



CHURCH OF IRELAND The Clogher Diocesan MAGAZINE

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February 2024 **£2/€2.50**



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

Front Cover

Ash Wednesday and Lent begin early this year.

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CLOGHER DIOCESE MOTHERS' UNION

BIG HYMN SING

WHAT?

Congregational hymn singing, soloists, choirs and other musical items

WHEN?

25 February 2024 at 7.00pm

WHERE?

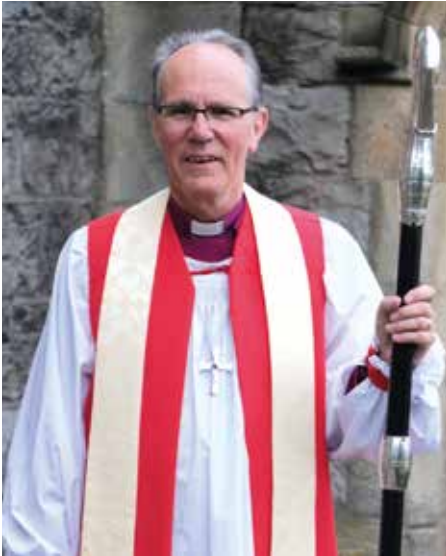
St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen

A warm invitation is extended to all Mothers' Union members, parishioners and the wider Diocesan community



Mothers' Union in Ireland is recognised as a Charity by the Revenue commissioners, 5161.
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A NOTE FROM THE BISHOP



The Rt Revd Dr Ian Ellis

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Life returning after the snow.



Snowdrops bringing joy

A Message from the Bishop

LENT – A SEASON TO THAW OUT!

John Clare (1793 –1864) was an English poet and the son of a farm labourer. He became known for his poetic depiction of the English countryside and his sorrow at change brought about by the industrial revolution. His poem February speaks of changing days and its first verse beautifully describes a rural scene during a thaw after wintry conditions.

*The snow is gone from cottage tops;
The thatch moss glows in brighter green;
And eves in quick succession drops,
Where grinning icicles once hath been,
Pit-patting with a pleasant noise
In tubs set by the cottage-door;
While ducks and geese, with happy joys,
Plunge in the yard-pond brimming o'er.*

The poem paints a word-picture of the snow and ice melting and life returning to the natural world from the dead of winter. It reminds us that February is a month of transitions, as the cold weather and short days in the northern hemisphere, recede to give way to developing signs of spring. While it may not be the end of the frosts and snow, there is a sense in which change is happening all around us and we may be unaware of it.

It is often the case that following a thaw, the silent growth in the ground beneath our feet, becomes visible in the emergence of snowdrops and other spring bulbs. Equally in our spiritual

life, we can get a bit stuck even frozen in our growth in faith - Lent gives us a season to thaw out and begin to come alive in our spirits.

This season of quiet growth has long been seen by the church, prompted by our Lord's 40 days in the wilderness, as an opportune time for spiritual development through prayer and self-discipline.

In the words of the introduction to a Service for Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, *'In the course of time the Church came to recognize that, by a careful keeping of these days, all Christians might take heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and devotion to our Lord'*(BCP p338).

Lent begins relatively early this year with Ash Wednesday being 14th February which happens also to be St Valentine's Day. No doubt this will lead to some interesting dilemmas for couples who may also wish to celebrate this special day of romantic love! Parishes follow the season of Lent in a variety of ways and often provide mid-week services, Bible study or discussion groups. Do take every opportunity you can to use Lent to revitalize your faith by perhaps joining a group and encourage each other in this time of growth in the faith.

There are also many Lent books and study materials available which can help us to develop our individual spirituality and to grow in our walk with Jesus Christ. Simply spending some extra moments each morning in silent

prayer or turning over a Bible verse in our minds, can help to bring a focus to our day and space for the Holy Spirit to kindle a flame of love within our hearts.

I offer these short reflections for this shortest of months and pray that we all might be inspired to keep a faithful Lent, to allow God's love to warm our hearts and renew our devotion to following Christ.

A prayer for Lent:

*Lord our God,
grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart;
that so desiring, we may seek and find you;
and so finding, may love you;
and so loving, may hate those sins from which you have delivered us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*

Farewell to Revd Stephanie Woods

A few weeks ago, Revd Stephanie Woods announced to her parishioners in Inishmacsaint that she would be leaving parish ministry to return to her earlier career as a schoolteacher. I know her parishioners are greatly saddened to lose Revd Stephanie yet along with everyone in the Diocese we wish her God's best for the future. We are sure that she will be a most caring and inspirational teacher and we thank her sincerely for her faithful ministry in this diocese both in Inishmacsaint parish and formerly in Lisbellaw parish.

Yours in Christ's service.

+Ian Clogher

PARISH NOTES

Aghadrumsee, Clogh & Drumsnatt



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Services

Sunday 4th February

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

Sunday 11th February

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

Sunday 18th February

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

Sunday 25th February

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

Coffee Morning success

A Coffee Morning and bake sale took place in Clogh Hall on Saturday 2nd December. From the event and



Aghadrumsee Choir with Dean Ferguson, family and friends that took part in A Foretaste of Christmas (Christmas music and readings) in St Tighernach's Church (Tamlaght).

subsequent donations we raised the fantastic amount of £2,045.30 and €1,119.25. Sincere thanks to all who attended and everyone who helped in any way.

Clogh Bowling Club

The club held their annual Pairs Tournament at the beginning of January. Thanks to the 96 players who took part, to all the sponsors and to all who organised the event. Congratulations to the winners,

Aaron Ward and Steven Stafford and to the runners up, William Parkinson and James Beatty.

Clogh Mothers' Union

A quiz night will take place on Monday 5th February.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of the late Mr Reggie Woods whose funeral took place in Aghadrumsee Church.



The prizegiving at the bowling club tournament.



Children who attended the Aghadrumsee Sunday School Christmas Party with their special visitor.



Children at the Clogh Sunday School Christmas Party with their special visitor who came to see them with some presents.



Some of the children that took part in the interactive nativity story at the group Christmas Day Family Communion Service.



Clogh Sunday school who led the proceedings for their Carol Service.



Drumsnatt Sunday School who took part in their Carol Service.

Aghalurcher and Cooneen with Mullaghfad



Rector: **The Revd Canon John McClenaghan**

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Services

Sunday 4th February

9.30am Cooneen Holy Communion

11.00am Colebrooke Holy Communion

Sunday 11th February

9.30am Cooneen Morning Prayer

11.00am Colebrooke Morning Prayer



Children enjoying one of the Christmas services.

Sunday 18th February

11.00am Colebrooke Family Service

Sunday 25th February

9.30am Cooneen Morning Prayer

11.00am Colebrooke Morning Prayer

Over the Christmas period we joined together to celebrate God becoming human in Jesus that first Christmas morning, and to look forward when he will come again, this time in all his glory. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our celebrations, both during the services, and in getting our churches dressed and decorated to welcome the New Born King.

Included are some of the photos from our Christmas season celebrations.

Parish Organisations

Most of our organisations have begun to meet again. Please check with the leader in charge of each for relevant information. Their normal times of meeting are:-

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



Some of the Christmas arrangements in churches.





having lots of fun. If anyone is willing to help with GFS, please speak to one of the leaders.

Colebrooke/Cooneen Scout Group

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

The leaders provide a wide range of Scouting skills.

- Squirrels (4 - 6 years)
- Beavers (6 – 8 years)
- Cubs (8 – 11 years)
- Scouts (11 – 14 years)

Bowling Club

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

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

Colebrooke and Cooneen Mothers' Union

In December the members welcomed June, along with branch member Carol,



where much fun was enjoyed as Christmas decorations were made using stone and slate and many other craft items. These decorations adorned our homes during Christmas 2023.

Carol had shared her story of faith and how the Lord Jesus had led her through many difficulties as well as joys. She led the singing and worship to begin the evening. At the close a festive supper was served, provided by branch members, and enjoyed by friends and members alike. The meeting in February is on Wednesday

21 following the Lenten Service.

The Mothers' Union Branch was awarded a grant from Fermanagh Trust and plan to use the funds to hold 'Friendship and Food' events each month until June. These include a speaker and fun activities as well as refreshments including a two-course lunch.

The first event is planned for Wednesday 14 February from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm.

Details will be circulated in Parish notes and everyone is welcome.

Aghavea



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Revd Johnny McLoughlin

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Lurgan,
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BT94 4DS

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Email: aghavea@clogher.anglican.org

Parish Register

DEATH

16th December – David Michael Green, Carrickyheenan Road, Brookeborough.

WEDDING

14th December – Elaine and Warren McClintock, Clabby with the service in Colebrooke Parish Church (kindly granted).

BAPTISM

25th November – Tilly Louise Toland, daughter of Emma and David, Brookeborough.

Prayers

We extend our prayers, sympathies and condolences to the Green family, and to all those who have anniversaries at this time of year. We also remember all those who have

been bereaved in recent months, offering our prayers and support to all who need them. We also remember all those who undergoing tests and treatments at this time – and if you would like to be added to our prayer list, please use any of the listed ways to contact the rector at any time.

Brookeborough Sit-Out

For the past few years, it has been a privilege to sit out to collect money for local charities. None of the money collected goes to our parish, but to deserving charities and once again I have been astonished by the support that our small community has shown! The two charities this year were the Air Ambulance and Brain Tumour Research. It is my honour to announce that the current



Scenes from the Aghavea nativity service.



total is now over £1500, with both charities benefiting with over £750 donations! I would like to thank everyone who took time to support my efforts and look forward to doing the same again in the run-up to next Christmas!

Upcoming Services and Events

- 4th February** – 11am, Second Sunday before Lent, Holy Communion
- 11th February** – 11am, Sunday before Lent, Morning Prayer
- 14th February** – 8pm, Ash Wednesday Penitential Service
- 18th February** – 11am, First Sunday in Lent, Family Service; 7.30pm, Wholeness and Healing Service
- 21st February** – 8pm, Lent Worship Service
- 25th February** – 11am, Second Sunday in Lent, Morning Prayer
- 28th February** – 8pm, Lent Worship Service

Organisations

All our parish organisations are back in full swing, with our Bowls Club meeting on a Monday evening, our GFS meeting each Wednesday, and Sunday School during the first and third services each month. On each fifth Sunday, our main service will be in the Parish Hall at 11am for Café Church, and the children are always welcome to each of our services. Our Wholeness and Healing services continue on the evening of the fourth Sunday each month. All our services are streamed on our Facebook page, Aghavea Church.

Advent and Christmas

As rector, I would like to thank everyone who assisted in any way to our very successful services throughout a very busy period! On top of our already busy liturgical diary, we also hosted the SEFF District Carol Service, the Brookeborough and District Community Ecumenical Carol Service and sang carols (and plenty of other traditional songs) in local nursing homes! Our Nativity Service was well attended, and special thanks to who helped illustrate the diversity

and extent of the numbers of different characters involved in the original stories of the birth of Jesus. I would like to thank our Sunday School choir who sang Away in a Manger and also thank our organist and choir for leading our worship and singing the wonderful anthems during our different services. Of course, it would be remiss of me to not thank all those who came along to so many of our services throughout our Advent and Christmas period!

Lent Programme

I know that we've only just come through Christmas and New Year – but we are already looking towards Lent, the period of preparation for Holy Week and Easter. This year, 14th February is celebrated as Valentine's Day, Library Lovers' Day, and Ash Wednesday! Could I suggest that you buy your beloved a Valentine's card, take them to a Library to declare your love of borrowing books and call to church on your way home for our evening Penitential Service as we enter Lent? We will be holding regular mid-week services throughout the period, all short acts of worship, to aid our dedication for this special period. This year we will

be considering the words of Jesus to his disciples – "Watch and Pray". This programme will take us through a series of lessons and illustrations to enrich our prayer lives. All are welcome to join us through this series – and we will also stream our services online each Wednesday evening (as usual).

Advance Notice

Our next fundraising event will be our annual St Patrick's Stew Night, held this year on 15th March. More details will be announced in next month's magazine notes, and will be advertised on our Facebook page, Aghavea Church, www.facebook.com/aghavea.

Contacting us

If you would like to contact us for any further information about anything happening in our parish, or to be included in our prayers - please contact us at any time on our Facebook page, by text or WhatsApp, by email to Aghavea@gmail.com, or by speaking to any of our churchwardens or vestry members, even by the old-fashioned landline, 02889531210 (and there's an answering machine!)



The wedding of Elaine and Warren McClintock.



The baptism service for the Toland family.

Ballybay, Clontibret & Muckno



Rector:
**The Revd
Elaine Dunne**

The Rectory, Drumcru, Castleblaney,
Co. Monaghan.

E: ballybay@clogher.anglican.org

Carol Services and Nativity Plays

A carol service took place in each of our parish churches shortly before Christmas. On Wednesday 13th December a carol service was held in Christ Church, Ballybay, and it was wonderful to have such a large crowd gathered at the service. We were delighted to be joined by Revd. Gerry Clinton and members of his congregation, by Fr. Kieran Danfulani and members of his congregation, as well as the Ballybay Community Choir and musicians from a silver band. Refreshments were served for everyone in the parish hall after the service. The children of Clontibret Sunday School performed a nativity play during the carol service in St. Colman's Church on Sunday 17th December. We thank them and the Sunday School teachers for all the hard work and effort they put into preparing for the service. The children of St. Maeldoid's Sunday School performed a nativity play during the morning service on Sunday 17th December. In addition, they also prepared a beautiful hamper and cards for the residents of St. Mary's Nursing Home in Castleblaney. We thank them and their teachers for all their hard work.

On Thursday 21st December, a carol service was held in St. Maeldoid's Church, Castleblaney. We were delighted to be joined by Revd. David Hagan and members of his congregation, and also by Fr. Adrian Walshe and members of his congregation. Refreshments were served for everyone after the service.

Thank you!

Thank you to the churchwardens and all who helped to decorate each of the churches in our group of parishes for Christmas. They all looked beautiful!



The children and teachers from Castleblaney Sunday School with the hamper and cards which they prepared for residents of St. Mary's Nursing Home.



The Advent wreath in Christ Church, Ballybay.



Assorted Christmas decorations in the parish churches.



Holy Baptism

Baby Lacey May Gray was baptised on Sunday 26th November in St. Maeldoid's Church, Castleblaney. We pray that the Lord may always guide and protect Lacey's family and godparents as they care for her.

Lent 2024

This year the season of Lent begins on Wednesday 14th February and a service of Holy Communion will be held that evening in St. Maeldoid's Church, Castleblaney, at 8 p.m.

Update from Donna Geary

Exciting news! The July Discipleship Training School graduates have officially crossed the finish line and I couldn't be prouder. Over the last five months they dedicated themselves to developing their relationship with God and then ventured out to share him with others. Cheers to their

perseverance and the spiritual journey they undertook!

I'm thrilled to share that I led the Australian outreach team and the experience was incredible. We took the team to Melbourne where we did some city ministry, to Gladstone for community ministry and to Airlie to help with Schoolies!! In the coming weeks, I'll be sharing more stories from that time – tales of adventure, growth and the impactful moments that defined our journey. The rest of the team went to Papua New Guinea where they contributed to a dental trailer outreach, engaged with local communities and connected with the youth. Through their dedication, the team not only provided essential services, but also created lasting connections, making a positive difference in the lives of those they encountered.

Thank you for supporting me in being able to be part of this work.

Hoping you had a Merry Christmas and



Graduates from the July 2023 Discipleship Training School

wishing you all the best for the New Year.
Donna.

Email

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

Prayers

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

Clontibret Notes

A very happy and healthy 2024 to all our readers near and far.
Unfortunately, we omitted to refer to our Act of Remembrance on Sunday 12th November. This is an important event in our church as we remember those brave men who fought for the freedom that we enjoy today. We remember them by name each year as the horrors that they endured are brought into our homes daily.



Donna Geary with members of the Australian outreach team.

Condolences

We extend our condolences to Victor Donaldson, and Rhoda Hill and families on the death of their cousin, Samuel Derek Henderson, aged 84, on Saturday 16th December in Toronto, Canada. Derek was born in Draperstown and he and his wife, Abigail, emigrated to Canada in 1965. Derek is survived by his wife and daughters, Gail and Anne.

We also extend our condolences to David and Trevor Johns and families on the death of their aunt, Mrs. Mattie Berry (nee Branyan). Mattie and her husband, Nelson, were faithful visitors to St. Colman's for special events over the years. Mattie is survived by her husband, son, Robert, daughter Diane, nieces and nephews. May all who mourn know God's presence as they recall fond memories of their loved ones. "The Lord is my Shepherd."



Villagers in Papua New Guinea.

Get well wishes

We send our very best wishes to Albert Jordan for a speedy return to good health. Albert is a faithful attender at church each Sunday, and we pray for him and look forward to him being with us again soon

Mothers' Union

Members enjoyed a fabulous supper and great fun activities at our Christmas party night hosted by Castleblayney on Wednesday 6th December. Our sincere thanks to those who organised everything.
Jennifer Leathem

Carrickmacross Union, Magheraclone and Ardragh



Rector:
**The Revd
Ian Cruickshank**

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Christmas Celebrations

Commencing on 5th of December in St Patrick's Ardragh travelling through Advent until our final service of 2023, a joint service in St Finbarr's Carrickmacross, we have had a full month of Christmas Celebration.

The carol services were a great success thanks to those who gave of their time and talents in preparing the churches in festive splendour and two young women who played all the way through December at various services as well as their own churches, Lorna and Pamela.

The carol service in Carrickmacross was recorded for broadcast on Christmas Day on Northern Sound radio. Thanks to everyone who took part in preparing the church for the service, our organists Pamela and Lorna, those who were able



The Christmas lights at St. Finbarr's Church.

to raise the roof with amazing singing and our readers, Heather, David, Philip, Amy, Alan and Doreen. In the words of the production team at Northern Sound it was perfect.



Setting up for the radio broadcast in St. Finbarr's Church.

The annual switching on of the Carrickmacross lights

Although our services began on 5th December, we had an involvement with the switching on of the Christmas Lights in Carrickmacross as the display reaches from one end of Main Street by The Shirley Arms Hotel, reaching all the way up to St Finbarr's Church at the top of Main Street. Thank you to all involved in making the Christmas Lights Switch On such a success on the Friday evening. Special mention to the Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce, the local council, the main man himself, Santa for turning on the lights and to everyone who turned up to support the event, with a bit of craic. From the Shirley Arms Hotel travelling up the Main Street to St. Finbarr's Church it was a magical light display.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services

Our special Christmas services began in St Patrick's Ardragh at 7pm and we were delighted to have a few visitors from other churches joining us for our celebrations.



A stable scene.



Advent wreath St. Finbarr's Church



Advent Wreath in St. Molua's Church.



Advent Wreath in St. Patrick's Church



A Christmas scene in St. Finbarr's.



A scene in St. Patrick's.



The service on the fifth Sunday.

Later in the evening we gathered in St Molua's, Magheraclone to conclude our Christmas Eve services. In both services the focus was on the gift given to all of us with the birth of the Christ Child, Life and life eternal. It was remembered that the gift was personal, and it came at a cost. A theme carried on from our Advent Sundays was what each candle on the wreath represented. The Hope of Christ. The Peace of Christ. The Love of Christ. The Joy of Christ and that we would embrace and carry them throughout the New Year. A single candle was lit on Christmas Eve, on the steps of St Finbarr's Church Carrickmacross. The candle burned giving light throughout the night and was still alight when we gathered for the Christmas Day service the next morning.

We used the light of this candle to light the candles of the Advent Wreath to commence our Christmas Day Service.

Last Sunday of 2023

The end of a year is an opportunity to reflect on the year past and with it, what we wish to leave behind and the things we wish to carry forward into the New Year, our hopes, and the things prayed for. It can be beneficial for us to have a physical reminder to mark a decision or event that has taken place. On the last Sunday of the year, we had opportunity to get rid of things from the past. On hand were pieces of paper on which we could simply write down those things, take the paper outside the church and burn the paper in an aluminium bucket. Those things we hoped for, prayed for, wished to



Decorations in the town opposite the church.





Jewels members at Christmas.



Lorna with her flowers.



Pamela with her flowers.

carry forward with us. There were incense sticks on the altar of the church which have a history of representing prayers to God. People came forward to either burn the past or light an incense stick for future hopes and prayers.

Jewels

A gathering of the Jewels was in festive spirit as they enjoyed fellowship craic and

with the expertise of Anne and Rachel Hill. The evening was spent creating Christmas Wreaths with spectacular results. Thanks to all who have supported this wonderful group through the year. Looking forward to 2024.

Most of us will be able to recount our steps on December 24th or 25th. However, few could give an accurate account of what we did on 23rd

December. Not our Faith Hill. Dear Love her, she took part in the Christmas Tractor Run supporting Jeffrey Eakin's climb for the Meningitis Research Foundation. She took part driving a *Landini Blizzard*. I know the next question, was it the 75, 85 or 95? It was the *Landini Blizzard 95*. Well Done Faith, your mechanic and other support team members.

Cleenish & Mullaghduin



Rector:
The Revd Canon
Jennifer McWhirter

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Tel: 028 6672 0622



The baptism for the Farrell family.

Canon Jen writes...

It seems to be very strange to be writing of Christmas in January, for a magazine to be read in February, when the decorations are now all taken down and the house put back to 'normal'. But it would be remiss of me to not say thank you to everyone who helped make my first Christmas in Cleenish and Mullaghduin one to remember. My thanks to both organists, both choirs, the Sunday school teachers and those that helped them, the flower arrangers and everyone else who had a hand in all the events of the Christmas season. A special thank you to those who helped with the Holy Communion for the housebound in Mullaghduin Hall. It was lovely to have those few folk brought

together and I know they all enjoyed the service, and the chat and refreshments afterwards. Hopefully the same service will be run in Cleenish Parish Hall for Easter, and I'm hopeful a few more folk might be able to attend. I was pleased to see so many people coming out on the Wednesday evenings in Advent for Bible Study. It was a great chance to discuss some of the familiar Advent readings and I hope to have something similar run during Lent (see more details below).

The beginning of December saw a first for me in ministry; the baptism of two siblings at the same service. Dahy and Neil Farrell were baptised in Mullaghduin. Both were



very well behaved and it was lovely to see their family gather to support them. Time flies when you're having fun, so the saying goes, and it's hard to believe that later this month I'll be celebrating the first anniversary of my arrival in Cleenish and Mullaghduin with you all. Thank you to your welcome and support of me during this first year. I look forward to what will come next!!

Nativity plays

In Mullaghduin church, the Sunday School children presented their Nativity play on Sunday 17th December. They all enjoyed dressing up for the play and the congregation were given a greater insight into the role of the innkeeper at the time of the Holy Birth. On the same morning, 17th December, Cleenish Sunday School presented their Nativity Play. All of the children performed very well, with Kara-lily being the narrator telling the story of the birth of Jesus. Thank You to the Sunday School leaders in both churches for their work with the children during the past year, and the choir in Mullaghduin who admirably acted as 'extras'.

Service of nine lessons and carols

The Carol Service at Mullaghduin was held on Sunday 17th December at 7.30 pm and was led by Canon Jen McWhirter. Elizabeth and the Choir led the singing of seasonal hymns. The Choir also sang the Introit "O Come all ye Faithful;" as well as two anthems "Come and sing the Christmas story" and "Joyful, Joyful, we adore You", with the men singing the middle three verses of "We three kings of Orient are". The readers were Phyllis Lucy, George Carson, Hilary Benson, Norman Corr, Lisa Lindsay, Caroline Little, Andrew Humphreys, Robert Watterson and the Rector, Canon Jen. We express our thanks to Elizabeth and the Choir for leading the music and to those who decorated the Church so splendidly for the Christmas season. On Christmas Eve morning, the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was held in Cleenish Church. Joan and the Choir led the singing and sang two pieces – "See him lying on a bed of straw" and "Go Tell it on the Mountain". The Readers were



The Nativity at Mullaghduin.

Rowena Sheridan, Owen Wilson, Margaret Crawford, Ossie Clements, Kara-lily Boyd, Florence Willis, William Stinson, Leslie Nixon and the Rector, Canon Jen. Thanks are conveyed to all those who decorated the church and for the installation of the Christmas star on the church tower.

Mothers' Union

In January 2024, the MU will have held their Opening Service and AGM after which the programme will be set for the year.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Lent begins this year on 14th February and I would like to draw your attention to Lent services and give advance notice of Holy Week:

There will be a service on Ash Wednesday at 8.00pm in Cleenish Parish church and

services will alternate between the two churches thereafter on the Wednesday nights in Lent at 8.00pm. These will take the form of Compline with a short reflection each week. They won't go on much longer than about half an hour and I'd encourage you to attend during Lent. The Advent Bible study was a success and so from 7.00-8.00pm each Wednesday in Lent I plan to run a Bible study before the Lent services. More details of this will be announced on Sunday mornings and on social media in due course.

There will be two services during Holy Week as follows:

Maudy Thursday - A service of Holy Communion and the Institution of the Lord's Supper at 8.00pm in Mullaghduin

Good Friday - an Evening Service at 8.00pm in Cleenish



The Christmas events and flowers at Cleenish Church.



Easter Sunday - services as usual at 10.00am and 11.30am.

Sympathy

We express condolences with the Gallagher, Clements and Wilson families following the sudden death on 19th November of Nigel Irwin, husband of Pearl (nee Gallagher) at

his home, Legnagay More, Boho. Following a Service of Thanksgiving at Boho Parish Church on 23rd November, Nigel was interred in the adjoining Churchyard.

From the Registers HOLY BAPTISM

Dahy Robert Farrell and Neil Gerard Farrell,

sons of Robert and Lisa Farrell of Sligo Road, Letterbreen. Saturday 2nd December at 11.30am in Mullaghduin Parish Church.

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Burial of Ashes of Susan (Sue) Hogg MBE, 6 Castle Place Enniskillen, Thursday 28th December.

Clogher Cathedral Group



Rector:
The Revd Olivia Downey

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

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Diocesan Pastoral Assistant:
Miss Isobel Stewart

From the Rector's Desk *Did you have enough time???*

How did you get on, did you get all your shopping done in time for Christmas? Did you get all the other things you wanted to do finished up in time, or were there just some things that you had to resign yourself that they would have to do???? In the cold moist air of February, Christmas does indeed seem along way away once again. All the fuss and preparation, perhaps the worrying and anticipation – was it worth it? Was it time spend well?

Time is a strange phenomenon, we live in a world where time controls our lives more than ever before, we become frustrated if the kettle is taking too long to boil, or the person in the queue in front of us stalls, or our phone takes too long to load or we have to wait on something. But here is the question, in our instant



The Rector and Bishop Ian Ellis with the Churchwardens and Confirmation candidates.

society, what are we doing with all the time that our modern lives are saving us? 'Time' or 'times' is mentioned 889 times in Holy Scripture, as we read the Bible there is a very strong sense of order, creation and life in season.

1 Peter Chapter 1 verse 17 is a short verse which I believe sums up so well who we are, what we need to do, and not least our hope for eternity.

"Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear."

Time is important to every follower of Jesus Christ, we have a short time on this earth to live our lives not conforming to the world around us, but rather remembering that our Heavenly Father and judge, the one from whom nothing is hidden, will in His perfect time judge us and take us to be with Him.

So how is your time management going? Are you living as you ought to? Or are you wasting your time worrying or distracted by the things of this world – remember we are called to be foreigners after all.

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will."
Romans 12:2

Lent Services

Each Wednesday night during Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, we will be taking a closer look at the 10 Commandments. These services will be an opportunity to take time out midweek in an informal service as we journey with Jesus to the cross.

Ash Wednesday, 14th February

7.30pm - St. Mark's Newtownsaville

Wednesday, 21st February

7.30pm - St. Mark's Augher

Wednesday, 28th February

7.30pm - St. Macartan's Cathedral

Wednesday, 6th March

7.30pm - St. Mary's Errigal Portclare

Wednesday, 13th March

7.30pm - St. Mark's Newtownsaville

Wednesday, 20th March

7.30pm - St. Mark's Augher

Good Friday, 29th March

7.30pm - St. Macartan's Cathedral

Easter Sunday, 31st March

10am - St. Mark's Augher and at 11.30am - St. Macartan's Cathedral. Please note these are the only services in the group on this Sunday.

Parish 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



The children at the Stay Awake.

donate to the auction. All proceeds to St. Macartan's Cathedral Repair Fund.

Knit, Stitch & Natter Dates

Thursday 8th and 22nd February,
10.30am – 12noon
Thursday 14th and 28th March,
10.30am – 12noon

Confirmation

On Sunday 19th November all four parishes joined in the Cathedral for a Service of Confirmation. Bishop Ellis joined with nine young people from across our group of parishes as they publicly confirmed their Christian Faith; Hannah Creddin, Daniel McElwaine, Luke McLaren and Elizabeth Trimble from the Cathedral, Tommy Funston from St. Mark's Newtownsaville, Ellie Donaldson from St. Mary's Errigal Portclare, and Zara Wright, James Egerton, and Annabel McLaren from St. Mark's Augher. Please as a church family keep all of these young people in your prayers.

St. Mark's Augher Stay Awake

On Friday 17th November the Church Hall at St. Mark's Augher was very much buzzing as the children of St. Mark's Sunday School had a sponsored 'Stay



Awake' to raise funds for their Sunday School. It was a tremendous evening of fun, lots of laughing, games, movies, pizza and much more. A very big thank you to everyone who supported and sponsored the children, and not least the Sunday School teachers and helpers who made the evening possible.

Mothers' Union

The members of the Mothers' Union look forward to a new year of meetings which will begin on Wednesday, 17th January with a Service of Holy Communion in the Cathedral.

Our meetings in November and December had a Christmas theme. On 20th November we enjoyed our annual Christmas meal prepared by Mrs Tracy Boyd Smyth of Arty's Café in Clogher. Branch Leader Mrs Lynn Winslow welcomed everyone and Revd. Olie said Grace.

Revd. Olie welcomed Lynn back and wished her a continued speedy and full recovery. Following the meal some fun was had trying to solve various puzzles which Lynn had prepared. Branch correspondences were announced and Lynn thanked Tracy and her staff for the beautiful meal. A great evening of good

food, fun and fellowship concluded with the Mothers' Union Prayer.

Our December meeting was held in the Cathedral Hall on 13th December. This took the form of a 'Christmas Craft' evening. Mrs Lynn Winslow (Branch leader) welcomed everyone and opened in prayer. Mrs Ann Graham read a passage of scripture from St. Matthew's Gospel. Lynn and her Friend Mary drew on their many talents and demonstrated how to create a Christmas centre piece. Each member then in turn created their own centre piece to take home. On behalf of the Branch, Lynn presented Revd. Olie with a bunch of flowers and a card for her 50th Birthday. Pat and Margaret served the supper and Lynn wished everyone a very Happy Christmas. The meeting closed with the Mothers' Union Prayer.

Carol Services

Our Carol Services began on Thursday 7th December when the local community and schools joined in the Cathedral for their annual Cancer Focus Carol Service, over £1000 was raised for the Charity. December was truly a busy month across our four parishes and the usual high standards especially from our Sunday



The MU members at their Christmas craft evening.



schools and their dedicated teachers were very much to the forefront and brought a delightful colour to our services as the wonderful birth of our Saviour was recounted. Thank you to all the Church family who took part.

Christian Burial

St. Macartan's Cathedral, Clogher, 5th January 2024 - Mrs Eva (Nan) Wright. Our prayers and sympathies are with the Wright Family circle.




Lighting the Advent Candle.



One of the Christmas nativity performances.

Clones, Killeevan, Currin and Newbliss



Rector:
The Revd Roy Taylor

The Rectory,
Scotshouse,
Clones,
Co.Monaghan.

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18 February
Clones 10.00am: Morning Prayer
Newbliss 11.30am: Morning Prayer
25 February
Currin 10.00am: Morning Prayer
Killeevan 11.30am: Morning Prayer
3 March
Clones 10.00am: Holy Communion
Newbliss 11.30am: Holy Communion

Condolences

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Richard Mills, whose funeral was held in Currin Church on 13 December 2023. We also extend our heartfelt condolences to Shirley Moore and her entire family on the death of her mother on 18 December. May the memory of these and all our departed loved ones be a blessing to all who knew them.

St. Tighernach's Church, Clones, Christmas Fayre – Thank You

Thank you to all who organised and supported St. Tighernach's annual Christmas Fayre on 9 December at the Creighton Hotel in Clones.

As ever, it was a hugely enjoyable event where people had the opportunity to buy wreaths, cakes, handmade decorations, and lots of other Christmas treats. It also raised €4,552 for church funds. Well done!

Joint Sunday School Party

Children and their parents from across our Group came together on 15 December 2023 for a fun-filled Joint Sunday School Christmas Party in Killeevan Parish Hall. As one of our parents so accurately wrote on our Parish WhatsApp forum: *The children had a great time – with fantastic games, fabulous presents from Santa, and lovely food. Great memories for the young people of all our churches ... and thank you to everyone involved and who attended.* Thank you indeed to all who made this year's Sunday School Christmas Party such a special occasion yet again, and to Killeevan Parish for hosting the event.

Carol Services

As we approached Christmas this year we once again had the joy of holding three very different Carol Services across our Group. We began in Scotshouse, where our Joint Group Choir led us in singing out God's praises to the accomplished musical accompaniment of our resident organist, Audrey Doogan. We also had the opportunity to sit back and listen to

Services

4 February
Clones 10.00am: Holy Communion
Newbliss 11.30am: Holy Communion
11 February
Currin 10.00am: Holy Communion
Killeevan 11.30am: Holy Communion



At the Christmas Fayre



Young people at their Christmas party.





At some of the Carol Services in the group.



some beautiful solos: the choir sang two pieces they had prepared; Roy Crowe gave a moving rendition of 'O Holy Night'; and members of the Jordan and Stevens families played a fine version of 'Away in a Manger' on their accordions. Everyone attending the service was invited to bring along donations of non-perishable food items, which were taken afterwards to 'The Pantry' foodbank in Lisnaskea. To round off our time together, we all stayed in church at the end of the service to relax in conversation and share a range of delicious refreshments – for which many thanks to our Currin hospitality team. Next came Killeevan, where our organist, Ivy Ritchie, had arranged for us to sing carols to the rousing accompaniment of the Ballyreagh Silver Band – and also to enjoy the uplifting singing of talented soloist, Lynda Lindsay. The service was a Gift Service for Killeevan Church as well as its annual Carol Service, and we were

pleased to welcome a number of visitors. As usual, at the end of the service we all enjoyed a fine tea in the church hall, which was much appreciated by all present. Our thanks go to everyone who made this such a successful occasion. Finally, Clones and Newbliss combined together for a Joint Carol Service. The organist was Audrey Doogan from Scotshouse, and our guest soloists were Laura and Ian Hall from Scotshouse. Laura and Ian sang a lovely duet version of 'Silent Night', whilst Ian moved us all with his solo performance of 'When a Child is Born'. The whole service was accompanied by the powerful singing of the combined Clones-Newbliss Joint Choir, who also sang two special pieces they had prepared for the occasion. The service was truly a lovely finish to our annual round of carol services, all of which were a magnificent start to our Christmas season.

Mothers' Union

After their hugely enjoyable Christmas Crafts Evening, held in Killeevan before Christmas, the Mothers' Union have decided to have a pause in January and to hold their next meeting in February. The date and topic of the meeting will be announced in all our Group churches in due course.

Confirmation 2024

Our nine confirmation candidates have been involved in all services for some months now – greeting parishioners as they arrive, reading, leading prayers, taking the collection, and tidying away at the end of each service. In January they also began some additional preparation classes with the Rector, and we would be grateful if you would keep these young people in your prayers as they move into this next stage of their confirmation journey.

Colaghty



Rector:
**The Revd Canon
Alan Irwin**

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FEBRUARY

- 4th** - Holy Communion 11.30am
- 11th** - Family Service 11.30am
- 14th** - Ash Wednesday 8.00pm
- 18th** - Morning Prayer 11.30am
- 25th** - Morning Prayer 11.30am

MARCH

- 3rd** - Holy Communion 11.30am
- 10th** - Family Service 11.30am
- 17th** - Morning Prayer 11.30am
- 24th** - Palm Sunday 11.30am
- 28th** - Maundy Thursday Holy Communion 8.00pm
- 29th** - Good Friday 8.00pm
- 31st** - Easter Holy Communion 11.30am

Christian Burial

29th November 2023
William Samuel Kilfedder, Ballinamallard,
formally Colaghty

The hype of Christmas, the January blues, give way to February's glimmer of longer days, as March springs forth with Easter at its close. Though, if you were fed up with the rush for Christmas, you could have taken a break with a nice Cadbury's cream egg, which made their way into the shops in December. That might have given fresh hope of better still to come. Sadly, the same old same 'old' emerges, little is learnt of the past, as non-sensical decisions or advice affords even greater or renewed heartache in the present. As the seasons come and go as God has ordained, and yet man isn't satisfied. It seems we must look ahead to the next big event that has the potential to make money, and thereby lose sight of what we have in the present. Enjoy the day that you are in, leave tomorrow to itself. Experience the light that shone and let the light shine in your heart whereby you

will know the hope that Easter gives to all who believe in Christ as Lord and Saviour. Walk each day with Him, plan for the tomorrows, but leave those to God who knows the future. Don't let societal trends, nor commercialism dictate the speed in which preparations should start, how long, nor what you need to make each perfect. Remember this, God holds our times in His hands, each day is His gift, enjoy it, and praise God for it.

Annual Gift Sunday

Our annual gift day, held each year on the last Sunday in November, affords us an opportunity to give back to God in how He has blessed us throughout the year. Once again, your generosity has borne forth much fruit in many ways, not just financially, and bears testimony to the abundance of God's blessings.

Christmas Review

Looking back over some of the activities and services over the Christmas period maybe gives us time and opportunity to reflect on much of what has taken place.

Shoebox Appeal

This annual appeal is supported every year with filled boxes, in donating items, and financial assistance towards the cost of postage. We extend thanks to all who did, those without our immediate parish family and all within, your generosity never fails. Some of this year's boxes have gone to Moldova.



Shoebboxes assembled for the appeal.



Members of Young @ Heart with their painted lemonade bottles.

Young @ Heart

For the November meeting, our members found themselves painting some clear lemonade bottles with Christmas trees and snowmen as decorations either for the Christmas table or the shelf. Numerous hidden gifts and talents came to the fore with some beautiful creations finished off with internal lights. In December, members attended Dulrush for their Christmas dinner and were treated to a delightful meal and fellowship.



Young @ Heart members enjoying a meal.

Women's Fellowship

Andrea Rogers, Polliwogs was the guest speaker for December, bringing along her daughter for extra assistance. Members picked and hand painted varied Christmas pottery pieces, with some intense and detailed artwork. So much so that the Christmas tea was delayed on the night, but an enjoyable night for all present. The next meeting will be 5th February with Stacey Mitchell, of Inspired Scribbles.



Womens' Fellowship members at their pottery class.

Family Service

Some of the young people presented a short sketch entitled, 'Getting ready, but not yet'. An effective reminder of how we can get caught up in the Christmas rush and not be ready for Christ, and equally true, if we choose to wait till the time is right. Other members of Sunday School, led the prayers, reading and led in the music. A huge thanks to the Sunday School leaders for their dedication to teach each Sunday and for parents who bring children regularly each week.



Carol Service

This was held on Christmas Eve morning followed by a soup lunch in the parish hall of which the free-will donations are going towards the Christmas in Advent, this years Bishop's Appeal. Our sincere thanks to the team of musicians who led the worship, the readers, IT, and to those who transformed the church with their decorating gifts and skills. It was an uplifting and amazing time of worship to God's glory. The rector spoke on making



Young people at a Carol Service.



Enjoying the Christmas and New Year events.

the right connection, of connecting with Christ. To everyone, from the chef, servers, dishwashers, tea makers, those who set up and cleared up before and after, please accept our heartfelt thanks.

Bowling Club

Bowling Matches have continued within the league, with members giving a good account of themselves overall, both seasoned and new players. The annual meal planned before Christmas was postponed to the New Year.

New Year's Eve

Sunday night began with a finger buffet in the parish hall ahead of the praise service in the church just after a 11.00pm. Part of this year's activities was a fun quiz with dingbats, and Christmas adverts that added to an enjoyable interaction around the tables. The worship was led by Marcus, with Jason on IT, and the



rector giving a suitable message as we move into 2024, which is a leap year. Encouraging all to continue to step out in faith, as they trust in God and equally to encourage others to do the same. Our sincere thanks to the members of the Select Vestry who host the night and for those who prepare the food and hall. We are indebted to your spirit of generosity in all that you, knowing that you do it for God's glory. Please keep an eye on announcements for updates or changes.



Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale



Rector:
Archdeacon Paul Thompson

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Sunday Worship

Sunday 11th informal Morning Prayer
10.30am Derryvullen North with soloist and followed by refreshments

11.45am Castle Archdale with singing group

Sunday 18th February: Morning Prayer

10.15am Castle Archdale
11.30am Derryvullen North

Sunday 25th February: Morning Prayer

10.15am Castle Archdale
11.30am Derryvullen North

Sunday 3rd March: Holy Communion

10.15am Castle Archdale
11.30am Derryvullen North

Midweek Lenten Services 7.30pm

Journey to the Cross: Discovering the Power of Christ's sacrifice for living faithfully today

1. Ash Wednesday: February 14th, Derryvullen North, Prayer Book Office for today

- Topic: The Call to Repentance and Preparation

- New Testament: Luke 3:1-14

2. Wednesday February 21st, Derryvullen North, Late Evening Office

- Topic: Embracing Humility and Self-

Denial

- New Testament: Philippians 2:1-11

3. Wednesday February 28th, Derryvullen North, Late Evening Office

- Topic: The Power of Prayer and Fasting

- New Testament: Matthew 6:5-18

4. Wednesday March 6th, Derryvullen North, Late Evening Office

- Topic: Facing Temptation and Overcoming Sin

- New Testament: Hebrews 4:14-16

5. Wednesday March 13th, Derryvullen North, Late Evening Office

- Topic: The Gift of Forgiveness and Reconciliation

- New Testament: Colossians 3:12-17

6. Wednesday March 20th, Derryvullen North, Late Evening Office

- Topic: The Agony of the Cross and the Love of God

- New Testament: John 19:16-30

7. Wednesday March 27th, Derryvullen North, Late Evening Office

- Topic: The Hope of Resurrection and New Life

- New Testament: 1 Corinthians 15:12-28



The Boys Brigade at the RNLI station.



Boys Brigade Dodgeball Team.

8. Maundy Thursday 28th March, Castle Archdale, Holy Communion
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

9. Good Friday 29th March, Derryvullen North, Good Friday Devotions
Isaiah 55:1-3 and Psalm 22:25-31
Congregational Gospel reading of the Passion

Shoppers' Service

Wednesday 14th February 11.00am in the Parish Centre, Irvinestown

Ministry of Healing

The Clogher Diocesan Ministry of Healing Team held an evening Service of Holy Communion on Sunday 26th November during which prayer, with the laying-on-of-hands and anointing, was offered. It was a special time and it was good to see so many in church and also to see how people received the prayer ministry.

Women's Group

They held an outing to Kenwell's Christmas Shop in Dromore on Wednesday 29th November. There were lots of lovely Christmas cheer and lovely coffee accompanied by Christmas treats. The Christmas Meal was then held at the Westville Hotel on Wednesday 6th December. It was a lovely time of good food, chat and friendship. Thank you to Elaine and Caroline for arranging the evening. We ended the time with Secret Santa gifts.

Boys' Brigade – Dodge ball Competition

Our Boys' Brigade Junior Section had a fun evening on 1st December playing in a Dodgeball Competition held in Omagh. Congratulations to them as they came first, winning the West Ulster Battalion Heat. They now progress to the N Ireland

Final. Thank you also to Shane and Mark for arranging this for them. It was a great evening and there was an enjoyable stop off on the way home.

Church Mission Society

At the time of preparing these notes we plan to welcome the Rev Andrew and Mrs Joanne Quill to our Services on Sunday 14th January. They are moving to be Mission Partners in South Sudan and we will be supporting them. In the past we also maintained a link with them when they were Mission Partners previously. There will be a full report in the next edition of the Diocesan Magazine

Looking back at Christmas

On 17th December we held the Service of Lessons and Carols at St Patrick's Church, Castle Archdale. It was great to see about 80 present for the Service. Thank you to the decorators, readers and to all who gave items for the Food Bank at the Arc Centre. Thank you also to the Sunday School, to Billy McBride (Organist) and to the Brass Ensemble led by Stephen Magee. I have also included some photos when there was a surprise presentation made on behalf of the Select Vestry and parish by Derek Anderson (Peoples' Churchwarden) to mark my Installation as Archdeacon. I would like to say thank you for this kindness.

On that same morning the Service of Lessons and Carols was also held in Derryvullen North. It was great to see about 180 here for this time of worship and celebration. Thank you to all the decorators, organist Florence Barrett and the choir for the carols and anthems, to the music group (strings pipes, drums, accordions, brass) led by Rachel and David, to the Leaders and young people of the Sunday School for the nativity drama and singing, to all the readers

and to Parish Reader Ethel for leading the bidding prayer. We also greatly appreciate all the donations of items for the Food Bank in the Arc Centre. At the end of the Service there was an unexpected and kind presentation to me by Mrs Margaret Humes, on behalf of the Select Vestry and Parishioners, marking my Installation as Archdeacon. I would like to express my thanks for this kindness. This year we also enjoyed the lovely new Nativity scene - kindly and very skilfully knitted by Edna with the stable being made by Eric. Thank you to each of them.

On Christmas Eve Night our Christmas Worship began with Holy Communion in each church and this continued on Christmas Morning with again Holy Communion in each church. It was very encouraging to see an increase in numbers on last year at these services.

Service of memories

On Sunday 10th December past there was a "Service of Memories" attended by about 80 in St Tighernach's Church, Derryvullen North. This was organised in conjunction with the Irvinestown Orange Community Group. A special Christmas Tree was placed in the church and people could decorate a bauble in any way they felt so as to honour the memory of a loved one who has passed away and whose loss is keenly felt at Christmas time. The Service was one of reflection, memories and scriptural assurance. The praise was met by organist, Margaret Gray, with members of the Choir and readers were Anna Moffit and Joe Graham. Two baubles, representing all the baubles, were presented to me by Frances Hunter and Irene Gibson to be placed on the tree. It was so poignant to see the tree filled with baubles, representing so many loved ones and memories. The fellowship

continues afterwards in the hall over tea/ coffee and enjoyable treats. This tree remained over the Christmas period and was a focus for memories.

Boys' Brigade – Enrolment

It was wonderful to welcome about 180 on Sunday 19th November to the Boys' Brigade Enrolment Service in Derryvullen North. The Company includes boys from both our parishes and other denominations. Thank you to Captain Joe and all the Leaders, to the Boys of all sections and to the Parents for their support. The Company Section provided the readers and the Colour Party, the Anchor Boys sang two pieces and the Juniors led the Gospel Reflection. We also presented a Quiz trophy to the Quiz Kids Team from the Junior Section who came third in all NI at the finals in Lisburn yesterday (they had previously won the West Ulster Battalion heat in Omagh). The rest of the Juniors along with the Anchor Boys were in Omagh for a Battalion Fun Day. Well done everyone and thank you!

Boys' Brigade - life boat trip

On Monday 27th November some of the BB Boys had a very enjoyable visit to the RNLI Base on Lough Erne and we would like to thank the Leaders to arranging the evening. It was a lot of fun and also interesting too. Our thanks also to Peter, Clive and Jonny for their informative talk on the work of the RNLI. The boys enjoyed getting into the boat and tractor and seeing around the station. You can find more information at this link <https://rnli.org/.../lifeboa.../enniskillen-lifeboat-station>

Mothers' Union

The members met on Wednesday 22nd November in the Parish Centre, Irvinestown. The Guest Speaker was Mr Peter Booth who is an ordinand from Magheraculmoney (Ardess) Parish. He



Peter Booth at the Mothers' Union.



Raffle Bears and Clothing.

spoke on his journey towards ordination, the personal aspects and the practicalities of it. The members greatly appreciated him speaking of his journey and of all that it had entailed. As things move forwards he will, DV, be ordained first as Deacon and then subsequently to the Priesthood and we wish his every blessing for all of this. Sharon thanked Peter on behalf of the MU members and Florence and Lorna served supper.

Christmas Fair

Here are some photos from the Derryvullen North Christmas Fair held on Saturday 25th November. We would like to thank everyone who made it such a wonderful success: those who prepared the hall and grounds, all who gave or made items, those who set up the premises, all who helped in any way on the day, and also Santa and three Elves for their special visit. Santa thoroughly enjoyed his new Grotto - which was made by the very skilled Derick Dunlop. Thank you Derick! The Fair was part of the Irvinestown Community switching on of the Christmas Lights. So far we have taken in a little over £4100 which is a



Santa and the Elves.



A new nativity scene.

great amount and one that is an increase over previous years. It was an enjoyable event with lots of fun and laughter.

Street Market

On the Saturday, 2nd December there was a Craft Stall at the new Christmas Street Market in Irvinestown. Thank you to the Craft Group members from our parishes and also everyone who supported their Craft. This raised £703.50 and this is going to the Castle Archdale Building Fund. This is all much appreciated.

Shoppers' Service

This was held on Wednesday 13th December with the Irvinestown Parish Centre filled with people for it. The occasion had a lovely Christmas theme with the music supplied by Richard McGonigle on the guitar. Afterwards we enjoyed teas and coffees with warmed mince pies.

From the Registers

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Mervyn "Herbie" HOLDEN, 29th November, Castle Archdale.



At the Womens' Group outing to Kenwells.

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, 4 February

10.30am Morning Prayer Garvary

12 Noon Morning Prayer Derryvullen South

Sunday, 11 February

10.30am Morning Prayer Derryvullen South

12 Noon Morning Prayer Garvary

Sunday 18 February

10.30am Morning Prayer Garvary

12 Noon Morning Prayer Derryvullen South

Sunday 25 February

10.30am Morning Prayer Derryvullen South

12 Noon Morning Prayer Garvary

Carol Service

Mrs Maureen Desborough conducted the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 17 December and also dedicated the new organ.

Cash for Clobber

It is planned to collect used clothing (Cash



Mothers' Union members at their December outing to Galloon Parish Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday 9th December.

for Clobber) in the Spring. The date has yet to be decided.

Bowling Club

The Bowling Club hopes to hold their tournament from 26 February to 1 March.

Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those of our parishioners who are ill in hospital, in their own homes, in nursing homes or those receiving treatment.



Christmas celebrations in Garvary Parish Church. Thank you to Phair family for the Christmas tree.

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 February 2024

Sunday 4th February 2024

10.00am - Holy Communion, Boho Parish Church

11.30am - Holy Communion Devenish Parish Church

Sunday 11th February 2024

10.00am - Morning Prayer Boho Parish Church

11.30am - Morning Prayer Devenish Parish Church

Sunday 18th February 2024

10.00am - Morning Prayer Boho Parish Church

11.30am - Morning Prayer Devenish Parish Church

Sunday 25th February 2024

10.00am - Family Service Boho Parish Church

11.30am - Family Service Devenish Parish Church

Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday service will be held on Wednesday 14th February 2024 in Devenish Parish Church at 8.00pm. The Lenten Services will alternate between Devenish and Boho. We would encourage everyone to take part in this year's Lenten Services.

Burials

■ 23rd November 2023 - Nigel Irwin, 181 Boho Road, Legnagay More, Boho. The Service in Boho Parish Church was conducted by Revd Sampson Ajuka and the Burial was in the adjoining graveyard. The Parish and the wider community were shocked at Nigel's sudden death. We extend our deepest sympathy to Nigel's wife Pearl, sons Richard and Aaron, daughters Vicky and Rachael, brothers Alan and Ronnie, sisters Linda and Sandra and the wider family circle.

■ 19th December 2023 - Margaret Barton,



Donegall Road, Springfield. The Service in Devenish Parish Church was conducted by Dean Kenneth Hall assisted by Revd Sampson Ajuka and the burial was in the adjoining graveyard. Margaret, who made an important contribution to the nursing profession and was a member of the Mothers' Union passed away after a long illness.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Margaret's husband Paul; son Simon, daughter Andrea; parents, John and Ivy, brother Richard and sisters Heather, Sandra and Linda and the wider family circle.

■ 10th January 2024 - Sylvia Montgomery, Loughshore Road, Enniskillen. After a service in Ballycassidy Funeral Home, burial was in Devenish Parish Churchyard. We extend our deepest sympathy to Sylvia's daughters Melanie and Katie, brothers Ian and George; sister Helen and the wider family circle.

Christmas Services

Boho Carol Service was held on Sunday 10th December. The readers were Danny Redmond, Chigoziri Ajuka, Albert Cluff, Innes Redmond, Chiemela Ajuka, Trevor Smith, and the Revd Sampson Ajuka. The organists were the Ajuka Family. Devenish Carol Service was held on Sunday 17th December. The readers were Alan Gault, Nicola McCullagh-Daley, Dorothy Scott, Hazel McIlveen, Pearl Bell, Kenny Ferguson, Stuart Brooker, Rachel Cathcart and Revd Sampson Ajuka. The choir sang a number of pieces including 'Ring a bell for peace, 'There is a star in the East, Beside the cradle Here I Stand and O holy Night. We were delighted to have the Beason family join with the choir for the evening. We wish to thank the organist Mrs Gill Spence and the choir for all their work in providing such a wide range of musical items for our Carol Service.

Devenish Sunday School Service

On Sunday 17th December, it was great to see the Sunday School taking the service. They performed the drama 'Ready, Steady Christmas'. All the children were given a part and portrayed the message of Christmas to



Christmas decorations from Devenish Church.



the congregation very competently. They also sang 'Little Donkey' and 'Away in a Manger'. Thanks to our leaders, Mandy, Norma, Kay, and Dorothy for all their hard work.

Holy Communion Services were held on Christmas Eve in Devenish and in Boho and Devenish on Christmas Day.

Sunday School party

Sunday School Party was held on Monday 18th December at 7.00pm in the Reade Hall. The children enjoyed a great party and Santa was very enthusiastically received. Thanks to the leaders and parents who helped to make the party such a success.

Mothers' Union

There was a good attendance at our Christmas party on Wednesday 6th December when we enjoyed some festive food and fellowship.

Our first meeting of 2024 was held on Wednesday 10th January. Pearl, Branch Leader, wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year and led us in prayer remembering especially Maggie Reilly, on the passing of her dear husband Joe and families in our community who have been bereaved. Since our last meeting we were



saddened to hear that one of our members, Margaret Barton, had died after an illness bravely borne. We send our deepest sympathy to Margaret's husband Paul, children Andrea and Simon and her parents John and Ivy McClure and pray that God will comfort them at this sad time.

Vivienne read a passage of scripture from Matthew 5 chapters 3-12 – The Beatitudes – and afterwards recited a lovely poem entitled New Year.

We look forward to our annual dinner on Wednesday 7th February at 7.00 pm in the Horseshoe and Saddlers Restaurant. If you wish to attend, please put your name on the sheet in Devenish Parish Church or contact Pearl.



The Neely family at the baptism in Boho Church in October.

Donagh & Tyholland with Errigal Truagh



Bishop's Curate:
Revd Tim Irvine

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

E: revdtimi@gmail.com

Services

Sunday 4 February 2024 The Second Sunday before Lent

10.30am St Salvator's, Glaslough – A celebration of The Holy Communion (Order 2) with Sung Gloria, Hymns, Sermon and Sunday School

12noon St Sillian's, Tyholland – A Celebration of the Holy Communion (Order 1) with Hymns and Sermon

Sunday 11 February 2024 The Sunday next before Lent

10.30 am 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 (Order 1) with Hymns and Sermon

Tuesday 13th February

8pm A Meeting of Donagh Select Vestry in the Parochial Hall, Glaslough for the revision of the Register of Vestry members.

Wednesday 14 February 2024 Ash



Christmas in the Donagh Group of parishes.



Wednesday

8pm St Salvator's, Glaslough – Evening Prayer for Ash Wednesday with Act of Penitence, Hymns and Sermon

Sunday 18 February 2024 The First Sunday of Lent

10.30am St Salvator's, Glaslough – Morning Prayer (Order 2) with Sung Canticles, Hymns, Sermon and Sunday School

12 noon St Sillian's, Tyholland – Morning Prayer (Order 1) with Hymns and Sermon

Sunday 25 February 2024 The Second Sunday of Lent
10.30am St Salvator's, Glaslough – All Age Family Service – Morning Prayer for use on Sundays in Lent with Sung Canticles, Hymns, All Age Sermon and children for the Sunday School helping Revd Tim lead the Service

12noon St Muadain's, Errigal Truagh – Morning Prayer (Order 1) with Hymns and Sermon

Sunday 3 March 2024 The Third Sunday of Lent

10.30am St Salvator's, Glaslough – A celebration of The Holy Communion (Order 2) with Hymns, Sermon and Sunday School
12noon St Sillian's, Tyholland – A Celebration of the Holy Communion (Order 1) with Hymns and Sermon

Mothers' Union

Mr Raymond Wilkinson delivered a fascinating talk about his cruise from Vancouver through Alaska on Wednesday 15th November and, being a retired geography teacher, Raymond was more than capable of answering our questions about the frozen landscape and the glaciers that he visited.

Everyone looks forward to the Christmas tree festival in the neighbouring parish of Caledon and the ladies of Donagh MU did us proud again this year with their beautiful tree.

Holy Baptism

On Saturday 18th November we celebrated the Holy Baptism of James Wallace-Grew, the son of Paul and Rebecca-Jane (and grandson of the great and wonderful Mrs Jean Wallace) with their family and friends in St Salvator's and we were delighted to



Christmas songs and music in Glaslough including the Winter's Tale.

have as a special guest Fr Hubert Martin an old friend of the Wallace family and a dear friend of our parish who read the gospel and presented the Baptismal candle to sweet baby James who smiled serenely throughout, not only during the ceremony, but all through afternoon tea at the Hunting Lodge too.

Decorating the Church for Christmas

It is always a pleasure to show visitors around St Salvator's and it was wonderful over Christmas to see the faces of the visitors light up as they exclaimed how beautiful the church was and the decorations. It's no secret that, much as we might wish, it isn't the pixies and faeries who clean and decorate our churches. Thank you to the three teams who put the decorations up in our three churches and cleaned them for our Carol Services, Christmas Concerts and Midnight Services. St Sal's, St Sil's and St Mo's all looked wonderful during our Christmas celebrations.

Carol Services

Due to the refurbishment taking place in St Sillian's we were unable to organise our usual Carol Service there, however, St Muadain's, Errigal Truagh "borrowed" St Sil's Sunday for the Carol Service and they celebrated their Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Advent Sunday where the singing was led by the wonderful Donagh



Commnity Choir. We were delighted to have our very good friend Fr John Flanagan from our sister parish of Truagh (Ballyoisin) with us to read the Gospel of the Incarnation for us. Thank you to all our friends and neighbours who came along to support us and a special thank you to our Friends at the Blackwater Centre for their hospitality and for permitting us to have our supper in their beautiful centre. Thank you to everyone who decorated the church and who prepared the delicious supper.

With the Winter's Tale concerts following the Third Sunday in Advent this year, St Salvator's celebration of a Festival of Lessons and Carols for Christmas took place on Christmas Eve with a team of parishioners reading a dramatised form of the lessons.

Nativity Service

On Sunday 10th December our Sunday

School presented "A Christmas Story" in seven acts during our Nativity Service. The Irish Times in its FIVE STAR REVIEW said, "This production brings the magic of the books alive on stage" The Irish Independent's FIVE STAR REVIEW said; "An exuberant celebration of the power of God's love told through drama and music.". Not all cast members are featured in the accompanying photos as some were in negotiations with their agents and leading figures from Broadway... presumably the editor fact checks everything prior to publication...

Congratulations to the cast, directors, producers, choir, a trio of organists, the prop team, stage manager, lighting, costume and sound teams and all involved in this most enjoyable production.

Lay Reader in Training

It has been a pleasure having William Graham with us these past three months



Santa made an appearance at The Winter's Tale.

as he trains to be a Diocesan Lay Reader. We wish him well as he completes his training and we hope to see much more of him in the future. The Parishioners of the Donagh Group of Parishes presented William with a desk edition of the Book of Common Prayer at our Carol Service in St Salvator's on Sunday 17th December.

Reopening St Sillian's

On Sunday 17th December it was a joy to be back in St Sillian's which had been closed since the summer for major renovation work. We now have a new floor with damp proof membranes, a low current damp proof mesh on the walls, new wainscoting stained to resemble the rotten panelling which had to be replaced and new under-pew electric heating which we are all feeling the benefits of...while nervously awaiting the first electricity bill. Many people were involved in this major project and without their support and assistance none of this work would have been possible. Firstly thank you to the Select Vestry as a body; thank you to our secretary, Mrs Ethne McCord who sought heritage grants and liaised with our architect and the heritage department of Monaghan County Council throughout the project; thank you to the aforementioned architect, Mr Stephen Leighton for all of his help; thank you to Mr Ronnie Wilkinson for the loan of his team who carried out the work; thank you to Mr George Farrell who project managed the work with grace and energy, ensuring that nothing was left undone. St Sillian's looks wonderful now, both looking like nothing has changed while feeling wonderfully fresh and new. It was lovely to reopen with a "visiting preacher" as our wonderful lay reader in training, Mr William Graham was the



A presentation is made to William Graham by the Revd Tim.

preacher at the reopening of St Sillian's and received a round of applause from the parishioners for his sermon and all that he has contributed to our Group of parishes over the past three months while on placement with us.

Community Carols in Glaslough

On Sunday 17th December at 4pm in Glaslough, we were due to have our annual Community Carol Service in the garden of the Coach Inn, but the weather was not in a generous or festive mood and Ron, Diane and their staff quickly relocated us indoors and under the cover of the gorgeous Bird Cage room at the Coach Inn where Donagh Community Choir led the caroling and representatives of Glennan Presbyterian, St Mary's, Catholic Church and St Salvator's, Church of Ireland read lessons. The highlight was the solo of the first verse of Away in a Manger by our own Rebecca Coulter. Santa made his appearance much to the delight of all the children and he was in remarkably jovial form for someone who must have been so busy, I guess some people are just born to do what they do. Thank you to Ron and Diane for their generous hospitality and the delicious mulled wine and to Castle Leslie for the mince pies. A great afternoon was had by all.

The Winter's Tale

While a separate report on the Winter's Tale will appear elsewhere in the magazine it behoves me to acknowledge the exceptional effort that so many parishioners, friends and neighbours put into making the concerts such a wonderful occasion from transporting and installing the stage, cleaning and decorating the church, designing, selling and distributing tickets, photocopying all the music and programmes, the welcomers and the taxi drivers, and of course the singers



Gift are presented at the Christmas service.

and musicians who are mentioned in the report. Special mention must be made of Mrs Ethne McCord who as the Musical Director oversees the entire enterprise. Quite simply, Ethne is a marvel.

Christingles at the Billis NS

Revd Tim loves visiting the staff and pupils at the Billis NS for assembly and on the day before the school broke up for the Christmas holidays, Revd Tim was in showing the children how to make a Christingle. Revd Tim was delighted to discover that none of the pupils needed to be reminded what Christmas was really about because they already knew (such wonderful children...and parents...and teachers) but they loved making the Christingles and were delighted that Revd Tim had brought far too many Gummy Bears with him which he just had to leave behind.

Christmas Day

Our celebration of Christmas began at the beautifully decorated St Sillian's where we celebrated first Holy Communion Service of Christmas at 9pm which was followed by mince pies and mulled wine. It was wonderful to be joined by so many of our friends and neighbours for this lovely candlelit Service.

On Christmas morning we celebrated a Festival Eucharist of the Nativity and blessed the Crib before everyone headed home to continue our celebrations of God with us.

The Epiphany

We concluded our celebration of Christmastide with the celebration of the feast of The Epiphany on Sunday 7th January with a Festival Eucharist for the Epiphany in St Salvator's with children from the Sunday School presenting the gifts of the Magi and with a celebration of The Holy Communion in St Sillian's.



Wilson Jebb, piper, leading the people from St. Salvator's Church to Castle Leslie at The Winter's Tale.

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.

'Give it away'

**'Give and it will be given to you
pressed down, shaken together and
running over' Luke 6:38**

Jesus told us that the measure we use will be measured to us. Open your hands to give and they will be filled with blessing. Stay tight-fisted and you end up clutching nothing. This is true for individuals and for churches. The church that lapses from the calling to bless, stagnates like water with nowhere to go. Giving multiplies blessing. In the words of Jim Elliott, who was martyred by Auca Indians, 'He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.' The blessing we receive is better than a plump bank balance or lofty status. We encounter the heart of God.

*(The Gift of Blessing – Kate Patterson,
books@muddypearl.com)*

Carol Services

There was a good attendance at both our Advent Carol Service on 3 December and our Christmas Carol Service on 17 December. The services were conducted by Revd Alison Irvine, the choir sang appropriate pieces and led the singing of hymns and carols and the readings were by representatives of church organisations. After both services the congregation were welcomed to seasonal



The Sunday School Christmas Party.

refreshments and a time of fellowship in the Church Hall.

Nativity Service

Our Nativity Family Celebration, conducted by Canon William Johnston, took place on Sunday morning 17 December. The Sunday School children performed a great Nativity Play, read the lessons and led the prayers and there was an excellent attendance of family members in the congregation. Sincere thanks to the team of Sunday School leaders for their commitment in supporting the children.

Christmas Parties

On Saturday 16 December the Mothers' Union hosted a lovely Christmas lunch for the senior members of the congregation followed by singing favourite carols. Our thanks to the team of Mothers' Union ladies for providing this great opportunity for fellowship which was enjoyed by everyone present.

The Sunday School Christmas Party was held that evening in the Church Hall where the children had a wonderful time of games and fun together followed by party food and Christmas gifts. Thanks to the leaders for their planning and organisation and for encouraging and entertaining our young people.

Members of the GFS and CLB also had celebrations at their first meeting of the new season on Monday 8 January. They enjoyed a variety of games and party food in addition to their usual activities and were delighted that the party season had been extended into the New Year!

Social Events

There was fun for all the family at our first ever Beetle Drive on Friday 24th November. Both young and old attended a very enjoyable evening and because those who had the highest and lowest scores moved table at each round it was a great way of getting to know other people. Many thanks to Thelma for organising what will hopefully be the first of many more of these events in the future!

We look forward to other social events in the coming months and highlight to all to keep free Saturday 6 April at 8.00pm for a concert in Holy Trinity Church by Seven Towers Male Voice Choir from Ballymena, a special event not to be missed!

Services 4th – 25th February

4th February

11.00am - Family Service (Karl Saunders)

11th February

11.00am - Morning Service (Mrs Joan Nelson)



Ken Crozier, Karen Crozier and Charlie Mills enjoying the Christmas party.



Martha McGhee and Ron Griffin at the Christmas party.



Enjoying the Christmas party.



The Nativity Service.



Fun at the Beetle Drive.

14th February

8.00 pm Ash Wednesday Service (to be confirmed)

18th February

11.00am – Holy Communion Service (Canon William Johnston)

25th February

11.00am - Morning Service (Karl Saunders)

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/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwj585CXlqOq6W6h7_2AiYg/)

- 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

As I write my thoughts Christmas has passed and we are beginning another year - 2024. It is hard to believe that almost 25 years have passed since we were worrying about the millennium bug which we were told could bring us back to the dark ages. While I am happy to have a couple of months in the year when I don't have to remember to send notes for the magazine I think that we miss an opportunity to send a New Year's Message because there is no magazine in January. So as we begin another year I want to share a couple of thoughts from my sermon for 7 January and in so doing make some suggestions for the year that lies ahead (albeit slightly late as you won't

see these words until February). I was making some suggestions as to how we should respond to God's love for us. I referred to psalm 47 and highlighted the following verses.
Clap your hands together, all you peoples; O sing to God with shouts of joy. O sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with all your skill.
While we might assume that these instructions apply solely to our worship I suggested that we can worship God at any time and in many different ways. When we do anything in God's service we are offering him worship and praise which should encourage us to want to do more as we live our lives and grow in faith and in our knowledge of his great love for us. I then turned to Isaiah 42. While this reading of course points us to Jesus I suggested that that did not mean that we could not apply them to our own lives. If we are adopted children of God and co heirs with his Son, our Saviour then can these words not also apply to us?
Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.
I want to suggest that as we begin another year we should want to be servants of God and we should want him to delight in our efforts – while acknowledging that we will get it wrong sometimes. If we have received the spirit of God then

we can hope to reflect the characteristics of the servant which would include things like gentleness, encouragement, justice and truth. As we read in these verses, *I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you.*
I think that these words speak for themselves and I would commend them to you today and indeed every day,
Short sermon over I was away for part of November and December with the result that Christmas seemed to pass in a flash because I missed a lot of the lead up to Christmas in church life. My thanks to Mr Keith Browne for taking the services in my absence and also to Canon Alan Irwin for covering the pastoral side. We of course had the normal services over this time with Sunday School Services in Templecarne and Tubrid and of course Carol Services in the three churches as well as Dernasesk.



My thanks to all who contributed to these services.

Thanks to those who decorated the churches, to the Sunday School teachers who prepared the young people who enriched our worship in different ways, for those who played the music over the Christmas season, to those who read lessons at our Carol Services and to all who contributed in any way.

As we begin another year I would like to acknowledge the work that is done, often unseen and sadly often unappreciated across the churches which allows us to maintain a Christian witness in the area. Our ladies group Women Together continue to meet and by the time you read these notes we will have enjoyed our annual dinner which this year will be held

in Mahon's Hotel, Irvinestown.

My thanks to those who arrange the speakers and events throughout the year. I was delighted to take part in the Annual Carol Service at Tubrid Orange Hall on Sunday 17 December where Irene Boyd gave an update on the work of the Samaritans Purse Shoebox Appeal which she has been co-ordinating for a number of years. This wonderful work helps brighten Christmas for children in various places and as a group of parishes we are glad to play a small part in helping this appeal.

Parish Register

I was delighted to conduct the wedding of Aaron McCutcheon and Sarah Hamilton in Donegal Town Church of Ireland on 15

December. We wish the new Mr and Mrs McCutcheon every blessing as they begin their married life together.

Diary

Sunday 4 February

Morning Prayer 10.00 Templecarne, 11.30 Tubrid

Sunday 11 February

Holy Communion 10.00 Muckcross, 11.30 Tubrid

Wednesday 14 February

Ash Wednesday Service Tubrid

Sunday 18 February

Holy Communion 10.00 Templecarne, Morning Prayer 11.30 Tubrid

Sunday 25 February

Morning Prayer 10.00 Muckcross, 11.30 Templecarne

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 chairs the Select Vestry meetings.

Dartrey and Rockcorry Christmas

The Christmas season is invariably a busy time for everyone and Christmas 2023 in the parish calendar was no exception. Our activities started off with the Winter Sale at the beginning of December which was a great success and very well supported by the whole community. This was followed by the Children's Christmas Party in Rockcorry School which was much enjoyed by the children and adults and yet another visit from Santa. The following day saw us back in Dartrey Church for the annual Carol Service with the children from Rockcorry School. This too, was a lovely occasion for the parish. All these events could not have happened without much hard work on the part of so many. A big thank you to one and all.

Personal

A number of parishioners have been laid low with the usual Winter ailments and there has been some bereavements in the parish. We remember them all in our



Aghabog Sunday School children.

prayers.

School Enrolment Notice

Here in Rockcorry N.S. we will be holding our school open day on Wednesday 7th February between 1pm. and 2pm. All families that would like to consider sending their children to our school will be most welcome to come in and meet the staff and have a look around the school. If anyone knows of any preschool children in the area that might be moving on to primary school please bring this notice to their attention.

Aughnamullen

Carol Service

Our Annual Carol Service held on Sunday 10th December at 3pm was well supported. Our thanks to Walter Pringle for conducting the service, to Ethel Ritchie organist and to the Harp players from Latton school for their special items and also to the readers. Thanks also to those who decorated the church so tastefully for our Christmas

service. Refreshments were provided after the service and thanks to those who provided them and all who arranged the tea.

Best Wishes

Our best wishes to Adrian and Rhinnonan Forde, Australia on the birth of a baby girl Miriam and as Adrian is the son of Alice Forde our congratulations to her on the arrival of her 10th grandchild.

Thank you

Our thanks to Rev Margaret Pringle for conducting our service on Christmas Eve.

Crossduff

The Annual Carol service was held on Sunday 3rd December at 3pm and was well supported. The service was conducted by Walter Pringle and guest speaker was Revd Dr. Jean Mackarel, along with other clergy and readers. Our thanks to them and also to the Ballybay Gospel group and guest organist Wendy Sloan for making this a very enjoyable service to mark the

start of the Christmas season. After the service refreshments were provided in the old stables and our thanks to all those who arranged and provide them.

Aghabog

Our Annual Carol service was held on Sunday 17th December at 11am. This service was very well attended and conducted by Mr Walter Pringle. A big thank you to all the Sunday school teachers who organised all the readers and to all the children who sang so well. A lot of work was put into this and we thank you all very much. Also to those who decorated the church and to those who brought refreshments and served in the hall afterwards.

A big thank you to the Revd Margaret Pringle who conducted our Christmas Day morning service of Holy Communion at 9.45am.

Christmas Party

Our Children's Christmas party for the group was hosted by Dartrey/Rockcorry members in Rockcorry National School. A big thank to them and also to Walter and his team of helpers for organising the games and to all those who prepared the supper and of course Santa arrived with gifts for the children. Thanks to all who supported and helped in any way.

Unwell

We wish all those who have been unwell

recently either at home or in hospital and wish them a speedy recovery.

Mothers' Union

We held our December meeting of the Mothers' Union in the home of Joan Lee on Wednesday 6th December at 3pm. We were delighted Joan was able to host this meeting and also delighted our most senior member Iris was able to attend. The meeting was opened in prayer by Revd Margaret and a bible reading by Shirley. After a few items were discussed we sang carols, games and thanks to Ruth who provided us with a wordsearch quiz. Prizes were given to the winners and also we had our own Christingle when everyone received a gift. The meeting closed in prayer by Revd Margaret and a lovely afternoon tea was served. Our thanks to all who brought food and served it. Shirley presented Joan and Iris with a little gift and everyone had a very enjoyable afternoon. Our next meeting will be held in Drum Church on Thursday 15th February.

Drum

Carols

'A Night of Carols' held on December 8th, was a wonderful celebration of Christmas. We extend our thanks to Lisnaskea Silver Band for leading the music, to Cantari Donagh for their beautiful choir pieces, to the Sunday school children past and



Walter Pringle with the successful competition prizewinners.

present for the readings and contributions to the service, and to Walter for leading the service and all those who attended, it was heartwarming to see a full church, with visitors from near and far.

Archdeacon Ruddell Competition

Walter was delighted to present the Sunday school children with their certificates for third prize. Congratulations to them and to their teacher at the time, Sharon Lancashire. Sharon has now stepped down from that position after 12 years. We wish the new Sunday school teachers every success going forward.

Best wishes

We send best wishes and thoughts to those who have been unwell recently, some in hospital, others at home. We also think of those who have bereaved in recent times. May God grant them strength and courage in the coming days and months.

Enniskillen Cathedral



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The Lenten focus is on mission overseas.

February Services

Thursday 1st February

11.00am – Holy Communion

Sunday 4th February: The Second Sunday before Lent

9.00am - Holy Communion
11.00am – Holy Communion

Thursday 8th February

11.00am – Holy Communion

Sunday 11th February: The Sunday before Lent

9.00am - Holy Communion
11.00am – Morning Prayer

Wednesday 14th February: Ash Wednesday

7.30pm – Penitential Service with Holy Communion

Thursday 15th February

11.00am – Holy Communion

Sunday 18th February: The First Sunday in Lent

9.00am - Holy Communion
11.00am – Holy Communion

Wednesday 21st February

7.30pm - Compline

Thursday 22nd February

11.00am – Holy Communion

Sunday 25th February: The Second Sunday in Lent

9.00am - Holy Communion
11.00am - Morning Prayer (Family Service)

Wednesday 28th February

7.30pm - Compline

Marriage Blessing

■ 16th December - Martin Roy Pawson and Nikita Leonora Pawson.

Christian Burial

- 17th November - Ian Whittaker, Millcroft Nursing Home, Enniskillen. Thomas Palmer (Basil) Graham, 53 Tartaraghan Road, Portadown.
- 5th December - Elizabeth (Betty) Scales, Millverne Care Home and Westbridge House, Enniskillen.
- 19th December - Margaret Ann Barton, Donegall Road, Springfield.
- 2nd January - Warren George Masterson, Derrychara Park, Enniskillen.
- 7th January - Muriel Iris Crowe, Algeo Drive, Enniskillen.
- 9th January - John William Humphries Owens, Castlecoole Road, Enniskillen.

Burial of Ashes

■ 28th December - Susan (Sue) Hogg, Castle Place, Enniskillen.

Mid-Week Services

The Dean of St Macartin's is offering opportunities for busy parishioners to consider a short Mid-Week service. He also wants to encourage non parishioners and town shoppers to attend, pause from a busy world outside and find spiritual refreshment. All are welcome!

Thursdays at 11.00am

Service of Holy Communion (30 minutes) followed by a cup of tea/coffee.

Wednesdays at 7.30pm

Begins on Ash Wednesday 14th February – Penitential Service with Holy Communion

Then short 30-minute service every Wednesday (7.30pm – 8.00pm) during Lent.

I was glad when they said unto me 'Let us go into the House of the Lord'
Psalm 122:1

Lenten Project – Mission Focus: Mothers' Union Overseas Fund

One of the aims of Mothers' Union is 'to help those whose family life has met with adversity'. The Mothers' Union Relief Fund is founded upon this principle. It enables grassroots Mothers' Union members to be a source of hope in their local communities when emergencies strike, wherever they find themselves in the world. When an emergency situation suddenly destabilises family life – either natural disaster or man-made conflict – local Mothers' Union groups can receive a grant from the Relief Fund which helps them provide support to meet the most urgent needs facing communities.



The Dean during his charity sit-out.

In many areas the Mothers' Union act as the health service, the social service and as the education service have trained project workers in many spheres! This Lenten Season we as the Parish of Enniskillen are going to support this vital work.

Please take a Lenten Box or a Gift Aid Envelope and return it during Holy Week.

'Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' 2nd Corinthians 9: 7)

The Pilgrim Course

(What is the Bible and how should we read it)

Pilgrim is a teaching and discipleship resource that helps inquirers and Christians explore what it means to travel through life with Christ. A Christian course for the twenty-first century, Pilgrim offers an approach of participation, not persuasion. Following the practice of the ancient disciplines of biblical reflection and prayer with quotes from the Christian tradition throughout the ages, Pilgrim assumes little or no knowledge of the Christian faith. Individuals or small groups on the journey of discipleship in the Anglican tradition can use Pilgrim at any point.

The Bible: What is it, how was it given to us, and how should we read it? These six sessions combine simple prayer, Bible reflection and time for questions and reflection. By the end of the six sessions, it is hoped that participants will have learned how to make reading the Bible a part of everyday life, with the ability to read, pray, and listen to what God might be saying, allowing the words to change each participant.

The course begins in the Hilliard Room, Cathedral Hall on Tuesday 20th February from 7.30pm – 9.00pm (and fortnightly thereafter). A warm welcome awaits you, and refreshments will be served at each session. We look forward to journeying with you.



Daily Reading for Lent

Pilgrim Journeys: The Lord's Prayer takes you on a 40-day journey through the prayer Jesus taught his followers - one which continues to shape the lives of Christians across the world.

Each day provides you with a short reflection on a Bible reading, an invitation to pray and a suggestion of how you might respond to the Lord's Prayer challenge to live as God intends, both as an individual and in community. The Pilgrim Journeys booklets are ideal daily companions for anyone seeking to grow in the Christian faith but can be used by anyone at any stage of their Christian journey.

These booklets are available for £3 at the back of the Cathedral or the Cathedral Office.

Dean's Charity Sit Out

It was windy. It was wet. Storm Pia blew away our tent for shelter, and everything around us including banknotes, flying through the air, but we braved it all and survived! Thank you to all who called by with donations, to the members of the Select Vestry and Air Ambulance volunteers who did stints on a rota basis, to all those who carried or sent me food, tea, coffee and even hot whiskeys! All was gratefully received. Thanks to the choir members who sang periodically though that day and for the final hour to the bitter end. A special thank you to Andy, my verger who stood by me all day battling the wind, and to our Honorary Treasurer, Hope who continually counted the collection after drying the bank notes and Gift Aid envelopes on her Aga Cooker! The total amount raised to date is £16,620. All the proceeds will be divided between Bishops' Appeal (International), Air Ambulance (National) and St Macartin's Charities (Local). Thank you to all.

Bowling Club

On Wednesday 13 December the morning bowlers held a 'Round Robin Competition' in the Cathedral Hall in aid of Cancer Connect. A very enjoyable morning was



The Bowling Club handed over a cheque for Cancer Connect.

enjoyed by all and the amount raised was £230.

A cheque was presented to Philip McGrenaghan of Cancer Connect. Philip give a short talk about the charity and how it helps families in the community who are affected by cancer.

Everyone enjoyed some refreshments and prizes were distributed.

On the same day at the evening bowls, Garvary Bowling Club joined us for fun and friendship and we played some games. We all enjoyed some refreshments and prizes were distributed to our visitors. The winners are pictured: John McQuaide, Lynda Masterson, Sadie Curran and Mark Collum.

The club is taking part in the Erne League and we have played some home and away games and we have more to play before the end of February.

Our annual mixed pair tournament is being held on Monday 18th, Tuesday 19th and finals on Wednesday 20th March 2024.

St Macartin's Bowling Club meet on Wednesday's at 10.30am and again at 7.30pm.

New Curate for St Macartin's Cathedral

We extend a very warm welcome to Revd. Edwin James Aiken who has been appointed Curate for St. Macartin's



The new Curate, Revd Edwin Aiken and his wife, Alex.



Cathedral Enniskillen from 1st February 2024. Revd Aiken has a PhD in geography from Queen's University, Belfast as well as postgraduate certificate in Theology, Mission and Ministry and a Master of Theology from Trinity College, Dublin, achieving many academic awards. He is a former leader of Boys' Brigade and youth club and has worked in many spheres of church life, leading various groups and initiatives.

A warm welcome is also extended to his wife Alex and young son Orion.

Parish Visitations

The Clergy and the Diocesan Pastoral Assistant are continually making visits around the parish, but these are often prioritised by sickness and bereavement calls. As we have now well over 600 families emergency calls are quite numerous. Sometimes we are not in the right place at the right time and that is where you can help. If for some reason you are ill, have been ill or bereaved please let us know by contacting the Cathedral Office and someone will call with you. No contact may well result in no call through no fault of the clergy! If you or a member of your family are in hospital please inform us otherwise we may not know. Help us to help you!

Family Fun Day

A Family Fun Day was held in the Hall on Saturday 16th December for all families with children.

The event was well attended and friendship, fun, food and fellowship was in abundance.

Messy Church

Messy Church is open to all children of Primary School age or younger and their parents and guardians. Even if you aren't a member of the Cathedral, you are very welcome to join us at any of the

sessions. To ensure there are enough resources, and food for participants, you must contact Gwyneth Blair by email at gwyneth.blair@gmail.com or 07753522324 as soon as possible. Participants must complete a registration form. The next Messy Church will be held on Thursday 15th February from 4.00-6.00pm.

Sunday Lights and Café

Sunday Lights is open to anyone in P1-4, and Sunday Café welcomes children in P5-Year 8. We use interactive and creative forms of learning to help the children learn about the Christian faith (telling Bible stories, songs, discussion, games, and crafts). We are grateful to the leaders who make Sunday Lights and Café not only possible, but so enjoyable for our children! The children leave during the 11.00am service after the singing of a family hymn for their own activities, and attend and take part in monthly Family Services. Each Sunday parents or guardians attend church with their children at 11.00am. The children will leave church at 11.20am for approximately 30/40 minutes. A parent or guardian needs to remain in church during this time.

The next dates for Sunday Lights and Café are as follows:

FEBRUARY

- 4th February: Sunday Lights and Café - children leave during the 11.00am service for their own activities.
- 11th February: Holiday
- 18th February: Sunday Lights and Café - children leave during the 11.00am service for their own activities.
- 25th February: Family Service at 11.00am

St Macartin's Cathedral Parenting Wellness Group

The Parenting Wellness Group will meet in St. Macartin's Cathedral Hall on



The family fun day.

Saturday 10th February at 2.00pm.
For more information or to reserve a place, please contact Linda Kingston on 07342045474.

The March meeting will be on Saturday 9th.

Confirmation

A Confirmation Service will be held on Sunday 3rd March 2024 at 11.00am for young people of Year 9 and above.

Mothers' Union

Our meeting on Monday January 8th was a Service of Holy Communion celebrated by Dean Hall. The AGM followed with all offices declared vacant. The following were reappointed or elected:

Branch Leader/Enrolling Member - Jenifer Johnston

Hon Secretary - Sally Masterson

Hon Treasurer - Maud Shaw

Overseas Representative - Valerie Watson.

Committee- Adele Moore, Avril Kee, Christine Halpin, Carole Crawford, Jeanette Cochrane, Margaret Owens, Stephanie Hall, and Stephanie Hamilton.

The Lenten project this year will go towards MU Worldwide Funds.

The next meeting is on Monday February 12th with Guest Speaker, Archdeacon Paul Thompson. Everyone welcome.

All Ireland Mothers' Union Holy Communion service

Mothers' Union Ireland has decided this year, on a pilot basis, to ask each diocese in turn to organise a Holy Communion service on the first Thursday of each month across the year.

Clogher Diocesan MU, with the permission of the Dean and in conjunction with our Chaplain, will hold a Holy Communion service in St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen on Thursday 1st February at 11am. All are welcome and Mothers' Union members in particular are asked to attend where possible.

Mothers' Union Big Hymn Sing

It has been decided by Mothers' Union All Ireland that this year there should be a series of events across Ireland. These events will be launched by a service in Kilkenny Cathedral in March and concluded with Service in Ballymena Parish later in the year.

In Clogher Diocese, the Mothers' Union Big Hymn Sing will take place in St Macartin's Cathedral on Sunday, 25th February 2024 at 7pm.

The service will include musical items from MU members and parishioners from across the Diocese as well as parish church choirs.

The service will be based on the singing

of congregational hymns, which Mothers' Union members from across Ireland have chosen. This special event is being held to raise funds for Mothers' Union projects which are funded by the Mums in May fund. Please do come and join us!

Tuesday Club

The final meeting of 2023 was on 28th November in the Eniskeene Room. Revd Colin opened with prayer. Members were greeted with a mulled pomegranate juice, cooking for two was highlighted throughout and a tasting session of main course, pudding and sausage rolls followed. Many thanks to Adele Moore for such an entertaining afternoon.

On 12th December the club attended the Parish dinner in the Main hall.

Meetings to come in 2024:

January 30th: Sharing of knitting ideas.

February 27th: Chair Bocce

A New Year Prayer

Loving God, inspire us with courage and hope as we embark on this New Year. May our lives throughout the coming months be an example of your love in our relationships with family, with friends and with those we meet in the community. Bless us with fruitful opportunities this year, grant us the wisdom to grasp them and the resources to realise them, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



The MU evening with cooking as the theme.



Fivemiletown (including Kiltermon)



Rector:
**Revd Precentor
Kyle Hanlon**

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

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

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

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

Are You Ready? Confirmation '23

Bishop Ian joined us on Sunday 26th November 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 were 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.

It was encouraging that as well as their families and youth leaders, other church members, especially other youth ministry leaders attended to give them every support and encouragement.

Bible Club

Jesus says, 'Come Follow Me.'

A new mosaic has been made by the children, young people and leaders who took part in the August Holiday Bible Club. Picturing a fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee, to depict the call of Jesus to us all, the net is cast into the sea reminding us of Jesus' words that following also involves fishing for others. It took a lot of work to complete the mosaic, but it represents a contribution from children's and youth ministry to the parish. In dedicating it at the Confirmation service in November, the Bishop prayed that it



Bishop Ian Ellis with the Precentor Kyle Hanlon and the confirmation candidates.

would help us as we worship God together. Thank you to everyone who was involved in completing this project!

Marriage Preparation

Christian Guidelines presenters Ian and Lorraine Stewart were joined by 12 couples from the parish, diocese and other churches on 11th March 2023 for a one-day marriage preparation course. Again this year we were able to offer Kiltermon Church for this special day which gives couples the opportunity to consider God's intention in marriage, and their own hopes and expectations. The parish has supported this for 14 years and we greatly appreciate the commitment of Bertie and Joyce Bleakley as caretakers there in preparing the building for our guests, as well as Louise Graham who provided light catering. The next preparation day is planned for Saturday 9th March 2024 at Kiltermon. Book directly with Christian Guidelines: 028 9146 8846.

Mission Team

Patrick Hanlon, who visited Uganda this summer with Abanna as part of a mission team, spoke in the parish during Advent to tell us about his work, and you can read Niamh Campbells' article about her visit to Waterford. Both of these young people thank the parish for their support.

Fundraising Event

For Santisma Trinidad Christian School in Peru and Church Lads Vintage Tea, Antiques and Craft Fair, hosted by the Church Lads Brigade was held from 10am-3pm on Saturday 3rd December. There were 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 Christian school in Lima, Peru where Isobel Sanchez is headteacher.

My Trip To Waterford

- **Niamh Campbell**

During the summer, I went to Kilmacow, (outside Co. Waterford) with my friends Clara, Josh and Joshua to help out with the Superkids camp. When we arrived down there, we were greeted by everyone, including this year's American crew, who gave us a warm welcome. We got there on Sunday, where we had a short talk on the activities that would occur that week. After our talk we got to know and familiarise ourselves with everyone who we would be working beside over the next five days. Then on Monday, we were sorted into our groups, who would be leaders with us, what age group we were assigned to and finally, we got to meet our groups. I got to spend my week with some very energetic six year olds, which made my experience so wonderful, knowing that children so young were able to understand the concept of faith, worshipping the Lord and taking part in all the fun activities and games. The reason I went down to Waterford to help with the camp was to help strengthen my faith in the Lord, and by doing that I have made many new friends who share my faith, and ensured I had an absolutely amazing experience.

The following week, another superkids camp was hosted here in Fivemiletown college, by Cavanaleck and Aughentaine Presbyterian Church and the Methodist Church, which was another fun-filled week of activities.

Slow Down Day For Advent

A number of us travelled to Belfast with Precentor Hanlon on Saturday 25th November to attend the Advent event. It was hosted by Brieghe O'Hare from well.com. Approximately 40 attended from a wide range of backgrounds and traditions. The day started with focusing on why we attended and our hopes for the day. Most people present reflected on a theme of refocusing,



reengagement and as the title suggests a wish to slow down as we enter the frenetic Christmas season. The day was split into Bible reading and times of reflection, focusing on the beginning of the Christian season: Advent with an invitation to accept we have done all we can do, and to leave our worries and burdens with God as we prepare to enter Advent. We were given a Christmas card and encouraged to put down contemplations of the year, good and bad. Bible reading focused on beginnings, the start of Jesus's ministry and the creation story in Genesis. A thread throughout is a God who is still creating, still working through his purposes for us all, a reminder that we are precious in the sight of God and the need to put Christ in the centre of the season.



Prayer Ministry

- Secretary William Morrow

The Prayer Ministry of healing continues in St John's and Kiltermon and is a vital part of worship. Prayers are said every week for the many requests that we receive. Every third Wednesday a short service of Holy Communion is said at 8pm. Request cards can be found in each pew of the church, fill in the first name only and give to either Precentor Hanlon, William Morrow or place on the collection plate. Everyone is invited to attend and will be made welcome.

Prayer on Wednesday at 11 – 11.30am

A small group met in St John's each Wednesday morning to say the shorter Morning Prayer.

This continued until Christmas and will begin again during Lent. There is a time to reflect on God and if you have time to be present you will find the peace of God in your life.

Quiet Time

At a Quiet Time With God on 11 November we had a quiet time to be with God. A quiet time is important and allows us to experience God and is an important way to communicate with him. It is peaceful to sit in the presence in the presence of God than always coming before God with a list of requests. We also join in a quiet time of prayers called Breathe during ten months a year which are held on the first Sunday of each month.

Why is it important to reflect on God?

If we reflect daily on what God is doing and has done in our lives it makes living in God's presence much easier for us. Reflection allows us to look for God in our own lives, in the lives of those around us, in our churches and in our world.

Prayers for Healing

Prayers For Healing that will bring calmness and the warmth of God's love. 'I'm coming to you today as your child, loving to hear from you and asking for your Divine Healing.



There's so much I don't understand about life but I do know that with one touch, one word you can make me whole. Please forgive me of my sins, cleanse me of my unrighteousness and begin your healing from the inside out.' Amen

Parish Youth Weekend '23

The parish's youth leaders from CONNECT and Senior Sunday School were pleased to be able to organize and host a Parish Youth Weekend in 2023 after missing two years with the restrictions. As before, we travelled to the Castlewellan Castle Christian Conference Centre in County Down, which will again host the Youth Weekend in 2024.

Church Lad's Brigade

CLB reopened on 3rd October with a really big fun night which included a bouncy castle, various games and a rodeo bull (big risk assessment form!) which all boys thoroughly enjoyed. 17th October. We are still meeting alternate Tuesday evenings and at this meeting we welcomed two ladies from Bright Eyes animal sanctuary who brought along a dog who had his leg amputated due to an accident and a very shy cat. They explained how animals needed a forever home and what to do if they found a stray animal. This was the start of badge work Martins .

This year we are delighted and blessed to have 40 boys in our two groups. The Martins (P1-P4) yellow polo shirts and Y team (P5-P7) blue shirts worn under the navy sweatshirt with the Brigade badge which is based on the Armour of Christ (Ephesians 6).

We continue to use a closed parent WhatsApp group for all information and encourage pre-registration. We really appreciate all your help and willingness to participate in our fundraising activities.

"Grant in thy mercy that every member past and present may prove steadfast in his fight against evil and true in his allegiance to God."

Girls Friendly Society

GFS reopened on the 20th September with 45 girls in the hall, all excited to start a new year with us. We have grown since our first night back and we now have 59 girls on the roll. We meet every Wednesday evening from 6.30pm to 8.00pm in the parish hall. All Primary and Secondary Schools girls are welcome to come along and join us. We aim to have



fellowship, friendship, and fun with the girls at our weekly meetings. The girls enjoy doing their Bible Project and their Badge Work, along with the various other activities – crafts, colouring, cookery, games, and drama which we try to include throughout our year. This year the All-Ireland Bible Syllabus is set on the story of Jonah; the girls are working towards completion of the Project Work at present.

The girls are also working towards getting their Health and Hygiene Badge this year. As part of this Badge, the Junior Members (P4 upwards) have completed a Mini Medics Course over three Wednesday evenings. The girls enjoyed the course and David James, the first aid instructor for the Mini Medics Course said we had potential for some good nurses/doctors in the future. The leaders reckoned if anyone needed CPR – they would definitely come round!

The Junior Candidates/ Candidates (Nursery – P3) have also been working on their badge work and we hope to have a visit from a Dentist in the New Year. Along with our Bible Study and Badge Work, there is also an All-Ireland Craft Competition and a Diocesan Cookery Competition which the girls take part in during the year. On 11th October, we completed a Sponsored Walk around the town to raise some money for GFS Missions and Mary Bartuah. We give each family a £10 sponsor sheet and we raised a total of £286.

We would like to thank our parents for their willingness to help us on the night; some parents joined in the fun of trying to spot the stranger in shop windows and the visit to the play park before walking around to Edfield Restaurant. The girls stopped for a chippy and the parents and leaders got a well-deserved cup of tea/coffee before heading home.

We would also like to thank Fivemiletown Primary School for their yellow reflector jackets for the evening. Even though I was told the next day we looked like a never-ending line of ducks but at least we were visible.

On Sunday 12th November, we took part in the Act of Remembrance at the Royal British Legion and Ella Beavers laid the wreath on behalf of our branch.

I would like to thank the leaders for their hard work and commitment to the branch, and I would like to welcome Cheryl Smith to our team. We are always looking helping hands.

What an Autumn Sunday School has had!

Sunday school continues to grow in numbers with 100 children now registered. We enjoyed a wonderful Harvest Service with Alistair McFarland from Scripture Union



Young people with some of the Christmas crafts.

as guest speaker.

All our Sunday School classes took part. It was a wonderful celebration of how fruitful our Lord is. We also attended Autumn-fest in Fivemiletown High School on 28th October with a display of our Sunday School work. This was a good way to outreach into the community.

Archdeacon Ruddell Prize

which is a diocesan competition for young people. Archdeacon Ruddell was brought up in Clogher Diocese in the townland of Stranafelly, near Brookeborough. It was his idea to leave a bequest to support this competition. The topic for 2023 was the Miracles that Jesus performed. It was a great delight at the Diocesan Synod in September for Precentor Hanlon, Alex Gordon, Mamie Alexander and myself to see the screen lit up with Fivemiletown Sunday School. Then came the announcement of the winning entries by Miss Joyce Clingan, Chairman of Diocesan Board of Religious Education. Fivemiletown Senior Sunday School came first and Sparks were second. The Select Vestry was very pleased to hear the good news and congratulate the Sunday School children and their teachers for bringing this accolade to our Parish. I do hope that you will enter this competition again in the future.' Florence Brunt, Synodsperson

KNIT PRAY LOVE

The ladies have been enjoying the change in the seasons as this is the time for cosy knits and Christmas gifting! We are currently preparing to dress this year's Christmas tree, a little differently from last year, and we hope you will enjoy it!

And we hope that every time you see it you will be reminded that Jesus said, "I am the LIGHT of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the LIGHT of life." St John 8:12

We also held our first Creative Christmas Night on the 12th December in The Potter's Hand. A delicious menu was planned by Sharon and her team and there was a little crafty project to make and take home too! As always if you have any requests please get in touch with us via Judith in the parish office.

Love, Ann, Audrey, Beatrice, Betty, Claire, Cora, Evelyn, Frances, Gladys, Margaret, Thelma and Michele.

Men's Ministry

Our Bless the Town together happened again this year on 12 December again. Each year we leave a bag of potatoes, a UCB word for today and some church information to 600 homes in Fivemiletown.

We are grateful to Tony Bloomfield who collects the 600 bags of potatoes each year from a potato grower in Lisburn. To follow on in January a Men's Breakfast has been arranged for Saturday 27th at 9am in the Parish Hall.

Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union held a successful Cake Sale/Coffee Morning at Harvest weekend raising over £1,000. Thanks to all who baked and supported us.

At our November meeting members prepared 39 Food Hampers for the Senior Members in our parish, and three Toiletry bags for nursing home, hospital and indoor members.

At our December meeting followed by festive supper, Helen Mills gave a demonstration of a lovely Christmas table arrangement. New members are welcome.

Mums and Tots

This meets on the second Monday of each month from 10am -11.30 am in the Parish Hall, a time for Mums and Carers and their little folk to have fun together. A morning with tea/coffee, juice, toast and freshly

baked scones, and lots of toys with the morning is brought to a close by interactive nursery rhymes. The purpose of Mums & Tots is to create a place for Mums to make new friends, share their stories, and encourage each other. The morning is enjoyed by everyone and supported by a team of dedicated leaders. Without these leaders Mums and Tots would not function as they set up and tidy after each session. Also, they are a great encouragement to the Mums.

Mums & Tots hosted 'We're going on a bear hunt' at the Round Lake Fivemiletown to finish off their year. Mums, dads and carers came along and joined in making binoculars with the kids, setting off finding the many bears hiding round the lake path, returning to the Lake house for tea/coffee scones, juice crisps for the tots, nursery rhymes and play time in the play park.

Parish Senior Adults Meal

The Christmas Holy Communion service was held in the Parish Hall on 6th December followed by Christmas dinner, desserts, shortbread and mince pies. Fivemiletown Primary School choir and orchestra provided the enjoyable entertainment. In 2024 DV we look forward to organising our usual Easter, Summer, Harvest and Christmas celebrations.

Well Spotted!

Last Friday, 5th January about 3.10pm was the first sighting. And another on Sunday afternoon, the first Sunday after the Epiphany; but no one from the family came quickly enough in response to my muffled shout to see for themselves. I think they were non-believers. But today I got the proof. Yes, it's a poor quality shot, and I have edited it badly I'm sure, but so what. It is actually a Great Spotted Woodpecker in the Rectory grounds in Fivemiletown, eating from a bird feeder, on the 9th of January. If you're not excited by this, I can do nothing for you. Turn the page in fact. Or you will be very excited, because you too may know that until about 2010 there were no publically reported sightings of these birds in Ireland. The Birds Of Ireland books published in the 1980s and 1990s dryly noted that they are not present in Ireland. Not anymore. About six years ago, a fellow bird enthusiast brought us to the first of now several successful sightings. And I knew they were feeding nearby.

And they are creatures of habit. Usually, now about 3pm or thereabouts, they will appear, a pair I think, and stay for only a few minutes each time.

When I tell prospective listeners, they want to tell me about Green Woodpeckers in England, or North American ones. But

then I'm not listening. I only have eyes for these Great Spotted. Because they have made it this far and look as though they are successfully resident on the Tyrone and Fermanagh county boundary. Such fun. So I add this to the growing excitement because in January 2024 red squirrels have begun to visit very often, and because in recent years we have spotted an unexpectedly long legged hedgehog, an unwelcome mink and the lovely cherry breasted Bullfinches, albeit only for a few days each time.

What has this to do with parish life I hear you ask? Lots, I suppose. It reminds me of a onetime senior parishioner who scoffed at a sermon I preached about the birds of the air. I wondered then and still do that they hadn't read words of Jesus recorded for us by St Matthew. Or read that wonderful book 'The Birds Our Teachers,' by John Stott. Stott's deep commitment to the Gospel of Jesus was beautifully complimented by his enthusiasm for ornithology, and the pleasure he found in this part of God's creation. Our teachers indeed. Today's half hour was well prepared for. One very large cup and saucer filled with hot coffee, an equally large piece of the everlasting Christmas cake, and a phone camera at the ready. But instead of sitting, I dashed between said feeder, and the others in the yard, because I was determined to have the illusive proof.

I learned today that the Great Tits are bullies at the feeder. The blues and the coals take the opportunity to feed when they can. Infrequent visitors, the goldfinches, can hold their own, and the dowdy chaffinches prefer to eat from the ground. Today we welcomed a dunnock, a delightfully little wren, a singular starling, one collar dove, too many hooded crows, two very seasonal Robins, and a pair of blackbirds who enjoyed

pecking in the Rectory drive.

Today I also learned about the value of being prepared, sitting still, the difference between looking and seeing, and the place each bird seems to have in the order of things. And that while I enjoy seeing them all in turn, I cannot contain the very great excitement of seeing a Great Spotted Woodpecker so close up. Did I say I was excited? Enough said.

I know that tomorrow there will be office work to do, sermons to write, a pastoral visit, a celebration of the Holy Communion, a guest preacher and certificates to present, and whatever else the day might bring. And in it I need to remember to see as well as look and listen as well as hear. And to appreciate those I have seen many times before, and hope that we all find a place to be.

But for today, as the mid-Winter light begins to quickly drop, and the bird feeders have emptied of their visitors, I think of a lovely poem written by Ann Lewin, which helps us learn from the birds another lesson for our prayers.

Prayer is like watching for the kingfisher

All you can do is be there where he is likely to appear,

And wait.

Often nothing much happens;

There is space, silence and expectancy.

No visible signs, only the knowledge that he's been there

And may come again.

Seeing or not seeing cease to matter,

You have been prepared.

But when you've almost stopped

Expecting it, a flash of brightness gives encouragement.'



Galloon, Sallaghy and Drummully



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The Revd
Lorraine Capper

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Forgiveness

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

One of the greatest deficiencies of the human condition is that we imagine that our sins are small. Our cognitive abilities are flawed so we think – “I am a good person, I deserve more, I am worth it; so why do I keep doing and saying and thinking bad things and why do bad things keep happening to me?” – comes about because we tend to say we have no sin and so “the truth is not in us” (1 John 1.8). A baby crying, a person screaming and an alarm going off are all common examples of sounds that are annoying, disruptive or put a listener on edge. What about your sin does it challenge you to change? Or do you say “Sin? Me? No, surely not! But minimising our own sinfulness has consequences. First, when we do sin big we’re shocked and feel even more like failures. Second, it leads us to be more judgemental of others, as David is when Nathan the prophet comes to challenge him. Nathan Rebukes David:

The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. **2** The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, **3** but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

4 “Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that



Some of the Christmas events at the Galloon Group.

belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

5 David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die!

6 He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

7 Then Nathan said to David, “**You are the man!** (2 Samuel 12:1-7a)

In John 1:9 the two instances where we see the word “sins” in 1 John 1:9, it is the Greek noun hamartia that is used. According to well-known Bible scholar William Vine, hamartia (“a missing of the mark”) indicates “a principle or source of action, or an inward element producing acts . . . a governing principle or power.” In other words, it refers to the sin principle, or our sinful state on account of Adam’s sin. All of us have sinned and the good news is that all of us can be forgiven. In the first chapter of 1 John, the apostle John was addressing the heretical Gnostic doctrine that did not subscribe to a belief in man’s sinful state. John was encouraging the Gnostics to confess their sinful state and receive the Lord’s complete forgiveness and total cleansing from all their unrighteousness through His finished work at the cross. So as lent begins let us know this great truth: you



today can be forgiven because of Jesus Christ’s finished work.

Services in February 2024

Sunday 4th February 2024 - The Second Sunday Before Lent

9am: Drummully Parish Church: Holy Communion

10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church: Holy Communion

12.00 noon: Galloon Parish Church: Holy Communion





Some of the range of Christmas events in the group of parishes including Mothers' Union with Heather Kettle.

Sunday 11th February 2024 - The Sunday Before Lent

9am: Drummully Parish Church: Morning Prayer

10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church: Morning Prayer

12.00 noon: Galloon Parish Church: Morning Prayer

14th February 2023 - Ash Wednesday Service of Reflection at 8pm in Sallaghy Parish

Sunday 18th February 2024 - The First Sunday in Lent

9am: Drummully Parish Church: Family Service

10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church: Family Service

12.00 noon: Galloon Parish Church: Family Service

Sunday 25th February 2024 - The Second Sunday in Lent

9am: Drummully Parish Church: Morning Prayer

10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church: Morning Prayer

12.00 noon: Galloon Parish Church: Morning Prayer

Nativity Plays and Santa

On 17th December both Sallaghy and Galloon had their Sunday School members take part in two wonderful Family Carol Services.

Galloon

The Nativity Play was another great production, directed by Mrs Dawn Hutchinson, Sunday school Superintendent, assisted by Sunday School teachers. All the children from the Sunday School enjoyed taking part - a great team effort. The children sang verse one of "Away in a Manager". Santa made a visit giving to each child a little gift.

Sallaghy

Although we have few children and they are very young, each child made a tremendous effort in their customs and in their singing. The children sang verse one of "Away in a Manager" and "Who's That Knocking at the Door?". Little Emily Crawford led us in singing "Jingle Bells" for Santa's arrival. The children were delighted that Santa visited and gave them all a gift.

Drummully

They had Santa visit after their Carol Service on 10th December. The Parishioners also hosted a beautiful afternoon tea.

From the Registers

BAPTISM

Sallaghy: 7th January 2024, Elodie Violet



McWilliams, daughter of Teri and Glen McWilliams.

DEATHS

Galloon

Saturday 2nd December- Darryl Chambers, Greenfields, Fivemiletown.
 Wednesday 13th December - Niamh King, Main Street, Newtownbutler
 Our sympathy and prayers are with all who have been recently bereaved. We offer our sympathy to Jenny Little and her family on the passing of her sister, Eunice. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. They are blessed indeed says the Spirit, for they rest from their labours." Revelation 14:13

Mothers' Union

Drummully and Galloon had a very creative night before Christmas making angels in preparation for decorating their tree for the Christmas Tree Festival.



One of the many Christmas events.



The baptism service for the McWilliams family.



Mothers' Union making angels for the Christmas Tree Festival.

Sallaghy Mothers' Union joined in the Christmas Celebrations with Drummully and Galloon. The Christmas Party was hosted in Sallaghy Parish Hall. We were delighted to have Heather Kettle sharing some of her cooking skills and then we enjoyed sampling them afterwards!

Christmas Tree Festival

Our Christmas Tree Festival helped us all get in the Christmas spirit. We welcomed many people from the local community from Co Fermanagh, Co Tyrone, Co Armagh and Co Cavan, Co Monaghan and even from Co Meath. The Silvertones opened the festival with a fabulous and fun night of singing whilst people viewed the trees. The children really enjoyed themselves swaying and dancing to the singing. The children along with Revd Lorraine joined the Silvertones in a lively rendition of "Jingle Bells". On Saturday we were delighted to have many young and not so young lead us with a beautiful array of music from our Lewis organ. Brian Donaldson, Magazine Editor, and



Some of the images from the successful Christmas Tree Festival. See further report and photos on P69.

Mrs Diane Donaldson came to support our efforts. Bishop Ian and Mrs Heather Ellis also made a visit to view our trees and have a welcome cup of tea. Saturday evening Revd Lorraine joined with Fr Kevin to turn on the Christmas lights in Newtownbutler. Despite the storm conditions the community turned up in great numbers. The festival concluded with a very packed church for our Carol Service. We were delighted to have Lisnaskea Silver Band and the Elliott

and Ferguson families and friends who enriched our service with their musical talents. Revd Lorraine thanked all who had worked so hard to make the festival a great success: to all who had created a great variety of decorated trees; to those who made the tea; to all the musicians and to all who worked so hard behind the scenes and to the community for supporting and attending. Special thanks to Mrs Grace Rickey who was a busy lady organising and overseeing this event.

Garrison, Slavin, Belleek and Kiltyclogher



Rector:
Revd Rebecca
Guildea

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Church Services Diary FEBRUARY

Sunday 4th February

Garrison 10am HC
Slavin 11.30am HC

Sunday 11th February

Kiltyclogher 10am HC
Belleek 11.30am HC

Ash Wednesday Service – Wednesday

14th February at 9.30am

Sunday 18th February

Garrison 10am MP and FS
Slavin 11.30am MP and FS



Photos Slavin Scratch Nativity Service.



Sunday 25th February

Kiltyclogher 10am MP
Belleek 11.30am MP

MARCH

Sunday 3rd March

Garrison 10am HC
Slavin 11.30am HC

Sunday 10th March

Kiltyclogher 10am HC
Belleek 11.30am HC

Weekly Diary:

Monday: Youth Group at the Rectory at 6.30pm

Tuesday: Mothers' Union monthly as detailed below

Wednesday: Parish Prayers at the Rectory at 9.30am

Thursday: Confirmation Classes at the Rectory at 6.30pm



Kiltyclogher Christmas service.

Notes from the Rectory

I'm writing this on 'blue Monday' – apparently the saddest day of the year, the middle of January when all the money is spent, the bills come in, and the winter blues hit you full-force. Add to this that you may be in the middle of Veganuary/dry January, and perhaps you feel that all your earthly comforts have been fully stripped.

But oddly I find this time of year beautiful, and peaceful. We're all done buying and selling. Our diaries enjoy a welcome hiatus after the mad rush of December. Solicitors' offices, banks, businesses are stretching and yawning into the New Year, only just contemplating replying to that email you sent at the end of 2023. It's a sort of Sabbath season – frost glitters on the ground outside, daffodils point up tentative leaves, all is still.

We need to relearn the joy of being still, or at least I do. We are so fixated on buying and selling, planning and brokering, pinging emails back and forth, that to sit and be quiet doesn't come naturally to us. I was lamenting with someone recently that so many shops are now open on Sunday as a matter of course. It's a day like any other, and nobody gets to rest any more.

But when we do nothing, we get to see what God is doing. Like those daffodil leaves poking up through the frost-hardened ground, he surprises us, working miracles as the world lies still.



Presentation of Prayer Buddies Belleek.



Belleek Christmas service.



I was sick a week ago, and had to spend the whole week in bed, something I haven't done in years. It was annoying, frustrating, I itched to do tasks that I didn't have the energy for. But at the end of it I felt so rested.

God makes us stop for a reason. Frozen fields can't be ploughed, dwindling post-Christmas bank accounts stop our compulsive urge to buy, and when the shop's closed on Sunday you have to plan your groceries, and learn to take the seventh day easy. Recognise the frustration, and let it pass over you. Breathe. Enjoy the gift of stillness.

May God bless you.

Revd. Rebecca

Mothers' Union

A number of members of Garrison, Slavin, Belleek and Kiltyclogher Mothers' Union travelled to Maguiresbridge Parish Hall for the 16 Days of Activism Prayer Breakfast on 25th November. We received a wonderful welcome and great hospitality. During the Sunday services in November, Mothers' Union members presented the Sunday School children with their prayer buddies and Christmas Bible Story Books. Thank you to everyone who helped and supported the Mothers' Union Coffee Morning held in Garrison on 9th December to mark the 16 Days of Activism. £310 was raised from voluntary donations and it has been divided between the Aisling Centre and Women's



Aid, Enniskillen. Well done to our branch leader Dot for organising!

Our MU/Choir Christmas Meal was held in the Custom House, Belcoo. A lovely meal was enjoyed by all. Thank you to Branch Leader, Dot for organising the event and to all the staff for great service.

The February meeting is being held on Tuesday 13th February at 8pm in Garrison Church Hall. A speaker is coming to give advice about de-cluttering! Sounds a great idea for the new Year and everyone welcome to come along.

Next Wark Hall sale

The next monthly sale is on Tuesday 20th February from 9.30am in the Wark Hall.

Prayers

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

We remember George Earls who is recovering at home after a spell in hospital. George had some broken bones after a fall on the farm and we pray for a full and speedy recovery for him.

Christmas Services

Slavin

In Slavin on 10th December a 'Scratch Nativity' was held with children and adults coming dressed to participate in the service. Revd Rebecca was the Narrator and as the story was unfolded, shepherds, wise men and angels all indicated their



MU members at the Prayer Breakfast.



Attending the Coffee Morning.



presence. The choir members all dressed as angels sang the carol, 'The angel Gabriel from heaven came.' The congregation participated in the other carols, 'Little Donkey,' 'Away in a manger,' 'See Him lying in a bed of straw,' 'We three Kings of Orient are' and the final Carol was, 'Silent Night.' It was an engaging Nativity service with a difference enjoyed by everyone.

Kiltyclogher, Carols by Candlelight

A Service of Lessons and Carols was held in Kiltyclogher Church on Sunday 17th December. The service was led by Revd. Rebecca and the choir sang several pieces accompanied by Joy Graham. There were solo parts by Audrey Owens Charlotte Elliott, Mark, Debbie Eston and Robert Johnston. The church was beautifully decorated, and everyone enjoyed fellowship afterwards with mulled wine and mince pies.

Belleek, Christmas Eve

A good number of children and parents attended the 4pm Crib Service, led by Revd. Rebecca. The lessons were read by the children and they also participated in assembling, Mary, Joseph, the baby, shepherds and wise men into the crib. A special thanks to Revd. Maureen for making the beautiful Crib scene and

figures.

The Christmas Eve Service in Belleek Church at 8pm was led by Revd Rebecca. The readers were Rachel Love and James Pye. A special thanks and presentation were given to Doreen Earls for her role as organist throughout the year. We also give a special welcome to Revd Rebecca's parents Beth and Richard who have come to visit for Christmas.

Garrison Christmas Day

A Beautiful Family Service with HC was held in Garrison Church on Christmas morning to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The children enjoyed showing their toys that they received from Santa Claus. Noah Guildea sang a solo verse of 'Away in a Manger' and a duet "It was on a Starry

Night" was performed by Charlotte Elliott and Chloe Willis.

Revd Rebecca was presented with a Christmas gift from the parishioners.

Confirmation

There will be a morning service of Confirmation for our young people in the group on Sunday 21st April in Garrison Parish Church at 11.30am.

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.



The MU and Choir Christmas dinner.



Inishmacsaint

Vacant



The church exterior decorated for Christmas.



The church interior at Christmas.

Choir

Many thanks to our Musical Director, Gillian Rutherford who is the best musician and music leader in the diocese (bar none). Our Carols by Candlelight was very well supported and, as usual,

the choir sang beautifully. They went on to the Lough Erne Golf Resort to entertain the guests at the hotel (pictured).

Sunday School

Sunday School continues under the



The choir in church.

excellent directorship of Rachel Elliott helped by Dale Gun and Lucy Muldoon. Santa came to the Sunday School Christmas party!

Action for Children

Many thanks to those who contributed to our efforts to provide toys and gifts for children in need in our community.

Pantomime 'Ruth'

Many thanks to all who supported the parish pantomime 'Ruth' in November and to all those who took part either on stage or behind the scenes.

Sympathy

The parish extends its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the late Peggy Ferguson formerly of Churchill; the late Margaret Barton formerly of Springfield; the late Maisie Fee

formerly of Tempo, and the late Viola Loane formerly of Kesh.

**Parish Register
HOLY BURIAL**

■ 1st December 2023
Margaret Anne (Peggy) Ferguson
Tullynagowan, Churchill.



The Sunday School party.



Old farmers in the pantomime.



Leeanne and Terry.



Some of the cast of the pantomime, Ruth.



Jim and Doris.



The choir in the Lough Erne Resort.

HOLY MATRIMONY

■ 2nd December 2023
Jason Ferguson and Liesbeth Mouwen
■ 16th December 2023
Karen Wray and Simon Kelly



Jason and Liesbeth.



Karen and Simon and dogs.

Kilskeery and Trillick



Rector:
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Confident and Courageous Faith

John's Gospel does a great job at presenting Jesus to its readers. John is deeply interested in presenting his readership with the evidence found in the life and ministry of Jesus, seen in his signs and wonders and revealed in the feasts and parties of Israel; evidence that, John considers absolutely leads the inquiring mind to the conclusion that Jesus is the Son of God and through belief in Him we discover life in his name. The Gospel reminds us that our Christian faith is not airy-fairy as some would have us believe but evidence-based, fact-checked, and revealed in its context. The Christian who has found life in Jesus' name has every right to be confident in their faith, for it stands up to scrutiny and continues 2000 years later to impact the nations of the world through individuals who experience the power of the Gospel message to transform even the darkest of hearts. As some suggest, it appears that our culture is increasingly antagonistic to the claims of the Christian faith, yet what does that say about that culture if it sets itself at odds with a well-evidenced, heavily scrutinized, scientifically literate faith that works? Does it suggest another agenda that dismisses evidence and science and facts and reason for other reasons? For the Christian who doesn't read their Bible or work out their salvation with fear and trembling, who doesn't walk in the Spirit, who fails to pray and keep open the means of communication with their Lord and Saviour, they stand on shaky ground, for they haven't built their life on the Word of God. Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish builders is most appropriate with this thought. If our faith and spiritual foundations are questionable so will be our stickability and commitment, our good godly judgement and our ability to influence our world and immediate circumstances



Christmas events in the parishes.



because it will all be in our own strength, with our own wisdom and not Gods. As the year moves on why not make it a goal to build strong biblical foundations to your faith, to maintain an open line to Father God, to familiarize yourself with the One who inspired scripture the Holy Spirit of God, and gain courage and confidence, to voice, with grace and authority that Jesus is indeed the Son of God and through believing and building your life upon His words, you and anyone who accepts them, will find and experience life in His name.

An Evening of Music and Fellowship

We enjoyed an evening of entertainment and good craic and fine conversation along with the obligatory cup of tea and good food. The entertainment was provided by the Strule River String Band who gave us a mix of tunes and humour, also we were blessed by the mellow tones of Kilskeery Silver Band who joined us for their first concert since Covid, there was a special appearance from our Sunday School Children who were a real hit and then our music group performed a number of pieces too. It was an evening enjoyed by all and an opportunity to socialise with friends from far

and near.

Children's Christmas Party

Our Children's Christmas Party was a great success with children from our Sunday Schools, Girls' Brigade, R.O.A.R. Boys' Club, and local School. There were party games, running games, Christmas crafts, party food and a special visit from Santa Claus who generously brought gifts for every boy and girl.

Queen Elizabeth II Christmas Carol Service in Kilskeery Church

Our neighbouring primary school, the excellent Queen Elizabeth II Primary School, blessed us with a beautiful and well-rehearsed performance and presentation of the Christmas story mixed with musical pieces and Advent items. A huge thank you to the school, head mistress, teachers, classroom assistants and pupils who reminded us that Jesus is the reason for the season.

Switching on of Kilskeery Village Christmas Lights

Each year Kilskeery Village residents as well as those who are privileged enough to be



The Strule River Band and Kilskeery Silver Band entertaining.

driving through the village after dark are blessed by the bright and festive Kilskeery Christmas lights that do really brighten things up for about three weeks each year. There was an official switching on of the Christmas Lights at which Kilskeery Silver Band blessed us in playing for us a selection of Christmas Carols which added to that Christmas mood. There is quite a bit of work done behind the scenes to make this happen and keep it happening, so a big thank you to all who set up and took down and maintained the lights over the Christmas season.

Weekly Schedule

Monday: Girls' Brigade at 6.30pm
Mothers Union at 8.00pm (3rd Monday of




the month)
Tuesday: Senior Citizen's Club at 2.00pm
Guitar Class at 7.00 – 8.00pm
Wednesday: R.O.A.R. Boys' Club at 6.30 – 8.00pm
Midweek Fellowship at 8.00pm
Thursday: Prayer Meeting at 9.00am



Friday: Bowling Club at 8.00pm
Saturday: Messy Kids (as and when arranged)
Sunday: Christ Church Parish, Trillick at 10.30am
Kilskeery Parish Church at 11.45am

Lisbellaw with Coolbuck



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Looking Back

There has been much activity across the parish since writing my last notes and whilst reflecting on the various events I am left with an overwhelming sense of thankfulness to Almighty God. I am also truly thankful to many faithful parishioners, to the community and neighbouring parishes for the many acts of love, sharing and good neighbourliness during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Advent Sunday brought with it a lovely personal surprise when my younger brother, Revd Dr Ken Jeffrey (Church of Scotland) – home for our father's birthday - and my mother, Isobel turned up for morning worship which happened to be Parish Communion.

Holy Baptism

It gives me great pleasure and joy to report on four baptisms within the parish. On Sunday morning 19 November 2023, Sophia Eileen Walker was baptised in Lisbellaw Parish Church. In the afternoon of the same day at our beautiful Chapel of Ease, Coolbuck, Archie Mervyn Robbie



Beacom was baptised. The following Sunday morning in Lisbellaw Parish Church, 26 November, Sophia Louise Dunlop was baptised. Then on Sunday morning 10 December 2023, Willow Marnie Violet Barltrop was baptised. May God bless and protect these four precious babies and their parents and families as they grow and are nurtured in the Christian faith.

Advent and Christmas Services 2023/24

From the Third Sunday of Advent (17 December 2023) to the Naming and Circumcision of Jesus (Monday 1 January 2024), we had nine services taking place between Lisbellaw and Coolbuck. A huge



The three baptisms in the parish.

thank you to all who faithfully attended and participated in the various acts of worship – through reading, music, singing, praying and the wonderful drama of the



The Rector with his younger brother and mother.





Nativity enhanced by having Chloe, a beautiful little donkey from Fermanagh Fun Farm present. Our sincere thanks (as always) to Alan Potters. Well done to our Sunday School and Bridge teachers who had our children and young people so well prepared in bringing the true meaning and message of Christmas home to us all. And to our children and young people for their participation you are such a blessing. On the Saturday before the Nativity Service following the last rehearsal in the Parish Church we rounded off a splendid afternoon with a traditional Christmas Party in the Parish Centre.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight was another highlight – along with the Crib and Midnight Eucharist Services on Christmas Eve at Coolbuck. A special mention to Isobel Stewart, our faithful and esteemed Parish Reader for her ongoing assistance and contribution to services and to John Gordon, Rector's Churchwarden for making the most beautiful Nativity Stable for Coolbuck which absolutely made the Children's Crib Service at 5pm on Christmas Eve.

And if the Nativity Stable was to complete the Crib Service then an outstanding ensemble from the wonderful Ballyreagh Silver Band was to be the icing on the cake in leading our musical worship at the Christmas Eve Midnight Eucharist. My sincere thanks to Ballyreagh and cousin, Ivor Little for once again superbly enhancing our worship and making this important service so special.

So, to Christmas Day and a week later The

Naming & Circumcision of Jesus my thanks to all for your attendance and participation in these services of Holy Communion. The Parish Choir, David Abraham, Lynda Lindsay, her daughter Alice, Charlotte Johnston, and Sam Bartrop also require special mention for their wonderful musical talents which they shared with us – at the Nine Lessons service and through outreach via the Parish Facebook page. Sincere thanks to Frances Boyd for her diligent oversight skill and management of our Parish Facebook page. And to our wonderful talented ladies at Lisbellaw and Coolbuck who once again quietly excelled in having our two churches so tastefully prepared with festive flowers and foliage – and not least the preparation of candles for our Nine Lessons service.

Rector's Black Santa Sit-Out

Wednesday 20 December witnessed the Rector's 12-hour Sit-Out from 6.30am to 6.30pm at Lisbellaw Parish Church. Despite the challenging weather conditions the support from the parish, village, community, neighbouring parishes, across the churches - was both humbling and outstanding. Sincere thanks to all who supported the Sit-Out.

We had over 200 people at the Parish Church on the day with many taking the opportunity to spend quiet, quality, special time to be still in God's House. Special thanks to Bishop Ian and his wife Heather, Dean Kenny, Brian Donaldson, Lisbellaw Veterans Group, Lisbellaw Primary School, local businesspeople, friends, family



Christmas at Lisbellaw Parish

members, parishioners and individuals who all turned up and gave tremendous support. The total amount raised was £2,861.09; half the amount £1,430.55 was presented to Woman's Aid, Fermanagh on 10 January with the other half going to parish funds. In addition to the Sit-Out and supporting the work of Woman's Aid, Lisbellaw Parish with Coolbuck this Christmas supported The Pantry (Foodbank at Lisnaskea), Operation Christmas Child (Shoe Box Appeal) and through our parishioners; Wes and Naomi, the Bright Eyes Animal Sanctuary. Thank you to all who supported these causes in any way.

Looking Forward

We look forward to reporting on two further Holy Baptisms planned during February along with the annual Thinking Day service in the next edition of the Clogher Diocesan Magazine.

As we journey towards the penitential season of Lent, I would prayerfully encourage you to attend as many services as possible inviting and bringing with you family members, neighbours, and friends. All will be extremely welcome.

During our midweek - Wednesday evening



Supporting the Rector at the sit-out.





Ballyreagh Band members playing at a service.

Lenten services at 8pm in the Parish Church - I plan to draw on the 2024 Lent Book entitled, 'Lent with the Beloved Disciple' written by Bishop Michael Marshall.

I should like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Holy and Blessed Lent.

Every Blessing,
Revd William

Services

Sunday 4 February

11am HC Lisbellaw; 3pm HC Coolbuck



Jean and Ann.

Wednesday 7 February

10.30am HC Lisbellaw; **NB After today midweek HC will cease and recommence following Lent 2024 – date tbc.*

Sunday 11 February

11am SOTW and Holy Baptism Lisbellaw;
3pm EP Coolbuck

Ash Wednesday 14 February

8pm Ash Wednesday Service Lisbellaw

Sunday 18 February

9.45am HC Lisbellaw; 11am SOTW and Holy Baptism Lisbellaw; 3pm 'Thinking Day



A donkey from the Fun Farm arrives for the Nativity.

Service' Lisbellaw.

**NB No Service in Coolbuck, but all Coolbuck Parishioners are warmly invited to any &/or all three services in Lisbellaw today.*

Wednesday 21 February

8pm Mid-Week Lenten Service Lisbellaw

Sunday 25 February

11am MP Lisbellaw; 3pm EP Coolbuck

Wednesday 28 February

8pm Mid-Week Lenten Service Lisbellaw

Lisnaskea



Rector:
**The Revd
Alan Capper**

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Services for February 2024

Sunday 4th

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday 11th

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer

Ash Wednesday 14th

The church will be open from 10.00am-12.00noon and 7.00pm – 9.00pm for prayer and reflection.

3.00pm Holy Communion in Trinity Hall for Seniors.

Sunday 18th

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer

Sunday 25th

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

Burial

■ 4th December - Robert Richard Derek Armstrong, Kilmore South, Lisnaskea.

■ 2nd January - Jean Cathcart, 4 Castlebalfour Park, Lisnaskea.

Our prayers and sympathies are with the Armstrong and Cathcart families at this time.

In 2024 the World NEEDS Jesus

The World has ALWAYS needed Jesus but in this year especially, in 2024, there is a need which seems to surpass every other thing that has gone before.

Israel - Hamas. Russia - Ukraine war. Tension between China and Taiwan. Economic Crisis. Cost of Living Crisis. North Korea - South Korea.

And yet, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

God clearly loves us and has provided for us, everything that we need.

As we consider the world, it is so easy to forget about ourselves. The focus remains on "everybody else", or there are always other people worse off than me.

But perhaps NOW is the time to think about ME. God certainly loves the World as we can see in John 3:16 but does He actually love

ME? You would be surprised at how many people (and church people) don't actually STOP and consider this for themselves. We KNOW that Jesus Christ IS the Saviour of the World but is He MY Saviour? Does our Father in heaven actually love ME? If the World needs Jesus in 2024, perhaps I need Him too...

Carol Service

Our Carol service took place on Sunday 17th December. Members of the Sunday School read lessons and prayers and took part in a "Secret Santa" which everyone enjoyed. Carols were led by Letty on the organ and members of Lisnaskea Silver Band. It was lovely to have so many take part and to see the church so beautifully decorated as usual. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way.

World Day of Prayer

The service this year has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine and will be taking place in our church on Friday 1st March at 8.00 p.m. Everyone is very welcome to attend and refreshments will be served.

Ladies' Breakfast

A Ladies' breakfast has been organised in the parish for Saturday 23rd March. The speaker will be Revd. Lorna Dreading and everyone is very welcome. Please put this date in your diary and more details will follow next month.

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.**

Parish Register

DEATHS

- 12 November 2023 – Sarah Eva Taylor
Our sympathy and prayers are with her son Basil (Denise), daughter Hazel (Peter) grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
- 28 December 2023 – Anne Nixon
Our sympathy and prayers are with her sons Rodney (Sonya), Dwayne (Christina), Gary (Clare) and her grandchildren.

Pilates

Pilates continues in the Archdale Hall on Mondays from 9.30am – 10.30am. All abilities welcome and it is for everybody;

- Core Strength
- Mind & Body Connection
- Flexibility
- Full Body Workout and Stretch

Pay as you go £5 per class. The Pilates method teaches you to be in control of your body and not at its mercy.

Baby and Toddler Group

This continues each Tuesday morning at 10.00am in the Archdale Hall. The group had a very special visitor on Tuesday 12 December 2023 at their end of year party. Thank you to the Mothers' Union ladies who provide refreshments each week for the children and the adults.



Christmas events in Ballinamallard including the annual sit-out.



hard work and also to baby Oscar for playing the part of baby Jesus. Well done everyone.

Carol Service

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Carol Service: Ballinamallard Silver Band; the Parish Choir under the leadership of Rita Stewart; the Readers and everyone who got the Church ready for the service or helped in any way with the organising.

Mothers' Union

Eight members attended the 16 Days of Activism Prayer Breakfast in

Youth Fellowship

Well done to everyone who took part in the "Bake Off" on Sunday 19 November 2023. Thank you to everyone who came and supported the Young People, it was a fantastic evening. A special thank you to the ladies (Nicola and Doris) from the Mallard Bakery for judging.

Christmas deliveries

On Sunday 10 December the members delivered small bags of blessings containing sweets and Christmas wishes to over 40 houses in the village. 50 Youth Fellowship Christmas cards were sent out to the housebound and sick from both the Methodist Church and Church of Ireland. GFS with their Christmas baking – well done girls!

Annual Sit-out

The Annual Sit-out raised £4,900. Thank you to everyone for their generosity. The proceeds will be forwarded to SWELL and the Mallard Hub.

Nativity Service

This took place on Sunday 17 December 2023. Thank you to all the Sunday School teachers, helpers and children for all their





Mothers' Union members.

Maguiresbridge Parish Church Hall on Saturday 25 November 2023. The end of year outing took place on Saturday 2 December to the Christmas Tree Festival in St John's Church, Florencecourt. There was a vast array of Christmas trees to admire prepared by a wide range of individuals, groups, businesses, charities, schools and churches. Each tree was themed around a Christmas Carol. The creativity and inventiveness displayed was amazing and



a credit to those involved. The ladies had a wonderful afternoon which included afternoon tea in the Annexe Hall. To finish off the evening we made our way to the Custom House, Belcoo where we had a lovely evening meal. There was a very good attendance for our first meeting of 2024 in the Archdale Hall. After the opening hymn, Bible reading and prayers, Norma Scott, our Branch Leader welcomed four of our members who had brought along their crafts to show us.



Tree cutting in the graveyard.

Rita, Vivienne, Doris and Wilma displayed a wealth of Cross Stitch, Crochet and Knitted items which they created in their spare time. Iris Elliott received Happy Birthday wishes. Muriel Gilmore and Olive Nixon were wished a speedy recovery. A special service will take place on 10th March where some members will be issued with long service membership certificates. Our next meeting is on 1 February when Revd Lorraine Capper will talk on fashion.



Trees in Churchyard

Work has commenced on removing the dangerous trees around the perimeters of the churchyard. The roots of the trees were undermining the wall along the side of the river leaving it vulnerable to collapse.

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.

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Parish Administrator: Sonia Evans
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Parish Office, The Fountain Centre, Kesh
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Website: www.ardess.org

Christmas 2023

Christmas 2023 in Ardess Parish Church, was a blessed one. The congregation shared their memories with hearts, which hung on trees of light. The trees of light were placed in every window of the Church. The message reminded us that the Light of the World overcomes Darkness, Giving us Hope. Organised by Phil and Liz Crook.

Peace Light

The Peace Light from Bethlehem arrived on its journey from Israel, to Enniskillen, on the evening of Saturday 23rd December 2023.

In attendance at the Distribution Service, held at both St. Michael's Church and St Macartin's Cathedral were; Harry Milligan, Ryan Milligan and Maurice Lee representing 1st Magheraculmoney Scout Group, along with Caroline Neville and



Decorations at Christmas.

Louie Lee representing the Guides. Also in attendance was Stephen Donaldson, NI Chief Commissioner for Scouting. On Sunday 24th December 2023, Harry and Maurice assisted Revd Abraham Storey to light the Advent

Candle in Ardess Parish Church, using the flame from the Peace Light. The background to the Peace Light's journey from Bethlehem to Ardess Parish Church, was shared with a prayer.



Scout leaders Maurice Lee, Stephen Donaldson and Ryan Milligan with Harry.



Harry helping Revd Abraham Storey and Maurice Lee light the Advent Candle.

Maguiresbridge and Derrybrusk



Rector:
The Revd Lindsey Farrell

The Rectory, 15 Drumgoon Road,
Maguiresbridge, Co. Fermanagh BT94 4PB

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***'And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.'* 1 Corinthians 13:13**

This verse is taken from a piece of Scripture that is frequently read at weddings, and although it is important to consider love – especially at a wedding! – I think we often miss the fact that the love referred to by the apostle Paul who wrote these words, is applicable to



Attending the over 60's dinner.

all of us. We, as the body of Christ, as members of His very special family, are called to love one another deeply. In this particular chapter, the apostle Paul says, Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy. It does not boast. It is not proud. It does not dishonour others. It is not self-seeking. Paul says so much more, and he also describes how ineffective all of our tasks are if they are not rooted in love. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to show love to one another in this deep, and indeed often challenging way. In a world that is too quick to promote love of ourselves above everything else, we need to turn the other cheek and show those around us the power that love can have when we put others first. When we offer care and support, help and kindness

to those in need, we fulfil Christ's call to love as he first loved us. And in fulfilling this call faithfully, we will inadvertently help ourselves too, because showing kindness and generosity to others fills our hearts with a powerful sense of peace and joy that can only come from Christ, and following his teaching. So, as we move into the season of love that February and Valentine's day promotes, I ask you to consider your love for others. Are you fulfilling Christ's call to love as He loved? Are you putting the needs of others before your own? Are you opening yourself up to the joy that giving generously and loving deeply can bring? Take a moment and imagine how good our world would be if we all loved one another with the love described by the



The nativity service.



apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 13. In a world that promotes love of self at every turn, let's stand firm and unleash the power and joy that loving others can bring – just as Christ taught us!

Parish Activity

We had a busy festive period in both churches.

Christmas arrived early in Maguiresbridge with our first carol service taking place on Sunday 26th November. This was a carol service held for the Women's Orange Lodges across the county. It was a very well attended and uplifting service, and it was encouraging to see so many younger members taking part. Refreshments were served afterwards.

We ran an Advent Bible study which met over the four weeks of the Advent season. This informal Wednesday morning gathering allowed us to take a closer look at the meaning of Advent, and to take some time away from the busyness of Christmas preparations. A very positive and encouraging way to spend our mid-week time!

On Saturday 2nd December, we held our over 60s community Christmas Dinner. This was very well attended and our catering team served a wonderful three course meal which was enjoyed by everyone. It was great to see so many coming together from across the community, and from both Churches. Sincere thanks to our fantastic team of volunteers who worked so hard to make

this such a special afternoon. Thanks also to those who helped in setting up and tidying away, to our musician and to all who helped and supported in any way. A great way to begin the festive season! On Sunday 17th December we celebrated the nativity in both Churches. It was wonderful to see so many of our Sunday School taking part. A sincere word of thanks to our Sunday School teachers in both Churches, and to Hazel for working so hard with the young people on this important event. Indeed our nativity play in Derrybrusk was even more special as it was the first nativity that had taken place there in 22 years! This is thanks to our wonderful team of volunteers who work so tirelessly. Thanks also to all of our families for coming out in support as this makes such a difference to our young people. And thanks to our young people too. It is so encouraging to see them confidently taking their place in Church life! Thank you to our catering teams in both Churches for serving refreshments after the services, and to our special visitor in Maguiresbridge who delivered some special treats to our young people!

Looking ahead

Confirmation

Confirmation classes continue for our young people from both Churches. The service is scheduled for Sunday 14th April 2024 at 10.30am in Maguiresbridge. Please remember our young people in prayer as they prepare for this important



The baptism of twins.

step in their faith.

Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union meets at 8pm on Monday 5th February 2024 in Maguiresbridge.

The speaker is from the Community PSNI.

Annual Dance

Our annual dance takes place on Friday 16th February 2024 in Christ Church Hall. Dancing begins at 9pm with music by Curtis Magee. Refreshments will be served. All proceeds in aid of Church funds. Please polish up your dancing shoes and come along and support!

From the Registers

On Sunday 10th December 2024 we had the Baptism of twins in Maguiresbridge. We continue to pray for Dean Edward and Jamie George, for their older brother Jenson, and for their parents Stuart and Heather as they grow in faith together.

Monaghan, Tydavnet and Kilmore



Rector:
**The Revd
Chancellor
Ian Berry**

The Rectory, Clones Road, Monaghan,
Co. Monaghan.
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Diocesan Pastoral Assistant: Mr Walter
Pringle

Services

4th February Second Sunday before Lent
10.30am St Patrick's (and on Facebook live)

12.15pm Kilmore

11th February Sunday before Lent

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

12.15pm Ballinode

16th February First Sunday in Lent

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

12.15pm Kilmore

25th February Second Sunday in Lent

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

12.15pm Ballinode

3rd March Third Sunday in Lent

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

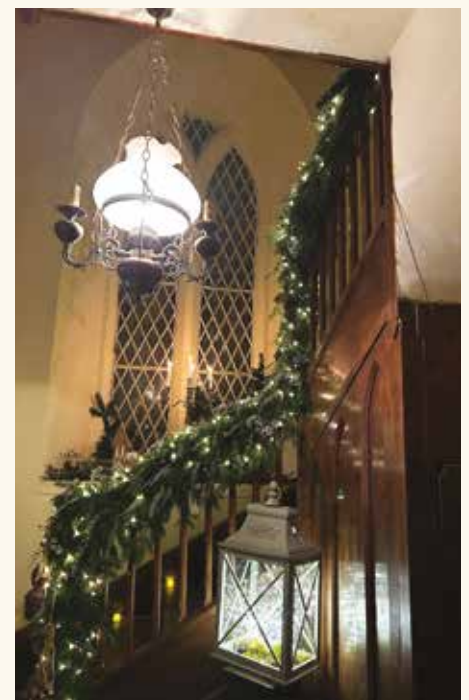
12.15pm Kilmore

Faith Mission Bus

Working with Monaghan Methodist, First Monaghan and Ballyalbany Presbyterian churches, we hosted the Faith Mission Gospel Truck during the first weekend in Advent.

This year we were able (thanks to permission from Monaghan Town Council) to have the truck parked just behind the church in the shopping centre car park.

This made it possible for some local



Christmas scenes from Kilmore Parish.



Christmas scenes from Kilmore Parish.



primary schools to come in the mornings for Christmas assemblies. There was also three days of outreach, lots of tea and coffee, a bookshop, The Faith Mission Gospel truck is a ministry headed up by Andrew and Carolyn Maybin. You can find out more about it at <https://faithmission.org/gospeltruck>

Carol Services

The first carol service was held in partnership with Monaghan Methodist, First Monaghan and Ballyalbany Presbyterian churches as a drive-in service in the shopping centre car park using the Faith Mission Truck.

The Ladies' Group held their Interdenominational Carol Service with a full church on Tuesday 12th December. Those singing/playing were Janice Niblock, Monaghan Model School, Beech Hill College Choir and the Lawlor Family with Monaghan Brass Band accompanying the

congregational carols. The offering in aid of Cú Chulainn Bood Bikes North East and Féileacáin Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Association, came to €2600 Ballinode held their carol service on Sunday 18th December.

Kilmore's candle-light carol service was on Friday 22nd with Roy Crowe as our guest singer.

Our thanks to all who helped to organise the services and especially to the readers and singers.

We also were pleased to host the Model School Christmas Assembly with all the classes reading and singing.

Christmas Services

The Group Services on Christmas Day were in St. Patrick's. A traditional communion Service was held at 9.30am followed at 10.30am by an All-Age Communion Service.

Mothers' Union and Ladies Group

The groups joined together for a very successful trip to the Bord Gais Theatre to see Phil Coulter.

The Mothers' Union held their AGM in St Patrick's church on Tuesday 9th January.

The following were elected to office.

Branch Leader: Mrs. Dorothy Adams

Asst. Branch Leader: Mrs. Muriel Treacy

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Hilary Workman

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Frances Ebbs

The next meeting will be held on 7th February.

The Ladies' Group met on Tuesday 16th January for a talk by Alison Bole

Illness

Prayer is requested for all those from our group who are ill at home or in hospital and those in residential care and their families.

Rossorry



Rector:
**Revd Stephen
McWhirter**

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Parish Office: T: 028 66 329889

Diocesan Pastoral Assistant:
Mrs Joan Nelson



Guide unit leaders past and present at the special anniversary event,

Sunday Services

Sunday 4th February 2024

The Second Sunday Before Lent

9.00am – Holy Communion

10.30am – Family Holy Communion

Sunday 11th February 2024

The Sunday before Lent

9.00am – Holy Communion

10.30am – Morning Prayer

Sunday 18th February 2024

The First Sunday in Lent

9.00am – Holy Communion

10.30am – Morning Prayer

Sunday 25th February 2024

The Second Sunday in Lent

9.00am – Holy Communion

10.30am - Morning Prayer

It's hard to believe we're so far through the year already, Christmas seems only behind us and we now look forward to Easter. The first signs of spring are already around, a harbinger of the promise of new life promised in the glory of Easter resurrection. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 14th February. Throughout Lent we will hold two mid-week services each Wednesday. The first at 10.30am, a service of Holy Communion (form one) as is part of our weekly worship throughout the year. Later, at 7.30pm, there will be a service of Compline. This again will be a contemplative service with plenty of space for private reflection and prayer. I encourage you to take up either of these services as part of your commitment to your Lenten preparation for Easter.

A Poem for Lent

It is my Lent to break my Lent,
To eat when I would fast,
To know when slender strength is spent,
Take shelter from the blast
When I would run with wind and rain,
To sleep when I would watch.



Rainbows at work.

It is my Lent to smile at pain
But not ignore its touch.
It is my Lent to listen well
When I would be alone,
To talk when I would rather dwell
In silence, turn from none
Who call on me, to try to see
That what is truly meant
Is not my choice. If Christ's I'd be
It's thus I'll keep my Lent.
– Madeleine L'Engle

Epiphany Lecture

In our series of Epiphany Lectures, we were delighted to welcome Liam McCarthy, founding member of the Ulster Speleological Society and Caving Club, who was joined by local caver Ray Bell. We enjoyed an interesting and informative evening about our local geological area, principally the Marble Arch cave system, their formation and importance within Ireland.



Scout leaders at their anniversary event and a cake is cut by Guide and Scout leaders





Revd Stephen with Liam McCarthy and Ray Bell speaking about caving at the Epiphany Lecture.

Rossorry Mothers' Union

Our branch members met on Wednesday 6 December for a meal in Saddlers Restaurant which was enjoyed by all. In January our opening meeting of 2024 was a Service of Holy Communion followed by the AGM.

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

Rossorry Rainbows continued to enjoy their Autumn term of activities, before finishing for Christmas with a visit to the Cinema for a private screening of the Disney Wish movie, and an end of term Christmas party.

Activities have been varied and have included an evening of exciting experiments, Christmas puppet making, lots of work on the girls Storyteller and Drawing badges and as always, lots of games. We even made our own model skiers to test the effects of friction with different surfaces. Finally, the girls took part in the Church Service at the end of November to mark 40 years of Guiding (and 35 years of Rainbows) in Rossorry.

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

In November the Youth Organisations celebrated their anniversaries with the Scouts celebrating 60 years of Scouting in Rossorry. The service itself



was well attended by all sections and dignitaries from all over the County and included active participations from all sections, who renewed their promise as part of the proceedings. Following the service, the congregation were invited to refreshments and the cutting of the anniversary cake. The weekend was certainly one to remember, a lovely weekend mixed with plenty of outdoor activity and adventure. The Scout and Explorer activity day on the Saturday comprised of a hike over Benaughlin mountain and down through Florencecourt forest. The Cubs went on a scavenger hunt through the church grounds and enjoyed indoor activities with the Brownies. An all sections barbecue was enjoyed with our guiding community at Rossorry in the hall that Saturday afternoon.

Peace Service

Each year between Enniskillen Cathedral and St Michael's Church there is a Bethlehem Peace light service attended by local scouts and guides. The light travels from Bethlehem throughout Europe. This year the service took place

on Saturday 23rd December and we were delighted with the turn out and support from the Rossorry Group.



Mark Crawford with the King's Scout Award.



At the Peace Service.



Scouts on the hills.



King's Scout

Congratulations to Scout and Explorer Mark Crawford who has recently obtained his King's Scout Award, the first in the county to do so. Mark was presented with his award on Friday 5th January at a special function at Belfast City Hall and has spent his Scouting

life at Rossorry as a Scout and Explorer Scout. Over the years at Rossorry, Mark has attended the World Scout Jamboree in Japan, obtained his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and now completed his Kings Scout Award. Rossorry Scout Group would like to wish Mark all the best in his future endeavours.

The Parish Office

The Office is open with reduced hours at present, please do leave a message and someone will return your call as soon as possible. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Tel: 02866 329889

email: rossorryoffice@btintemet.com

Website: rossorryparish.com

Facebook: Rossorry Parish Church

Parish Registers

HOLY BAPTISM

SLOAN, Martha Kate, daughter of Robbie and Emma Sloan at Rossorry Parish Church on Sunday 31st December 2023. Service conducted by Revd. Stephen McWhirter.

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 14th February 2024

Ash Wednesday

10.30am – Holy Communion

7.30pm – A Service for Ash Wednesday



Baptism for the Ferguson family.

blessing and success of these services, our organists Ryan Crawford (Clabby), Carole Graham (Tempo) and the choir who led the singing of the familiar Carols. In Tempo the choir and some of the children and their parents sang 'Away in a Manger.' Thank you to those who read the lessons, the young people who led the prayers and to the Sunday School children in Clabby who told us the Christian meaning of the symbols; The tree, wreath, candle, bells, baby, candy cane, star, holly, cross and presents. Finally thanks to those who provided refreshments at both services.

Diary Dates

■ 8 February 2024 - Annual Table Quiz in Tempo Church Hall at 8 p.m. Everyone

Tempo and Clabby



Rector:
The Revd Canon
Maurice Armstrong

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Marriage

8 December 2023 - Jordon Dougan, Creavehill Road, Fivemiletown and Megan Gardiner, Tattymoyle Road, Fintona. Wishing God's Blessing on this young couple as they begin life as a married couple and build their lives and home together.

Funeral

14 December 2023 - Gordon Archibald Browne, Clabby Road, Clabby. Our prayers and sympathy are extended to Gordon's wife Lily, daughter Lavina (Rodney), son-in-law Nicky and all the family circle.

Carol Services

Thanks to all who contributed to the

welcome.

■ 13 February 2024 - Mothers' Union at 8pm with theme; Mothers' Union Handy Work by Lorna.

■ 25 February 2024 - Family Service speaker, Mr. David Armstrong (Crosslink's) with special collection for the work of Trevor and Andrea Watson, our link Missionaries in Sweden.

■ 8 March 2024 – Tempo Variety Concert at 8pm in Tempo Church Hall with Derryclavin Pipe Band, Lisbellaw Primary School Choir, Brookeborough Flute Band and Alastair Scott Ceildah Band.

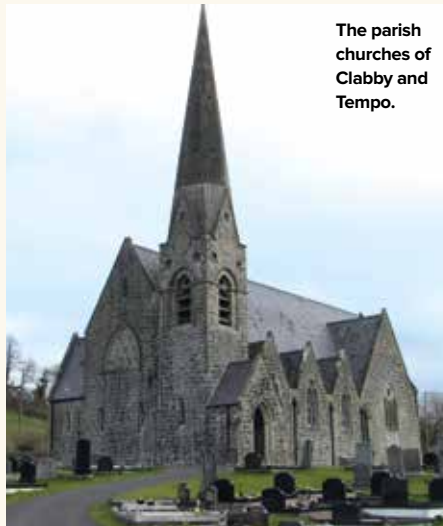
Jesus was –

It seems just a brief time since we celebrated the birth of Jesus soon we will begin the season of Lent when traditionally we reflect on the suffering, the temptations of Christ leading to Holy Week and His death.

John 1 v 14 Reminds us that Jesus was the Son of God, The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Through the gospels we have evidence of Jesus being fully human in having the same feelings we have, even being tempted, yet he didn't sin.

"We have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin". (Hebrews 4 v 15).

Because Jesus has been there, he understands when we are tempted, He is our example how to overcome them



The parish churches of Clabby and Tempo.



"Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted".

Yet in the gospels we see Jesus as fully God, by the miracles he performed the healing of people, raising the dead, exorcised demons, feeding 4,000 and 5,000 people from a few loaves and fishes, calming the sea and walking on water.

Jesus was not 50% man 50% God he was 100% both. But ultimately both Paul and Peter remind us, to bring us from where we are in our relationship with God because of our sin to where we can be,

all because of Jesus.

2nd Corinthians 5 v 21 "God made him who had no sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God".

1st Peter 3 v 18 "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God".

It cost Jesus to leave his place in Heaven to come to earth, to go the cross. He lived a life of obedience to his Fathers will. He now calls us to become like him, live like him and one day by trusting him, following him and living for him, he will "Transform our lovely bodies so that they will be like his glorious body".

Trory and Killadeas



Rector:
Revd Mark
Gallagher

The Rectory, 138 Killadeas Road, Rossfad, Ballinamallard.
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A packed Christmas 2022

We had a great Advent and Christmas in our parishes this year including the Trory Christmas lights switch on with Irvinestown Community Choir, Carols by Candlelight in Killadeas, our All-Age



Mothers' Union and friends at the Christmas Lunch in Mahon's Hotel, Irvinestown.

'Christmas Cracker' services which included our pop-up Sunday School nativity plays, with a live baby Jesus in both parishes, Midnight Holy Communion on Christmas Eve in Killadeas, and Christmas Day in Trory. A few photos of our Christmas events have been included. It was a source of great joy to see both our parishes so full for the Christmas period, and after the parish Christmas card deliveries, seeing so

many new faces out as well It was also a delight to have our parishes creative, and traditional services highlighted in the Impartial Reporter. It was also brilliant to see so many of our young people out and enjoying church at all services, whether modern or traditional. Please encourage our young people to continue to come out with regular frequency throughout the rest of the year. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or sit in a nearby



Trory Sunday School Christmas outing to see 'Wonka.'

pew, or live on the same street, all of you have a role in encouraging them to come along and take their part as members of the whole church family.

Until we meet again Sarah

On New Year's eve, as well as the year coming to an end, Sarah Maguire's placement with us as part of her training to become a diocesan lay reader also came to an end. It has been an absolute joy to have Sarah with us over the last three months, and we wish her the very best as she moves forward. We also look forward to seeing her again when she comes back to visit us occasionally when she is a fully licensed lay reader. All the best Sarah, and we look forward to having you with us again soon.

Parish Pancakes

We had a fantastic parish pancake party last year and this year we're going to do something similar but this year Parish Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday will be in held in Ballycassidy Hall on Tuesday 13th February, and with sweet pancakes only. Please support it with as much vigour and enthusiasm this year. In moving to the Ballycassidy Hall, we will also be able to have some fun and games as part of the night. Suggested donation of £5 per person.



Saying farewell to Sarah Maguire after her placement with us

Ash Wednesday and Lent

Easter is early this year, and that means Ash Wednesday and Lent will be upon us before we know where we are.

Ash Wednesday falls on 14th February (Valentine's Day) so if you are romantically minded, but also want to come to church for this service, perhaps book your table for later in the evening. The service will be at 7pm, and Revd. Mark promises it will be over in time for you to make an 8pm meal out (The Ash Wednesday service usually lasts for around 35 minutes.)

Ash Wednesday, and subsequent Lent midweek services this year will be held in Killadeas Parish Church on Wednesdays at 7pm, and then we will move to Trory for Holy Week again at 7pm. Please note that this means that this year Holy Week will be on Facebook, but if you want to be part of the Lent services, you will have to details of Holy Week and Easter in next month's magazine.

St. Patrick's Weekend Fun Night

On Friday 15th March there will be another community fun evening in Ballycassidy Hall. This year we once again draw on the Ulster heritage of St. Patrick, with our food for the evening being an Ulster Fry, and entertainment will be Ulster Scots themed too. More details in next month's magazine.

Killadeas All Age Services

After the success of our All-Age services for Easter, Children's Day, Harvest and Nativity in 2023, we are trialling an all-age service on an (almost) monthly basis this year. The pattern is to have these all-age services on the third Sunday in the month, with the exception of the weeks marked with an * where this denotes the all-age service for a major church festival.

- 18th February
- 17th March
- *31st March (Easter Sunday)
- 21st April
- 19th May
- 16th June



Irvinestown Community Choir singing at Trory Christmas Light Switch On.

*22nd September (Harvest)

20th October

17th November

15th December (Nativity)

By the time this comes into print all families in Killadeas should have already been contacted directly about these services, but just in case anyone was missed, or indeed if you know of a local family not on our systems, please pass this information on to them.

Confirmation 2024

Bishop Ian has graciously agreed to confirm those who are of age to take on the responsibility of their faith for themselves from both parishes on 9th June at our 11.30am Morning Service in Trory.

Confirmation classes will be running after Easter in Ballycassidy Hall on the following dates... 10th, 17th, 24th April, 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th May, and a run through of the service in St Michael's Church, Trory on 5th June.

Please put the dates in your diary now, as an attendance of 80% or more of the classes, as well as regular church attendance is expected from all candidates wishing to be confirmed.

From the Registers

HOLY BAPTISM

- 24th December - Lex Parker Regan, Priory Church, Killadeas
- 14th January- Isla Aroa Stewart in St Michael's, Trory

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

- 7th January- Iris Crowe, St Michael's, Trory

2024 Dates for your Diary

Please mark these in your diary or on your calendars now, so as if there are clashes when the diary starts to get filled, supporting your local church and community shows up as a priority.

- 13th February - Parish Pancakes in Ballycassidy Hall



■ 15th March - A St. Patrick's Weekend Fun Night

■ 31st March - Easter Sunday Dawn Holy Communion with Bacon Baps, and All Age Services with Easter Egg Hunts

■ 2nd June - Trory LOL join with St Michael's Parish in Morning Worship

■ 9th June - Confirmation in St Michael's, Trory at 11.30am

■ 16th June - Children's Day and Trory Sunday School Prizegiving

■ 23rd June - Killadeas LOL join with Priory for Morning Worship

■ 21st July - Priory Church Killadeas host the district RBP at 3pm

■ 20th September - Killadeas Traditional Harvest Thanksgiving with supper

■ 22nd September - Killadeas All Age Harvest Thanksgiving

■ 11th October - Trory Traditional Harvest Thanksgiving with supper

■ 13th October - Trory All Age Harvest Thanksgiving

Just to whet your appetites for the upcoming year, details will be announced in due course about teddy bear picnics, bungee jumps, climbing walls, treasure hunts, and other fun activities as part of the dates listed above. Things can change, but these are the dates as foreseen.

There will be concerts and fun nights to add to this list, as well as salsa dance classes, defibrillator training, a basic food hygiene course, and other additions, but dates for these are not yet finalised.

February Service Dates for your Diary

4th February

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

6th February

- 2.30pm Tuesday Fellowship Group, in Killadeas Hall

11th February

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



Trory Sunday School Pop-up Nativity and Santa visiting Baby and Tots.



Trory

12th February

- Mothers' Union in Ballycassidy Hall

13th February

- 7pm Parish Pancakes in Ballycassidy Hall

14th February

- 7pm Ash Wednesday Service in Priory Church, Killadeas

18th February

- 10am All Age Service in Priory Church, Killadeas, followed by tea and chat
- 11.30am Morning Prayer in St Michael's,

Trory, followed by tea and chat

21st February

- 7pm Lent Midweek Service in Priory Church, Killadeas

25th February

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

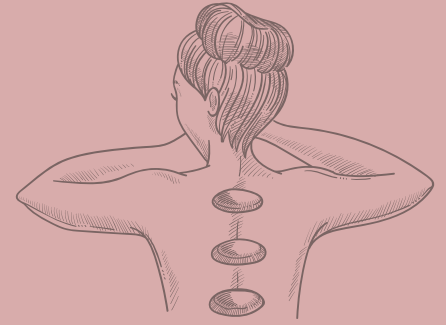
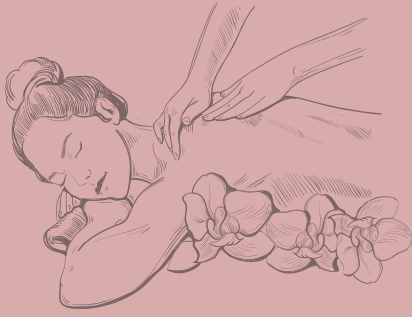
28th February

- 7pm Lent Midweek Service in Priory Church, Killadeas



Killadeas Pop-up Nativity with Baptism of Lex Parker Regan.





Full Body Massage Hot Stones Treatment Indian Head Massage

My name is Rowena Anderson and I run Rowan Therapies offering Full and Part Body Swedish Massage, Indian Head Massage and Hot and Cold Stone Massage treatments for you in the comfort of my own home, in a calming and relaxing environment.

These treatments can relieve many symptoms such as stress, tension, headaches and insomnia to name but a few.

If you suffer from these or any of the other symptoms mentioned below then why not book yourself in for a specifically tailored treatment for you.

What are the benefits of Indian Head Massage?

- Helps prevent migraines, headaches and back pain.
- Promotes hair growth.
- Detoxifies the body by stimulating lymphatic drainage.
- Relieves sleeplessness, restlessness and insomnia.
- Relieves symptoms of anxiety and depression.
- Renews energy levels.
- Boosts memory capabilities.

Some of the physical benefits of massage include:

- Reduced muscle tension.
- Improved circulation.
- Stimulation of the lymphatic system.
- Reduction of stress hormones.
- Relaxation.
- Increased joint mobility and flexibility.
- Improved skin tone.
- Improved recovery of soft tissue injuries.

Here are some advantages of getting a hot stone massage:

- Helps relieve muscle tension and pain. Heat has long been used to ease muscle tension and pain.
- Reduces stress and anxiety.
- Promotes sleep.
- May help relieve symptoms of autoimmune diseases.
- May help decrease cancer symptoms.
- May boost immunity.



Contact Rowena:



078 6698 5999



rowenanderson118@gmail.com

Holly Tree House, 30 Leighan Road, Derrygonnelly, Co. Fermanagh BT93 6HU.

MOTHERS' UNION



Liane Armstrong, MU Diocesan Secretary; Heather Ellis, Diocesan President; Valerie McMorris Faith & Policy Unit Co-ordinator, with speakers at the breakfast in Maguiresbridge Parish Hall, held to mark 16 days of activism against gender based violence.



Members of Magheracross MU who attended the breakfast.

Speakers at breakfast meeting highlight domestic violence issues

The Trustees of Clogher Diocesan Mothers' Union facilitated a breakfast in Maguiresbridge Parish Hall on Saturday 25th November to mark 16 days of activism against gender based domestic violence. Valerie McMorris, MU Faith and Policy coordinator organised the event. The Rector of Maguiresbridge and Derrybrusk, the Revd Lindsey Farrell said grace and welcomed Mothers' Union members.

After a delicious breakfast served by Barbara Pinkerton and her team from Omagh, Heather Ellis, Diocesan President introduced the first speaker, Sergeant Ann Lavery from the Community Planning and Vulnerability Department of the PSNI, who spoke of her work as the designated Sergeant for Fermanagh and Omagh Council area. We were made aware of the significant numbers of domestic abuse cases and how the PSNI works with agencies to help victims. They work with other agencies in a Multi-Agency Support Hub. Their work is also extended to schools where they have introduced the 'Operation Compass Programme' and they make young people aware of how to identify healthy relationships.

The second speaker was Michelle Alonso, a training co-ordinator with Women's Aid in Enniskillen. Their staff work with the police and also local church and community leaders.

Michelle went on to tell us that the most dangerous place for many of the women



Members of Garrison, Slavin, Belleek and Kiltyclogher MU who attended the breakfast.

they help is in the home. Last year they supported 368 women and 350 children. They have a waiting list of women waiting for support. They manage many cases where women experience coercive control behaviour, have money withheld from them, are belittled or inflicted with physical abuse.

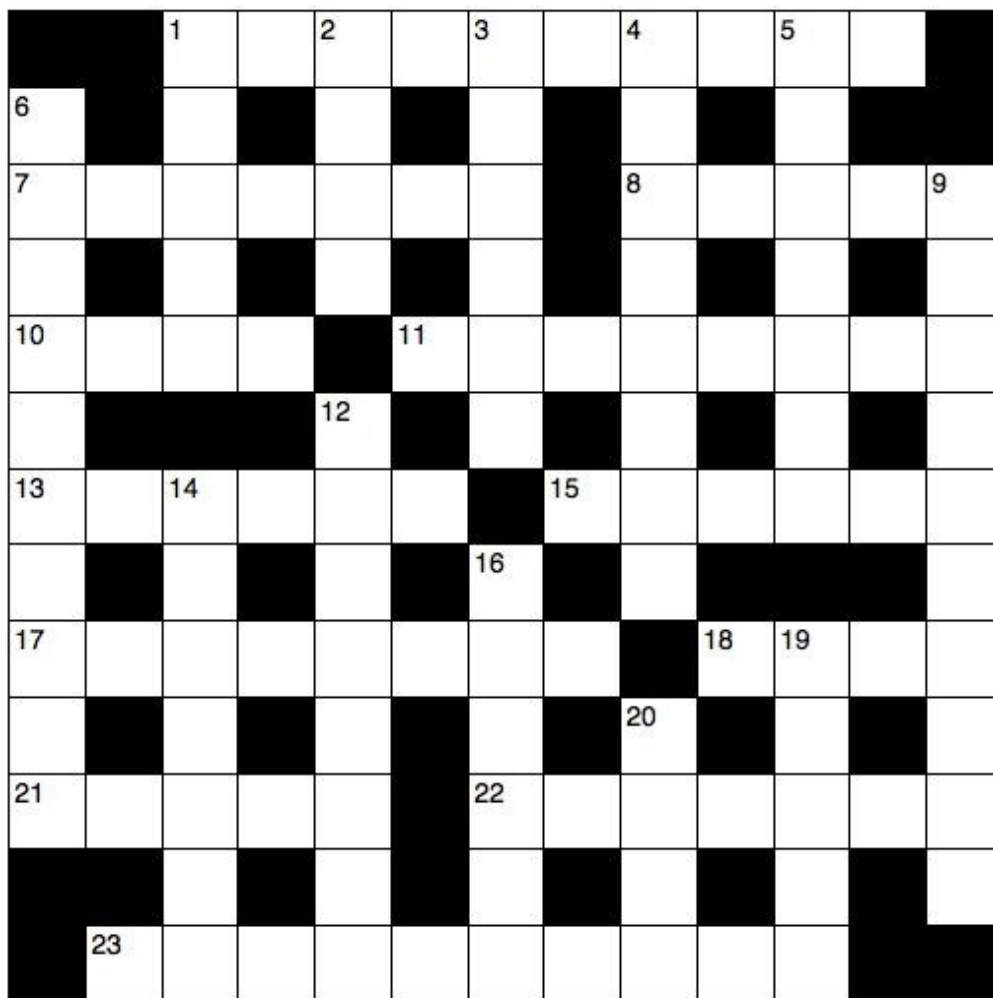
Siobhan McKenna from Tearmann Domestic Abuse in Co Monaghan then spoke about her work and how plans are in place to progress a 'Safe House' in Co Monaghan which is very much needed as families in Co Monaghan often have to travel to Sligo and Co Meath for safety.

Members of Mothers' Union branches in the Diocese brought and donated items for Women's Aid and Tearmann and vouchers were donated to be given to families who have insufficient funds to buy basic items.

Closing prayers were led by Irene Boyd, Joy Graham and Linda Keating.

Those attending were provided with literature published by Mothers' Union and the PSNI to raise awareness of domestic abuse. All clergy in the Diocese will be offered the opportunity to learn more about the newly launched Mothers' Union RISE UP campaign.

PUZZLE PAGES *for Adults*



ACROSS

- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
- 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
- 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
- 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

DOWN

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)
- 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)
- 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
- 5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- 6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
- 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 12 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my —' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
- 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)
- 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)

■ Crossword Puzzle answers on page 71

CHILDREN'S SECTION

The gardener and the Vine



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH BRANCH CAREFULLY..

... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD FRUIT...

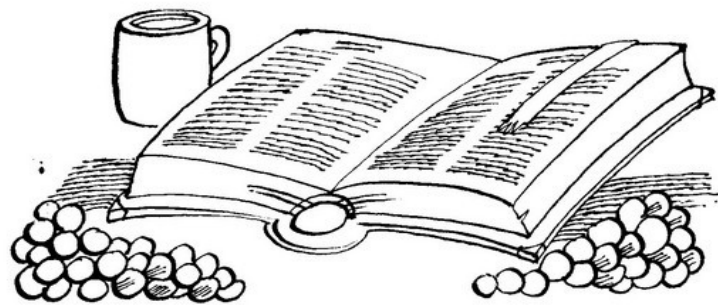


...OR NO FRUIT AT ALL...



...THEN THE GARDENER WOULD CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.



Mouse Makes

Who were the first couple?

_____ and _____

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?



_____ Genesis 19:26

Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

_____ Matthew 1:5



CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| ADAM | ELIZABETH |
| ABRAHAM | MARY |
| ISAAC | HANNAH |
| JACOB | PRISCILLA |
| BOAZ | EVE |
| ZECHARIAH | RUTH |
| ELKANAH | REBEKAH |
| AQUILA | RACHEL |
| JOSEPH | SARAH |

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

_____ and _____ Romans 16:3

FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT
KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
MFU OPU NBO
TFQBSBUF.

NBSL
UFO WFSTF
OJOF

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God
See 1 Kings 11:1-3

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

- ABRAHAM
- ADAM • AQUILA
- BOAZ • ELKANAH
- ELIZABETH
- EVE • HANNAH
- ISAAC • JACOB
- JOSEPH • MARY
- PRISCILLA
- RACHEL
- REBEKAH • RUTH
- SARAH
- ZECHARIAH

Norman appointed High Sheriff for 2024

The High Sheriff for County Fermanagh for 2024 is Norman Coalter, a well-known businessman in Enniskillen and an active member of Enniskillen's St Macartin's Cathedral parish.

Norman, who runs the Horseshoe and Saddlers Bar and Restaurant, says he is honoured to be named High Sheriff not only for himself but for his family members.

"I was taken back a bit when I was asked to do it," he said.

The appointment of High Sheriff is mostly an honorary title but his role would be to greet any members of the Royal Family or Head of State visiting the county or to receive a High Court Judge for a Crown Court sitting as well as other duties such as attending functions by invitation.

He said his mission during his year in office is to encourage more people to visit Fermanagh and to market the tourism product available.

"We have a beautiful county and if there

are any instrumental things at all coming, I will be saying, come to Fermanagh," he said. He is a member of Fermanagh Lakeland Tourism Association.

His appointment has been a popular one, as it has been warmly welcomed at Enniskillen Cathedral and further afield as he has received many cards and letters from well-wishers.

Norman's business is well known throughout the county and beyond, providing funeral teas for many churches as well as catering for weddings and other events.

Norman is married to Helen, who coincidentally was Churchwarden along with Jenifer Johnston during the historic visit of Her Majesty The Queen to Enniskillen Cathedral in 2012 and they have three children; Matthew, a doctor in Melbourne; Jordan, a chemical engineer in Dublin and Sophie, in her final year of medicine at Trinity College, Dublin. During his year in office, Norman expects to attend a garden party at Hillsborough.



BEM for Joy after decades of looking after school

A Diocesan Reader in Clogher Diocese has received the BEM in the New Year Honours list for services to education. Joy Coalter, a Diocesan Reader and member of St. Ronan's Church, Colebrooke in the Aghalurcher Group of Parishes, retired in 2022 as Cleaner and Caretaker at Brookeborough Primary School after 35 years of service.

Joy said her immediate reaction when she received an official letter informing her she had been nominated for a BEM was, "I thought it was a scam as I'm always so wary of scams."

Joy was part of the life of the primary school for decades, supporting the teaching staff at key times of the year and encouraging the pupils.

She said she would have dressed up in fancy dress outfits during charity events or helped to raise money for charity. She also acted as a keyholder and in earlier years of her service, helped out as a

classroom assistant.

She worked with three school principals during her career and was proud to see her four children attend the school.

Married to Robert, a retired painter and decorator, they are parents of Russell, Roger, Lindsey and Lesley and they have seven grandchildren.

As a parishioner of Colebrooke Parish, Joy was firstly a Parish Reader before becoming a Diocesan Reader and has taken services across the diocese as well as in her own parish. She also represents the parish on the Diocesan Synod and in earlier years was a GFS leader. She is also a member of the Mothers' Union. In her spare time, Joy and Robert enjoying travelling in their campervan having explored around Ireland and Scotland.

Joy expects to receive her BEM at a ceremony at Hillsborough and an invitation to a Garden Party later this year.

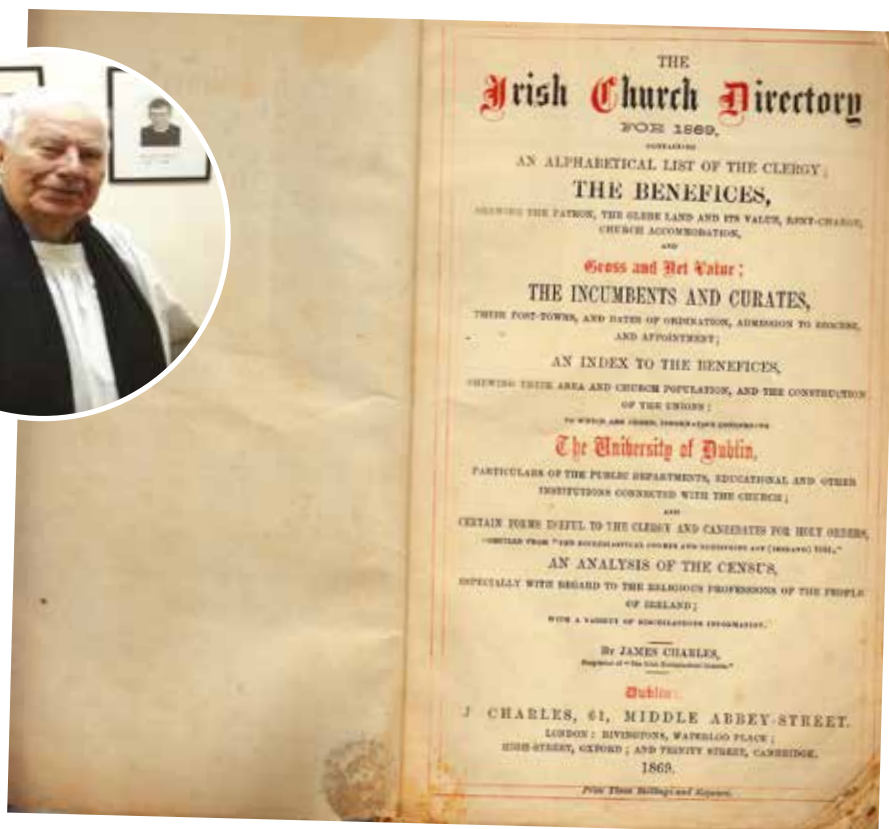
HISTORIC CHURCH DIRECTORIES GIFTED TO CLOGHER ARCHIVES

Clogher Diocesan Archive Room has been gifted over 140 Irish church directories, running from 1869 until 2016. They have been provided by the late Canon George Little of Rathfriland who died on 17th May 2023. Canon Little (pictured inset) grew up in Clogher parish where he was a member of the Select Vestry and for some time, Parish Secretary. He was ordained in 1972 and spent most of his ministry in Dromore diocese. After a curacy in Portadown he served as rector of Newtownhamilton and Ballymoyer before moving to Aghaderg (Loughbrickland). He was appointed treasurer of Dromore in 1993. He and his wife Florence retired to live in Rathfriland in 2017. They have two daughters, Ruth and Alison.



The complete run of directories form an important archive for the diocese and will be housed in the Archive Room in Clogher Cathedral.

The directories were originally printed and published by James Charles of Middle Abbey Street, Dublin initially retailing at three shillings and sixpence (1869). They provide a full corpus of information on clergy and parishes with, as the flyleaf declared, 'an alphabetical list of benefices shewing the patron, glebe land, rent charge and church accommodation.' The early directories doubled as an almanac and included



information on census, the sovereigns of Europe (there were 17 in 1869) as well as postage rates and money matters.

Mr Charles was also the proprietor of the Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette and the leading printer of Church of Ireland literature.

A 'thank you' for Shoebox Appeal



Irene Boyd, co-ordinator locally of Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal, wishes to thank all those who contributed to the appeal in 2023. She reported that a total of 24,549 boxes were collected in Northern Ireland (not including the boxes contributed online) with 2,359 coming from this area. The NI boxes have gone to children in Moldova, Bosnia and Serbia. She said, "Whether people contributed a box, items to be used as fillers, made a financial donation, organised collections or helped with packing or transport, I would offer sincere thanks on behalf of the children who received the boxes but who cannot thank people personally."

Christ Church, Maguiresbridge
are hosting their Annual Dance with
Curtis Magee
in Christ Church Parochial Hall

Friday 16th February 2024
Dancing from 9.00 p.m.

Admission £10.00
Proceeds to Church Funds





Mrs Lorraine Thompson.



Sophie reading a lesson.



Very Revd Canon Kevin Duffy,
PP Devenish (Irvinestown).



Michael Skuce.

Installation of Archdeacon during Advent Carol Service

The beginning of Advent was marked in Clogher Diocese with a special Carol Service and the installation of the Venerable Paul Thompson as Archdeacon of Clogher.

The service in St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen, was conducted by the Dean of Clogher, the Very Revd Kenneth Hall on Sunday evening, the first Sunday of Advent. The service began with the processional hymn, "O Come, O come, Emmanuel," led by the Cathedral Choir singing by candlelight.

Other hymns sung during the service included; "Waken O sleeper, wake and rise," "Come, thou long-expected Jesus," "On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry," "Magnificat," "Hail to the Lord's anointed" and "Lo! he comes with clouds descending." The organist was Mr. Glenn Moore.

The mandate for the installation of the new Archdeacon was read by the Diocesan Registrar, Revd Canon John McClenaghan and the installation was conducted by Dean Kenneth Hall. This year marks the 285th anniversary of the granting of the seal of the Dean and Chapter of Clogher. The readings were by Mrs Lorraine Thompson, Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale Parishes; Miss Kendal Campbell, Castle Archdale Parish; Miss Sophie Armstrong, Castle Archdale Parish; Mr Michael Skuce MBE, and Miss Irene Knox, both members of the Diocesan Council;



Archdeacon Paul Thompson (second left) with Canon John McClenaghan, Diocesan Registrar; Bishop Ian Ellis and Dean Kenneth Hall.

Revd Canon Stephen Hazlett, Rector of St. Mary's and Greyfriars, Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, Scottish Episcopal Church and Very Revd Canon Kevin Duffy PP, Parish Priest of Devenish (Irvinestown).

There were three special pieces performed; "Christ, whose glory fills the skies" sung by Alice Bradley, of Derryvullen North Parish; the anthem, "Chorale" from Wacht

auf, ruft uns die Stimme by Bach sung by the Cathedral Choir and "Colours of day" sung by Marion Faris, Carol Clarke and Iris Robinson accompanied by David McDowell on guitar.

The service concluded with an Advent Reflection by the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis who also gave the Blessing.



Irene Knox.



Kendal.



Revd Canon Stephen Hazlett, Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway.



Alice Bradley singing a solo accompanied by Glenn Moore.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

February 2024

- Tuesday 6th February – **Kesh Rural Deanery Talk** 'The Theology of Suicide' in Colaghty Hall, Lack at 7.30pm. Open to anyone who is interested.
- Thursday 8th February – **Annual Tempo Table Quiz** in Tempo Church Hall at 8pm. Everyone Welcome.
- Tuesday 13th February – **Parish Pancakes** for Trory and Killadeas Parishes on Shrove Tuesday in Ballycassidy Hall with sweet pancakes only. Suggested donation of £5 per person.
- Wednesday 14th February – **Shoppers' Service** organised by Derryvullen North Parish, Irvinestown at 11.00am in the Parish Centre, Irvinestown.
- Wednesday 14th February – **Ash Wednesday Service** of Evening Prayer with Act of Penitence, Hymns and Sermon at 8pm led by Revd Tim Irvine, in St. Salvator's Church, Donagh Parish, Glaslough
- Friday 16th February – **Maguirebridge Parish Annual Dance** in Christ Church Hall. Dancing begins at 9pm with music by Curtis Magee. Refreshments will be served. All proceeds in aid of Church funds.
- Tuesday 20th February – **Kesh Rural Deanery Talk** on Self Care in Tubrid Hall at 7.30pm. Open to anyone.
- Saturday 24th February – **Clogher Cathedral Parish 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.
- Saturday 24th February – **Auction, Coffee Morning and Cake Sale** organised by St. Macartan's Cathedral in 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.

- Sunday 25th February – **Mothers' Union Big Hymn Sing** at 7.00pm in St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen. A warm invitation is extended to all Mothers' Union members, parishioners and the wider Diocesan community.

March 2024

- Tuesday 5th March – **Kesh Rural Deanery Talk** on Life after Lockdown at 7.30pm in Derryvullen North Parish Hall, Irvinestown. Open to anyone.
- 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.
- Friday 15th March – **St. Patrick's Weekend Fun Night** hosted by Trory and Killadeas Parishes in Ballycassidy Hall. This year the theme will be on Ulster heritage of St. Patrick, with food for the evening being an Ulster Fry and entertainment will be Ulster Scots themed too.
- Friday 15th March – **Annual St. Patrick's Stew Night** in Aghavea Parish Hall. More details will be announced in next month's magazine and will be advertised on our Facebook page, Aghavea Church, www.facebook.com/aghavea.
- Monday 18th March – **St Patrick's Walk**, a community pilgrimage walk on Bank Holiday Monday starting at 11am from St. Salvator's Church, Glaslough to Glennan Presbyterian Church and St. Mary's Church concluding with a lunch of homemade soup and bread in Donagh Parochial Hall on Main Street, Glaslough. Donations for The Arch Club and Donagh Girls' Brigade. Everyone welcome.
- Sunday 31st March – **Easter Sunday Dawn Holy Communion** hosted by Trory and Killadeas parishes with bacon baps and All Age Services with Easter Egg Hunts.

THE ULSTER CONSORT

Come and be inspired by listening to an outstanding professional choir based in the North of Ireland.

They will be performing a wide variety of wonderful music by such composers as Vaughan Williams, Stanford, Rutter and Charles Wood under the direction of Matthew Owens.



ARDHOWEN THEATRE, ENNISKILLEN

22 February 2024 at 8pm

Tickets: £15. Under 25s: £5 | Box office: www.ardhowen.com or 028 6632 5440

Presented by Music in Fermanagh

Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí



Winter's Tale brings Christmas cheer to audiences

One of the many highlights across the diocese at Christmas was 'A Winter's Tale' held over two nights in St. Salvator's Church, Donagh Parish in Glaslough.

This contributed article describes what took place...

We in north Monaghan all know that Christmas is only truly upon us after we have been to The Winter's Tale Christmas concert at the Church of Ireland Parish Church of St Salvator's beside Castle Leslie in Glaslough.

Although it is only a two-minute walk from the castle to the church, the parishioners of St Salvator's prove excellent hosts, ferrying people from the hotel car park to the church door with their courtesy taxi service. The church grounds are decorated with candles twinkling in glass hurricanes along the verges and the cheeks of the

cheery ladies who greet you at the door are pinched a rosy red by the chill of the night air. The

warmth of their greeting is as welcoming as the rich colours of their good winter coats.

The buzz of expectancy, the chatter of friends and the greetings of old acquaintances was accompanied by the melodies of Christmas carols and songs played by three

fiddlers, Ken Atkinson, George Watson and Orla Flack.

Revd Tim Irvine welcomed us and introduced the musicians and the choir and its director Mrs Ethne McCord and its accompanist Mr Gerard Toal. Special guests on the opening night included Bishop Ian Ellis and his wife Heather; local Parish Priest Fr Hubert Martin and Revd Tim sent good wishes to Sammy Leslie in her absence and expressed sympathy to our local TD Minister Heather Humphreys following the recent loss of her mother.

The concert two carols with which we stood to join the choir, firstly Adeste fiddles and finally Stille Nacht.

Three choirs namely The Donagh Community Choir, Donagh Cantari (a small group of female singers and The Junior Choir who definitely won the hearts of us all with their beaming cherubic looks and charming voices. Some of the more familiar



The Donagh Community Choir and Donagh Cantari leading the singing at The Winter's Tale.

choir pieces came from the pen of John Rutter, familiar to all of us with a fondness for Lyric FM or Classic FM. The more intricate of Rutter's two pieces, 'Candlelight Carol' was sung beautifully by Donagh Cantari before being joined by the rest of the choir for the equally delightful 'The Angel's Carol.'

The Junior Choir received their first round of raucous applause for the piece, 'Christmas is a time to love' where they were joined by the sopranos from the main choir. Three poems were read during the course of the evening, the first by Revd Tim Rowan Williams' "Advent Calendar" and a second read by a member of the Junior Choir, Jessica Coulter whose long blonde hair glowing in the light of the pulpit meant she bore a striking resemblance to a Christmas Angel. A third poem, Patrick Kavanagh's "A Christmas Childhood" was given a beautifully authentic voicing by Fr Hubert Martin who brought Kavanagh's well-known poem vividly to life on the first night with the reading by Michael Fisher, formerly of RTE on the second night.

We were treated to a number of soloists during the course of the concert with Marian Gibbons being accompanied on fiddle by George Watson on a gorgeous and haunting performance of 'The Wexford Carol'. The tempo was lifted by the urgent melody of 'News in Bethlehem Town.' It was at this point that Santa Claus arrived to a jovial hullabaloo from all of us. Local publican and choir member Diane Wright-Kendrick was Santa's little helper for the

evening as he delivered gifts and season's greetings to a number of the special guests. Diane was later joined by Gareth for their rowdy and rumbustious performance of Mistletoe and Wine.

It was an unexpected treat (and privilege) to be present at the premiere performance of a piece written by local composer, musician and recording artist, Jamie Duffy who is only 22. Revd Tim ceded the floor to the evening's Musical Director, Ethne McCord who explained that Jamie had composed 'Candle in the Window' for last year's performance but that it was only within the past month that Jamie had agreed to her request to write words to accompany the piece. This beautiful Christmas song was performed by Stephanie Jebb who was

accompanied by the composer and was a highlight among an evening of many memorable moments.

After showing our appreciation to the choir and musicians who had presented us with such a beautiful telling of the winter's tale of love come down at Christmas, we received a musical benediction before being led out of the church and to the castle for mince pies and mulled wine by the piper, Wilson Jebb.

A wonderful evening of thoughtful, loving hospitality, delightful music beautifully performed and punctuated by poetry that reminded us of the mystery of this season so filled with memories. The Donagh Community Choir and all involved in the production of The Winter's Tale are the makers of most excellent memories as this concert will linger long and fondly in my memories of this Christmas.



Michael Fisher reading.



Jessica giving one of the readings.

CHURCH OF IRELAND NEWS

Just some of the Christmas trees at the festival in Galloon Parish Church.



Christmas trees shine at Galloon Church

ONE of the major Christmas events in Clogher Diocese this year was the Galloon Parish Church Christmas Tree Festival organised and hosted by Galloon Parish in Newtownbutler.

This amazing event took place over the weekend of 8-10th December and involved not only parish organisations but groups and businesses from the community in Newtownbutler.

The event opened on Friday, 8 December with the viewing of the trees accompanied by singing by members of the Silvertones Choir.

On Saturday, a full day's viewing from 10am until 5pm also had musical accompaniment from local musicians with refreshments being served.

On Sunday, 10 December, the Festival ended with a Carol Service at 7pm accompanied by Lisnaskea Silver Band.

Rector, Revd Lorraine Capper said the Christmas Tree Festival helped them all get into the Christmas spirit.

"We welcomed many people from the local community from Co Fermanagh, Co Tyrone, Co Armagh and Co Cavan, Co Monaghan and even from Co Meath," she said.

"We were delighted to have Lisnaskea Silver Band and the Elliott and Ferguson families and friends who enriched our service with their musical talents."

Revd Lorraine thanked all who had worked so hard to make the festival a great success: to all who had created a great variety of decorated trees; to those who made the tea; to all the musicians and to all who worked so hard behind the scenes and to the community for supporting and attending with special thanks to Mrs Grace Rickey who was busy organising and overseeing this event.



The Church decorated for the Christmas Tree Festival.

At the cheque presentation in Ballinamallard, Revd Alison Irvine on behalf of Magheracross Parish handing over a donation to Genevieve Irvine from Swell and Revd John Beacom, Minister of Ballinamallard Methodist Church handing over a cheque to Brian Keys of Mallard Community Hub project.



Revd William Jeffrey presenting a cheque to Sinea from Fermanagh Women's Aid.

Thousands raised during charity sit-outs

Clergy from a number of churches in the diocese have raised thousands of pounds for charity from Black Santa sit-outs before Christmas.

In Ballinamallard, the traditional annual joint charity sit-out by the ministers of Magheracross Parish Church and Ballinamallard Methodist Church continued with Revd Alison Irvine, who is currently taking services during the vacancy at Magheracross, taking part alongside Revd John Beacom, Methodist Minister.

Recently they handed over the proceeds of the sit-out with cheques for £2557.34 each going to SWELL (Supported We Live Life), and to the Mallard Hub.

SWELL is a charity providing support services and activities for local people who have been affected by cancer from their base at Cross Street, Enniskillen. Receiving the cheque was Genevieve Irvine, founder

of the charity, who was delighted with the funding to help pay for further services and counselling offered by them.

Also receiving a cheque for £2557.34 was the Mallard Hub, a new initiative in Ballinamallard village for the benefit of the whole community by providing meeting rooms, workspace and a café. The Hub recently received government funding for building improvements and receiving the cheque above was Brian Keys, who is involved in spearheading the project. In Enniskillen, Dean Kenneth Hall took part in a 12-hour sit-out at the gates of St. Macartin's Cathedral on the Thursday before Christmas during wet and windy weather conditions.

Despite the weather the public responded well because at the time of printing the total amount raised was £16,620. These proceeds will be divided between Bishops' Appeal (International), Air Ambulance

(National) and St Macartin's Charities (Local).

In Lisbellaw, Revd William Jeffrey held his first 12-hour charity sit-out in the porch of the parish church starting from 6.30am for Women's Aid and for parish funds.

Recently, Revd William handed over a cheque for £1,430.55 to Sinead at Women's Aid Fermanagh. Many of the people who visiting him also took some time for silent reflection in the church.

At Brookeborough, Revd Johnny McLoughlin, Rector of Aghavea Parish, also held his sit-out.

Situated outside the church hall in the village, he had many people stopping off in their cars as well as those on foot, to make donations for his chosen charities, Air Ambulance NI and Brain Cancer Research.

By the end of the day, over £1500 had been raised.



Revd Johnny McLoughlin of Aghavea Parish Church with Joe Gilleece at his sit-out.



Dean Kenneth Hall at his sit-out supported by Gladys Fisher, Air Ambulance NI, Colin Greaves and Bishop Ian Ellis.

Lunchtime lectures on ecclesiastical fabrics

A series of free lunchtime lectures are being held in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin during February and March. Entitled 'Of the Cloth', the series will examine all manner of ecclesiastical fabrics, from the dressing of altars to the robing of monks and clergy.

Speakers will include the art historian and textile conservator, Rachel Phelan on Tuesday 6 February, on Tuesday, 13 February, the speaker is Brother Colmán Ó Clabaigh, a Benedictine monk of Glenstal Abbey and a medievalist specialising in Irish monastic and religious history, followed on Tuesday 20 February by the Dean of Limerick, the Very Revd Niall Sloane, on post-Reformation clerical garb ranging from ruffs to gaiters.

The archdeacon of Armagh, the Ven. Dr Peter Thompson, will discuss the convergence of ecclesiastical and academic dress on Tuesday 27 February.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

from page 64

ACROSS: 1, Prosperity. 7, Raisins. 8, Admit. 10, View. 11, Confetti. 13, Distil. 15, Groyne. 17, Navigate. 18, Whit. 21, Enoch. 22, Trodden. 23, Prophetess.

DOWN: 1, Pride. 2, Ovid. 3, Pastor. 4, Reaffirm. 5, Timothy. 6, Providence. 9, Tridentine. 12, Kingship. 14, Saviour. 16, Statue. 19, Hades. 20, Rome.



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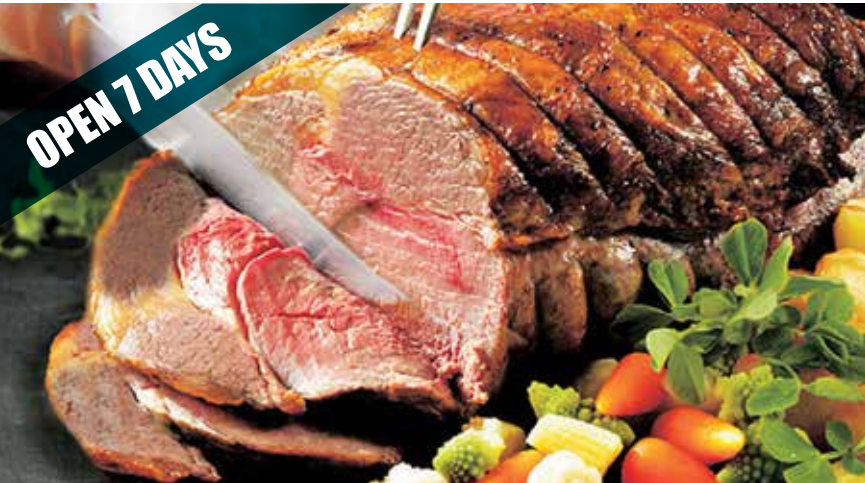
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