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The Children’s Ministry Network has made the decision to postpone its in-person Building Blocks conference until the New Year. It had been originally organised for Saturday, 6th November at a venue in Dublin. Although the organisers had a suitable venue for social distancing and a wonderful programme line-up, they were increasingly uncomfortable with people travelling from all over the island of Ireland while Covid cases are on the rise and responses to that are uncertain.

However, Building Blocks is running an evening online Advent and Christmas Training event on Thursday, 18th November, with a great pack that will help people hit the ground running this Christmas. See notice with booking details or visit: www.facebook.com/BuildingBlocksConferences for all updates.
A NOTE FROM THE BISHOP

AUTUMN AND REMEMBRANCE

We have at this stage of the year made the transition from summer to autumn and with the shortening of days begin our journey towards winter. The cycle of life turns again and the familiar passage from the Old Testament book Ecclesiastes rings true that there is ‘a season and a time for every matter under heaven’.

In the Greek language there were two words for time – chronos and kairos. Chronos indicates movement of time hence the word ‘chronological’, whereas kairos has the sense of fitness, the right time or season. The right time relates to individuals, to communities and to nations. The writer Ecclesiastes notes times which are simple and self-evident: ‘a time to be born and a time to die, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to keep silence and a time to speak, a time for war and a time for peace.’

Autumn has been described as ‘the crown of the year’, and it is concerned with maturity and inevitable decay, with the fulfilment of life and its end. This season is naturally a season of reflection upon our times past and present. On 1st November we mark All Saints’ Day when we focus on the lives of faithful saints of the church who have inspired its life and witness and whose example we do well to follow. The Collect for All Saints Day (BCP p323) gathers our thoughts for the season:

Almighty God,
You have knit together your elect
In one communion and fellowship
In the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
Grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints

Yours in Christ’s service
+Ian Clogher
**PARISH NOTES**

### Aghadrumsee, Clogh & Drumsnatt

**Church Army Officer**

**Captain David Hamilton**

The Rectory, Drummadarainy, Stonebridge, Clones, Co. Monaghan.

T: 047 20826

E: aghadrumsee@clogher.anglican.org

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**Services**

**Sunday 7th November**

Drumsnatt 9.30am Holy Communion

Clogh 10.45am Holy Communion

Aghadrumsee 12.05pm Holy Communion

**Sunday 14th November**

Drumsnatt 9.30am Morning Prayer

Clogh 10.45am Remembrance Service

Aghadrumsee 12.05pm Remembrance Service

**Sunday 21st November**

Clogh 10.45am Morning Prayer

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**Aghalurcher and Cooneen with Mullaghfad**

**Rector:** The Revd John McClenaghan

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

T: 028 895 31822

E: aghalurcher@clogher.anglican.org

E: colebrooke@clogher.anglican.org

W: www.colebrookeparish.org

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**SERVICES**

**NOVEMBER**

**Sunday 7th November**

10.45am Colebrooke Holy Communion

12.15pm Cooneen Holy Communion

**Sunday 14th November**

11.00am Colebrooke Remembrance Service

**Sunday 21st November**

10.45am Colebrooke MP

12.15pm Cooneen MP

**Sunday 28th November**

10.45am Colebrooke MP

12.15pm Cooneen MP

**DECEMBER**

**Sunday 5th December**

10.45am Colebrooke Holy Communion

12.15pm Cooneen Holy Communion

**Sunday 12th December**

10.45am Colebrooke MP

7.00pm Cooneen Carol Service

**Sunday 19th December**

11.00am Cooneen MP

7.00pm Colebrooke Carol Service

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**Mothers’ Union**

Clogh Mothers’ Union will meet in the hall on Monday 1st November at 8.00 pm when Captain Hamilton will be speaking.

**Shoebox Appeal**

The Christmas Shoebox Appeal is back this year. Team Hope is a Christian, International Development Charity working to help children affected by poverty in Eastern Europe and Africa. Every year, with your help, the Christmas Shoebox Appeal sends thousands of gift-filled shoeboxes to children in Eastern Europe and Africa. We in our group are asking you to build your own shoebox and bring it into Church no later than 7th November 2021. For further details contact Clogh Parish Secretary, Andrea Nelson.

**Sympathy**

We extend our sympathy to Clive and Lisa McVitty on the death of Lisa’s grandmother, Mrs Kennedy.
Harvest Thanksgivings
On Sunday 26th September in Colebrooke and Sunday 3rd October in Cooneen, Harvest Thanksgiving services were held at our morning services. Both churches were very well turned out for the occasions and a ‘full house’ in accordance with the Covid regulations was also the case. Thank you to everyone who carefully prepared both churches for worship and provided excellent decorations of flowers and vegetables. Hopefully there has been space in the magazine for some of the photographs taken.

Parish Organisations
At present the parish organisations will not be resuming as normal, due to the ongoing Covid 19 situation. When they are able to resume, they will be held as follows:

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

Colebrooke/Cooneen Scout Group
The Scouts meet on Tuesday from 7pm-

8.15pm for boys and girls aged 4-11 years, and continues to 9.15pm Scouts, 11 – 14 years.
The leaders provide a wide range of Scouting skills.
Squirrels (4 - 6 years)
Beavers (6 – 8 years)
Cubs (8 – 11 years)
Scouts (11 – 14 years)

Bowling Club
The Bowling Club meet in the Parish Hall on Thursday at 7.45pm.
New members are very welcome, whether new to the sport, or an absolute beginner. If you do not have your own bowls, but would like to have a try, come along, spend some time with us, and see if you catch the bug.

Colebrooke and Cooneen Mothers’ Union
The recent spike in Covid cases in Tyrone and Fermanagh meant the postponement of the MU meeting in September. The service in Colebrooke Parish Church has been rescheduled for Wednesday 20 October at 8 pm. Please keep in touch with each other until we can meet face to face.
Deaths
Robert Moffett, Clogher
Evelyn Boles, Lisnaskea
Stanley West, Aghavea
David Lenny, Lisnaskea
Rhoda Bussell, Aghavea

Baptism

Services
Sunday 7th November
11am 3rd Sunday before Advent, Holy Communion
7pm - Missionary Evening with Trevor Watson

Sunday 14th November
1130am, 2nd Sunday before Advent, Remembrance Day Service
7pm - Service of Remembering the Pandemic deaths

Sunday 21st November
11am, Sunday before Advent, Morning Prayer

Sunday 28th November
11am, Advent Sunday Readings and Carols Service
7pm - Evening Prayer

Condolences
We continue to pray for all those who have been bereaved at this time of year. We especially pray for the families who have been recently bereaved.

Fundraising
Many thanks go to all those who have participated with our recent Tractor Run, our Family Fun Day and made them as successful as they were! Over £2000 was raised on the wettest Saturday that we have recently experienced, and the stall holders, vintage car owners, snake charmers (ok, the rector and some of his reptiles) and crowds didn’t worry about the weather!

Our Tractor Run was supported by over 40 tractors and has raised well over £4,500 and despite happening just a few weeks coming up in November that I hope you can support. On the evening of 7th November, our Crosslink Missionary partner - Trevor Watson, will be visiting the parish. Aghavea have supported his ministry in Sweden for many years and this is a chance to meet him again and to show our prayerful support. On Remembrance Day, 14th November, we will mark the deaths of all those who gave their lives in the pursuit of peace and justice. This is an important service in our year. We will mark that evening by remembering all those who have died during the pandemic. Funerals have been marked differently throughout the crisis and this will be an opportunity to show our respect and support to all those who have been bereaved.

28th November starts the countdown to Christmas in the season of Advent. For our Sunday Morning Service we will put aside our normal routine to mark the occasion with an Advent Carol Service of readings and hymns. Advent is an important season of preparation for the miracle of Christmas, so what better way to start the season than with a special service!!

Please pray for the upcoming services, and plan to support them as best you can. If you have any questions about any of them, please contact the rector at any time.

Covid Responses
We are still dealing with the global pandemic, which has touched all our lives in our local parishes. While our Sunday School has not restarted, we still welcome children to all our services, and hope that they continue to feel comfortable in our midst. We hope to hold a Mothers’ Union service during November or December and to decide our way forward into 2022.
Easter Vestry meetings
Following the further easing of Covid-19 restrictions on 20th September, we were finally able to have our Easter Vestry meetings.
The Easter Vestry meeting for Ballybay Parish was held on Monday 20th September. The following appointments/elections were made at same:
- Incumbent’s Churchwarden: Lucas Gray
- People’s Churchwarden: Stanley Moffett
- People’s Glebewarden: Elizabeth Gray
At a subsequent meeting of the Select Vestry, Tanya Pratt was elected as secretary and Joseph Crawford was elected as treasurer.
The 2021 Easter Vestry meeting for Muckno Parish was held on Tuesday 21st September. The following appointments/elections were made at same:
- Incumbent’s Churchwarden: John Adair
- Incumbent’s Glebewarden: Rachel Collie
- People’s Churchwarden: John Montgomery
- People’s Glebewarden: Janet Hill
- Members of the Select Vestry: Harriet Hill, Shirley Rusk, Nathan Cross, Martha O’Connor, David Flack, Margaret Flack and Audrey Hill.
At a subsequent meeting of the Select Vestry, Audrey Hill was elected as secretary and Janet Hill was elected as treasurer.
We remember with thanksgiving the life and witness of Ethel Coulter who passed away last May. She was a long-time member of Muckno Select Vestry, a parochial nominator and a former churchwarden.

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

Some of the work by young people for the harvests.
Clontibret Parish was held on Tuesday 28th September. The following appointments/elections were made at same:
Incumbent's Churchwarden: Eric Dickson
Incumbent's Glebewarden: Mark Leathem
People's Churchwarden: Allan Tate
People's Glebewarden: Nigel Lowey
Members of the Select Vestry: Elizabeth Graham, Christine Dickson, Adam Tate, David Johns, John Duffy, Jennifer Leathem, Isaac Leathem, Kenneth Dickson, Sandra Geary, Yvonne Donaldson, Alison Donaldson and George Jordan.
At a subsequent meeting of the Select Vestry, Jennifer Leathem was elected as secretary and Yvonne Donaldson was elected as treasurer.

Sunday School and Confirmation
In-person Sunday School resumed on Sunday 3rd October in all three churches. It will take place on the first and fourth Sundays of each month. Confirmation classes began on Sunday 3rd October. The Confirmation service will be held on Sunday 1st May in St. Maeldoid’s church, Castleblayney, at 3.30 p.m.

Holy Baptism
Ava Annabelle Jenkins was baptised on Saturday 25th September in St. Maeldoid’s Church, Castleblayney. We congratulate her parents, Helen and Clive, and pray that the Lord may always guide and protect them as they care for Ava.

Visit of Bishop Ian Ellis to St. Colman’s Church, Clontibret
We look forward to welcoming Bishop Ian Ellis to St. Colman’s church, Clontibret, on Sunday 7th November, to dedicate the gate and the church doors.

“Team Hope” Shoe Box Appeal 2021
For a number of years, the Parish Hall in Castleblayney has been used to sort, fill and pack shoeboxes for “Team Hope”, an Irish, Christian international development organisation working to help children affected by poverty in Africa and Eastern Europe. This Christmas share a little joy and excitement with children who live in circumstances where they have little or nothing.
Creating a shoe box is a personal thing. Every box is unique and part of the fun is choosing what goes into your gift. You can put your own shoebox together at home or you can put it together online. Anyone who requires further information can contact Janet Hill, south Monaghan co-ordinator, Church St., Castleblayney.

Children’s Harvest Festival
A children’s harvest festival was held in St. Maeldoid’s church, Castleblayney, on Sunday 10th October. The church was beautifully decorated by members of St. Maeldoid’s Sunday School. The children read prayers and readings during the service and brought forward items to represent the harvest. We thank them, and the Sunday School teachers, for all their hard work.
God our Father, we thank you that, once again, you have fulfilled your gracious promise that, while earth remains, seedtime and harvest shall not fail. We bless you for the fruits of the earth which you have given for our use. Teach us that it is not by bread alone that we live, and grant us evermore to feed on him who is the true bread from heaven, even Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Update from Donna Geary
Hope you are doing well! I have now been in Papua New Guinea for over a month. The time has flown by and I have been enjoying every moment.
Once I got out of quarantine I was unable to go directly on board the YWAM Medical Ship which meant I was able to spend a few days at the ‘Jetty’, the new YWAM base in Port Moresby. This was really special for me as this was the building a lot of my DTS (Discipleship Training School) outreach was based, at the beginning of 2020. Our time then was spent cleaning out the building and praying over its future as a place for training and discipleship. It was amazing to see how a building that was full of rubble and graffiti become completely transformed and now filled with students who have just recently completed a DTS and are now on another course studying the entire Bible.
After a few days at the ‘Jetty’ I went on board the YWAM Medical Ship. As we were still waiting for a few things to come together before being able to sail, I spent my time working in the galley on the ship.

Decorations at the children's harvest festival.
and had the opportunity to bake and cook for all those on board. It has been a fun few weeks and I got to share a few Irish bakes with those on board.

Soon we will be setting sail and heading out to Western Province in Papua New Guinea, with the intention of staying out there for eight weeks. During this time we will have medical teams assisting the provincial health authority with Covid response and childhood immunisations. PNG is currently in the midst of an intensifying Delta surge and Western Province has been identified as a high-risk province due to its growing case numbers and the border it shares with Indonesia. Although it is not clear what outreaches will look like, due to the ever-changing Covid restrictions, I will hopefully be on land, helping support the medical teams in the work they are doing.

We will also get to sail uncharted waters!! This I find very exciting and a bit like an old-time explorer. Some multi-beam hydrographic survey equipment was donated to the ship and we will be using this to find our way to different communities. We will also be able to create maps and routes for future travel.

Praise
- One of the necessary requirements for the ship to sail is that we have a first mate on board. At the beginning of this week our first mate has arrived all the way from Norway and just in time for sailing out this weekend!
- As we are sailing into uncharted waters, the multi-beam hydrographic survey equipment is a huge benefit, not only in our travel for the next few weeks, but for mapping routes for travel in these areas in the future and therefore increasing our ability to reach more communities and provide training and healthcare.

Prayer
- A lot of what outreach will look like is unknown due to the times we are currently in. Prayer for wisdom and guidance for those making decisions and plans for outreach would be much appreciated.
- This week we will have a few more people joining the ship. All of them will be Covid tested before getting on board and everyone on board will need to be tested again before we sail. Please pray for all negative tests and continued protection as we begin outreaches in a high risk area. Thank you so much for coming along on this journey and I can’t wait to share with you what this outreach looks like.
- If there is anything I can be praying for you for, please get in touch with me.

All the best,
Donna

P.S. If you would like more personal stories, you can follow this link to my blog and sign up to receive those also. I am hoping my blog will be a place where I will be able to go more in depth on some of the situations and stories I will be coming across while volunteering in PNG. https://donnag90.wixsite.com/donnainmissions

Rev. James Stevenson

Many congratulations to Revd James Stevenson who celebrated 50 years of priestly ordination on 19th September. Furthermore, 27th September marked 51 years since he was ordained deacon. We thank Revd. James for his long service to the Church and also for his continuing ministry in our group of parishes. Rev. James has kindly provided the following information:

Outline of the life and ministry of the Rev. James Stevenson

Schools:
The Model Junior School (Belfast) and Grosvenor High School (Belfast)

Universities:
Trinity College, Dublin, Cambridge University, University of Manchester

Theological College:
Westcott House, Cambridge

Degrees:
B.A. (Cantab), 1969, 2nd Class Honours in theology, M.A., 1973

Basic Ordination Qualification:
G.O.E. (Westcott House, Cambridge)

Appointments:
3. Curate: St. Mary’s, Crumlin, Dublin, 1973-1976, Honorary Clerical Vicar, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin
4. Priest-In-Charge of the conventional district of All Saints, Appleby Bridge, West, Lancashire, 1976-1982
5. Vicar of the legal Parish of All Saints, Appleby Bridge, 1982-1991
6. Bishop’s Curate (with the status and stipend of an incumbent), North Leitrim and Bundoran Group of Parishes, 1991-2012

Diocesan Appointments:
A member of the Synod of Blackburn, an assessor for the Diocese of Blackburn, a member of the Council of Kilmore, secretary of the Kilmore Clerical Association for six years.

Research Work:
Carrickmacross Union, Magheracloone and Ardragh

Rector: The Revd Colin McConaghie

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

T: 042 9673628
E: carrickmacross@clogher.anglican.org

Services
Wednesday 3rd November
Holy Communion St Finbarr’s 10.30am

Sunday 7th November
Morning Prayer St Finbarr’s 10.30am
Morning Prayer Magheracloone 12noon

Wednesday 10th November
Service of Healing and Remembrance St Finbarr’s 8pm

Sunday 14th November
Holy Communion St Finbarr’s 10.30am
Holy Communion Magheracloone 12noon
Morning Prayer Ardragh 11.15pm

Wednesday 17th November
Holy Communion St Finbarr’s 10.30am

Sunday 21st November
Arise and Shine St Finbarr’s 10.30am
Service of the Word Magheracloone 12noon

Wednesday 24th November
Holy Communion St Finbarr’s 10.30am
Sunday 28th November
Service of Confirmation St Finbarr’s 10.30am – No other services so please come along and support our Confirmation candidates.

Muddy Church
We had a wonderful morning as we wandered and wondered for our first ever Muddy Church walk which took us through tree lined avenues and to the edge of a lake. We had a great morning enjoying the sunshine and drawing closer to God through the wonder of creation and the changing landscape as we move into autumn. Thanks to everyone who came and along, Janice for doing the cooking and all who helped set up and clear up. We will definitely be having more Muddy Church in the future!

Harvest Services
It was great to see so many people back in church for our three Harvest Thanksgiving Services following last year’s Drive-In service. Our three churches were beautifully decorated with gifts of the harvest. In Ardragh Revd Colm spoke on the parable of the barns and our need for generous hearts in realising how blessed we are with all we have been given. In Magheracloone Pastor Tim McFarland of Carrickmacross Elim church reminded us to examine our priorities in how we spend our time, are we putting God first? Finally in St Finbarr’s Revd Ruth O’Kelly’s message based on Ecclesiastes chapter 3 spoke of a time to come when there would be no more hurt or pain and our call to harvest for God in the time we have in this life.

In both Magheracloone and St Finbarr’s we were able to enjoy refreshments which were slightly different due to covid restrictions but still very enjoyable.

Across all three services donations of non-perishable food items were collected for the work of Carrickmacross Food Bank.

Service of Prayer for Healing and Remembrance
Our annual service to pray for healing and also a time of remembrance of loved ones takes place in St Finbarr’s on Wednesday 10th November at 8pm. The service will be reflective offering a sacred space to pray...
for ourselves and others who are struggling in any way, as well as those who wish to remember loved ones who have died. There will also be the opportunity for prayer ministry for yourself or for others.

**Confirmation and our donate a coat project**
We are excited to be welcoming Bishop Ian to our group of parishes for the first time for our Confirmation Service in November. Our six candidates; Amy, Hannah, Ryssah, Jack, Alex and Tristan have been attending Confirmation Classes in preparation for the big day looking at what they believe and seeking to grow and learn more of the Christian faith. Covid restrictions permitting we hope to have a full church to support the candidates in our service in St Finbarr’s at 10.30am on Sunday 28th November. There will be no other services that morning.

As part of their Confirmation formation the group are undertaking a project encouraging parishioners to search their wardrobes for coats they no longer need which will be donated to a homeless charity. Drawing on the words of John the Baptist in Luke 3 - “Anyone who has two coats should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same” - the young people want to use the access we have to help those who have very little. The group have been designing posters and flyers for the project and will be helping collect donations of coats at church and from family and friends between Sunday 31st October and Sunday 14th November.

**Advent Bible Studies**
Following a number of online Bible Studies over the past year and a half it will be great to be able to meet in person for our Advent Bible Study series. The studies will take place over three weeks on Wednesday, 24th November, 1st and 8th December at 8pm (venue to be confirmed). The titles of the three studies are:
- The prophets foretold
- A father doubted
- A cousin prepared the way

**Sunday School**
It is great to have Sunday School back up and running in person in the parish room. Sunday School meets in St Finbarr’s on the first, second and fourth Sundays of each month and is open to all children of National School age.

**Youth Group**
Youth Group will meet again on Wednesday 24th November from 6.45-7.45pm. This will be followed by a rehearsal for the Confirmation candidates ahead of the Confirmation Service. Youth Group combines fun and games with some Bible teaching. All young people aged 12 to 17 are welcome to attend.

**Prayer Meeting**
Our monthly prayer meeting continues in the Rectory on Monday 1st November at 8.00pm. All are welcome as we pray for our world, our community, our church and the needs of ourselves and others known to us.

**Jewel’s Women’s Group**
We are delighted to have our ‘Jewel’s’ Women’s group starting up again with a service in St Finbarr’s at 7pm on Thursday 18th November followed by a meal in the Shirley Arms Hotel. An exciting programme is being put in place for the women to come together for friendship and fellowship over the coming months. All women across our parishes and friends are welcome to come along. For further details please speak to Caroline Merrin.

**Holy Baptism**
We were delighted to welcome Charlie Daniel McEntee into our church family following a service of Holy Baptism in St Molua’s, Magheracloone. The promises were made for Charlie by his parents Kevin and Lindsay and Godparents Erika and Martin. Charlie was joined by his siblings Matthew and Zoe and family and friends.
Cleenish & Mullaghdun

Vacant
Rural Dean, Revd John Woods
is in charge
For urgent pastoral calls, please contact
Dean Kenneth Hall

Dates for noting...

Sunday 14th November
– Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 21st November
– Service of Holy Communion in both Parishes

Sunday 19th December
– Service of Nine Lessons and Carols in both Parishes (morning service times)

Christmas Eve 24th December
– Service of Holy Communion in Mullaghdun Church at 11.30 pm

Christmas Day 25th December
– Service of Holy Communion – Mullaghdun Church – 9.30 am
Cleenish Church – 11.00 am

Sunday 26th December
– Morning Prayer in both Parishes

Harvest Thanksgiving
Canon W Johnston and Parish Reader, Robert Watterson conducted the Mullaghdun Harvest Service on Sunday 3rd October. The Choir led the singing of familiar harvest hymns and Canon Johnston preached a sermon which was challenging and encouraging. The Church was decorated tastefully by Caroline Little with flowers, foliage, fruit and vegetables. Details of the Harvest Thanksgiving Service for Cleenish will be given in the December edition of the Diocesan Magazine.

Sunday School Restart

Sunday School activities restart again.

Cleenish Parish Sunday School restarted on the first Sunday in October. In preparation for the restart, a meeting of parents and the Sunday School Leader, Rowena Sheridan was held. A number of parents have volunteered to assist the Sunday School Leader on a rota basis – without these volunteers, Sunday School would not operate. The Parish is grateful to these volunteers and may they have much enjoyment and fulfilment in assisting with our young people in Sunday School.

Bereavements

June Corr passed away peacefully at her home on 30th September, following a period of illness. A Service of Thanksgiving for her life was conducted by Dean Kenneth Hall in Mullaghdun Parish Church on Monday 4th October. We express sympathy to June’s husband, Norman, her sons Thomas, Matthew and Lucas, and to the extended family circle.

We also sympathise with Tommy Gallagher and his family circle following the death of his brother, George, on 19th September; and with John Ryan and his family circle following the death of his sister, Wilma, on 20th September.

Holy Baptism

Cleenish Parish Church
17th October 2021 - Matthew William Wylie, son of Jacqueline Anne and Andrew Brian Wylie, Drumlin Heights, Enniskillen.

Bellanaleck Community Group

At the monthly meeting of the Group on Wednesday 22nd September, discussion...
took place on a number of issues including the increased traffic in Waterhen Lane since the quayside was completed; the consideration of traffic calming measures on the main road through the village; the outcomes of the consultation relating to the Stroke Unit in the South-West Acute Hospital and the overgrown foliage along the side of the Loughshore path. Appreciation was expressed towards Fermanagh Omagh District Council regarding the satisfactory state of the Community Garden. The next meeting of the Group is due on Wednesday 17th November at which new members are always welcome. Contact Owen Wilson (Sec) 66349602, or Sharon Elliott on Facebook.

A Prayer during the vacancy of a Parish

Almighty God, the giver of every good gift, look graciously, we beseech thee, on thy Church, and so guide with thy heavenly wisdom the minds of those to whom is committed the choice of a minister for the Parishes of Cleenish and Mullaghdun, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who shall feed thy flock according to thy will, and make ready a people acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ, thine only Son our Lord. (Book of Common Prayer)

CHURCH OF IRELAND

确认

确认服务将举行在周三11月3日St. Macartan’s Cathedral, Clogher for our young people from across the group. Please continue to uphold all our young people in your prayers.

纪念日周日

在周日上午11月14日，教区确认将举行在我们的四个教区。请注意，将只有在Clogher的黎明中的仪式，在那里将有皇家英国军团确认仪式在Cenotaph在Clogher在2.30pm.

丰收感恩

作为笔记的确认杂志被提交了所有四个教区的丰收感恩服务。每个作为个体的教区自己，每个显示了令人惊奇的关心，注意和感恩对于所有的上帝全能的祝福

丰收继续！

在Cathedral教区和St. Mark’s Newtownaville相反的带来的数量的新鲜水果和蔬菜来装饰，教区决定贡献干货和罐头食品到当地食品银行。这些是慷慨的礼物将非常被欣赏。干得好,

场景从收获装饰St. Mark’s Newtownaville.
Here in this Group of Parishes we are pleased to say that, in November, we are really looking forward to resuming many of the activities that we have been missing during the past months under Covid-19 restrictions. Congregational singing will begin again, as will Sunday School and Mothers’ Union meetings. Our youngsters will also be able to start confirmation preparation classes, and we are delighted that Bishop Ian has agreed to come here to our Group to lead the Confirmation Service on Sunday 30 January 2022. Last but not least, church meetings can now resume and we plan to hold our postponed Annual General Vestry meetings in the first two weeks of November. There’s a lot going on, even before we reach the Christmas season!
Forthcoming Services
7 November
Clones 10.00am: Morning Prayer
Newbliss 11.30am: Morning Prayer

14 November
Currin 10.00am: Morning Prayer, with Act of Remembrance
Killeevan 11.30am: Morning Prayer, with Act of Remembrance
(Guest preacher at both services: Canon W. Johnston)

21 November
Clones 10.00am: Morning Prayer
(with baptism of Leah Boyle)
Newbliss 11.30am: Morning Prayer

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

Forthcoming Annual General Vestry Meetings
(All at 8.00pm, in the respective churches)
Currin – Wednesday 3 November
Clones – Tuesday 9 November
Killeevan – Wednesday 10 November
Newbliss – Thursday 11 November

Harvest Services
In October each of our parishes celebrated the Harvest Festival and gave thanks for the good year experienced by our farmers. Although we could not mark the occasion on our usual scale, all our churches were beautifully decorated, for which many thanks to everyone involved. We also thank our two guest preachers, Mr Charles Crawford and Mr Kenneth Rutledge, who both gave stirring sermons – as well as Mrs. Heather Allen, a wonderful guest organist in Killeevan, who lifted our spirits with her music.

Sunday School
Classes are scheduled to resume in all Group churches from Sunday 24 October.

Confirmation Preparation Classes
These are open to all over the age of 13 who wish to be confirmed. This month they will take place in Scotshouse Church from 7.30-8.45 pm on 2 November, 17 November, 24 November. Anyone wishing to join this year’s confirmation preparation course should contact the Rector before the first meeting – and should be able to commit to all meetings (held on Wednesday evenings, except for the first one) until the end of January 2022.

Mothers’ Union
MU meetings resume on Thursday 28 October in Killeevan (8.00pm) with a Service of Evening Prayer (led by the Rector) followed by refreshments and convivial conversation as we discuss programme possibilities for the coming months. The next meeting will be a hands-on Christmas Craft evening at a date yet to be confirmed – but probably towards the start of December.

Forthcoming marriage
Please pray for Melissa Hall and Aodhan Og McAnespie as they prepare for their marriage on 27 November in Killeevan Church.

Clones Family Resource Centre Information
Getting all Ready to Play
Clones Baby and Toddler group is ready to go again and ready to welcome parents and their young children. Due to demand, it will run on both Wednesday and Friday mornings in the Family Resource Centre. Contact Sharon McGovern, Family Support Worker on 087 0934503 to register your place. Covid guidelines will apply.

Low Cost Counselling / Psychotherapy Service
The above service is available for adults and young people from 13 to 18 years of age in Clones Family Resource Centre. This confidential service is only a phone call away. All our counsellors are professionally qualified and registered with IACP or BACP. Prompt appointments are offered and may be either face to face or by phone. To find out more, call Angela on 086 1785710.

Panic Buttons for Older People
If you are aged 66 or over and are interested in applying for a Panic Button under the SAS Pobal scheme please contact Anne Davey at Clones Family Resource Centre on 047 52919 for more information. Areas covered include Clones, Smithborough, Newbliss, Aghabog, Drum and Scotshouse. Panic buttons can be used with either landlines or mobile phones.

Handpainted Christmas Cards with scenes from Clones
Clones Family Resource Centre is delighted to offer for sale a limited edition of hand-painted Christmas cards featuring well-known places in Clones. Individual cards feature beautiful buildings such as St Tighernach's Church of Ireland, Clones Round Tower, and the High Cross. Each card is individually painted by local artist, Tess Paley, and is modestly priced. The cards are exclusively available in the “Second Time Round” charity shop, situated just off the Diamond in Clones – and all proceeds in aid of the Family Resource Centre’s counselling service.
The preparations of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD. All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the spirits. Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established. The LORD has made all for Himself, Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.” Proverbs 16: 1 – 4

Harvest
Our harvest weekend could only be described as a joyous time to give thanks and praise to God our creator, redeemer, and judge for the abundance of His blessings. The beautiful harvest decorations were a wonderful reminder of just how much God has given us, and the talents used in presenting the same to the glory of God. We sincerely thank all who contributed to the decorations, prepared the church, led the worship, IT, and the children who read lessons and led the prayers at the family service. We want to thank Mr Keith Browne our speaker on the Friday evening for sharing with us a challenging and encouraging address.

Gift Day/Centennial of Northern Ireland
This year’s annual Gift Day is to be held on
Shoppers’ Service
This will be held on Wednesday 10th November at 11.00am in Derryvullen North. This is a short half hour Service of Holy Communion and we are pleased to have Richard McGonigle accompany the praise on the guitar. There would usually be refreshments after the Service but for the present these are not being served.

Remembrance Sunday
This will be observed on 14th November with Acts of Remembrance at each of the morning services (10.30am Derryvullen North and 11.45am Castle Archdale) and there will be an afternoon Service of Remembrance in Derryvullen North at 3.30pm with members of the Royal British Legion and other groups from the community. The afternoon Service will be preceded by the laying of wreaths and an Act of Remembrance at the Cross of Sacrifice.

Boys Brigade annual enrolment Service
This is planned for Sunday 21st November in Derryvullen North Church at 11.30am. We hope to have three Queen’s Awards presented at that Service.

Online Reflection
The weekly online reflection continues to be prepared both for those who are unable to get to Church but also as an additional source of spiritual nurture.

Confirmations
We were pleased to welcome Bishop Ian to Castle Archdale (Sunday 19th September) and to Derryvullen North (Wednesday 22nd September) for the Rite of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. It was wonderful to see the young people participate so well in the Service as they gathered with their families – they had been waiting so long for of course their Confirmation had been planned initially for May 2020. In Castle Archdale the special flowers on the altar were by Irene Armstrong, the Gospel reading was by Sophie Armstrong. Gwen Robinson acted as Churchwarden for the Service as our Churchwardens Bryan and Derek were otherwise engaged as dad and grandad respectively on this occasion. The organist was William McBride and Dr Margaret assisted in the Service. The candidates who were confirmed were; Brooke Anderson, Natalie Thompson and Archie Knox.

Sunday 28th November at 11.30am. It offers us an opportunity to give back to God in the way He has blessed us, and as this year marks the Centennial of Northern Ireland, to give thanks for His goodness and mercy, past and present. In both, we acknowledge with deepest gratitude that God is the giver of every good and perfect gift, and all we have and are, comes from Him.

“Now therefore, our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name. But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, And of Your own we have given You.” 1 Chronicles 29: 13 – 14

Please check weekly notices for other groups and organisations around dates for meetings etc.
In Derryvullen North the special flowers were by Rebecca McKenzie and the Gospel reading by Parish Reader, Ethel Johnston. Churchwarden Avril Stubbs was supported by Bertie Gray in looking after the arrangements on the evening – our other churchwarden, Sam, was otherwise engaged also on this occasion as dad. The organist was Florence Barrett and members of the choir led the praise and a special anthem was sung by Iris Robinson, Carol Clarke and Marion Faris accompanied by David McDowell. The confirmation candidates were: Jasmine Giles, Sophie Moore, Molly Quinn, Aimee Ross, Rebecca Thompson, Matthew Hunter, Amos Johnston, Adam Johnston, Samuel McKenzie and Reece Wood.

Harvest in Castle Archdale
The Harvest Services took place on Sunday 3rd October at 10.15am and 7.00pm. The Church looked wonderful and the decorations were to the usual very high standard and we are very grateful to Irene Armstrong and the group of decorators who all put so much into what they did. At the morning Service the Scripture lesson was read by Edie Matthews. At the evening service we welcomed our Rural Dean, the Revd Canon Alan Irwin, as the guest preacher and special instrumental duets were by organist William McBride (keyboard) and Don Swain (flute). Dr Margaret assisted in the leading of the Service. There was a covid aware “bring a flask” coffee time after the service with wrapped snacks supplied by members of the Vestry. We hope that next year we will be able to have our usual harvest supper. There are some photographs of the occasion accompanying these notes.

Harvest in Derryvullen North
At the time of preparing these magazine notes the Harvest Services in Derryvullen North (Sunday 17th Oct) have not yet taken place – we will have photographs of the occasion in next edition of the magazine. At the morning service we hope to have a solo by Alice, an anthem by the Choir and a Scripture reading by Amos Johnston. At the evening Service we hope to welcome the Revd William Anderson (from the Archdiocese of Armagh) and to have two anthems by the Choir. A group of the catering team led by Avril Stubbs have kindly planned a covid aware coffee time with disposable cups and wrapped snacks.

Parish Organisations
By the time this edition of the magazine is published the Select Vestry of Derryvullen North Parish will (DV) have met with representatives of the organisations and groups that would usually meet in the parish halls. We hope to set in place procedures that will enable the groups to reopen – it is not expected that all groups reopen at the same time or in the same manner as the circumstances and needs of each group will be different.

FROM THE REGISTERS
Burial
Elizabeth (Lizzie) Wilson, Derryvullen North, 24th September.
Vacant:
During the vacancy Revd John Woods is in charge.

Service and pastoral cover will be provided by Mr Roy Crowe DPA and Dean Raymond Ferguson.

Services for November

Sunday, 7th November
10.30am Morning Prayer at Garvary
12 Noon Morning Prayer at Derryvullen South

Sunday, 14th November
10.30am Morning Prayer at Derryvullen South
12 Noon Morning Prayer at Garvary

Sunday, 21st November
10.30am Morning Prayer at Garvary
12 Noon Morning Prayer at Derryvullen South

Sunday, 28th November
10.30am Morning Prayer at Derryvullen South
12 Noon Morning Prayer at Garvary.

Garvary Harvest Thanksgiving Service
There was a good attendance at the Harvest Service on Sunday, 10th October 2021. Dean Raymond Ferguson was the preacher. There was a good response to the appeal for donations of foods for the Food Bank in Lisnaskea. Our thanks to all those who were kind enough to give donations to this.

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

Derryvullen South Dedication
On Sunday 10th October Derryvullen South Parish was delighted to have dedicated, for the use of parishioners, copies of the Thanks And Praise supplement to the current Church Hymnal. They have been kindly gifted by the Graham family in memory of Elsie Elizabeth Graham who died in March 2021 aged 92 and were funded by the generous donations made in lieu of flowers at Elsie’s funeral.

Elsie was a lifelong member of Derryvullen Church and a member of the choir as she loved singing and music, especially pipe band music, and taught herself to play the piano. In the early days to accommodate...
those mothers who could not attend church in the mornings Derryclavin Orange Hall was used for afternoon worship and Elsie was in regular attendance. There was no organ music available at the time and it was Elsie’s role to ‘raise’ the hymns, a task she took very seriously. Elsie attended Derryvullen South regularly and enjoyed singing in the choir well into her eighties. She is fondly remembered by all and these Hymn books will serve as a permanent memorial to a life of service to her Church.

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 November
Sunday 7th
10.00am Holy Communion Service, Boho Parish Church
11.30am Holy Communion Service, Devenish Parish Church

Sunday 14th
10.00am Remembrance Service, Boho Parish Church
11.30am, Remembrance Service
Devenish Parish Church

**Sunday 21st**
10.00 am Morning Prayer, Boho Parish Church
11.30am Family Service, Devenish Parish Church,

**Sunday 28th**
10.00 am Morning Prayer, Boho Parish Church
11.30am Morning Prayer, Devenish Parish Church,

**Burial**
Thursday 30th September 2021 - Robin Ferguson, Giltagh, Derrygonnelly.
The funeral service was conducted by the Revd Sampson Ajuka in Devenish Parish Church followed by the burial in the adjoining graveyard.

We offer our deepest sympathy to Robin’s wife Vivienne, son Colin and daughter Sharon and the wider family circle.

**Confirmation Service**
We are looking forward to Sunday 5th December when Bishop Ellis will be joining us to conduct Confirmation. We would ask you to pray for the candidates.

**Harvest Thanksgiving Services**
There were encouraging attendances at our Harvests this Year. Thank you to all who brought flowers, fruit and vegetables and helped decorate in both Boho and Devenish churches.

Thanks to Revd Sampson Ajuka and Mrs Ellen Stephenson for preaching at our services and to the organists Mrs Gill Spence in Devenish and the Ajuka Family in Boho.

**Devenish Parish Annual Auction and Sale**
This takes place on Saturday 6th November at 2.00pm in the Reade Hall, Monea. This is the main annual fundraising event in the Parish and the Select Vestry would be grateful for all gifts for the Auction and Sale. This can include agricultural products, vegetables, firewood, electrical goods, cakes, groceries, bric a brac or financial donations.

**Mothers’ Union**
Mothers’ Union resumed on Tuesday 21st September in the Reade Hall, Monea. Revd Sampson opened the meeting with a hymn, bible reading and prayers. Georgina, our Branch Leader, then welcomed everyone back after a long absence and led us in prayer.

Prior to the commencement of the business meeting, Georgina paid tribute to two highly regarded and long serving members, Kathleen Irwin and Noreen Acheson, who recently passed away and who will be greatly missed by our Branch Members. Since our meeting we were saddened to hear of the passing of Vivienne Ferguson’s husband Robin, and we send our deepest sympathy to Vivienne and her family.
**Donagh & Tyholland with Errigal Truagh**

Chancellor Ian Berry is in charge.

Services and pastoral cover provided by Revd. Margaret Pringle

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**Climate Sunday**

*Psalm 24 “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is within it; For, he has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers”*

Donagh Group of parishes across the Church of Ireland have taken up the challenge to support Climate Sunday, an initiative of churches together in Britain and Northern Ireland.

We have been made aware for some time that climate change has been taking place but other worldly events took precedence and now it seems the harsh reality is upon us that this is real and it is not going away. We are horrified to learn of the plastic pollution littering our seas, species becoming extinct at record rates, climate crises creating drought, floods, more frequent and severe storms and the sad thing is that the greatest impacts are hitting people in poverty the hardest.

As a backdrop and introduction to our harvest and Climate Sunday 10th October 2021 we used the video on Climate Change which was produced by the Church of Ireland which includes the following message from Archbishop John McDowell.

“There has probably never been a time when an emphasis by the churches on the care of the created order is needed. Climate Sunday gives parishes the opportunity to celebrate God’s work in creation as well as his work in redemption. At a time when the need to do so is most pressing”

The highlight of the church service for me was the video project on climate change that our Sunday school young folk, teachers and parents had put together for the service. The informative video included the seven days of creation, bible readings, memory verses, prayers and video clips made by the children themselves. It was powerful because young people were teaching us that while we as individuals cannot save the planet, we can still play our part in small and practical way in our homes as individuals.

Practical demonstrations were carried out by the young people in and outside their own homes reminding us how to cut down on the use of water while showering, washing our teeth, boiling the right amount of water to make a cup of tea, switching off light bulbs, conserving heat in the home by closing windows and doors, recycling and planting trees. Included also was a powerful demonstration by a Sunday school pupil on how he and his dad are helping the environment by keeping bees in order to produce honey. (I understand that this video clip may be viewed on the Diocesan website in the near future).

Our service included worship and prayer on the theme of climate change. Genesis 1: 1-28 on “creation” was read by Diane Wright Kendrick, Eileen Fielding read Colossians 1:15-20 “the person and work of Christ” while Alexandra Kendrick read a prayer of gratitude.

*“Prayer of gratitude for creation”*

“God of the universe, we thank you for your many gifts-
For the beauty of creation and its rich and varied fruits,
For clean water and fresh air, for food and shelter, animals and plants.
Forgive us for the times we have taken the earth for granted.
Bless us as we do our part to protect creation in the small and practical ways that we can.”

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Eve - Recycle paper, plastic and tin.

Matthew - Do not buy plastic bottles - Use Reusable containers to collect water from the tap.

Jessica - How to make a cup of tea while saving water and electricity.

Alfie says use natural light instead of electricity as much as possible.

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THE CLOGHER DIOCESAN MAGAZINE
Why worry when we can pray?
The hill in the distance looked daunting.
“You want to climb that?” I stopped walking to re-lace my shoes.
Helen giggled. “Yes, of course. I do it almost every day. The dogs love it.” Her two dogs ran ahead, eager to get going.
“Well, I suppose. But I’m not sure if I’ll make it.” I shifted my water bottle to my hip. The hill loomed ahead, a 5-kilometre walk upwards. I wasn’t a stranger to a good hike; I loved to tromp through the woods and along the trails. But a walk straight up a steep hill was not my usual repertoire.
To pass the time and keep my mind off the pain in my calves, we talked. Enjoying a good chat is one of my favourite things to do in combination with a walk. Helen explained how she normally walks alone and she agreed that having a partner makes the upwards strain that much easier. She shared with me a story of how she had been walking the same road the day before and suffered from blasts of dust from cars that raced by with no consideration for her and her dogs. Her frustration was compounded by the heat. She threw her arms up in irritation as cars sped past. “Why are you not slowing down? Have you no consideration?” she called after them. But as her anger and indignation rose, she felt convicted in her spirit. Why worry when you could pray? So as the next car came into vision, instead of complaining and getting agitated waiting for the dust to swirl around her, she chose to pray...
GFS and CLB is back to face-to-face activities once a fortnight on a Monday 1st, 15th and 29th November, 6.45pm – 7.45pm, in the hall. It was great to see a good number at our first GFS and CLB meeting of the new term, on 4th October, after 18 months of not being able to meet together. A big thank you to Alison, Robert and the rest of the GFS and CLB leaders who have kept in touch with children through a WhatsApp group with parents. It’s been good to see photos of the various things that the children have been doing at home, but we rejoice that the Church is once again a place where children can come together to have fun and fellowship. Covid-19 protocols are in place to keep our children and volunteers safe.

Ignite

Ignite meets once a fortnight on a Saturday (13th and 27th November) 7.30pm – 8.45pm, in the hall (with Bible teaching and games). Again, we’ll be following Covid-19 protocols to keep our young people and volunteers safe at the same time as having a bit of fun.

Bible Study

Our Bible Study group meets in the Church, once a fortnight, on Wednesday (10th & 24th November) 8.15pm – 9.30pm. Come along and learn together from God’s word.

Sunday School and Family Services

Once a fortnight children will go straight to Sunday School in the Church Hall, while everyone else meets in the Church for our normal Services, which continue to be streamed live on Facebook from 10.50am with the Service starting at 11am. These Services will normally be around 45 minutes in length. In the weeks in between we will have Family Services, which will be around 35-40 minutes in length. As well as the hall being used as an overflow for Family Services, the Committee Room will also have the service on the screen (for parents with young children if you feel that they are unsettled in the Church).

7th November
11.00am - Morning Service, ‘Waiting for Him’, Hebrews 9:24-28
(Children go directly to the hall for Sunday School)

14th November
11.00am – Family Service (Remembrance Service)

21st November
11.00am – Family Service (Paddy Quinn)

28th November
11.00am – Holy Communion, ‘May He strengthen your hearts…’, 1 Thess 3:9-13
(Children go directly to the hall for Sunday School)

28th November
7.30pm - Advent Carol Service

There’s nothing too small to talk to God about. He cares for the big things and the little things in our lives. As you learn to share all things with Him, let Him share with you as you listen!

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Morning Prayer Meeting

Once a fortnight we meet early on a Tuesday (2nd, 16th and 30th November) 7.00am – 7.30am. Come along and join us to pray for the Church, Community and World, knowing that prayer makes a difference.

Keeping up to date

There are several ways that you can keep up to date with everything that is going on in the parish:
• Like our page ‘Holy Trinity Dromore’ on Facebook
• Watch our Live Streamed Services https://www.facebook.com/holytrinitydromore/live/
• Subscribe to our YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwj585CXlqOq6W6h7_2AiYg/
• Watch uploaded Services on YouTube on a smart TV, uploaded usually on Sunday afternoon (All-age Service).
• Follow us on Twitter @HTDromore.
• Get a recording of the service on CD or DVD every week

There’s nothing too small to talk to God about. He cares for the big things and the little things in our lives. As you learn to share all things with Him, let Him share with you as you listen!
Another month has passed and I am putting pen to paper (or keyboard to screen) once again. We have had a Service of Confirmation in September which was slightly later than planned (16 months later in fact). It was a delight to welcome Bishop Ian to the group and to Drumkeeran (Tubrid) Church in particular on 19 September as he confirmed 10 candidates in what was a lovely service. I hope that we will see our candidates and their families in church in the months that lie ahead.

We have completed our Harvest Services and I have included some photos from Templecarne (Pettigo) and Drumkeeran (Tubrid). I have also included a photo of the Confirmation Candidates between the rose and the thorn (the Bishop and myself). We now turn to the Season of Remembrance with all that means to us in various ways and as I did last year, I hope to share some more details about those who we remember year by year in our churches.

I want to share some thoughts with you which formed part of a recent sermon. I looked at these words from Joel, “do not be afraid, land of Judah; be glad and rejoice. Surely the LORD has done great things!”

As we continue to emerge from the last 18 months, I want to suggest that we should not be afraid. The reason that I chose to highlight that thought is that the one thing that has disappointed me over the past months has been the lack of faith. When I say that I am also referring to the lack of a message to tell us that we should continue to trust in God for all things. That thought has been sadly lacking during the pandemic.

As we continue to live with this virus, we should not be afraid of Covid-19 and even more we should not be afraid of anything that life may bring in our way. That is what faith is about – trusting God to do what is right in all things. If we can do that then we should be glad, we should be thankful and we should rejoice.

We should not be afraid – why do I say that? Simply because of God’s love for us which was shown through his Son. As we read in Romans 8, What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

What shall we say in response to the fear that the media, the government and
society at large is promoting on a daily basis?
If God is for us, who can be against us?
Why can we say this – well Paul tells us in these words of scripture - He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?
How can we question God in light of these words?
We can only answer that question for ourselves but the lack of faith or the lack of evidence of faith suggests that we have work to do so I commended that thought - do not be afraid.
I further commended the thought that we should be glad and rejoice as we celebrate all that God has done for us not just in the material sense but also in the spiritual sense as we remember that the LORD has done great things!
I expanded on that thought by highlighting some further words from Joel. You will praise the name of the Lord your God, who has worked wonders for you.
This should be at the very heart of our lives – a yearning to praise the name of our Lord God and to thank him for all that he has done for us – the wonders that he has worked for us.
I used some words from psalm 126 to add a little more emphasis to what I was trying to say, the Lord has indeed done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.
I hope that in sharing these thoughts I have offered some encouragement.
I have added the service times for November but would like to give some advance notice of the service arrangements for Christmas as they will be slightly different than usual.
Christmas Eve
Holy Communion Tubrid at 11.00pm
Christmas Day
Holy Communion Muckross at 10.00am
Sunday 26 December
Group Service Templecarne at 11.00am

Diary
Sunday 7 November 2021
Morning Prayer 10.00 Templecarne,
Morning Prayer 11.30 Tubrid
Sunday 14 November 2021
Remembrance 10.00 Muckross,
Remembrance 11.30 Tubrid
Sunday 21 November 2021
Holy Communion 10.00 Templecarne,
Holy Communion 11.30 Tubrid
Sunday 28 November 2021
Holy Communion 10.00 Muckross,
Morning Prayer 11.30 Tubrid
**Enniskillen Cathedral**

Rector:

**Dean Shane Forster of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.**

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

Cathedral Office Secretary:

Mrs Beth Rennick

T: 028 66 922217
E: enniskillen@clogher.anglican.org

W: www.enniskillencathedral.org

Sue Hogg DPA
Tel: 07798 658 949

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**Ematris with Rockcorry, Aghabog, Aughnamullen and Drum**

Pastoral Cover:

Mr Walter Pringle, assisted by Canon Charles McCollum.

Chancellor Ian Berry is in charge.

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**Dartrey and Rockcorry**

**Sympathy**

We extend our deepest sympathy to Agnes Phair and family on the recent death of her brother, David Donaldson who died suddenly and unexpectedly on 23rd September. Following the funeral service in St. John’s Church of Ireland, Longford, David’s remains were laid to rest in the adjoining churchyard.

**Congratulations**

Congratulations and best wishes to Warren and Deborah Clarke on the safe arrival of their baby daughter, Sadie.

**Harvests**

Harvest services have been held in Rockcorry and Dartrey churches. Our grateful thanks to all who helped to prepare for these occasions.

**New Pastoral Assistant**

Best wishes and every blessing to Keith Browne who was commissioned as a new Diocesan Pastoral Assistant at a special service of Holy Communion in St. Macartin’s Cathedral, Enniskillen, on 16th September. Our prayers go with him as he undertakes this new sphere of ministry.

**Personal**

We remember all who are ill at home, in hospital and in nursing homes. May they experience the power of God’s love.

**Rockcorry School**

In Rockcorry National School we have had a busy but enjoyable first half to the term. All the new pupils have settled in well and all the pupils have been working hard. This year we are going to start working towards our fifth Green School Flag. For the next two years we are going to spend time learning all about biodiversity. We are also fortunate enough to have the Ulster Scots group working with us again this year. This time we have a dance teacher who is teaching Scottish Dancing to the whole school.

**Aughnamullen**

Congratulations to Lisa Conly, granddaughter of Kenny and Betty Jordan on her recent graduation in Spanish and History at Maynooth University.

Our thanks to Dean Raymond Ferguson for providing our Holy Communion services. Our Annual Easter Vestry was held in the Church due to covid restrictions on Tuesday 28th September and our thanks to Rural Dean, Revd Lorraine Capper for conducting it and all officers were re-elected in block.

The Auction held on 9th September in aid of the Billy Fox Trail was held at the GAA Centre, Latton. Thanks to those who came along and supported the event which was a great success. We thank the GAA for the use of the hall and carpark. We also thank Noel Hall, the auctioneer for all his services in keeping the auction flowing, to Walter Pringle for providing the necessary amplification and all his help, to Alice Forde for arranging the event and to the select vestry members who moved items from the school to the centre, also to those who donated prizes for the raffle and all those who helped in any way.

**Aghabog**

**Harvest**

Again this year our harvest service on 3rd October was held on a reduced scale due to covid restrictions and was well supported. Our thanks to Walter Pringle for conducting the service and to Ethel for choosing and playing lovely harvest hymns and to those who brought flowers, fruit and vegetables and decorated the church.

We were delighted to Dean Raymond Ferguson who came along and conducted our Holy Communion service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have been unwell at home or in hospital and we wish them a speedy recovery.

Our thanks to the Rural Dean, Revd Lorraine Capper who came along and conducted our Easter Vestry Meeting on 27th September and to all those who came along.

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**November Services**

**Thursday 4th November**

11.00am – Holy Communion

**Sunday 7th November: The Third Sunday before Advent**

9.00am – Holy Communion
11.00am – Morning Prayer

**Thursday 11th November**

11.00am – Holy Communion

**Sunday 14th November: The Second Sunday before Advent - Remembrance Day**

9.00am – Holy Communion
11.30am – Morning Prayer (Remembrance Day Service), Preacher: The Bishop of Clogher

**Thursday 18th November**

11.00am – Holy Communion

**Sunday 21st November: The Sunday before Advent – The Kingship of Christ**

9.00am – Holy Communion
11.00am – Holy Communion

**Thursday 25th November**

11.00am – Holy Communion

**Sunday 28th November: The Kingship of Christ**
“Go make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19

Marriage
2nd October - Emily Lee Plunkett and Henry Valentine de Courcy

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who labour build in vain” Psalm 127:1

Burial
- 18th September – Noel Charles Desmond (Dinky) McFarlane, 20 Abbey Drive, Enniskillen.
- 21st September – Sylvia Hariett Kennedy, 60 Lisgoole Park, Enniskillen.
- 5th October - Baby Jacqueline Catalan, 3 Willowvale, Enniskillen.
- 16th October - William John Wesley Wallace, 26 Brackvede Park, Enniskillen.

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

Harvest Services
Our Harvest Service took place on Sunday 10th October. The preacher was The Very Rev Shane Forster, The Dean of Armagh who is pictured with the Dean and Parish Reader Scott Elliott. During the service two flower pots and stands were gifted by George and Myrtle Irvine in memory of their son Alistair and dedicated. Thirteen collection baskets were also gifted by Noel and Jenifer Johnston and dedicated.

We are very grateful to Sabrina and Andy McCabe and Myrtle and George Irvine for the floral decorations in the Church. We really appreciate their time and talent. This year again being very different we decided not to use fruit and vegetables to avoid any spread of infection due to multiple handling.

RTE Remembrance Day Service
The Sunday Service on RTE One at 11.00am on 14th November will feature Enniskillen clergy, Dean Hall and Monsignor O’Reilly.

Jane McKinley will be the soloist and Orly Watson the organist. The Parish Reader, Scott Elliott will read a lesson and the prayers will be conducted by Churchwardens, Linda Kingston and Audrey Williamson. The Chairman of the Royal British Legion, John Jones and Standard Bearer Joyce Kempton will also take part. We really appreciate George Irvine giving his time to drive the Minibus.

Remembrance Sunday 2021
Enniskillen Remembrance Service St Macartin’s Cathedral Enniskillen on Sunday 14th November 2021 at 11.30am.

It has been decided and discussed with Enniskillen Royal British Legion, HML Viscount Brookeborough and Cathedral representatives, the Dean and David Young, that this year’s Remembrance Service will take place in the same format as last year. As everything is controlled by the Government restrictions and regulations within the Covid-19 pandemic seating allocations within the Cathedral are limited encompassing social distancing. Movement during the service and the use of equipment e.g. microphones etc will be limited. With this in mind seating is restricted to 30 invited guests which includes the VIP’s, dignitaries and special guests, Bugler and Piper. Including the British Legion, Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force, PSNI, FODC, UDR Assoc, St John’s Ambulance, Red Cross, Fire Service, RUCGC Assoc., we are restricted to one seat per service, organisation or association. It has been decided that the most senior officer or representative available from each of the above will be offered a seat by invitation only. We are deeply sorry that under these circumstances the availability of seating is curtailed and hope that everyone will understand if they are not included this year. The service will be steamed live on the Enniskillen Cathedral website enniskillencathedral.com

Those parishioners who have been faithful in attending are welcome to attend and we will try and get you seated. Once maximum capacity has been reached we cannot allow anyone else to enter.

The clergy from the four main churches will hold a service at the Cenotaph and it is hoped that this will also be streamed.
British legion are organising the Silence and wreath laying at the cenotaph at 11.00 am and everyone entitled to lay a wreath will be invited by the Chairman to attend with the planning and instructions. Once again, we apologise but we must continue to “Remember lest we never forget” even during these terrible times. Many may be disappointed at not being able to attend the Remembrance Service in St Macartin’s Cathedral but we have come to the decision it is better to hold a small service with restricted numbers and streamline it, than hold no service at all. Even if restrictions are relaxed we will still operate with the original plan as it would be very unwise to pack the Cathedral with people at this time.

Curate
A new Curate Assistant has been appointed to St. Macartin’s Cathedral, Enniskillen. Following much prayer and reflection, and with the gracious support of the Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin, and the Rt Rev Dr Ian Ellis, Bishop of Clogher, the Parish of Enniskillen has announced that the Revd Christopher West, formerly Curate Assistant in Taney Parish, in the Diocese of Dublin, has accepted the position of Curate Assistant in St Macartin’s Cathedral, the Parish of Enniskillen, in the Diocese of Clogher. Rev West’s “farewell” Sunday in Taney Parish was on 31st October 2021 and he will undertake this new position in Enniskillen Parish over the past year, Revd West says he has enjoyed serving and worshipping alongside the clergy and people of Taney Parish over the past year, Revd West says he is delighted to have accepted the position of Curate Assistant in St Macartin’s Cathedral, the Parish of Enniskillen, in the Diocese of Clogher.

“I am greatly looking forward to serving and worshipping alongside the Dean of Clogher, the Very Revd Kenneth Hall, and the people of Enniskillen,” he said.

Cathedral Restoration Project
Work is progressing steadily with the restoration work. Mr Chris McCollum, conservation specialist, who is supervising the work, is well pleased with progress. The quality of materials being used and the workmanship are of a high standard. A site meeting takes place regularly following a detailed inspection by Mr McCollum. The structural work on the pinnacles on the tower has been completed. Observers will have noticed that the pinnacles have been covered with hessian material. This was done to prevent the rooks from picking at the fresh joints in the structures. This material will be removed when the jointing material has properly hardened. Removal of the complex structure of scaffolding from the tower presented challenge. A large crane was needed for the purpose. Repair work on the stonework is a significant part of the restoration work. Cracked and damaged sections of stonework are removed and replaced using natural stone of a similar colour and structure to the existing. Shaping the new stone material to fit neatly into existing structures requires special skills. Sealing the roof structure and pinnacle interfaces against the ingress of water requires expertise in the use of lead flashings.

Financing the project
As the contract progresses, the contractor requires stage payments for the work undertaken. The stonework and the lead valleys and other lead fittings in the roof structure are now well advanced and the contractor will have to pay those specialists for their work. In turn, the contractor’s invoices to the parish will reflect this and these will need to be paid by the parish. The parish’s income for this major project depends mainly on the generosity of parishioners. Those church members who have not already returned their yellow envelope contributions, or the funds raised through the sale of slate tickets, are requested to do so as soon as possible in order to boost parish finances.

Messy Church
Messy Church is a great opportunity for children to learn about God and the Bible in a relaxed and creative atmosphere. It is a FREE group open to all primary-aged children, from all denominations, held on the third Thursday...
of each month. November’s session will now be ONLINE with resource pack pick-up on Monday 15th November from 4-5pm at the Cathedral Hall. Please drive around to the back of the hall and a member of our Messy Church team will be there with the packs.

Our hope is to have December’s sessions in person however this will depend on regulations and restrictions. We will review this closer to the time and post any updates to our social media pages, in Cathedral News and in the weekly Cathedral emails, so please read these carefully. The date will stay the same regardless of whether we meet in person or online.

Sunday Lights + Café at Enniskillen Cathedral

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

Sunday Lights + Café sessions will remain online via our Google Drive until the end of the year. There will be one session posted each week, with activities suitable for both Sunday Lights and Sunday Café participants. The link to our Google Drive can be found on our social media pages as well as in the weekly Cathedral emails.

Confirmation and Xplore

We plan to run Confirmation classes again starting on 13th December 2021 at 6.30pm in the Upper Room. This year’s class is open to anyone in Years 9 and 10. Anyone wishing to be confirmed should contact the Cathedral Office for an application form. More details will follow.

Our youth group, Xplore meets on the last Monday of each month and is open to all young people who have been confirmed as well as those in our current confirmation class. We are looking forward to holding Xplore meetings again once regulations permit.

How Can I Get Involved?

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

- On our social media pages and Google Drive
- On the Enniskillen Cathedral website under the ‘Children’ tab
- From childrenandyouth@enniskillencathedral.com
- From the Cathedral Office (tel. 02866322917)

All children and young people MUST be registered to participate in any Children and Youth organisation. All organisations are separate and require their own registration form.

Mothers’ Union

Our October meeting was held in the Enniskillen Room on Monday 11th with good attendance. The Dean opened the meeting with a reading and prayer. We then had the pleasure of having the Dean as our speaker, the title of his talk was “A journey to ordination”. He spoke about his family, finance, fulfilment and future, it was a most interesting and inspiring story of his path to the ministry with some amusing antidotes. The meeting closed with the Mothers’ Union prayer. Our next meeting will be on Monday November 8th with guest speaker Mr David Bolton.

Date for the Diary Tuesday 30th November - Christmas Dinner.

Shoe Box Appeal

Operation Christmas Child began in the UK in 1990, a tangible message of hope for children in the toughest of circumstances. Every year since, Samaritan’s Purse has collected shoebox gifts filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children around the world. Since 1990, more than 178 million children in more than 150 countries have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God’s love.

Get an empty medium sized shoebox and wrap the box and lid separately in colourful wrapping paper or order preprinted shoeboxes online. Attach the appropriate boy/girl label, marking if your gift is for a boy or a girl. Select an age category 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 and attach the label to the top of your shoebox. Fill your shoebox with a selection of fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies. If possible, include one or two special items you know a child will love such as a doll, cuddly toy or deflated football with pump. A suggested donation of £5 is essential to cover project costs, including shipping, to enable a local church or group overseas to lead a safe, well-organised children’s event where your shoebox will be given to a child in need.

Leaflets and boxes are available in the church porch. You can collect these on a Sunday or Thursday morning. All shoe boxes need to be returned at the latest by Sunday 21st November.

Prayer

May the joy of Christ shine in our eyes, the compassion of Christ reach out through our hands, the word of Christ fall from our tongues and the love of Christ flow from our hearts. Amen.
Looking Back at the Harvest
Well Done and Thank you! This year, instead of the usual three services, or reducing to one, we increased to four. This was shaped by Sunday School's need for a service and the result was really positive. Thirty four people attended Kiltermon on the Friday evening with guest preacher, Dean Raymond Ferguson. Sixty attended the first Sunday morning service and 140 attended the Sunday School service while 50 gathered on the Sunday evening. This Autumn we were studying the Parables of Jesus and therefore on the Sunday evening. This Autumn we are studying the Parables of Jesus and therefore all the Harvest preachers were asked to bring themselves and spoke with a challenge and all age groups of children taking part.

Thank you to Sunday School, to the Churchwardens, musicians, parish office, florists and decorators, and preachers who made the weekend possible. We greatly enjoyed having Dean Raymond Ferguson, Alastair McFarland and Revd Olivia Downey with us during the weekend as well as some friends and visitors, and people feel more comfortable visiting other places of worship again. Monies raised this year through the Harvest envelope and the penny jars gathered by the Sunday School, are being divided equally between the Leprosy Mission, Abanna’s work in Uganda, and Scripture Union in Northern Ireland. A grand total of £330 was gathered by Sunday School in bronze and silver coins. Well done and thank you.

Pastoral Offices

Holy Baptism
Heidi Smyton, daughter of Gareth and Janice Smyton, baptised on Wednesday 6th October.
Evie Grace Ellis, daughter of Mark and Bethany Ellis, baptised on Thursday 14th October.

Sunday School
It was with much awaited anticipation that Sunday School reopened this year with Back to Church Sunday School on 12th September 2021. The service was based on the theme – Follow Jesus with our Feet and was filled with Christian readings, children’s talk led by Mamie Alexander, music and a family game. Having previously issued registration forms to families there was a fantastic response rate. With 92 children enrolling in these unprecedented times this is extremely encouraging for us all. We know that the Lord is moving within our families and drawing closer to him. Our first virtual Sunday School was held on 26th September with much excitement from all. After all the hard work of teachers preparing to open online we were delighted to connect with our Sunday School children again. This was met with a very positive response from families.

On 10th October we held our Harvest Service. The church was in an abundance of colour from all the beautiful crafts the children had prepared to decorate. This was a prebooked family service with all age groups of children taking part.

Alastair McFarland from Scripture Union provided the children’s talk and was an absolute joy and encouragement to listen to, both to the enjoyment of children and adults alike. Our Harvest Appeal this year from Sunday School was to raise funds for Abanna and Scripture Union charities. Children were collecting their coppers and putting them in a decorated jar. It was lovely to see the children of our Parish returning their jars and raising a grand total of £330. We look forward to holding Muddy Church with our Sunday School Children on the 24th October at the Round Lake.

Thinking ahead to Christmas we knew that we would have to be creative in telling the story of Jesus Birth. It is with great excitement that we have opened our registration process for our second Virtual Nativity. Acceptance responses are already coming in and hopefully this will be a great success! It is wonderful to feel the vibrance of our church family alive together again.

Heather Kirkpatrick

‘You will notice that we are managing so far without meeting in smaller classes indoors. This is to acknowledge the challenge teachers and families face during these times, and we greatly appreciate everything the teachers and families are doing to make this ministry possible.

Any new registrations with Heather Kirkpatrick through the parish office’

Precentor Hanlon

fivemiletownparish2@gmail.com

Help With Kids’ Talks
Online encouragement evening for parish and diocese with Jill Hamilton
8.15pm - 9.30pm by zoom on Wednesday 24th November 21.
An evening for Sunday School teachers, uniformed organisation leaders, ministers and youth leaders: email parish for zoom link, stating Name and Parish/Organisation.
With practical resource ideas to take away on the evening.
Sometimes we need a confidence boost and a little extra training to help in Children’s and Youth work. The parish here and the diocesan board for RE are partnering to host an online evening packed with ideas for Kids Talks. If you need ideas for talks in Church, Sunday School, assemblies, or uniformed
organisations’ work, book in for this 90 minutes’ training. Jill worked as the Connor Diocesan Children’s Ministry Officer: she is originally from St Mark’s in Portadown, and served as a mission partner with SAMS working as a teacher in the Anglican School in Ascension, Paraguay. She is full of ideas and enthusiasm for ministry with and to children, and is sharing her time and ideas as a gift to us. Thank you Jill!

**Confirmation ’21**

At the time of writing we are just a week away from the first of two Confirmation services. Twenty-three young people from across three year groups have taken part in Senior Sunday school across several years, and attended their preparation classes in September and October. They also wrote two reflections each; one about their Faith, the other about their understanding of Church. It has been very heartening to prepare this group of Confirmands who have faced a lot of disruption to their education, youth groups and Church life, yet have a clear sense of their faith in God. Remember them in your prayers in the months ahead.

**Church Lads Brigade**

Fivemiletown Church Lad’s Brigade reopened on Tuesday 12th October with a drive-in and outdoor event. We had 21 boys – brilliant! Parents and younger children were also invited. The evening started with Precentor Hanlon giving a Bible story followed by games and the surprise of the evening a lovely whipped ice cream. All boys from P1 up are very welcome, we hope to meet alternate Tuesdays for evenings of fun and fellowship.

**Girls Friendly Society**

We are at the start of another year of GFS, and we have started our year with packs due to Covid restrictions. We hope to organise a few days out and about with the girls in the local area throughout the next few months. The first of these outings was on Saturday, 2nd October, when the leaders and girls went on a nature trail around Blessingbourne Estate. The girls are working this year for their Environmental and Nature Study Badge, so we were looking at the different trees, plants, and flowers as we walked around the Estate.

We returned to the church car park where the girls were given a pack for home, along with their achievement awards and badges for last year - GFS Knowledge Badge, Home Makers Badge and Bible Study Certificates for last year.

We finished of the walk with crisps and juice – some managed to bring them home, others enjoyed them while they chatted to their leaders and friends.

As a group of leaders it was lovely to meet the girls again as a branch and have an afternoon outside with them – hopefully we will be able to have more afternoons like this in the future. We would also like to thank Nicholas and Colleen Lowry for allowing us to walk around Blessingbourne Estate with the girls.

Our Branch is open to any girl to come along and join us for the fellowship, friendship, and fun within the Girls Friendly Society. So if you are interested in sending your daughter, please contact any of the leaders or you can leave a message with Judith in the church office.

**A Quiet Day**

Canon David Ferry has been invited to act as the Witness at a Quiet Day, planned for Saturday 13th November. David will lead two contemplations based on words of God from the Bible and hold times of quietness for prayer. Bishop Ellis has extended the invitation to the diocese, and friends and welcome to join together for the morning. Please book with the parish office as numbers are limited.

9.30am Registration. Coffee served in the Parish Hall
10am First Contemplation in St John’s
11am Stretch break
11.20am Second contemplation ending with shorter Holy Communion in St John’s
12.30am Soup Lunch served in the Parish Hall
No fee, however small donation is welcomed.

**Breathe**

Breathe is a quieter time in parish life. On the first Sunday evening, eight months of the year, between 12 and 16 people pause for about an hour and gather around the scriptures. Supported by music and prayer, we pray and reflect on God’s Word, asking what God saying to us through it, for this day. Join us from 7pm on Sunday 7th November, in the Parish Hall.
Midweek Prayer, Intercession and Prayer For Healing
takes place many times each month. A group of eight people receive the requests for prayer each week, and are committed to praying at least each Wednesday. And each second month we gather with others for a service of Holy Communion, when all the names prayed for since we last met, are prayed for again. Leave a name for prayer with the office, or with Precentor Hanlon, or William Morrow. And join us from 8.15pm on Wednesday 17th November, at St John’s.

Men’s Ministry
Men’s Ministry reopened its new season on Tuesday 19th October, meeting for the first time in Kiltermon Church, since it was extended and refurbished this Spring. Men’s Group had hosted a great barbecue in July, welcoming others who hadn’t been before. Karl Saunders was the guest speaker in October, and this is following his very inspiring sermon in September, on answering God's call. This coincided with the day we were asked to focus on God’s call to ministry and watched one of the new video presentations the Church has produced; it’s very worth seeing – check the Church Of Ireland website.

Thank you to Andy and Christ for the work they do in gathering us in this way.

Getting Ready For Advent
What can you buy nowadays for 98 pence? Apparently you can buy a disposable camera, three tumblers, or 100 Tetley’s tea bags at Poundland. Or better still, a Cadbury’s Dairymilk!

This Advent we’re planning to read this GREAT little book of reflections of Jesus teaching about remaining or Abiding in Him as the Vine. Based on St John’s Gospel, Warren Wiersbe has written five chapters, such as the Secret of Obeying/Loving/Knowing. It’s an easy read but challenging in its living. God willing, it will form the teaching in Church for five Sundays from Sunday 14th November, through to Nativity Sunday.

Available to us for just 98p, so for every £1 paid I have a bag of shiny two pence pieces for your change. Value indeed. Order through the parish office.

First of Four? Mission Stories
This next year we’re planning to highlight the story of Christians who became famous for answering God’s call. Some parts of their story will be saddening, and challenging to us, but knowing about the commitment others have made in living for God, will help motivate us to carry on in Gospel ministry, in our own day. So far, we’re planning to think about Gladys Alyward, Corrie Ten Boom, Hudson, Taylor and Jim Elliott.

We begin in November with the gripping story of Gladys Alyward. Gladys was made famous by audio plays commissioned by the BBC, and later by a film starring Ingrid Bergman. How a small English woman from a very modest background came to be one of the best well know missionaries of the 1900s is remarkable.

Better still, is the work God did through her in mainland China during the 1930 and 40s, during her years in England, and later in Taiwan, until her death in the late 1960s.

Get a copy of her life story, in the very easily read ‘London Sparrow.’ And be encouraged in words such as ‘if God has called you to China, or any other place and you are sure in your own heart, let nothing deter you... remember it is God who has called you and it is the same as when He called Moses or Samuel.’

Bible Study Evenings
Special invitation to diocese and friends. Click in for a new Winter Series of Bible Study Evenings with Claire Holmes, SAMS. God willing, 8pm Tuesdays 7 Dec, 18 Jan and 22 Feb.

The parish is partnering with SAMS to host this special series on evenings on-line. Claire Holmes has been invited to teach about Jesus and His call to mission from across the scriptures. She will be joined by guests from the SAMS family in interviews and testimony about persevering in mission locally. And we look forward to hearing about the SAMS projects in Northern Ireland and across South America. Email fivemiletownparish2@gmail.com for the zoom link, and evening programme.
Today I want to share some stories of people, who like Isaiah, heard the voice of the Lord saying ‘whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ and they replied ‘Hineni, Here I am; send me!’ Pete Portal was a choir boy at Princess Diana’s funeral, who grew up in a conventional white middle-class family in London. It was whilst studying theology at the University of London in 2007 that “God twisted my arm” and Pete ended up in South Africa for the first time. His friend Andy asked him to join a short term mission trip to Cape Town. Pete recalls: This caught me off-guard. Desperate not to be associated with anything to do with Scripture Union, I panicked and said an outright no. Andy then played the Christian trump card and asked me to ‘pray about it?’ That evening I mumbled an uninterested prayer asking God to show me if he wanted me to go to South Africa. And then I forgot about it. “About a week later, I had a letter from the NHS with a date for a shoulder operation . . . the date was right in the middle of the proposed mission trip and having waited nine months for the letter . . . I wasn’t going to mess with the arrangements. I told Andy that God had answered my prayer with a clear no.”

Andy challenged him to ring the hospital and change the operation date. “Begrudgingly I phoned the consultant’s secretary . . . to see if it was possible to change the date. I’m afraid that’s not possible. Why do you ask?” she replied. (Pete) I explained I’d been asked to go on a Christian Mission trip. She replied, “I’m a Christian, where are you going?” ‘South Africa’ I said. “Ha funny - I’m from South Africa, whereabouts?” she asked. ‘We’d be staying in Cape Town, but volunteering in a prison in Paarl’ “Wow - I’m from Paarl, she said, I think God might want you to go on this trip – OK, what date should I change your operation to? So just like that, God ambushed me to get me to go to South Africa.

He returned in 2009 and today, he and his wife, Sarah, help lead a small church in Manenberg, a coloured township outside Cape Town where 60,000 people live in area of less than two square miles. It is one of South Africa’s most problematic places — 36% unemployment, crime, substance abuse, relentless gang violence, and a murder rate comparable to some of the most violent cities in the world (108 per 100,000). Pete and Sarah share their home with young men who are coming out of gangs and off drugs. “We re-parent them, mentor them, and disciple them. We help them through their cold turkey and pray them through their traumas.” Pete concludes: “Life with angry, addicted gangsters teaches me more about sin, grace, vulnerability and hope than I’ve learnt in any conventional church setting. God uses ordinary people like us. Some he will send to the ends of the earth, some will do extraordinary things, and others will faithfully serve and be Jesus witness in their local church and community. I came to faith in February 1999 and eagerly attended a 3-day church conference at the Birmingham N.E.C in October of the same year. I remember praying one evening in my hotel bedroom and pledging ‘here I am Lord, use me’, and can still recall my conversation with God. He suggested I did children’s work in my church. I replied my preference was to do youth work, but God insisted I should volunteer to work with children. My eager enthusiasm waned that night. The following Sunday I arrived early at church, and was met in the car park by Jim Kerr, the Cathedral’s Sunday School Superintendent for over 35 years. He explained he’d promised God he wouldn’t give up leading Sunday School until he’d found a replacement. And so he asked me to take over! What could I say, but yes Jim, yes Lord.

The final story is for those with no intention of going to Ecuador, South Africa or of smuggling Bibles. In 1949, Christine Smith aged 82, and her blind sister Peggy Smith, aged 84 lived in the village of Barvas on the Isle of Lewis in the Hebrides. Like many of us today, they were concerned about the absence of young people in their church. But God gave them a vision of their church filled with young people and so they summoned their Minister, Pastor Mackay, and proposed a deal. If the Minister and Parish Elders prayed in the barn at the other end of the village every Tuesday and Friday from 10 pm until 4 am, then the sisters would do the same in their cottage. There was no instant answer, no further visions, and no teenagers miraculously turning up for church, but they continued to pray twice a week for several months until one night a Church Elder read from Psalm 24. Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand
Stand Still

In last month’s magazine notes we considered “Be Still”. Now this month we are going to reflect on “Stand Still”. November, the time of year, when we remember with thankfulness all who have suffered as a result of conflict. We all have to deal with conflict in our lives. We all have our battles in life to face.

When King Jehoshaphat and the small tribe of Judah were besieged on all fronts by three powerful and bloodthirsty armies rapidly advancing toward Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 20), the king set himself to seek the Lord and pray with hope before all the assembly of Judah. It was then that the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel, who spoke the words of the Lord that we read in 2 Chronicles: 15,17 “Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the Lord to you: ‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s. . . You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!’” On hearing these words of hope, all Judah humbled themselves before the Lord, bowing before Him and worshiping Him.

Today the Lord is saying the same words to you in your situation. Hope in Him for He loves you! You don’t have to live in fear and discouragement when you know that the battle is not yours, but the Lord’s. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. The battle is His, and you will not need to fight in it. What do you do when you don’t know what to do? The best thing you can do is to stand still. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord in your situation. But often we think that if I stand still, nothing will happen! My friend, standing still is not inactivity or doing nothing. It’s a posture of hope, and it involves keeping your hope anchored on the person of Jesus and having a sure and confident expectation of good. When the marauding armies of Pharaoh were charging toward the children of Israel, hell-bent on annihilating them, Moses simply declared to the terrified Israelites, “Do not be afraid. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord” (Exodus 14:13). The Hebrew word for salvation is Jeshua, which is actually the name of Jesus. So salvation is the person of Jesus, and He is with you.

When you are caught in a hopeless situation, learn to position yourself—stand still and see the power of Jesus work on your behalf. He will never leave you nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5). And as you centre yourself, your thoughts, your beliefs, and your hopes on Him, He will lead you concerning what to do, just as He led Jehoshaphat to a triumphant victory over his enemies.

Harvest 21

This year Revd Lorraine asked that all three congregations “Get Crafty” with the theme of “Scarecrows”. Each parish produced great masterpieces of art and craft. We had painted scarecrows, life size models all handmade of our strawmen. Young and not so young took part. Revd. Lorraine spoke on “Scarecrows”. How their name gave us an indication of their job description! They were designed to scare away crows in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. S They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God their Saviour. He then asked the others: “Is it not humbug to be waiting thus, night after night, month after month, if we ourselves are not right with God?” He continued, “I must ask myself, is my heart pure? Are my hands clean?” And at that moment there was a tangible outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the barn was filled with the presence of God. And so started the Hebrides Awakening. The following day Pastor Mackay called the Faith Mission in Edinburgh requesting a Gaelic speaking evangelist. Duncan Campbell arrived in December 1949 expecting to stay 10 days, but stayed for more than two years travelling from place to place, praying and preaching and leading countless people to Christ. It is estimated the vast majority of the island’s 40,000 population turned to Christ during the revival between 1949 and 1952. The events in the Hebrides remind us of Joel’s prophecy, recounted by the Apostle Peter as he spoke to the crowds at Pentecost.
Photos from Sallaghy harvest: Erin, Poppy and Sophie show their hand-made scarecrows at Sallaghy harvest.

Abbie with her pumpkin scarecrow.

Hugo and Alfie with their Liverpool Football Scarecrow.

Zara with her mask scarecrows.

William Little with his handmade scarecrow.

Guest organist Earl Moffitt with Grace Rickey, organist at Galloon.

Photos from Sallaghy harvest: Erin, Poppy and Sophie show their hand-made scarecrows at Sallaghy harvest.

Emily, Charlotte with baby Chloe and Rueben worked hard to produce some very creative scarecrows at Sallaghy.
order to PROTECT the crops. Revd Lorraine said a scarecrow reminds us of Christ on the cross with his arms outstretched. So, a scarecrow is a PICTURE of Christ. A Christ who came to protect the greatest crop of all the harvest of souls. A Christ who PAID the PRICE for our sins so we do not have to be scared of death. Catherine Little, shared at each harvest the work that she is involved in as General Secretary of the Bible Society in Northern Ireland. Catherine is no stranger to us all as she regularly worships in Sallaghy when she returns home. Each congregation gave generously to the work of The Bible Society in Northern Ireland. We express our special thanks to Mr Earl Moffett for playing the organ at our service in Galloon.

Services in November
Sunday 7th November 2021 - The Third Sunday before Advent
9am: Drummully Parish Church: Holy Communion with an Act of Remembrance
10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church: Holy Communion with an Act of Remembrance
12.00 noon: Galloon Parish Church: Holy Communion

Sunday 14th November 2021 - The Second Sunday Before Advent: Remembrance Sunday
11.00 am: A Group Service Galloon Parish Church Morning Prayer with an Act of Remembrance

Sunday 21st November 2021 - The Sunday Before Advent (The Kingship of Christ)
9am: Drummully Parish Church: Family Service
10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church: Family Service
12.00 noon: Galloon Parish Church: Family Service

Sunday 28th November 2021 - The First Sunday of Advent
9am: Drummully Parish Church: Morning Prayer
10.30am: Sallaghy Parish Church: Morning Prayer

From the Registers
Baptisms
We were delighted to celebrate two baptisms in Sallaghy. Anna May McWilliams, the daughter of Andrew and Amy on 10th October and on Sunday 17th October, Chloe Elizabeth McMenamin, daughter of Neil and Cindy.

Burial Register
Burial of Ashes
■ 27th September 2021 - James Atwell (Galloon Parish Church).
■ 9th October 2021 - Sarah Warren (Drummully Parish Church).

We express our sympathy to all of the Atwell and Warren families and to all who have been recently bereaved.

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. They are blessed indeed says the Spirit, for they rest from their labours.” Revelation 14:13
Garrison, Slavin, Belleek and Kiltyclogher

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

Service cover provided by Revd Maureen Desborough and Canon Dr William Johnston.

Church Services Diary

Sunday 7th November
Garrison 10am HC
Slavin 11.30am HC

Sunday 14th November
Belleek 11.30am HC
Garrison 5pm Remembrance Sunday with Canon Johnston

Sunday 21st November
Garrison 10am, Slavin 11.30am, both MP

Sunday 28th November
Kiltyclogher 10am, Belleek 11.30 both MP

Sunday 5th December
Garrison 10am, Slavin 11.30am, both HC

Sunday 12th December
Slavin Group Family service at 11.30am

Slavin Harvest Thanksgiving

Harvest Thanksgiving was held in Slavin Church on Friday 17th September. The preacher was Canon Billy Johnston. Special soloist was Lucy Muldoon and she was accompanied by Mrs. Gillian Rutherford. Lucy sang ‘Beautiful World’ and ‘O God how great you are’. The Bible Readings were read by Gwen Taylor and Billy Nelson. Audrey Ovens read two poems, one was from Katherine Elliott’s collection and was entitled, ‘Autumn’. The Sunday Harvest Thanksgiving was also led by Canon Billy. Canon Johnston thanked all who had helped and contributed to the church decorations, the readers and musicians who had helped over the weekend. The lessons on Sunday were read by Audrey Ovens and Marina Hassard. The organist was Ethne Earls.

Belleek Harvest Thanksgiving

Belleek Church was beautifully and tastefully decorated for Harvest on Friday 24th September. The service was led by Revd. Maureen Desborough. The readings were by Douglas Reid and James Pye. Marina Hassard and Audrey Ovens sang two items, accompanied by Marina on guitar. The pieces were ‘We see the fruitful harvest’ and ‘The Fruits of the Spirit’. Liesel Zink was the reader at Harvest on Sunday. Mrs. Sadie Moore was organist. Rev Maureen thanked all who had helped in any way with the service. The little treat at the door from William Pye as we left was very welcome with our cup of tea at home! Thank you to Donna’s Mum, Mrs. Hughes.

Garrison Harvest Thanksgiving

Harvest Thanksgiving in Garrison Parish Church was held on Friday 1st October. The Church was beautifully decorated and the preacher was Rev. Maureen Desborough. The readings were by Arlene Brock and Ryan Graham. Robin Boyd and Scott Brock sang a harvest song.

Decorations in Belleek church.

Slavin Harvest Thanksgiving.

Decorations in Belleek church.

Belleek Harvest Thanksgiving.

Garrison Harvest Thanksgiving.

Slavin harvest decorations.

Attending Slavin Harvest were (from left): Florence Earls, Anne Nelson, Marina Hassard, Canon Billy Johnston, Audrey Ovens, Doreen Earls, and Gwen Taylor.

Also attending Slaving harvest were (from left): George Love, Robert Earls, Robert Ovens, Raymond Gregg, and George Earls.
and Cara Brock read a poem. The organist was Joy Graham. Revd. Maureen thanked all who had helped in any way with the service and everyone enjoyed the treat given out at the door by Robin and Scott. A report on Kiltyclogher harvest including photos will be in next month’s magazine.

Sunday School Commencement
Sunday schools have decided they will now begin with a Welcome to Sunday school on 16th January 2022.

Thanks During Vacancy
Thanks to Canon Alan for his continued supervision and pastoral care during our vacancy. Thanks especially to Revd Maureen Desborough and Canon Billy Johnston who have taken numerous services in our group. We pray for God’s guidance as we seek to appoint a new Rector in the coming months.

Prayers
Our thoughts and prayers are with anyone our group of parishes who have been unwell in hospital or at home in recent weeks. We continue to pray for Lisa Beacom who is progressing well in her recovery. We also remember some of our parishioners in our prayers who have been recently bereaved.

Congratulations
Kiltyclogher Parish are delighted to welcome another new arrival with the birth of baby Harrison Frazer Allingham, a third son to William and Ruth. Best wishes to their growing family!

Keep up to Date
Keep up to date with news for our Group of Parishes on www.belleek.clogher.anglican.org. The web manager is Jenna Earls. Photos & articles etc. for the website to be e-mailed to Doreen Earls at

Social Networking: Follow us on Facebook using the name Garrison Group of Parishes. Simply ‘Like’ our page to receive updates on events.

From left are Ryan, Robin, Scott and Cara at the Garrison harvest.

Decorations from Garrison harvest.

At Garrison harvest (from left); Adrian Elliott (Churchwarden), Revd. Maureen Desborough and Joy Graham (organist).
Sunday School
At the time of going to press the Sunday School children under the direction of their teacher Rachel Elliott are busy colouring harvest pictures to decorate the church for harvest – see picture. We look forward to the children leading the service on this coming Sunday morning. Hopefully, covid conditions allowing, Sunday School will begin again after Halloween.

Mothers’ Union
The first meeting of Mothers’ Union under the new leadership of Robena Elliott will take place on Friday, 3rd December 2021 at 6.30pm at the old Benmore Rectory. Like the catering for the heritage open weekend, it will take place under the rather superb barbecue house. The topic will be Christmas Wreaths. Foam rings will be provided and some foliage will be available so bring your own as well if possible. Refreshments will be available and the fire will be lit but do wrap up warm! Maybe bring a hot water bottle! The MU is so grateful to Clare and Jason Palmer, Jessie and Zac for their continuing warm welcome to the church.

Gift Day
Many thanks to those who have responded to this annual appeal.

Parish Website
This has been redundant for years and we are in the process of taking it down. Please do not use it. Leeann keeps Facebook updated so use this for information. Thank you.

Annual Clothes Collection
The usual clothes collection has now started. All types of clean, re-wearable clothing, handbags, paired shoes, hats and belts are accepted. Bric-brac, toys, quilts or coat hangers are not suitable.
Please leave the clothing as usual in Rogers’ yard for collection in November. If you need it lifted please let Stephanie know. Thank you.

**Carols by Candlelight**
Once again we are indebted to Clare and Jason Palmer who have invited us to have our carol service in their grounds around the barbecue fire on Sunday, 19th December at 7.30pm. Those who are able will park their cars in the church carpark and stroll up the winding avenue lit by candles. Church Hill Band will lead the carols and afterwards we will share in traditional Christmas refreshments. All are welcome! Those unable to walk can drive their cars. The elderly and unwell get to sit closest to the fire! Wrap up well and bring blankets and hot water bottles.

**Mothers’ Union**
The Mothers’ Union met for the first time since the first lockdown and began their season by sharing Communion together. It was also a service where a new Communion Tablecloth was presented and dedicated. The gathering was a mix of joy and sadness because a number of longstanding and dedicated members were not there, as they had passed away during the lockdown.

**Sunday School**
We’ve been able to get Sunday School up and going again and it has been great to see children return and bring their mums and dads with them.

**Fellowship Group**
On Wednesday evenings we have been meeting together to work our way through the Gospel of Luke, taking time to look more closely at some of the finer details that help us to better understand what we are reading. At the end we ask ourselves what our prayer might be, based on what we are learning.

**Sympathy**
The parish extends its sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the late Peter Skuce; the late Rhoda Bussell and the late Laura Graham.

**Pantomime**
Due to the ongoing ramifications and uncertainty of Covid, the parish pantomime has now been postponed to Thursday, 7th April, Friday 8th April and Saturday 9th April. More nights might be added if there is a high demand for tickets.
we have just thought about and pray that the Lord will allow the information that we gather to not just make us smarter but to lead us closer to Him. The evenings begin with worship and the format is interactive. It has been great to see people come together for this purpose but as always, there is room for more!

Prayer Meeting
On Thursday mornings we have begun to meet together to pray for ourselves, our churches, our nation and the world. We have been inspired by the prayer lives of others and are praying, as the disciples of Jesus, that he would teach us how to pray. We realise that where there is no prayer, there is no blessing; where there is little prayer, there is little blessing; but where there is much prayer, there is much blessing!

Harvest Celebrations
On Sunday evening we gathered together again to consider what it was to know Jesus and enjoyed a cup of tea and some delicious fruit loaf and more. On Friday evening 15th October we were blessed in Kilskeery Parish to have Revd John Beacom, our neighbouring Methodist minister, who brought a challenging word to us about giving thanks for all of God’s blessings to us. After the service we enjoyed our traditional apple tart and cream along with a cup of tea. Sunday 17th October was Kilskeery Parish’s main harvest celebration which was most encouragingly well attended and with distancing in place we were finding it challenging to fit everyone in. Praying it will be a problem we’ll need to cope with in the coming weeks and months. A big thank you is due to everyone who made our celebrations possible: those who decorated our buildings so beautifully, those who provided and served food, those who practised and took part in our services, those who ready, prayed, sang and served in so many ways!

Messy Harvest
We were blessed to have been able to organise a Messy Harvest for our children and...
young people on Saturday 16th October. We were blessed with a good turnout of children and parents and good helpers who made it all happen. We enjoyed harvest and autumn crafts and then a celebration time where we thought of our God who provides for us. We are planning to have our next Messy Church in December for a Messy Christmas.

Weekly times and dates

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

**WEDNESDAYS**
- Fellowship Group at 8:00pm (alternating between parishes)

**THURSDAYS**
- Prayer Meeting at 9:00am (alternating between parishes)

**November diary dates**
- Sunday 7th - Family Communion Service – Trillick and Kilskeery
- Sunday 14th - Remembrance Sunday (Trillick - 10:30am Kilskeery - 11:45am)
- Monday 15th - Mothers’ Union at 8:00pm – Kilskeery Parish Hall
- Saturday 20th - Movie Night in Kilskeery
Church Hall at 8:00pm  
**Sunday 28th**- 1st Sunday of Advent  

**Shoe Box Appeal**  
That time of year has come around again when we prepare our shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child Project. It is a blessing to be able to be a blessing to those who are less fortunate than ourselves and to get as many as we can to join in that focus. Many boxes have gone out already and we look forward seeing them all piled up in the not so distant future and having them collected to head off those we pray will be greatly blessed by them.

**Lisbellaw with Coolbuck**

Vacant  

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

![Very Rev Kenneth R J Hall The Dean of Clogher](image)

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

**Confirmation**  
It was great to learn that the Bishop will return to Lisbellaw on Thursday 18th November at 7.30 to confirm a second cohort of our young people, who are now in Year 11. Please remember Eva, Lucy, Leah, Zara, Katie, James, Luke, Callum and Mark as they prepare to make a public declaration of their faith. Preparation classes with the Revd Colin continue each Sunday morning in church at 10am.

**Harvest Thanksgiving**  
Due to Covid restrictions, Coolbuck Harvest Services were held in the Parish Centre on Sunday 26th and Monday 27th September. Both services were conducted by the Revd Colin and the preachers were, on Sunday afternoon, former rector, the Revd Glenn West and on Monday evening, Mrs Joan Nelson, who had recently been commissioned as a Diocesan Reader. Lynda provided the music at both services in the hall which had been beautifully decorated by Jean and Ann. Warmest thanks to all.

**Above and below, attending the harvest services.**  
Harvest Services were held in Lisbellaw Parish Church, Harvest Services were held on Friday 8th October at 8.00 and on Sunday 10th at 11.00. The Revd Colin conducted and preached at both services - which were available by live - stream to the parish centre and further afield. Alice sang on Friday evening and she and Lynda sang a duet on Sunday morning. Warmest thanks to Ruth Hood, Lizzie Hogg, Iris Mahon, Harriett Kirkpatrick and Liz Kingston for all their work in making the church look
beautiful and to all who left gifts of flowers, fruit and vegetables. We thank God for parishioners who are always willing to give of their time, gifts and talents for His Glory.

Sunday School
At the time of writing, there is unfortunately no definite date for a return to Sunday School but all being well, the Sunday School Teachers will have had an opportunity in mid-October to distribute the Come Learn materials for use at home. We pray that parents will encourage the children to use and enjoy these books but look forward to them all being able to meet again at Sunday school and at The Bridge.

Select Vestry
At the time of writing a meeting of the Select Vestry has also been planned for mid-October. We will hopefully, as the result of this meeting have a clearer idea of the way ahead.

Remembrance Day
The Remembrance Day Service will be held this year on Sunday 14th November at 10.45 am.

Death
With sadness we record the peaceful death on 19th September 2021, of Roger Callow of Rathview Park, Lisbellaw. Roger was the beloved husband of Anna, devoted father of Stuart, Paul, Bill, Jane and Sophia and a much-loved grandfather. To all of them and to the wider family circle we extend heartfelt sympathy at this sad and difficult time and assure them of our prayers.

Jesus said, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.’ John 11v 25

Prayer
We continue to remember in our prayers all in our parish and community who are passing through deep waters and finding life very hard. We pray especially for all who have been recently bereaved. Draw near to each one of them and bring comfort to them in their grief and loss. We lift to you too all those known to us who are ill. Bring relief to them we pray, as they undergo treatment and in their weakness, pain and suffering may they and their loved ones know the courage, peace and comfort that only your loving presence can bring. We remember too, all our elderly parishioners, whether at home or in nursing homes, and ask that they too would truly know your love and care. We lift them all to you, Lord, in Jesus Name. Amen.
Decorations at the Lisbellaw church harvest.

Roger Callow who has died.
In this passage from Mark 2:18-22, Jesus continues with two pictures. The first concerns sewing on an addition to a garment. Perhaps there was a tear in the original garment or a gap that needed to be covered. But no-one would try and fix an old garment, which has been washed a number of times and so has shrunk somewhat with a new piece of unshrunk cloth. The resulting “fixed” garment would most likely tear again and create an even bigger problem. The second concerns alcohol and the containers that it is kept in. In the days of Jesus wineskins were used which were made of a material like the cloth in the first picture, and just as cloth had a tendency to shrink with washing so too would wineskins that were filled with wine. So when the wineskin was empty and all the wine had been drunk, the OLD wineskin was no longer of ANY use. Only a FOOL would try and re-fill an empty USED wineskin with NEW WINE. BUT before we conclude with the final statement of Jesus, let me take you back to the beginning of this section to Mark 2:18: "The disciples of John and of the Pharisees were fasting. Then they came and said to Him, "Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?" (Mark 2:21 - 22)

These two pictures are given by Jesus in the context of Fasting and come immediately after He has talked about His Disciples being with Him and so not needing to FAST. The disciples of John needed to Fast because John was NOT the Messiah but pointed to and preached about the Messiah who was to come and was now here - Jesus, the Lamb of God. The disciples of the Pharisees may have fasted as instructed by their masters, the Pharisees. Both them and the Pharisees would have been seeking God or at least having the appearance of seeking God. What the disciples of John, and of the Pharisees were doing was the: OLD way... OLD cloth... OLD wineskins...

"But new wine must be put into new wineskins." (Mark 2:22)

So why do so many people insist on "clinging" onto the OLD? When we COME to Jesus, we ARE Born Again, we become a NEW creation (2 Corinthians 5:17) As a NEW creation we are able to be FILLED with NEW WINE, the Holy Spirit, as our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19) "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God" (2 Corinthians 5:17 - 18a) We are now NEW, so why do so many keep hankering after the OLD? YES - the OLD has value in that we can learn from it, but we are not meant to LIVE there or to LIVE according to what it teaches. Jesus fulfilled the Law (Matthew 5:17) And exhorted those He spoke to as it says in Matthew 5:43 - 47 Ending with: "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." (Matthew 5:48) Many people may falter at this point... "How can I be perfect...Like my Father in heaven?"

Only as a Born Again... Spirit filled (NEW WINE) believer...Who is a NEW creation, Having the Spirit of Jesus living inside of them... Be PERFECT We need to realise WHO we ARE in Christ And LIVE from that position.
Harvest
We were delighted to have a wonderful Harvest weekend with a capacity (every second pew) attendance on Friday evening with our guest preacher, Joan Nelson, who encouraged us with her explanation of the wheat and the weeds. We extend to Joan our thanks and an assurance of our prayers and blessing as she continues her ministry in the diocese.

The church was beautifully decorated for the weekend and these decorations were transferred on Sunday morning to Ferney Park, the home of Ballinamallard United FC, for our drive-in Harvest. With the sun shining, our worship was led by Howard McMorris with a Scripture reading by Anna Johnston and intercessions by our youth and children’s worker, Naomi Armstrong. As well as being our harvest thanksgiving, we also acknowledged World Mental Health Awareness Day and Climate Change Sunday. Our Harvest Appeal, dedicated to rebuilding and adapting to living with COVID, was very gratefully received.

Confirmation
We have some plans made for November but, as always, these will be dependant on the COVID situation. Our Service of Confirmation will be held on 21st November in the evening. We have 17 candidates currently being prepared for this and attendance must be restricted to allow for distancing etc.

Day of Prayer for Young People
On the morning of 21st November, we have pencilled in a special family service to welcome back our Sunday School. This might be Ice Cream Sunday or Popcorn Praise or Kingdom Kids depending on the planning team! In any case, it also happens to be a Day of Prayer for Young People so it follows well that we have both of these events on that day even though it wasn’t deliberate!

Mothers’ Union
Magheracross Mothers’ Union held their opening service in Magheracross Parish Church on Thursday 7th October 2021. Norma Scott welcomed everyone to our first meeting since March 2020. As well as being our harvest thanksgiving, we also acknowledged World Mental Health Awareness Day and Climate Change Sunday. Our Harvest Appeal, dedicated to rebuilding and adapting to living with COVID, was very gratefully received.

100th Birthday
The Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr Ian Ellis and Archdeacon Brian Harper have visited Mrs Jane Elliott, of Currin, Ballinamallard (pictured) to mark her 100th birthday.
Harvest Thanksgiving
(Psalm 107:37-38) “They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest; he blessed them, and their numbers greatly increased, and he did not let their herds diminish.”
Although we were still very much under the (Covid-19) restrictions over the past year, the Lord has continued to bless us throughout the year, we have enjoyed two weekends of harvest thanksgiving worship in both our churches.

Friday 24th September
It was wonderful to welcome back our former rector Revd. Peter Wilson who was our guest preacher and Mr Alan Ferguson, accompanied by Gillian Rutherford (Inishmacsaint Parish) who was our soloist on the evening. Our Sunday morning Harvest Service was also very well attended.

Friday 1st October
We say thank you to another former rector, Revd. David Skuce who was our guest preacher, and to Mrs Lucy Woods who was our soloist, accompanied by Ann Thompson (Donacavey Parish). Again, we had excellent attendance at our Sunday morning Harvest Service, two brilliant weekends!
On Saturday (09-10-2021) we enjoyed glorious autumnal weather for our afternoon ‘Harvest Family Walk, around Belle Isle estate. We had 60 walkers plus 19 children (seven in pushchairs). We had no dogs this year!

Holy Baptism
We welcomed Ashley George Stuart Graydon into our grouped parishes of Maguiresbridge and Derrybrusk at his baptism in Derrybrusk parish church on Sunday, afternoon, 22nd September 2021.

Christian Burial

Confirmation 2021
Our confirmation classes continue each Wednesday evening in Maguiresbridge parish church at 7pm, followed by short time of reflection before Morning Prayer each Sunday morning in both parish churches.
We are looking forward to Bishop Ellis coming to confirm these candidates in Christchurch Maguiresbridge on Thursday 11th. November at 7.30pm.

Sympathy
The parishioners of Maguiresbridge and Derrybrusk wish to extend their deepest sympathy to:
The family circle of Thomas, James Adams,(Tommie), especially to his niece Mrs. Dawn Graham, husband Ronnie,
Blake, Claudia, Saskia.
The family circle of Mrs. Sylvia Kennedy, especially Mr. Stephen Kennedy, wife Jean, and their family.

Illness
There are several people ill at present in both our parishes, and we encourage all members to remember them in their time of personal prayer.

Church Services
Sunday Services will continue as usual; Morning Prayer: Maguiresbridge 10.30; Derrybrusk 12 noon; Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month in Maguiresbridge; second Sunday of the month Derrybrusk; Our online services will continue to be streamlined live on our grouped parish Facebook page from Maguiresbridge parish Church each Sunday morning at 10.30am.

Monaghan, Tydavnet and Kilmore
Rector: The Revd Ian Berry
The Rectory, Clones Road, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan.
T: 047 81136 E: monaghan@clogher.anglican.org
Diocesan Pastoral Assistant: Mr Walter Pringle

Services
Sunday 14th November
10.30am St Patrick’s (and on Facebook live) 12.15pm Ballinode
Sunday 21st November
10.30am St Patrick’s (and on Facebook live) 12.15pm Kilmore Harvest Service
Sunday 28th November
10.30am St Patrick’s (and on Facebook live) 12.15pm Ballinode
Sunday 5th December
10.30am St Patrick’s (and on Facebook live) 12.15pm Kilmore

Harvest services and Special Appeal Envelopes
We express grateful thanks to all who have respected generously to the Easter Co Monaghan Church of Ireland children charity and Harvest Appeal – If you have not already given a donation to any of the above any further contributions would be gratefully received.

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

Bible Study
Bible study continues each Wednesday at 8pm. It is available on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stpatsmonaghan – we would love if you could join us.

Confirmation Classes
These have commenced on Tuesday nights at 6.30pm. We are using the “I believe” course from the Church of Ireland Youth Department. Please keep those preparing for confirmation in your prayers.

Hall Renovations
The building work of the renovations to take away the stage and create a new storage area and arrangements are in hand to paint store and main Hall and foyer.

COVID-19
(Lifting of restrictions)
Typing this we are hopefully looking forward to the further easing of restrictions planned for 22nd October which will hopefully mean a return to singing and looking to how some of our organisations can start meeting again.

Easter Vestries
Kilmore’s Easter Vestry was held on Monday 4th October with the following being elected;
Rector’s Churchwarden - Mr. R. McBride
People’s Churchwarden - Mr. R. Brown
Secretary - Mrs L. McBride
Treasurer - Mrs G. Anderson
Select Vestry - Mrs. R Brown, Mrs I Brown, Mr H Flack, Mrs R Kemp, Mr J Brown, Mr R Anderson, Mr W Anderson, Mr G Anderson

Ballinode’s Easter Vestry was held on Tuesday 5th October with the following being elected;
Rector’s Churchwarden - Mr H Mollan
People’s Churchwarden - Mr T Carson
Secretary - Mrs H Stirrat
Treasurer - Mr R Wilkinson
Select Vestry - Mrs M Hamilton, Mrs H Wilkinson, Mrs D McClean, Mrs R McMahon, Mrs A Reynolds, Ms L McClean.

St Patrick’s Easter Vestry was held on Monday 9th October with the following being elected;
Rector’s Churchwarden - Mr G Graham
People’s Churchwarden - Mr B Wedlock
Rector’s Glebewarden - Mr B Wedlock
People’s Glebewarden - Mr D Shirley
Secretary - Mrs F Crawford
Treasurer - Mrs V Gilmour
Asst Treasurer - Mrs E Murphy
Select Vestry - Mrs A Garland, Mr S Genoe, Mr A Hall, Ms L Hardy, Mrs P Shirley, Mr C Treacy, Mrs M Treacy, Ms F Wedlock, Mrs H Workman.

Engagement
Congratulations to Trevor Ebbs and Pancel Bhandal who recently announced their engagement.
Parish Development Project
Good news! After a prolonged planning process involving the Heritage Service, agreement has been reached and Full Planning Permission for the Stables development has now been granted. Permission for the development of The Parish Hall was granted a few months ago.

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

Return to in Church Worship
As you probably know, by now, the Church is open again, subject to the rules on social distancing and wearing of masks. The Church will hold about 85 people, safely, within these rules.
There is one Sunday service each week at 10am, in Church and recorded and available on the ‘Rossorry Parish’ Facebook page.

Parish Hall and Organisations
Parish Hall reopens!
So far, a number of the Organisations have indicated that they will require to undertake whatever duties that they will need to undertake to keep all safe.

- The Hall has been thoroughly cleaned and sanitised for use in line with the Risk Assessments (with thanks to Leslie, Lorraine and Joy).
- Parish Organisations and Users have been appraised of the preparations and the appropriate safeguards in place.
- Comprehensive Risk Assessments have been prepared and actioned.
- Parish Organisations and Users have been prepared for the re-opening of The Parish Hall with appropriate safeguards in place.
- Parish Organisations and Users have been appraised of the preparations and the duties that they will require to undertake to keep all safe.
- The Hall has been thoroughly cleaned and sanitised for use in line with the Risk Assessments (with thanks to Leslie, Lorraine and Joy).

In response to this the Select Vestry has approved the reopening of the Hall with appropriate safeguards in place.

Permission for the development of The Parish Hall was granted a few months ago.

Harvest
We celebrated our Harvest Thanksgiving with a Service of Holy Communion on Sunday 3rd October 2021. Delighted to report a full house (in line with current distancing rules). Our celebrant was Revd. Eric Mc Gir, formerly of Magheraculmoney Parish. The Choir was in good voice and the congregational singing was inspiring.

The Church was beautifully decorated and thanks to the team who did the decorating of the Church and to all those kind folks who donated flowers, vegetables and fruit to give thanks for the bounty of God’s world.

Confirmation
Confirmation for the candidates who were under instruction when the classes were interrupted by Covid regulations is planned to go ahead (subject to any change in restrictions) on Wednesday 27th October 2021 at 7pm.

Mothers’ Union
Rossorry Mothers’ Union held its first meeting in person since the Covid pandemic on Thursday 14 October 2021. This was a communion service held in the Church and led by Revd Charles Eames who is the MU Diocesan Chaplain.

Many members attended and were thankful to meet up again in person in fellowship.
online postings. These contain one or two services (Morning Prayer or Holy Communion) and a Children’s video and a copy of The Rossorry Weekly News. These have been well received and are a source of solace for the parishioners who feel isolated, and a bit cut off from our Parish life.

Parish Self-Help Volunteer Group
Our plans to set up a self-help group of volunteers to keep in touch with the elderly and housebound, maybe help with groceries or medication etc. have been curtailed by the change in ‘lockdown’ regulations. However, a good number of volunteers came forward wishing to help – so we have been able to consult with the elderly/housebound and each volunteer has been allocated a few Parishioners who they keep in touch with, by telephone, in a befriending service. This is going well – but if we have missed anyone- let Gerry know in the Parish Office (02866 329889) and they can be added in and allocated to a friendly volunteer.

Freewill Offerings
FREEWILL GIVING
Even though Services have resumed at Church many of you may not be able or ready to attend but you may still contribute your weekly collection envelopes and other donations. The end of month Church door collection is now used by so few people that there is no point in keeping it going. If you are not ready yet to come to Church send your envelopes (now on Yellow envelopes for 2021)— with a friend, post them to the Office or drop them through the letterbox at the Office. If these don’t work for you—please ring Gerry at the office (02866 329889) and another arrangement can be made.
Throughout the period of the Pandemic, the Parish continues to have ongoing costs and your contribution is vital in sustaining its work and ministry. If you wish, you may set up a Standing Order with your Bank or Building Society to deal with this matter. If you have online banking, you can do this without even visiting your Bank. Contact the Office for details.

The Parish Office
The Office is still working, (9am-1pm, Monday to Friday) keeping the day to day, machinery moving. Please, don’t visit -but I will be delighted to chat on the ‘phone, take emails or a note or envelopes through the door or in the post, etc—if there is anything I can do to help. Tel:- 02866 329889
Email: - rossorryoffice@btinternet.com

Arrangements for the Parish during the Vacancy
As the Parish was officially vacant from 5th April 2021 onwards the following arrangements will be in place for Pastoral Cover and the running of the Parish.
- The Rural Dean (Rev. John Woods –who can be contacted at 02882 840863), will be in charge of the Parish during the vacancy.
- PASTORAL COVER (Weddings, Christerings and Funerals) will be undertaken by Dean Hall of St. Macartin’s Cathedral, who can be contacted on 02866 322465.
- CHURCH SERVICES will be taken by visiting Clergy or Lay Readers appointed by the Diocesan Office.
- The Parish Office will continue to operate for advice or assistance (02866 329889) and for receiving Freewill Envelopes etc.
Ann Bloomfield who was also the organist at the service.

In Tempo at the service the scripture readings were read by Joseph Goodwin and Jim Beatty (Hon Sec) while Leah Crawford read the poem Creation. The prayers were led by Mollie and Mia White, Alice Crawford and Jay Trimble. The organist was Mrs. Carole Graham.

Clabby Parish Fundraising

The Select Vestry have organised a Tractor Run on Saturday 11th December starting from the Church Hall at 10.00am. Registration from 9am. All tractors welcome with proceeds towards Church Funds. For further information contact Jim Monteith 0288952167 / 07751803660. Miss Mary Elliott has also compiled a fireside quiz sheet on a Christmas theme.

Funeral

13th October 2021 - Margaret (Peggy) Euphenia Irvine, Gilbrooke Home, Clabby formerly Hillhead Road, Clabby. Peggy was aged 96 and our second oldest Parishioner. Due to declining physical health she moved into Slieve League Residential Home, Tempo two years ago, then just recently moved to Gilbrooke Nursing Home, Clabby. She previously had been out and about. Until recent years she was a regular Church attender, at one time served on the select vestry and had been one of the last surviving members of Clabby Mothers’ Union until it was joined with the Tempo branch. Our Sympathy and prayers are extended to her sons Ian and Raymond and all the family circle.
Our Refuge, His Presence.
Each year in November we remember all those who in two world wars and subsequent conflicts and our own troubles who laid down their lives in the cause of peace, freedom and justice.
Psalm 46 is very much associated with the war years along with the hymn Abide with me.
But this Psalm is for all of us now, we still live in conflict with a world which still continues to turn away from and turns its back from God and His word.
We have lived through a terrible pandemic which we all have endured, many have and still continue to suffer from. But we thank God for helping, guiding and strengthening us through it.
In our daily lives we battle against the World, the flesh and the devil. This psalm gives us hope, certainty, comfort and assurance that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble (v1). The Lord of hosts is with us (v7). We are to be still in God's presence (v10).
By living out this faith and trust in God and by a country, community, Church, and Christians living out this Central truth of this Psalm, God will be glorified in the midst of our sufferings and conflicts.
Paul would later say in Romans 8 v 28 “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him”. In verse 31 “What shall we say then in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own son, but gave him it for us all, how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?
He goes on at the end of the passage to say that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Confirmation
Confirmation for our young people will be on Wednesday 10th November at 7.30pm in Priory Church, Killadeas. Please note due to restrictions, attendance at this service is limited to candidates, parents, household family and Godparents only.

From the registers
HOLY BAPTISM
■ 26th September - Callie Louise Bradshaw, Priory Church, Killadeas
■ 10th October - Camilla Lillie Porter Allen, Priory Church, Killadeas

Thanks for Thanksgiving
A huge thank you is owed to all of those who worked so hard over the Harvest weekends.
Our choirs and organists, the church decorators, the children who made their decorations before and during the services, our guest speakers, Canon Ronnie Nesbitt, Mrs Heather Williams, and Mrs Rebecca Parnell, those who cooked and served the harvest suppers, and all those Revd. Mark has forgotten to put in this list. It really was the whole church family pulling together in both parishes, and the results were spectacular. A few photos have been included.

Services this month
Sunday 7th November 4th Before Advent
10am Holy Communion, Priory Church, Killadeas
11.30am Holy Communion, St. Michael's, Trory

Wednesday 10th November 3rd Before Advent
7.30pm Service of Confirmation, Priory Church, Killadeas

Sunday 14th November Remembrance Sunday
10am Morning Prayer including An Act Of Remembrance, Priory Church, Killadeas
11.30am Morning Prayer including An Act Of Remembrance, St. Michael's, Trory

Sunday 21st November Christ the King Sunday
10am Morning Prayer, Priory Church, Killadeas
11.30am Morning Prayer, St. Michael's, Trory

Sunday 28th November Advent Sunday
10am Service of the Word, Priory Church, Killadeas
11.30am Service of the Word, St. Michael's, Trory

Psalm 46 Provides us with four things from God.
Verses 1-2 Peace - God's peace not as the world gives.
Verse 4 Joy - God's gift and fruit through the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives.
Verse 5 Security - God's presence in all attacks made upon us, especially attacks on our Spiritual/Christian lives.
Verses 7-11 Protection - God is with us, shown by Christ's coming in human flesh, dying in our place on the cross, rising to defeat death and with us when we trust Christ until he calls or returns.

A Prayer
Lord, today I want to be still and know that you are God. I bring to you my fears, worries and anxieties. Thank you that I can trust you. Thank you for your presence and the peace, joy, and protection you bring. Amen.
CHILDREN’S SECTION

Jesus said:
I AM
THE
DOOR
"If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." John 10:9

TASTE
SEE
THE LORD
GOOD
PSALM 34:8

You are a beacon for the world - let your light shine. Matthew 5:14,16

November

CHURCH OF IRELAND
Seven times in John’s Gospel Jesus calls Himself “I AM” - the same name that God calls Himself when He speaks to Moses in Exodus 3:14. Jesus is telling us who He really is.

Look up the Bible references, fill in the missing words then look for them in the word search.
ACROSS
1. In David’s battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)
2. ‘We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands’ (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
3. Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
4. ‘You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me’ (Psalm 92:10) (4)
5. — Homo (‘Behold the Man’) (4)
6. ‘He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead’ (Acts 17:31) (7)
7. ‘Our — is in heaven’ (Philippians 3:20) (11)
8. ‘This is a day you are to — ’ (Exodus 12:14) (11)
9. ‘No — , impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God’ (Ephesians 5:5) (7)
10. City on the banks of the River Nile (5)
11. Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)
12. Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)
13. Taverns (4)
14. ‘Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it’ (John 12:14) (3)
15. Liverpool dialect (6)
16. ‘Be on your guard; stand — in the faith’ (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)
17. ‘He will not always — , nor will he harbour his anger for ever’ (Psalm 103:9) (6)
18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1–2) (4,4)
19. ‘Remember the — day by keeping it holy’ (Exodus 20:8) (7)
20. Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)
21. She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)
22. A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)
23. Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)
24. Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)
25. ‘My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers’ (Luke 19:46) (3)
26. Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)
27. See 18 Across

DOWN
1. In David’s battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)
2. ‘We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands’ (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
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27. See 18 Across

■ Crossword Puzzle answers on page 71
Help With Kids’ Talks
An online encouragement evening with Jill Hamilton - for all who are working with children

8.15pm - 9.30pm by Zoom on Wednesday 24th November 2021

An evening for Sunday School teachers, uniformed organisation leaders, ministers and youth leaders, with practical resource ideas to take away on the evening.
Email fivemiletownparish2@gmail.com for Zoom link, stating your Name and Parish/Organisation.

Sometimes we need a confidence boost and a little extra training to help in Children’s and Youth work.
Clogher Diocesan Board of Religious Education is partnering with Fivemiletown Parish to host an online evening packed with ideas for Kids’ Talks. If you need ideas for talks in Church, Sunday School, assemblies, or work with uniformed organisations, book in for these 75 minutes training.

Jill worked as the Connor Diocesan Children’s Ministry Officer: she is originally from St Mark’s in Portadown, and served as a mission partner with SAMS working as a teacher in the Anglican School in Asunción, Paraguay. She is full of ideas and enthusiasm for ministry with and to children, and is sharing her time and ideas with us.

Join us from the comfort of your own home for an evening of fellowship, encouragement and ideas

Fivemiletown Parish & Clogher Diocesan Board of Religious Education
16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

The 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence is an international campaign, from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) until 10 December (International Human Rights Day).

Throughout the campaign, Mothers’ Union joins with others globally to raise awareness of, and call for an end to, gender-based violence in all forms and in all societies.

On 27th November on the Global Day of Action, members around the world will step out of their comfort zones to support survivors. We are each invited to wear a purple scarf and to host three minutes silence at 1:03pm fitting in with our theme of #NOMORE1IN3.

Clogher Diocesan Mothers’ Union has arranged two services as part of MU’s 16 Days of Activism.

St Macartin’s Cathedral, Enniskillen and St Patrick’s Church, Monaghan are the venues for people to come together on 27th November 2021. Bishop Ian Ellis will speak at the service in Enniskillen.

The 16 Days Prayer Diary is a timely resource, given these pandemic times. It is a captivating and compelling set of reflections, exploring gender-based violence. In addition to highlighting the issues involved, it reveals the positive work taking place across the Church of Ireland in engaging with domestic abuse and gender-based violence. The Diary can be downloaded from the Mothers’ Union website www.mothersunion.ie.

Details will be sent to branches relating to items which can be donated to support women in refuges.
DATES FOR THE DIARY

November 2021

• Sunday 7th November – Missionary Evening in Aghavea Parish Church at 7pm with Trevor Watson, Crosslink Missionary Partner in Sweden supported by Aghavea parish.

• Wednesday 10th November – Service of Prayer For Healing and Remembrance in St. Finbar’s Church, Carrickmacross at 8pm. The service will be reflective offering a sacred space to pray for ourselves and others who are struggling in any way, as well as those who wish to remember loved ones who have died. There will also be the opportunity for prayer ministry for yourself or for others.

• Wednesday 10th November – Shoppers’ Service in Derryvullen North Parish Church, Irvinestown at 11.00am, a short Service of Holy Communion led by Canon Paul Thompson and accompanied by Richard McGonigle on the guitar.

• Saturday 13th November – Quiet Morning in St. John’s Parish, Fivemiletown with Revd Canon David Ferry, Limavady, beginning at 9.30am and finishing with soup lunch (Covid permitting), open to parish, diocese and friends of the parish. David is a witness for the Fellowship Of Contemplative Prayer and will lead the prayer and quiet according to their rhythm. Book with Precentor Kyle Hanlon, or Judith in the parish office on 8952 2422.

• Sunday 14th November – Remembrance Sunday held in churches throughout the diocese.

• Sunday 14th November – Service of Remembering the Pandemic Deaths hosted by Aghavea Parish Church at 7pm. The Service will mark that evening by remembering all those who have died during the pandemic. Funerals have been marked differently throughout the crisis and this will be an opportunity to show our respect and support to all those who have been bereaved.

• Sunday 14th November – Sunday Service on RTE One at 11am featuring Enniskillen Clergy and Parishioners.

• Monday 15th November – Clogher Diocesan Magazine deadline for submissions to the December/January edition. Send to; editor@clogher.anglican.org

• Sunday 21st November – Church of Ireland Youth Department Day of Prayer for Young People. People are asked to continue to pray for young people and the Church of Ireland’s youth ministry.

• Wednesday 24th November – Help with Kids online encouragement evening with Jill Hamilton between 8.15pm - 9.30pm by Zoom. An evening for Sunday School teachers, uniformed organisation leaders, ministers and youth leaders. Email: fivemiletownparish2@gmail.com for Zoom link, stating your Name and Parish/Organisation.

• Thursday 25th November – Clogher Diocesan Synod in the Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen at 5.30pm if held as an in-person meeting or at 7pm for an online meeting. Further details later.

Pipe Organ Preservation Co.

RECENTLY AUGMENTED, WE ARE NOW ONE OF IRELAND’S FOREMOST ORGAN BUILDING FIRMS

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11 Helgor Park, Belfast, BT4 2GG  Email: al@dnet.co.uk  www.amccartney.org
Remembrance Sunday will be marked in churches around the country when the nation remembers the service and sacrifice of all those who have defended their freedoms and protected their way of life. It is a time to remember the Armed Forces and their families, from Britain and the Commonwealth and the vital role played by the emergency services and those that have lost their lives as a result of conflict or terrorism.

The Royal British Legion this year marks its centenary, having been formed in 1921 to help serving and ex-serving personnel and their families.

On Sunday, 14th November at St. Macartin’s Cathedral, Enniskillen, the guests expected to attend are Her Majesty's Lieutenant in Fermanagh, Viscount Brookeborough; the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin T.D. representing the government of the Republic of Ireland; Brandon Lewis, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and other government representatives from the Northern Ireland Assembly, Poland and America.

The service begins at 11.30am and will be conducted by the Dean, the Very Revd Kenneth Hall and the sermon will be preached by the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr Ian Ellis. The service will be livestreamed on the Cathedral website. This year’s invited guests will be based on the situation last year as the Covid regulations do not allow a capacity congregation.

The invited guests include those representing the many organisations associated with Remembrance Sunday, including the Royal British Legion, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, Army, PSNI, Fermanagh and Omagh Council, UDR Association, St. John’s Ambulance, Red Cross, Fire Service and RUCGC Association.

There will be limited seating for the Cathedral worshippers. Earlier the clergy from the four main churches will hold a service at the Cenotaph which is being live-streamed on the Cathedral website. The Royal British legion in Enniskillen will be organising the Silence and wreath laying at the cenotaph at 11.00 am and everyone entitled to lay a wreath will be invited by the Chairman to attend with the planning and instructions. Other churches throughout Clogher Diocese will be marking Remembrance Sunday at their services. There will also be references to the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Ulster Tower at the Somme which commemorates the men of the 36th Ulster Division and many other young men who left Ireland to fight on the battlefields and never returned.

There will be Acts of Remembrance with parades in towns and villages including Irvinestown, Fivemiletown and Brookeborough.

RTE Television will be broadcasting a service on Remembrance Sunday featuring clergy, singers and readers from Enniskillen. The RTE Sunday Service on RTE One at 11am on Sunday, 14th November will feature Dean Kenneth Hall of St. Macartin’s Cathedral and Monsignor Peter O'Reilly of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church.

Also taking part will be Cathedral choir member and soloist, Jane McKinley and the organist will be Orly Watson. The Cathedral’s Parish Reader, Scott Elliott will read a lesson and the churchwardens, Linda Kingston and Audrey Williamson will lead the prayers.

As it is being broadcast on Remembrance Sunday, the Chairman of the Enniskillen Branch of the Royal British Legion, John Jones and their Standard Bearer, Joyce Kempton, will also be taking part. The service will be recorded at RTE studios, Dublin on an earlier date.
George recognised by Queen for contribution to Christian community service

George Montgomery who lives in Co. Monaghan and part of Clogher Diocese was very honoured and thrilled to get recognition by the Queen and receive the Maundy Gift, which is given to pensioners in honour of their contribution to Christian community services in their area.

George was nominated by the Archbishop of Armagh, Most Revd John McDowell, formerly Bishop of Clogher.

The number of recipients each year reflects the Queens age – 95 men and 95 women in 2021. It is presented during a service for Maundy Thursday in a different cathedral each year. According to the Royal Mint this custom began as early as the 13th century and either gifts or money were given.

It was a pity due to Covid that the ceremony wasn’t able to be held in Westminster Abbey this year.

Many congratulations to George.

Farewell to Youth Officer

Mr Jonny Phenix has been part of the diocesan team for just over 10 years and recently completed his time in the diocese as Youth Officer.

Bishop Ian Ellis said that both Jonny and his wife Janet have supported youth work in many of the parishes and shared their distinctive skills and and faithful ministry over those years.

“We are most appreciative for Jonny’s work among us as a diocese beginning with the Wells Project and then his ongoing support and encouragement to the work of the Diocesan Youth Council. We have been much blessed by his ministry to Clogher Diocese. “We wish both Jonny and Janet every blessing for the future.”

The Christmas Story

Telling the Christmas story through various handcrafted creative pieces.

Thursday 25th - Sunday 28th
November 2021

Kilcronaghan Parish Church
3 Wood Road, Tobermore,
Magherafelt, BT45 5QJ

Thursday 11am - 8pm
Friday 12pm - 8pm
Saturday 11am - 7pm
Sunday 3pm - 6pm
Followed by a Closing Service @ 6.30pm
with Favourite Christmas Carols

Morning coffee and afternoon tea available Thursday - Saturday.
Afternoon tea available Sunday 3pm - 5pm

Note: Booking essential for group catering
Jennifer Evans (Catering) 028 796 42766
jenniferevans1964@gmail.com
Hilary Richardson (Organiser) 07791545190
hilary473@btinternet.com
New Curate Assistant appointed to Cathedral

A new Curate Assistant has been appointed to St. Macartin’s Cathedral, Enniskillen. Following much prayer and reflection, and with the gracious support of the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin, and the Rt Revd Dr Ian Ellis, Bishop of Clogher, the Parish of Enniskillen has announced that the Revd Christopher West, currently serving as Curate Assistant in Taney Parish, in the Diocese of Dublin, has accepted the position of Curate Assistant in St Macartin’s Cathedral, the Parish of Enniskillen, in the Diocese of Clogher.

Revd West’s “farewell” Sunday in Taney Parish was on 31st October 2021 and he will undertake this new position in Enniskillen Cathedral from Advent Sunday 2021. The Parish of Enniskillen has asked for prayers for Revd West as he prepares for this exciting new stage in his ministry and for the people of Taney Parish, as well as for the Very Revd Kenneth Hall, Dean of Clogher and the people of Enniskillen, with whom Revd Christopher looks forward to serving.

Revd West grew up in and was baptised and confirmed in the rural parish of St. John’s Mullabrack in the Diocese of Armagh. He left studies for a medical degree in Dundee to pursue his training for ordination with the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.

In June 2019, he completed an intern year in St Andrew’s Church in the Parish of Killyman in the Diocese of Armagh, having been made deacon on 1st September 2019. He was then appointed Curate Assistant in Taney Parish in the Diocese of Dublin and ordained to the priesthood on the Feast of St Michael and All Angels on 29 September, 2020.

Having enjoyed serving and worshipping alongside the clergy and people of Taney Parish over the past year, the Revd West says he is delighted to have accepted the position of Curate Assistant in St Marcatin’s Cathedral, the Parish of Enniskillen, in the Diocese of Clogher.

“I am greatly looking forward to serving and worshipping alongside the Dean of Clogher, the Very Rev’d Kenneth Hall, and the people of Enniskillen,” he said.
YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE LEAD ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Some parishes in Clogher Diocese have been holding Climate Sunday services which are part of an initiative throughout the British Isles to promote the awareness of the effects of climate change. Eco Congregation Ireland which is a multi-church organisation promotes environmental friendly work in churches. At Donagh Group of churches in Clogher Diocese in Co Monaghan, young people have been involved in a Sunday School Project for Climate Sunday held on 10th October one of the children, Nathan, made an interesting film about bees. Here is what Nathan said in the video;

“My name is Nathan, and my dad and I are beekeepers. Honeybees are a very important part of nature. They help pollinate all the fruit and vegetables we eat and also the lovely plants and flowers in our garden. We all help dad to look after the flowers and keep them healthy. Honeybees live in hives. The members of the hive are divided into three types: the queen, workers, and drones. There is only one queen in each hive and all the worker bees are female and they are the bees that can sting you. The drones are male and they are the largest. We have five hives at the moment, and in mid-summer, there are up to 50,000 bees in each hive. Every weekend, we inspect the hives to make sure everything is ok. The best part of looking after the bees is getting some lovely honey..... if we’re lucky! Bees fly about 55,000 miles to make just one pound of honey, that’s over two times around the world, so they work very hard to make the honey.

“I really love being a beekeeper and doing something that can help our environment.

As a backdrop and introduction to our harvest and Climate Sunday 10th October 2021 the group of parishes also used the video on Climate Change which was produced by the Church of Ireland which includes the following message from Archbishop John McDowell.

“There has probably never been a time when an emphasis by the churches on the care of the created order is needed. Climate Sunday gives parishes the opportunity to celebrate God’s work in creation as well as his work in redemption. At a time when the need to do so is most pressing.”
CHURCH OF IRELAND NEWS

CHURCH LEADERS HOLD SERVICE OF REFLECTION AND HOPE

The Service of Reflection and Hope to mark the centenary of the Partition of Ireland and the formation of Northern Ireland took place in St. Patrick’s Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh on Thursday, 21st October. Organised and hosted by the Church Leaders’ Group, it was attended by representatives from the governments of the United Kingdom represented by Prime Minister, Boris Johnston M.P. and Secretary of State for N.I, Brandon Lewis M.P.; the Republic of Ireland represented by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney T.D. and Northern Ireland represented by the First Minister of Northern Ireland, Paul Givan MLA. Her Majesty The Queen was represented by the Earl of Caledon, Lord Lieutenant for Co. Armagh.

The restricted number of guests attending were drawn from the wider community such as those involved in peace-building, community development, health, youth work and various aspects of church life. The service included singing from a group of young people as well as view of a number of teenagers and a group of young people carried a lantern through the Cathedral symbolising The Light of Hope. The service which was broadcast live by the BBC and RTÉ, was opened with a welcome from the Dean of Armagh, the Very Revd Shane Forster. The opening prayer was in Irish read by Linda Ervine MBE and Seán Coll.

The sermon was preached by Revd Dr. Sahr Yambasu, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland. The church leaders shared their own personal reflections at the service.

Archbishop John McDowell in his message at the service, said: “I was born in 1956 in working class East Belfast. It was an immensely rich culture to grow up in. So I have very warm memories of growing up and in a slightly more integrated housing estate than would be the case now. My family would definitely have thought of themselves as Unionist, although my mother in particular also had a strong sense of Irish identity, oddly enough centring round a Welsh Briton, St Patrick. However, that integration I spoke about didn’t run very deep; there was always a sense of them and us not far below the surface. Friendship was plentiful. Trust was in short supply. “Now, as a church leader I am sorry that as disciples of Jesus Christ, we didn’t do more to become peacemakers, or at least to speak peace into the situation. Too often we allowed the attitudes around us to shape our faith, rather than the other way round. That’s certainly what I mean when I say we have too often been captive churches. We obsessed about some things: especially borders.

“One way or another, we’re obsessing about them again, and being distracted from really thinking about what a good society would look like. There are still far too many people who live with poverty of many kinds - educational, economic, emotional. Far from creating a society with a common purpose, the pandemic and some recent political developments have exposed just how fractured a society we’ve become. But I am hopeful. Hopeful in a new generation who know that the big problems we’ve landed them with, especially climate change and economic inequality, can only be tackled together.

“I think there are already signs that the next generation will see the things that we obsessed about as secondary, and place their priorities elsewhere. And as his disciples, I think our role is to imitate Our Lord, in acting justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with our God. Hebrews 10:23 “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.” The other church leaders also gave their reflections.
Church of Ireland’s mental health project moves forward

Prayer and faith help to support good mental health but stigma around the issues involved still remains a major challenge, research carried out by the Church of Ireland has revealed. These are some of the key findings that have emerged from research undertaken by the MindMattersCOI project earlier this year, and the Church is now preparing to take practical steps to improve and support mental health literacy.

Over the past 12 months, MindMattersCOI has been listening to both clergy and lay members of the Church of Ireland to understand the Church’s attitudes and awareness towards mental health. Over 1,200 members and more than half of all clergy participated in this research.

On World Mental Health Day (Sunday, 10th October), the Church of Ireland issued the call for mental health champions to promote mental health literacy and help break down barriers created by stigma.

The Chairperson of the MindMattersCOI advisory group, Bishop Pat Storey, is urging people with an interest in mental health, whether personal or professional, to become involved in the project.

She commented: “Improving mental health literacy is so important for us all. We need to understand how to maintain and support positive mental health amongst our friends, community and, in particular, our younger people. Recognising issues and talking about mental health helps to decrease stigma and remove barriers to seeking help.”

The MindMattersCOI project is supported by Allchurches Trust. Jeremy Noles, Head of Grants and Relationships for Allchurches Trust, said: “As we continue to emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, there’s a renewed focus across the UK and Ireland on mental health and well-being, and the increased needs and issues in this area. We’re delighted that our funding can help bring greater awareness and hope, by extending the reach of MindMattersCOI. This will help many more people struggling with mental health issues to access support which could change their lives for the better.”

The research, the results of which will be available on the MindMattersCOI website – https://mindmatters.ireland.anglican.org – in the coming weeks, also found that:

• both members and clergy agreed that the Church of Ireland has a role to play in promoting positive mental health;
• bishops note that they can provide the strong leadership required to effect positive and lasting change in relation to mental health attitudes and awareness;
• 96% of respondents felt that Covid-19 had had a significant impact on people’s mental health;
• family, friends and other connections were identified as key contributors to positive mental health;
• respondents reported that, although they have positive attitudes towards mental health issues, these still carry a significant level of stigma within the community;
• in contrast to other studies among churches and other communities of faith, respondents did not identify clergy as a primary source of help in dealing with mental health issues; and
• a significant number of clergy feel that the Church currently does not provide sufficient support for their mental health.

Based on the findings of the research, the next phase of the project will focus on improving mental health literacy. This is defined as:

• understanding how to obtain and maintain positive mental health;
• understanding mental health problems and their treatments;
• decreasing stigma related to mental health problems; and
• assisting people to seek help effectively.

The project is now calling for additional volunteers to get involved and become ambassadors for mental health in their parishes and wider communities. Thanks to the generous support of Allchurches Trust, there will be a wide variety of training on offer as well as funding available for local projects that support mental health literacy. Announcing Phase 2 of the project, Bishop Storey said: “We have listened to what you told us in the research and now we want you to get involved. We want you to join our movement for mental health literacy. There are opportunities for training and there is also seed funding for projects in parishes and dioceses.”

Although the MindMattersCOI project was conceived before the Covid pandemic, it is recognised that young people were among those most affected during successive lockdowns. The project is therefore carrying out an additional sub-study focusing exclusively on younger members of the Church of Ireland.

For more information and to sign up as a champion, please visit the MindMattersCOI website at https://mindmatters.irelandanglican.org
Five Bills pass their final stages on third day of General Synod

The General Synod held this year by Zoom passed five Bills which were considered on the first day on Thursday, 30th September and received their third readings and passed by members on the third day, Saturday, 2nd October. Bill No 1 deals with General Synod Representation which seeks to set out the principles upon which clerical and lay members of General Synod represent dioceses, and establish a regular review of the size, distribution and membership of the House of Representatives of the General Synod. It seeks to amend Chapter I of the Constitution in order to establish a proportional and representative formula to allocate seats; to increase the functionality and flexibility of General Synod as a debating forum and administrative body; to provide for a regular review of the number and distribution of members of General Synod; to amend representation on the amalgamation of dioceses; and to achieve a more proportional spread of membership whilst ensuring that the voices of smaller dioceses are not lost. Bills 2, 3 and 4 amend Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland. Bill No 2 seeks to ensure that those who act as parochial nominators at a time of vacancy have within their ranks a measure of gender balance and thus assist in representing the demographic of the parish or group of parishes. Bill No 3 provides that no person shall act, or be capable of acting, as a diocesan nominator with respect to any parish of which such person shall be at the time a registered vestry member. Bill No 4 seeks to ensure that clergy who are nominated to a parish (or parishes) are informed promptly and to allow an element of flexibility for the bishop giving that person time to reach a decision, whilst at the same time ensuring that the Board of Nomination acts in an efficient and a timely fashion. Bill No 5 seeks to provide procedures for the election of a bishop for the United Dioceses of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe in the event of the Sees of Limerick and Killaloe falling vacant simultaneously.

Young people need to be re–invigorated

The impact of the pandemic on young people and those in youth ministry was highlighted in the presentation of the report of the Church of Ireland Youth Department Report to General Synod.

Proposing the report, CIYD chairperson Bishop Pat Storey, spoke of the experience of young people.

“They have felt isolated without the company of their friends, robbed of their early university years, and devoid of the fellowship of their churches and youth groups. As President of the Church of Ireland Youth Department, I have also witnessed the isolation and helplessness of staff, diocesan youth officers, and volunteer youth leaders around the whole island. Youth ministry, due to government regulations, effectively stopped. CIYD’s Day of Prayer for Young People takes place on Sunday November 21 and the Bishop urged Synod members to continue to pray for young people and the Church of Ireland’s youth ministry.

MARRIAGE COUNCIL

Even the strongest relationships have been impacted by Covid, the Chairperson of the Marriage Council, the Revd Jonny Campbell–Smyth, told General Synod.

Proposing the report of the Marriage Council he said that Council members continued to meet online throughout Covid to make progress in supporting couples and the wider Church across the island around aspects of marriage.

“The island as a whole due to Covid has been impacted greatly in the area of relationships. We have all become more used to working at home, seeing family members a lot more than we ever thought. And whilst in many cases this has been positive allowing more time for family unity, it must be recognised that Covid has done its damage on even the strongest of relationships,” Mr Smyth said.
Report of the Covenant Council received by Synod

“The work of the Covenant Council, for the sake of the world, is the pursuit of truth in an atmosphere of love. It is about the necessary theological study that facilitates the shared pursuit of holiness. It is about deepening unity between a pair of Churches too long disjointed,” explained Bishop Michael Burrows in proposing the report of the Covenant Council at General Synod.

The role of the Covenant Council is to oversee and deepen the special relationship between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland.

Work of the Liturgical Advisory Committee

The Liturgical Advisory Committee has been able to progress a significant amount of work in four key areas even in the midst of lockdowns and restrictions, the Very Revd Nigel Dunne stated proposing the report of the LAC to General Synod.

The LAC has continued to work with the Historical Centenaries Working Group and has also drawn up a very important new set of Services and Resources in the Case of Sudden and Unexpected Death. The Committee has produced two resources in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

Bishops’ Appeal approaches 50th anniversary

Bishops’ Appeal is looking forward to celebrating its 50th anniversary at next year’s General Synod.

Synod members voted against the motion to change the name of Bishops’ Appeal.

The motion that the Committee be made up of a bishop (Chair), three representatives nominated by Standing Committee to serve up to six years and 11 Diocesan Link Persons – one from each of the 11 dioceses – to serve for six years was passed by Synod.

Education sector shows resilience

Those who have risen to the challenge of Covid and kept education going throughout the pandemic received generous praise at General Synod.

Proposing the report on behalf of the Board of Education (RI), Canon Harry Gilmore (Raphoe) said: “It is amazing, to my mind, that we have kept going so well in education at all levels be it primary secondary or third level.

He acknowledged that things had not been perfect and had been difficult at times but that those working in education had learned new ways of doing things.

He highlighted a newly launched project, the Small Schools Initiative. The Protestant community had been offered the opportunity to take part in a new two-year project along with various other schools of different patronage. Four small schools in a cluster in the north–west of County Donegal; Dunfanaghy, Creeslough, Ballymore and Gartan will participate in the project, receiving a co–ordinator who will work with them for the two years and will try to work out ways in which their administration can be shared.

“This is not to do with amalgamations or sharing principals or anything like that. The assurance from the Department is that it will simply be to help them to function better,” Canon Gilmore explained.

The Board of Education (NI) commended the resilience of staff, pupils and parents/guardians during these exceptional times.

On behalf of the Synod, Archbishop John McDowell gave a heartfelt thanks to those involved in education the length and breadth of the island. The tremendous effort and risk involved in maintaining education must be acknowledged, he stated.

Bishop Ian Ellis spoke about the direct influence the church has in education. He said there was a responsibility to ensure members were using that right and encouraged clergy and lay people to ensure that we are filling those gaps on boards of high schools. He appealed to those who are transferor governors in primary schools that they would find people willing to go forward to fill the gaps in high schools.

The following have been elected to serve on the Commission: Dr Kenneth Milne, Mr Glenn Moore, Ms Cate Turner, Rev Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum, Rev Canon Elaine Murray, Rev Canon Patrick Comerford, Rev Cathy Hallissey, Rev David White, Rev Suzanne Cousins, The Archbishop of Dublin, The Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory, The Bishop of Derry & Raphoe, another bishop to be nominated by the House of Bishops, and the Very Rev Niall Sloane.


The importance of the Church of Ireland’s relationships with other Anglican Churches and Churches of other traditions as well as increasingly with other faith communities was highlighted in the report of the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue which was presented to General Synod.

Proposing the report, Bishop Kenneth Kearon said: “I believe that the significant effort we have put into participation in ecumenical dialogue shows that we are taking that prayer seriously. At the personal and practical level ecumenical relationships with our Roman Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian and Lutheran neighbours are a world away from where they were say 50 or 100 years ago”.

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Tackling gender-based violence with sources of help for women and men affected or at risk

June Butler and Jacqui Armstrong, from the Mothers’ Union, spoke at the General Synod on the scale and challenge of gender-based abuse and violence – and how members of the Church can take action against it. Their presentation is now available for discussion in dioceses and parishes at this link: https://youtu.be/F_6zbhK4ru4

The presentation formed part of the Church and Society Commission’s report to General Synod and incorporated a video shared by the Anglican Church in Australia’s Diocese of Melbourne which highlighted violence against women and children, and its causes.

Both men and women may be victims of abuse and violence and everyone who experiences it should be encouraged to come forward and seek support and assistance. Mothers’ Union representatives across the island raise awareness of gender-based violence through talks in schools, the Thursdays in Black campaign, and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence which encourages prayer, greater awareness and action (including practical donations to assist refuges) every year in dioceses across our island.

The 16 Days is an annual international campaign starting on 25th November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and running until 10th December, Human Rights Day.

I need help – how can I find it? In Northern Ireland, the Domestic and Sexual Abuse helpline – 0808 802 1414 – is open to women and men affected by domestic abuse or violence. Help can also be sought by emailing help@dsahelpline.org

In the Republic, the Women’s Aid helpline can be contacted on 1800 341 900 and Men’s Aid Ireland can be contacted on 01 554 3811 or at hello@mensaid.ie

Transferor Representatives’ Council thanks schools for continued commitment

The Transferor Representatives’ Council (TRC), representing the Church of Ireland, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and the Methodist Church in Ireland in educational matters in Northern Ireland has again expressed its thanks and deep appreciation to school principals, staff and governors for their commitment to management, teaching and learning, pastoral oversight, and financial control in these unprecedented times.

Speaking on behalf of the TRC, its Chairperson, Miss Rosemary Rainey OBE, said: “Schools have experienced enormous pressures since the pandemic began. We, as a society, owe a great debt to principals, teachers, support staff and school governors who have had increased workloads, and had to change methodology, including adapting to remote and blended learning and teaching, prior to the re-opening of schools to all pupils, a return to face-to-face classroom experience and children spending time together again with peers.

“The TRC recognises and applauds the tremendous contribution of school governors, who work tirelessly on a purely voluntary basis in the interests of schools, children and young people. They deal with – alongside other commitments – finance, staffing issues, appointments, complaints, inspections, and school policies, and attend functions in schools on a regular basis.

During the pandemic, more responsibility fell to chairpersons who dealt almost daily with their respective principals to ensure that schools continued to deliver teaching and pupils continued to learn. Their service to schools and to our society is vastly undervalued. The TRC commends them and all school governors who faced particular challenges but continued to serve the local community faithfully and well.

“Governors’ tenure has now been extended for a further additional year so it is both fitting and appropriate that we pay tribute to their service at this time. Schools cannot operate without governors yet their sterling service often seems to go unnoticed and unappreciated by society in general. The TRC gratefully acknowledges the variety and wealth of skills, knowledge, and experience that governors bring to schools. Principals value their support and guidance, often relying on them to be critical friends. “The TRC thanks all school governors for their service and assures them of the prayerful support of the three Churches, their respective Boards of Education, and their membership as a whole.”
The real Christmas Story through handcrafts

An event being held at Tobermore, seeks to tell the Christmas story through various handcrafted pieces. The Christmas story has inspired many hymn writers and those in Kilcronaghan Parish Church have attempted to depict some of these in wall hangings and other handcrafted items. See advert on Page 63. It is a community project involving members of the church, local organisations, and schools. The project started in 2019 and the organisers hope to have our display in 2020 but because of the pandemic it had to be postponed. This however gave them more time to produce the wall hangings and other displays which will be on show from 25th -28th November 2021. The children are also designing Christmas cards and these will be on display in the parish hall where morning coffee and afternoon tea will be served all day. During the event, children from the local nursery, primary schools and youth organisations will sing or recite Christmas poems in the church. Other members of our community will play the organ or other musical instruments at different times. Kilcronaghan Parish Church lies in the village of Tobermore, situated at the top of the village at the fork of the Draperstown and Wood Roads. The church takes its name from St. Cronaghan who is said to have baptised Saint Columba and replaces an older church dating from the 9th century situated in the townland of Mormeal.

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