourage all those who are watching videos on our Channel to subscribe, as more than 88% of views are by non-subscribers. When you subscribe, you will 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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When you read these words it will be almost Easter and it was with delight that I read the email that advised that we are permitted to re-open our church buildings in Northern Ireland for public worship. This means some changes to what was previously circulated and the details of this can be found at the end of this article.

As I sat and thought about what I wanted to say I looked at the readings for Easter and I would like to highlight some words from 1 Corinthians 15.

*Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.*

*For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.*

I would suggest that these words of Paul to the church at Corinth give us a summary of what we are celebrating at this time of year. We are celebrating good news and that good news is the foundation that our lives should be built upon.

Paul tells us that this good news will save us and all we need to do is to hold firm to the message that we have received. This message is simple – Christ died for our sins, he was buried, on the third day he rose from the dead and then appeared to Peter and to the twelve.

Yet in 2021 we have managed to take that simple message and make it complicated. So I want to suggest that as we move forward in faith, we do so in a way that goes back to basics and that we rediscover that childlike faith that Jesus tells us we need to have to enter the kingdom of heaven. I want to highlight two short passages of scripture that I have thought about over the past two weeks.

The first is also from 1 Corinthians, *the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

The second is from John 3, *God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.*

The reason that I mention these two portions of scripture is that they remind us that we believe in something that many people in the world do not believe in which will mean that we may face opposition on occasion.

We should not despair because we have a treasure in heaven that this world cannot take from us and we know that as children of God we will inherit the prize that is promised.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful Easter and that you know the peace that faith in Jesus Christ brings.

## Diary

- Thursday 1 April Holy Communion 7pm Templecarne (online)
- Friday 2 April Service for Good Friday 7pm Tubrid (online)
- Sunday 4 April Holy Communion 10.00 Muckross and 11.30 Tubrid
- Sunday 11 April Morning Prayer 10.00 Muckross, Morning Prayer 11.30 Tubrid
- Sunday 18 April Morning Prayer 10.00 Muckross, Morning Prayer 11.30 Tubrid,
- Sunday 25 April Morning Prayer 10.00 Muckross, Morning Prayer 11.30 Tubrid

As I have said we have been told that public worship can resume in Northern Ireland and as a result I will not be alone on Easter Sunday for the second year running. Please note that the services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will be online.

At this stage there is no indication of any change to the regulations in the Republic of Ireland and I would imagine it is unlikely that these will change in the near future. As such the services due to be held in Templecarne for April will be in Muckross and this will continue until the restrictions in the Republic are relaxed.

Any changes will be communicated via the group Facebook page.

It is also the time of year for General Easter Vestry Meetings, and these will be arranged as soon as restrictions allow.





## Ematris with Rockcorry, Aghabog, Aughnamullen and Drum

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

Chancellor Ian Berry is in charge.

### Dartrey and Rockcorry

#### Congratulations

Congratulations to Alan and Lynne Fannin on the birth of a baby girl called Ruby - a sister for Rachel and a tenth welcome grandchild for Jim and Marion Fannin.

#### Covid -19

Exactly a year ago the global pandemic, Covid-19, reached our shores. The new realities forced upon us by this worldwide pandemic will never be forgotten as this lockdown shows no signs of ending soon.



We send greetings to all our parishioners. We pray that those who are ill recover quickly. We pray that those who are stressed by overwork or worry may be comforted. We pray that all others may stay safe and well in body, mind and spirit. The constancy and reliability of the Almighty is a wonderful anchor in times of uncertainty.

"As long as the earth remaineth, Springtime and Harvest will not fail." As we embrace these longer days it is good to know that even though we cannot see each other we can still remember one another in our thoughts and prayers. Foremost in our thoughts and prayers we remember the bereaved.

## Enniskillen Cathedral



Rector:  
**The Dean,  
The Very  
Revd Canon  
Kenneth Hall**  
St Macartin's  
Deanery,  
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Mrs Beth Rennick  
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### April Services

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

11.00am – Holy Communion

#### Thursday 8th April

11.00am – Holy Communion

#### Sunday 11th April – The Second Sunday of Easter

11.00am – Morning Prayer

#### Thursday 15th April

11.00am – Holy Communion

#### Sunday 18th April The Third Sunday of Easter

11.00am – Morning Prayer

#### Thursday 22nd April

11.00am – Holy Communion

#### Sunday 25th April The Fourth Sunday of Easter

11.00am – Morning Prayer

#### Thursday 29th April

11.00am – Holy Communion

### Christian Burial

■ 3rd March - James Kerr (Jim), 17 Mullaghmeen Road, Enniskillen.

■ 19th March - Beatrice Georgina Kenny, 48 Loane Drive, Enniskillen.

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."* Matthew 5:4

### Thank you Will Stevenson DPA

In 2005 the Diocese recruited individuals, and after an appropriate period of training over several months, Diocesan Pastoral Assistants (DPAs) commenced work after being commissioned by the then Bishop Michael Jackson (now Archbishop of Dublin).



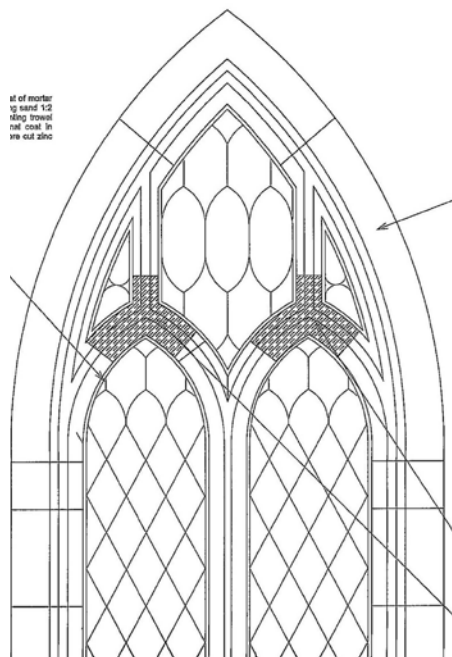
Will Stevenson who is retiring at Diocesan Pastoral Assistant.

Will Stevenson was one of that group and began serving in Dromore, Drumkeeran and Devenish and Boho Parishes. He moved here during the vacancy in Enniskillen Cathedral (2008-2010) and then moved to Donacavey and Barr and back to Dromore. The Dean then sought Will, and he was

reassigned to Enniskillen Cathedral in June 2011 and has been here for the past 10 years! It is with great sadness that we now announce his retirement. Will feels it is time to take things easier and spend time with his family. He has been married to Pat for over 55 years and they have two children and five grandchildren. His son Trevor, daughter-in-law Sylvia and grandchildren Sophie and James are members of our Cathedral. Will was exceptionally well received in all homes in the parish and his presence will be greatly missed. He was an immense help to the Dean and worked quietly in a very supportive role, treating all aspects of his pastoral care with absolute respect and total confidentiality, feeding back all the necessary information to the Dean. His compassion and kindness towards others were an inspiration to all the clergy he served alongside. The Dean would like to take this opportunity to express his thanks and appreciation for a job well done. Thank you so much Will for your labour of love and your willingness to use your gifts and abilities which has strengthened the mission and ministry of St Macartin's. You have also been an example of servant-leadership and giving. For all your time, effort, hard work, and prayers, please accept the thanks and appreciation of the The Dean, The Select Vestry, and parishioners of this Cathedral Church. You have truly been a blessing to this Cathedral Parish and may God bless you in the years ahead.

### Cathedral Restoration Project

Plans for the work to be undertaken in restoring the cathedral roof and stonework are progressing satisfactorily. Specifications for the work to be undertaken have been prepared and tender documents have been



Specialist work needed on some of the Cathedral stained glass windows.

issued to six contractors who had expressed interest in the work. Contractors have been asked to submit their tenders to McCollum Conservation who, within one week, should make a recommendation regarding the appointment of a contractor to the Select Vestry. If what has been recommended to the select Vestry is acceptable, the contractor will be appointed and should then be in a position to undertake the work. Whilst the contractor appointed will undertake most of the work the firm will be required to employ specialists for the lead work and stone restoration.

Stone restoration will involve work on the east window where two sections of the

stonework surrounding the stained glass window will need to be replaced. The attached diagram shows where the work is required.

Some of the stone pinnacles require total or partial rebuilding. Originally the stonework was secured using iron pins or dowels. When the iron rusts it swells and impacts adversely on the stone structure. When the stones are being rebuilt stainless steel dowels will be used which will protect the stonework.

### Messy Church @ Home

Our first Messy Church of 2021 took inspiration from Psalm 46 v.10:

*“Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.”*

In February, we entered the period of Lent - a period intended for preparation before Easter. Lent can also be a time to reflect, contemplate and pray, and this month we wanted to encourage our young people to stop and ‘Be Still’ with God. Our activities this month focused on ‘looking around’ with nature bingo encouraging us to be still in God’s creation, ‘looking in’ and making paper chains to celebrate our loved ones, and ‘looking out’ to create prayer collages for our communities and neighbours.

Messy Church is a great opportunity for children to learn about God and the Bible in a relaxed and creative atmosphere. It is a FREE group open to all primary-aged children of all denominations held on the third Thursday of each month. It’s never too late to join, just make sure you register (see our ‘How Can I Get Involved?’ section).

Our Messy Church @ Home dates are:

- Messy Church Dates 2021 - 15th April
- Pack Pick-Up Date (4-5pm) - 12th April



Mothers' Union members making garments.





## Sunday Lights + Cafe @ Enniskillen Cathedral

Sunday Lights + Cafe allows our children to spend time together learning about the Bible, listening to stories about Jesus and His life, singing songs and participating in crafts and games. Sunday Lights is open to anyone in P1-5 and Sunday Cafe welcomes children in P6-Year 8.

Since the New Year, we have been learning about Jesus' life on Earth. We have enjoyed learning about the different miracles Jesus performed and the parables He told. All of our sessions are currently online and can be found on our Google Drive to complete at your own pace. Each session contains a Bible passage, a YouTube video link, some discussion questions for you and your family, an interactive activity idea and short lesson as well as some additional resources.

Everyone is welcome on Sunday 18th and 25th April and we always love to see new faces! All children must register to participate in Sunday Lights + Café (see our 'How Can I Get Involved?' section).

Our Google Drive can be found at the following link (this can also be found on our social media pages): <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nDxZoBQus757nWwnLT0g5aNtLLpw5fXC?usp=sharing>.

For more information, or updates on all things Children and Youth @ Enniskillen Cathedral, please visit our social media pages or email us at: [childrenandyouth@enniskillencathedral.com](mailto:childrenandyouth@enniskillencathedral.com).

## Xplore and Confirmation

We are looking forward to holding Xplore and Confirmation classes again once regulations permit. Until then, please make sure all candidates and participants are registered so that we can begin meeting as soon as possible. See our 'How Can I Get Involved?' section for details on how to register.

How Can I Get Involved?

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

- On our social media pages and Google Drive
- On the Enniskillen Cathedral website
- From [childrenandyouth@enniskillencathedral.com](mailto:childrenandyouth@enniskillencathedral.com)
- From the Cathedral Office

## Mothers' Union

In January our Diocesan Secretary, Liane, advised us of grants that were available from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council for COVID-19 aid. The funding had to focus on one of three areas; we focused



Messy Church.

on 'Connectivity Need'. The application was based on members of our MU branch who undertake knitting and sewing for our hospital and local nursing homes. Every month our members knit hats, cardigans, blankets, trauma teddies and make incubator mattresses, which all go to The Neo-Natal and Maternity Wards in SWAH. In addition to this, they knit twiddle muffs and knee blankets for our local nursing homes. We were delighted to receive £1,000 which will now enable us to purchase all the necessary supplies to keep these activities going and to continue to provide support for

our hospital and local nursing homes.

A huge thank you to all those talented ladies involved in this community project.

A footnote from the Dean –

A huge thank you to our Branch Leader, Mrs Jenifer Johnston for applying for the grant!

## Prayer

God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose arms stretched wide on the cross to embrace us, by your spirit stretch us to welcome and embrace others more freely in our parish, our community and our land. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.



## Fivemiletown (including Kiltermon)



Rector:  
**Revd Precentor  
Kyle Hanlon**

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

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

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

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

### Link with us

For all of the online ministries for adults, parishioners and friends of the parish are very welcome to request the online link for Zoom through the parish office: send an email request to fivemiletownparish2@gmail.com or telephone the parish office between 10am -3pm on Wednesday or Friday.

### Lead, Kindly Light

'Lead, Kindly Light ... Your feet beside my own on the Way.'

*Audrey Assad*

It's great to receive encouragements.

This week I mention three.

The first is a small grey envelope with my name and address handwritten which greeted me from the front door mat. On opening it was a delightfully bright card which included the loveliest words of encouragement and appreciation from a parishioner who has been listening to the online services we have made available during this last year. I was quietly gob-smacked.

Sadly, handwritten to me sometimes means complaining and unkind. This was very far removed, and even thanked me for the sermons.

Who knew someone was listening?

That of course is the problem with online ministry, it becomes an offering sent into the



wherever, and the harder part is to quietly accept that it was simply that, an offering.

A former rector of mine would have excelled in this digital age because he wisely refused to comment on the sermons I offered. His view was that it was offered, and that should be enough.

Indeed. And thank-you for the Thank You.

Another was a thrown away remark from a colleague. They ably quoted the lyric from the hymn setting of a poem by Christian priest George Herbert. 'God In All Things.' Teach me, my God and King, in all things Thee to see, and what I do in anything, to do it as for Thee.'

I was greatly struck by Herbert's sense that God could be in all things and was with us; even through the mundane and domestic tasks that often characterize our daily life. 'Teach me, my God and king, in all things, Thee to see.'

It has encouraged me to look for encouragements from God, even in the daily toil; those thankless jobs, the peeling of potatoes for the family meal, the loading and unloading of the dishwasher, the making of beds, the hanging out of laundry. God is able to be with me in those things, even as I learn to do them as a gift for the family. Usually. Sometimes I'm not so thoughtful, more hurried and frazzled perhaps.

And thirdly is a commanding lyric set into an album of Christian worship suggested to me by a friend in the faith. Audrey Assad's music is delightful. The lyrics of Lead, Kindly Light are a modern rendition of former Anglican John Henry Newman's traditional hymn. I stumbled across it listening to another track, and Assad's setting of it is remarkable. It is described by someone in a U Tube comment in this way:

'This song is like walking through pristine snow at sunrise. Exquisite.' Indeed.

'Lead, kindly Light, amidst the grey and gloom

The night is long and I am far from home  
Here in the dark, I do not ask to see  
The path ahead-one step enough for me  
Lead on, lead on, kindly Light.'

I was not ever willing to be led  
I could have stayed, but I ran instead In spite of fear,  
I followed my pride My eyes could see,  
but my heart was blind  
Lead on, lead on, kindly Light.

And in the night, when I was afraid  
Your feet beside my own on the way  
Each stumbling step where other men have trod  
Shortens the road leading home to my God  
Lead on, lead on, My God,  
My God, Lead on, lead on, Kindly Light.'

Do listen to Audrey Assad's setting. You won't be disappointed. The music is light and winsome, but I'm drawn not only to the reminder of all who have trod the way before us, but especially to the reminder that Jesus, the Kindly Light as Newman refers to Him, is willing to place His feet beside ours, as we follow the Way.

His Kindly Light is all the assurance we need in this life as we journey home.

*Kind regards in Jesus,  
Precentor Hanlon.*

### Dates For Your Diary

*'Discipleship is the ongoing decision to shape your life in the Way of Jesus.'*

■ 4 Discipleship Evenings @ 8.15pm  
Thursday 22 April, Thursday 5 May,  
Tuesday 1 June, Tuesday 22 June.

Our guest encouragers include Claire Holmes, formerly a SAMS mission partner who served for twenty three years in Paraguay; Kate Doherty, former Head





Mistress of the Collegiate Grammar School, and someone who holds a committed interest in the work of Operation Rescue, and Rev'd John Rutter, formerly Rector of Crumlin and Glenavy, and one time senior Curate colleague of mine in Bangor Parish. All three are great encouragers and we are very pleased at their willingness to share their time with us.

This series of online evenings is planned to help us in this season as we consider our discipleship.

Put simply, discipleship is the ongoing decision to shape your life in the Way of Jesus. Do join us by requesting the zoom link from the parish office.



## Arts and Craft Evening 'God In All Things.'

Monies raised for SmileTrain cleft palate charity:

**A £5 donation is suggested.**

**How did you use your gifts during lockdown?**

God willing, and Arts and Crafts Evening is planned for 8pm on Wednesday 12th April, online.

You're very welcome to join us as we share handcraft successes and failures (?). Guest speakers include Beverley Weir with watercolours and a recent children's book, Mamie Alexander on the renewed interest in arranging with dried flowers, and Michele Magee and guest from Knit Pray Love prayers and sewing ministry with some new knitted children's toys. Other pop-up speakers are invited; if you have something you would like to share, let us know.

## Sunday School, Church Lads Brigade and GFS continue to meet successfully online

There is a full report from GFS below. Also, Church Lads are meeting as two age based groups, with important input from Victoria Jackson, Company Captain, and leaders from the Company locally.

Sunday School met again on Sunday 21st

March. Packs of craft ideas, quizzes, Bible stories and worksheets were hand delivered to 53 households, along with a flower for Mothering Sunday and an easter egg. We are amazed and delighted to know that 100 children and young people have registered for this ministry; and we are deeply appreciative that leaders across children's and young peoples' ministry are trying to continue their work in these very changed times.

## The Lent Project 'Who Did Jesus Meet?'

is displayed each week in a shop window on Main Street, and Sunday School will contribute to the Easter service with recorded prayers and Bible Readings. Thank you. Plans are also in [place to relaunch the Design a Logo for Sunday School Competition. Details to follow after Easter.



## HOLY WEEK and EASTER

**Church Service for Good Friday and Easter**  
God willing, we hope to open the Parish Hall and St John's Church for worship on Good Friday and Easter Day.

**Palm Sunday 7pm Quiet Evening** at the beginning of Holy Week  
Request the zoom link from the parish office. A quieter time of worship, prayer and Biblical reflection.

**Wednesday in Holy Week: 8pm Prayer, music and readings for Holy Week.**

Request link from the parish office.  
**GOOD FRIDAY** 8pm Service in the Parish Hall

**Easter Sunday** 11am Holy Communion at St John's Church.  
11am Sunday Service in St John's thereafter.

**Holy Baptisms** will take place after Easter D.V.. Baptism usually take place within the worshipping life of the Church. However, until restrictions are eased, up to eight people may attend a midweek Baptism. Dates to be confirmed with families.

## Weddings

Six couples are preparing for marriage.

Please pray for them and their families.

## Pastoral Care

This continues to take place by phone, and online. Canon Robinson and the Rector are in contact with those aged 70 years+. The Rector is phoning the parish by districts, and Mrs Elvina Funston is helping with the pastoral care of some other parishioners. Mrs Hilary Kenny is in contact with new-parents. This work is greatly appreciated. Hopefully visiting outside in gardens will be possible soon after Easter.



The parish continues to support the work of the Leprosy Mission, through the encouragement of Mrs. Sheila Burke. Collection boxes are available from her. Also, used stamps are still being collected. These may be bagged and left in a sealed box at the Parish Hall on a Wednesday only. This will be isolated for 72 hours before sending on.

Please find below one or two reports from the parish's organisations and ministries which were prepared for the Annual Pastoral Report. I hope reading them is an encouragement to you.

## Fivemiletown Girls Friendly Society

It does not seem like a year ago from I sat down and prepared this report for the parish, but it is and since last March a lot of things have changed within our lives – Covid-19 has affected everything and everyone. It has been the simplest things in our lives that it has affect most – going to church, school, or work, going to visit our families, going on a day trip with family or friends, meeting friends in the park or going for coffee. All of these things we took for granted and we never really thought about any of it – we just got up and went on with our lives. The "Stay Home, Stay Safe" message was to protect us all from the virus, but it has been a hard thing to do for many people – we have all felt isolated, lonely, and confused by all the messages and news reports. But the one thing that has not changed over the year is that GOD LOVES US – He is our strength and a helping hand in times of trouble, He is always there for us – we just have to talk to him about our worries and concerns. Last March when the branch closed very quickly due to the pandemic, we wanted to

encourage the girls to pray, so we sent out a "Praying Hands Craft" to the girls – a simple craft but it was one way of making the girls think about talking to God and encourage the girls to praise God, be thankful, to say sorry, to ask God for help and to pray for others. It was great to see all the Hands coming back into the Branch.

Normally at our Parent's Evening we give a donation towards a Charity – this year we were unable to host our Parent's Evening, but we did give a donation of £250 to the Fivemiletown Coronavirus Response Group, this group have helped so many people in the community in different ways.

From September, we have been running our branch remotely keeping contact with our girls and maintain the 3 F's of GFS – Fellowship, Friendship, and Fun. We also have been trying to make it as interesting and as easy as possible for the girls and their parents. From September to December, we sent out packs to the girls which included the Bible Study Programme, the Home Makers Badge, simple crafts, and some cookery. We also had a Colouring Competition for Remembrance Day and the girls did not disappoint us – the artwork was brilliant, and some of these were displayed in the Royal British Legion and for every entry we received we give a donation to the Poppy Appeal.

We started back at the end of January with our packs again and we have decided to do the PE Badge with the girls which we have adapted so that the girls can do it at home – no writing involved but plenty of fun activities for outside.

We want to thank the girls for their work this year, as you can see from our notes they have been working as hard at home as if they had been in the hall with us and the



I'm just a little Prayer Bear,  
I'll sit upon your bed  
It's my job to remind you  
When your prayers should be said.

When you put me on your pillow  
As you make your bed each day  
Remember as you hold me,  
To take the time to pray.

Then when you go to bed at night  
And put me on the floor,  
Remember to take the time to kneel  
And say your prayers once more.

majority of them have sent back their Bible & Home Maker Badge worksheets and pictures of their handcrafts and cookery and for this we are grateful to their parents for their help, as we appreciated there is plenty of schoolwork to be completed at home too. The girls recently received their Diocesan & All-Ireland Certificates for their Bible Study and Handcraft for 2019-2020 along with a Prayer Bear and a poem from the branch, this little bear is to remind the girls to talk to God every day.

We are in the process of setting up a Facebook page (which will be a closed group) to display the girls work throughout the year and we are thinking of a different way to end our year!  
**Stay safe and God Bless, Pearl**

### Knit, Pray, Love

Knit, Pray, Love is a prayer and charity knitting group that meets on the last Wednesday of each month from 10.30am to 12 noon in Coffee House 95 in Fivemiletown.



During our winter break I was invited along to CONNECT to hear about their upcoming weekend away in Newcastle and to hand over an array of hand knit hats for their 'Bless The Town' Project and in February I was asked to share what we do with the ladies of the Mothers Union.

The first meeting of Knit Pray Love was on the 26th February when we were welcomed by Keith and his staff at Coffee House 95. After our opening prayer we enjoyed lots of catching up with each other over a cup of coffee and a scone. We were joined by Precentor Hanlon and Judith Anderson too and Yvonne Cunningham called in to thank everyone for the hats given to CONNECT for their project in Newcastle earlier this month. We discussed our continued aim of knitting with love and with prayer, especially in the quietness of our homes (we had no idea how even more important this would become) and our first project for 2020, small baby items for the Neonatal Unit at Craigavon Area Hospital. With the rhythm of our needles we pray. We pray for the person who will receive a handmade item, their

family and those involved in their care. As it turned out this was our first and last meeting together in person as the global Coronavirus pandemic spread and lockdown measures were introduced. In early March preparations were well underway for our major project of 2020, 'Bless Fivemiletown Together' Dishcloth Project. A cotton cloth for every home, to be made with love and to be stitched in prayer, and to be added to the potatoes and literature gifts that members of Men's Ministry would distribute during Advent in December. Dishcloth Project packs were ready early and given to the ladies attending St John's church on Sunday 15th March. Each containing five balls of cotton yarn, a dishcloth pattern, contact information and comforting words from Jesus:

**'PEACE I leave with you**

**My PEACE I give you**

**Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.'**

**John 14:27**

This was the last service to take place in either church for many months. The remaining packs were delivered to the homes of all the other ladies later that week. And so, going forward we would keep in contact by phone calls, text messages and emails. Each month a delivery of cotton yarn was made to every lady's doorstep, along with a card or bookmark with some encouraging words. It was great to chat at a distance, listen to each other's worries and concerns, and to keep each other encouraged and hopeful, and looking forward... And even though we could not physically meet together as a group we were certainly together in spirit and love, working as one on the same project. In May we welcomed Phyllis Clarke who enthusiastically joined us with knitting needles and crochet hooks at the ready!

On numerous occasions different ladies commented throughout the year that they were so grateful for these simple squares and that this project could not have come at a better time! Continuing to give thanks for the gift of our hands. So thankful for the benefits of knitting, not only physically and mentally, but also psychologically and spiritually. We did however miss the social benefits of getting together, something none of us will ever take for granted again. And thankful too for our homes and gardens, for our families and friends, for those providing essential and emergency services, for farmers and food producers, delivery and retail personnel, and for those people who showed us kindness throughout this year. We celebrated our second birthday in June. Each lady received a little birthday gift of a badge to pin to her project bag or a fridge





magnet and a 'With Love' thank you card with these reassuring words:

**'You will have COURAGE  
Because you will have HOPE.  
You will take your time and rest in SAFETY.'**  
**Job 11:18**

Our final doorstep delivery of cotton was at the end of October. As written on our postcards, "it certainly has been a marathon!" An example dishcloth was included wrapped in a sealed bag with a Knit Pray Love sticker and dated, to meet Coronavirus safety regulations.

My final visit of the year was on the 18th November. Collection day of completed dishcloth packs. It was an exciting day with each lady presenting me with a rainbow of lovingly hand stitched cloths. A cotton cloth for every home made with love and stitched in prayer. A prayer for each family. A prayer for every person living alone. A total of 657 dishcloths, far exceeding our target. An amazing achievement by a dozen faithful ladies. A handmade Christmas card, some chocolatey treats and a heart shaped wash cloth in different shades of pink were given to each lady as a sincere thank you for their dedication throughout this most unusual and challenging year. More than six hundred dishcloths were delivered to Chris of Men's Ministry on the 25th November, each one 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 in late December to help welcome parishioners and visitors attending Christmas services.

This year our projects have been donated locally and further afield and have included: Hats, cardigans and blankets for premature babies in Craigavon Area Hospital organized by Kathryn at Turkington Construction in Portadown; Adult hats to the 'Hats For The Homeless Appeal' organized by the UK

Hand Knitting Association.

We continued to support fellow ministries here at St John's and Kiltermon by giving hats to CONNECT and dishcloths to Men's Ministry for their outreach project in December. Extra cloths were made available in the porches at church for those attending Christmas services.

We have been so thankful for multiple donations of yarn throughout the year. As well as knitting needles, patterns and buttons. All items donated have been shared amongst our group and have been used in the making of a range of items, from baby hats to Twiddlemuffs. We have also been very thankful for monetary donations received during the year. Some for a specific purpose and others to help buy yarn supplies as and when needed. Thank you for thinking of us and the work of our hands.

Thank you to the Knit Pray Love ladies: Ann Gleeson, Audrey Bothwell, Beatrice Funston, Betty Warrington, Claire Millar, Cora Morrow, Evelyn Fitzgerald, Frances Thom, Margaret Cowan, Phyllis Clarke and Thelma Atwell, thank you for your faithful service throughout this year. And thank you to Precentor Hanlon, Betty and Margaret, for your continued help, advice and encouragement. If you know someone who would like a handmade item to help give them comfort at any time 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.

**God Bless, Michele Magee.**

'She finds wool and flax and busily spins it... She sews for the poor, and generously gives to the needy.' Proverbs 31 v 13, 19, 20.

### Prayer Ministry

Mr. William Morrow Secretary

'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 world – 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*

### 'God In All Things'

*George Herbert*

Using the gifts God gave you,  
in these set apart days.

### Arts and Crafts Evening

**Online Share and Tell**

**8pm Wednesday 14th April 2021**

Book your place and zoom link on request from Fivemiletown Parish Office  
fivemiletownparish2@gmail.com  
or Tel: 89522422 Wednesday or Friday  
£5 donation requested for the Smile Train cleft palate repair charity.



*Presenters include:*

Beverley Weir Watercolours  
Mamie Alexander Dried Flowers  
Knit, Pray, Love Crochet and  
Hand Knit Ideas

'Teach me, my God and King,  
In all things Thee to see,  
And what I do in anything  
To do it as for Thee.'

*George Herbert*

## Galloon, Sallaghy and Drummully



Rector:  
**The Revd  
Lorraine Capper**

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### Be cross-conscious

*For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2).*

The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Corinthian church, said that he determined to know nothing among them except “Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” In other words, Paul, who wrote two-thirds of the New Testament, had his mind full of Jesus and His finished work.

Beloved, God wants your mind full of the cross of Jesus. He wants you cross-conscious.

But what does it mean to be cross-conscious?

To be cross-conscious is to see Jesus, who loves you so much that He willingly died for you on the cross. To be cross-conscious is to look to Jesus, who offered His own body to be punished, so that your body can be free from all punishment.

To be cross-conscious is to fix your eyes on Jesus, who has provided for your deliverance and victory at the cross. At the cross, all your enemies were vanquished. All your diseases were destroyed. Your poverty was removed at the cross. Your sins were wiped out at the cross.

When the Israelites tasted bitterness in the waters of Marah, God showed Moses a tree, which he cast into the waters, making them sweet (see Exodus 15:23–26). The tree represents the cross, which turned the bitter waters sweet. Today, Calvary’s tree has turned your bitter situations sweet. Because of the cross, you can expect to see the bitter situations in your life made sweet!

When the Israelites were bitten by serpents in the wilderness, God told Moses to put a bronze serpent on a pole. The pole represents the cross and bronze speaks of



judgment. Those who beheld the serpent on the pole lived because they saw their problem—the deadly serpent—nailed and put to death on the cross (see Numbers 21:6–9).

Today, you too will not die but live when you see all your sins judged at the cross, and with them, all your sicknesses, diseases, pains, failures and defeats! At the cross, all that is deadly in your life has been removed!

### Services in April

If the Government restrictions allow the following services are planned:

#### **Sunday 4th April 2021 - Easter Day**

10.30am: A Group Service in Galloon

#### **Sunday 11th April 2021 - The Second Sunday of Easter**

9am: Drummully Parish Church: Morning Prayer

10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church: Morning Prayer

12.00 noon: Galloon Parish Church: Morning Prayer

#### **Sunday 18th April 2021 - The Third Sunday of Easter**

9am: Drummully Parish Church: Morning Prayer

10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church: Morning Prayer

12.00 noon: Galloon Parish Church: Morning Prayer

#### **Sunday 25th April 2021 - The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

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.

### Easter Vestry Dates

Galloon: Wednesday 7th April at 8pm in the Sunday School Room

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

If restrictions do NOT allow for us to meet in our church buildings we will have Easter Vestries via Zoom.

Drummully Parish has had their Easter Vestry on Monday 22nd March at 8pm via Zoom as Government restrictions did not permit for us to meet in person. Wishing all elected to serve in the Select Vestry every blessing as we seek to work together and see His kingdom come in Drummully.

### Mothering Sunday

We had a Group Service via Zoom. Revd Lorraine opened the service by singing “Be Still for the Presence of the Lord”. Revd Lorraine preached on God’s love for us all. She used probably one of the best known Scripture verses in the Bible from the Gospel reading: “For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”(John 3:16) She highlighted how God responds to us out of His unconditional love. That His love is a giving love and He gives us of His best, His only Son. The object of God’s love- is you. The sacrifice of God’s love- is for you. The recipient of the gift of God’s love- only you can answer is this you? She concluded



by saying: "You can't do anything to make God love you more, you can't do anything that will make God love you less. You cannot win it, you cannot lose it, but you can refuse it." Prayers were included for all our amazing mothers; for those who had recently lost their mothers; those who had been mother-figures to us; those who were foster mothers, those who were mothers by adopting a child and for those who had longed to be mothers and were not. Two ladies spoke of their experiences throughout Covid 19. Mrs Helen Noble told her story of the challenges of home-schooling as well as giving birth to Bella under these very strange times when she had to go into hospital without her husband and it was only when she was admitted to the labour ward her husband joined her. Mrs Dawn Hutchinson told her story via her creative writing. She composed a poem on her reflections of Covid 19.

## Lockdown Reflections!

*About lockdown and Covid, well what can I say,  
When I get started, I could talk all day,  
But I promise I will keep it brief,  
Much to my loving family's relief!*

*In Christmas '19 when first we knew,  
We thought that Covid was just another flu,  
But soon we discovered it was so much more,  
Soon we discovered it would close so many doors.*

*Who could have imagined a world without school?  
At first, the kids thought this was really cool!  
But soon we found out that Home-School is tough,  
And we realised the road ahead would be rough!*

*Who could have imagined a life without church?  
Many of us felt left in the lurch!  
Our kids really missed all their clubs,  
While some grown ups also missed the pubs!*

*Stuck at home, what could we do?  
We baked, we cycled, and we walked because we knew,  
We had to do something to fill in the time,  
We had to do something to occupy our minds.*

*Watching the news daily, it felt so grim,  
And soon to boys' hair also needed a trim!  
Our kids missed their friends and the games that they play,  
But the message was clear, at home we must stay!*

*We feared for our loved ones, the risk was so high,  
We had to be safe, for them, we really had to try.  
So, phone calls and WhatsApps, messages and zoom,  
Allowed special visitors to enter our rooms.*

*Last Springtime lockdown the weather was sweet,  
We enjoyed the sun; it was such a treat!  
This Winter lockdown has been a bit of a drag,  
With cold weather and long nights, our spirits began to lag.*

*But now it's Springtime and the vaccines have given us hope,  
And we're beginning to feel that perhaps we can cope.  
But we must be patient, not throw all our efforts away,  
Soon, very soon, there will be brighter days!*

*So, what have we learned? What do we now know?  
Well, perhaps it is just that we need to go slow.  
To take more time for family, more time for me!  
Rushing and running, we don't always need to be.*

*One thing has stayed constant, one thing is unchanged,  
The one thing that will always remain.  
God's love for us, his presence too,  
His message of hope that is always true.*

**Dawn Hutchinson**

## Christian Burial

■ Mr Gerald Allen, Clones Road, Newtownbutler, called home 16th February 2021. We express our sympathy to all of the Allen 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 Easter 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.

This month we have included some photos of Kiltyclogher church in our group and features on two parishioners from Slavin and Belleek.

## Kiltyclogher Parish Church

The Church was erected in 1860 and was consecrated in 1867. It was much needed at the time as the parishioners were meeting in the Market House owned by Charles Henry Tottenham from 1831 and prior to that in private houses. The Church building is a gem of neo-gothic architecture, built in a beautiful site in the village. Stables were built to accommodate the horses, and a hall on top.

In 1863 Kiltyclogher was a curacy of Manorhamilton Parish in the Diocese of Kilmore and in 1865 Kiltyclogher was made a Parish.

The first curate was The Rev'd William Scott followed by 10 other incumbents, the longest serving was Canon Robin Richey and the last was Canon Ngozi Njoku.

The church was closed from 1972 to approximately 1975 due to the troubles at the time. The parishioners used Kilcoo Methodist Church during that time. In 2001 Kiltyclogher joined the Garrison Group of Parishes in the Clogher Diocese.

### Ethne Earls, Slavin Parish

I joined a company called, 'Radox Laboratories' in 2002 having completed a B.Sc Honours Degree in Biological Sciences at Queens University Belfast. I am currently based at one of the Crumlin sites in County Antrim. Radox improves healthcare for a range of conditions, including heart disease, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, cancer and stroke. The company has grown from a small team of two scientists in 1982, to 1500 employees presently including research scientists and engineers. I manage the Immunology Production Department which manufactures kits for diagnostics tests that are used all over the world. Their focus is on the testing of food. We also manufacture tests for drugs of abuse and these kits provide rapid detection of drugs in a range of common drugs of abuse. Radox is one of the partners in the UK Government's testing programme for COVID-19 with the Laboratory working 24 hours 7 days a week. I have worked extra shifts in the COVID Laboratory assisting



Ethne Earls.



Eileen Kirkpatrick with her daughters, Hilary and Jill.

with the COVID tests. Radox sponsors the Aintree Grand National. I was fortunate to be invited to attend on a few occasions – the last being in April 2019. It was a wonderful experience and great to see how the other half live - with champagne receptions and fine dining. I really enjoy my job as I have such a good range of work. I work either hands on in the Laboratory or at my desk managing and organising the workload of the Department. Organisation is key to the smooth running of the Department with the work schedule planned months in advance depending on Customer Orders. No day is ever the same. I get to work with a range of people from all the different departments in the company on a day-to-day basis.

I get satisfaction from my work in that I consider I am contributing to the present and future tests for the health and well-being of the population. I live in Lisburn, in my spare time I enjoy mountain walks and enjoy my regular visits to Fermanagh to spend time with my family. For many years I have been organist in Slavin Church.

### One of our most Senior church members is Mrs. Eileen Kirkpatrick a member of Belleek Parish.

Eileen Kirkpatrick (nee Armstrong) came to Belleek after her marriage to Harold Kirkpatrick on 7th November 1951 at Castle Archdale Parish Church. Harold took over the running of Ross's shop in Belleek in 1948. Their first home was in 'The Row' and later at Corry, Belleek.

The Rector at that time was Revd. Foster who was followed by Revd. Cotter and the organist in Belleek Church was May McBrien. Harold and Eileen attended Slavin in the early years of their marriage as they brought Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Senior, to Church at Slavin. The Kirkpatrick family were raised on their farm at Gortnalee, Roscor.

The Wark Hall was a busy place in the 1970s after it was built by the late Willie Hassard. There was a lot of activity with lots of fundraising going on to build and maintain the hall. The late Nellie Wark was very active in organising events. Nellie came to stay at Capt. Mackay's guest house at Heronshaw, Belleek and as one of her fundraising efforts – invited guests to sign a Tablecloth and make a



Eileen and her husband, Harold on the dancefloor.



donation to the Hall Fund. Nellie then hand embroidered each signature. This framed tablecloth now has pride of place in the Hall and is a great talking point for all visitors. Guests from Belfast stayed at Heronshaw and brought Nellie their good used clothing, which was very popular at Wark Hall sales. We are told that three bags of clothes in those days would have sold in the hall for around €300. When Nellie was unable to continue her role, it was then taken over by Betty Johnston and May Love who continued to raise much needed funds for the hall. They were also assisted by the late Wilma Watson who put great time and resources into fundraising.

Whist Drives were organised by Eileen's brother-in-law, Tommy and Nellie organised and provided ham and tongue sandwiches for the supper afterwards. Eileen and the other ladies also helped and baked.

The monthly market in Belleek was another busy day in the Wark Hall, with

Nellie and the ladies providing teas. On these days the hall was packed and people had to queue to get their tea. At that time it was a great place for people to meet and many came from Donegal to meet up with their friends. Eileen and her sister-in-law Edith baked for these days and served the tables, assisted by Alice and Muriel Johnston. Their sister-in-law Greta and Mrs. Ellen Watson spent the day washing all the dishes. Dances with the band, Country Cousins, were also held in the Wark Hall and the hall was packed at these community functions. Eileen and Harold were first on the floor and really enjoyed their dancing. (See photo).

Harold retired from the shop in 1981 and his brother Tommy managed it until 1991. During COVID-19 last July, the Garrison Group had a special Sunday service in the Wark Hall to make a presentation to Eileen on the occasion of her 90th Birthday. This service was attended by Eileen's family, but sadly we were unable

to have a celebratory lunch and cake due to restrictions.

Eileen greatly misses her weekly attendance at Church. She was able to drive herself and Edith to church until 10 years ago. In recent years, her friends have given them a lift to church. With COVID-19, this wasn't possible and Eileen is looking forward to April and hoping that she will get back out again. She tunes in to the services on Facebook and keeps up to date with her daughters, Jill and Hilary.

### 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.

## Kilskeery and Trillick



Rector:  
Revd Philip Bryson

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### IT WAS THE DAY...

#### The stranger asked me, "What's good about Good Friday?"

I answered him: "It was the day when darkness brought its shadows over the light of the world, even when the sun was supposed to shine at its brightest. It was the day when the one who had the words of life, had his life cruelly torn from him. It was the day when the one whose words pierced the hearts and souls of his listeners, was pierced with nails and spear and thorns and the flesh tearing barbs of whips. It was the day when true, unbounded, life-transforming



love met the intense hatred and murderous scheming of jealous men who preferred the guidance of their own hatred than the pathway of love and peace and forgiveness they were invited to follow. It was the day when the Father in heaven experienced the death of His only son at the hands of those whom He had created. It was the day when the candle that remained lit through stormy opposition and the winds of criticism was terrifyingly blown out. It was the day when people cheered for a murderer to be freed and the one who makes us free indeed to be murdered.

It was the day when the unique, unequalled, precious Son of the King of the universe

was betrayed for thirty pieces of silver by one of his closest companions. It was the day when, in the shadows of night an illegitimate trial was organised by those who wanted him dead and their evil intent and treacherous scheming was given permission to have its own way! It was the day when lies, when false testimony was listened to and counted as true so that this man, this man who taught and healed, who delivered and blessed in the open air of the fields and countryside, when he would be tied up and hidden away and falsely accused by those biased to his cause and their own and be sentenced to death. It was the day when a mother watched her son, her entrusted son, her beloved son,

her son of promise and salvation, her Holy Spirit gifted son, her first born, be tortured to death and breathe his final breath hanging naked and bloodied and beyond recognition on a cross; hanging between heaven and earth. It was the day when the loving, healing hands of the miracle-worker, the one who lifted up the chins of the downtrodden and outcast, the one who elevated the status of women, the one who touched the untouchable and made them touchable again, the one who sat with children and gave them the time of day and blessed them, it was the day when these hands were disfigured and hammered through with nails into wood.

It was the day when the feet that walked on water, the feet that travelled from village to village taking the good news of the Kingdom of God; the feet that were not afraid to step upon the toes of the rich and privileged on behalf of the poor and unvalued; the feet that kept pace with his father and made footprints so that others could follow his path; these feet felt the cold metal nails pass through them, pinning them fast, securing them in place until death took hold. It was the day when the tear stained eyes that wept at the grave of Lazarus, his friend that welled up as he gazed heartbroken over the city of Jerusalem; the eyes that saw joy being restored into the lives of the forgiven; eyes that witnessed the power of God open the blind eyes of others; eyes that saw the good and even the best and gave people a second chance; eyes that were truly opened to see as God sees; eyes that saw into the hearts of men and women, into their deepest sins and darkest secrets, and smiled at them in love, beckoning them, to come leave behind and follow; this day these eyes now squinted through sweat and blood looking upon faces filled with hatred, wishing for him to die and be done with it.

It was the day when all but one of his closest friends ran away and left him, and when one betrayed him and another denied that he even knew him. It was the day when his mother along with other women whom he had rescued and lifted up, stayed close by him, letting him know that he was not alone. It was the day when cruel soldiers slapped him and kicked him and beat him and whipped him and called him names and crowned him with a woven branch of flesh piercing thorns that released rivulets of blood to stream down his face. They dressed him in a purple robe and mocked this bloodied figure of a man, calling him king and bowing low to then beat him some more. It was the day when he had to walk a path of shame through the streets of



Jerusalem carrying his cross to the place of his execution. The weakened body of this sturdy carpenter couldn't bear the weight of his cross all of the way. His strength was spent. He had given nearly everything and nearly everything had been taken. It was the day when a Passover pilgrim was called out of the crowd to help carry the cross, to make sure that he would make it to his own hour of execution.

It was the day heaven fell silent and the kingdom of darkness exploded in uproarious celebrations. It was the day when the Prince of the King was killed, ruthlessly and without mercy. It was the day when the Prince of peace was put through hell. It was the day when Satan smiled and congratulated his allies on a job well done. It was the day when a bloodied corpse was unnailed and lowered lifeless and disfigured from his cross of execution before being wrapped up and hurriedly placed in a borrowed grave site, in a tomb cut into rock. It was the day of great mourning and crying and loss and hopelessness and heartbreak and pain and terror and sadness and sorrow and darkness of soul. It was the day to forget, above all other days; to forget the look in his eyes; to forget his agonising cries; to forget the beloved one who loved like no other; to forget what he went through and the terrifying brokenness of our own hearts; to forget the agony of a mother watching her son being torn apart before her very eyes. It was the day when the birds seemed to stop singing, the sky looked duller, the green grass, faded, our eyes lowered and our spirits buried deep in despair. It was the day when the Saviour

of the world was brutally murdered. It was the darkest day the world has ever known, when human nature and the evil from within came to the fore and demanded that the rejected King of Eden, be killed and done away with once and for all.

My stranger friend spoke once more, "You've told me about the events of the day but who is this man of whom you speak?" "It is Jesus Christ of Nazareth," I answer. "And still I ask, after all you've said, what is good about Good Friday?" "It is good because, all that he did, he did for me and out of love for His father and out of love for the world." "It is good because he stepped into my place, into my pain, into my darkness and shadows and in so doing made a way for me to step into his place of privilege, into his peace, into his light. It is good because although we didn't see it then, on that day; although we didn't understand some of the things that he said, we didn't know what they meant; although, on that day we couldn't think of anything else and were blinded by our own tears and fear and shock, it was Friday but Sunday was coming!"

### **Joint Drive-in Services**

Our joint Drive-in Services are continuing throughout the lockdown. We have just completed our sermon series on the Fruits of the Holy Spirit endeavouring to understand how it is possible to grow them in our lives and also how we may, having grown them, sow them into the lives of others. It has been interesting that on so many occasions, the weather has been reasonably good through the



week but come Sunday morning we find that it has snowed or is icy or that heavy rain is upon us, but we have been patient and joyful and faithful and self-controlled to keep it all going despite the weather. After being outside during the worst of the winter weather, we are looking forward to heading back inside our buildings as the temperatures rises and the weather improves. There will still remain an opportunity to avail of a drive-in service which will take place during the service at Kilskeery Parish Church. It is with much thanks and great appreciation to our team

of helpers and contributors from our two churches that our drive-in services have been able to take place. When you attend, what you see is not the singular effort of one person but the combined effort of a team of faithful and dedicated people who have made it all possible.

### Thoughts and Reflections for Lent

Through Lent we have taken some time to reflect on a number of issues: filling our minds with good things, journeying with the Lord, greater love and stronger hearts and

also St. Patrick and the Deer's Cry. These prayers and reflections have appeared via our Facebook page, attempting to provide a means of thoughtful preparation as we move towards Easter.

### The Opening of our Church buildings

We look forward to our church buildings opening again for Easter and look forward to inviting our congregations back indoors again. We look forward to restrictions easing and normality creeping back into view, perhaps slowly.

## 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.**

his home, services for each Wednesday evening and Sunday morning. Thanks too to Lynda, who has also been pre-recording and sharing her musical gifts to bless and encourage thousands of people each week across Northern Ireland and much further afield.

### Pastoral Concerns

If you need or anyone known to you in the parish of Lisbellaw with Coolbuck needs pastoral help in these difficult and testing days, please contact the Rector's Churchwarden, Robert Dane on 02866387213. Robert will be happy to put you in touch with the Revd. Colin. Please, please share this with anyone you know who isn't on Facebook or does not subscribe to this magazine.

worship from Good Friday onwards. It is difficult at the moment to be specific about upcoming services in Lisbellaw but we do hope to be able to livestream from the church on Easter Sunday Morning.

### Annual Easter Vestry Meeting

Our third Vestry Meeting by Zoom was held on Thursday 18th February and chaired by the Dean. The Annual Easter Vestry Meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 21st April and will be held, DV in the Parish Centre at 8.00pm.

### Death

It is with sadness that we record the peaceful death at his home on Monday 8th March 2021 of Mr Victor Beacom of Derryhoney, Lisbellaw, dearly loved husband of Peggy, father of Vivian, Gwen, John and David and a dearly loved grandfather, brother and cousin. To Peggy and to all the family we extend heartfelt

### Services during Lockdown

Warm thanks to the Revd Colin, who, during Lent has pre-recorded and forwarded from

### Lent and Easter

At the time of writing it has just been announced that churches will be open for



Revd Colin Brownsmith leading the online service.



Organist, Lynda Lindsay providing the praise for the online service.



sympathy at this sad and difficult time. After a private funeral service in his home conducted by Dean Kenneth Hall, Victor was buried in the Churchyard.

### Prayers

We continue to remember in our prayers all in our parish and community who are grieving, especially those families who have been so recently bereaved. We pray too for all who are ill, in hospital or at home, undergoing tests or treatment, or at home waiting for operations or recuperating. We



The Vestry meeting by Zoom.

remember too all who are lonely, in nursing homes, or at home, but still separated from the company of their families and friends due to the continuing lockdown.

Jesus said; "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." John 11v 25-26.

## Lisnaskea



Rector:  
**The Revd  
Alan Capper**

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### SERVICES FOR APRIL

#### GOOD FRIDAY

8.00 p.m. Evening Prayer

#### EASTER SUNDAY 4th

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

#### SUNDAY 11th

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer

#### SUNDAY 18th

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer

#### SUNDAY 25th

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer  
(Collection for sponsored children)

#### Zoom General Vestry:

As these notes are being prepared we are planning to have our General vestry meeting via zoom on Wednesday 24th March and services have been continuing in the same way each Sunday morning.





## Magheracross



Rector:  
**Archdeacon  
Brian Harper**

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### Services in-church

The month of April in Magheracross will begin on Easter Day with a celebration of Holy Communion in church at 9am. This will be followed at 11am by a Drive-In service at Ferney Park, kindly granted by Ballinamallard Football Club. On Easter Sunday evening, Northern Sound radio will also be broadcasting a pre-recorded Easter service from Magheracross.

After Easter, we will continue with our regular 11am service in church accompanied by a pre-recorded or live-stream until such times as we feel that two morning services can be safely accommodated within the guidelines. All other church activities remain suspended.

### Easter Vestry

The annual Easter Vestry, at time of writing, will take place on April 12th at 7:30pm by Zoom. All parishioners are welcome to take part but, if voting is required, only those on the General Vestry may vote.

### Services

Throughout the recent lockdown, most of our services, on Sundays and midweek, were broadcast live from the rectory with the exception of communions which were pre-recorded in the church, and Mothering Sunday which was a family service. The Mothering Day service included greetings from some of our children and a photographic thanksgiving for mothers who are no longer with us.

### Rector's run

In May, our rector had planned to run in the London Landmarks Half Marathon in aid of Prostate Cancer UK and to mark his 60th



Alastair, Charlotte and Nina wishing a Happy Mothers' Day.

birthday. However, this event has been postponed until August 1. He will therefore not only run on August 1 but also on May 16. The "birthday" route will be the Ballinamallard Half Marathon taking in most of the parish and housing developments. Parishioners are encouraged to provide

support from their gardens and within guidelines and also design and create some landmarks along the route. Existing landmarks on the route include Prince Philip's Bridge, the Swimming Pool, the railway line, the field of Llamas, the old graveyard, Ferney Park and many more!



## Magheraculmoney



Rector:  
The Revd  
Francis Rutledge

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### “The future’s not cancelled”

Dare we look beyond Covid-19 for life to return to ‘normal’ or at least some kind of ‘new normal’? There can be no doubt that this pandemic has shaken ‘normal’ life to the very core. The ongoing rollout of vaccinations brings hope against the backdrop of fear, death and destruction which has visited planet earth. The fallout from Covid-19 will be felt for some time to come and we will have to grapple with the very real traumatic disruptions of it, expressed physically, mentally, socially and economically – in both the local and international context. However, to coin a phrase used by the BBC recently, ‘the future’s not cancelled’.

As we look to the future as followers of Jesus it must be within a framework of prayer, hope and engagement – a framework predicated on reality and honesty. It has to be admitted that at times the Church creates cultures in which



people feel the need to show they have it altogether and therefore, to pretend. We need to be able to create those spaces where we can be real and honest, in biblical language to lament, over the very real impact of Covid-19 and its ongoing effects on our lives. The Psalms give us a very good place to begin this process as over half of them are laments to God, and as the author Richard Foster says, ‘They give us permission to shake our fist at God one moment and break into doxology the next.’ (Prayer: finding the Heart’s True Home). We need to be real and honest in the days ahead – prayerfully and with a real sense of ‘holy hope’. As we do this we can move forward with faith and integrity to engage with the challenges before us and in tangible ways declare that ‘the future’s not cancelled’. This will be no easy task and we as ‘God’s People’ will constantly need to

be reminded that ‘God is with us’ – we will need to know his presence. At this time of year, we have a particular focus on the ‘death and resurrection of Jesus’ - an event in itself which invites us to acknowledge that ‘the future’s not cancelled’. Indeed, if we dare to believe in him – ‘the future’s not cancelled’ as we are immersed in a ‘holy hope’ that leads us through death to resurrection and ultimately to a new creation itself.

P.S. At the time of writing we are not sure about the re-opening of church buildings. As with all other areas of life in general that involve physical gatherings of groups of people, church worship in physical proximity to others is likely to be affected for some time by the disruption of Covid-19. Furthermore, some who are older or vulnerable are going to feel somewhat hesitant about joining bigger physical gatherings for the foreseeable future. We pray, in faith, that in time we will all be able to gather safely together as church.

### TEA FOR TWO

A box called ‘Tea for Two’ was delivered to 70 households by members of the Vestry. The box contained scones and jam, traybakes, home-made cupcakes, teabags, napkins and a keep safe note. These were delivered on Saturday 27th February 2021. One of the recipients kindly sent us a photograph of how they got into the spirit of having ‘Tea for Two’ in their home.

### FUNERAL

12th March 2021, Alexander William McDonagh (54), Kesh  
We extend our prayerful sympathy to the family at this time.





## Maguiresbridge and Derrybrusk



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

T: 07713 357156

As I write these notes, Northern Ireland seems to be edging towards at least some easing of the lockdown restrictions that have been in place since shortly after Christmas. Of course this is a decision for the executive, and in the meantime we all must exercise personal responsibility by following the rules that are still in place. According to the statistics associated with the pandemic, things are a lot better than they were when we entered 2021. Infection rates are down, there are fewer people in hospital, and while there have been days when the number of deaths has risen, the death rate remains relatively low. Added to this, is the excellently managed ongoing rollout of the vaccination programme, which has been going well with many people having received at least their first dose of the vaccine.

### Easter Worship

We are looking forward to returning to worship in both our churches on Good Friday evening and on Easter Sunday morning.

#### Maguiresbridge

Good Friday: 7.30pm.

Easter Sunday: 10.30am.

### Derrybrusk

Good Friday: 8.30pm.

Easter Sunday: 12 O'clock.

### Maguiresbridge's new kitchen

Congratulations to all concerned for their magnificent effort in completely refurbishing the kitchen in the Parish hall. We intend to have more on this project in next month's magazine.

### Thank You

Thank you to Derrybrusk Mothers' Union for their gifts of flowers and a card to each member on Mothering Sunday.

### Burial

Mr Ian Kettles; 31st January 2021, Maguiresbridge parish churchyard.

### Easter Message

*Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

*(John 19:30)*

'It is finished.' These are the last three words of Jesus as he died on the cross on that

first 'Good Friday' This short statement was the conquering cry of our Lord Jesus Christ as he breathed his last breath on the cross; *"With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit"*. This verse of scripture reminds us that there is nothing we can do by ourselves to earn our salvation. The Redeemer and Saviour— Jesus Christ has done everything that is needed for the entire human race to spend eternity in heaven with him.

Whatever needs to be done has been done by Christ. The debt is paid; forgiveness is offered to all. All we must do is to put our trust in the finished work of the cross of Jesus Christ. It is finished. No Questions — victory over sin and death has been won for us.

The vestries of Maguiresbridge and Derrybrusk parishes and I, wish everyone a blessed Easter.

Keep your Distance! Wash your hands! Stay at Home! (where possible) keep in touch with your neighbour and Keep safe!

- **Abraham.**

### Sunday Services

With COVID restrictions we are limited to holding services online.

We will be on Facebook live at 10:30am each Sunday morning.

### Looking back and looking forward

Writing these notes we have just gone past the landmark of a year since the start of the first lockdown. That last Sunday before lockdown we had gathered in church as normal, it was the last time that we were able to sing together as congregations, something that we have missed so much when we have been back in church when restrictions allowed. We had blocked off seats in St Patrick's using old church hall

chairs and sat more spaced apart in Kilmore and Ballinode. Over this past year we have learned to cope with church online. We began with a phone on a tripod with the sound turned up loud and now we use a better camera and sound from the sound desk. We've been recording services to drop round to those who can't be online as easily. When we've been allowed to be in church we've got used to not singing out loud (but still doing actions to the kids songs), to sanitising our hands, to social distancing and wearing masks, to different ways of celebrating communion and baptism.

My thanks to all who help, and especially to Gayle, Anna, Arran and Kate for helping organising and playing at church. It has been a lot to adapt to and to cope with

## Monaghan, Tydavnet and Kilmore



Rector:  
**The Revd Chancellor Ian Berry**

The Rectory, Clones Road, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan.

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

but we have carried on knowing God's help and presence as we have offered our praise and worship to him. We have carried on knowing that we can be together virtually even when we can't be all together physically.

Looking forward we do long to be able to be back in church but current restrictions mean that isn't possible yet. The clergy in Monaghan town have lobbied our local representatives to make the case that churches should be allowed to meet at Level 3 rather than at Level 2 under the current covid plans. We know that when we are allowed to meet again we are ready to do this and our experiences since the first lockdown mean we know what we need to do and can get back into the good habits we had developed. But we also have good habits that we can continue. With phone calls, letters, texts, WhatsApp messages and groups we have been able to keep in touch with each other and along with this to support and to pray for each other as well.

### **Easter General Vestries**

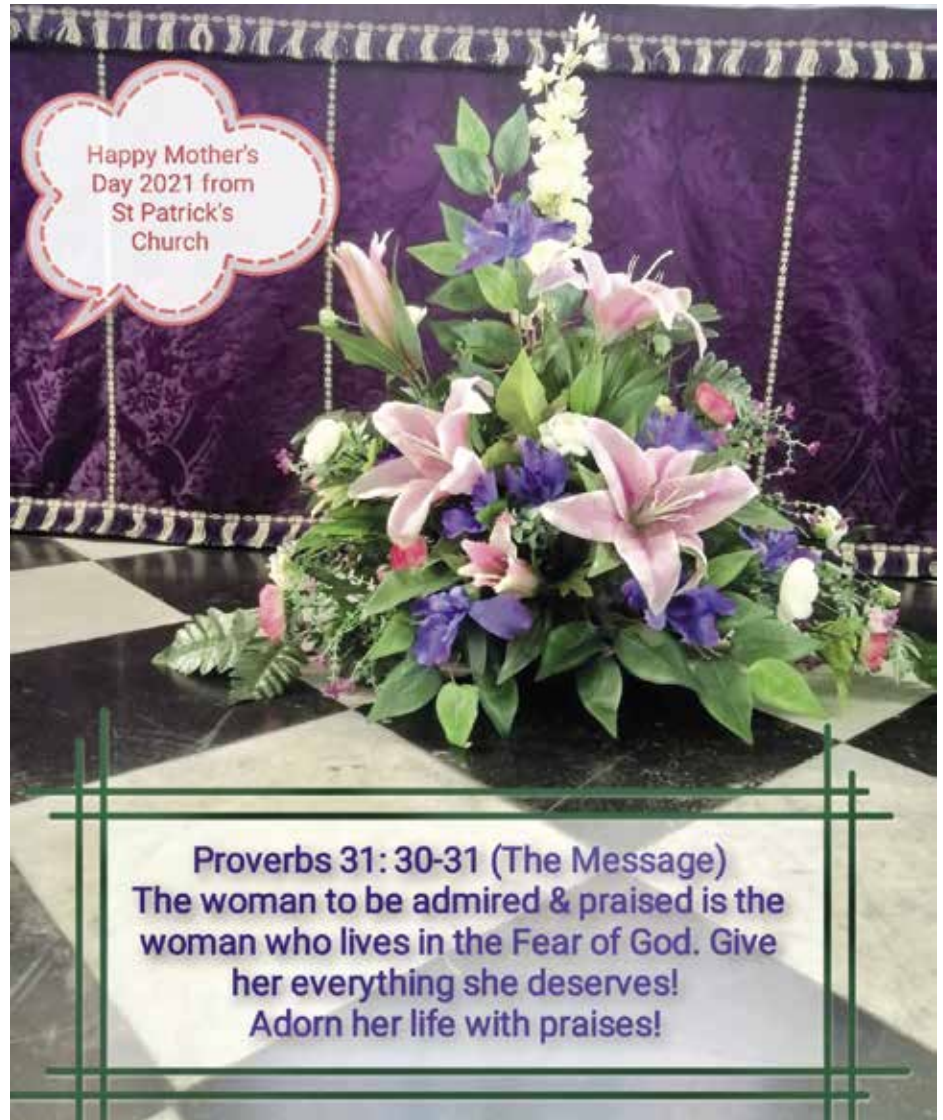
Whenever restrictions allow us to meet physically we will plan these meetings.

### **Condolence**

We offer prayerful sympathy to Mr Brian Hamilton on the death of his mother.

### **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

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Parish Office: T: 028 66 329889  
Diocesan Pastoral Assistants:  
Mrs Sue Hogg & Mrs Joan Nelson





## A message from the Rector

### Signs of Hope

A bunch of yellow daffodils sitting in the windowsill on a sunny day are pointers to Springtime. They speak to us of hopefulness of warmer and brighter days to come and to the emergence of new life after winter. They help to lift our spirits after the long winter of dreary lockdown. We can be forgiven for having low spirits this year as we have missed meeting one another and enjoying the normal social contacts of life. For the elderly and isolated this has been an especially difficult period, it has put a strain on our well-being, and disrupted schooling, commerce and society generally. And of course, we have not been able to meet up for church.

The good news is that the Church leaders have decided, following health guidance received from Government that churches can reopen for in-person worship. So, over this Easter period Church of Ireland parishes are planning services for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. It will be so good to meet for worship, especially at this high point in the church's year, when we tell of the death of our Saviour, celebrate his resurrection and proclaim the hope that this brings. It will also be a time when we can reflect upon the terrible impact of Covid-19 upon us as a society and upon our church family members.

On a personal note, the Archbishop has proposed the date of 26th April for my Consecration Service, and so the time for me to leave Rossorry is drawing near. The Archbishop has asked me to take on the role of Commissary from 5th April and so following Easter Sunday there will be arrangements put in place by the diocese to ensure pastoral and Sunday Service cover for Rossorry during the vacancy.

**Hopefully, there will be an opportunity to say our farewells, however for now, please accept my thanks for all we have shared together and for your support to my ministry among you over the past six years (and also for forgiving my mistakes!). You have been warm and welcoming to Heather and I since we came among you and we will find leaving very difficult as we have been so happy in Rossorry. However, we shall not be moving immediately as there is some work to be undertaken in the See House in Fivemiletown. In the meantime, we are very grateful to the Select Vestry for allowing us to remain in the Rectory until the time comes to move on.**

With every blessing for all the future holds.

**Your friend and Rector  
Ian**

**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.***



### Update on our new Bishop

At the time of going to press, the plan for the Consecration of our new Bishop was scheduled for late March – but of course in the current situation with new lockdown regulations and no Church Services, in Church – this was unable happen on that date but an online Farewell to Bishop Mc Dowell was held, instead.

A new date for the Consecration of Bishop-

elect, Canon Ian Ellis, has been set for 26th April 2021 at Enniskillen Cathedral when it is hoped that Worship will again be permitted in church.

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.

The children were encouraged to reflect last month on Mothering Sunday and what it means.

### Rossorry Mothers' Union

Our second meeting of the year was held on Thursday 18 February 2021 via Zoom. Our branch Leader hosted the evening and introduced the guest speaker, the Revd. Lorraine Capper whose topic was Rebuilding Colour Confidence. Lorraine



**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

loves clothes and delighted in telling us about some of her bargains and also some of her not so successful purchases. From her living room she held up lots of items from her own wardrobe to show her use of colour, in co-ordinating items together. She influenced the making of her own clerical bibs in bright colours. Lorraine was very entertaining talking to us.



Rev. Lorraine Capper.

### 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

**Proverbs 31 v 25-26**  
She is strong and is respected by the people.  
She looks forward to the future with joy.  
She speaks wise words and teaches others to be kind.

Someone who teaches me

Someone who gives good hugs

Someone who makes me laugh

Someone who encourages me

Someone who asks me how I am

Someone who I can talk to when I am worried

Who are the strong women in your life who love and nurture you?  
Write their names on the petals and decorate them as you pray for them.

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.

### Rossorry Weekly News

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

### CDs for Parishioners

CDs of prepared online services are being prepared and posted out to parishioners who live alone or unable to receive the online postings. These contain two services (Morning Prayer or Holy Communion) and a Children's video and a copy of The Rossorry Weekly News. These have been well received and are a source of solace for the parishioners who feel isolated and a bit cut off from our Parish life.

### Parish Self-Help Volunteer Group

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

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

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

### Freewill Giving

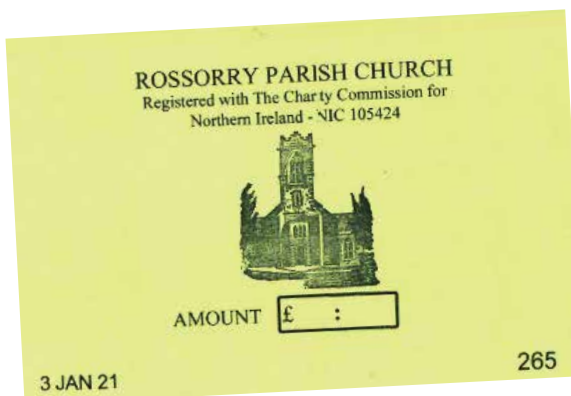
Even though Services have resumed at Church many of you may not be able or ready to attend but you may still contribute your weekly collection envelopes and other donations.

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.

#### Friday 2nd April

8.00pm- Good Friday Service (TBC)

#### Sunday 4th April

10.00am - Holy Communion  
Easter Sunday (TBC)

#### Sunday 11th April

10.00am – Morning Prayer.

#### Sunday 18th April

10.00am - Morning Prayer.

### Sunday 25th April

10.00am - Morning Prayer

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

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

Video of the services – you will find on our Facebook page (Rossorry Parish Church) Please keep an eye on Social Media / Website for any changes to our scheduled Services, particularly any additional material for Lent.

### Parish Register

#### BEREAVEMENT

Sincerest sympathy from the Parish to the families and friends of three of our

Parishioners who recently passed away;

■ CREGAN, John Francis, peacefully, of Kinarla Park, Enniskillen who died on Monday 8th March 2021. His Funeral Service took place on Wednesday 10th March 2021 at Ballycassidy, followed by interment at Rossorry Churchyard.

■ HICKS, Robert Stanley (Bob), peacefully, at the South West Acute Hospital following a brief illness, late of the County Nursing Home and formerly Elliott Place, Enniskillen. His Funeral Service took place at Rossorry Parish Church on Saturday 13th March

2021, followed by interment in Rossorry Churchyard.

■ LONG, Ernest Cecil (Ernie), died peacefully at the South West Acute Hospital, Enniskillen, late of Tarmon Brae, Enniskillen, on Friday 12th March 2021. His Funeral Service was held at 2pm on Monday 15th March 2021 followed by interment in Rossorry Churchyard.

■ GRAHAM, Robert John, (suddenly) on Monday 15th March 2021, of Magheradunbar, Enniskillen. His funeral Service took place on Thursday 18th March 2021 at 2pm in Rossorry Parish Church, followed by interment in Rossorry Churchyard.

### 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

■ 21/2/21 - Ernest Morrow, Kilroman Road, Lisnaskea.  
Our Sympathy and prayers to his wife Betty and sons Andrew, Keith and Ivor.

■ 3/3/21 - Violet Doherty, Ummer Road, Tempo.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Violet's nieces, nephews and all the family circle.

■ 20/12/20 - 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 - 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 and 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.

### Easter General Vestries

These will be held in accordance with Government guidelines and the dates will



be circulated through Church Facebook and in Church if open for public worship or by online streaming.

### He is Risen

The great message of Easter are contained in those words "He is Risen". Jesus died and said "It is finished". God's great plan of Salvation was completed for the defeat of sin and the offer of forgiveness of our sins "The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin" (1st John 1 v 9)

The followers of Jesus thought his death was the end of all their aspirations and hopes. The disciples on the road to Emmaus said "We trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel" (Luke 24 v 21) They didn't believe the word of the woman. Then through Jesus' explanation of the Old Testament prophecies of his coming and death and through the breaking of bread Jesus revealed himself to them (Luke 24 v 27-31). They said "Did not our hearts burn within us, while he talked by the way and while he opened the scriptures to us?" (Luke 24 v 32)

In all the gospels we have records of several of Jesus' resurrection appearances. Paul in 1st Corinthians speaks of the fact Jesus died and rose again, according to the scriptures and was seen by many witness including lastly himself (1st Corinthians 15 v 1-9)

Today as we celebrate this wonderful victory of Jesus over death by his resurrection may we know by our personal knowledge of him as our Saviour and Lord through faith in him alone live now and look forward to sharing in his victory. Paul in Romans 8 v 37) "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us".

In 1st Corinthians 15 v 20 "But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept" "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive". The promise of God's word is that we who believe in, trust in Christ have eternal life and one day all Christ's followers will rise with new transformed bodies to be forever with him in his new eternal Kingdom. "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump, for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed "We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed" (1 Corinthians 15 v 51-52)

In the meantime we are called to be "Steadfast, unloveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for you know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord".



## Trory and Killadeas



Rector:  
**Revd Mark  
Gallagher**

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

I hope that as you read this, as muddled, as times and circumstances have been, you are able to see the light at the end of the tunnel and are looking forward to 'normal' activities like hugs and tender displays of affection with families and friends who you are long overdue proper catch up with. It has been a challenging year for us all, but if Easter reminds us of anything, it is the hope of a brighter tomorrow and better things to come, no matter how hard current struggles seem. May our cautious greeting of 'keep safe' over the last year finally be overtaken with joyous confidence, perhaps even exclaiming to each other 'Christ is Risen. The Lord is Risen Indeed. Alleluia.' But until that time comes, if you are anything like the rector, you hardly know if you are coming or going with the lockdown hokey kokey and brain fog, so please accept apologies if the dates or wrong, or if things have to be changed at short notice.



### Easter in our Parishes

As we are allowed to open our church buildings again under the same restrictions we were under before for public worship, from Good Friday (2nd April) plans have changed, and we will have services in church buildings, for those comfortable attending. Good Friday at 12noon - A Service of the hours. Reflecting on the last words of Christ on the Cross in St. Michael's, Trory Good Friday at 7pm - A 'Tenebrae' Service in Priory Church, Killadeas. Easter Sunday at 10am - Parish Holy Communion in Priory Church, Killadeas Easter Sunday at 11.30am - Parish Holy Communion in St. Michael's, Trory. Restrictions on outdoor meetings of no more than 10 people sadly means that for yet another year we cannot have our Easter Dawn Service on the banks of our beautiful Lough Erne.

### Easter general vestry

We cannot hold this in the same way as usual this year, but we are allowed to hold one in each parish as an extension of our Sunday morning worship. They will both be held on Sunday 18th. Please note to facilitate this happening the Killadeas service is moved for one week only to 3pm.

### Blended in building and online worship in April

First and foremost, please only come to 'in building' church worship if you feel safe doing so. For the foreseeable future our Sunday Services will still be uploaded onto Facebook every Sunday, however output is being reduced to the Sunday service only, both in building and online only. Please also note that the midweek services on Wednesday evenings at 7pm have come to an end for now.

### Our services for April are as follows:

Maundy Thursday (1st) at 7pm - An online service with washing of the hands (with hand sanitizer or baby wipes)

#### Good Friday (2nd)

12 noon - Trory, 7pm Killadeas

#### Easter Sunday (4th)

10am - Killadeas,

11.30am Trory, Holy Communion

#### Sunday (11th)

10am - Killadeas

11.30am Trory Morning Prayer

#### Sunday (18th)

11.30am - Trory Morning Prayer followed by Annual Easter General Vestry

#### Sunday (18th)

3pm - Killadeas Evening Prayer followed by Annual Easter General Vestry

#### Sunday (25th)

10am - Killadeas, 11.30am Trory Service of the Word



# MOTHERS' UNION

## Grant funding helps support projects

A newsletter has been delivered to our Mothers' Union members and all clergy. The next newsletter was being distributed at the end of March. The content included encouraging and insightful scripture, poems, pictures, puzzles, craft and some recipes.

Each branch leader also received some PPE equipment for use when branch meetings resume. The Trustee Board were awarded a grant to purchase hand gel dispensers, sanitising wipes and disposable face coverings for each branch. The Trustees would like to acknowledge their thanks to Fermanagh and Omagh District Council for their ongoing support for MU activities in the council area and that the Diocesan funds are used to finance the resources for those members who do not reside in the council area.

We ask that you would support the fundraising ideas for Mums' in May during the next few months. When restrictions are eased, the All-Ireland President, June Butler, plans to walk in some areas of the Clogher Diocese. Look out for these plans in the next newsletter.

The MIM fundraising takes place every three years and is used to support projects in each Diocese in Ireland. We availed of the fund for the 'Blessing Bag' project and will be asking for funding in the future.



### Mums in May - "21 in 21"

Join us for our All-Ireland triennial fundraiser and help make a difference to the work of Mothers' Union in Ireland! YOU can make a difference – every little helps!

#### '21 IN 21' Sponsored Walks

This year *Mums In May* challenges members to walk '21 in 21' – this can be 21 yards, 21 laps, 21 furlongs, 21 kilometres, 21 miles or 21 something else..... let your imagination run wild..... Or you can think about walking 21 of your chosen length virtually and ask friends and family to support you! Individual and Branch Sponsorship Forms will be available through your branch and on the All-Ireland MU website and your sponsorship money can be collected from you when branches reopen in the autumn.

#### June Butler, All-Ireland President

Using these Sponsorship Forms, you can also support and sponsor June who, for '21 IN 21', is planning 3 x 7 kilometre walks in each diocese beginning in March and to be completed by November 2021, a total of 252 kilometres! Due to Covid -19 restrictions, the details of each walk have not been finalised, but June will begin these walks in Northern Ireland, initially with one other person as is permitted in March, and later she hopes that larger groups of members will be allowed to join each 7 kilometre walk across Ireland.

#### JUST GIVING Page:

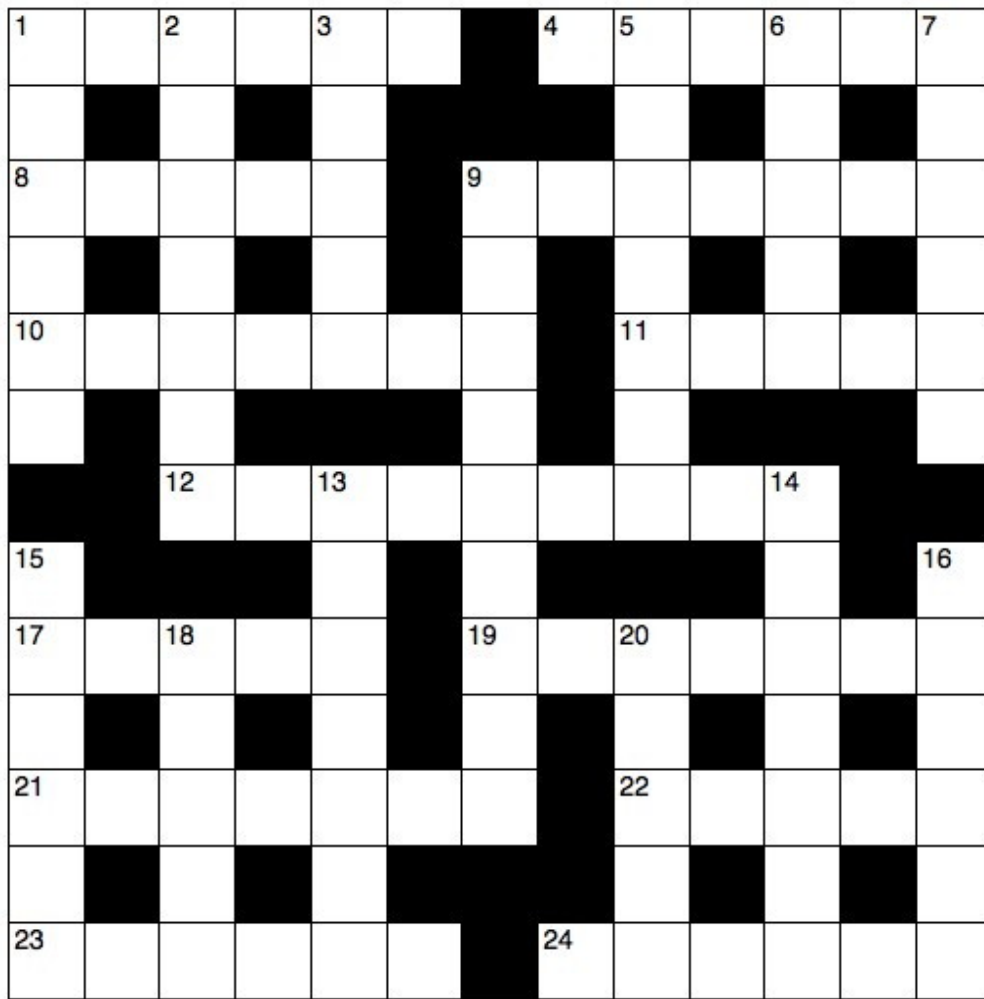
A JUST GIVING PAGE has been set up for the "21 in 21" initiative, so friends and family can easily sponsor June's walking extravaganza or any other member's challenge. Simply log on to [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/MumsinMay21](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/MumsinMay21) to donate to the All-Ireland Mums in May Fund (in either Sterling or Euros). Details are also on the All-Ireland website and Facebook pages.

#### Count Your Blessings

We have so much to give thanks for! During the month of May, why not help raise money for *Mums in May* by placing money in a jar for each daily "Blessing" listed on the "Count Your Blessings" Chart? Copies will be circulated to branches and are available for download at [www.mothersunion.ie](http://www.mothersunion.ie)



# PUZZLE PAGES *for Adults*



## ACROSS

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)  
 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)  
 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)  
 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)  
 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)  
 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)  
 12 Repossessed (Gen 14:16) (9)  
 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)  
 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Ex 34:29) (7)  
 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)  
 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)  
 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)  
 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

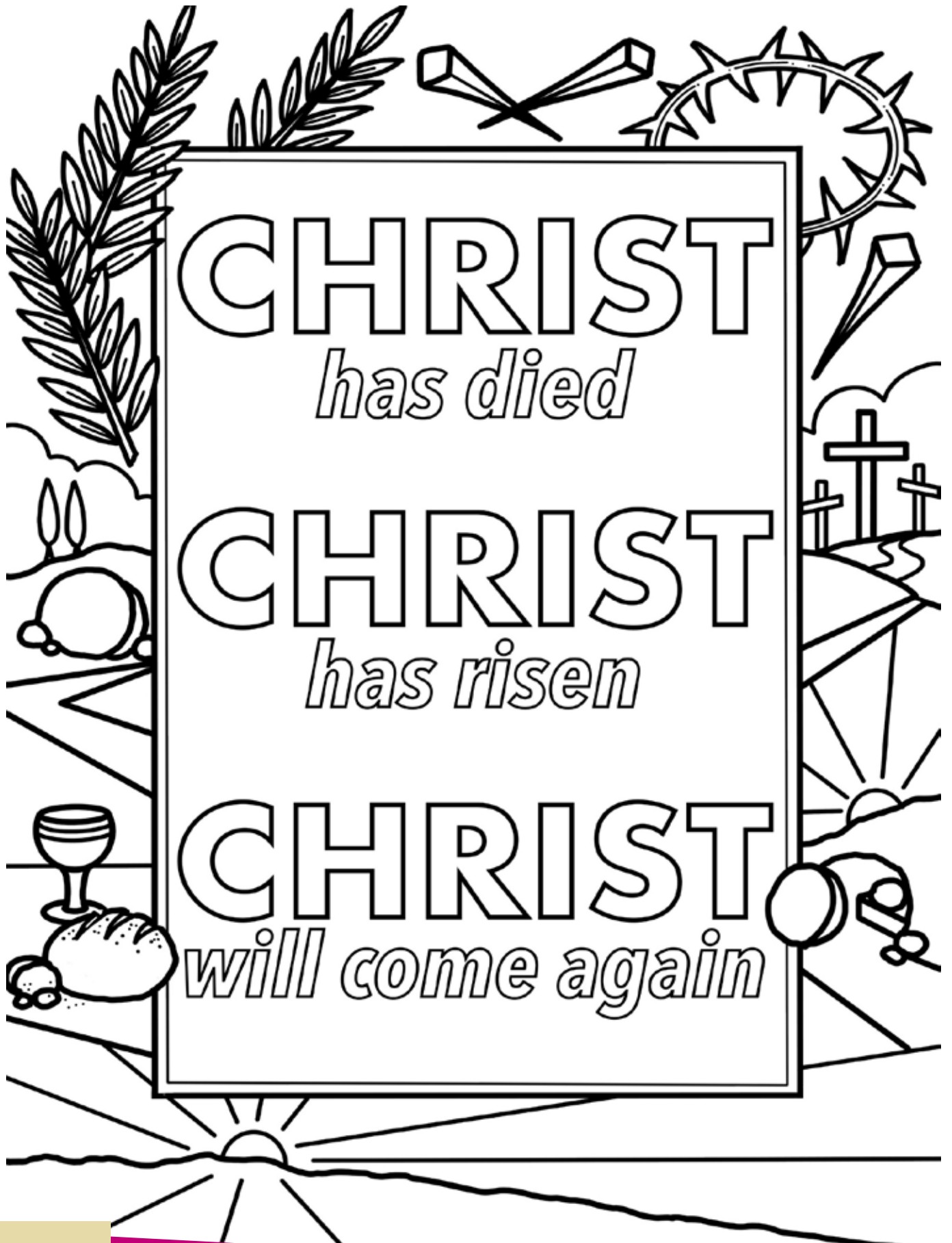
## DOWN

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)  
 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)  
 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)  
 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)  
 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)  
 7 He reps (anag.) (6)  
 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)  
 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)  
 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)  
 15 The human mind or soul (6)  
 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)  
 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)  
 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

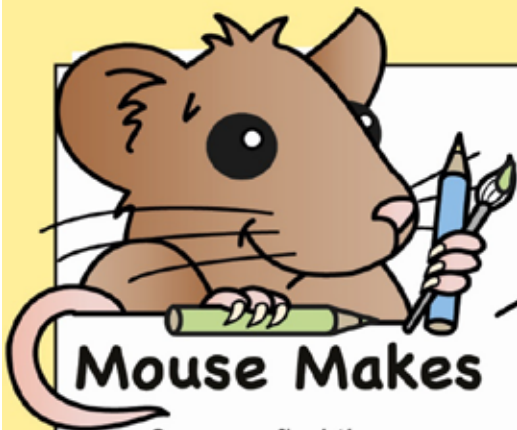
■ Crossword Puzzle answers on page 63

# CHILDREN'S SECTION

Colour:







# Mouse Makes

Can you find these names of **Jesus** in the word search?

## SON OF GOD

Matthew 3:16-17



## KING OF KINGS

Revelation 17:14

## PROPHET

Luke 24:19



## PRIEST

1 Timothy 2:5

## ROCK

1 Corinthians 10: 4

## LORD

1 Corinthians 1:9

## AMEN

Revelation 3:14

## LIFE

John 11:25-27

## MESSIAH

John 1:41

## SHEPHERD

John 10:11

## LIGHT

John 8:12



## WORD

John 1:1-50

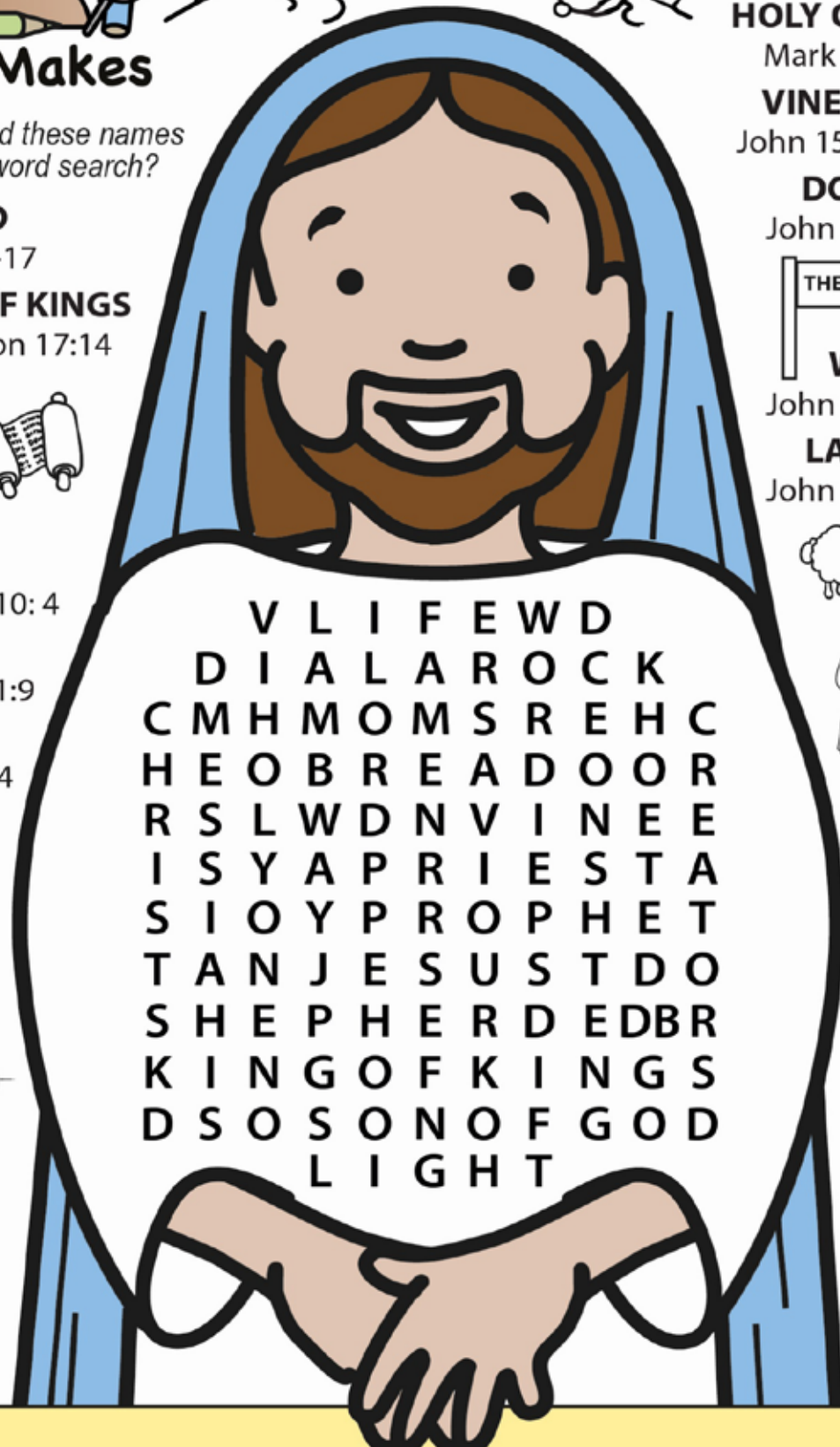


## BREAD

John 6:35

## CREATOR

1 John 1:3



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

**CHRIST**  
Matthew 16:16

**SAVIOUR**  
John 3:16-17

**HOLY ONE**  
Mark 1:24

**VINE**   
John 15:5

**DOOR**  
John 10:9

 **THE WAY**  
**WAY**

John 14:6

**LAMB**  
John 1:29



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# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Diocese's farewell to former bishop in online format

A special farewell evening for Archbishop John McDowell to mark his departure as Bishop of Clogher was full of nostalgia, of thanksgiving, fellowship and spiritual devotion.

The Service of Compline and the farewell and presentation took place on Thursday evening, 25th March and was an overwhelming success, brought to the computer screens and tablets of participants and viewers in their own homes via the Zoom platform. This event had been delayed due to Covid-19.

At one stage, more than 160 people had signed in to the event hosted by the Archbishop's Commissary, Archdeacon Brian Harper and organised by Diocesan Secretary, Glenn Moore.

The evening began with a short video showing various aspects of Clogher Diocese with photographs of Archbishop John's involvement in many different spheres of diocesan and community life all narrated by Glenn Moore.

This was followed by many tributes from those working or serving within the diocese as well as those with a connection with Clogher Diocese representing various aspects of civic society, politics and community life.

The speeches referred to the Archbishop's gifts of being an eloquent speaker, his punctuality when holding meetings, his encouragement of youth work in parishes, his compassion and pastoral care, his legacy of abiding memories, his qualities of faith, integrity and humility, his encouragement of inter-church relations, as an adviser to many, helpful and approachable, leadership qualities,

#### *They included;*

**John Irvine MBE and Rosemary Barton MLA**, Honorary Diocesan Lay Secretaries;  
**Diana Armstrong**, Chair of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council;  
**Monsignor Peter O'Reilly** of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church;  
**Jack Johnston**, Diocesan Archivist and Historian from Clogher Cathedral;  
**Ashley Brown**, Diocesan Accountant;  
**Minister Heather Humphreys T.D.**, Minister for Rural and Community Development in



the Republic of Ireland;  
**Irene Boyd**, President, Clogher Diocesan Mothers' Union;  
**Peter Little MBE**, Chair of Enniskillen Royal Grammar School;  
**Joyce Clingan**, Chair of Clogher Diocesan Board of Religious Education;  
**Arlene Foster MLA**, First Minister for Northern Ireland;  
**Michael Skuce MBE**, Diocesan Safeguarding and GDPR Compliance Officer;  
**Elizabeth Armstrong**, Principal, Enniskillen Royal Grammar School;  
**Johnston Reid**, Principal, Monaghan Collegiate School;  
**Sue Hogg MBE** on behalf of the Diocesan Pastoral Assistants' team;  
**Joy Graham**, Member of Diocesan Council and member of Diocesan Sustenance and Finance Committee;  
**Robert Forde**, Diocesan Glebes Secretary;  
**Henry Robinson**, Diocesan Council and Diocesan Properties Co-ordinator;  
**Right Honourable Lord Stephens**, Diocesan Chancellor;  
**Eithne McCord**, Diocesan Council and member of Music Bursary Committee and RCB;

**Most Revd and Rt.Hon Dr John Sentamu**, former Archbishop of York;  
**Sabrina McCabe**, Diocesan Administrative Assistant;  
**Eileen Gallagher**, Fermanagh Churches Forum;  
**Brian Donaldson**, Diocesan Communications Officer and Magazine Editor;  
**Etta Crowe**, Secretary, Co. Monaghan Church of Ireland Children's Society;  
**Revd David Cupples**, Enniskillen Presbyterian Church;  
**Jonny Phenix**, Diocesan Youth Officer.  
**Revd Ngozi Njoku**, former rector of Garrison Group of parishes;  
**Bishop Larry Duffy**, Roman Catholic Bishop of Clogher;  
**Revd Sam McGuffin**, Past President Methodist Church and former Superintendent Minister in Enniskillen

The Service of Compline from Page 154 from the Book of Common Prayer was pre-recorded and all serving clergy in the diocese took part in the readings and prayers. The address was given by Archbishop John McDowell.



# Archbishop praises people's faithfulness as he looks back over his nine years in diocese



**"I want to thank all those faithful lay people who continued in their faithfulness to God and to their churches"**

ARCHBISHOP McDOWELL

The Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland, the Most Revd John McDowell, responded to the tributes from people representing many aspects of life in Clogher Diocese, as he spoke from Armagh. He said he and his family were exceptionally happy in the Diocese of Clogher, an area he had not previously known very well. He said they had got to know it much better after their time here.

"All I wanted to do was to be faithful and create a sense of family in the diocese. We managed to get things done."

He said he could not have done anything without the support of a very strong team of lay and clerical people in the diocese.

"Above all, I want to thank all those faithful lay people who continued in their faithfulness to God and to their churches. A lot of people who through a very deep affection for their churches kept the spirits alive. I want to thank all of you for what you have done and contributed to building up the body of Jesus Christ."

Archbishop McDowell singled out confirmations of young people as being an



Archbishop John McDowell speaking at his farewell service and presentation.



Archdeacon Brian Harper who led the farewell event in his role as Archbishop's Commissary.

important aspect of his ministry as bishop and said this gave him an enormous amount of pleasure to him as did his work with fellow clergy.

Archdeacon Brian Harper said Archbishop McDowell gave great encouragement to young people and wished to thank him for his pastoral care offered to his clergy and others and for his diplomacy and faith. He said his time in Clogher had been a time of blessings for many.

Archdeacon Harper said that the Archbishop had begun his new role in Armagh at such a difficult time with the Covid-19 pandemic but he said he had the prayers of the people of Clogher Diocese for his work in the leadership of the church in Ireland in the time ahead.

The Archdeacon made a virtual presentation of a gift on behalf of the people of Clogher Diocese to Archbishop John.



The Bishop-Elect, Revd Canon Dr. Ian Ellis, who gave the final prayer during the Service of Compline.



Claire Holmes, who sang during the Service of Compline.



Dean Kenneth Hall, accepting a donation of £17,016 from representatives of the Rowland family in memory of Shirley Rowland (nee Kee) who died last year. She was a parishioner of St. Macartin's Cathedral and her family and the Kee family wanted to present all donations made by neighbours, friends and families to the Cathedral Re-Roofing Fund. When Gift Aid is added, the amount will reach around £21,000.

# Cathedral re-roofing project begins as 400th anniversary year approaches

A major project to restore the roof of St. Macartin's Cathedral in Enniskillen at an estimated cost of £400,000 is set to begin. The Cathedral has stood on a site of Christian witness in the Fermanagh county town for 400 years and in 2022, Enniskillen Cathedral parish will mark the Quadricentenary.

But before that, many slates will be replaced. In fact 10,000 slates on the roof will be removed and replaced as well as any deficient materials in the roof.

This has given Dean Kenneth Hall inspiration for a fundraising project – asking parishioners to provide 20 slates. He has suggested that parishioners sell a slate for £10 each to friends and especially those who are non-parishioners. In total this could raise £100,000 or 25 per cent of the overall cost.

Normal ways of fundraising have not been possible because of COVID-19 restrictions. For example a concert featuring Declan Nerney had been planned, postponed and re-scheduled and cancelled again. However one of the largest donations to the fund has been made by the Kee and Rowland families. The proceeds from donations in lieu of flowers in memory



St. Macartin's Cathedral which is to undergo a re-roofing project.

of Shirley Rowland (nee Kee) have been handed over to Dean Hall. A cheque for £17,016 chalked on a roof slate, was handed over by Felix and Isla Rowland. Shirley was a member of Enniskillen Cathedral parish until her untimely death in 2020 and the donations supported by neighbours, friends and family has been acknowledged by the Rowland and Kee families who thanked

them for their sympathy, kindness and generosity.

In addition to the re-roofing of the Cathedral, stone restoration will involve work on the east window where two sections of the stonework surrounding the stained-glass window will need to be replaced. Some of the stone pinnacles require total or partial rebuilding. Originally the stonework was





(Above); An aerial view of the Cathedral and (right); a close-up of damaged slates.

secured using iron pins or dowels. When the iron rusts it swells and impacts adversely on the stone structure. When the stones are being rebuilt stainless steel dowels will be used which will protect the stonework.

Once the roof has been replaced and the stained-glass window has been repaired, the Cathedral will be repainted internally. Dean Hall expects the Cathedral to remain open during the exterior works as scaffolding will not interfere with the main entrance to the building.

However the building will have to be closed during the re-painting in the early months of 2022 and services held in the Cathedral Hall. Dean Hall said the Cathedral was an important feature in the centre of Enniskillen.

"We really want the cathedral to be a community building in the town; it's open to all. It's open to everyone," he said.




The high roof sections of St. Macartin's Cathedral.

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)

# DIOCESE HOSTS INSPIRING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT SESSIONS

Mental health support sessions have been hosted by Clogher Diocese through Zoom, in association with Conor McCafferty, a therapist and Counsellor with the charity, Zest in Londonderry.

The inspiring two-part workshops featured how to deal with “Compassion, Self-compassion and Self-Care” during the current pandemic in week one and in the second part, Conor (pictured right) dealt with the effects of social media use on people’s lives and the impact this was having on people’s mental well-being.

The aim of the sessions were to identify issues which people may not readily pick up.

In the first session, “Compassion, Self-compassion and Self-Care” Conor posed a simple question, “Why do we care?”

He answered this with a number of points including people’s natural instincts of compassion and recognition that it is important in ensuring survival of the human species.

Conor went on to explain how compassion involved people allowing themselves to be moved by suffering and distress of the self and others, and experiencing the motivation to help alleviate and prevent it.

He said there is now increasing neuroscientific evidence about the relationship between kindness, compassion, and a variety of recovery and healing processes.

He said self-care was important otherwise it led to a poor quality of life, it could lead to burnout or someone dropping out of a profession and led to people’s reduced ability to be empathic.

In terms of grief, Conor said this was the price we pay for loving someone.

Conor then turned to what constituted compassion fatigue, saying this was similar to PTSD and people could become easily frustrated, irritable and annoyed.

Symptoms of depression include difficulty maintaining hope, a feeling of being over alert and restless, feeling ineffective, negative or inadequate.

He said compassion fatigue was; “the natural, predictable, treatable, and preventable unwanted consequence of working with suffering people”

He asked participants to carry out a self-care examination of themselves by asking themselves various questions in relation to tiredness and struggling to think over problems.

Burnout could, he said, lead to changes in sleep patterns as well as psychological reactions such as depression and sadness, cognitive reactions such as inattention, behavioural reactions such as feeling withdrawn and spiritual reactions such as having spiritual doubts.

Burnout was also a problem for some, which he defined as a relatively frequent outcome of chronic stress that has received considerable attention and refers to the gradual extinguishing of energy of a health professional.

Offering tips for people to care for themselves, Conor suggested;



- Eating well, exercising, and resting
- Avoid stimulants such as caffeine, chocolate and nicotine and depressants such as alcohol.
- Seek out comfortable, familiar surroundings and avoid spending too much time alone.
- Share thoughts/feelings with those who are supportive and helpful

#### TIPS FOR SELF-CARE INCLUDE;

- Take stock of things
- Start a self-care idea collection
- Find time for yourself every day
- Have a transition from work to home
- Learn to say yes or no more often
- Assess your trauma
- Learn more about compassion, fatigue and trauma.



# Social media addiction is a ‘crisis with far reaching consequences’

The second part of the mental health sessions presented by Conor McCafferty focussed on the impact of social media on people’s lives and asked the question, “Social Media: Are we becoming addicted?”

Examining the concept of the smartphone, Conor said the use of social media was a social dilemma and parents often ask him how they can get their children off their devices.

He said some people crossed a line that it became an addiction.

He looked at the lives of the major tech executives and how some of them were shielding their own family members from becoming addicted to social media platforms.

He revealed that studies have shown people using smartphones in many different environments; 80 per cent use them ‘on the go,’ 57 per cent on public transport, 55 per cent while in bed, 30 per cent while having a meal and even nine per cent in a place of worship.

Because of their widespread use and dependency, there is now the term, “nomophobia” meaning people suffering or afraid of losing or being without their smartphones.

Conor charted the rise in popularity of social media platforms, most strikingly from the millennium and in 2018, about one third of the world’s population was using Facebook. However, despite social media’s drawbacks, it did have advantages; worldwide connectivity, education, help, providing information and news, helping people make money and finding employment, to promote noble causes, sharing interests, entertainment and finding romantic interests.

However Conor said that while there is nothing wrong with using social media, it is when people spend so much of their time on social media platforms, that their bad habits seriously affected their lives in a negative way.

He explained to participants that when receiving notifications from social media like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, people’s brains will release a small amount of dopamine, a feel-good chemical and over the long term, this then forms a habit. Each time someone receives a notification, the brain gets excited.

While many parents think that their young people can keep busy while on a device,



they don’t realise the long-term damage it could be doing.

But he said parents should look at their own use of social media as setting an example to their children was important.

Conor said there was a tsunami coming and that was largely down to addiction.

“This is a crisis, an epidemic and it will have far reaching consequences for which there is no vaccine,” he warned.

Concluding, Conor said that people should understand that technology is there to help them to move forward and that it is not created to waste their time and make them less productive.

He said there were many positives from

using social media, such as a great way to connect with people without neglecting the physical communication with others.

However he warned against letting online social media platforms take away precious time or control people’s lives.

He concluded; “If you find yourself spending too much time on social media and are addicted to it, follow advice and gain back control of your life.”

**Conor McCafferty is involved with;**  
**Zest - Healing The Hurt, 15A Queen Street Derry/Londonderry.**  
**Email: [zest@gmail.com](mailto:zest@gmail.com);**  
**Tel: 02871 266999;**  
**Website: <http://www.zestni.org>**



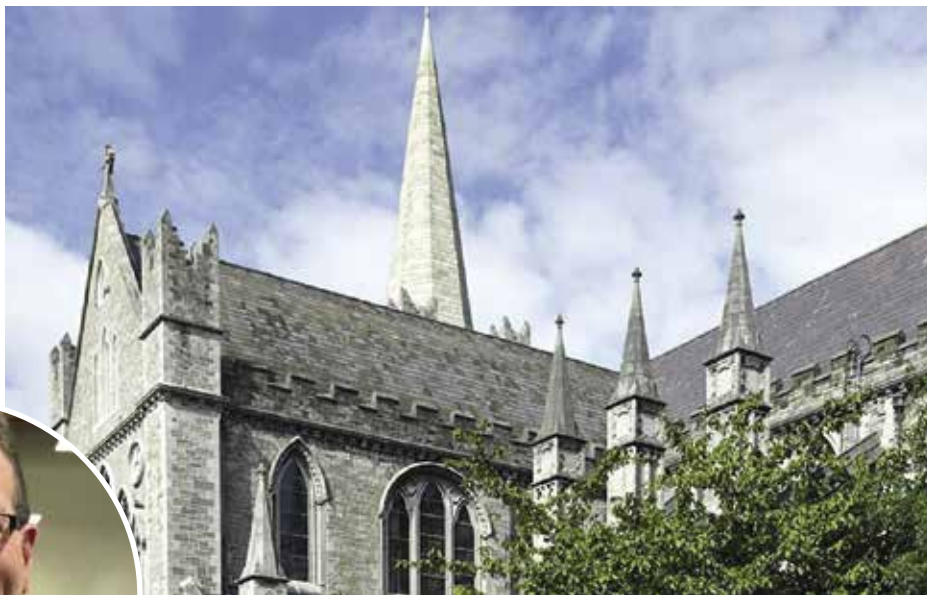
# DEAN HALL ELECTED CANON OF ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN

The Dean of Clogher, the Very Revd Kenneth Hall, Rector of St. Macartin's Cathedral parish, Enniskillen, is one of two new Canons elected to the Chapter of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

In this role, Dean Hall and the other new canon, Revd Ian Gallagher, Rector of Stillorgan, Dublin, will spend two weeks each year 'in residence in Dublin' with the responsibility of preaching and other duties in St Patrick's, the National Cathedral.

Dean Hall explained that the Chapter of a Cathedral is the body of clergy responsible for the ministry and mission of the Cathedral. The Cathedral Chapter of the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland (St Patrick's Dublin) is composed of four Dignitaries (Dean William Morton, Precentor, Chancellor and Treasurer), the Archbishop of Dublin, 12 Diocesan canons to represent each diocese of the Church of Ireland, nine canons elected by the Chapter, and two ecumenical canons elected by the Chapter.

Dean Hall was elected on Monday, 15th March to the prebendal stall of Tassagard and to serve on the Chapter of St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin.



He said he was very pleased and honoured to be considered for this position and looks forward to his installation and taking on this role.

The Dean of St. Patrick's, Cathedral, the Very Revd Dr William Morton, said: "I am delighted to welcome to the Chapter our two new members and I look forward to working with them in the future."

As Dr Morton explained at the Chapter meeting, the two new Canons join recently appointed, or elected, colleagues all of whom will be installed when Covid 19 restrictions lift and it is possible to worship

with the Choir and congregation.

The complete list of installations now reads: the Very Revd Roderick Smyth, Dean of Killaloe, to be Prebendary of Taney; the Revd Malcolm Kingston, Rector of Saint Mark's, Armagh, to be Prebendary of Yagoe; the Revd Aonghus Mayes, Rector of Moy, to be Prebendary of Newcastle; the Revd Katharine Poulton, Rector of Julianstown, to be Prebendary of Swords; the Very Revd Kenny Hall, Dean of Clogher, and Rector of Enniskillen, to be Prebendary of Tassagard; and the Revd Ian Gallagher, Rector of Stillorgan, Dublin, to be Prebendary of Tipperkevin.

## *St. Finbarr's Church goes green for St. Patrick's Day*



St Finbarr's Church in Carrickmacross was lit up green for St. Patrick's Day.

The initiative is part of the parish's contribution to the virtual St. Patrick's Day celebrations organised by the municipal council along with the Chamber of Commerce in the town.

Revd Colin McConaghie explained that the parish normally takes part in the St. Patrick's Day parade in the town but this has now been cancelled for the second year due to Covid-19 restrictions. Instead, a number of parishioners contributed to a video from the parish.

"We were delighted for St Finbarr's to be asked to take part and we were able to produce a video of different voices from our church praying a prayer of St Patrick. As part of the town's celebrations the church steeple was lit up green to mark the occasion.

"Thanks to all who took part in the video," said Revd McConaghie.



# NEWS FOR VESTRIES

## Social media guidance and resources from Church of Ireland



Social media offers a wide range of opportunities for people to connect creatively and positively with others and share stories about Church life and the Christian faith as a whole.

At the same time, the nature of social media means that it is important to think about how we can communicate in this way and to manage the risks which can arise.

Our guidance is provided to help members of the Church to use social media well, whether in organising an online service or ministry, or in everyday life. On our social media resources page, you will find guides and checklists for:

- using social media (and other online media) responsibly
- setting objectives for and organising parish social media
- video conferencing and photography
- live streaming

We hope that this will be helpful for you and your parish.

To read the full advice, go to;

[www.ireland.anglican.org/socialmedia](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/socialmedia)

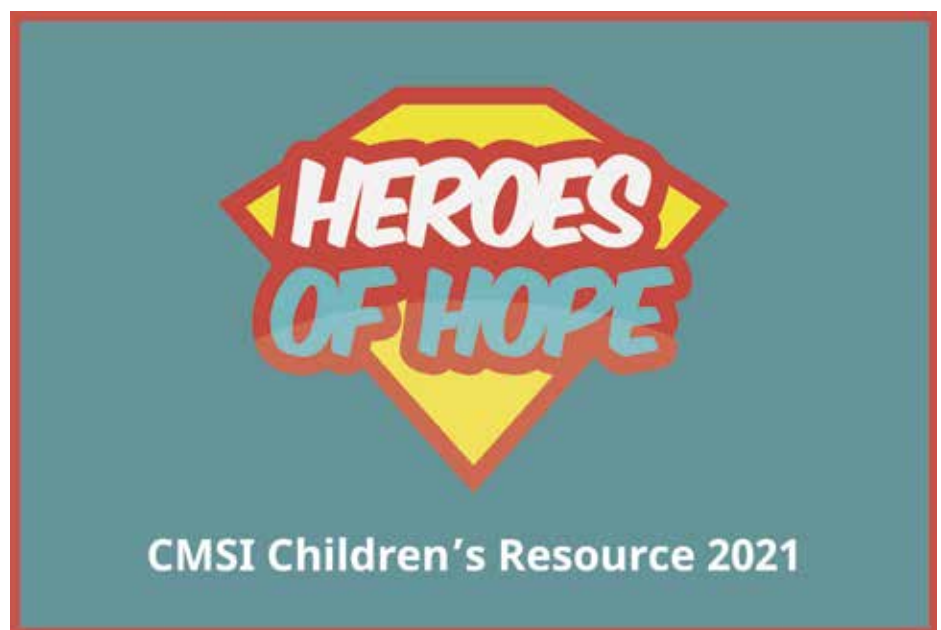
## New children's resource celebrates hope

The Church Mission Society Ireland (CMSI) has recently launched 'Heroes Of Hope' – its children's resource for 2021.

CMSI's annual resource is produced for Sunday schools, churches and families across Ireland. It aims to help children and young people explore the biblical story of mission and explore life and faith in other parts of the world.

This year's resource introduces heroes of hope in the Bible and across the global Church and challenges us all to share God's hope. The material – which is free to download from CMSI's website - includes video stories, activity worksheets and craft suggestions, all around the theme of hope. A number of churches have already started using Heroes Of Hope as part of their online children's programmes, and the material has been well received such as this below; "I'm a Sunday school teacher delivering the Heroes Of Hope project in Milltown Parish (Armagh Diocese). We launched this last Sunday with great success. The resources are fantastic!"

Sunday school leaders, parents and carers



can access the Heroes Of Hope material by visiting the Children's Resource Page of CMSI's website and registering their group.

The website is;  
[cmsireland.org/childrens-resource](http://cmsireland.org/childrens-resource)

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Get the BIG story of the Bible with new study resource

*“Teacher which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:36-37).*

Over the course of the past 12 months our everyday lives have been turned upside down and tossed from the reality we once knew, under the domination of one topic – COVID-19.

Every corner of the earth has been impacted. Societies have stood still. Schools have been shut, hospitals overrun, supermarket shelves emptied, and workplaces and churches forced to adapt to new online worlds. This virus, its restrictions and new vocabulary has presented us, has all too often overwhelmed our minds with questions about how we exist, how we live, and how we can make the most of these days. Nowhere, perhaps, have these questions been more deeply wrestled with than in the Church.

How can we, individually and collectively as the Body of Christ, love God with all our heart, soul and mind in a moment of history when our whole beings are so profoundly affected by the present circumstances?

At Bible Society NI we believe one way to do this is to spend time reading and studying the Book which is unlike any other book in the world – the Bible! We believe passionately that God, the maker of the heavens and the earth wants to speak to us and reveal himself to us through the words contained upon every page of the Book he inspired.

Yet, if we’re being honest, though we know the benefits of feasting on the Bible, all too often reading it can be a bit of a struggle. Sometimes the Bible feels too big, too hard, too complicated, and maybe even too irrelevant to our everyday 21st century lives. Other times we can feel too busy, too scared of turning our devotions into a box-ticking exercise, or even too much of a failure that reading it might only make us feel even worse before God.

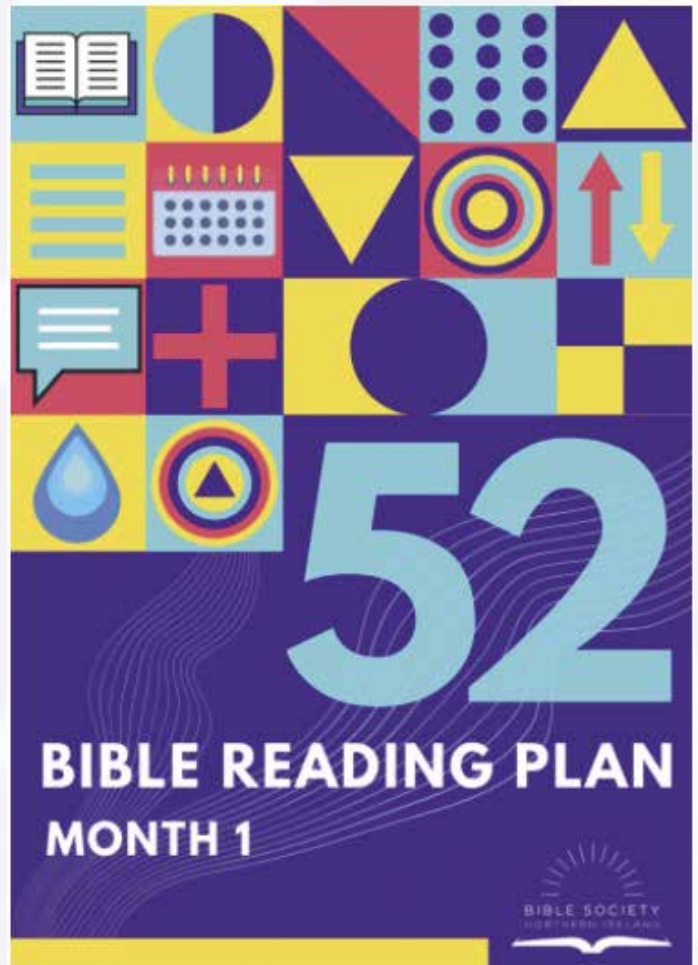
So what can we do about it? How can we read the Bible in a way which will help us hear God’s voice, make sense of these days and live out the greatest commandment Jesus spoke of to the teachers of the Law?

To help answer such questions and inspire generations within the Church to engage more meaningfully with the Bible we have created a new Bible study resource called “52”.

Designed to take readers on a journey of discovery through the BIG story of the Bible, without getting bogged down, 52 explores 28 Old Testament and 24 New Testament passages – the 52 – and applies them to our everyday lives. Each month’s guide comes packed with the weekly passage and a timeline of where it fits into the Bible’s BIG story, as well as study questions, activities, prayers, journal pages and lots more; helping you to form some good Bible reading habits. In our early experience of creating and sharing this resource, we have come to learn that it is an ideal resource for use within families, Sunday Schools, Y.F. groups and even small group ministries.

The best way to use 52 and discover more of God’s BIG story as contained within the Scriptures is by setting some time aside each day and doing just that! Why not:

**READ** – Grab your Bible and read the daily passage. Each week



there are also two memory verses to learn and further passages to study that will take you even deeper into the Bible’s BIG story.

**LOOK** – Go deeper into each week’s passage by using the three simple study questions provided each day and note how God is speaking to you on the journal page.

**LIVE** – Each week we have one to two easy challenges designed to help you put into practice something you have just read. Why not check them out and give them a go!

**PRAY** – Spend some time each week giving thanks, saying sorry, praying for others and yourself. Use our guided prayer and craft your own – God loves it when we talk to him.

52 is currently being released monthly and will be available free of charge from Bible Society NI’s website throughout 2021.

**Simply visit <https://biblesocietyni.co.uk/2020/12/14/52-bible-resource/> to download your copy today.**



# BIBLE ENGAGEMENT IN A COVID WORLD

*“Do you want deeper worship? Richer joy? Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, as the hymn says? Then approach your Bible with a learner’s posture, asking the Author to teach you marvellous things. Don’t just waterski across the surface of the Scripture’s waters. Put on scuba gear. Dive in and explore.” (Matt Smethurst).*

How has engaging with the Bible been for you and those in your ministry during COVID-19? Why not join us on Wednesday 28 April at 11am on Zoom as we host an online conversation to hear and share stories of our own experiences throughout lockdown, and to pray for Bible ministry across Northern Ireland. For more information and to register to join us, visit our social media @biblesocietyni on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter or head to our website [www.biblesocietyni.co.uk](http://www.biblesocietyni.co.uk) – we’d love to have you join us!

**BIBLE ENGAGEMENT  
IN A COVID WORLD:  
AN ONLINE CONVERSATION**

**WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL @ 11AM**

[WWW.BIBLESOCIETYNI.CO.UK](http://WWW.BIBLESOCIETYNI.CO.UK)  
[@BIBLESOCIETYNI](https://twitter.com/BIBLESOCIETYNI)

BIBLE SOCIETY  
NORTHERN IRELAND

## NSPCC Helpline Campaign

A new Northern Ireland campaign has been launched to raise awareness of the NSPCC helpline.

Since schools and education settings have remained closed for most pupils, referrals to children’s social services have fallen dramatically. With children largely remaining at home, there is a hidden group of children potentially at risk of abuse or neglect who are having much less interaction with statutory services as well as their normal community support networks.

That’s why the Department of Health is supporting NSPCC NI to do the following:

- Promote the NSPCC helpline as well as family support services - encouraging those who have concerns about a child or family, or need advice to talk to someone. Find out more about our helpline [www.nspcc.org.uk/helpline](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/helpline)
- We are also offering free 15-minute online safeguarding training, It’s Your Call, aimed at those who may be delivering services to families in our community to increase their confidence to pass concerns on they may have. Protecting children is everyone’s responsibility. Workers who visit or enter people’s homes may see or hear things that others may not. So, whether you or your employees are electricians or plumbers, telecoms engineers, or builders, It’s Your Call highlights how to spot the signs of possible child abuse and what to then do.
- Lastly, we are also highlighting that Childline is still there for children and young people at this time. Find out more about Childline [www.nspcc.org.uk/childline](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/childline) Thank you for your support and of course if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact: Margaret Gallagher, Head of Local Campaigns Service NSPCC Margaret.gallagher@nspcc.org.uk

## BEFRIENDING CLIENTS WANTED!

Omagh Volunteer Centre - The B-Friend Hub Telephone Befriending for older people living in Omagh, Strabane and Fermanagh "

The B-Friend Hub for befriending for older people living in Omagh, Strabane and Fermanagh areas provides support if you need it and peace of mind if you don't.

The service is free and confidential.

A spokesperson stated; "Based at Omagh Volunteer Centre has 13 wonderful Telephone Befriending Volunteers who have made 6,168 calls since March last year, to older vulnerable people in our community!!!

"The chats we have are great...we laugh, we have shed the odd tear, we give helpful advice and signpost to services needed. Sometimes our call is the only person they speak to all day. We have been really busy and so many people have come forward to volunteer their time, their kindness and their compassion.

"Now we are open to taking on more clients in Omagh.

So if you know anyone (over 60 years) who is lonely and/or socially isolated, who would like a friendly chat on the phone, please call me on 07591 952133 or email me at [jo@thebefriendhub.org](mailto:jo@thebefriendhub.org)

## Joint statement on return to in-church worship

Last year on St Patrick's Day, advice was issued to all our clergy with the unprecedented instruction that in the light of evolving Government advice, until further notice, all Sunday and midweek services should be suspended, and all Parish organisations and activities should cease. At that time, we had little knowledge of Covid-19 nor could we have imagined the devastating impact it would have upon the world, our country and on individual lives. We continue to remember in our prayers the sick, the bereaved, the isolated and fearful and also to give thanks to God for the courageous and sacrificial actions of our health care workers who have worked tirelessly in our hospitals and wider community to care for all whom the virus has impacted upon most directly. A difficult year has passed, and a hard road has been travelled but we have reached a new junction. In person gatherings for worship and Parish organisations have been voluntarily suspended since early in January 2021, but we have decided that the time has now come for a cautious and careful return to in-person church services from Good Friday (2nd April 2021). This

news will be warmly welcomed but is simply permissive rather than instructive. Some may wish to continue online and/or drive-in services for the time being due to their own local situation.

From 1st April outdoor gatherings in a public space will allow for 10 people from two households to meet up. This therefore means that customary Easter Dawn services cannot take place this year in their normal form. Parish activities and meetings also remain suspended in the interim, but meetings of General Vestry can take place at the close of Sunday worship as part of an in-person gathering.

No changes have been made to the operation of church buildings as places of worship. Congregation numbers will continue for the time being to be limited according to two-metre social distancing seating capacity. Parish officers must carry out a risk assessment and ensure that good mitigation is in place and that face coverings are worn by congregation members on their arrival and exit from the church building and throughout services. We all need to play our part in preventing any further transmission of Covid-19 within the community. Marriages

and funerals will continue to take place in line with the current restrictions.

We note that the same position of a cautious return to in-person worship at Easter time has been adopted by the Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church and Roman Catholic Church and welcome the co-operation and strong working relationship between the churches.

The message of Easter is one of Hope. From the cross of Calvary to the empty tomb, from death to new life. Echoing the words of the First Minister yesterday, we would encourage everyone to reflect on the road we together have travelled and to continue to pray this Easter for recovery from the pandemic, healing, peace, and a renewed hope. As we journey onwards, we are mindful that we still have further to travel, but we do so trusting in our crucified and risen Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

*+John Armagh*

*+Andrew Derry and Raphoe*

*+David Down and Dromore*

*+George Connor*

## Archbishops support vaccination programmes

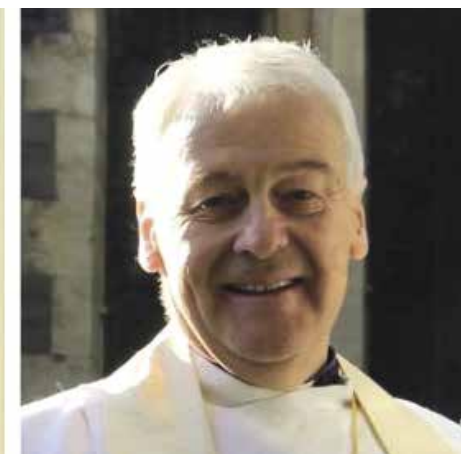
The Archbishop of Armagh; Most Revd John McDowell and the Archbishop of Dublin, Most Revd Michael Jackson, have issued the following statement in support of the Covid-19 vaccination programmes in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland:

'We encourage all Church of Ireland members to take up the opportunity offered by the Covid-19 vaccination programmes currently being rolled out across the island of Ireland. We believe, as Christians, that it is our civic obligation and duty to serve others and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

'Vaccination against Covid-19 helps to protect individuals in our communities by preventing and reducing illness and death caused by the virus. In the past, vaccines have made a significant difference in society, and they continue to do so. The Covid-19 vaccines are already bringing hope and a possibility of a return to relative normality, and should be made available globally as a



priority. 'The Church of Ireland has, throughout the pandemic, advocated following public health advice from trusted sources, including the Health Service Executive in the Republic of Ireland and Health and Social Care services in Northern Ireland. All who have questions about vaccination are



encouraged to consult those sources of information and discuss their questions with health professionals.'

Trustworthy and updated information is available at the following links:

Northern Ireland: <https://covid-19.hscni.net/get-vaccinated>

Republic of Ireland: <https://www2.hse.ie/covid-19-vaccine>



# 2021 General Synod to be held as online three-day meeting

The Standing Committee of the General Synod met in online formats on Tuesday, 9th March 2021.

The Honorary Secretaries confirmed that the 2021 meeting of the General Synod will take place online, from Thursday, 30th September to Saturday, 2nd October. The final dates for the submission of bills will be 19th August (to be printed with the agenda) or 23rd September (for late bills); the final date for the submission of motions will be 2nd September.

The Standing Committee approved its report to General Synod 2021 and the reports of boards, committees, and working groups which report to Standing Committee, as appendices to the report.

## PRIORITIES FUND

The recommendations of the Priorities Fund Committee were approved. Over the course of 2020, a total of 54 applications were received, requesting grants amounting to €991,649. The committee recommended 36 grants, totalling €472,540. Compared to 2019, the number of applications had decreased, as anticipated. The diocesan targets for contributions to the Priorities Fund were reduced to 50% of previous target levels for 2020, and will be at 75% for 2021, to take account of the pressures arising from Covid-19.

A grant of €500 from the General Synod Royalties Fund was approved, to be made to Mr Colum O’Riordan, Director of the Irish Architectural Archive, for expert editorial work on the text of Dr Michael O’Neill’s proposed illustrated history of church buildings.

The Standing Committee approved the establishment of a Working Group concerning a co-ordinated response by the Church to historic institutional abuse, to report to both Standing Committee and the Representative Body at least quarterly. The approval of the Representative Body was granted in its meeting later on the same day.

The Standing Committee considered a preliminary paper from the House of Bishops on marriages outside church buildings and supported a resolution to bring revised Marriage Regulations for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland back to Standing Committee for consideration, following further discussion by the House of Bishops.



Glenn Moore.

## APPOINTMENTS

The Standing Committee approved the nomination of the Revd Colin Darling for nomination to Christian Aid for consideration for appointment as a Church of Ireland voluntary director of Christian Aid.

The co-option of Ms Jane Burns to the Church and Society Commission was approved. The Standing Committee nominated the following members of the Secondary Education Committee (Republic of Ireland) to attend its AGM, with re-nomination (if appropriate) to take place in March 2022: Mr Wilfred Baker; Ms Hazel Corrigan; Mr Roy Crowe; Ms Elizabeth Hassell; the Revd Robert Jones; the Revd Ken Rue; Ms Joyce Ryder; and Ms Kara Turner.

The Revd Dr Stanley Gamble was appointed as the Church of Ireland observer on the Methodist Church’s Faith and Order Committee.

## FOUR NATIONS VIRTUAL MEETING NOMINEES

The following persons were appointed to attend at a virtual meeting of the Four Nations on 26th May 2021, comprising representatives from the four Anglican Churches in the UK and Ireland: the Archbishop of Dublin; the Bishop of Cashel; the Dean of Limerick; the Revd Canon Katharine Poulton; Ms Kate Turner; and Mr Glenn Moore.

The Standing Committee agreed that Church of Ireland representatives appointed



Roy Crowe.

in 2020 to annual meetings of other Churches should, if invitations are received, attend those meetings in 2021, and authorised the Honorary Secretaries to find replacement representatives if necessary. The appointed representatives are as follows:

- General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (1st–5th June in Belfast) – the Revd Alison Calvin and Ms Rhonda Willoughby;
- Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland (10th–14th June, in Lisburn) – Mr Ken Gibson and the Revd Canon Katharine Poulton;
- Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church in Great Britain and Ireland (9th–13th July in Swanwick, Derbyshire) – the Rev Dr William Olhausen (additionally, the Rt Revd Michael Burrows to attend part of the Provincial Synod); and
- the Very Revd John Bond to attend Society of Friends’ Ireland Yearly Meeting and Ms Gina Coptly to attend as alternate.

The following Churches which were invited to send representatives to attend General Synod 2020 will be again be invited in the same manner to General Synod 2021: Presbyterian Church in Ireland; Methodist Church in Ireland; Roman Catholic Church; Irish Council of Churches; Moravian Church of Great Britain and Ireland; Church in Wales; Rock of Ages Cherubim and Seraphim; Salvation Army; and Romanian Orthodox Church in Ireland.

# New webinar examines online church in a post lockdown world

A new webinar organised by The Church of Ireland Theological Institute for Church of Ireland members will examine the role of online church in a post-lockdown world.

This event is free of charge and is scheduled to take place on Friday, 16th April, from 10.00am to 12.30pm.

(Registration is required in advance. Please see details below).

The webinar will consist of two sessions led by the Venerable Bob Jackson and include opportunities for group discussion, a coffee break, and a final plenary session during which Archbishop Michael Jackson will offer



a short personal response to the webinar content.

Bob Jackson is a former British Government Economic Adviser and following 20 years

of parish ministry in Yorkshire, he became a missionary working for the two English archbishops, and then an archdeacon.

Recently, he has focused on the theory and practice of church growth and is now thinking through good practice and the future of online church.

He is the author of numerous publications, most recently, 'Everybody Welcome Online' and 'Everybody Welcome to the Future.'

Registration must be made in advance by Wednesday, March 31. Go to;

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/10475/citi-webinar-online-church-in>



## The Irish Blessing re-dedicated to all key workers

The team behind the inspirational YouTube video, 'The Irish Blessing,' had their collective presentation re-released for St. Patrick's Day, almost a year on from the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The team behind the video said they were thinking of all the key workers, exhausted now after a year of battling the virus, and of all those directly affected by Covid-19, whether physically, or emotionally, during this time. It is to them that The Irish Blessing has been dedicated.

In the week leading up to St Patrick's Day,

the Irish Blessing team said they were re-dedicating The Irish Blessing to all of them, by asking people to share one of The Irish Blessing videos with their friends, family, and anyone who might take comfort in a blessing at this time.

These videos include the original recording, the Irish Sign Language version, and a new live performance by their friends in New Irish Arts from St. Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, which was launched on their YouTube channel later this week.

The production of The Irish Blessing was

organised by Philip McKinley, a former chaplain at Dublin City University and now in training for priesthood in the Church of Ireland and Fr Martin Magill, parish priest at the Falls Road and Belfast.

Singers and musicians from over 300 churches from our island took part.

The Irish Blessing video can be seen at the following link;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TascswZPJ8U>



# Candles burn for Covid lives lost

People from across Northern Ireland and beyond joined an online Service of Reflection live-streamed by Belfast Cathedral on March 23, the anniversary of the first Covid-19 lockdown.

In the Cathedral's Nave, 2,107 candles laid out along the aisle burned brightly, one for each life with a Covid diagnosis lost in Northern Ireland.

The service, one of many held across the UK on the first anniversary of the national lockdown, was organised in response to a call by the charity Marie Curie for March 23 to be a National Day of Reflection, and as part of the cathedral's Lives Reflected initiative.

Lives Reflected offers a National Online Book of Remembrance for all those who have died in the past 12 months, whether from Covid-19 or other causes, acknowledging that normal funeral arrangements and grieving processes have not been possible.

The Service of Choral Evensong led by the Dean of Belfast, the Very Revd Stephen Forde, featured settings by David Terry and Matthew Owens, and the anthem Pie Jesu from Gabriel Fauré's Requiem. It was shared live via the Cathedral's Facebook page.



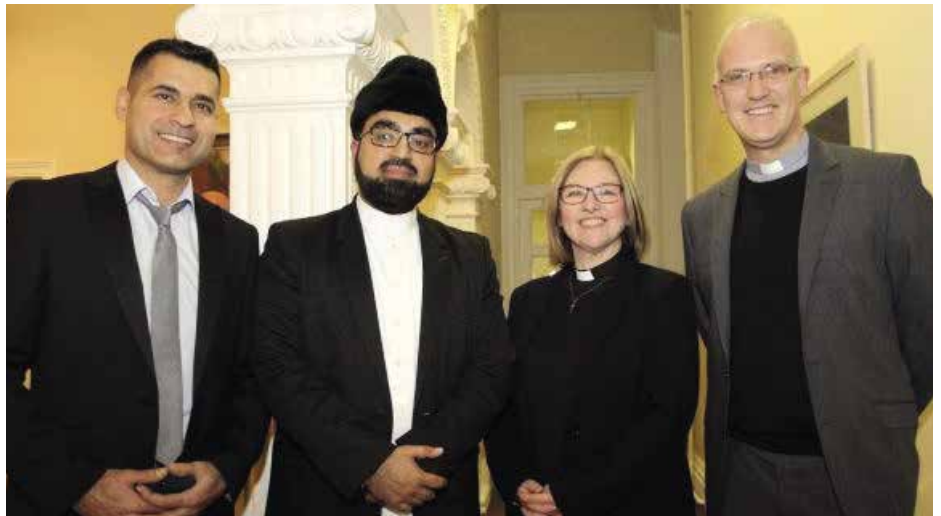
## Archbishop appoints Inter-Faith Advisor

The Most Revd John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, has appointed the Revd Suzanne Cousins, as his Inter Faith Advisor.

Archbishop McDowell remarked: 'In recent years, the World Council of Churches has been developing its role in this area of theology and practice and it is keen to liaise with member Churches in this work. In an increasingly diverse community, here in Ireland and globally, it is important that we are aware of both the limitations and the extent of what can be achieved in inter faith relations with integrity and love.'

'Apart from her invaluable experience of living as a Christian overseas and engaging with Muslim people and communities, Suzanne is a member of the Inter Faith Working Group of the General Synod Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue, and her MTh dissertation (subsequently published in the Braemor Series) dealt with a central Anglican approach to inter faith encounter, outlined in the Anglican Communion document entitled Generous Love. I am delighted that Suzanne has agreed to act in this capacity.'

Mrs Cousins, Rector of the Benburb Group of Parishes, added: 'I am delighted and honoured to be invited by the Archbishop to serve in this capacity. Inter faith dialogue and the approach



The Revd Suzanne Cousins pictured at the launch of her Braemor Study, Generous Love in Multi-Faith Ireland, in March 2018 with (from left) Mr Shafqat Ayub, Shaykh Dr Umar Al-Qadri, (Head Imam of the Al-Mustafa Islamic Education and Cultural Centre, Ireland), and the Revd Canon Dr Maurice Elliott (Director, Church of Ireland Theological Institute). Credit: Lynn Glanville.

of the Anglican Communion and other Churches has developed significantly since the early days of its formal exploration, so that dialogue no longer belongs solely or mainly in the domain of theological academia. Rather, Christians in Irish society, north and south, can find themselves on an almost daily basis interacting with people of other faiths, who are a growing minority. Inter faith dialogue is in many ways the domain of everyone, especially with the digitalisation of dialogue.

'The Church of Ireland, through its committees and structures, is aware of the need to equip its members disciples of Christ for faithful, confident and loving everyday inter faith encounter and engagement in this changing environment. To this end, I look forward to assisting the Archbishop as he seeks to advise and guide the Church on current related theological, pastoral and practical issues, and on the challenges and opportunities which these present to the Church in its ministry and mission.'

# Find time for each other

■ By **Revd Jonny Campbell–Smyth**,  
Chair of the Church of Ireland Marriage Council.

Over the last year, all of us have experienced extended periods at home, and this has led to many positive stories of people helping one another, but isolation can be a strain on all of us.

For those married, none of us could have imagined the amount of time that this would give couples together, and with the limitations on social gatherings and the pattern of working from home, we have become used to being with those we live with a lot more than normal.

Managing to keep out of each other's way when working from home, handling children's home schooling, and getting used to new ways of doing things is not something that any of us have had a lot of practice at before. This can place pressure on any relationship.

The purpose of the Church of Ireland Marriage Council is to resource the Church as it supports marriage and family life. This is done through a number of ways:

- Support for couples considering marriage, including resources to clergy for marriage preparation;
- Providing support to married couples through marriage enrichment and signposting counselling services;
- Resourcing the wider Church through training, signposting, and materials;
- Marriage support to clergy and their spouses.

This season may bring the greatest strain



**“God wants to be a part of your relationship, so don't leave him out or make him the last thing you think about.”**

to our marriages, and therefore as a Council in these difficult times, we want to help couples in as many ways as possible – through our website and Facebook posts. Should you wish to contact us or find out more resources, then have a look at our website at [marriage.ireland.anglican.org](http://marriage.ireland.anglican.org)

Here are a few helpful tips for you and your partner that we have found, which we hope you find useful.

## WORKING FROM HOME

It's very easy to get caught up in much longer hours at work when your office is now at the dining table. If you are both working at home, try to agree times when you can both stop and enjoy lunch together. Also agree times when work is over and the office becomes home again. Having defined working hours will help keep work time and home time separate. Our daily temptation is to measure the success of our days by what we accomplish. But, this time of life should remind us that bearing fruit is not the same as getting things done. Galatians 5:22 reminds us that, “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” May we make time for these things in the hectic nature of our work/life balance.

## MAKE SPACE FOR QUALITY TIME TOGETHER

While you may not be able to visit your favourite restaurant or cinema, there are countless ways you can spend quality time together, though it may mean getting a little more creative. You could have some fun cooking a new meal together from scratch – and if you're not a great cook, it could be something to laugh about later.

Try walking or exercising together – keeping appropriate distances from others if you're outside, of course. Quality time together will look different to what we're used to, but it's a great chance to make some awesome memories.

## LISTEN TO EACH OTHER

Listening and chatting to each other,



**“This season may bring the greatest strain to our marriages, and therefore as a Council in these difficult times, we want to help couples in as many ways as possible – through our website and Facebook posts.”**

rather than staring at a TV screen or your mobile device, can be so refreshing for your relationship. You may never have chatted as much before due to separate daily routines. Taking the time to listen to each other is so important – giving your partner your undivided attention gives value to their thoughts and feelings.

## PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

God wants to be a part of your relationship, so don't leave him out or make him the last thing you think about. Ecclesiastes 4:12 reminds us that a cord of three strands cannot be easily broken, therefore include him. Whilst these times will be a strain on every relationship, prayer is a significant way to grow a stronger, more unified, and intimate marriage.

As a final and important issue, these periods of lockdown have unfortunately highlighted a greater number of incidents of domestic violence and abuse. This behaviour in any relationship is totally unacceptable. Remember you are not alone, and help is available through the 24-hour Domestic and Sexual Abuse helplines:

- Northern Ireland – 0808 802 1414
  - Republic of Ireland – 1800 77 88 88
- In the case of an emergency, contact the Police.

*This article was first published in the Church of Ireland Gazette's March edition.*





# MARRIAGE COURSE WEBINAR

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Thursday 29th April 2021 2pm - 3pm

In partnership with Alpha Ireland, the Church of Ireland Marriage Council is hosting a short 1 hour online webinar on Thursday 29th April from 2pm offering Ministers and other church representatives more information on the popular Alpha Marriage Course resources.

Alpha Marriage courses are used in many churches to encourage couples wishing to build strong foundations for their future together.

Book your place at

<https://coimarrriagecouncil.eventbrite.ie>



# Church leaders' statement on a service to mark Northern Ireland's centenary

The Church Leaders at a meeting in Armagh noted the announcement regarding a Church service being planned for later this year to mark the Centenary of the partition of the island of Ireland and the formation of Northern Ireland.

The Church Leaders are deeply mindful that the events of 100 years ago evoke a range of responses from communities across these islands. For this reason, this point of reflection will provide an opportunity to affirm our common commitment to peace, healing and reconciliation.

The service will therefore be at the initiative of the Church Leaders and the Church Leaders will be wholly responsible for its planning, organisation and design. On St Patrick's Day, the Church Leaders' the Rt Rev Dr David Bruce, Moderator

of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland; the Most Rev John McDowell, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland; the Rev Dr Thomas McKnight, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland; the Most Rev Eamon Martin, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland and the Very Rev Dr Ivan Patterson, President of the Irish Council of Churches, made a significant announcement together about their prayers and work throughout this year.

## A CENTENARY PRAYER

Sovereign, wise and gracious God, in whose hands lie the past, present and future, we acknowledge before you our failures, our divisions, and the hurt we have caused you and one another. Forgive, restore, and heal us. The events of

partition and formation, which took place one hundred years ago on this island, changed, shaped, and determined the outlook for this place which we all call home.

As we reflect upon those times and bring to mind what happened then and in the years since, we acknowledge before you our different and often polarised interpretations of history. As we travel onwards in our journey, may we learn from the experiences of the past and from those who trod these roads before us, so that the inheritance we pass on to the next generation is the gift of understanding, peace, and hope. In faith we pray, and humbly ask, in the name of him who is the light of the world and giver of all hope, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Representative Body holds online meeting

The Archbishop of Armagh opened the meeting of the Representative Body in prayer.

The RB agreed to set diocesan levies in respect of the year 2022 as follows, with rates set as percentages of Minimum Approved Stipend in force at 1st January 2022 multiplied by the sum of the number of cures, including vacant cures, in each diocese at 30th June 2021:

- the financing of the episcopacy – 6.0% (reduced from 6.3%);
- Safeguarding – 0.9% (unchanged); and
- the Clergy and Ministry Protection Fund – 0.5% (unchanged);

Canon Graham Richards warned the RB that while leaving the Safeguarding levy unchanged at 0.9% for 2022, it will have to increase this to a minimum of 1.2% for 2023 to cover expected increases in costs.

The RB adopted an amended Policy on Climate Change for 2021, as submitted by the Investment Committee and approved by the Executive Committee. The revised Policy includes a commitment to implement additional restrictions for fossil fuel companies involved in the extraction of oil and gas, with a target to be fully divested from such stocks by 2022.

Mr David Ritchie reported on the Representative Church Body's activities in 2020 which included the transition to

remote working in line with public health guidance during the pandemic. Mr Ritchie expressed his appreciation to members of the RB and staff for adapting to this new way of working. Staff had supported the wider Church of Ireland through producing guidance on maintaining properties when not in use, online giving and online services, and the protocols on returning to in-church worship.

Some particular achievements included the launch of the new Safeguarding website ([www.sg.ireland.anglican.org](http://www.sg.ireland.anglican.org)) and online Safeguarding training, and the launch of MindMattersCOI, a three-year mental health promotion project for the Church.

## FINANCE

Mrs Kate Williams presented a review of the RB's finances in 2020 and reported that General Funds invested assets had recovered and returned to growth in the course of the year. World economies and markets were impacted by the emergence of Covid-19 in Q1 and into Q2, with Brexit and the US elections adding to a challenging environment.

General Funds returned a Total Return of 6.4% on invested assets; the funds reported, on a Total Return basis, a surplus of €245,000 for 2020. The total for costs of operations and Allocations in 2020 was

3.35% against a targeted spend of 3.5%. By December 2020, invested assets stood at €196 million, an increase of €6 million on the 2019 year-end valuation.

The reports of the Representative Body and the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee DAC to the General Synod 2021, and the Financial Statements for 2020, were approved and adopted. The reports of the Safeguarding Board and the Charities Registration Monitoring Working Group were approved in conjunction with the Standing Committee.

The RB approved the establishment of a working group concerning a co-ordinated response by the Church to historic institutional abuse. Approval was also granted by the Standing Committee at its meeting earlier in the day.

## APPOINTMENTS

Mrs Rita Day was appointed as a member of the Property Committee. Ms Julie Beck was appointed as a member of the Stipends Committee. Mr Alan Hood was appointed as a Director of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee DAC. The Very Revd Nigel Crossey was appointed as a member of the Commission on Ministry. The Ven Stephen McBride was appointed to the Management Committee of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.



## Training course organised for those wanting role in sports chaplaincy

If you fancy a role as a sports chaplaincy then a training course is being held later this month.

Sports Chaplaincy in Ireland has a number of Church of Ireland ministers serving as chaplains to sporting communities.

Now in their preparation for a return to sport, Sports Chaplaincy Ireland is holding an Induction Course and Training over three evenings on 19, 21st and 26th April via zoom at a cost of £35.

All training is hosted by experienced Sports Chaplaincy UK Leadership Training Team on the mainland; Warren Evans ( CEO ), Matt Baker (Pastoral Director England) , Mark Fleming (Pastoral Director Scotland) , Martin and Heather Lewis (Pastoral Directors Wales ) and myself.

You can sign up at the following link;  
<https://events.eventzilla.net/e/online-induction-training-2138814312>

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS *from page 43*

**ACROSS:** 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delilah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

**DOWN:** 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.



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