



CHURCH OF IRELAND The Clogher Diocesan MAGAZINE

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Dec 2023 - Jan 2024 **£2/€2.50**



CHRISTMAS AT GALLOON

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL TO BEGIN FESTIVE SEASON

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

Front Cover

Revd Lorraine Capper, Rector of Galloon Parish Church, Newtownbutler with Grace Rickey, preparing for their Christmas Tree Festival from 8-10 December. See page 59.

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Erne Flower Arrangement Society
presents
Almost 12 Days of Christmas
By: Cherie Nummy
NIGFAS Demonstrator & Judge
Wednesday 6th December 2023
@7.30pm
Main Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen
Charity Donation to:
AMH New Horizons Fermanagh & ME Research UK
Everyone Welcome
Admission £10.00

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A NOTE FROM THE BISHOP



A Message from the Bishop

'GOOD KING WENCESLAS'

A few years ago, at the beginning of December, Heather and I were able to visit Prague in the Czech Republic. This central European country was formerly known as Bohemia and was once a province in the Habsburgs' Austrian Empire. It is a fascinating city with a rich history and many beautiful buildings and squares. At this time of year, it holds a large Christmas market and has many other attractions for visitors such as Prague Castle which also comprises St Vitus Cathedral. Within this stunning church is the St Wenceslas Chapel in which the remains of the patron saint of the Czech Republic are buried.

Wenceslas (Václav in Czech) served as duke of Bohemia from 921AD until his death probably in 929AD. Though he died young, this martyr's accomplishments were many. He built numerous churches in Bohemia and was deeply respected as a pious, moral, educated, and intelligent man who promoted the Christian faith and took care of the poor, the sick, the widowed, and the orphaned by doing charitable deeds. From 985AD his feast day (28th September) is known to have been observed in Bohemia whose patron he became.

NATIVITY SCENE

On our visit to the Cathedral, we also came across a most unusual display - an amazing outdoor nativity scene of full-size figures made of straw. It made a stunning depiction of the Christmas story of the birth of Jesus told using the straw of the cattle shed.

Visiting the Cathedral with this Nativity scene got me thinking of a carol sometimes sung at Christmas time. "Good King Wenceslas" it seems was written in 1853, by JM Neale, inspired by Wenceslas' image as a righteous king. It is entirely imaginary but based on the lyric of a Czech poem and legend of Wenceslas.

The Rt Revd Dr Ian Ellis

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A full-size outdoor Nativity scene made of straw.

*Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the Feast of Stephen
When the snow lay round about
Deep and crisp and even
Brightly shone the moon that night
Though the frost was cruel
When a poor man came in sight
Gathering winter fuel.*

THE BLESSING OF GIVING

It tells a story of a Bohemian king who goes on a journey, braving harsh winter weather, to give alms to a poor peasant on the Feast of Stephen (December 26, the Second Day of Christmas). During the journey, his page is about to give up the struggle against the cold weather but is enabled to continue by following the king's footprints, step for step, through the deep snow. The last verse of the carol points to its key lesson:

*In his masters step he trod
Where the snow lay dinted
Heat was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed
Therefore, Christian men, be sure
Wealth or rank possessing
Ye, who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing.*

The carol is reminding us that the spirit of giving at Christmas should not happen just on that day but every day. As we follow the footsteps of our Master Christ Jesus and reach out to the poor and needy in our own community and across the world, we too will be blessed. Remember our Lord's words to his disciples: 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Matthew 25:40.

BISHOPS' APPEAL

As we look around our world there is so much need for us to respond to with the

Christian spirit of giving. Traditionally at this time we are reminded of the work of Bishops' Appeal, which is the Church of Ireland's World Aid and Development Programme.

We have just been informed that Bishops' Appeal has allocated €10,000 (equivalent to £8,650) in emergency funds to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. The Diocese includes 7,000 Anglicans worshipping within 28 congregations in Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. The Diocese runs Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza which provides medical care and support to all people, regardless of their faith or ethnicity. This is the hospital that suffered such devastating damage on the evening of 17th October.

This release of emergency humanitarian funds accompanied the call from Archbishop John McDowell and Archbishop Michael Jackson asking all members of the Church of Ireland to pray for peace in the Holy Land, following the outbreak of conflict in the region. By our prayers and gifts, we can each in a small way bring the love of Christ to a needy world. If you would like to make a donation to Bishops' Appeal, this can be made online and details about how to give can be found at <https://bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give>

CHRISTMAS AT HOME

Christmas is a special time for families coming together and I hope you will also join with your parish family for a Christmas service and in heart and mind travel once again to the stable of Bethlehem and hear the message of Christ's peace.

Heather joins with me in wishing you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year,

Yours in Christ's service.

+Ian Clogher

PARISH NOTES

Aghadrumsee, Clogh & Drumsnatt



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Services

Sunday 3rd December

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

Sunday 10th December

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

Sunday 17th December

Drumsnatt 9.30am Morning Prayer
Clogh 10.45am Sunday School Christmas
Service

Aghadrumsee 4.00pm Carol Service

Sunday 24th December

Clogh 10.45am 6 Lessons & Carols

Christmas Day

Family Communion Service

Sunday 31st December

Drumsnatt 10.30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 7th January

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

Sunday 14th January

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

Sunday 21st January

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

Sunday 28th January

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

Andrea Nelson writes...

The 12th of November 2023 was the



Some of the members of the congregations who donated shoeboxes for the appeal this year.

deadline to return all our completed shoeboxes from our respective churches, for our Annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal. This year again, we had a fantastic response to the Appeal. We received a beautiful array of Shoeboxes that will no doubt brighten up the Christmas' of many children that are living in extreme poverty and very difficult conditions. This gift of a Shoebox will likely be the only gift that these vulnerable children will receive at Christmas time and the joy these will bring is incredible. Our Shoeboxes each year are sent to Drop Inn Ministries c/o Ms Amy Anderson (Drop Inn Ministries - Operational Co-Ordinator). Drop Inn Ministries work with Team Hope as a partner in Northern Ireland to make the Shoe Box Appeal happen. Team Hope are an Irish Christian International Development Charity that works to help children affected by poverty in Eastern Europe and Africa. Thank you to everyone who got involved, with Special Thanks to our parishioners from Aghadrumsee, Clogh and Drumsnatt who kindly donated and built boxes for the Appeal. To our church ladies who spent great time and care knitting scarves, gloves, hats and more. A big shout out to the brilliant boys and girls at Aghadrumsee Primary School, for their wonderfully built boxes, many thanks to Acting Principal Mrs Dianne Elliott and staff for supporting our Shoe Box Appeal again this year. It is lovely to see the Group of Churches within the Parish and our school community coming together for this fantastic charity.

Social Evening

Clogh Parish Church held a social evening on 20th October to raise funds for hall

repairs. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all age groups thanks to Embrace Socials. Thanks go to all who organised, brought food or in any way helped make this evening such a success.

Confirmation

There will be a confirmation in June next year. Classes will be starting in the New Year for Young people in Year 9 and above. An introductory session was held in late November. Contact Captain David to show interest or for more information.

Christmas Parties

Christmas Parties will be held in Clogh on Saturday 16th December at 5.00pm and in Aghadrumsee on Friday 22nd December at 7.30 pm when we look forward to welcoming our special visitor.

Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning and bake sale will take place in Clogh Hall on Saturday 2nd December from 11.00 am – 1.00pm. All welcome to help raise urgent funds for the Church Hall.

Bowling

Clogh Bowling Club continues each Wednesday at 8.00pm.

Mothers' Union

The next meeting is on Monday 4th December when Captain David will be speaking and showing images of his trip to Iceland.

Sympathy expressed

Sympathy is extended to the family of the late Sadie Foster, a former parishioner and member of Aghadrumsee Ladies Guild.

Aghalurcher and Cooneen with Mullaghfad



Rector: **The Revd Canon John McClenaghan**

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Services

DECEMBER

Sunday 3rd December

11.00am Colebrooke Holy Communion

3.00pm Mullaghfad Carol Service

7.00pm Enniskillen Cathedral, Diocesan

Carol Service and the Installation of

Archdeacon Paul Thompson

Sunday 10th December

11.00am Colebrooke MP

7.00pm Cooneen Carol Service

Sunday 17th December

11.00am Cooneen Family Service

7.00pm Colebrooke Carol Service

Sunday 24th December

11.30pm Cooneen First Communion of

Christmas

Monday 25th December

10.00am Colebrooke Christmas Family

Communion

Sunday 31st December

11.00am Colebrooke Morning Prayer

JANUARY

Sunday 7th January

9.30am Cooneen HC

11.00am Colebrooke HC

Sunday 14th January

9.30am Cooneen MP

11.00am Colebrooke MP

Sunday 21st January

11.00am Cooneen Family Service

Sunday 28th January

9.30am Cooneen MP

11.00am Colebrooke MP

Remembrance Service

On Sunday 12th November 2023, we held our annual Service of Remembrance in Colebrooke, on a very inclement morning. The parade started at the War Memorial in Brookeborough, then came to Colebrooke



for our Remembrance service. Fivemiletown Royal British Legion, Ex-Servicemen, representatives of PSNI, Maguiresbridge Silver Band and over 30 girls from our GFS branch marched to church. At Colebrooke a wreath was laid at the UDR memorial in the church grounds before the beginning of the Service of Remembrance, during which wreaths were laid inside at our memorial.

FROM THE REGISTERS

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

On Wednesday 25th October 2023, a service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr William James (Jim) Neely was held in St Ronan's, Colebrooke, with committal in the graveyard following. Our prayers and condolences are with Marrion, Ruth, Ronald, Raymond and Ruby and everyone in Jim's family circle. The Lord is my Shepherd.

HOLY MATRIMONY

On Thursday 26th October 2023, in St Ronan's, Colebrooke, Rebecca Smith and Simon Hutchinson entered into the covenant of Holy Matrimony. Chief Bridesmaid was Megan Smith and Best Man, Brad Ferguson. We pray for God's Blessing on this young couple as they begin a new stage in their life together.

Alpha Course

We are holding an Alpha Course, along with the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches in Fivemiletown and surrounding area, and will resume, following a break for Advent and Christmas, on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Each week we will meet at 8.00pm in the Wesleyan Hall, Fivemiletown Methodist, which will last 1 ½ hours, beginning with some refreshments. After watching to a video presentation, there will be time to discuss questions arising.

No one will find themselves put on the spot or be under any sort of pressure. This will

be an informal occasion for anyone who is curious about God, or wishes to find out more about their faith. Please get in touch with me if you wish to know more, and I would encourage people to come along and give it a go.

Parish Organisations

Most of our organisations have returned to normal, their timings are as follows:-

GFS – Girls Friendly Society

The branch meets on Monday, at 6.45pm in the Parish Hall for girls three years and upwards and new members will be made very welcome, taking part in games, cookery, craft, bible study and especially having lots of fun..

Colebrooke/Cooneen Scout Group

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

The leaders provide a wide range of Scouting skills.

Squirrels (4 - 6 years)

Beavers (6 – 8 years)

Cubs (8 – 11 years)

Scouts (11 – 14 years)

Bowling Club

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

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

Colebrooke and Cooneen Mothers' Union

The members were delighted to welcome Lettie Coulter to their November meeting. After welcoming members and friends, the

Branch Leader asked Joy to read the Bible passage from Luke 19 about Zacchaeus and the prayers were led by Barbara. Irene thanked Lettie for the enjoyable demonstration showing the variety of ways to wear scarves and so transform outfits. The story of Zacchaeus highlights a remarkable change in his life through the work of Jesus Christ and that is what we, as Mothers' union members, are called to do and be. When transformed by Jesus we can be his witnesses in our parishes, community and further afield. The world we live in, broken by sin and evil, requires

transformation by the followers of Jesus. We are called to take small steps and simple actions as Mothers' Union members and so transform the world around us. The members are looking forward to the Prayer Breakfast in Maguiresbridge on 25 November, where they can show their steps of faith and action by donating to the work of Women's Aid. They can also enjoy the fellowship and fun of meeting together for food and be further informed on the work being done to highlight Gender Based Violence in the 'Rise Up' campaign by Mothers' Union in Ireland.

The meeting on 6 December is a Christmas Craft evening with Carol called 'God Rocks.' The opening service of Holy Communion is planned for January 2024. During 2023 Mothers' Union members had hosted 'Friendship and Food' events for parishioners and friends. These monthly events are planned again from January to June 2024 including speakers, music, games, quiz, exercises and chat. A grant from Fermanagh Trust has been applied for to help fund these events. Look out for details on the weekly newssheets.

Aghavea



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Revd Johnny McLoughlin

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Ends or Beginnings

At this time each year we look back to all the past months and wonder where the time has gone! The passing of time reminds us that we live in a constantly changing world, and we can never know what the next moments are going to bring! Each time we listen to the news, we hear about hatred, violence, war and pestilence. We could be forgiven in thinking that we are living in the end times, foretold in so many of the Scriptures.

As we approach the Christmas period, we remember that the world Jesus was born into was exactly the same as our today! The Jewish lands were under Roman rule, and the people were awaiting their Messiah, who they were expecting to lead them to freedom and security. As we celebrate with our lights and presents, please remember that the gift of Jesus was love, peace and joy. Let us remember the faith of the

parents, the message of the angels, the diligence of the shepherds, the wisdom of the Magi. In our world, it is now our responsibility to bring the Gospel message to the world – this might actually be the end times, and we might have no time to waste! Let us not think of this as the end of the year, but the beginning of the next year – one in which we resolve to live and work for God's glory. Have a happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

In memoriam

We have had a few difficult months for the parish. We have had to say farewell to Jim Thompson, Jim Shaw, Alicia Thompson, Iris Robinson and Madeleine Presho. Each of them will be greatly missed by their families, their neighbours and all of the members of Aghavea Parish. We extend our sympathies and condolences to their families. We also remember all those who have anniversaries at this time of year.

Busy times ahead!

December and January are looking as busy as ever – please find below a list of our

significant dates.

- 3rd December** – 11am, Advent Sunday Holy Communion
- 10th December** – 11am, Second Sunday in Advent, Morning Prayer
- 10th December** – 3pm, Second Sunday in Advent, SEFF District Carol Service
- 15th December** – Friday 8pm, Brookeborough Community Ecumenical Carol Service
- 17th December** – 11am, Family Nativity Service
- 17th December** – 8pm, Christmas Carol Service
- 24th December** – 11am, Christmas Eve Morning Family Carols
- 24th December** – 8pm, First Communion of Christmas, Holy Communion
- 25th December** – 10am, Christmas Day Family Celebration – and toys are expected!!
- 31st December** – 11am, Café Church in the Parish Hall
- 31st December** – 8pm, Watchnight service, including Prayer and Healing
- 7th January** – 11am, Epiphany Holy Communion



The mini tractor run held alongside the main tractor run.

14th January – 11am, Second Sunday after the Epiphany, Morning Prayer
21st January – 11am, Third Sunday after the Epiphany, Family Service
28th January – 11am, Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, Morning Prayer
28th January – 7pm, Wholeness and Healing Service

Please plan to attend as many of the different events as possible, and if you cannot attend for any reason, please pray for those at the service, and that God will be glorified and his Gospel message shared. As ever, all our services are streamed online via our Facebook Page, Aghavea Church. We are always available via the page, our website, Aghavea.blogspot.com, or via text or WhatsApp – all details are online.

Hospital visits

It bears repeating, that although the Rector prays regularly, he doesn't receive specific information through divine means regarding those in hospital! Indeed, rarely does the

hospital let the clergy know if a parishioner is in – and we do get ourselves annoyed if someone has been in hospital and we haven't had a chance to visit. Personally, I would rather be told many times that someone has been admitted for treatment than to not have been told! Please continue to inform me of anyone who has been admitted to hospital, and please do not assume that someone else is doing it!

Fundraising

We have held several very successful fundraising events over the past few months – a Tractor Run (and very well supported mini-Tractor run), a parish burger-cue night, a bowls competition, a craft sale, a sale of work, walks, quizzes, and so much more! All of these have generated much needed funds for the parish and for the organisations, but more than that, they have been fun and friendly events that have brought fellowship to everyone involved. Just standing back watching each of the events has shown the value of each never


mind any profit they might have made! A brilliant effort by all the teams involved!

And finally...

Finally, many thanks to everyone who has made our parish have such a successful year! We have worked hard together to make our parish so friendly, welcoming and loving – all signs of the Christian community we represent! Our Select Vestry, our Churchwardens Nuala and Rebecca, our technical assistants Kim and Maisie, Glebewardens David and Kenny, and all those who have done so much over the past 12 months all deserve much more credit than a few mere words could convey, and to everyone who has supported any of our events and services that we have held in Aghavea, we couldn't have done them without you!

May Christmas bring peace, love and happiness, and may the New Year bring us opportunities to share our Christian love with all!

Ballybay, Clontibret & Muckno



Rector:
The Revd Elaine Dunne

The Rectory, Drumcru, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan.
 E: ballybay@clogher.anglican.org



The harvest decorations in Ballybay Group of Parishes (including decorations at the Children's Harvest Festival in Christ Church, Ballybay).



Shoebox wrapping for "Team Hope."

Carol Services 2023

A carol service will take place in each of our parish churches as follows:

- Christ Church, Ballybay – Wednesday 13th December at 8pm.
- St. Colman's Church, Clontibret – Sunday 17th December at 3.30pm.
- St. Maeldoid's Church, Castleblayney – Thursday 21st December

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Nathan Cross, Castleblayney, following the passing of his uncle, Charles Cross, on Sunday 29th October following a short illness. His funeral service was held in Markethill Free Presbyterian Church on Tuesday 31st October and was followed by interment in the adjoining Churchyard. May Charles, and all who have died, rest in peace and rise in glory

Team Hope Shoebox Appeal 2023

Many thanks to all those who have prepared

shoebboxes for "Team Hope" and to Janet Hill for her ongoing work co-ordinating everything.

Coffee Morning in Ballybay

A Christmas Coffee Morning will be held in Ballybay Parish Hall on Tuesday 12th December from 11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. Mince pies will be served and free holly will be available – please feel free to come along and bring your friends. All welcome!

Harvest Festivals

Unfortunately photos of our Harvest Festivals were omitted from last month's magazine. They have been included in this month's edition instead.

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



Those who attended the Mothers' Union Craft night.



Yvonne Donaldson and family members at the MU Craft Night.

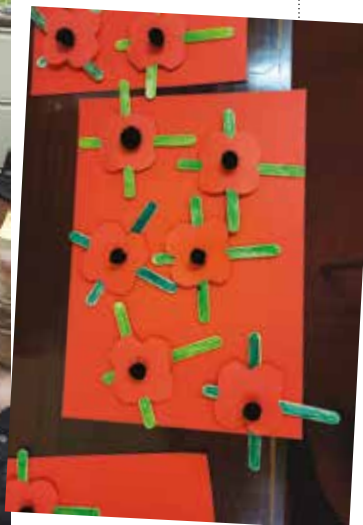
from our group of parishes who have been unwell, lonely, troubled or saddened in recent months.

Mothers' Union

It was our pleasure to host the Mothers' Union meeting on Wednesday 8th November. Members and friends were welcomed by Mrs. Julie Crawford and, following the singing of the hymn "Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here", and a reading from 1 Peter: 4-11, Julie passed the meeting over to Mrs. Yvonne Donaldson who demonstrated how to make small paper boxes from folded paper. After much folding, a little cutting and much laughter, we each had two pretty boxes. Next, Yvonne's daughter, Andrea Johnston, and granddaughter, Lexie (9), demonstrated how to make a "Gunk" (in my experience that would have been a disappointment) but no, it is a small decoration made of cardboard and wool. Following all the hard work we were ready for some tea, treats and more chatting before closing in prayer and making our way home. *Jennifer Leathem*



Members of Castleblayney Sunday School making poppies for Remembrance Sunday.



Poppies made by the Sunday School children in Castleblayney.

Carrickmacross Union, Magheraclone and Ardragh



Rector:
The Revd
Ian Cruickshank

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

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Jewels

Jewels Women's Group had a lovely, relaxed evening doing some "Art from the heart" painting projects with an autumn theme. The evening started with lots of chatter and soon became a very quiet class as people quietly painted some amazing work...it was truly lovely and finished all too soon. There were treats and little inspirational notes to ponder on and it all added up to a great evening.

Remembrance Day

This year, as part of our Remembrance Day commemorations, we focused on those involved in the Far East campaign during the Second World War. Despite the role it played in shaping history, the Far East campaign became known as "the Forgotten War."

Involved in "the Forgotten War" was Mary Cooper who served from 1919 – 1946 as a military nurse. She lived with her family in Magheross, Carrickmacross. Educated at Magheross National School and Viscount Weymouth Grammar School in Carrickmacross. Patrick Cooper, her father, was a veterinary surgeon with a practice in the town. Sister Mary Cooper, a nurse with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, was evacuated during the 'fall of Singapore' in 1942. She died in a Japanese prison camp from the combined effects of starvation, brutality and tropical diseases. She continued to nurse her fellow prisoners during captivity. Mary was one of 650 Irish citizens serving with the British armed forces who became prisoners of the Imperial Japanese Army in 1942, known as Far East Prisoners of War or FEPOW. Mary is buried in Jakarta War Cemetery, Indonesia; only her name was added to the family grave in St Finbar's Church of Ireland graveyard. Her



Jewels craft evening.

name is also engraved on a stone plaque in the church commemorating those from the parish who gave their lives in service during the Great Wars.

As well as remembering conflict in the past, we normally pray for parts of the world where the tragedy of war continues and rightly the Ukraine, Gaza and Israel would have been remembered. However over the past few weeks, I have received emails from a charity I support asking for prayer. Here is part of the email.

Two years ago, when Myanmar erupted in violence, many of you joined us in prayer and sent donations to provide thousands of food parcels to families on the brink of starvation. However, since that time, Myanmar and the plight of its people have slipped out of the news and been forgotten by the world. I'm heartbroken to share that the situation has only become more desperate. The brutality, trauma and fear that has gripped the country is unfathomable and it is for this reason, I am once again asking you to join us in prayer for Myanmar. Our children and staff are living with the constant threat of violence, particularly in the north of the country. We thank God for His continued protection over our staff and children throughout the fighting which can break out at any time, even outside our homes and schools causing our children to have to shelter under their beds or desks. Not only is it dangerous in the towns where we work, but whole villages in the surrounding areas have



Mary Cooper.

been set ablaze.

It seems, that as places affected by war 80 years ago were forgotten at the time, so today, Myanmar, which was previously known as Burma, involved in Far East Campaign during WW2 has been overlooked again. We decided in our moment of commemoration to especially remember Mary Cooper and the people of Myanmar.

Services in December

Carol Services

- 3 December in St. Patrick's Ardragh at 7pm
- 10 December in St. Finbar's Carrickmacross, Joint service at 7pm (service being recorded for broadcast on Northern Sound on Christmas Day).
- 17 December in St. Molua's Magheraclone at 7pm.
- Christmas Eve**
Ardragh at 7pm
Magheraclone at 9.30pm
- Christmas Day**
Carrickmacross at 10am

Cleenish & Mullaghduin



Rector:
**The Revd Canon
Jennifer McWhirter**

Parish Office, Cleenish Hall, Bellanaleck
Tel: 028 6672 0622

Canon Jen writes.....

As I write on a very damp and miserable afternoon Remembrance has just passed and I find myself staring towards my first Christmas season in Cleenish and Mullaghduin. I am very much looking forward to sharing Christmas with you all, and the important dates for the diary as far as Christmas goes are at the end of these notes. Some times have changed so please do take note of the service times. Time seems to have flown since the end of the summer and in a world where life seems to hurtle at breakneck speed through the weeks I sometimes wish I could slow it down a little. Society seems to lurch from one festival to the next, Hallowe'en decorations were hardly down before TV channels were advertising Christmas wares and so perhaps we could all do with a little slowing down to savour the build up to Christmas before it passes in a haze of shopping and present wrapping and frantic preparation. I love the season of Advent as it allows us in church to enjoy the anticipation of the birth of the Christ-child, and Christ's coming in glory, at least for a little while each Sunday morning if nothing else!

There will be an Advent Bible Study held in the parish hall in Cleenish on the first three Wednesdays of December, details in the diary below. All are very welcome to attend. This year we will be holding a service of Holy Communion in the Parish Hall in Mullaghduin Parochial Hall for all those from both parishes who are elderly and housebound. The hope is that a family member or friend or carer will bring those folk who find it difficult to get out, to the hall on 9th December at 4.00pm for Holy Communion followed by refreshments. This will be an opportunity for those who may not otherwise be able to receive Holy Communion in church this Christmas to gather together and share in the service with others. Invitations have gone out at the end of November. Please remember to let me know if you will be attending. I look forward to seeing you then.



Remembrance Day at Cleenish and Mullaghduin Churches.



Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday in both churches was marked by an Act of Remembrance led by the Rector. She spoke to the children about the importance of Remembrance and was so pleased with how well behaved they were during the silence. In Mullaghduin the church was beautifully decorated with several floral displays by Caroline Little and the Last Post and Reveille were played by Michael Crooks from Letterbreen Silver Band. In Cleenish three wreaths were laid, one by Mr Desi Smyth on behalf of the UDR, one by Mr William Stinson on behalf of the congregation and a cross by a Beaver and Cub on behalf of the young people of the parish. Following the singing of the National Anthem in Cleenish, William Stinson played the lament, Flowers of the Forest on the pipes. Thank you to everyone who took part in our services.



Mothers' Union

At our October meeting the artistic skills of our members were displayed during a Landscape Watercolour Class with our tutor Nigel Armstrong. It was a most enjoyable, but fully concentrated evening 'transforming' a blank canvas into a masterpiece worthy of exhibition!! We are making preparations for our Intergenerational Christmas Party in Mullaghduin Hall on Friday, 15th December from 7.00 – 9.00pm, when we hope many of our parishioners will come along and join in the fun.

Bereavement

The parishioners of Mullaghduin express

condolences with Mrs. Doreen McCutcheon following the sudden death of her brother, Leslie McCrea on 10th October. Following a Service of Thanksgiving in Tempo Parish Church on 14th October, Leslie was buried in the adjoining graveyard.

Bellanaleck Community Group

The members of the Group wish to thank all those volunteers who assisted with watering the flowers in the hanging baskets and boxes, which kept the image of the Village looking very well during the summer period. For a recent update see last month's Community Group notes. From the Chairman and Committee, we wish you all a "Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year".
Next meeting: Wednesday, 24th January at 8pm, new members are always welcome.

Should assistance be required contact Owen Wilson (Secretary) or Bellanaleck on Facebook.

Dates for the Diary

6th, 13th, 20th December - Advent Bible Study 7.30pm in Cleenish Parish Hall committee room.

Saturday 9th December - 11.00am-3.00pm, Cleenish and Mullaghduin Open House at Rossorry Rectory.

Christmas services

Saturday 9th December

4.00pm Christmas Holy Communion in Mullaghduin Parish Hall

Sunday 17th December

Nativity at both morning services

Sunday 17th December

Mullaghduin Service of Lessons and Carols at 7.30pm

Christmas Eve

Cleenish Service of Lessons and Carols at 11.30am

First Communion of Christmas in Mullaghduin at 10.30pm



Mothers' Union members at their painting class with tutor Nigel Armstrong.

(no morning service in Mullaghduin)

Christmas Day

Mullaghduin 9.00am

Cleenish 10.30am

Sunday 31st January

Morning Prayer in both churches



Clogher Cathedral Group



Rector:
The Revd Olivia Downey

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

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M: 07792728495
E: odowney@clogher.anglican.org

Diocesan Pastoral Assistant:
Miss Isobel Stewart

From the Rector's Desk

Everyone needs an angle grinder – don't they!

I was walking through Lidl recently, and I happened to stray into that dreaded middle aisle, you know the one, it has all the things that you begin to believe that you couldn't live without, and even worse, if you don't buy it now you might miss out! Among all the treasures I spotted an angle grinder, if you know me at all, you will know that I love gadgets, however, even I, the 'Gadget Queen,' knew that I really didn't need an angle grinder – but it didn't

stop me from standing there for a wee minute pondering what I might do with one if I had it!

It really is so easy to get caught up in what the advertisers tell us we need – even an angle grinder! As you read this, we are now officially commencing the free fall to Christmas. Advertising is in overdrive, and the children are counting the days left of school and the number of sleeps until the big guy arrives. I wonder how often you find yourself looking at things, or even buying them, that if you were honest, you no more need than the man on the moon. Or maybe you buy things/ stuff, for others, your children, your grandchildren, yet in your heart of hearts you know that they don't need it.

In a season which is flooded with gifts and stuff, we are so easily distracted and perhaps even coaxed into things which are no good for us. Jesus was and is, the best gift any of us have ever been offered, and yet this wonderful life transforming gift from God is so often ignored, belittled and dismissed as irrelevant and



discarded after 25 December. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, he wasn't what the people at that time wanted, he wasn't a strong military type who was instantly going to liberate God's people with might and power. Rather, he came as a vulnerable baby, in very humble circumstances, Jesus wasn't what the people wanted, but he was what they needed – their Saviour.

This Advent season, as your senses and your bank account are bombarded with all the things that the advertisers tell you that you need to make this Christmas special, I hope that you pause, and use this season of preparation for exactly that, you prepare. I know the house, the food, the presents etc all shout for your attention, but what your heart really needs is time with your Saviour. To clear the decks of all the 'stuff' which the world says we need – the 'angle grinders' of this life. To discover anew the true wonder and joy of the gift of His coming, and His amazing grace and mercy as you daily place your hand in His. May your eyes be fixed on true King of Christmas.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Parish Carol Services

10th December - St. Mary's Errigal Portclare 10am, Carol Service.

10th December - St. Macartan's Cathedral Clogher 11.30am



Maeve Wilson speaking.

17th December - St. Mark's Newtownsaville 11.30am, Carol Service.
 17th December - St. Mark's Augher 4pm – (no morning service).

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve - St. Mary's Errigal Portclare 10am
 Christmas Eve - St. Mark's Augher 10am
 Christmas Eve - St. Macartan's Cathedral Clogher 11.30am
 Christmas Eve - St. Mark's Newtownsaville 8pm
 Christmas Day - St. Macartan's Cathedral Clogher 10am
 (only service in the group)
 31st December - St. Mark's Augher 10am
 31st December - St. Macartan's Cathedral 11.30am
 (only services in the group)

Christmas Home Holy Communion

Please could you let the Rector know as soon as possible if anyone you know who is in hospital, nursing/care home or housebound, may wish to receive Holy Communion before Christmas.

Dates for the diary

Annual Community Carol Service
 Thursday 7th December 2023 at 7pm in St. Macartan's Cathedral, Clogher - Annual Community Carol Service. Proceeds in aid of Cancer Focus. All welcome.

Mothers' Union

The final Mothers' Union meeting for 2023 will be held on Wednesday 13th December at 8pm in the Cathedral Hall. 'Crafty Christmas' will be a lovely way to finish off the year among friendship and fellowship getting those creative juices flowing. Everyone welcome.

Post Christmas Walk

On Wednesday 27th December at 11am, St. Macartan's Cathedral are having a 'Post Christmas walk' at Knockmany Forest Park. This is a good opportunity for all the family to walk off those Christmas treats. Everyone welcome, all donations towards St. Macartan's Cathedral repair.

Auction

On 24th February 2024 St. Macartan's Cathedral will be holding an Auction, Coffee Morning and Cake Sale at the Cathedral Hall, Main Street, Clogher. Please speak to the members of the Select Vestry if you have items you can donate to the auction. All proceeds to St. Macartan's Cathedral Repair Fund.

Remembrance Sunday

An Act of Remembrance was marked across our group of parishes and wreaths laid on Sunday 12 November. Following a service at the town Cenotaph, the Royal British Legion led by Roughan Silver Band paraded to St. Macartan's Cathedral for a service of Evening Prayer. A wreath was laid during the service by the people's Churchwarden Mr Nigel Robinson. Wreaths were also laid during Morning Worship in St. Mark's Newtownsaville, by Churchwarden Albert Patton representing the people of the parish, and Gordon Crawford representing Augharonan 462 LOL. In St. Mark's, Augher during Morning Worship, wreath laying was led by People's Churchwarden Mrs Carol Egerton representing the people of the parish, accompanied by Dessie Millar representing the UDR Association, Norman McFarland representing RBL, and Ivan Domer representing the RUC George Cross. Parish Rolls of Honour were read and two minutes silence observed in each parish.

Mothers' Union

Clogher Cathedral Group of Parishes branch held their October meeting as 'A Visitors Night' in



One of the Remembrance Sunday tributes in Clogher Cathedral.

the Cathedral hall on the 18th October. The hall was filled with visitors from neighbouring MU branches and ladies from neighbouring churches. Revd Olie led the evening and the prayers and played the guitar for the singing of "Count your many Blessings." Mrs Ann Graham read a portion of scripture from St. Matthew's Gospel. Revd Olie introduced Mrs Maeve Wilson our guest speaker. Maeve is the Vice-President of the Northwest Methodist Women. Maeve was accompanied by her daughter Heidi. Maeve took as her theme 'Dressed Ready to Serve.' Showing various types of footwear she made reference to different people in the Bible whom they could represent when serving God. Maeve stressed that we serve God by using our talents, and by doing so, we should always be dressed and ready to serve.

Mrs Pat Scott thanked Maeve for her talk and presented her with a gift on behalf of everyone. Mrs Irene Boyd on behalf of

the visitors thanked the ladies for a wonderful supper. We wish Mrs Lynn Winslow our Branch Leader, a speedy recovery.

Christmas Blessings

On behalf of Isobel and myself, we wish you all a happy, joyous, and peaceful Christmas, and God's richest blessings for 2024.



Harvest scenes from St. Mary's Errigal Portclare.



Clones, Killeevan, Currin and Newbliss



Rector:
**The Revd
Roy Taylor**

The Rectory,
Scotshouse,
Clones,
Co.Monaghan.

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Services

3 December

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

10 December

Currin 10.00am: Carol Service, followed by refreshments (with collection of food for "The Pantry" foodbank in Lisnaskea)
Killeevan 3.30pm: Carol and Gift Service, followed by refreshments (with guest soloist and silver band)

17 December

Newbliss 11.00am: Joint Clones and Newbliss Carol Service (with soloists Laura and Ian Hall, and our Joint Group Choir)

24 December

Currin 11.00am: Joint Group Christmas Eve Holy Communion

25 December

Clones 10.00am: Joint Group Christmas Day Holy Communion

31 December

Killeevan 11.00am: New Year's Eve Joint Group Morning Worship

7 January

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

14 January

Currin 10.00am: Holy Communion
Killeevan 11.30am: Holy Communion

21 January

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

28 January

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

Condolences

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Ross Mealiff, the son of one of our longest standing Clones parishioners, Mrs Joan Mealiff. Ross was

a much-loved family man and a well-respected local businessman, and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Group Sunday School Party

This year we hope to arrange our usual Christmas Party for Sunday School children from across the whole Group during December. Details will be announced both in church and on our WhatsApp forum, and we look forward to welcoming all our children to what is always a highly enjoyable occasion.

Archdeacon Ruddell Competition Prize-Winners

Sunday School children from parishes across the whole Diocese of Clogher are invited each year to enter the Archdeacon Ruddell Prize competition – and to respond in a creative way (art, poetry, video, song, etc.) to a given theme. This year we were thrilled that Currin Sunday School was awarded third prize for their work on 'The Miracles of Jesus', whilst the children from Clones Sunday School were awarded a special commendation for their participation. Well done to all our children who took part, and also to their teachers who guide them with such skill and devotion each Sunday.

Joint Group Service as Newbliss Church reopens

On Sunday 29 October we held a Joint Group Service to celebrate the reopening of Newbliss Parish Church after recent repairs to the ceiling. Our Joint Group Choir was in superb form, beautifully accompanied by organist May Leech, and the congregational singing throughout was truly rousing. There were fine refreshments after the service, and our longest-standing Churchwarden, Walter Keating, joined the Rector in popping the cork on a bottle of (alcohol-free) prosecco to mark the occasion in style. Also at the service we welcomed, and said special prayers for, our nine confirmation candidates as they begin their journey towards confirmation next May. These youngsters were fully involved in all aspects of the service, and they will continue to be involved each week. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this important milestone in their life of faith.

Mothers' Union

After a moving meeting in October with Siobhan McKenna from Tearmann Domestic Abuse Service, Monaghan, the Mothers' Union meeting in November had an arts-and-craft Christmas theme as expert Roberta McConkey taught

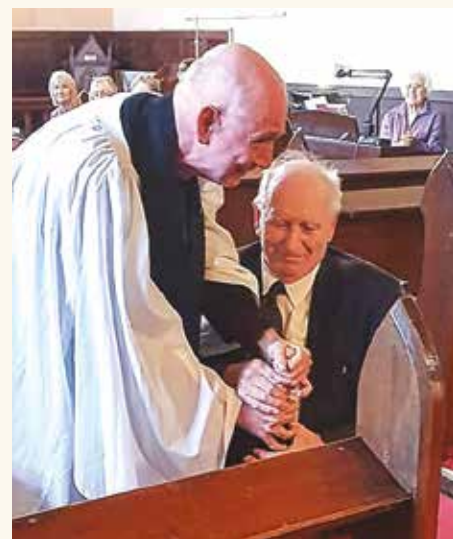


The Archdeacon Ruddell prizewinners.

members (and some of their children) how to make a variety of Christmas tree decorations. A great time was had by all, and the meeting concluded as ever with lots of conversation over a lovely supper. There is no MU meeting in December, and the date of the January meeting is still to be confirmed. Details will be circulated in due course by our new secretary, Mrs Christine Rusk, to whom we offer our congratulations as she takes up her new role. As we prepare the programme for 2024, please note that new members are always welcome to our MU meetings – and we'd love to see you.

Remembrance Sunday Services

As always, each of the churches in our Group commemorated Remembrance Sunday in their Sunday services at the start of November. Our thanks go to Mr Keith Browne, who led those services this year whilst the Rector was away – and also to all those who laid wreaths, led readings or intercessions ... and generally helped us to focus both on remembering the past and pledging ourselves to work in faith and hope for a better future.



Celebrating the re-opening at Newbliss.

Clones St. Tighernach's Christmas Fayre - 9 December

Our ever-popular Christmas Fayre returns again this year on Saturday 9 December in the Creighton Hotel Ballroom, Clones, from 9am-12.30pm. As usual, handmade decorative wreaths, cakes of all kinds, hot cups of tea/coffee, and many other treats will be waiting for you. Everyone is warmly welcome, and why not bring a friend along as well to enjoy a cuppa and a chat in the festive atmosphere. All proceeds

are for St Tighernach's Parish funds, and we hope to see you there.

Scotshouse Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

This will take place in Scotshouse Community Centre on Saturday 2 December at 3.00p.m. No individual invitations are being sent out this year but all Scotshouse residents in the relevant age group are very welcome to this much-loved annual event.

County Monaghan Church of Ireland Children's Society Annual General Meeting

County Monaghan Church of Ireland Children's Society AGM will (DV) be held in the Market House, Newbliss, on Monday 4th December at 3.00pm. Refreshments will be served by members of Newbliss Parish Church, and please do come along if you would like to know more about our work.

A happy Christmas and Blessed New Year to you all!

Colaghty



Rector:
The Revd Canon Alan Irwin

The Rectory, Main Street,
Lack, Co. Fermanagh.
BT93 ODN

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

Services

DECEMBER

- 3rd** - Holy Communion 11.30am
- 10th** - Family Service 11.30am
- 17th** - Morning Prayer 11.30am
- 24th** - Carol Service 11.30am
- 25th** - Christmas day, Family communion, 10.00am
- 31st** - Morning Praise 11.30am
- 31st** - New Year's Eve service 11.00pm – Parish hall

JANUARY

- 7th** - Holy Communion 11.30am
- 14th** - Family Service 11.30am
- 21st** - Morning Prayer 11.30am
- 28th** - Morning Prayer 11.30am

Christian Wedding

3rd November 2023 - Joanne Woods and Roger Davis.

Christian Baptism

29th October 2023 - Aniyah Larose Patricia Foster, daughter of Carol and Gerard.

Remembrance Sunday

"The righteous cry out, and the LORD



Scenes from the Remembrance Day service.



hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles." Psalm 34: 17. In our acts of remembrance, services in church or at cenotaphs, thoughts of the past, the present, and of what the future holds, will have entered our minds. Man's inhumanity to man, the fragility of peace, the rights and wrongs of protest, and above ignorance of the true facts adds to already volatile tensions. Why even now have the lessons of past desolation, loss of life, not taught us anything? Is it because of the power hungry, the greedy, the quest for dominance? Whereby oppression and fear are tools of disempowerment in the furtherance of controlling the vulnerable and achieving one's ideological

objectives, never mind the expense, or loss of life as a result. Remembrance holds for each of us different things, and yet that gratitude for those who paid the supreme sacrifice that we might enjoy the freedoms we do today. Not to squander or use those freedoms to impose similar tyrannical rule, and to commit acts of aggression against others. To all who took part in the annual remembrance service, the readers, the prayers, laying of wreaths, pipers, led our worship, floral arrangements, our deepest appreciation for adding to the solemnity of the occasion. At the conclusion, tribute was paid with the laying of a wreath on the grave of Jim Oldman, murdered



Attending Women's Fellowship.

by terrorists. The rector concluded the service with a poem he had written entitled Remembering.

Remembering

*In November we remember,
The horrors of yester, year.
The pain and strife, the loss of life,
Still echoes through the years.*

*Of the freedoms dearly wrought,
With countless lives, was bought.
At home, on foreign fields a price,
For us the ultimate sacrifice.*

*For some a faded photograph
A loved one's only epitaph.
As generations lost, are seen no more,
Lost to the futility of war.*

*Let's in remembrance now stand,
United now throughout this land.
Medals, poppies proudly on display,
And for peace, in silence pray.*

*Remember in the present, there's strife,
War, and acts of aggression still rife.
Man has failed to heed the call,
If possible, live peaceably with all.*

*In November, we remember,
The horrors of yester' year.*



*In November, we're remembering,
The horrors of recent years.*

- Alan Irwin November 2023

Women's Fellowship

Ethel McClelland spoke on the work of Smiles Foundation, highlighting many of the projects that were ongoing and those soon to be accomplished. Also, she made members aware of a charity shop in Omagh that raises money for the foundation. The next meeting will be Andrea Rogers, Polliwogs in December. Please add date and plan to attend.

Young @ Hearts

In October, a member of the local fire service was the main speaker, who highlighted some of the issues that can arise within the home and gave advice on measures that should be taken to mitigate against them. Some home visits were arranged to ascertain what additional fire safety measures might be needed and as to best positioning of smoke detectors etc. The next meeting will involve crafts.

Bowling Club

Members meet regularly on Thursday

evenings and are currently playing matches in the churches league. We trust they will do well in all their matches going forward. Plans are in place for a Christmas meal out in December.

Christmas Activities

As we approach Christmas, may we focus less on the festivities and more on the risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Let the message of the carols and readings speak to us of God's redemptive plan and our need of a Saviour and Lord. Let the light of Christ bring to us all more excitement, and encouragement than all the festive lights we see adorning homes, towns, and villages.

The Carol service will be on Sunday 24th Christmas Eve at 11.30am followed by a soup lunch in the parish hall in aid of charity. A sheet will be in the porch to add names to determine numbers for catering purposes. As we recall the Christmas story in church through readings and carols, let the message resonate with us and may in our sharing in the hall bring added blessings.

New Year's Eve

Our annual New Year's Eve service will be at 11.00pm with light refreshments served from 9.30pm in the parish hall. This will be a wonderful opportunity to share together as we welcome in 2024. We leave ourselves to God's gracious care and protection and trust in Him who holds our future and who works all things for good of those who love Him.

Please keep an eye on announcements for any changes or updates to activities and groups etc.

Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale



Rector:
Archdeacon
Paul Thompson

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

December 10th

Informal Morning Prayer: Derryvullen North 10.30am and Castle Archdale 11.45am

December 17th

Carol Services: Castle Archdale 10.15am and Derryvullen North 11.30am

December 24th

Shortened Morning Prayer: Castle Archdale 10.15am and Derryvullen North 11.30am

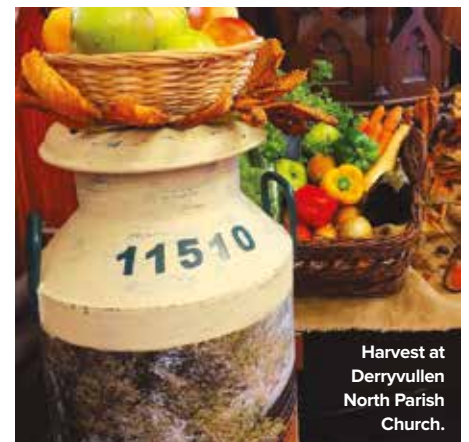
Christmas Services

24th Derryvullen North 9.00pm
Castle Archdale 11.00pm

25th Castle Archdale 9.00am
Derryvullen North 10.30am

December 31st

Morning Prayer: Castle Archdale 10.15am



Harvest at
Derryvullen
North Parish
Church.

and Derryvullen North 11.30am

January 7th

Holy Communion: Castle Archdale 10.15am
and Derryvullen North 11.30am

January 14th



A night at the movies.

Informal Morning Prayer: Derryvullen North 10.30am and Castle Archdale 11.45am

January 21st

Morning Prayer: Castle Archdale 10.15am and Derryvullen North 11.30am

January 28th

Morning Prayer: Castle Archdale 10.15am and Derryvullen North 11.30am

Winter Reflection

Winter is a season that speaks of both physical and spiritual realities. It reminds us of the cycles of life and the temporary nature of our earthly existence. In the cold and stillness of winter, we find strength in the promises of God's Word.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 tells us, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted." Winter serves as a reminder that there are seasons of dormancy and waiting, but they are purposeful in God's grand design.

Psalms 46:10 encourages us to "Be still, and know that I am God." In the quietude of winter, we are invited to draw near to God, to listen to His voice, and to find rest in His presence.

Isaiah 1:18 assures us, "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."

Winter's glistening snow reminds us of the

cleansing and forgiveness found in Christ. As we navigate the challenges of winter, let us hold onto the hope found in Isaiah 40:31, "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." In our waiting, God strengthens us and prepares us for the seasons of growth and renewal that lie ahead.

During this winter season, may we find comfort and inspiration in God's Word, knowing that even in the coldest and darkest moments, God is with us, guiding us, and preparing us for the beauty that comes with each new season.

Cadets

As part of the preparation for Remembrance Sunday, the Army Cadets took part in laying Poppy Crosses to support the Irvinestown Branch of the Royal British Legion for Remembrance Sunday.

Starting in Irvinestown, William Irvine, Chair of the local RBL, welcomed the cadets and explained the importance of the event. The Cadets then placed crosses at the War Graves located in the graveyards at Derryvullen North Church, Clock Tower Old Church and the Sacred Heart Church. They also held a short moment of Remembrance at the Cross of Sacrifice under the guidance of St Johnson. Well done everyone.



A Remembrance Day arrangement at Castle Archdale.

Remembrance at Castle Archdale Church

We had a full Church for our Service of Remembrance on Sunday 12th November. The organist was Gwenan, the Poppy Wreath was placed at the Memorial by George and the Bible lesson was read by Michael. The Singing Group did "The Old Rugged Cross" and the music for it was by Matthew on the guitar. The beautiful decorations, which added so much to the Service, were by Trilbie.



The Bowling Club



BB quiz team and leaders



A cadet at one of the war graves in Irvinestown.

Remembrance at Derryvullen North Church

There were two services on Remembrance Sunday and it was great to see so many people in attendance - numbers were up considerably on previous years. In the morning the musicians were Rachel (keyboard) and David (guitar). The choir, accompanied by David, sang "By monument of marble." The Bible Lesson was by Steve, who also laid a wreath before the Service on the grave of a Canadian Airman - the family of this airman had hoped to make a visit this Remembrance but were unable to do so. Rebecca carried the special Poppy that we have in our keeping, made from a crashed Catalina. In the afternoon, there was a Parade Service, attended by the Deputy Lieutenant for Fermanagh, Major Shaun Pendry, members of the Royal British Legion, other ex-Service Associations, Youth Groups and a wide range of service and ex-Service personnel. Major Pendry was accompanied by our own parishioner, Matthew Hunter, who was there in his role as the Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet. The parade was led by Drumharvey Pipe Band. The act of Remembrance was led by David and Jim and the piper was Jason. The organist was Florence and the choir, accompanied by David, sang "By a monument of marble." Following the Service there was tea in the hall, kindly organised by Avril and the catering group. Other members of the groups on parade assisted with the act of Remembrance and the readings. The prayers were laid by the Revd Günther Andrich (Presbyterian Church) and the address was by Mr Gareth Hayden (Methodist Church).

Mothers' Union

The MU (Mother's Union) members enjoyed a wonderful illustrated presentation by Leah Robinson at their October meeting. Leah had the honour of making the Belleek Basket for King

Charles and she spoke of the detailed process this involved. She also told us of her other passion - her creative business "Riverdale Essence" making candles, melts and soaps. There was a range of the products on display for browsing or purchase. In the photos you will see part of the story of how she came to begin this venture. The enjoyable supper was kindly provided by Carol and Marion, assisted by Katie. The evening ended with a short business meeting.

<https://www.riversdaleessence.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/riversdaleessence>

Boys' Brigade

1st Irvinestown BB junior section won the West Ulster Battalion Quiz Kids and will represent us at the NI finals in Lisburn on 18th November. Well done to the Team! Huge thanks also goes to Shane and the leaders for all their dedication and support.

Bowling Club

On Tuesday 24th October the Club met as usual and here are a few photos of some of the members getting the session started - it is great to see the Club thriving. At the start of the evening we held a silence and offered a prayer to remember the late Eileen Allen who very sadly passed away last week. Eileen had not been able to be active in the Club in recent years but had been a member right from when it was founded. Over the years our Club has been a place not only of good sport, but also of good friendships.

Women's Group

"Thank You to all the ladies who came 'To The Movies with us'. We had a lovely evening at the Bawnacre a great facility on our door step. A Massive Thank You to Ben for all his hard work on the Technical Front. Thank You - Elaine & Caroline"

Derryvullen North Harvest

The Thanksgiving Services were held on Sunday 15th October. It was wonderful seeing the church so well decorated and also, as with Castle Archdale, to see the number attending increase compared to other years. Thanks to all who decorated the church, gave items for the food bank, to Florence for the music, to the choir for the anthems and to Alice for the solo, to everyone who provided and served the supper. A special thank you to the leaders and young people of the Sunday School for all that they contributed to the morning worship. It was great to welcome the Revd Matthew Topley and his family to the evening service. Matthew is the Curate



The King's basket maker at the Mothers' Union.

in Drumglass Parish (Dungannon). During the service he and his wife Erin were presented, by Edna Ferguson on behalf of the Craft Group, with a box of knitted hats for the neonatal unit of Craigavon Area hospital.

What's on?

Here are the usual events but please look out for any changes on the Facebook Page

- Sunday Schools: These meet in each Parish in association with the Sunday Service
- Boys' Brigade : Mondays and Thursdays in Derryvullen North Hall
- Girls' Brigade: Takes place in other local churches in Irvinestown and Pettigo
- Bowling Club: Tuesdays weekly at 7.30pm in Derryvullen Parish Hall
- Women's Group: 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Parish Centre, Irvinestown at 8.30pm
- Derryvullen North Choir: 1st Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm
- Castle Archdale Singing Group : 11.30am on the Saturday preceding the Second Sunday Service
- Craft Group: Each Thursday in the Parish Centre, Irvinestown anytime between 7-9pm
- Mothers' Union: 4th Wednesday of the month in the Parish Centre, Irvinestown at 7.30pm

From the Registers

CHRISTIAN BURIAL:

Eileen Adeline Allen, 21st October (Derryvullen North)
James McDonagh, 8th November (Derryvullen North)

Derryvullen South and Garvary

Vacant:

Administrative Charge: **Rural Dean Revd William Jeffrey**

Service Cover as per Diocesan Rota

General Pastoral Care: **Revd Maureen Desborough**

Emergency Pastoral Care, Funerals and

weddings: **Dean Raymond Ferguson**

Baptisms: **Revd Maureen Desborough or Dean Raymond Ferguson.**

Services

Sunday, 3 December

10.30am Morning Prayer Garvary

12 Noon Morning Prayer Derryvullen South

Sunday, 10 December

10.30am Morning Prayer Derryvullen South

12 Noon Morning Prayer Garvary

Sunday, 17 December

10.30am Morning Prayer Garvary

12 Noon Morning Prayer Derryvullen South

Sunday 24 December

10.30am Morning Prayer Derryvullen South

12 noon Morning Prayer Garvary

Sunday 31 December

10.30am Morning Prayer Garvary

12 Noon Morning Prayer Derryvullen South

Garvary

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Paul Trimble and his family circle following the recent death of his father, Revd. Canon Harry Trimble.



Making poppies at Derryvullen South.



Remembrance

On Remembrance Sunday, Revd Maureen Desborough was the preacher in Garvary church. John Irvine placed the Poppy Wreath on the memorial in church.

Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those of our parishioners who are ill in hospital,

nursing homes or in their own homes and also those who are receiving treatment.

Derryvullen South

Remembrance

The Sunday School children at Derryvullen South were busy in the lead up to Remembrance Sunday making poppies.

Devenish & Boho



Diocesan Curate:
**The Revd
Sampson Ajuka**

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

T: 028 66 341672

E: devenish@clogher.anglican.org

Services for December

Sunday 3rd December 2023

10.00am Holy Communion, Boho Parish Church

11.30am Holy Communion Devenish Parish Church

Sunday 10th December 2023

11.30am Morning Prayer Devenish Parish Church

7.30pm Boho Carol Service

Sunday 17th December 2023

10.00 am Morning Prayer Boho Parish Church

11.30am Sunday School Service Devenish Parish Church

7.30pm Devenish Carol Service

Sunday 24th December 2022

Christmas Eve

10.00am Morning Prayer, Boho Parish Church

11.30am Morning Prayer Devenish Parish

Church

8.30pm Christmas Eve Service Devenish Parish Church

Monday 25th December 2023

Christmas Day

9.30 am Holy Communion Service Boho Parish Church

11.00 am Holy Communion Service Devenish Parish Church

Sunday 31st December 2023

10.00 am Morning Prayer, Boho Parish Church

11.30am Morning Prayer Devenish Parish Church

Monday 1st January 2023 New Years Day

11.00am Holy Communion Devenish Parish Church

Sunday 7th January 2024

10.00am Holy Communion, Boho Parish Church

11.30am Holy Communion Devenish Parish



Remembrance displays in Boho Parish Church.



Church

Sunday 14th January 2024

10.00am Morning Prayer, Boho Parish Church

11.30am Morning Prayer Devenish Parish Church

Sunday 21st January 2024

10.00 am Morning Prayer Boho Parish Church

11.30am Morning Prayer Devenish Parish Church

Sunday 28th January 2023

10.00 am Family Service Boho Parish Church

11.30am Family Service Devenish Parish Church

Burial

7th November 2023 Joseph Reilly, 26 Drumlin Heights Enniskillen. Following a service in Devenish Parish Church conducted by Revd. Sampson Ajuka, Joe was buried in Devenish Parish Graveyard. The parish and wider community have been deeply saddened by the passing of Joe, after a short illness. Joe was a regular attender at morning worship and served on the Select Vestry for many years and was a former churchwarden, Joe was caretaker of the Reade Hall for many years, looked after the door in the hall during functions including our auction and sale and carried

out maintenance in the graveyard. Joe was always willing to help and will be deeply missed in the parish.

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Joe's wife Margaret; his sons David, John, Brian and Graham, daughter Yvonne, a much-loved grandfather of Jamie, Natasha, Rhys, Keenan, Ciara and great grandfather of Brooke and Lucus and to the wider family circle.

Sunday School

The Sunday School Party will be held on Monday 18th December at 7.00pm in the Reade Hall. We look forward to all the children of both parishes joining together for a night of fun and a visit from Santa Claus.

Baptism

15TH October 2023 - In Boho Parish Church, Carter William Neely, son of Richard Neely and Rebecca Woods.

We wish God's blessing on Carter, his parents and Godparents.

Remembrance Day Service

The Service in Devenish was conducted by Revd. Sampson Ajuka. The readers were Florence Eames and Pearl Bell. Norma Ferguson led the Intercessions. The names of the fallen in two world wars were read, by David Scott, the RUC

names by Ann McCormac and the UDR names were read by David Ferguson. The Exhortation and The Kohima Epitaph were read by Stuart Brooker. The wreath layers were Nicola McCullagh-Daley and Jonathan Fallis (Parish), Gerry McDermott and David Eames (RUC), Linda Manley and Caroline Brooker (UDR) and Gladys Latimer and Kay McKeown (Girl Guides). Andrew Gordon played the Last Post and Reveille and the organist was Gill Spence. Thanks are expressed to Florence Eames for her Remembrance Day displays in Devenish. In Boho parish the Act of Remembrance was carried out by Trevor and Jean Smyth. Thank you to Austin Strong for providing poignant displays in Boho church.

Devenish Parish Sale and Auction

The Sale and Auction was held on Saturday 11th November in the Reade Hall. We wish to thank our auctioneer Ross Cathcart and his team of helpers who did a wonderful job, all the stall holders, all who donated produce and donations and everyone who attended. The amount raised was £4186.10.

Devenish and Boho Concert

A very successful Concert was held on Saturday 28th October 2023. The compere was Kenny Archer and artistes including Derrygonnelly Primary School Choir, Linda



Tommy Cathcart (front centre) with finalists, front from left; G. Burke, N. Alexander, R. McDonnell and D. Gilliland. Back from left; M. Granleese, I. McElroy, S. Stafford and G. McNabb.



All who took part in the Devenish Parish Remembrance Service.

One of the displays in Devenish Church for Remembrance Sunday.



Kenny Archer, Compere.



Raymond, Pearl and Kay in a sketch.



Ballinamallard Accordion Band

Lindsay. Ballinamallard Accordion Band, a sketch involving Pearl and Raymond Bell and Kay McKeown and a Mr. and Mrs. competition. Many thanks to Raymond Bell and his team for organising the evening.

Mothers' Union

We had a lovely evening at Garrison, Slavin, Belleek and Kiltyclogher MU Visitors' Night on Tuesday 14th November. Joy Graham spoke on how counselling had given her the support and empathy to help her overcome the grief of losing Neil and how God had guided her to under-take a Counselling Degree to enable her to help others who are experiencing a wide range of emotional problems. Pearl Bell proposed a vote of thanks to Joy and to the ladies who had prepared and served a lovely supper. To celebrate the Christmas season, we will meet in the Reade Hall on Wednesday 6th

December at 8pm for some festive food and fellowship. The Mothers' Union theme for 2024 is 'Transformation in Action' and our first meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday 10th January at 8pm. We wish our members and their families a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Devenish Bowling Pairs Tournament

After a very successful Tournament, Rachel McDonnell and Nixon Alexander from Ballylenon Bowling Club, Co. Donegal defeated Gary Burke and Derek Gilliland (Wellington) in a closely contested final game.

At the conclusion of the night, Mr David Ferguson, Chairman, thanked the bowlers supporting the tournament, the club members and friends who had assisted in any way to make the tournament a success.



Tommy Cathcart presenting the bowling cup to Rachel McDonnell and Nixon Alexander.

Tommy Cathcart presented all the finalists with well-deserved prizes, and the "Mary Morrison Perpetual Cup to Rachel and Nixon.

Donagh & Tyholland with Errigal Truagh



Bishop's Curate:
Revd Tim Irvine

The Rectory, Caledon Road, Glaslough, Co. Monaghan H18 DN40

E: revdtimi@gmail.com

Advent and Christmas at The Donagh Group of Parishes

Sunday 3rd December Advent Sunday
10.30am St Salvator's, Glaslough - A Celebration of The Holy Communion for

Advent (Order 2) with Hymns for Advent, Sermon and Sunday School
3pm St Muadain's, Errigal Truagh - A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas with the Donagh Community Choir and supper at The Blackwater Centre

Sunday 9th December The Second Sunday The Second Sunday of Advent

10.30am St Salvator's, Glaslough - Donagh Group Service: A Nativity Service featuring the Sunday School Nativity Play and Carols for Christmas with The Donagh Junior Choir.

NB: there is no noon or afternoon Service today.

Sunday 17th December The Third Sunday of Advent

10.30am St Salvator's, Glaslough - Morning Prayer (Order 2) with sung Canticles, Hymns for Advent and Sermon by Mr William Graham.

12noon St Sillian's, Tyholland - Morning Prayer (Order 1) with Hymns for Advent and Sermon by Mr William Graham.

4.00pm Glaslough Community Carols



Helen Irwin, Michael Roberts and Linda Burgess (Cousins) on Remembrance Sunday.

at the Coach House Garden with The Donagh Community Choir...and a special guest.

Monday 18th December and Tuesday 19th December

8pm St Salvator's, Glaslough - A Winter's Tale: The Story of Christmas told through Poetry and Song. A celebration



Winners of Donagh Parish Table Quiz.



Runners up in the Table Quiz.



Best Children's Table

of Christmas Sacred and Secular with The Donagh Community Choir, Donagh Cantari, Donagh Junior Choir and a special visitor. Concluding with candlelit procession to the Castle for Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve
10.30am St Salvator's, Glaslough - Donagh Group Service of A Festival of Lessons and Carols for Christmas
9pm St Sillian's, Tyholland - The First Holy Communion of The Nativity of Christ with Carols for Christmas and a Feast of Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

Monday 25th December Christmas Day
10.30am St Salvator's, Glaslough - Donagh Group Service A Celebration of The Holy Communion for The Nativity of Christ with sung Gloria and Carols for Christmas with Sermon

Sunday 31st December The First Sunday of Christmas
10.30am St Salvator's, Glaslough - Donagh Group Service Christingle All Age Family Service of Morning Prayer for Christmas with sung Canticles, Carols, Craft Activity and All Age Sermon. This is the day that we will be making our Christingles.

Sunday 7th January The Epiphany
10.30am St Salvator's, Glaslough - A Celebration of The Holy Communion for the Feast of the Epiphany with sung Gloria, Epiphany Carols and Sermon
12noon St Sillian's, Tyholland - A Celebration of The Holy Communion for the Feast of the Epiphany with Epiphany Carols and Sermon

Sunday 14th January The Second Sunday of Epiphany
10.30am St Salvator's, Glaslough - Morning Prayer (Order 1) with Sung Canticles, Hymns, Sermon and Sunday School.
12noon St Muadain's, Errigal Truagh - A Celebration of the Holy Communion with Hymns and Sermon

Sunday 21st January The Third Sunday of Epiphany
10.30am St Salvator's, Glaslough -

Morning Prayer (Order 2) with Sung Canticles, Hymns, Sermon and Sunday School.

12noon St Sillian's, Errigal Truagh - Morning Prayer (Order 1) with Hymns and Sermon.

Sunday 28th January The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany - The Blessing of the Plough (Tractors and Seeds)
10.30am St Salvator's, Glaslough - All Age Family Service of Morning Prayer (Order 3) for Epiphany with The Blessing of the Ploughs, Tractors and Seeds. This is Bring Your Tractor to Church Sunday.

12noon St Muadain's, Errigal Truagh - Morning Prayer with Hymns and Sermon.

Diocesan Reader in training Mr William Graham

It has been a delight to have William with us over the past number of months and we were all shocked on Sunday 15th October to hear of his criminal past when he divulged his secret parking shame when he headed north of the border one day and fell foul of the niceties of Northern Ireland's parking legislation. We were all relieved to hear that he escaped with only a small on-the-spot fine and has no criminal record that might have blighted his no doubt brilliant future as a Diocesan Lay Reader in our diocese. Of course, William shared this story with us when he preached his first sermon in our parishes on the Gospel of the inappropriately attired wedding guest and the shame he felt at being cast out of the feast just as William found himself expelled from what he had considered a most convenient parking space. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship between William and the Donagh Group of parishes where his warm, wise and gentle demeanour has endeared himself to all of us.

Donagh Community Choir

Our wonderful community choir under the direction of the inimitable Ethne

McCord, has had another busy month.

The mission of the choir is twofold: to share the joy of music and to share the joy of togetherness through practical ecumenism. On Sunday 15th October Donagh Community Choir had the pleasure to sing at the Harvest Celebration of our friends and neighbours at Glennan Presbyterian. We all enjoyed a most generous and delicious supper, and we thank Revd Daryl and the Elders of Glennan for inviting us along to join them in their Harvest Thanksgiving. It was a delight to have our great friend Fr Hubert from St Mary's, Glennan join us for this Service and the supper afterwards. While the Donagh Community Choir do not usually accept invitations to sing outside our own parish (simply because we are kept so busy with our various Harvest and Christmas preparations and celebrations) we were delighted to be invited along to St John the Evangelist, Dartrey along with Donagh Cantari and our wonderful accompanist Mr Gerald Toal, to sing at a special Songs of Praise Service on Sunday 5th November. The Service led by Mr Walter Pringle saw



Team Hope Christmas Shoe Box Appeal.

the church filled to bursting with people sitting in the balcony and nearly lifting the roof in joyful song during the singing of the six congregational hymns which were each introduced by Revd Tim Irvine who told us a little about the background of each hymn and teased out their theological meaning for us. The beautiful setting beside the lake with Dartrey Forrest in a riot of reds, amber and copper on a beautiful late autumn/early winter day, wonderful singing and a couple of tins of Cadbury's Roses combined to lift up the hearts of everyone present. And the afternoon was not yet complete as the wonderful hospitality continued on at Rockcorry National School where the beautiful multi-purpose room was filled with tables of sandwiches, tray bakes, steaming teas pots, happy faces and joyful voices. Our thanks to Mrs Elsie Atkinson for her invitation and the wonderful hospitality of the people of Rockcorry and Dartrey for a wonderful afternoon that will linger long in the memory.

Glaslough Girls' Brigade Enrolment Service

It was a pleasure to welcome the girls of the Glaslough Company of the Girls' Brigade and their families along to St Salvator's on Sunday 22nd October for their act of Enrolment and Commitment. We had six senior girls graduate at the end of last term and while they are greatly missed it was wonderful to welcome five new juniors to the company. Ethne was away for a greatly deserved break and it was wonderful to have Rachel Dudgeon to accompany us for the hymns. The juniors sang (with actions) He's got the whole world, in his hands and the seniors using tuned lengths of pipes (which aren't called bum whackers, but no one can remember what they are actually called) performed Jesus loves me this I know to the delight of everyone present. Our thanks to



Some of the Saints at St Salvator's.

Margaret Dudgeon (Captain) and leaders Shirley Wright, Rachel Dudgeon, Deborah Treanor, Diane Allen and Claire Heatrick for all that they do for the girls in our parishes.

All Saints' and All Souls' Sunday

On Sunday 29th October at our Group Service in St Salvator's we celebrated all the saints whose lives lived in faith hope and love have been, and continue to be, an inspiration to us in our own lives of faith, hope and love. We remembered both those saints who we know from history and those we know from our own lives and our own personal experience of their love and goodness. We also reflected upon our own place among the saints. This Sunday we remembered by name all those whom we love but see no longer.

Donagh Parish Table Quiz

Our thanks to Marina Waller and Diane Wright Kendrick and their team of helpers and organisers who helped arrange our table quiz on Friday 10th October. Our great thanks to a great friend of ours, Mayor of Monaghan, Councillor David

Maxwell who was our genial quizmaster. Thank you also to everyone who donated, prizes and money, provided the catering, all those who secured sponsorship from the local businesses, all our sponsors and those who came along to enjoy the evening. Our thanks also to The Oakland Community Centre who made their wonderful facilities available to us while our Parochial Hall is out of action during the refurbishment works.

St Sillian's, Tyholland

As you will have noticed from the calendar of events, Sunday 17th December marks our return to St Sillian's, Tyholland following extensive work to the interior of the building where the floor and wainscoting along the walls has been replaced, various damp proofing measures implemented, and a new electrical heating system installed. Our thanks to Parish Secretary, Ethne McCord for all the work she has done securing various grant funding for this project, to Ronnie Wilson for the use of his team and to Mr George Farrell who has project managed the work under the supervision of our architect Mr Stephen Leighton, to whom we are also most grateful. It will be lovely to get back to St Sillian's (and to no longer have to fear where one treads!) especially as we will be able to celebrate the First Eucharist of the Nativity of Christ on Christmas Eve with our friends and neighbours who join us each year on this most holy of nights. Our thanks to the parishioners of St Muadain's, Errigal Truagh for their hospitality and generosity while St Sillian's was closed.

Gifts in Memory of Willie Garland and Laura Sharpe

Our most recent meeting to the Tyholland with Errigal Truagh Select Vestry was the first time in 65 years that Wilfie Garland wasn't part of our deliberations. Our thanks to the Garland family and the





Donation from Garland Family.

family of Laura Sharpe for their generous donations towards the refurbishment of St Sillian's, Tyholland where both Wilfie and Laura (and her late husband Ernie) had worshipped for so many years. A Service of Dedication of the refurbishment work will be arranged next year.

Billis National School

Our Parish School, The Billis National School celebrated the grand opening of its new Outdoor Classroom with Chairperson of the Board of Management, the dynamic Diane Wright-Kendrick cutting the tape. The school is situated in the most scenic of locations and on temperate day the children will now be able to take full advantage of this new facility and have classes out in the fresh air. The pupils also delivered a presentation of their favourite books from the new books that have been purchased by the school for the edification and entertainment of the children and to encourage the children to revel in one of life's great pleasures: the joy of reading. On Thursday 16th November Billis NS held their open day to show off our wonderful school, its wonderful teachers, staff, pupils buildings and resources and we hope to be able to welcome a number of new pupils to our fantastic school next September.

Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 12th November we held our Act of Remembrance and Commitment to Peace at the war memorial outside St Salvator's and at the grave of an ex-Serviceman outside St Muadain's following our Services of Morning Prayer.

Mothers' Union

Unfortunately we had to cancel our Visitor's Night event in October for a bewildering concurrence of events and unavoidable absences, but we look forward to hosting all the members of the County Monaghan branches in St Salvator's for our annual Service in May.

Team Hope Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to Dorothy Keith and Eileen Coulter who co-ordinated the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal in the parishes and



thank you to everyone who gave so generously.

PA System, Projector and Screen

We are delighted to have had a new PA System installed in St Salvator's which gives us greater capacity and more flexibility with how we use our mics during Services and Concerts to make it easier to hear what is being said irrespective of where you sit in the building. Our old PA system had served us well, but it was stretched to capacity meaning that if we tried to raise the volume the result was the sort of screeching feedback not heard since Jimi Hendrix played Woodstock! For those of you who use hearing aids, a Loop system is now part of our PA system, and we hope that you find this beneficial. I think it is a relief to us all to have a new bigger screen in a less visually impactful and easier to see location in the corner on the north side at the intersection of the



nave and chancel walls. This new position allows the choir to have a better view of the screen and means that our beautiful Caen stone high gothic revival chancel and its striking windows are no longer as rudely obscured as they were with the old screen. Having the new projector mounted on the beam means that we no longer have to fear for Ken Atkinson's life or the wellbeing of the Junior Choir as they walk past the old projector on its tottering floor stand. We hope that everyone who joins us for worship and other events in St Salvator's will enjoy the benefits of this significant investment.



Dromore

Vacant

Administrative Charge: Rural Dean Canon
John Woods
Service Cover as per Diocesan Rota
Pastoral Care, funerals, weddings,
baptisms and occasional services:
Revd Alison Irvine.

'Save the date'

'Save the date' notifications have become extremely popular. They are an early announcement that there's an invitation on the way, usually for a wedding or another very special celebration. The important thing is that the sender wants you to know that on a specific date in the future something very special is going to happen, and they would like you to be present. You need to save the date in order not to miss out! You don't want to double-book on that day! So you'd be wise to put it in your diary. Mark it on the calendar. Something big is on its way! God peppered the Old Testament with 'save the date' notifications. While he didn't give us the exact day or year, He made it clear that one day he would send His Son to earth. And he wanted to make sure we would participate in the event, not merely by bedecking the tree, but by personally welcoming the 'Sent One' into our lives. God gave us plenty of notice about Christ's first coming, and daily we have the opportunity to respond to it.

And 'save the date' information for when the Saviour will return to earth again has already been posted in God's Word. One day Christ will come to take His bride, the church, home to Himself, and he will finally judge mankind. We need to ensure that our lives are not so cluttered with other things that we misuse the time He has given for us to prepare for an event that should not be missed – in fact, cannot be missed!

At His first coming, the world slept, but that will not be the case when Jesus returns, for 'Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him' (Revelation 1:7, emphasis added). 'Save the date'. He will return! (*Journey with me* Catherine Campbell, *ivpbooks*)

Remembrance Day Service

A large congregation attended the Annual Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 12 November. Mullinagoagh Pipe Band, led members of the Ulster Special Constabulary (USC) Association, Girls' Friendly Society (GFS) and Church Lads Brigade (CLB) to the church service.

The service was conducted by Mr Charles Crawford, Diocesan Lay Reader, who



The Girls' Friendly Society and Church Lads Brigade with their shoeboxes for the annual appeal.

highlighted the sacrifice of local men who had important leadership roles during the wars and delivered a challenging sermon reminding us that God is our Judge with reference to Hebrews 9:27, the judgement seat of Christ in 2 Corinthians 5 and the great white throne in Revelation 20. During the Act of Remembrance wreaths were laid by representatives of the GFS, CLB, USC and the Parish. A two-minute silence was observed, during which scenes of the world wars were shown. The collection was in aid of the Royal British Legion. The service ended with the singing of the National Anthem and after the service there was a short parade of the village.

Operation Christmas Child

Dromore GFS and CLB were delighted to participate in the Christmas Shoe Box appeal again this year. Members donated a wide range of suitable gifts for both boys and girls resulting in children in need around the world being able to share the excitement and joy experienced by our children on Christmas morning. 'Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me' Matthew 25:40

Social Events

Over the past several weeks we have continued holding the many successful events outlined in our social calendar for the autumn and winter period.

Our Parish Auction was on 19th October and was first and foremost a fundraiser, raising funds to help meet ongoing expenses. It lived up to and far exceeded expectations, raising more than twice the amount projected.

Our Table Top and Car Boot Sale, held in the church hall and grounds on Saturday 4th November, also realised an amount well above what we had expected in advance. A big thank you to all who organised and supported these very successful events. We look forward to our Christmas Lunch on Saturday 16th December, when the Mothers' Union members will be entertaining the

senior members of our church at what will be an extra special four course banquet. As we look forward to future events it is our hope that many parishioners and their friends come along to join in the fun and fellowship in a place where a warm welcome awaits them.

Services 3rd – 31st December

3rd December

11.00am - Morning Service (Harry Anderson)
7.30pm - Advent Carol Service (Revd Alison Irvine)

10th December

11.00am - Morning Service (Mrs Joan Nelson)

17th December

11.00am - Nativity Family Celebration (Canon William Johnston)

7.30pm - Christmas Carol Service (Revd Alison Irvine)

24th December

11.00am - Morning Service (Canon William Johnston)
8.30pm - Christmas Communion Service (to be confirmed)
11.15pm - Christmas Communion Service (to be confirmed)

25th December

10.30am - Family Celebration (with Holy Communion) (Revd Colin Brownsmith)

31st December

11.00am - Morning Service (to be confirmed)

Keeping up to date

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

- Like our page 'Holy Trinity Dromore' on Facebook
- Watch our Live Streamed Services <https://www.facebook.com/holytrinitydromore/live/>
- Subscribe to our YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwj585CXlqOq6W6h7_2AiYg/
- Watch uploaded Services on YouTube on a smart TV, uploaded usually on within 48 hours.
- Get a recording of the service on CD every week.

Drumkeeran, Muckross and Templecarne



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

T: 07922 293 504
E: dmtgroup1774@gmail.com

I am writing these words on the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday which I hope were meaningful services for all who attended. It is important that we continue to remember the sacrifices of the past both in global conflicts and in our own land and beyond due to acts of terror. On Remembrance Sunday over the past few years I have shared information about the names that we read out who are those who paid the ultimate price in the two World Wars. I was surprised to realise that I had reached the end of this list and shared some information about the last two names on my list.

My thanks again to Mr David Keys for allowing me to quote from his book on those from this area who paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

This year I shared information about two men who died in World War 1 and whose final resting place is known.

23035 Private Thomas Johnston, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

Thomas Johnston was the only son of John and Mary Johnston of Rossgole townland, Co Fermanagh. Thomas was a member of the 7th Battalion RIF and was killed on 13 March 1916 aged 19 years. He is buried at Philosphe British Cemetery Mazingarbe, Pas de Calais. Thomas enlisted at Pettigo on Fair Day 20 May 1915 when a total of 11 men from the area

enlisted. He is commemorated on the Memorial at Pettigo and on the County War Memorial, Enniskillen.
28094 Private John Wray, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers
John Wray



Photos from the Women Together meeting on recycling.



was a son of Mrs Kate Wray, Letter, Belleek and he was killed on 7 June 1917 aged 34 years and was a member of the 9th Battalion RIF. He was buried at Irish House Cemetery, Vlaanderen, Belgium. He is commemorated at the War Memorial in Pettigo and in Enniskillen.

Women Together

Our Ladies Group Women Together continue to meet and their last meeting in October was on the subject of recycling with a speaker from the local council which I know was very informative and was enjoyed by all who attended. I will report on their next meetings in the February addition of the magazine but have included some photographs from the last two meetings with this article.

Advent and Christmas

Of course as we leave the Season of Remembrance behind we look forward to the Season of Advent which will lead us into Christmas. This is a busy time of year for everyone and this year is no exception. Details of all our services are included in the Diary below. I hope that everyone has a happy and blessed Christmas and that Santa brings whatever it is that you want the most. Above all please attend as many of our services over the next weeks as you can.

Diary

Sunday 3 December 2023
Morning Prayer 10.00 Templecarne, 11.30 Tubrid

Sunday 3 December 2023

7pm Dernasesk - The Elliott Family and Friends will be singing and supper will be served after the service.

Sunday 10 December 2023

Carol Service 10.00 Muckross, 11.30 Tubrid

Sunday 17 December 2023

Sunday School Service Templecarne 10.00, Tubrid 11.30

Sunday 17 December 2023

Carol Service in Tubrid Orange Hall at 8pm. Guest singer Miss Katie Elliott and the collection is going towards the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal. All welcome.

Sunday 24 December 2023

Carol Service 10.00 Templecarne
Sunday 24 December 2023 Holy Communion 8pm Muckross

Christmas Day 2023

Holy Communion (Family Service) 10.00 Tubrid

Sunday 31 December

Group Service 11.00 Tubrid

Sunday 7 January 2024

Morning Prayer 10.00 Templecarne,
Morning Prayer 11.30 Tubrid

Sunday 14 January 2024

Holy Communion 10.00 Muckross, Holy Communion 11.30 Tubrid

Sunday 21 January 2024

Holy Communion 10.00 Templecarne,
Morning Prayer 11.30 Tubrid,

Sunday 29 January 2024

Morning Prayer 10.00 Muckross, Morning Prayer 11.30 Tubrid



Ematris with Rockcorry, Aghabog, Aughnamullen and Drum

Service and Pastoral Cover:
Revd Margaret Pringle NSM and Mr. Walter Pringle, DPA and Diocesan Reader.

Revd Tim Irvine is in charge.

Dartrey and Rockcorry Songs of Praise

We were overwhelmed by the response to our Songs of Praise service in Dartrey Church where a full church enjoyed a veritable feast of music and singing. Our special guests were Revd. Tim Irvine and Donagh Community Choir with organist and choir director, Mrs. Ethne McCord and Mr. Gerald Toal on keyboard. Revd. Tim introduced the hymns and Mr. Walter Pringle conducted the service. All this was followed by a sumptuous tea in Rockcorry School. A very sincere thank you to one and all and to the Board of Management of Rockcorry School for the use of their facilities.

Winter Sale

This year the annual Winter Sale will be held in Rockcorry School on Saturday, 2nd December, from 11 am until 2 pm. It will follow the same pattern as that of previous years - cake stall, variety stall, teas, car wash and sale of firewood. The schoolchildren will also have their own stall and Santa has promised to pay a visit. All welcome. Admission free.

Illness

This time of year always brings its share of sickness. We uphold in our prayers those who are ill and wish them a speedy recovery.

December Diary

Details for services during December and Christmas;

Sunday 3rd December

- Rockcorry H.C. 11am

Sunday 10th December

- Dartrey M.P. 11am

Saturday 16th December

- Children's Christmas party in Rockcorry School 7pm

Sunday 17th December

- Dartrey carol service 3pm with school children singing carols.

Sunday 24th December

- Rockcorry 10pm H.C.

Sunday 31st December

- Rockcorry 11am M.P.



Dartrey Church hosted a wonderful Songs of Praise



Good Wishes

We wish all our parishioners and friends all the blessings of the Christmas season and good health and happiness in 2024.

Rockcorry National School

The boys and girls have had a very active first term. The Senior Room participated in Volleyball sessions and the Junior Room participated in Mini Athletics. The whole school also participated in a skipping workshop and they are currently participating in soccer lessons with the FAI. The School Sale of Work and Church Cake Sale is scheduled for Saturday 2nd December from 11 - 2 p.m. The children will be selling second hand toys/books etc and making DIY Christmas Decorations. Santa will also be there on the day.

Remembrance Sunday Parade Service

The 28th Annual Remembrance Sunday Parade Service organised by Monaghan Browning Club took place in Dartrey Parish Church on Sunday 12th November 2023. As in past years the parade was led to and from the Church by Kilafargue Pipe Band. Revd. Margaret Pringle led the Service of worship giving a very inspiring address. Thanks are extended to Audrey Doogan, organist and Agnes Phair for the floral display. Leslie Soden for playing the Pipers Lament, "Flowers of the Forest," Joshua Keating for laying the wreath and to all who helped in any way and brought Refreshments which were provided afterwards in Doohat Hall.

Crossduff

We had a lovely service of dedication of gifts in Crossduff Church on 22 November. We were delighted to have Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis, Bishop of Clogher; Rev Lorraine Capper, Rural Dean; Revd. Tim Irvine and Mr. Walter Pringle. Thank you to Wendy Sloan for playing the music. The Bishop dedicated the three new windows, a church sign given by the Lynch Family and the new handrails outside the church given by Craig Fannin. A big thank you to all those who attended the service from near and far. Everybody

enjoyed tea afterwards in the stable.

We look forward to our Carol service on Sunday 3rd December at 3pm with special music by the Ballybay Country Gospel Group.

Aughnamullen

Our annual Carol service will be held on Sunday 10th December at 3pm when the Latton schoolchildren will take part. Tea afterwards in the schoolhouse. All welcome. We continue to remember those who have been unwell lately and wish them a speedy recovery.

Best wishes to all our Pparishioners for a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas.

Aghabog

Our annual Carol service in Aghabog will be held on Sunday 17th December at 11am when the Sunday School children will take part in the service. Refreshments served afterwards in the hall.

Unwell

Our best wishes to all who have been unwell recently either at home or in hospital and wish them well for a speedy recovery.

Mothers' Union

The Drum/Ematris members of the Mother's Union had a very enjoyable night visiting the members of Galloon and Drummully in Newtownbutler for our October meeting. We all enjoyed listening to Dean Raymond Ferguson and his daughter Marina on life's Treasurers stories, memories and reflections. Everyone enjoyed a lovely supper served afterwards.



Enniskillen Cathedral



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 The Very
 Revd Canon
 Kenneth Hall**
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Services in December

Sunday 3rd December: The First Sunday of Advent

9.00am - Holy Communion
 11.00am – Holy Communion

Thursday 7th December

11.00am - Holy Communion

Sunday 10th December: The Second Sunday of Advent

9.00am - Holy Communion
 11.00am – Nativity Service

Thursday 14th December

11.00am - Holy Communion

Sunday 17th December: The Third Sunday of Advent

9.00am - Holy Communion
 11.00am – Carol Service

Thursday 21st December

10.30am – Holy Communion

Sunday 24th December: Christmas Eve

9.00am - Holy Communion
 11.00am – Morning Prayer
 9.00pm – Holy Communion

Monday 25th December: Christmas Day

9.00am - Holy Communion
 10.30am – Holy Communion (Family Service)

Sunday 31st December: The First Sunday of Christmas

9.00am - Holy Communion
 11.00am – Morning Prayer



Photos from the Remembrance Service with guests including representatives of the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, American and Polish governments.



Services in January

Thursday 4th January

11.00am - Holy Communion

Sunday 7th January: The Second Sunday of Christmas

9.00am - Holy Communion
 11.00am – Holy Communion

Thursday 11th January

11.00am - Holy Communion

Sunday 14th January: The First Sunday after the Epiphany

9.00am - Holy Communion
 11.00am – Morning Prayer

Thursday 18th January

11.00am - Holy Communion

Sunday 21st January: The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

9.00am - Holy Communion
 11.00am - Holy Communion

Thursday 25th January

11.00am - Holy Communion

Sunday 28th January: The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

9.00am - Holy Communion

11.00am – Family Service

Holy Baptism

5th November - Cooper Andrew Hoy Clarke

"Go make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28: 19

Burial

30th October - William Edward Morton, Fairfield Care Home, Cookstown, formerly Brooke Street, Lisbellaw.

7th November - Margaret Brownlee, 8 Irvine Crescent, Enniskillen.

Burial of Ashes

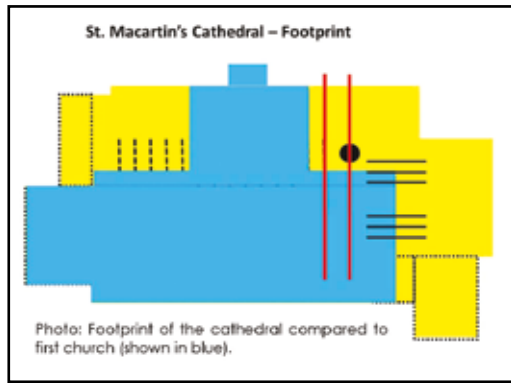
7th November - Mervyn Samuel Foster, 7 Diana Road, Bootle, Liverpool.

The death has occurred of former parishioner Mervyn Whittaker from Ballymoney on 3rd November.

Mervyn was the youngest son of Billy and



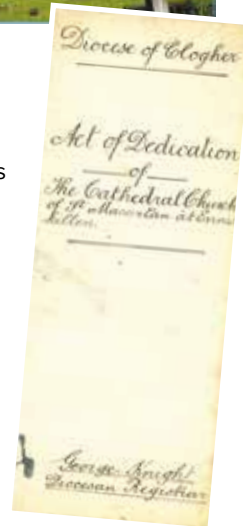
Bishop MacManaway.



The footprint of Enniskillen Cathedral.



Above: A choir concert marks the centenary of the Cathedral.



Right: The declaration.

Sadie Whittaker, Cavanaleck, Enniskillen and a dear brother to Mary, Kenneth and Jennifer. Mervyn's funeral service was on 7th November and burial took place in Ballymoney Cemetery.

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

Remembrance Day

It was a great pleasure to welcome The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, The Rt Hon Chris Heaton Harris MP, representing the UK Government; An Taoiseach Mr Leo Varadkar TD; representing the Irish Government; The Consul General James Applegate, representing the American Government and Mr Jerome Mullen, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland, representing the Polish Government. Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for County Fermanagh, The Rt Hon Viscount Brookeborough, KG, KStJ was also present accompanied by his wife The Viscountess.

Glenn Moore was the organist. The Last Post and The Reveille were sounded by Warren Kerr from Ballyreagh Silver Band and the Piper's Lament was played by Pipe Major Gordon McKeown, Derryclavin Pipe Band. The first lesson was read by John Jones, of The Royal British Legion, Enniskillen Branch; the second lesson was read by The Viscount Brookeborough. The third reading was by The Rt Revd Monsignor Peter O'Reilly PP, VG. The Choir sang the anthem, 'Behold A Broken

World, We Pray', with words by Timothy Dudley-Smith and music Kingsfold, a medieval Irish tune arranged by Glenn Moore accompanied by members of the Royal Dragoon Guards on drums. The prayers were led by Revd Maureen Hassard, The Royal Dragoon Guards Padre, Captain Trevor Homfray-Cooper and the representatives from the British, Irish and American Governments. The service was conducted by the Dean and the preacher was The Bishop.

Cathedral Website

Please go to our Cathedral Website: www.enniskillencathedral.com for photographs. We extend our grateful thanks to Dr William Holmes for maintaining our Cathedral Website.

60+ Parishioners' Party

The Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday 12th December at 6.00pm. All those with a 'bus pass' are welcome. Revellers are then invited to the Cathedral for the Choir Concert.

Choir Concert - Cathedral 100 Years Old

It had been felt for some time, in the early years of the twentieth century, that Enniskillen Church merited a higher status than that of St Anne's Parish Church. This was due to the central position of Enniskillen, with regard to the Church of Ireland population in the Diocese of

Clogher. This idea was strongly promoted by the Enniskillen rector at the time, Archdeacon James MacManaway, later Bishop of Clogher. In 1920, plans were prepared which would bring the church up to cathedral standard. This involved the extension of the chancel, creation of the present choir stalls, and the enclosing of a robing room. In May 1921, the decision was made in the parish to proceed with upgrading the church and the approval of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland was obtained. Colonel Madden and Mr J. Whiteside Dane had made generous financial contributions towards the upgrading of the church. Colonel and Mrs Madden of Hilton Park, Clones, donated the bishop's throne. The marble lining of the chancel walls and the Communion rail and step were placed in the cathedral by Bishop MacManaway in memory of his son, Lancelot, and his dear wife. The upgrading of the porch and staircase, including the First World War memorial, were part of the work undertaken at that time. The memorial has inscribed upon it the names of 238 men who served in the war, 50 of whom gave up their lives. The memorial was unveiled by Sir Charles F. Falls on the day of consecration of the cathedral. The cathedral was consecrated and reopened on Wednesday 12th December 1923 by The Most Revd Charles D'Arcy, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland. The cathedral was consecrated as The Cathedral Church of St Macartin at Enniskillen. The name was subsequently changed to St MacCartin and later to the present usage, St Macartin. The church's elevation to the status of a cathedral will be celebrated at the



Parent Wellness Group.



The Mothers' Union at their craft activity evening.



concert in the cathedral on the evening of Tuesday 12th December.

Tuesday Club

There was a good attendance at the October meeting when we had a very interesting tour at the 'Enniskillen Workhouse Museum' with Catherine Scott. Myrtle Irvine opened the meeting with prayer and the tour concluded with welcome refreshments.

At the meeting on 28th November, Adele Moore was the guest and she shared her cooking skills.

The Annual Christmas dinner is on 12th December in the Cathedral Hall, please phone the office if you wish to attend. A Happy and peaceful Christmas to all and look forward to the first meeting of 2024 on 30th January. This will be an informal meeting when we will share knitting and crocheting ideas.

Mothers' Union

The Dean opened the November meeting on Monday 13th in the Enniskeene Room with a reading and prayer.

We had a craft night with four of our members, Agnes, Adele, Avril and Sabrina sharing their expertise of making bows, decorating cup cakes and shortbread, folding napkins and wreath making. Everyone enjoyed the fun and friendship finishing with delicious mince pies. The



meetings closed with the Mothers' Union prayer. Our Christmas night out was in Horseshoe & Saddlers Restaurant on Thursday 30th November.

The next meeting is a service of Holy Communion and AGM on Monday 8th January at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome. Wishing all our members, families and friends a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

SANDS NI Carol Service

SANDS NI support people who experience the tragedy of stillbirth or the death of an infant in the first weeks of life. SANDS is organising an ecumenical Christmas Carol Service for those who have been affected by the loss of a baby, in St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen on Thursday 14th December at 8.00 pm. This will be a gentle, hope-filled service of carols, readings and prayers.

Those attending are asked to bring a gift-wrapped toy appropriate to the age that the child you lost would be today. These gifts will be placed under the Christmas tree and donated to local charities. Tea and light refreshments will be served after the service.

Nativity Service

Sunday Lights and Sunday Café (Sunday School) will have their Nativity Service on Sunday 10th December at 11.00am. At this



service we ask children (and parents) to bring a new Christmas present. These are given to children less fortunate than our own. Please indicate on the present who it is suitable for – age group and sex. Thank you.

Carolfest 2023 comes to Enniskillen

The St Anne Trust are more than pleased to accept an invitation from Very Revd Dean Kenneth Hall and Rt Revd Monsignor Peter O'Reilly to hold a Carolfest in St Macartin's Cathedral and St Michael's Church. The service will start in St Macartin's Cathedral at 11.00am on Wednesday 13th December and then proceed to St Michael's Church. One service of unity in two locations. The Carolfest is a truncated form of the traditional Christmas service of nine lessons and carols and is designed especially for primary school children. Children from Enniskillen Integrated, Enniskillen Model and Holy Trinity will take part this year. The Trust's primary Object is to enhance and promote good community relations amongst young people and their families, and they pursue this object through the medium of choral singing. It has been established that singing, particularly as part of a choir, teaches children skills of self-discipline, to work as a team, good time keeping. The Carolfest is a truncated form of the traditional Christmas service of nine lessons and carols. Music provides opportunities for shared experiences, mutual appreciation, and cultural diversity. May this service of carols, readings and harmony of experience speak to us powerfully of the greater hope which Christ's birth promises our world. All are welcome, a cup of tea and a biscuit will be available after the service, courtesy of St Michael's.

Messy Church

Messy Church is a church, but not as most people know it. Children of primary school age come together to discover Jesus, including those who have never been to church before. A warm welcome awaits you.

The next Messy Church is a Family Fun Day in the Cathedral Hall from 10.00am to 12.00 noon on Saturday 16th December. All welcome.

Parenting Wellness Group

The Group met on Saturday 11th November in St Macartin's Cathedral Hall. Thanks to Linda Kingston for a fun Family Session! With around 30 children of all ages and 18-19 parents it was a busy time.

Christmas Services

Three Holy Communion Services will be held. The Celebrant at our Christmas Eve Service (9.00pm) will be our Bishop, the Rt Revd Ian Ellis. There will be two services on Christmas Day, 9.00am and 10.30am. The Dean will be the Celebrant.

You are welcome to attend the most suitable service. It is hoped that as many families as possible will attend the 10.30am service. All ages are welcome and children are asked to bring with them something that Santa brought (adults can do this too!). The Dean will take a walkabout to view the toys!

The Dean's Sit Out for Charity

This year, funds will be distributed to Bishops' Appeal, Air Ambulance Northern

Ireland and the Cathedral Outreach Fund. Bishops' Appeal contributes to relief of suffering in time of emergencies whether natural or man-made.

The Aims:

- To educate the Church at home about the needs and concerns of people in the less developed world and the causes of poverty;
- To encourage Church members to examine the reasons for the problems facing the less fortunate in the world and to consider what we can do to change conditions;
- To reach out in God's name to those who need our help;
- To encourage informed prayer and prayerful action aimed at strengthening the poor; and
- To raise the funds needed to allow Bishops' Appeal to support development projects and alleviate the suffering caused by disasters, both natural and man-made.

The Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal for World Aid and Development has released €10,000 (equivalent to £8,650) in emergency funds to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. The Diocese includes 7,000 Anglicans worshipping within 28 congregations in Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. It is responsible for more than 30 institutions, including hospitals, schools, clinics, rehabilitation centres, guesthouses, and retirement homes. The Diocese runs Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza which provides medical care and support to all people, regardless of their faith or ethnicity.

We urge the people of the Church of Ireland to pray for peace in the Land of the Holy One and pray for wisdom for those in positions of authority to work towards an end to all violence. We uphold to God in prayer all who are affected by the current conflict. All human life is the gift of God. The Church of Ireland, in its daily prayers, prays for people suffering in conflict, those who seek to bring care and relief, and the peace of the world. Air Ambulance NI is a charity in Northern Ireland. They work in partnership with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, to provide the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service for the region. Serious or life-threatening situations can happen to anyone at any time and on average, every single day in Northern Ireland, two individuals find themselves in critical need of an

Air Ambulance. The charity's operational helicopter carries a crew compiling pilot, doctor, and paramedic, 365 days of the year operating for 12 hours every day. They attend some of the most traumatic medical incidents across the province and are dedicated to delivering the very best possible pre-hospital critical care, both at the scene and whilst transferring the patient to the most appropriate hospital for their specific injuries. St Macartin's Cathedral Outreach Fund is specifically designed to be 'people focused' and not 'building focused'. It helps fund groups like Parenting and Wellbeing, Messy Church, Xplore, Supper at Six and Senior Citizens. It also provides assistance for those in need and to assist with projects that reach out to people in the locality.

Confirmation Classes

A Confirmation Service will be held in the spring of 2024 for young people of Year 9 and above. Those who expect to be confirmed should regularly attend services with their families, as Confirmation is about taking your place within the life and mission of the Church. Application forms for Confirmation are available in the Parish Office for those who wish to be confirmed. Please collect and return them as soon as possible. Details of Confirmation Classes will be released in due course.

Home Holy Communions for Christmas

During the weeks before Christmas, the Dean will be celebrating Holy Communion with those who are unable to attend the Cathedral. If you, or someone known to you, would like to receive such a visit then please contact the Office. Those who had Holy Communion at home at Easter will automatically be on the list.

The Shoebox Appeal

Thank you to all who took part and supported the Mothers' Union in the Shoe Box Appeal. Approximately 100 shoeboxes have been sent off from our Parish to destitute children in Eastern Europe. These simple items/toys will transform the lives of many and probably the only Christmas present they will receive.

Season Greetings

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

The Dean's Sit Out for Charity
THREE WAY SPLIT - INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL & LOCAL
PEOPLE FOCUSED

INTERNATIONAL
Bishops' Appeal is the Church of Ireland's World Aid and Development Programme. It was set up by the Bishops of the Church in 1972 in response to the commands in the Bible to bring good news to the poor and relief to the suffering.

NATIONAL
AIR AMBULANCE NORTHERN IRELAND CHARITY
To provide helicopter emergency medical services in serious or life threatening situations throughout Northern Ireland.

LOCAL
St Macartin's Outreach Fund - 'people focused' not 'building focused' provides assistance for those in need and to assist with projects that reach out to people in the locality.

AT THE GATES OF
ST MACARTIN'S CATHEDRAL,
ENNISKILLEN

THURSDAY 21st DECEMBER 2023
9.00am-9.00pm

All donations can be gift aided NI Charity No 105443
Gift Aid Envelopes are available in the Cathedral porch.

Fivemiletown (including Kiltermon)



Rector:
**Revd Precentor
Kyle Hanlon**

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

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Parish Office
10.00am-3pm Wednesday and Friday.
Secretary: Judith Anderson

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Connecting Through Faith: A visit to Fivemiletown.

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." - Hebrews 13:2 (NIV)

In the spirit of the biblical principle of extending hospitality to strangers, we recently had the privilege of welcoming two guests from Peru; Revd Jerry Acosta and Revd Victor Condori to St John's in Fivemiletown. This visit, initially as part of their journey to Worcester Diocese, provided an inspiring opportunity to exchange faith experiences, build connections across borders, and gain



Guests from Peru at one of the services in Fivemiletown.

insights into the Anglican Church in Peru. Victor and Gerry shared their stories and insights about the Anglican Church in Peru to both a small group gathered in the hall and later at the evening service. We listened with open hearts as they spoke of their faith journey, the challenges they've encountered, and the progress they've achieved. SAMS Ireland Mission Development Officer, Claire Holmes, gave a talk to encourage and inspire us. A particularly interesting moment during their earlier presentation was the revelation of plans to establish a new diocese in the region of Arequipa, Peru. This endeavour underscores the church's dedication to serving new communities and expanding its outreach, echoing the biblical command to show hospitality to strangers, who may be divine messengers in disguise! The Peruvian guests also emphasised the significance of leadership development within the Anglican Church in Peru, particularly through programs like MOCLAM. These programs play a pivotal role in equipping and nurturing leaders, aligning with the biblical mandate to prepare and empower those called to serve.

The visit of Victor and Jerry was not just an ordinary encounter but a living embodiment of the biblical command to demonstrate hospitality to strangers. SAMS Ireland would like to extend gratitude to the Rector and congregation at Fivemiletown for their warmth and generosity in welcoming our guests. In conclusion, this visit was a powerful testament to how faith can unite individuals and communities across vast distances. It underscored that, as people of faith, we share a common journey, guided by the timeless principles of love, hospitality, and unity as found in bible texts like Hebrews 13:2. As we continue our collective journey in faith and community, we are reminded of the remarkable capacity of faith to bridge divides and create connections that



transcend borders.
*Revd Stephen McElhinney
SAMS Ireland, Mission Director*

The visit of the Peruvian pastors to the Harvest Thanksgiving weekend, follows on from the visit we had in January of Anderson and Isobel Sanchez, and their teenage children. The Sanchez family hosted our young people when they visited Peru in July 2016. It has been great to reconnect with the Peruvian Church in this way, and we are grateful to Andy Little who has maintained a close connection with Lima during these years.

Anniversary Prayers

It was a great privilege to be asked to say prayers with Deidre and Alan Espie on their 30th Wedding Anniversary.

It was good to visit them pastorally at home in Clabby some days before and to agree the Bible readings and prayers, and to think about family members who would travel for this, as well as remember before God those who have gone ahead of us. On the occasion, they attended the Morning service at St John's, along with their family, and afterwards we gathered in the Chancel, as they had done 30 years before. Thank you to Deidre and Alan for identifying for us the importance of giving thanks for these special times in our family and parish life.

A Very Quiet Morning

I am indebted to the Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer, and especially to Canons Raymond Fox and David Ferry, and Nuala Dudley, Secretary for the interest in and commitment they have made to both me and the parish in Fivemiletown. Over eight of nine years they have faithfully travelled some distance to the parish in November to support our prayers and to assist us as we make our way to God through quietness. On our most recent Quiet Morning we made up a group of 14,



Deidre and Alan Espie having prayers on their 30th wedding anniversary.



being joined by Canon Fox, Nuala who travels from Donegal, and Revd Isobel Nixon. The words of scripture which Raymond brought were from Psalm 46, 'Be still and know that I Am God.', as well as words of Jesus in St Mark, 'You are not far from the Kingdom of God.' St John's is a lovely [place in which to pray, and we are very fortunate to have adjoining parish Halls for hospitality. A soup lunch was served, and the money raised by donation on the day were used to contribute to heating costs, catering, and a donation to the Fellowship. Three members of the parish currently are members of the fellowship and receive the Sayings For Prayer each month.

Connect Youth Group

Connect Youth Group opened in mid-September with 16 young people attending and currently meet Friday fortnightly with a steady attendance and an even number of boys and girls. The evening programme consists of a relaxed time of games, hot food and teaching from Precentor Hanlon. Recently we have learning about characters in the bible like Obadiah, Samuel, and King Ahab with some great responses from the youth people.

Since we have re-opened this year, we had a trip to the bowling alley and organised some fundraising with a "Lap the Lake" on a Saturday in October and with the generosity of the parishioners and others, the total raised was £501.

This will be a great help for our Parish Youth Weekend in Castlewella Castle on February 14th -16th 2024. Brian Corbett (Connect Leader)

Help With the Dishes

We were delighted at both Kiltermon and in the Parish Hall to discover this lovely gift from members of Knit, Pray, Love. Each



kitchen received a bundle of 100% cotton dishcloths, hand crochet and gifted to us as a surprise. There will be no excuse now for avoiding the washing up!

Fundraising Event For Santisma Trinidad Christian School in Peru and the Church Lads' Brigade

It is great that this year again we can look forward to a Vintage Tea, Antiques and Craft Fair, hosted by the Church Lads Brigade. Planned for 10am-3pm on Saturday 3rd December, if this event is as good as last years, you can look forward to a great number of stalls with quality hand made items, as well as delicious treats at tea and coffee time.

It is a great encouragement that monies are also to be sent overseas to continue supporting the Anglican Chrsiatn school in Lima, Peru where Isobel Sanchez is headteacher.



Youth Winter Workshops

It is great that 18 young people registered for the first winter workshops for any young person aged 11 years and above. Daniel, Elliott, Rosie, Patrick and Michele are giving their tutoring as a gift to the parish, and are hosting woodwork, knitting/crochet, guitar, cajon percussion box and needlefelting workshops on six Friday evenings across six months. There will be time of worship, encouragement, food and fun, as we seek to support and encouragement young eppel here in their faith and to learn new



skills. This programme is to complement CONNECT Youth Fellowship and Senior Sunday School, which meet to support and encourage young people in their faith. We are appreciative to the Select Vestry for their financial support of this programme.

Looking ahead to two breakfasts

God willing, on Saturday 27th January 2024, the smell of smoked bacon, fruit juice and freshly brewed coffee will fill the Parish Halls. Both Men's Group and Women's Ministry are hosting an event each.

With an early start, Men's Group Breakfast will have Revd Mark Lennox as their guest speaker. From 10.15am, Women's Ministry will host a Brunch. Their guest speaker is Christian author, Catherine Campbell.

Catherine has been very faithful in giving her time freely to the Parish, during her previous two visits, and an evening during lockdown via zoom.

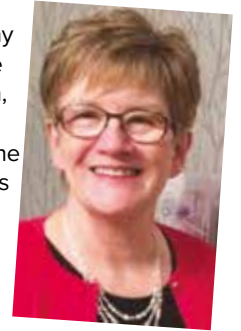
Several members of the parish travelled in October to Newtownabbey for a book launch of her most recent devotional book. And at present we are asking for donations of previously read books by Catherine, to circulate during Christmas to others, as we get ready for January. Books may be left in the Parish Hall.

Ladies from the diocese and friends are very welcome to join us in January for this very special day, booking with the parish office: fivemiletownparish2@gmail.com

Are You Ready?

At the time of writing it is only 11 days until the Bishop will be with us for Confirmation. The 13 young people who have been meeting in recent months to prepare for this, have been thinking a lot about one of the key questions they will be asked, which is, 'Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?' What a great question for any of us.

These young people have been very diligent in their attendance and in their interest, both through discussion and reading. My hope is that as well as their families and youth leaders, many of the





600



Alastair McFarland who visited Fivemiletown.



church members will also attend to give them every support and encouragement.

A Great Harvest!

We are still talking in the parish about the Harvest Thanksgiving weekend. Alastair Donaldson preached to a filled Kiltermon, Claire Holmes preached on the Sunday evening and translated for our visiting Peruvian pastors, following on from the mission tea and Alastair McFarland preached to a full Church on Sunday morning.

A great highlight was the Sunday School project when the Sunday School families took away a Pringles tub (filled with cheese and onion edibles) decorated as mudhuts, and brought them back on Harvest Sunday filled with coins. The Sunday School excelled itself and raised £600 for Abanna, a mission society based in Bangor, County Down, with projects in Uganda. Several of the parish have visited Uganda and the mission project's which Abaana support. There was a surprise presentation from Florence Brunt, one of the Parish Synod

representatives, and former member of the Clogher Diocesan Board of Religious Education, as she brought from the September Synod, the two prizes which Sparks and Juniors had achieved for their projects as part of the Archdeacon's prize. God willing, Patrick Hanlon who visited Uganda this summer with Abanna and Niamh Campbell who visited Waterford as part of a mission team, will speak in the parish during Advent to tell us about their work, and to thank the parish for their support.

Galloon, Sallaghy and Drummully



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The Revd
Lorraine Capper

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Born to Die

You are probably familiar with the story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. The Bible says that when the time had come, Mary "brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger" (Luke 2:6-7). But have you ever wondered why the angel told the shepherds that the Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger was a "sign"?

A manger is actually a feeding trough for livestock. Do you know what a feeding trough in those days looks like? I have seen a similar one at Solomon's stables in Meggido, Israel. It is basically a big rectangular block of stone with the trough hewn out of it. So baby Jesus, who was wrapped in swaddling cloths, was placed in such a stone trough.

But why was that a sign? Because if you have seen the empty tomb of Jesus at a place called The Garden Tomb in Jerusalem, you would have noticed that the place where His body was laid, inside a tomb hewn out of rock, resembles a stone trough. The Bible says that after Jesus' crucifixion and death, Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus' body, wrapped it in linen and laid it in a tomb hewn out of a rock (Mark 15:43-46).

Can you see the similarities? Wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, baby Jesus would one day be wrapped in linen and laid in a tomb. That was the sign the angel was referring to. It pointed to Jesus' death.

Jesus was the only child in all of humanity born to die. Once you realise that, you will realise how much God loves you. You will realise that He gave up His Son for that one purpose, and that His Son willingly came for that one purpose—to die for your sins and mine.

Beloved, can you imagine living your



The baptism for the McWilliams family in Sallaghy

life knowing that you are just qualifying yourself to die on the cross to save the world? That was the life that Jesus lived. He lived to die, so that we might live and enjoy life abundantly today!

Christmas Tree Festival in Galloon

Following the magnificent success of our Christmas Tree Festival in 2016 we are going to do it all again! The Festival will open on Friday 8 December from 7-9pm with The Silvertones Choir entertaining guests as they view the trees. It will reopen on Saturday 9th December from 10am-5pm with various musicians



Those who took part in Sallaghy for the Act of Remembrance (L-R) Charles, Andy, Rev Lorraine, George, Henry and Richard



Brownies and leaders attend Remembrance Service.



Rangers and Guide Flag bearers attend Remembrance Day Service in Galloon.

providing music throughout the day, and refreshments will be served. The Festival will close on Sunday 10th December with a Carol Service at 7pm led by Lisnaskea Silver Band and singing by Marina Elliott and her family.

We are very excited to be able to welcome visitors to our festival, so keep the dates free and bring along your family and friends to our winter wonderland.

Services in December 2023

Sunday, 3rd December 2023 - The First Sunday of Advent

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

Sunday, 10th December 2023 - The Second Sunday of Advent

10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church: Morning Prayer
 3pm: Drummully Parish Church: Family Carol Service
 7pm: Galloon Parish Church: Carol Service with Lisnaskea Silver Band and singing by Marina Elliott and her family.

Sunday, 17th December 2023 - The Third Sunday of Advent

10.30 am: Sallaghy Parish Church: Family Carol Service

12.00 noon: Galloon Parish Church: Family Carol Service

Dress up if you like!

Sunday 24th December 2023 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent (Christmas Eve)

9pm: Drummully Parish Church: A Group Service. A Celebration of Holy Communion

Monday, 25th December 2023 - Christmas Day

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

Sunday 31st December 2023- The First Sunday of Christmas

10.30am: Galloon Parish Church: A Group Service.

Services in January 2024

Sunday 7th January 2024 - The First Sunday After the Epiphany

9am: Drummully Parish Church: Morning Prayer

10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church:

Morning Prayer with baptism

12.00 noon: Galloon Parish Church:

Morning Prayer

Sunday 14th January 2024 - The Second Sunday After the Epiphany

9am: Drummully Parish Church: Family

Service

10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church: Family Service

12.00 noon: Galloon Parish Church:

Family Service

Sunday 21st January 2024 - The Third Sunday After the Epiphany

9am: Drummully Parish Church: Morning Prayer

10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church:

Morning Prayer

12.00 noon: Galloon Parish Church:

Morning Prayer

Sunday 28th January 2024 - The Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

9am: Drummully Parish Church: Morning Prayer

10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church:

Morning Prayer

12.00 noon: Galloon Parish Church:

Morning Prayer

Remembrance Sunday

Acts of Remembrance were held in Sallaghy and Drummully on 5th November. Mr Charles Crawford gave a very interesting and emotional talk on past people that he had met who had been honoured for their service to their country and sadly many had died as a result of serving. Revd Lorraine went on to say: "Every year we read a list of names but they are not just a list these are people. People who were badly injured, people



Wreaths made by Galloon Sunday School.



who never came home to meet sons or daughters they never had held, people who lost limbs, people who lost their lives. These were real people who sacrificed for our freedom today.”

On Remembrance Sunday, a very moving Group Service was held in Galloon. Revd Lorraine welcomed the Rangers, Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, Beavers and Squirrels and their leaders. Revd. Lorraine led the service giving thanks for all those who had across the ages been examples of courage and stood up to fight against injustices. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the parish, PSNI and UDR. Those reading Scriptures included Richard Clingan (Sallaghy) Richard Bell (Galloon) and Sergeant Mark Young. Prayers were led by Henry Johnston MBE and his wife Elizabeth and son Gregory, Children from Galloon Sunday School displayed their hand-made wreaths showing that they too are called to remember.

Mothers' Union Visitors' Night

Visitors' Night was hosted in Galloon Parish Hall. Revd Lorraine welcomed Dean Raymond Ferguson and his daughter, Marina Elliott. They gave us a most interesting talk entitled “Life treasures, memories and reflections.” They also treated us to some beautiful singing of “Be Still and Know that I am God.” We were delighted to have a very packed hall



William (Rector's Churchwarden) lays a wreath at the War Memorial Tablet.



Richard lays wreath on behalf of UDR and RUC and PSNI.



Brian lays a wreath in Drummully.

of visitors from all over the diocese and from neighbouring churches. The ladies from Galloon and Drummully Branch served up a beautiful supper.

From the Registers

BAPTISM

In Sallaghy Parish Church on Sunday 22nd October - baptism of Billy McWilliams.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Eileen and John on being the overall local winner at the British Food Awards. Their business Cavanagh Free Range Eggs from Newtownbutler, Co Fermanagh, won the gold award for he “Sustainable Egg

Producer” of the year. The judges praised the eggs: “Bursting with flavour, the eggs make every breakfast a delightful treat”.

Christmas Blessings

To all diocesan magazine readers, from all at Galloon, Sallaghy and Drummully: May the joy of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, the obedience of Josph and Mary, the worship of the wisemen, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmastide and in 2024. We also remember in our prayers those who have been bereaved in the past year and they are aware of an empty chair this Christmas.

Garrison, Slavin, Belleek and Kiltyclogher



Rector:
Revd Rebecca Guildea

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Church Services Diary

DECEMBER

Sunday 3rd December

Garrison 10am HC
Slavin 11.30am HC



The Service in Kiltyclogher Church with Revd Andrew Quill and his wife, Joanne.



Sunday 10th December

Slavin Group Family service, Scratch Nativity at 11.30am

Sunday 17th December

Carols by Candlelight at 7pm in Kiltyclogher Church.

Sunday 24th December

Christmas Eve services both in Belleek - Crib Service at 4pm and HC at 8pm

Monday 25th December

Christmas Day - Garrison at 9.30am, Family Service with HC

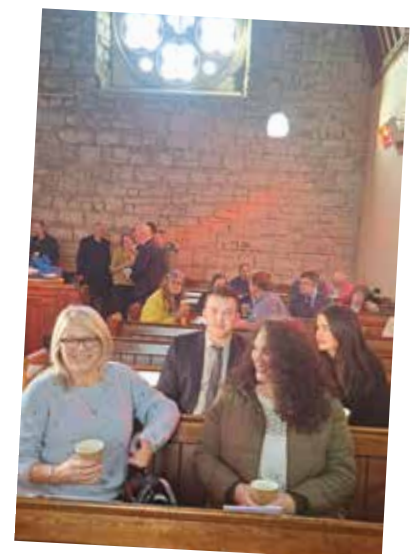
Sunday 31st December

Group service of Morning prayer at 11.30am in Garrison Parish Church.

JANUARY

Sunday 7th January 2024

Garrison 10am HC



Slavin 11.30am HC

Sunday 14th January

Kiltyclogher 10am HC

Belleek 11.30am HC

Sunday 21st January

Garrison 10am MP

Slavin 11.30am MP

Sunday 28th January

Kiltyclogher 10am MP

Belleek 11.30am MP

FEBRUARY

Sunday 4th February

Garrison 10am HC

Slavin 11.30am HC

Sunday 11th February

Kiltyclogher 10am HC

Belleek 11.30am HC

Notes from the Rectory

John Lennon sings 'life is what happens to you when you're making other plans.' As a Christian, I struggle to live in the present, not the future. I order bulbs to plant at the weekend, buy paint for 'when I get the time' to repaint the utility, book holidays for the spring, buy books to read in the new year, and all the time, the present is going on around me, and I'm oblivious to it, my imagination in some future time and place.

A lot of people do this. They make plans for retirement, or for when the kids have left home, for a future where they'll 'be less busy'. They talk of the place they'll visit, the activities they'll find time for. Decluttering shows (of which I'm a big fan) often scan around homes filled with piles of unfinished craft projects, unsorted mail, incomplete DIY jobs, all set aside by well-meaning people for a fantasy realm somewhere in the future where things get done and where time is a plentiful commodity.

But there's another great phrase. 'As today, so tomorrow.' The things I don't find time for today, I won't find time for tomorrow. And God is the most central of those. If I can't find time for him today, why should tomorrow look any different? In this busy season, I've noticed my prayer life slipping. But as someone reminded me recently, 'every season is busy.' You can always find an excuse for not making something a priority, whether it's time with your kids, time to get on top of your finances, or time with the Lord. Or as



Scott Elliott at his last service in Garrison Group of Parishes.

James the brother of Jesus puts it, 'Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." (James 4:13-15). The things I want to do tomorrow, I need to do today. Tomorrow carries no guarantees, and if I set my hopes there, I'll miss what the Lord wants to do in my life today.

So, whatever you do this December, don't set your hopes on January! Carve out time, now, for the things that are important. Even if it means saying no to some things other people tell you that you should be doing.

God bless and have a wonderful Christmas.

Revd Rebecca

Farewell to Scott Elliott

On Sunday 5th November we said 'farewell' for the time being to Scott Elliott as he continues his training for the ministry in Dublin and his ministry in Enniskillen Cathedral. Revd Rebecca thanked him for all his contributions over the past 10 weeks and wished him well for the future.

Remembrance Sunday

A short act of Remembrance took place in Belleek Church during Morning Prayer.

The main Remembrance Service was held in Garrison Church at 5pm.

This service has special meaning for all who remember loved ones lost during world wars and in the Northern Ireland Troubles.

We welcomed members of the Regimental Association who helped with the formal proceedings.

Alan Gault read out the names of all and the exhortation. Paul Barton played a beautiful lament on the bagpipes.

Councillor Mark Ovens, accompanied by Richard McClure laid the wreath on the Johnny Fletcher Memorial Plaque, in memory of Johnny and all who lost their lives in NI. Kevin Barlow laid the wreath on the WW1 plaque in memory of Thomas Carson.

Fashion Show and Display of Wedding Dresses through the decades

A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all at our Fashion Show at the Gilaroo Centre in Garrison on Saturday 4th November.

Revd Rebecca welcomed everyone to the event. Ladies and kids fashions were supplied by Miss B's in Belleek. The men's style was provided by Tom Read Menswear in Irvinestown.

We were extremely grateful to both shops for providing a great variety of clothes to our models.

Wedding dresses from the 1940s to present day and a selection of Saris were modelled. A delicious supper was served.

There was a raffle with lots of prizes.



Some of those attending the Mothers' Union visitors' night.



There were prizes given to the best dressed woman (Andrea Timoney), man (Philip Gunner), girl (Jessica Willis) and boys (Clarke Earls and Thomas Allingham). Everyone who made the night such a success was thanked - each and every one of the models, children, men and ladies were just amazing on their debut on the catwalk!

A special thanks was given to Joy and Dot who made the night possible and who were presented with flowers.

Thanks also to Helen Thompson and Lorraine Boyd for all their organisational skills and all who contributed to the supper and prizes and those who helped backstage, in the kitchen and on the door.

Healing Prayer Weekend

Saturday 28th October was the first event in Garrison church hall of our healer prayer weekend to teach us how to pray for healing for each other. The afternoon was led by Revd Andrew and Joanne Quill and Pastor John Shades. They administered prayer and taught everyone how to give prayer to others and to pray for God's healing power. It was an uplifting and spiritual event for all who were present.

CMS Ireland

We were blessed to have Revd Andrew Quill and his wife Joanne with us again on Sunday 29th October, for a service of wholeness and healing in Kiltyclogher Church. Prior to the service we were treated to coffee, croissants and scones. Andrew and Joanne shared their story of their calling to Southern Sudan with us as CMS mission partners. We wish them God's richest blessing on their travels and Missionary work there. There was an opportunity in the service for healing and laying on of hands for ourselves and others.

Christmas Sale of Work

Slavin Parish are organizing a Christmas Sale of Work on Tuesday 19th December



Enjoying the wonderful Fashion Show.



in the Wark Hall, Belleek from 9am - 1pm. Fruit cakes, mince pies, other home baking, Jam, chutney, bric-a-brac, and good used clothes will be available. Tea/ coffee will be served with a scone and mince pie for just £3. The perfect place to meet up for a chat. Cakes etc can be pre booked.

Mothers' Union

Our triennial visitors' night was on Tuesday 14th November when Dot (Branch Leader) welcomed a good turnout of ladies from Rossorry, Inishmacsaint, Devenish and Boho and Mullaghdund MU Branches.

The speaker was Joy Graham on 'Effective listening' and how it was so important working in her new role as a recently qualified Counsellor. She told us how she had been led into this work after the loss of their youngest son Neil, and we were enthralled by hearing about some of the experiences (whilst being totally confidential) she has encountered in her role. Some key points were that we must never judge anyone and sometimes in order to be a counsellor in our everyday lives, all we need to do is just be a listener. We were made very aware that many people experience suffering behind closed doors. MU is taking part in 16 days of activism against gender-based violence and we were encouraged to attend the upcoming breakfast on 25th November in Maguiresbridge and to donate vouchers to help the local Women's Aid. A vote of thanks on behalf of the visitors was



expressed by Pearl Bell from Monea.

2024 meeting

The first meeting of 2024 will take place on Tuesday, 9 January 2024 - opening service in Slavin church at 8pm.

Prayers

Our thoughts and prayers are with anyone our group of parishes who have been unwell in hospital or at home in recent weeks.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Parish website:

Please visit our website garrisongroup.org.uk and give us your feedback. Follow us on Facebook using the name Garrison Group of Parishes. Simply 'Like' our page to receive updates on events.

Inishmacsaint



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

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

Pantomime

Thanks to all who supported our pantomime 'Ruth'. We are so grateful to all who came to watch us! Thanks, too, to our amazing cast and crew, some of whom are pictured here.

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday 2023 was enhanced by the presence of the Girls' Friendly Society and our wonderful choir trained by musical director Gillian Rutherford.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Leann Muldoon who took part in Derrygonnelly's 35 kms 'Fear' endurance challenge. This involved cycling, running and, kayaking. Congratulations to Lucy Muldoon on the occasion of her confirmation by Bishop Ian Ellis on 22nd October 2023.

Sympathy

The parish extends its deepest condolences to the family and friends of the late Samuel Robert (Sam) Johnston formerly of Lack.



Scenes from the successful pantomime, Ruth, with many of those taking part.



Attending the Remembrance Service



Lucy who was confirmed by Bishop Ian Ellis with family members



At the Remembrance Day Service



The GFS members and leaders at the Remembrance Service.



Leeann Muldoon competed in FEAR endurance challenge.

Kilskeery and Trillick



Rector:
Revd Philip Bryson

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What if Jesus had never been born?

Philip Van Doren Stern was an American writer born in 1900 who, one night, in 1938 had a dream. In his dream he found himself standing on a bridge contemplating throwing himself in because he considered that his life was not worth living. While considering this action he was approached by a man who asked him what he was about to do and after the explanation, the man granted him the wish that he could view the world as if he had never been born. The man has the opportunity to travel around his neighbourhood and see what life for others would be like without him ever having been born and concludes at the end that perhaps his life was more meaningful, worthwhile and valuable than he had ever imagined. Stern got this 4000 word story published in 1943 and it was discovered soon after by a production company who turned it into the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life". Not unlike Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" it brings the reader to contemplate the value of their life and consider that it may be of greater value than first thought. In 1994, just over 50 years later the book, "What if Jesus had never been born?" was published, inspired by this same dream

encounter, only daring to imagine what life would be like in the world if it was Jesus who had never been born. Kennedy & Newcombe provide us with what they have entitled a quick overview of the impact that Jesus Christ has had as his disciples lived out their faith. "Despite its humble origins, the Church has made more changes on earth for the good than any other movement or force in history." And amongst those changes are listed: "Hospitals, most of the world's greatest universities were started by Christians for Christian purposes, literacy and education for the masses, representative government, civil liberties, the abolition of slavery (both in antiquity and in modern times), modern science, the elevation of women, benevolence and charity, higher standards of justice, the elevation of the common man, the sanctity of marriage and good sexual relationships, high regard for human life, the codifying and setting to writing of many of the world's languages, greater development of art and music, the countless changed lives transformed from liabilities into assets to society because of the gospel, the eternal salvation of countless souls." (p3, 4) With such amazing positive outcomes and results there are yet many in our day who genuinely wish that Jesus had never been born, that the manger had remained empty, that there would be no such thing as Christmas, that God had not stepped into our world, as the light of the world to proclaim good news to the poor, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom to the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn and provide for those who grieve... Granted that much has been done in the name of Jesus by grossly misguided individuals and groups that had nothing to do with him whatsoever. Their actions were not in line with the kingdom plans and purposes of God. At this time of year as we move towards Christmas, would it be pertinent to consider the implications of Jesus never

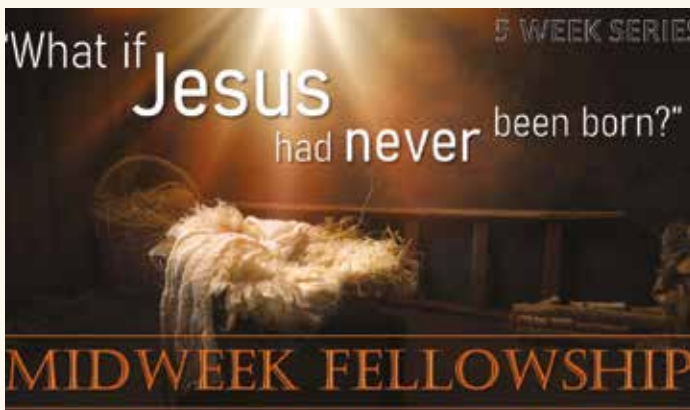
having been born? The Bible tells us that his arrival and ministry was about destroying evil and inviting all people to come to him and find forgiveness, cleansing, new life and purpose and redirect their onwards journey heavenward. As men and women, boys and girls, older and younger said yes to his invitation to come follow, the world experienced the positive Spirit-transforming power of God, to the benefit of all. No Jesus – none of the above. Let us, as believers renew our faith in the transforming power of the gospel, the transforming power that comes through the renewed mind, and as we walk daily with the Lord, may we once again have great confidence in Him who's heart is to continue to make a difference for the better and benefit of this whole world... and may we celebrate that He was born among us!

Curry Night

This is our third year of running our Curry Night in Trillick and again we were pleasantly surprised with a full hall. The numbers have been steadily jumping up each year and yet we have always had enough great food to go around. It was a great opportunity to meet socially around good food and good company with good conversation and a bit of craic with a bit of a quiz thrown in. Plans are in progress for next year so look out for the advertising and make sure you get there early to guarantee your seat. A big thanks to all on the team of organisers / workers / helpers / chefs who made it all possible and such a success.

Midweek Fellowship

As we journey towards Christmas our Fellowship Group have started a series called "What if Jesus had never been born", based on the book of the same name. We are considering this question and discussing the impact that Jesus has had throughout history and coming to the conclusion that the followers of Jesus have much to be proud of as they have sought to follow in His footsteps.



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

A big thank you to all who filled and returned a shoebox and we are pleased to be sending around 60 to the appeal this year. It is of course more blessed to give than to receive yet we look forward to those we send them out to being blessed by our gifts this Christmas.

Worship Him

Our thoughts this month were around God's miraculous guidance and communication with His people as He calls them into the arms of their loving Heavenly Father. Framed by worship and prayer we enjoyed a more contemporary setting and had time for tea and chat at the end.

Times & Programmes

Mondays:

Girls' Brigade at 6.30 – 8.00pm
Guitar Class at 7.15 – 8.00pm
Mother's Union at 8.00pm (3rd of month)

Tuesdays:

Senior Citizens Group at 2.00pm

Wednesdays:

R.O.A.R. Boy's Club at 6.30 – 8.00pm
Midweek Fellowship at 8.00 – 9.15pm

Thursdays:

Prayer Meeting at 9.00am

Fridays:

Bowling Club at 8.00pm

Saturdays:

Messy Kids at 11.00am – 12.30pm (when arranged)

Sundays:

Trillick at 10.30am
Kilskeery at 11.45am each Sunday
Youth Group at 5.30 – 6.30pm (alternate Sundays)
Worship Him (Praise and Worship Evening) monthly at 7.30pm

Some Dates for December

Sunday 3rd

Advent Communion Service

Sunday 10th

Kilskeery Family Carol Service at 11.00am
Carols by Candlelight at 7.30pm (Trillick Parish Church)

Saturday 16th

Messy Christmas for all the Family at 3.30 - 5.00pm (Kilskeery Hall)
Switching on of the Kilskeery Village Christmas lights at 5.00pm

Sunday 17th

Trillick Family Carol Service at 11.00am
Carols by Candlelight at 8.00pm (Kilskeery Parish Church)

Sunday 24th

Advent worship Service
Christmas Eve Communion Service at 11.15pm (Trillick Parish Church)

Monday 25th

Christmas Day Family Communion Service at 9.00am - Trillick and 10.30am - Kilskeery

Lisbellaw with Coolbuck



Rector:
The Revd William Jeffrey

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Bishop Ian Ellis with Revd William Jeffrey and Miss Isobel Stewart and the young people who were confirmed.

Christian Burial

Mrs Rosemary Leonie Forster recently passed away on All Saints' Day, 1 November and her funeral service followed by committal took place on 6 November. Our love and prayers extend to Rosemary's family and friends. May Rosemary rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

Confirmation

It was a joy to welcome Bishop Ian and his wife, Heather to Lisbellaw Parish Church on 5 November. Bishop Ian confirmed five of our young people and celebrated Holy Communion.

Congratulations to Hannah, Sasha, Aleisha, Katie, and Brad who we uphold in prayer. May Almighty God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit continue to Bless each of

you on your Christian journey.

Remembrance Sunday

It was a privilege to host two Remembrance Sunday Services in Lisbellaw Parish Church on 12 November with very good attendances at both. In the morning we had our Parish Remembrance Service and thanks are extended to the Lisbellaw Cubs and their leaders who paraded splendidly.

In the afternoon we hosted the Lisbellaw Veterans Group Remembrance Service which was also attended by uniformed organisations under the auspices of Scouting and Guiding. The parade to and from the Parish Church included Lisbellaw Accordion Band with Lisbellaw Primary School also represented.

Looking Forward

We look forward to reporting on three Holy Baptisms planned for late November with the possibility of one further Holy Baptism in December in the next edition of the Clogher Diocesan Magazine. As we travel through Advent and into the Season of Christmas, I would prayerfully encourage you to attend as many services as possible – inviting and bringing with you family members and friends. All will be extremely welcome.

I should like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Holy Advent and Christmas including a Peaceful and Happy New Year!

**Every Blessing,
Rev'd William**



Some of those who took part in the Remembrance Day services in Lisbellaw Parish Church.

Services

Sunday 3 December *Advent

11am HC Lisbellaw

3pm HC Coolbuck

Wednesday 6 December

10.30am HC *Coolbuck

Sunday 10 December

11am SOTW and Holy Baptism Lisbellaw

- *tbc

3pm EP Coolbuck

Wednesday 13 December

10.30am HC Lisbellaw

*NB After today midweek HC will recommence on 17 January 2024.

Sunday 17 December

9.45am HC Lisbellaw

11am Festival Nativity Lisbellaw

7pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight Lisbellaw

*NB No Service in Coolbuck today.

*NB No Service in Coolbuck today.

Sunday 24 December *Christmas Eve

11am MP Lisbellaw

5pm Crib Service Coolbuck

11pm Midnight Festival Christmas

Eucharist Coolbuck

Monday 25 December *Christmas Day

11am Festival Christmas Eucharist

Lisbellaw

Sunday 31 December

11am MP Lisbellaw

*NB No Service in Coolbuck today.

Monday 1 January 2024 *The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

9.45am HC Lisbellaw - *tbc

Sunday 7 January

11am HC Lisbellaw

3pm HC Coolbuck

Sunday 14 January

11am MP Lisbellaw

3pm EP Coolbuck

Wednesday 17 January

10.30am HC Lisbellaw

Sunday 21 January

9.45am HC Lisbellaw

11am SOTW/Family Service or MP *tbc

Lisbellaw

3pm EP Coolbuck



Wednesday 24 January

10.30am HC Lisbellaw

Sunday 28 January

11am MP Lisbellaw

3pm EP Coolbuck

Wednesday 31 January

10.30am HC Lisbellaw

Lisnaskea



Rector:
**The Revd
Alan Capper**

The Rectory, 3 Castlebalfour Road,
Castlebalfour Demesne, Lisnaskea, Co.
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Services for December

SUNDAY 3rd

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer

WEDNESDAY 13th

3.00 p.m. Trinity Hall
Holy Communion for Seniors

SUNDAY 17th

10.30 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols
(Collection for sponsored children)

CHRISTMAS EVE

8.00 p.m. Holy Communion
*Please note no morning service

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

SUNDAY 31st

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer

Services for January

SUNDAY 7th

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

WEDNESDAY 10th

3.00 p.m. Trinity Hall
Holy Communion for Seniors

SUNDAY 14th

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 21st

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 28th

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

Baptism

Sunday 22nd October - Luca Dylan Little,
30A Rathowen, Lisnaskea.
Congratulations to Andy and Tamara.

Burial

- Tuesday 24th October - Sarah Jane (Sadie) Foster, 5 Carrowshee Park, Lisnaskea.
- 9th November - Ronald Benson (Ronnie), Hollybrooke, Lisnaskea.



The Silvertones Choir at the parish concert.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Foster and Benson families at this sad time and as we approach Christmas we think of everyone who has recently been bereaved and all who are ill in hospital and nursing homes.

Discipleship Leadership and Growth

In our world today there are many distractions. Not that there were not any distractions before the year 2000 or 1989 and the beginning of the internet and the World Wide Web (WWW) but there seem to be "far more" distractions now. When I say distractions, I mean in terms of things that draw us away from what the Bible teaches and a weakening of our faith in God in particular.

In this Modern World there is a greater sense of "Entitlement" whereby people think that they are "Entitled" to receive something simply because THEY DO! Without taking into consideration any of the responsibilities or actions that may come with the "thing" that they feel entitled to receive.

In Titus 2:1 - 8 we read about how Paul directs Titus to teach people: "You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine." (Titus 2:1)

"Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance." (Titus 2:2)

Temperate
Worthy of Respect
Self-controlled
Sound in faith
Sound in love
Sound in endurance

These virtues and values DO NOT come simply by being "older" but by reading and learning the Bible through study and discipleship. There is only so much that can be gained by attendance at a Sunday morning service.

"Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be



slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good." (Titus 2:3)

Reverent in the way they live

NOT slanderers

NOT addicted to much wine

BUT teach what is GOOD

Equally as well, these virtues and values come with time and discipline through study. "Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God." (Titus 2:4 - 5)

By being at home and coming alongside the younger women, the older women are able to lead by example.



The Little family at the baptism with Revd Alan Capper.

Having said that, the older men too can help the younger men: "Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us." (Titus 2:6 - 8)

Self-controlled

Set the example of doing GOOD

In teaching show:

Integrity

Seriousness

Soundness of speech

WHY?

"so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us." (Titus 2:8)

When we look around ourselves, is this the picture that we see?

Is this going on in your life, either being taught by an older man or woman in the church?

Or maybe you ARE the older man or woman giving the example to the younger men or women in the church?

As an aside and simply to finish this piece, there are many who are talking about this being the End of Days. (Daniel 12:13) If that is the case then surely we need to be more attentive to the things that are of greater importance.

Concert

This was a lovely evening when everyone enjoyed being entertained by special guests, "The Silvertones" along with Dean Ferguson and friends and a number of other great acts. Thank you to all who came along and supported the event. Also thanks to the members of Lisnaskea Accordion Band who played at



At the Mothers' Union meeting.

the beginning of the night. Donations on the night amounted to £630.

Remembrance

As usual the church was well filled again this year for our service of Remembrance. A parade led by Lisnaskea Accordion Band included members of the security forces past and present, RNLI representatives, members of the British Legion and our youth organisations. Lisnaskea Silver Band along with our organist Letty Downey led the hymns, while readers came from the Scout Group and the PSNI. Thank you to everyone who took part including bugler Helen Wilson and Piper Adam Fawcett, also the flag bearers and all who laid wreaths.

Mothers' Union

We had a very good attendance at our Visitors' Night. It was lovely to welcome so many ladies from other branches as well as our friends from other organisations. Thanks to our speaker, Sandra from "Smash"; we have learned how to think more about what we are eating to improve our health. Her topic "Putting your health jigsaw back together" really highlighted how what we eat is so important for our health and wellbeing. We all know what we should and shouldn't do but maybe don't



One of the arrangements for Remembrance Day.

really do much about it, but when we were visibly shown how much sugar is hidden in some of our everyday diet it should make us more careful about how we choose our food. My thanks to Sandra for all her helpful information and advice and thanks to all our members who helped in any way to make the night successful. We will have our Christmas Lunch on 7th December in The Trinity Hall at 12.30pm. Last year we had an excellent meal provided by the Cherrytree Bakery and we are looking forward to the same this year. Visitors and friends are welcome to join us but we need numbers by the end of this month so if anyone wishes to attend please contact a member of our branch.

Christmas and New Year

As we look forward to Christmas, we wish everyone a Happy festive season and a healthy 2024.

Magheracross

Vacant

Administrative Charge: **Rural Dean Canon John Woods;**

Service Cover: **Revd Alison Irvine;** Pastoral Care, funerals, weddings, baptisms and occasional services:

Revd Alison Irvine;
DPA: **Wendy Kerr.**

Services for December 2023

- **Revd Alison Irvine**

3 December

9.30 am Holy Communion 1

11.00 am Holy Communion 2

10 December

9.30 am Morning Prayer 1

11.00 am Morning Prayer 2

17 December

9.30 am Morning Prayer 1

11.00 am Sunday School Nativity

3.30 pm Mencap Service with Rev Charles Eames

24 December

10.30 am Service of 9 Lessons and Carols

31 December

9.30 am Morning Prayer 1

11.00 am Morning Prayer 2

Magheracross Mothers' Union

Clogher Diocesan President, Heather Ellis was the speaker at our Mothers' Union meeting on Thursday 2 November.

After we sang a hymn and had a Bible reading and prayers, Norma welcomed Heather who told us some of her life story and explained her role in Mothers' Union. Heather then challenged us about building relationships and the emotions of speaking and listening. She spoke about reaching out to others especially people from other nationalities.

The Christmas outing will take place on Saturday 2 December when we will visit the Christmas Tree Festival in St John's Parish, Florencecourt. This will be followed by a meal in the Custom House, Belcoo. Plans were made for the Parish Christmas Fair on Friday 1 December and the annual Mencap service on Sunday 17 December at 3.30 pm. Our next meeting



Young people attending the Autumn Soul event in Bangor.



will be on Thursday 11 January 2024.

Remembrance Sunday

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Remembrance Day Service. The Last Post was played by Luke Henderson and Revd Alison Irvine read the names of those from the parish who died in conflict. Wreaths were laid by representatives of various organisations and the standard party included all the scouting groups. Thanks also to the ladies who decorated the church so beautifully.

Joel's Journey

Joel, the youth coordinator for Kintsugi Hope, recently visited SNITCH and shared his personal journey through school, including facing bullying and building a



thriving social media platform. During the lockdown, he transformed his social media platforms into a space to share his faith in God. These experiences have had a significant impact on his mental health, leading him to advocate for open conversations about mental well-being. The central theme of the evening's discussion centred around a powerful biblical verse from Romans 12:2, which urges us to break free from societal norms and embrace the transformative renewal of our minds through God.

Autumn Soul

On 27 October, a group of eight young people, accompanied by two leaders, embarked on an exciting weekend to Bangor. Our destination was the highly anticipated Autumn Soul gathering, a larger-scale event designed for individuals aged 14-17. Our guest speaker throughout the weekend was the incredible Richard Oppong-Boateng, born in London and now residing in Manchester. With experience in diverse settings such as schools, churches, prisons, and even Manchester United, his talks were nothing short of

engaging, thought-provoking, and deeply personal. Centred on the scripture from John 15, his four talks were staying plugged into God, remaining in His love, bearing God's fruit and being chosen. Despite the rain that persisted throughout the weekend, we seized the opportunity to partake in a plethora of indoor activities. From an exhilarating dance party and roller disco to a gaming van, rugby world cup, and various board games, there was no shortage of entertainment. Beyond the enjoyable activities, this weekend served as a remarkable occasion to forge new friendships. Our girls effortlessly bonded with the Bangor community, while our boys fostered deeper connections with their Togheradoo boys. All in all, this unforgettable weekend provided us with great memories and a genuine encounter with God.



Magheraculmoney



During the Rector's absence, **Revd Abraham Storey** (pictured left) is providing service and pastoral cover and the Rural Dean, Canon Alan Irwin, is in charge.

E: astorey@clogher.anglican.org
 Parish Administrator: Sonia Evans
 Tel: 07824 368 661
 Parish Office, The Fountain Centre, Kesh
 E: office@ardess.org
 Website: www.ardess.org





Scouts

The Scout Group at Magheraculmoney used the period up to Remembrance Day as a way to create an activity. Beaver Scouts spent an evening making paper poppies used at the Remembrance Service.

The Scouts and Guides from the parish also took part in the service.

Leaders, Ryan Milligan and Maurice Lee were involved in the organising of this.



Maguiresbridge and Derrybrusk



Rector:
The Revd Lindsey Farrell

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***'The people walking in darkness have seen a great land; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.'* Isaiah 9:2**

Advent is that very special time of year which seeks to sharpen the focus of our faith, and slow us down as society around us tries to rally us towards Christmas. Advent, as the four Sundays leading up to Christmas day, encourages us to slow down, to taken time, and to contemplate our faith. As advent marks the beginning of a new Church year, it encourages us to reflect on our faith; the journey we have travelled with God thus far, and how we will travel better in the time ahead. The season of advent rails against modern



One of the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday.



Andrew Beatty and Kenzey Downey after their marriage.

society which, at this time of year, is going full speed in the ever quicker and ever longer race to Christmas. Society encourages busyness, whilst advent teaches patience. Society focuses on the consumer benefits of the infant in the manger, whilst advent challenges us to contemplate Christ's second coming, and what that will mean for us as his followers, what it will mean for his Church, and indeed what it will mean for the world. Society pedals the superficial joy of festive spending, whilst advent teaches us to long for hopes that will be fulfilled, and to trust in promises that will yet come to pass. Society tells us that Christmas is already here, but advent calls for calm, for peace, and for trust in the return of the Son of God, the Saviour of the World, and the only one who can

make our joy truly complete. This advent season, as we wait on the fulfilment of promises long since foretold, I encourage you to take time. I encourage you to stop amidst the busyness and remember the promise and the hope that is ours of a better time that is yet to come, when



Some of the food items at the Derrybrusk Auction.



Some of those taking part in the concert.



Christ shall reign, when hopes will be fulfilled, when the world will truly know peace, and where love will be ever present and everlasting. Let's make the season of Christmas even better this year by taking time in the season of Advent. Before we get caught up in celebrating the first coming of Christ, let's truly contemplate what his second coming will mean for each of us. Let's join together in that hopeful call: O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

Parish Activity

We have had a busy month across both churches!

Derrybrusk Auction

An auction was held by Derrybrusk in Belle Isle hall (kindly granted) on Saturday 21st October. This was extremely well attended, and everyone had great fun bidding on everything from sticks to scones! Thanks to all who came out in support of the Church, to our auctioneer on the day, to our recorders and all who helped with the set-up, running and organising of the event. Thank you to all who donated, and to all who

bought! Thanks also to those who made and served refreshments. A wonderful amount raised for the Church, and so encouraging to see so much community support! Thank you all!

Light Party

On Friday 27th October we held a Light Party in the hall. Attendance was disappointing, but those who were there had a great time. We had games, crafts, songs and videos as we learned about the apostle Paul and the light that changed his life. Thanks to our Sunday school teachers from both Churches for their help with this event.

Music Celebration

Maguiresbridge parish concert took place in the hall on Friday 10th November 2023. What a night of praise and celebration! Thank you to all who came along in support. We had a number of local bands taking part including Maguiresbridge Pipe band, Maguiresbridge Silver Band, Ballindarragh Accordion Band, Rosslea Accordion Band, Lisbellaw Accordion Band and two of our families from Derryclavin Pipe band. We had our

Sunday School choir, our Church choir, and the District Male Voice Choir. We also had Timothy our organist playing some instrumental pieces, and some soloists including Callum, Eva and Emily. With congregational singing alongside, this was such an uplifting night which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who helped with set up and clearing away. Thanks to our wonderful catering team. A special word of thanks to Hazel and Naomi for all of their hard work in organising this fantastic night of praise!

Remembrance Sunday

Services of Remembrance were carried out in both churches. It was wonderful to see all of our uniformed organisations back and taking an active part in these commemorations. Thank you to the leaders for your support.

Shoe Box Appeal

Mrs Annie Carson has been hard at work all year and has put together another 50 shoeboxes for their Christmas appeal! At the wonderful age of 90, Annie sets a powerful example of giving and caring for others! We are so thankful to her for all of her efforts. Well done Annie!



Mrs Annie Carson with Mrs Irene Boyd of the Shoebox Appeal.



Enjoying the Light Party.



From the Registers

On Friday 20th October 2023, Mr Andrew Beatty and Miss Kenzey Downey were married in Maguiresbridge. We wish them every blessing as they begin their married lives. *'And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.'* 1 Corinthians 13:13.

As I write these notes, I have just heard the news that Mrs Dora Lee has passed away. Dora was a regular worshipper in

Maguiresbridge until her health began to decline, and she was a faithful member of Mothers' Union for over 50 years. We pray for her son Derek and her daughter Yvonne as they come to terms with her loss. *'The Lord is near to the brokenhearted'* Psalm 34:18

Looking Ahead

■ Saturday 25th November 2023 – Mothers' Union Prayer Breakfast in Christ

Church hall at 9.15am.

■ Sunday 26th November 2023 – County Fermanagh Ladies Lodges Carol Service in Maguiresbridge at 7pm, followed by refreshments in the hall.

■ Saturday 2nd December 2023 – Over 60s Christmas lunch in Christ Church hall at 12.30pm.

■ Sunday 17th December 2023 – Family Nativity service in both Churches. Christmas services to be confirmed.

Monaghan, Tydavnet and Kilmore



Rector:
**The Revd
Chancellor
Ian Berry**

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Diocesan Pastoral Assistant: Mr Walter
Pringle

Services

10th December Second Sunday of Advent

10.30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)
12.15pm Ballinode

17th December Third Sunday of Advent

10.30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)
12.15pm Kilmore
7pm Ballinode Carol Service

24th December Fourth Sunday of Advent

10.30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)
12.15pm Ballinode

Christmas Day

9.30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)
Traditional Holy Communion
10.30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)
All Age Communion

31st December First Sunday of Christmas

10.30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)

7th January The First Sunday after The Epiphany

10.30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)
12.15pm Kilmore

14th January The Second Sunday after The Epiphany

10.30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)
12.15pm Ballinode

21st January The Third Sunday after The Epiphany

10.30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)



Among those attending the Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication at Ballinode Church were the Bishop of Clogher and the leader of the Council.

12.15pm Kilmore

28th January The Fourth Sunday after The Epiphany

10.30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)
12.15pm Ballinode

4th February The Second Sunday before Lent

10.30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)
12.15pm Kilmore

Parish Autumn Sale

The sale took place on Friday 20th October. A big thank you to all who helped to organise the sale and to all who baked, brought goods, helped to set up, helped on the day and to all who supported the sale. The total raised so far is €4004.

Ballinode Thanksgiving and Rededication Service

On Friday 27th October Bishop Ian preached and led us in rededicating Ballinode Church at the end of some extensive repairs and renovations. We welcomed parishioners, friends and many from the local community as a way to say thank-you for their support in all the work that has been completed and to rededicate ourselves to the work and witness of the church in this part of the world. In particular we wanted to thank all who had been involved in the restoration of the tower clock, especially Brendan Monaghan, Dairmuir Maguire, Patrick



McClave, Raymond Wilkinson and some members of the Select Vestry. The work to the clock was part funded by a successful application to the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2023 and local donations. After the service we were able to have supper in the hall, which has also undergone its own renovations to repair windows and replace the kitchen floor.

Advent

Advent is that season of preparation for Christmas remembering that just as God stepped into our world as one of us so he is coming back one day as King and judge of all. During Advent we are going to focus our attention on the first verses of John chapter 1 (words we often hear at carol services) and how John keeps describing Jesus as the light. As we get ready for Christmas so we will see how Jesus is the light of life for the world and in the lives of every Christian as they wait for his return.

Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union met on Tuesday 7th October when the speaker was Geraldine Casey. The next meeting is a joint outing with the Ladies Group to the Bord Gáis Theatre to see Phil Coulter.

Ladies Group

Ladies Group met on 21st November with a talk and demonstration of products by

Kieran Carley from Brian Skincare. The next meeting is a joint outing with the Mothers' Union to the Bord Gáis Theatre to see Phil Coulter.

Carol Services

Tuesday 12th December - Ladies Group Interdenominational Carol Service at 8pm with a range of local choirs and groups taking part. Refreshments served afterwards in the hall.

Sunday 17th December - Ballinode Carol Service at 7.30pm.

Friday 22nd December - Kilmore Carol Service at 7.30pm.

Christmas Day

9.30am St Patrick's Traditional Holy Communion

10.30am St Patrick's All Age Communion

Confirmation Preparation

In the new year we will be beginning preparation for confirmation using the "I believe" material from the Church of Ireland Youth Department. This is for all those who are in secondary school and there will be a meeting for parents and candidates in December.

Parish Finances

In order to facilitate the preparation of the parish accounts the Treasurer would appreciate if all donations for the following Weekly Envelopes/Plate collection could be in as soon as possible.

- Easter offering
- Co Monaghan Church of Ireland Childrens' society
- Harvest Appeal
- Autumn Sale
- Irish Poppy appeal
- Bishops Appeal

Illness

Please remember in prayer all those from our group who are ill in hospital or recovering the housebound and those in residential care and their families.

The Department of Employment and Social Protection Community Employment Scheme

The end of another year is nigh and we express grateful thanks to Ms. Elaine Gunn O'Connor and Mr. Kevin Clarke and all the participants for work carried out,



much of it unseen at various locations throughout Co. Monaghan

Christmas Greetings

We wish all members of our Group of Parishes and the wider Community a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas and New year.

Rossorry



Rector:
Revd Stephen McWhirter

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Parish Office: T: 028 66 329889

Diocesan Pastoral Assistant:
Mrs Joan Nelson

Services

Sunday 3rd December 2023

The First Sunday of Advent

9.00am - Holy Communion

10.30am - Family Holy Communion with Baptism

7.30pm - Advent Carol Service

Sunday 10th December 2023

The Second Sunday of Advent

9.00am - Holy Communion

10.30am - Morning Prayer

3.00pm - Holy Communion in the Hall



The youth organisations parading from the church on Remembrance Sunday.

Sunday 17th December 2023

The Third Sunday of Advent

9.00am - Holy Communion

10.30am - Children's Nativity Carol Service

7.30pm Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday 24th December 2023

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

9.00am - Holy Communion

10.30am - Holy Communion

10.00pm - The First Communion of

Christmas

Monday 25th December 2023

Christmas Day

10.00am - Family Holy Communion

Sunday 31st December 2023

The First Sunday of Christmas

9.00am - Holy Communion

10.30am - Morning Prayer

Sunday 7th January 2023

The First Sunday after the Epiphany

9.00am - Holy Communion



Wreaths about to be laid at the Remembrance Service.



Some of the young people at a veteran's grave in Rossorry.

10.30am - Family Holy Communion

Sunday 14th January 2023

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

9.00am - Holy Communion

10.30am - Morning Prayer

Sunday 21st January 2024

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

9.00am - Holy Communion

10.30am - Morning Prayer

Sunday 28th January 2023

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

The Presentation of Christ

9.00am - Holy Communion

10.30am - Morning Prayer

Christmas

How lovely to see the Rossorry Star shining out over the countryside and it is particularly striking on your approach along Drummee Road. What a wonderful witness this is to our hope of the arrival of the Christ Child as we look forward to Christmas.

This is always a busy and exciting time as we look forward to celebrating the wonder of the Christmas season. In our preparations I am most grateful to our Musical Director, Catherine Irwin. She along with the choir and band put



so much effort into this time of year for Rossorry that begins on Sunday, 3 December with our Advent Carol Service and doesn't finish until Sunday, 7 January with our Epiphany Carol Service. I am thankful to them all for their continued commitment and support to both worship and parish. Over the Christmas weekend there are a number of services which will include different worship styles and times which we hope will cater for everyone's preferences and needs.

Willowbridge Choir

We were delighted to have the school choir from Willowbridge School, along with their Musical Director, Ali Keys to our Mid-Week Holy Communion Service for harvest. The choir are always enthusiastic and lift our morning worship. There are approximately 40 young people in the choir and we can look forward to their return for a Carol Service.

Remembrance

During the Remembrance weekend we enjoyed an RSCM service, 'We Will Remember Them,' a service of readings and music. Again we are grateful to the choir for their dedication and hard work in preparation. At our Service of Remembrance all ages took part, with the Scouts and Guides presenting their colours and representatives of the congregation laying wreaths. We were joined by Mr. Basil Lilly who laid a wreath on behalf of his family in this the 50th anniversary of his father's death. During the service the Sunday School children made their own wreath which was later laid at the grave of William Robert McCaffery who was killed at the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916 aged 21.

Epiphany Lecture

For our Annual Epiphany Lecture we look forward to welcoming Mr. Liam McCarthy of the Ulster Speleological Society and Caving Club. Rossorry have a good and

practical relationship with the Club as they are based in our Hall when working in this area. They have supported an excellent programme of exploration for our Scout Group and we look forward to working with them again. This is an excellent opportunity for the wider congregation and community to learn more of the wonderful resource we have with Marble Arch Caves and the wider Geo-Park. The work of the club is not just about exploration, they also assist in scientific research of the area. Please come along and hear Liam at the Epiphany Lecture.

A prayer for the new year

A covenant with God

I am no longer my own but yours.

Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;

put me to doing,

put me to suffering;

let me be employed for you,

or laid aside for you,

exalted for you,

or brought low for you;

let me be full,

let me be empty,

let me have all things,

let me have nothing:

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

you are mine and I am yours, so be it.

And the covenant now made on earth,

let it be ratified in heaven.'

The Methodist Covenant Prayer

Sunday School

We have had a busy

month in October

celebrating harvest.

We performed our

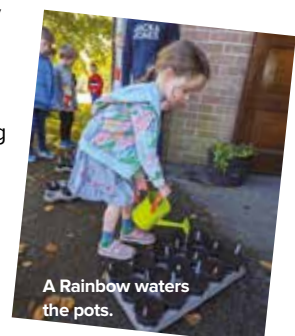
harvest song singing

Father Abraham

which the children

all enjoyed doing

the actions for.



A Rainbow waters the pots.



Rainbows enjoying a range of activities.

The children also made some harvest decorations for the church including an 82-conker length worm. We also taught the children how we 'reap what we sow' by planting some bulbs. They will see how God made them grow all through winter when we have flowers in spring-time. We finished off the month with our All Saints Day disco which was great fun especially wrapping the teachers into 'mummies'. We had music, dancing, some interesting karaoke, games, chocolate apples and finished off with a party bag!

We are busy practising now for our Christmas nativity on 17 December and also have our Christmas party to look forward to on 16 December.

Confirmation

We are starting to enrol the candidates for our 2024 Confirmation. If you are about Year 9, please contact the office for an enrolment form or speak to the Rector.

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

Rossorry Rainbows started again on 18 September with five new rainbows, ready for play, crafts, learning and tons of fun. The first few meetings have seen our rainbow reds get involved in a wide variety of activities and games including learning some new campfire songs with Makaton, and even making edible campfires to sing round. We made story telling sticks based on the three little pigs story, with a twist of coco-pops involved and played lots of new games including stars and stripes and cat and mouse. Finally, to celebrate 35 years of Rossorry Rainbows, the original leader Yvonne Bowles very generously purchased a Rainbow flag for the unit, which was dedicated during the Youth Service on 1st October. Brooke Livingstone proudly carried the flag at the front of the parade.

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

Rossorry Cubs opened up again for a



new year of scouting on 20 September with a healthy membership of 23 after a long summer break. We are pleased to welcome 10 returning cubs, eight cubs moving up from beavers and welcome five new members to the Rossorry scouting family. Everyone has been having fun learning new skills and doing activities for badges including a lovely hike in Florencecourt as part of the Hikes Away badge, making bird feeders and learning about the Countryside Code as part of the Naturalist badge and some sporting challenging in the hall for the Athletics badge. Our new members have been learning about the Cub Scout Law and the Cub promise as they prepare for their forthcoming Investiture.

Rossorry Wednesday Club

The Wednesday club are always active and busy at this time of year. Their next meeting and outing will be their Christmas Lunch on Monday 4th December at the Moorings Restaurant, Bellanaleck at 12.30pm for lunch at 1.00pm. We look forward to meeting each other there. Over the last few weeks we are sorry to hear that Ethel Oldcroft has been unwell and spent some time in hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with Ethel, Charlie and their family at this time.

Mothers' Union

The October meeting was held on



Thursday 19th. This was approaching our time to remember all those killed in two wars and other conflicts. Our talented rector, Rev. Stephen McWhirter brought along the Royal British Legion knitting and crochet pattern for the Remembrance poppy. Everyone was equipped with some red wool and knitting needles and attempted knitting this item. It composed of four petals and leaves. At the end of the evening a few petals were completed and everyone enjoyed giving it a go. Our Christmas meal will be held in Saddlers Restaurant, Enniskillen on Wednesday, 6th December.

The Parish Office

The Office is open with reduced hours at present, please do leave a message and



Mothers' Union members crocheting poppies.



Baptism for the Bracken family.

someone will return your call as soon as possible. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Tel: 02866 329889

email: rossomryoffice@btinternet.com

Website: rossorryparish.com

Facebook: Rossorry Parish Church

Parish Registers

BAPTISMS

■ BRACKEN, Drew William, son of Andrew Bracken and Tara Bothwell at Rossorry Parish Church on Saturday 28th October 2023. Service conducted by Revd. Stephen McWhirter.

■ LEONARD, Larsa Elizabeth Mabel, daughter of Mark Leonard and Stacey Harding at Rossorry Parish Church on Sunday 5th November 2023. Service conducted by Revd. Stephen McWhirter.

■ WILLIAMS, Leo Douglas Pryce, son of Graham Williams and Serena Crozier at Rossorry Parish Church on Sunday 5th November 2023. Service conducted by Revd. Stephen McWhirter.

BURIALS

■ JENKINS, Suzanne Mary, on Thursday



The Leonard family at the Baptism.

26th October 2023, Service conducted by Revd. Stephen McWhirter, Revd. Canon Maurice Armstrong and Revd. Canon William Johnston.

■ McFARLAND, Agnes, on Friday 27th October 2023, Committal conducted by Rev. G. J. Alexander and Rev. L. Dreading.

Dates for the Diary

■ Advent Carol Service

Sunday 3rd December 2023 at 7.30pm

■ Sunday School Party

Saturday 16th December 2023 at 3.00pm

■ Mid-Week Holy Communion Carol

Service with Willowbridge School Choir
Wednesday 13th December at 10.30am

■ Open Day at Rectory

Saturday 16th December 2023 from
10.00am - 3.00pm

■ Jones Memorial Primary School Carol Service

Monday 18th December 2023 at 7.30pm

■ Blue Christmas

Thursday 21st December 2023 at 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve

9.00am - Holy Communion



The Williams family at the baptism.

10.30am - Holy Communion

10.00pm - The First Communion of Christmas

Monday 25th December 2023

Christmas Day

10.00am - Family Holy Communion

Saturday 6th January 2024

The Epiphany Lecture

7.30pm in the church.

Contact Us...

Website: rossorryparish.com

Facebook: Rossorry Parish Church

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

E-mail at rossorryoffice@btinternet.com

Telephone at 02866 329889.

Tempo and Clabby



Rector:
The Revd Canon Maurice Armstrong

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

Baptism

■ 22 October 2023 - Edith Elizabeth Suttle, daughter of Ryan and Caroline Camgart Road, Clabby.

■ 29 October 2023 - Violet Grace McCann, daughter of Callum and Amy Main Street, Tempo.

Wishing God's blessing to both sets of parents that they will be guided by God as they bring up these children and fulfil the baptism promises. Our prayers that these children will come to profess their own personal faith in Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

Death

■ 13 November 2023 - Mr. Walter Bottom, formerly of Tempo Road, Tempo and

Tilery Care Home died peacefully and quietly after a brief illness in the South West Acute Hospital. We express our sincere sympathy to his daughters, Kathryn, Stella, Lyn and son Connel and their families and family circle. Mr. Bottom was highly respected member of Clabby Parish Church since he and his late wife moved to the area around 17 years ago from Newtownhamilton where he had faithfully served his Parish and the local community as teacher in the High School and 50 years spent as a Diocesan lay reader. This service was recognised by our late Queen when she presented him with Maundy Money on her visit to Armagh Cathedral on her 90th Birthday. Mr. Bottom was a true gentleman, an encourager with a deep interest in

people, particularly our young people and their progress in education and work.

December Diary

17 December 2023

Carol Services at usual morning service times. Collection towards Bishop's Appeal.

24 December 2023 - Christmas Eve

Holy Communion in both churches at usual times.

25 December 2023 - Christmas Day

10.30a.m. Short Family Service and Holy Communion in Clabby Church. Children welcome with Santa gifts and their toys.

Vestry Register

The Annual General Vestry Register will be opened for an extended period this year from 1 January to 22 February; the relevant forms for new members will be available from the Churchwardens.

January Diary

9 January 2024 - Mothers' Union Holy Communion Service 8pm in Tempo Church Hall.

February Diary

8 February 2024 - Annual Tempo Table Quiz, Tempo Church Hall, 8pm. Everyone Welcome.

March Diary

8 March 2024 - Tempo Parish Variety Concert Tempo Church Hall at 8pm. featuring Brookeborough Flute Band, Derryclavin Pipe Band, Lisbellaw Primary School Choir and Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band.

Everyone Welcome.

What's in a Name?

As we are now in the season of Advent and fast approaching Christmas some of the readings used reflect the importance of the name used with regard to Jesus:-

Isaiah 9 v 6 – “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulder. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”. These titles or names speak of the eternal, sovereign nature and rule of Jesus Christ the promised coming Messiah.

Isaiah 7 v 14 – “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign; The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a Son, and will call him Immanuel”.

These words were fulfilled by the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary, when she asks how she will give birth to a child since she was a virgin. She is told that the baby will be conceived by the work of the Holy Spirit.

This verse is used by the angel to the apprehensive Joseph when he is told by Mary of her pregnancy.

Immanuel is God come to earth in human flesh but without our sin. He would experience all human emotions be tempted as we are, yet He did not sin.

John 1 – describes Jesus as the Word, the eternal, God present at the creation of the world “In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. The word became flesh and he made his dwelling among us”. Paul sums up the costly coming of Jesus and the purpose of his coming in words of Philipians 2 v 5-11.

Both Mary and Joseph are told the name of the baby boy to be born, Jesus, “He shall save his people from their sins.”

Jesus means Saviour, which clearly tell us the purpose of His coming, Jesus was born to die.

The last name is not a name or title for Jesus but the place of his birth. The prophet Micah (5 v 2), prophesied Jesus birthplace, the Roman emperor Caesar Augustus had called for a census and all people must go back to their family roots to be registered. Joseph along with Mary go to Bethlehem as descendants of King David, fulfilling Micah's prophecy. Bethlehem means house of Bread. Later Jesus would say “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry. He who believes in me will never be thirsty.”

On the second advent of Jesus, he shall return with authority to be judge of all people's and establish his eternal worldwide Kingdom. Revelations 22 “Behold, I am coming soon, my reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

As Christ fulfilled prophecy and became God with us in human flesh to carry out God's plan for the Salvation of the World for all time, so He will return again to complete God's eternal plan of a new Heaven and a new Earth.

The clear message of Advent is to be ready waiting particularly for your salvation is drawing nearer daily.

Jean, Sarah and I would like to wish all our Parishioners God's blessing, peace and presence this Christmas and a Happy New Year.



The parish churches of Clabby and Tempo.

Trory and Killadeas



Rector:
**Revd Mark
Gallagher**

The Rectory, 138 Killadeas Road, Rossfad,
Ballinamallard.
Tel 028 66388477
E: trory@clogher.anglican.org

Advent Midweek Services

As usual, our Advent midweek services this year are in St. Michael's Church, Trory at 7pm. They will also be livestreamed on Facebook and uploaded for watching later for those who through work, family, or other commitments cannot attend at that time. As we only have three Wednesdays in Advent this year, it is an ideal opportunity for us to look at the three canticles (little songs) in Luke's Gospel which anticipate and give thanks for Christ's birth. We shall be looking at Benedictus (the Song of Zechariah, the father on John the Baptist) Magnificat (the song which Mary sang when she was told she was to give birth to Christ) and Nunc Dimittis (the Song of Simeon, who had prayed for Christ's coming). Please do make every effort to join with us, preferably in person, but if not, at home.

Trory Christmas Lights switch on

This will be on the evening of 9th December. Details will be announced in church and on Facebook.

Weekly Organisations

Although the Christmas timetable may disrupt the usual pattern, this is a reminder of our usual parish activities. Please do come along to any which take your fancy. We are also looking at new options of activities including jive classes. Please listen out to church announcements and follow social media for more details.

Monday

- 7pm Mothers' Union (2nd Monday of each month)
- 7pm Holy Strollers walking club (weekly)

Tuesday

- 2pm Tuesday Fellowship Group (1st Tuesday of each month)
- 7pm Killadeas Choir (Priory Church, weekly, termtime)

Wednesday

- 10am Baby and Tots (weekly, termtime, Trory Schoolhouse)
- 2pm Trory Choir (St. Michael's Church, before major festivals)

Thursday

- 7.30pm Trory Bowls (Ballycassidy Hall weekly, termtime)

From the Registers

HOLY BAPTISM

- 19th November - Ava Noble, Priory Church, Killadeas.

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

- 1st November - Evelyn May Benson
- 5th November - John Curry
- 14th November - Sarah Eva Taylor

- 15th November - Clive McGuigan
 - 15th November - Bobby Hetherington
- Advent and Christmas Church Services

Diary

Sunday 3rd

- 10am Holy Communion in Priory Church, Killadeas
- 11.30am Holy Communion in St Michael's, Trory

Wednesday 6th

- 7pm Compline in St Michael's, Trory

Sunday 10th

- 10am Morning Prayer in Priory Church, Killadeas
- 11.30am Morning Prayer in St Michael's, Trory

Wednesday 13th

- 7pm Compline in St Michael's, Trory

Sunday 17th

- 11.30am All Age Nativity with Christmas Prayer Tree service in St Michael's, Trory, followed by festive drinks and nibbles.
- 4.30pm Carols by Candlelight in Priory Church, Killadeas, followed by hot drinks and festive nibbles.

Wednesday 20th

- 7pm Compline in St Michael's, Trory
- Sunday 24th (Christmas Eve)
- 10am All Age Nativity with Holy Baptism in Priory Church, Killadeas
- 11.30am Nine Lessons and Carols in St Michael's, Trory
- 11.30pm First Holy Communion of Christmas in Priory Church, Killadeas

Monday 25th (Christmas Day)

- 10.30am Holy Communion, St Michael's, Trory

Sunday 31st

- 10am Morning Prayer in Priory Church, Killadeas
- 11.30am Morning Prayer in St Michael's, Trory



MOTHERS' UNION

Going forward with Mothers' Union

As you may be aware Mothers' Union was founded in 1876 and is a women-led movement with four million members across the world who are passionate about transforming and improving family life.

We are a very inclusive organisation, and we pray for a future in which everyone in our community can thrive.

Mothers' Union membership is a privilege. Our membership only costs us the price of 10 cups of coffee per year. With these monies we seek to build resilience in individuals, families and communities at home and across the world. For example, our overseas contributions have enabled projects such as the 20 years of work in Burundi on literacy and financial education which has benefited over 165,000 individuals, helping us to lift families out of poverty. Mothers' Union continues to reach out to disadvantaged women across the world, support widows and advocate against child marriage. I believe a key challenge facing us today in many aspects of church life is



leadership. How do we engage with our leaders? How do we support and encourage them? Are we helping to

identify leaders in different areas of our church or community organisations? It is a problem for us if we don't view people in our community and in our churches as potential leaders. So, it is important to engage with willing volunteers and encourage them. Remember that you are all leaders in one way or another in your own parishes.

Being a leader takes courage, discipline, and determination. The Bible speaks of so many wonderful leaders and how God blesses them for their work. As we are striving to be better leaders, we must continue to seek inspiration from the Bible and to pray constantly for those in leadership.

We, in MU Trustees have some roles vacant at present. If you would like to join us in our valuable work at Diocesan level do get in touch and help make a difference!

Thank you for your continued support.

Heather Ellis,
MU Diocesan President.

DIARY 2024

Thursday 1 February 2024	All-Ireland HC Service	St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen
Wednesday 7 February 2024	Annabella Hayes Day	On-line Event
Thursday 8 February 2024	Trustee Board Meeting	Hilliard Room, Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen
Sunday 25 February 2024	MU Big Sing & Diocesan Service	St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen
Saturday 2 March 2024	Launch of Big Hymn Sing	Kilkenny Cathedral
Tuesday 30 April 2024	Trustee Board Meeting	Hilliard Room, Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen
Friday 3 May 2024	Area Service – Southern	Glaslough
Wednesday 8 May 2024	Area Service – Northern	Derryvullan North
Wednesday 8 May 2024	Area Service – Northern	Colebrooke
Thursday 23 May 2024	Spring Council Meeting	Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen
Wednesday 5 June 2024	Indoor Members' Tea Party	See House, Fivemiletown
Sunday 23 June 2024	International Widows Day	Branches to add to their Programme
Friday 9 August 2024	Mary Sumner Day	Branches to share date with members
Friday 11-Saturday 12 October	Women's Weekend	Armagh City Hotel
Tuesday 22 October 2024	Autumn Council	Venue to be confirmed
Saturday 16 November 2024	Final Big Hymn Sing	St Patrick's Church, Ballymena

CHILDREN'S SECTION

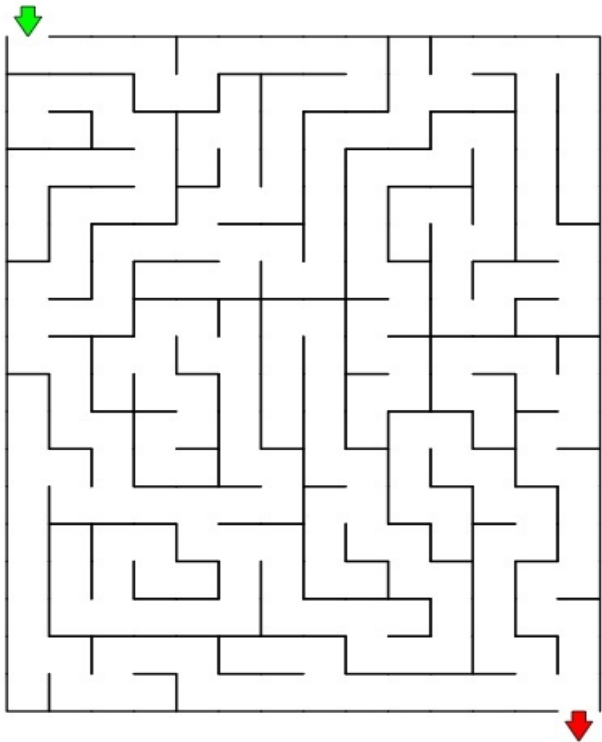
The Birth of Jesus

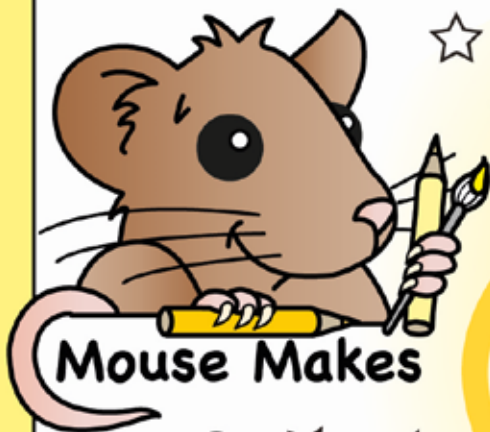
In those days a decree went out from Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (Now this was the first time that a census was taken, and everyone went to be registered with his own family.) Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem in the town of David, because he was registered with Mary, the girl who was betrothed to him, who was also of the house of David. They went to be registered, but they could not find a place for them in the inn.

So they went down to the stable and the baby Jesus was born there. He was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds in the fields nearby, watching their flocks, when an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for I am announcing to you the birth of a son for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly a multitude of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying:

'Glory to God in the highest, and peace to those on earth who are good-willed! We praise you, O Lord, the King, heavenly King, God the Father, Almighty, Lord of Heaven and Earth, Jesus Christ, the only Son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary, who has taken flesh and become man, who has lived and died, and who is now seated at the right hand of the Father, and who will come to judge the living and the dead. We thank you, O Lord, the King, heavenly King, God the Father, Almighty, Lord of Heaven and Earth, for the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ, the only Son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary, who has taken flesh and become man, who has lived and died, and who is now seated at the right hand of the Father, and who will come to judge the living and the dead.'





Mouse Makes



GOD'S PROMISE

Isaiah 9:6-7

CHILD • BORN • SON
GIVEN • WONDERFUL
COUNCELLOR
MIGHTY • GOD
EVERLASTING
FATHER • PRINCE
PEACE • LORD



AN ANGEL MESSENGER

Luke 1:26-38

ANGEL • GABRIEL
JOSEPH • MARY
FAVOUR • SON
JESUS • GREAT
THRONE • REIGN
FOREVER • HOLY
SERVANT • WORD



ADVENT
comes from
the Latin
'AD VENTO'
which means
ARRIVAL

In Advent we
celebrate Jesus' birth
and look forward to
the time when Jesus
will come again.



A LONG JOURNEY

Luke 2:1-20

BETHLEHEM
REGISTER • BIRTH
MANGER • INN
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK
ANGELS • JOY
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

John 3:16

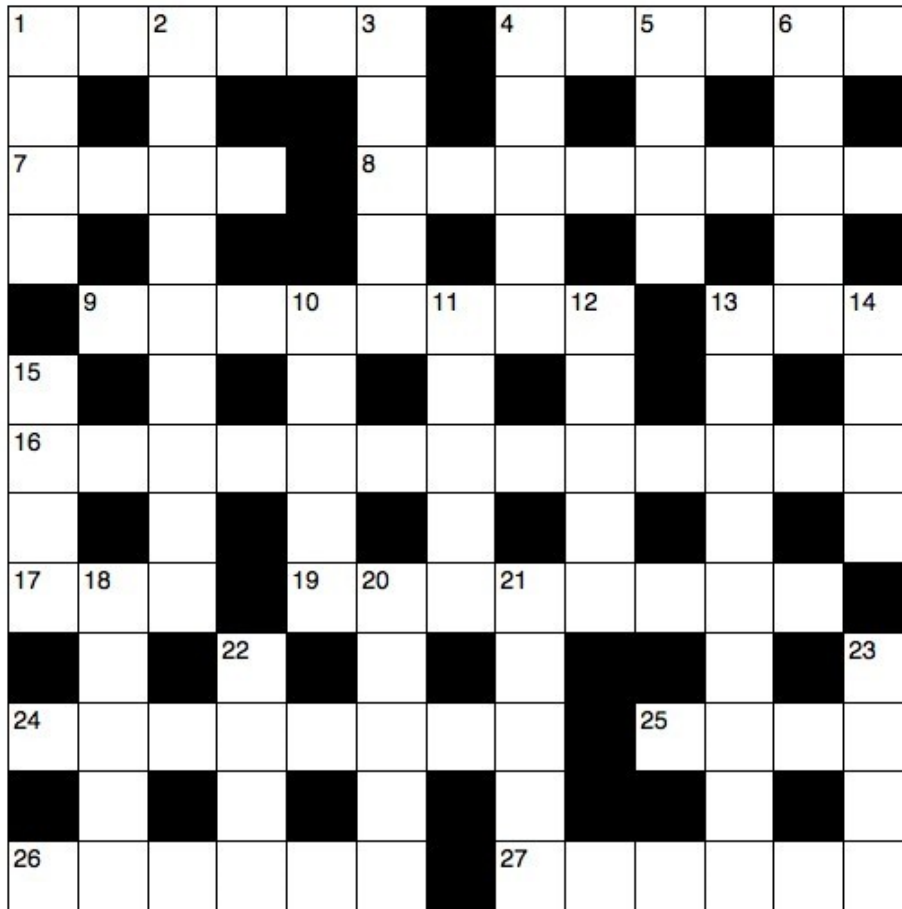
GOD • SO • LOVED
WORLD • HE • GAVE
ONLY • SON
WHOEVER • BELIEVES
ETERNAL • LIFE

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

Colour in one star each day until Christmas

Dec23 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

PUZZLE PAGES *for Adults*



ACROSS

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a —, and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

DOWN

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

■ Crossword Puzzle answers on page 67

DIOCESAN NEWS

Christmas at Galloon

One of the major Christmas events in Clogher Diocese this year is the Galloon Parish Church Christmas Tree Festival at Newtownbutler.

This takes place over the weekend of 8-10th December.

Beginning on Friday, 8 December at 7pm, the viewing of the trees will be accompanied by singing by members of the Silvertones Choir. On Saturday, a full day's viewing from 10am until 5pm will have musical accompaniment from local musicians with refreshments being served. On Sunday, 10 December the Festival will end with a Carol Service at 7pm with Lisnaskea Silver Band.

The parish, led by Rector, Revd Lorraine Capper has involved parish organisations, local schools and community groups as well as local businesses in connection with decorating a tree for the Festival.

One of the members of the organising committee, Grace Rickey, said they were aiming for around 30 trees of various sizes located throughout Galloon Church. These could be the traditional five or six feet high trees or could be desk top versions such as a small tree made from buttons by members of the Rickey family.



A small tree made from buttons by the Rickey family.



Grace Rickey putting the finishing touches to one of the displays for the Christmas Tree Festival.



Revd Lorraine Capper with one of the trees with the message, Love.

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Popular timepiece restored at Ballinode Church



The restored clockface on Ballinode Church.

The parishioners of St, Dympna's Church, in the Parish of Tydavnet, Ballinode, Co. Monaghan, with support from the local community have restored the clock on the tower which has become a landmark in the area.

The restoration of the clock on the tower of Ballinode Church which had been donated by Mrs Wood Wright of Golagh House, Scotstown in memory of her only child, W.H. Wood-Wright who died in 1880 at the age of 27, has received endorsement from local funding organisations.

A Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication after the restoration of the tower clock and church repairs took place on Friday, 27 October when the preacher was the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis.

There was a good attendance at the service conducted by the Rector, Chancellor Ian Berry, who welcomed members of the parish involved in the restoration along with other community leaders and funding representative.

The clock was made by Chancellor and Son, Dublin and was donated by Mrs Wood Wright. The clock has been mentioned in the Heritage Councils "Horology /The Heritage of clocks and other Timepieces" as a very rare example of a church clock as most Irish clocks dating from the late 19th century were made in England.

The clock is double faced, both inscribed, circular faced with brass hands in moulded limestone facing west and south with lead lettering and a marble plaque underneath. The clock has been out of use for many years and has been restored by Canavan Clockmakers, Lurgan by the electrification of the clock rotation on both clocks and the addition of a new electromechanical bell hammer to strike the existing bell on the hour whilst keeping the original mechanism intact.

Prior to electrification, the weights had to be wound up every week, times adjusted, the pendulum regulated and the bushings and other parts oiled regularly. In living memory this work was dutifully carried out by

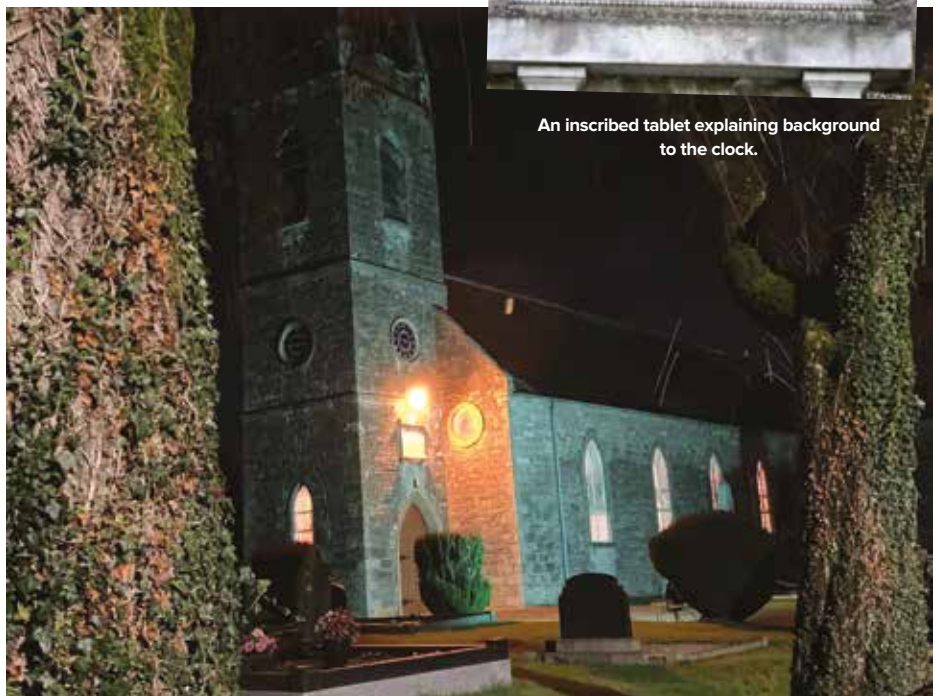


Among those attending the Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication were (from left); Ronnie Wilkinson, Bishop Ian Ellis, Chancellor Ian Berry, Heather Stirrat, Treasurer and Councillor David Maxwell, Cathaoirleach Monaghan County Council. Photos courtesy of Michael Fisher.

George Humphreys, Tommy Leitch, Moore Heasty and Vincie McAree himself who made many parts over the years to keep it going. This was very time-consuming work. The restoration was made possible by a very enthusiastic cross community committee comprising Brendan Monaghan, Dermot Maguire, Patrick McClave and Raymond Wilkinson, the generosity of the local community and a Built Heritage Investment Grant 2023 facilitated by Monaghan County Council.



An inscribed tablet explaining background to the clock.



St Dympna's Church, Parish of Tydavnet, Ballinode.

Government representatives attend Remembrance Service in Enniskillen



The front of St. Macartin's Cathedral during the Remembrance Service with the Poppy Wreath displayed in the centre.

Four governments were represented at the Remembrance Day Service in St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen organised by Enniskillen Parish and the Royal British Legion, which followed a ceremony at the Cenotaph.

The service was conducted by the Dean of Clogher, the Very Revd Kenneth Hall, assisted by Monsignor Peter O'Reilly, of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church and Captain Trevor Homfray-Cooper, Padre to the Royal Dragoon Guards.

The preacher was the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis. Attending was the Secretary of State, the Right Hon Chris Heaton Harris MP representing the United Kingdom Government; the Taoiseach, Mr Leo Varadkar T.D., representing the Irish Government; the Consul General James Applegate, representing the American Government and Mr Jerome Mullen, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland, representing the Polish Government.

His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Fermanagh, Viscount Brookeborough KG, KSt.J also attended and took part. A contingent from the Royal Dragoon Guards was in attendance.

The Book of Remembrance was opened by Lt Col Mark Scott(Ret'd) MBE, DL Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers who gave the exhortation and the Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Mr Warren Kerr of Ballyreagh Silver Band. A Piper's Lament was played by Pipe Major Gordon McKeown, 4 UDR Association.

The readings were by Mr. John Jones, Chairman, Enniskillen Branch of the Royal British Legion; Viscount Brookeborough and Monsignor Peter O'Reilly.

The prayers were led by the representatives from the UK, Irish, American and Polish Governments.

The hymns were; "Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;" "I vow, to thee, my country," "Your kingdom come, O God," "Lord while for all he world we pray," "Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart" and "Nearer, my God, to thee." The organist was Mr. Glenn Moore.

The Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis, in his Remembrance Day address spoke about the importance of memories and remembering.

"Today is such a sombre occasion when we come together as a community here in Enniskillen, as communities come together all over the UK and Ireland, to remember those who died or served in the two great wars of the 20th century and the many conflicts since that time. We also have special cause to remember those who were killed in defence of our freedom during our period of troubles in Northern Ireland. And today of all days we think of those from this town who lost their lives in the bomb attack at the Enniskillen War Memorial in 1987.

"Today we remember particularly those who served and those who gave their lives in the two great wars at the early part of the 20th



Attending the service were; Secretary of State, Right Hon. Chris Heaton Harris MP representing the United Kingdom Government; The Taoiseach, Mr. Leo Varadkar T.D. representing the Irish Republic government; the Consul General James Applegate, representing the American Government; Dean Kenneth Hall who conducted the service; Mr Jerome Mullen, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland, representing the Polish Government and Mr. Andy McCabe, Verger.

century. Our town and church memorials speak their names to us and tell us that they were each a family member and that those families are often still here today and the memories remain vivid," he said. The full text of Bishop Ellis's address is on the Clogher Diocese website; www.clogher.anglican.org

Flower Festival
THURSDAY 23RD MAY TO
MONDAY 27TH MAY 2024
ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH
NEWTOWNHAMILTON
SAVE THE DATE!
More details to be released as they are confirmed.
Any one interested in sponsorship please get in touch with any Church Vestry member.
Planning a Mothers' Union or church trip?
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DATES FOR THE DIARY

October 2023

- Friday 1st December – **Magheracross Christmas Fair** in the Archdale Hall, Ballinamallard following the switching on of the Village Christmas Lights with a special visit from Santa. There will be a charge of 1 for each child to receive a small gift. All the usual stalls will be there with tea/coffee available.
- Saturday 2nd December – **Fivemiletown Church Lads Brigade Antique/Craft Fair** from 10am-3pm with proceeds to Santisma Trinidad School, Peru and CLB. Maybe you would like to purchase a unique Christmas gift or just call in for a cuppa.
- Saturday 2nd December – **Winter Sale at Rockcorry School** from 11am until 2pm. It will follow the same format as that of previous years; stalls, teas, car wash and sale of firewood. The schoolchildren will also have their stall and a visit from Santa is also expected.
- Sunday 3rd December – **Mullaghfad Carol Service** at 3.00pm (weather permitting). The collection this year will be for Cancer Research UK.
- Sunday 3rd December – **Installation of The Venerable Paul Thompson as Archdeacon of Clogher** will be held on Advent Sunday at 7.00pm. The format of the service will be a Diocesan Advent Carol Service.
- Monday 4th December – **County Monaghan Church of Ireland Children's Society Annual General Meeting** will (DV) be held in the Market House, Newbliss at 3.00pm. Refreshments will be served by members of Newbliss Parish Church. Please do come along if you would like to know more about our work.
- Thursday 7th December – **Annual Community Carol Service** at 7pm in St. Macartan's Cathedral, Clogher. Proceeds in aid of Cancer Focus. All welcome.
- Friday 8th - Sunday 10th December 2023 – **Winter Wonderland Christmas Tree Festival** in Galloon Parish Church Viewing will begin on the Friday and the weekend will conclude with a carol service on the Sunday. More information will follow.
- Friday 8th December – **A Night of Carols in Drum Church**, Co, Monaghan at 8pm with Lisnaskea Silver Band and guest choir Cantari Donagh. Everybody is very welcome to come and bring a friend to kick off the festive season.
- Saturday 9th December – **Christmas Fayre for St. Tighernach's Church**, Clones in the Creighton Hotel Ballroom, Clones, from 9am-12.30pm. As

usual, handmade decorative wreaths, cakes of all kinds, hot cups of tea/coffee, and many other treats will be waiting for you. Everyone is warmly welcome, and why not bring a friend along as well to enjoy a cuppa and a chat in the festive atmosphere. All proceeds are for St Tighernach's Parish funds, and we hope to see you there.

- Sunday 10th December – **Joint Carol Service** in St. Finbarr's Church, Carrickmacross at 7pm. Service being recorded for broadcast on Northern Sound on Christmas Day.
- Tuesday 12th December – **Centenary Concert** in St. Macartan's Cathedral, Enniskillen to celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Anne's Church being designated a Cathedral. The concert will be presented by Mr Glenn Moore, organist and choirmaster, and the cathedral choir.
- Tuesday 12th December – **Christmas Coffee Morning** in Ballybay Parish Hall from 11am-12.30pm. Mince pies will be served and free holly will be available. Please feel free to come along and bring your friends. All welcome!
- Sunday 17th December – **Carols by Candlelight** in Inishmaccsaint Parish Church at 7.30pm.
- Wednesday 27th December – **Post Christmas Walk** at 11am organised by St. Macartan's Cathedral, Clogher at Knockmany Forest Park. This is a good opportunity for all the family to walk off those Christmas treats. Everyone welcome, all donations towards St. Macartan's Cathedral repair.

February 2024

- Thursday 8th February – **Annual Tempo Table Quiz** in Tempo Church Hall at 8pm. Everyone Welcome.

March 2024

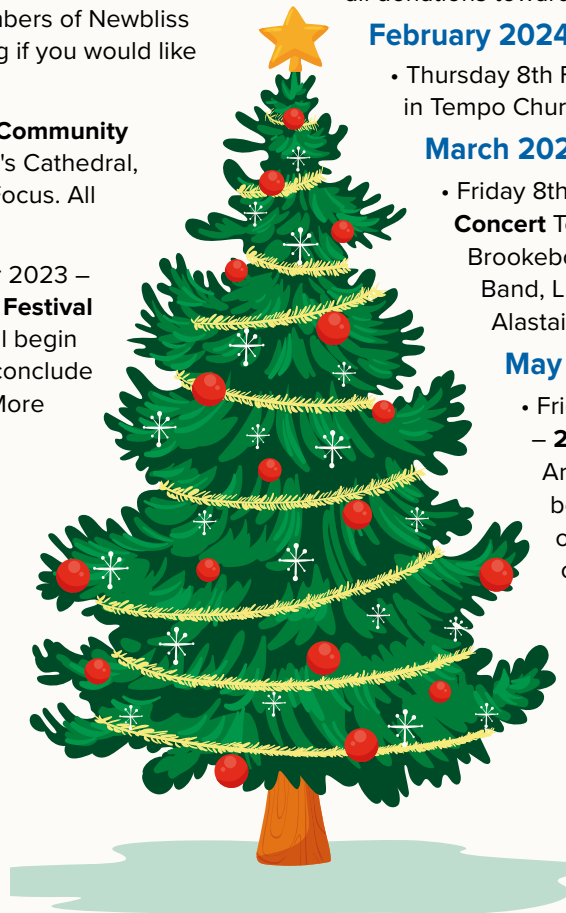
- Friday 8th March – **Tempo Parish Variety Concert** Tempo Church Hall at 8pm featuring Brookeborough Flute Band, Derryclavin Pipe Band, Lisbellaw Primary School Choir and Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band.

May 2024

- Friday 10th - Saturday 11th May 2024 – **2024 General Synod** will be held in Armagh with the third day's business to be conducted remotely on the evening of Tuesday 14th May and the evening of Thursday 16th May (if required).

December 2024

- Friday 6th - Sunday 8th **December 2024 – Christmas Tree Festival** in Cooneen Parish Church celebrating their 150 year anniversary. Viewing will begin on the Friday and the weekend will conclude with a Carol Service on the Sunday. More information will follow.



CHURCH OF IRELAND NEWS

Bible reading and prayer journals available to help build young people's relationship with God

The Church of Ireland Youth Department has relaunched its FUEL resource ahead of Advent, to encourage young people to get to know more about God as they read his words in the Bible. FUEL leads each young person through 25 days of readings, running up to Christmas, with space to answer questions and to respond creatively.

The readings cover four themes:

- He is coming – the Old Testament's prophecies about Jesus
- He is here – the story of his birth (in the Gospels)
- He will give – the gift of our salvation (in the New Testament's letters)
- He will return – the hope for his second coming

Fuel is also accompanied by a prayer journal for creatively listening and responding to what God is saying, with room to think and write about what makes a prayer a prayer, why we pray, prayer requests, what helps us pray and what stops us from praying, and answers to prayer. The prayer journals are linked with the Day of Prayer for Young People and Youth Ministry, which is held on the Sunday before Advent each year – this year on Sunday,



26th November. National Youth Officer Simon Henry says: "These resources are timely to help and encourage young people to focus on developing their own personal walk with God and learn more about Jesus in a

season when we can get distracted by so much else."

If you'd like to get copies for your church, please contact your Diocesan Youth Officer or Youth Council representative or email barbara@ciyd.org

VOCATION RETREAT 2024

Do you think that God may be calling you into a life of ordained ministry?

If so, the Church of Ireland Commission on Ministry organises an annual vocation retreat for those considering ordination, and the next one will be running from Friday, 26th January, to Sunday, 28th January, in the Dromantine Retreat Centre in Newry. This year's guest speaker will be the Revd Dr Sean Doherty.

Sean is the Principal of Trinity College in Bristol. He became a Christian when he was about sixteen years old and quite soon after that started to wonder if God was calling him to become a vicar. He went to Oxford to study English but changed to theology, which he loved so much that he has been studying (and

teaching!) it ever since.

He teaches Christian ethics, and is especially passionate about economic ethics, which was the subject of his PhD. His wife Gaby is also ordained and has recently become the minister of a church in a nearby social housing estate. Despite his name, Sean is English, but his father grew up in Ballymoney in Co. Antrim.

The retreat is financed through the Church of Ireland Commission on Ministry, and participants are asked for a contribution towards costs of €75/£65. If you are interested in attending and would like to know more, please contact Judy Peters at judith.m.peters@gmail.com. The closing date for bookings is Friday, 22nd December 2023.



Dame Arlene visits Anglican Cathedral in Ghana

Baroness Foster of Aghadrumsee, who worships at St Ronan's Parish Church, Colebrooke, has recently visited Ghana, where she spoke at an event to empower women in Africa.

As well as meeting the President of Ghana, Nana Afuko-Addo, Dame Arlene, accompanied by her husband, Brian, was guest of honour at the Accra Business School graduation for women.

During their time in Accra, Dame Arlene, former First Minister of Northern Ireland and Brian met the Anglican Bishop of Ghana and visited the Anglican Cathedral.



Dame Arlene Foster and her husband, Brian meeting the Right Revd Dr Daniel Sylvanus Mensah Torto in Accra, Ghana.

CHURCH LEADERS VISIT MESSINES ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

A group of Church Leaders from Ireland participated in a special ceremony to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Island of Ireland Peace Park, in the village of Messines on Sunday afternoon, 12th November.

Archbishops John McDowell and Eamon Martin were accompanied by the Revd David Turtle, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, and the Very Revd Dr Rob Craig, a former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, representing the current Moderator, the Rt Revd Dr Sam Mawhinney, who was undertaking a week-long pastoral visit to Presbytery of Omagh.

The ceremony, organised by the Mayor and the Town Council of Messines, the Irish and British embassies to Belgium, and the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels, looked back to the Peace Park's inauguration on Armistice Day 1998, as a symbol of peace and reconciliation following the conclusion of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. The Peace Park was built by volunteers from north and south to commemorate the 200,000 Irishmen who fought in the First World War, and to embody the message of peace for the next generation. An estimated 35,000 Irish soldiers lost their lives in the war, many in the areas surrounding Ypres and Messines. The park was opened by President Mary



The four church leaders at Messines.

McAleese in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Their Majesties King Albert II and Queen Paola of the Belgians.

Containing a replica of an Irish round tower, it came about through the determination and inspiration of Paddy Harte, from Donegal and Glenn Barr, from Derry-Londonderry, and is visited by many thousands of people each year. It is located close to the site of the 1917 Battle of Messines Ridge, during which the 16th (Irish) Division fought alongside the 36th (Ulster) Division.

The Church Leaders met with the Barr and Harte families and spent time with a group of young people from Northern Ireland

and international guests talking about peace and reconciliation.

A joint British military and Irish Defence Forces band provided music at the ceremony, which was followed by the unveiling of the Pillars of Peace project in nearby Messines Town Square in the company of representatives from Australia, Ukraine, Belgium, France, Germany, New Zealand, Britain and Ireland.

The Government of Ireland was represented by Minister for Education, Ms Norma Foley TD, and the Government of the United Kingdom was represented by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Lord Caine.

'Sunday and Weekday Readings for 2024'

The Season of Advent begins on Sunday, 3rd December, and so starts a new liturgical year and fresh cycle of daily Scripture readings. Church of Ireland Publishing has

announced that Sunday and Weekday Readings 2024 is now available. This annual booklet is compiled by the Revd Ken Rue, who says: 'Sunday and Weekday Readings is designed to help worship planners and lesson readers know the appointed readings for Sundays and weekdays. It is also beneficial for those who wish to follow a personal course of Scripture readings which is tied in with the Church calendar.'

It may be obtained from the Church of Ireland's online bookstore (<https://store.ireland.anglican.org>) or from Richard Ryan at the Book Well, Belfast (email: info@thebookwell.co.uk; mobile: 07581 143 596). The price is £3.50/€4.00 per booklet.



SEMINAR ON PROTESTANT COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS

The Revd Professor Anne Lodge (pictured right), who leads the Church of Ireland Centre at DCU, has presented new research into Protestant comprehensive schools, drawing on interviews and document archives, to tell their origin and contemporary stories and how their lived ethos is expressed.

She was speaking at a recent seminar on this theme, co-hosted by the Church of Ireland Centre and the Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI) at Dublin City University's Purcell House on Friday, 27th October.

This research project's rationale was to capture the memories and insights of those involved at the start of comprehensive schooling and also a concern about the visibility of the diversity of school type in research and policy-making. It therefore sought to document and analyse the stories of the five Protestant comprehensives and compare them with the nine other comprehensives and the 20 other Protestant second level schools.

Of the 14 current comprehensives, 10 were amalgamations of other schools, three were on greenfield sites, and one was a



single school continuing to operate on its site. Nine were rural and five were urban, four were in the DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity In Schools) Plan for communities at risk of disadvantage and social exclusion, one had boarding, and one was in the Gaeltacht.

The five Protestant comprehensives are more likely to be large urban schools, and they account for 42 per cent of all comprehensive students. Four out of the five came from the amalgamation of a range of different private secondary schools, while the other emerged out of local lobbying.

Armchair Christmas Quiz



All proceeds go to Christian Aid via Bishop's Appeal.

The world is full of disaster areas at present: North Africa, Yemen, Afghanistan to name just a few> Christian Aid/ Bishop's Appeal are charities which provide emergency and long term aid where-ever it is most needed in the world.

ENJOY the quiz and please give generously.

100% of the proceeds will go to aid projects.

Minimum entry fee €2. The need is greater than ever.

Not finished? Send it anyway. Prizes for "Also Rans" too.

Prizes: €30, €20 & €10 Also rans: €20 & €10

Closing date: Feb 2nd 2024

Very Revd. Denis Sandes,
Ballyhasty, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary E53 HX85

Name:

Address:

ANSWERS ARE ALL BIRDS. Example: Gulp: SWALLOW

Note: Some answers are in the plural

Hint: Check out collective nouns for birds

1. Let's go and fly one: _ _ T _
2. Did he wear a hood? _ _ _ I _
3. Always up to Mischeif: _ _ _ _ I _
4. Womens Navy: _ _ _ N
5. Sour in the North: _ _ _ _ E _
6. Leave in murmurations! _ _ _ _ _ I _ _
7. Pair of Tins! _ _ _ _ A _
8. May repeat what you say! _ _ _ _ _ O _
9. Sign of French Rugby: _ _ _ _ _ E _ _
10. Chops into trees: _ _ _ _ _ E _ _ _
11. Sounds like a pair of spaniels! _ _ _ _ _ A _ _ _
12. These form a conspiracy: _ _ _ _ _ E _ _
13. Bagpipes on the beach? _ _ _ _ _ I _ _ _
14. Asian Country: _ _ _ _ _ E _
15. Come in Murders! _ _ _ _ _ S
16. Come in a prayer! _ _ _ _ _ I _ _
17. Evening Storm: _ _ _ _ _ I _ _ _ _
18. Royal Angler: _ _ _ _ _ I _ _ _
19. Lays in the bog! _ _ _ O _ _ _
20. Lives in swiss clocks: _ _ _ _ _ O _
21. These form a parliament: _ _ _ _ _ S
22. Works on the roads: _ _ _ _ _ E _ _ _

Please feel free to copy this and/or email it among your friends.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Christian Aid Christmas appeal - Bangladesh's material girls

In one of the poorest and most severely flood-affected areas of Bangladesh, women are embracing new technology to revive an ancient art form, overcoming both poverty and prejudice.

Kakoli Khatun comes from a region of northern Bangladesh beset by devastating annual flooding as well as high levels of extreme poverty and child marriage. However, this 21-year-old is defying expectations by combining a successful new business venture with studying at university.

Kakoli is passionate about preserving nakshi kantha, the centuries-old Bengali art of quilt making which involves embroidering old cloth with thread. She said:

"Nakshi kantha is from an old era and it's getting lost but if we can make it and sell it, it will spread."

Christian Aid's local partner, Aid Comilla gave Kakoli the training, technology and money she needed to set up an online business. As one of Aid Comilla's 'change agents', Kakoli then recruited and trained nine other women from her village to join her new business.

Things used to be very different for Kakoli: "I didn't have any dreams a few years ago because I didn't have any money. To do something, I had to ask for money from my brothers and father. Today, I have a dream to grow this business so I can support my parents."

The turnaround in Kakoli's life is particularly impressive given that she lives in Kurigram, Bangladesh's most impoverished district where sixty per cent of the population are landless and over half live in extreme poverty.

The climate crisis is pushing people in Kurigram further into poverty. Higher global temperatures bring heavier monsoon rains, and when the mighty swollen rivers reach this low-lying area, they burst their banks, damaging houses, destroying crops and leaving hundreds of thousands of people stranded.

This combination of material poverty and a poverty of expectation for girls helps to explain why Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world. Over half of all girls are married before turning 18 and 22% are married by the age of 15. Child marriage normally spells the



Kakoli Khatun is enjoying greater freedom and prosperity since joining a Christian Aid-funded women's economic empowerment project in Bangladesh. Credit: Fabeha Monir/Christian Aid

end of a girl's education as she takes on the domestic duties of a wife and mother.

Kakoli avoided an early marriage by convincing her parents to allow her to study instead: "My parents aren't educated," she said. "They saw a lot of girls get married around us so they think that their daughter has grown up and needs to be married. I told my parents I don't want to marry. I want to study. I'm in the first year of my degree course and next I want to do a Master's." Across Kurigram, literacy rates are just 65%. This is why Kakoli wants girls to stay in education for as long as possible. She said: "If girls get married early, they don't understand the value of education and when they have daughters of their own, they make them marry early. The literacy

rate drops gradually. If we're educated, our children will be too."

Women like Kakoli are working together to take control of their lives. Already, Christian Aid's support has enabled Aid Comilla to reach more than 5,800 women. But this Christmas, there are so many other women around the world who urgently need the same opportunity.

With your help we can train more young change-makers, provide more women with smart phones and build more internet hubs to connect them with a better future. In turn, these young women will go on to train others like them and light the path to change.

Please help by supporting our Christmas appeal at caid.ie/Christmas



Kakoli Khatun (2nd from left) runs an online business making traditional Bengali quilts. Credit: Fabeha Monir/Christian Aid



THE ART OF REMEMBERING

Deadline to display at General Synod 2024

Applications for displays stands at the 2024 General Synod are now invited from interested groups.

The General Synod takes place in the Armagh City Hotel on Friday 10th & Saturday 11th May 2024.

Please apply to Aisling.Sheridan@rcbcoi.org on or before Monday, 12th February 2024.

It may not be possible to provide a stand to all groups who apply; applicants will be contacted in March once the final arrangements for the available space have been made.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

from page 58

ACROSS: 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.

DOWN: 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.

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