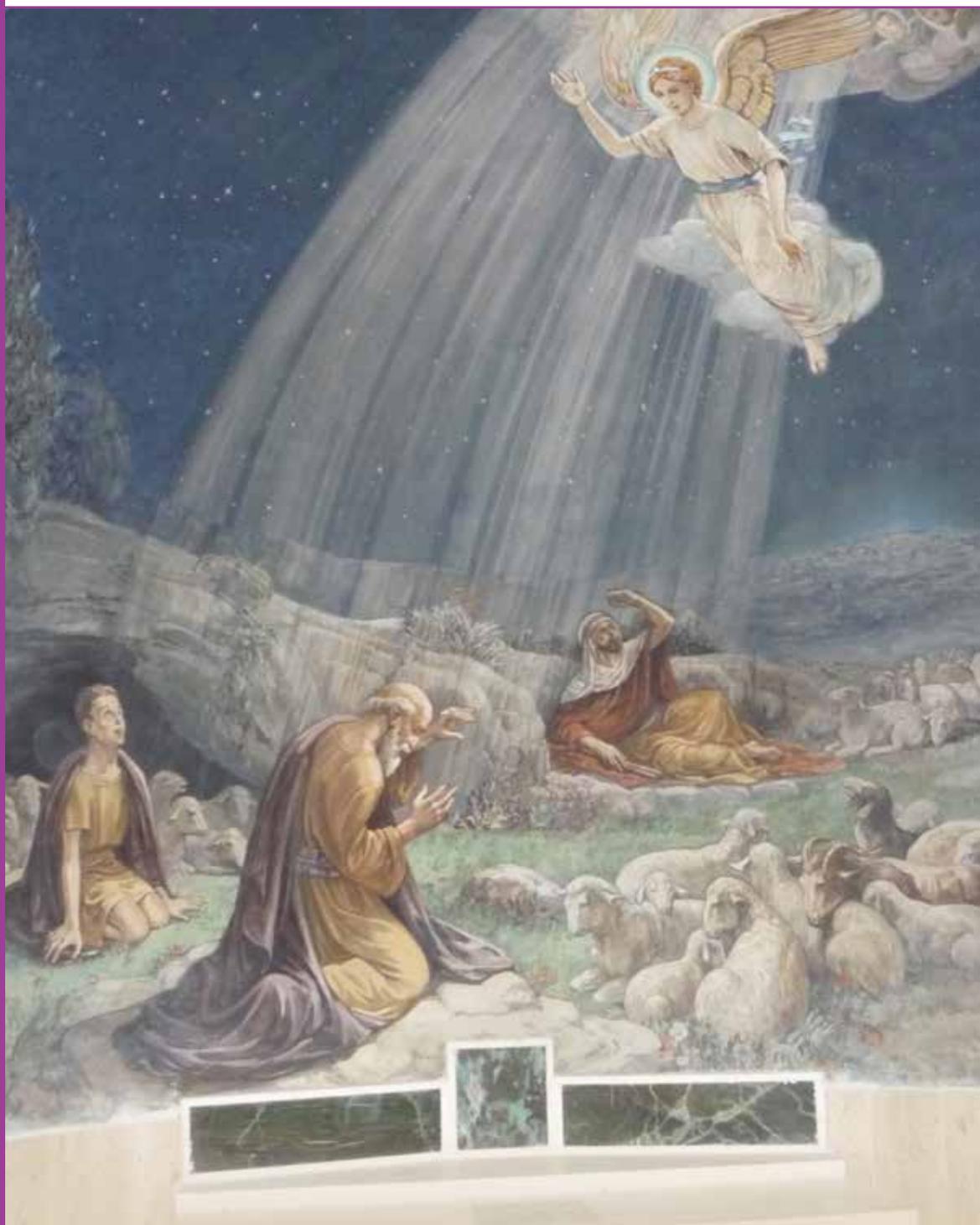


The Magazine of the United Diocese of Limerick, Ardfert,  
Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh & Emly  
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*'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and  
on earth peace, goodwill among people.'*

*Fresco in Shepherds' Fields Church*

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*Dec/Jan 2012/13*

# Newslink





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# The Bishop Writes



## Facing the future without fear

Advent is about looking ahead. The shops have been selling Christmas for months. We know there is more to this season than shopping. We are preparing for Good News, for Emmanuel, God with us.

One of the great things about being a Christian is being empowered and motivated by God's future. That's why we pray 'Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven' God's Kingdom was central to Jesus' teaching. His miracles and his parables all showed how our lives, our society and our world are transformed when God reigns in justice, peace, love and mercy. Jesus taught his disciples to make the values of God's Kingdom the basis of their life choices and actions; to make the future Kingdom real in our lives here and now.

The Bible is constantly reminding us to look ahead to what God has promised. The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews picked Abraham as a good example for us to follow. He set out from his comfortable life in Ur of the Chaldeans for an unknown destination, because he believed God was calling him - "For he (Abraham) was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God." Looking forward is one of the characteristics of all those who live by faith.

As a Parish and as a Diocese, what do we see when we look ahead? Are we on the road to a bright future as far as our parish and Diocesan Church are concerned? The evidence over many years now is that we are in slow but steady decline. For most of us numbers are falling; our young people leave us; more and more is being demanded of fewer and fewer people; its becoming harder and harder to keep things going, never mind thinking of growth. Our Churches are grouped into larger and larger Unions and the cost of running our Churches, our Rectories and our Diocese is beyond the reach of many parishioners.

The temptation when prospects are bleak is to ignore the facts and carry on as we always have. It may be that as you read this, you will feel that I am being disloyal! Believe me I understand that for many who care for our Church these are frightening times.

Fear of the future is itself a problem, because fear can paralyse us. We want to shut our eyes before we crash! But I have been reminded recently of what Franklin D Roosevelt said in his inaugural speech: "there is nothing to fear except fear itself" This is particularly true for those who follow Jesus Christ. Paralysing fear is the polar opposite of liberating faith. "Be not afraid" is one of the most frequent exhortations in the Bible.

By contrast, Christian living is empowered by hope. Hope based on our faith, our trust in God. There is no greater power in the universe than the power of God's love. That Good News is preached in every Church, every Sunday of the year. It is also the message of all the great Christian feasts. God's self-giving love is revealed in the nativity which we are about to celebrate; it is God's love that conquers death and brings the joy of resurrection at Easter; it is God's love that liberates the fearful disciples at Pentecost as they discover they have received the gift of the Holy Spirit and are transformed to be messengers of Good News in a broken world.

Am I discouraged by the challenges we face? Are you? We don't need to be!

Jesus said "... seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble". (Matthew 6.33-34)

If we are seeking what God wants for us, nothing can stop us!

This Advent I will be spending time listening to the Clergy, Diocesan Lay Readers and others involved in ministry in our Diocese about how they would like to see our Church in 2025. I will be encouraging them to think how we might get there. I would like you to be part of this process too. Please write to me, at the address below, or by email and I promise to reply. I am convinced that through prayer, through listening to God's word and listening to one another, we need to build a vision of what God has in mind for our Dioceses. When that vision is clear, and we commit ourselves to it, we will find the resources to make that vision a reality. That's exciting! I hope you agree.

And happy Christmas! Emmanuel, God is with us!

Yours  
+Trevor

The Rt. Revd. Trevor Williams  
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## DIOCESAN CALENDAR

(for updates see Diocesan web site - [www.limerick.anglican.org](http://www.limerick.anglican.org))

Wednesday 5th December, 9.30-12.30, Dance in aid of Aghancon Church

Saturday 8th December, 8 pm, Whist Drive, St Michael's Limerick

Tuesday 11th December, 8-10 pm, Concert in St Michael's Church, Limerick

Saturday 15th December, 7.30 pm, Handel's Messiah, St Cronan's Church, Roscrea

Saturday 15th December, 8.15 pm, Aghancon Christmas Whist Drive

Saturday 22nd December, 8 pm, Villiers Sq, Whist Drive for St Michael's Limerick

Wednesday 26th December, 9.30-12.30, Aghancon Social Dancing

Friday 28th December, UDYC Teenage Day Trip to Dublin

Sunday 30th December, UDYC Junior Day Trip to Dublin

Thursday 3rd January, 8 pm, Concert in aid of Aghancon Church

Saturday 10th January, Whist Drive, St Michael's Limerick

Tuesday 22nd January, Kilcolman Book Club, St Michael's Hall, Killorglin

Saturday 26th January, 8 pm, Villiers Sq, Whist Drive for St Michael's Limerick

Wednesday 6th February, 8 pm, Mission Evening

Tuesday 12th February, 8-10 pm, Diocesan Council

# Editorial

Dear Reader

In my absence abroad, Assistant Editor Deborah Powell single-handedly brought out the last two issues of Newslink on time, to the highest quality. It was more than she volunteered for when she joined the team, but she did a brilliant job, and even confides that she rather enjoyed the challenge! It is right that I should thank her on your behalf as well as my own for this very real ministry to us all.

Newslink can only keep us up-to-date with what is happening in the Diocese if there is a team in place to make it happen. And there is still a vacant place on the team for a Treasurer. The job is not onerous, but needs to be done – gathering subscriptions and advertising revenue, paying bills, helping with budgets – as well as keeping the Editor on the straight and narrow! I am dismayed that no one has yet volunteered despite my many calls. If you think you might be able to do so, now is the time we need you, before the start of 2013!

During the first half of December we are reviewing with the Diocesan Communications Committee whether the present form and layout of Newslink can be improved. And of course the only views that really count are yours, the subscribers! I therefore invite you to make them known, either direct to me or through your pew distributor or minister, who I ask to kindly pass them on to me. Is the look and feel attractive and up-to-date? Is the balance right between notes from schools and parishes and feature articles? Would you like more reflective, devotional pieces, or a children's page, or quizzes, or personal ads? Is it good or bad value for money? We can only respond to you if you tell us.

But that's enough of business! In front of us we have Advent and Christmas – when we celebrate the great drama of the Incarnation – and the New Year and Epiphany – when we celebrate how God has made himself known to us and reflect on what that means for the coming year. There is so much to celebrate, as the Bishop says – let us celebrate together!

God bless, and a happy Christmas and New Year to one and all,

Joc Sanders

## NEWSLINK SUBSCRIPTION & ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2012 (Unchanged from 2011)

Newslink Annual Subscription €30  
(Plus either option 'a' or 'b' below)  
a) Postal charge for delivery to pew €7  
b) Postal charge for postage of single issue €13.50

### ADVERTISING RATES (EURO)

|                 | Rate per annum |          | Rate per single issue |        |
|-----------------|----------------|----------|-----------------------|--------|
|                 | 10 x Colour    | 10 x B&W | Colour                | B&W    |
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| Third Page      | 450.00         | 417.00   | 54.00                 | 50.00  |
| Quarter Page    | 338.00         | 313.00   | 41.00                 | 38.00  |
| One Eighth Page | 169.00         | 156.00   | 20.00                 | 19.00  |

### DISCOUNTS ON ADVERTISEMENTS

We are offering the following discounts on advertisements that are inserted for the full year 2012 (10 issues):

Colour 7%  
Black & White 10%

The next issue will be published for Sunday 3rd February 2013. All material to be included must reach the Editor by **Friday 18th January 2013 before 6.00pm**, by e-mail only. Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

In addition to parochial news, the Editor is delighted to receive articles and letters for publication, as well as suggestions as to how Newslink can be improved.

Please note: names and addresses of contributors must be given, and all letters printed will include name and address unless otherwise agreed with the Editor. All material dealing with parish matters must first be cleared with the Rector of the parish concerned.

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### NEWSLINK SUBSCRIPTION & ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2013

The rates for 2013 are currently under review, but we do not expect they will be substantially different to those for 2012. The new rates will be set during December. They will be advised to individual subscribers, pew distributors and regular advertisers during January 2013, and published in the February 2013 issue.

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# Four Cs - Confidence, Community, Caring and Celebrating

Key points from Bishop Trevor Williams' address to Diocesan Synod on 16th June 2012.

At home, the economic crisis has brought unemployment and cuts in benefits, and with them hardship to so many families. Internationally, unfair tax practices by multinationals rob developing countries of resources while increasing profits for the already wealthy. Social Change is happening with increasing speed. The internet revolution may be driving the biggest changes since the invention of the printing press.

Christians face increasing challenges. Church attendance is decreasing though belief in God remains high - "believing without belonging" may best describe faith in Ireland, as in Britain. Militant atheism is on the rise, while there is also a distinct rise in religious fundamentalism. Add to this the sense in this part of the Church of Ireland that we are small, under-resourced, and struggling to keep going. It is enough to shake anybody's confidence.

In the midst of all this turbulence I want to offer four landmarks to give us direction in the year ahead - we need to renew Confidence, build Community, continue Caring, and pause to Celebrate.

## RENEWING CONFIDENCE IN WHO WE ARE

The first two commandments make it clear that we should not worship images of our own making. The children of Israel made and worshipped a golden calf - we created a Celtic Tiger, a false God of affluence. And we also have a tendency to create Church in our own image, according to our own needs, likes and dislikes. If we think of Church as the group of families who have worshipped in our parish Church for decades, generation after generation, and if we want to keep Church just like that, we may be making an idol out of our parish Church. Loyalty is commendable and we need a sense of belonging, but it isn't enough. Our true identity is far wider than the cultural and historical label of Church of Ireland people.

Who are we? I suggest we should see ourselves as the Body of Christ in an Anglican form - people who find the Church of Ireland way of worship and Church life helpful, as we seek what it means to be followers of Jesus Christ in our local community.

That is a secure identity, because it is rooted in the life of the Risen Christ and his purposes for his world. It is not about a past identity but a present reality which is continually being shaped and reshaped as we respond to God's call. We are more than an institution, we are more than a society, we are more than a denomination. We are the people of God, the body of Christ. God is among us, with us, ahead of us, as we journey with him. God is our security. God is our Confidence. Drawing closer to God through Christ is the key to renewing confidence.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY IS WHAT WE ARE ABOUT

We are about relationships. God is Three in one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The very nature of God is community. So community is an essential mark of God's people the Church. Jesus summed up what life is about, building community in loving relationships - loving God, and loving our neighbour as ourselves. Building community is hard work and takes time. There is always conflict in human communities. That can be a good thing, leading to development and growth. But we need to meet with those we disagree with, listen twice as much as we speak, and keep on talking until we can live with our differences in a positive way. This is something we must learn both at the local parish level and nationally in the Church of Ireland.

Here are two tests we can use to check whether we are falling into the trap of creating our Church community in our own image:

Do we genuinely wish to see new people contributing

to the leadership of the Church? With their new ideas, they may threaten us with change and that can seem a formidable challenge.

Do we dislike traveling to another Church for a united service? Of course it's not the same, but in the body of Christ we love our neighbours.

The Christian Community to which we belong has no circumference, but its centre is Jesus Christ, calling us individually to follow him, and drawing us together. We are related to other Christians everywhere, our Diocese, our Companion Dioceses, our Missionary partners, members of the Anglican Communion worldwide, and of course other Christians of other denominations - we are all one in Christ Jesus.

The essence of the Church is that it is a community. Not one person but everyone contributing their gifts for the good of all. Much more is achieved when we work together than when we go it alone. Community doesn't happen. We need to build it.

## CONTINUE CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBOUR

*"I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples."* (John 13:34,35)

We are a community, but a servant community. Archbishop William Temple said, *"The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members."*

God isn't locked up inside our Churches. God is active in the world, in many places, unexpected places, and working through different people, very often unexpected people. I believe the Church's job is to find out where God is working in his world, and to join in. So it is right for the Church to learn from what is best in the wider community, to work alongside those who are working to relieve poverty, support the weak and guide the blind. That's what Jesus did and what we must do also. God is with the poor, the marginalized, the oppressed, and he wishes them to know of his love, his care and his provision for their need.

As St Teresa of Avila puts it:

*"Christ has no body now, but yours.*

*No hands, no feet on earth, but yours.*

*Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks with compassion on the world.*

*Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good.*

*Yours are the hands with which Christ blesses the world."*

## CELEBRATE BEING CHURCH

Jesus tells us that God's Kingdom is like a great banquet to which everyone is invited. But people don't want to come. So the doors are flung open wide, and all sorts of waifs and strays, the good the bad and the ugly are invited. What a celebration - those who thought they were just nobodies become invited guests. What a beautiful picture of what the church has to offer to those who are needy.

So let's take that picture of celebration and make our parishes joyful this year. We have lots to celebrate, primarily God's love for each of us and for all people. But also the good things that are happening. We have lots to celebrate. I have seen how in our parishes we have been carrying out God's mission in the world in our local communities, and building community within our parishes, in so many ways, often unnoticed. All that is worth celebrating. Let us celebrate being Church!

# United Diocesan Youth Council of Limerick and Killaloe

## ANOIS 2012

Another great time was had at Kilkenny College for CIYD's annual Anois event, between the 27th and 29th October. There were smaller numbers than previous years, but we still had a brilliant group from our diocese. The weekend was full of activities and things to do, including the usual Chill Zone, Cafe, Tuck Shop, Main Hall full of games, Prayer Room, and new this year, a 'Girls Zone', where girls (though some males were spotted enjoying it as well) could get their nails and make up done! As well as all this, a highlight was the chance to meet up with old friends, and make new ones, from all over the Republic of Ireland. The Sunday afternoon saw the return of the Eliminator challenge, an energetic favourite of many, or for others, a chance to go bowling in Kilkenny.

The inspiring worship times were led by Jude Trenier from CIYD, who spoke (using her own personal experiences very honestly) about life as a 'story', and within that, God's story for the world and how we can live an amazing story within His greater story for us all. Music was provided by the brilliant Mark Ferguson Band, and the worship times were powerful and challenging.



*Prayer Room at Anois*



*Creative participants at Anois!*

Over all, Anois 2012 was another fantastic weekend, as we gathered again for worship, fun, and friendship, from all over Ireland, and we look forward to doing it again next year.

## JUNIOR WEEKEND 2012 –

### REPORT BY CIARA FITZELL, JUNIOR LEADER

The UDYC Junior Weekend was fun and faith filled! Time was set out every day to worship our Lord, focusing on God's first two commandments. Everyone participated in prayer, song and workshops based around this. Friday consisted of worship and great games in the sports hall. Saturday, we set off for West Cork Secret where we led an army style day. Then we headed to Cork city for bowling, quasar and swimming. We ended our day with games and worship back at the centre. Sunday everyone enjoyed worship and great team games.

### M.A.D. DAY

Our M.A.D. Day on 24th November 2012 in St. Mary's N.S. Nenagh will have taken place by the time you read this notes, and I'm sure a great day will have been had by all, as we explore the theme of mission, as well as all our usual activities and fun. A full report will follow in the February 2012 issue.

### ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

At the time of writing, our Annual Christmas Dinner Dance will also have taken place at Woodlands' Hotel in Adare on Saturday 1st December 2012. We are looking forward to splendid food, band, raffle, spot prizes and a disco, and another great opportunity to meet up with friends, before the Christmas season.

### SENIOR (AGES 13 AND UP) CHRISTMAS DAY

#### TRIP (28TH DECEMBER) & JUNIOR (AGES 10-13)

#### CHRISTMAS DAY TRIP (30TH DECEMBER)

- Required on the Day: packed lunch, swimwear, swim hat, towel, extra socks, warm clothing, raincoat, prescription medication, pocket money & plenty of energy!
- Cost (inc transport, all admission charges and evening meal): €60 if booked and paid for before Monday 17th December, €70 if after 19/12/12. If there are any 13 year olds that would like to participate in both the Junior and Senior Day Trips, the cost if booked and paid in full by Monday 17th December 2011 will be e100 for both trips.
- Senior day includes: Shopping at Blanchardstown Shopping Centre or Swimming at National Aquatic Centre, Funderland at R.D.S., Karting at Kylemore Karting, Ice Skating at Dundrum on Ice, Fast Food at Mc Donalds Kylemore
- Junior day includes: Swimming at National Aquatic Centre, Ice Skating at Dundrum on Ice, Bowling @ Leisureplex Stillorgan, Karting at Kylemore Karting, Fast Food at Mc Donalds Kylemore

As always further information about any UDYC events and activities can be got from Edward on (087) 2907553. Also, information and programme of events for the year can be found on our new UDYC website: [udyc.ie](http://udyc.ie) as well as the Diocesan Website at [limerick.anglican.org](http://limerick.anglican.org) and our regularly updated UDYC group page on Facebook.

Until next month,

Damian (Email: [05shortend@gmail.com](mailto:05shortend@gmail.com))



# The Girls Friendly Society

## DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING

This took place in St. Mary's Church, Nenagh on Thursday, 8th November. Leaders made plans for the coming year and enjoyed the lovely refreshments. Thank you to the Nenagh leaders for their hospitality.

## CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

The death has occurred of our dear friend, Carrie Wilde. For many years Carrie has been a great support to Cloughjordan Branch. Her enthusiasm and support for GFS will be sadly missed by all in the Branch and the Diocese. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her husband, John, and the Mounsey family.



*Nenagh girls present the story of David*



*Nenagh girls and leaders with Canon Marie & Audrey*

## NENAGH BRANCH

The Enrolment Service took place in St. Mary's

Church, Nenagh on Sunday, 18th November as part of Family Service. This was a joint enrolment service with the Boys Brigade. The girls, led by Audrey Clarke-Gordon, presented the first reading of the Story of David as per the Bible Study programme. The congregations were asked to join in the interactive story with lots of responses as directed by the girls. Four girls were enrolled for the first time and 5 girls progressed to the next GFS level. We also welcomed two new leaders – Sandra Manthe and Laura Clarke. We wish Sandra and Laura God's Blessing for their work in GFS. Thank you to Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke, Audrey Clarke-Gordon, leaders and girls for a wonderful Family Worship.

## ROSCREA BRANCH

Girls have been working on the Music Badge under the guidance of Nicole Robinson. We thank Nicole for all her work with the girls on their music badge. Some girls have started their crafts. The girls are looking forward to the Diocesan Craft day and their Roscrea Branch Christmas party.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

All Ireland

A meeting of the Finance Meeting will be held on Saturday, 24 November in Oak House, Dublin

Diocesan Christmas Craft Day

Diocesan Christmas Craft Day will be held in the Methodist Hall, Roscrea on Saturday, 1st December at 2.30 pm. Each girl is asked to bring a basket for flower arranging, 3 silk flowers and €5 to cover the cost of other materials. All proceeds from this event go towards Diocesan Camp in June.

Cloughjordan Branch Christmas Party

Cloughjordan Branch Christmas Party is on Wednesday, 5th December in Cloughjordan Parish Hall. Leader Training

A demonstration and workshop on Corsage making will be held on Monday, 21st January in the Methodist Hall, Roscrea. Materials will be provided. All leaders / helpers are welcome. Please contact your Branch Leader to book a place.

## Diocesan Board of Mission

### The Three Musketeers on Safari in Swaziland

8.00 pm on Thursday, 8th November, at the Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, was one of those Mission Evenings which one will remember for a long time. Bishop Trevor, Salters Sterling, and Michael Hanna were just back from a visit to Swaziland, where they visited a number of schools, saw at first hand the progress on Luyengo Farm, and interviewed the new Bishop elect.

**SCHOOL VISITS**  
We were startled to learn that of the 11,000 children attending Anglican run schools in Swaziland, 56% tested positive for HIV. One school in a remote southern part of the country had a severe food shortage due to drought, and in a great number of homes, the parents had died from AIDS related diseases, leaving the grandparents to rear the children, or, even causing the children to have to fend for themselves. The staff work under very difficult conditions and it was obvious that it was the practical application of their faith which kept them going. The Mothers' Union plays a crucial role in the Home Based

Care programme, especially among victims of AIDS in the rural parishes.

## LUYENGO FARM PROJECT

As a result of new management under the supervision of Tiki de Beer, an irrigation engineer from South Africa, and Robert Atwell from Santry Parish in Dublin, who looks after the finances, around 5 hectares have been cultivated and have produced an excellent crop of top quality cauliflower and cabbage. Phase 2 is to ensure a reliable water supply, construction of a propagation unit, and purchase of a refrigerated truck for shipment of fresh produce into South Africa. During the visit, contact was made with staff of the nearby University Farm, who have offered the use of their facilities for soil testing in return for their students gaining valuable practical experience in the running of Luyengo Farm.

## BISHOP ELLENAH WAMUKOYA

Ellenah was consecrated Bishop for the Diocese of Swaziland on 17th November. She is a qualified

accountant and had been working as an NSM on the staff of a parish in the capital. Apart from being the first female bishop in Africa, she appreciates the difficulties ahead in uniting and motivating her clergy under the most difficult conditions. She foresees the profits from Luyengo Farm playing a pivotal role in the life of the diocese as it moves towards being self sustaining; to use her own words, 'don't give the person a fish - instead teach him/her to fish'! Bishop Trevor has asked that we remember Ellenah in our prayers as she begins her time as bishop.

#### REPORTS FROM THE PARISH MISSION REPRESENTATIVES

John Jarvis showed pictures of the poster display which the CofI Chaplaincy at UL had put on during Social Justice Week, the emphasis being on Swaziland.

#### OUR DIOCESAN CONTRIBUTION

At the time of going to press, €22693.42 has been collected in our Diocese for the Luyengo Farm Project, of

*MOTHERS UNION IS ON PAGE 32 DUE TO LATE ARRIVAL OF NOTES.*

which €20,000 has already been sent to USPG Ireland for the project. Our Diocesan goal is €40,000.

Archdeacon Wayne Carney thanked 'the musketeers' for a very informative presentation, especially the Bishop for his hard work in preparing DVDs for distribution to each parish, and the offer by Salters & Michael to travel to any venue throughout the Diocese in order to promote the Luyengo Farm project.

David Frizelle (Sec/Treasurer)



Two of the Three Musketeers – Bishop Trevor with Salters Sterling



#### 1ST NENAGH COMPANY

We have enrolled 4 more boys at November's Family Worship! Canon Marie asked the boys to present the Armour of God, which was a perfect theme that they really enjoyed – showing us how much fun it can be putting on the armour of God! We are so proud of their readings, presentations (and behaviour!) and more importantly they are proud of themselves. Well done to all of them!

We continue to have fun, visits, Emma's great crafts ideas and always one of Ger's carefully planned spiritual

chats and the door is always open to new members.

We will finish this term with a Christmas party for all paid-up members on Wednesday December 19th and next term's dates are as follows: Jan 9 & 23, Feb 6 & 20, March 6 & 20.

Thank you to the Select Vestry for supporting us with their €200 donation.



1st Nenagh Co. Boys with Leaders

## SCHOOL NEWS

### ST. NICHOLAS' N.S. ADARE

Swimming classes came to an end on the 26th October and then the school closed for mid-term break. During the break the school's Parents Association organised a very enjoyable Halloween party with lots of traditional games.

Each pupil in school now has a reading buddy and we meet on Friday mornings and spend some time reading with the buddy. This is an enjoyable time which allows older and younger pupils to get to know one another and enjoy lots of stories at the same time.

Recorder lessons for pupils in 3rd to 6th classes have resumed on Thursday afternoons.

We plan to have a Mad Hair Day on Friday 23rd November and the money raised will go towards the improvements to the stage area in the school hall.

The date has been set for our annual Christmas party. This year it takes place on Wednesday 19th December

and we look forward to the performances on stage from all the pupils. There will be lots of practicing between now and then! Pupils will also sing at the Live Crib which is an annual event in Adare usually taking place on the Sunday before Christmas.

The Green Schools' Committee is busy organising events for this year as we work towards our fourth green flag, with the emphasis on transport. We will have a WOW Day on November 30th when everyone will walk part of the way to or from school on that day.

### ST MARY'S NO 2 NS NENAGH

The darker evenings and colder days may be upon us, but spirits are high at St. Mary's. The children have returned with great energy and enthusiasm after their well-deserved mid-term break.

Our Halloween celebrations this year were for very good cause. The Trick or Treat for Temple Street charity was the beneficiary of monies raised by our students. Each child contributed a small sum and we had a day of stories,

traditional games, baking, art and song, all while dressed in a fantastic array of spooky costumes. The 'closing ceremony' comprised of a Fancy Dress Fashion Show. Our generous students raised €186 on the day.

Our formal parent-teacher meetings took place on the thirteenth and fourteenth of November. Many thanks are expressed to our supportive parents who waited patiently for their appointments, and who work hard to reinforce their children's lessons at home each evening.

The themes of our literacy and numeracy displays in school this month are "Science" and "Books". A combination of posters, children's work, interesting facts and a print-rich corridor make for a great read as one walks by.

We were saddened by the news that our EAL teaching post has been lost this year. Mrs Shine, a wonderful teacher and colleague, will be sorely missed by the whole school community. A special School Assembly will take place in her honour on Monday, the nineteenth of November. The event will commence at one o'clock, with contributions, kind words and gifts from the Chairperson of the Board of Management, the teaching staff and the pupils.

The Scholastic Book Fair will take place in the Croft Hall at St. Mary's for a week commencing the twenty second of November.

As Christmas draws closer, it is time to dive in to our Christmas Play preparations. Our shows will take place on the afternoon of the eighteenth of December. Expect lots of talent, plenty of enthusiasm and some wonderful entertainment to boot.

Le gach dea-ghuí for Christmas and 2013!

## **ST MICHAEL'S N.S. LIMERICK**

School places for the school year 2013/2014 will be offered in early February, 2013, following the Board of Management meeting. If you have not completed an "Information Form A", for your child, please do so as soon as possible. The Principal meets any new families who wish to enrol a pupil for the following September, in December and January. Parishioners and other parents/guardians, who have a right of entry to the school, should note that there are already 30 names on the list requesting a place for September, 2013. (Right of entry includes pupils who belong to one of the Reformed Christian denominations in Limerick City & immediate suburbs, and those living in areas where their nearest Church of Ireland school was closed many years ago, e.g. Killaloe, Castleconnell, Newport, etc.) It is important that parents/guardians with children in these categories apply in good time if their child requires a place for next September. Molly Blooms in the Botanic Gardens!

One of our parents, Mary O'Sullivan, whose name 'Molly Bloom' won a prize in the tulip-naming competition run by the Dutch Embassy, was in the news again. Her choice of name has now inspired the idea of creating a tulip portrait to honour James Joyce. The portrait needed 23,000 bulbs planted, covering six square metres. It will bloom in April and for anyone with an interest in flowers it should be a stunning sight to see.

We have had our first very successful cake sale of the year in school, organised by Ms Franklin's 4th & 5th

Classes, which resulted in over €200 being raised to help fund garden activities. Top of the list was the purchase of bird seed and spring flower bulbs for our school garden.



Feeding the birds

We are delighted to welcome Dean Sandra Pragnell to Limerick and look forward to her first visit with us in Assembly very soon. The St Michael's NS Carol Service will be on Wednesday 12 December and it's always a very happy and important family occasion for parents to come and share the Christian message with the school community.

Our wonderful PTA Committee have some lovely ideas to help raise much-needed funds in the coming weeks. Personalised Christmas cards illustrated by the pupils and Learning the Art of Wreath-making are just two of the interesting activities planned. Our annual bag-packing will take place on Saturday 15 December in Tesco, Arthur's Quay and any of you shoppers in the area, please look out for us on the day!

3rd, 4th & 5th Classes have been to Science Exhibitions in Mary Immaculate College of Education and Limerick Institute of Technology this term.

3rd & 4th Classes went on their annual Field Trip to the Birds of Prey Centre in the Burren, stopping off at Poul nabrone on the way there. On the way back they visited a farm at Caherconnell Fort to watch the farmer rounding up his sheep and cattle with two different dogs. This was the first time that the majority of the children had been on a farm!



3rd and 4th classes trip to the Burren

5th & 6th Classes took part in a soccer tournament organized by the FAI, called FARE –Football Against Racism in Europe. This is the first time that the school visited the Delta Soccerdrome as a school.

2nd & 3rd Classes visited our local Art Gallery.

4th, 5th & 6th Classes were not able to go on the visit to the Frank McCourt Museum during Limerick's Culture Evening. However, they enjoyed their visit to it later in October. We are in the process of writing about the visit "back in time" to school long ago and to how the McCourt family lived. This will be in Cursive handwriting and we are delighted that a former parent and the Museum's founder Úna Heaton, invited us to take part in this inaugural writing exhibition. Thank you Úna, for the lollipops!!

### **ST. CRONAN'S NS ROSEMOUNT, ROSCREA**

This term we supported the North Tipperary Hospice raising €407 at our Annual Coffee Morning and "Team Hope" filling 50 Christmas Shoe Boxes to go to a needy child in another part of the world. Thank you to all who supported our recent Quiz Sheet and Colouring Competition in aid of School Funds.

The pupils enjoyed a visit by the local Gardai before Halloween to remind us of the dangers that Halloween brings. The Principal and Pupils from Villiers School visited after Halloween to remind our Senior Pupils what they have to offer.

Teachers and Pupils are busy preparing for Christmas. Pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class are looking forward to family and friends joining with them for this year's "Star Attraction" Nativity. It will take place in St. Cronan's Church on Thursday 6th December, at 7.30pm

The pupils collected 2nd prize in the Tidy Schools Competition, a Book Token worth €50.

On Monday 10th December, Pupils will Carol Sing in Tesco, Supervalu, The Dean Maxwell Nursing Home and Vila Maria Nursing Home, ably guided and accompanied by Miss Veighey.

Parents are hoping to have a stall at both Craft Fayres in Roscrea in December.

Pupils from 1st – 6th Class are looking forward to going to University College in Limerick to attend "Cinderella" on Wednesday 19th December.

Pupils have completed Soccer Lessons with Ms Sylvia Gee, Dance Classes with Mr Paul Doyle and are currently enjoying Gymnastics with Mr. Peter Bane.

Best wishes to Miss Veighey, our Junior Infants teacher, who is marrying Mr. Andrew Hogan on 13th December. We wish them both good health and happiness for the future.

Our Sincere Sympathy goes to all members of staff who have lost loved ones this term: Mrs McManus, Ms Veighey, Mrs Talbot and Mrs. O'Meara.

Wishing you and yours a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and all the best for 2013. Follow us on Facebook or [www.stcronansrosremount.ie](http://www.stcronansrosremount.ie) to keep up to date with all that is happening in St. Cronan's N.S., Rosemount.

### **RATHKEALE NO 2 NATIONAL SCHOOL**

Where has this year gone? This is a question that we seem to hear around every corner no matter who we are talking to. 2012 appears to have flown by and it is hard to believe that we are almost into the Christmas Season once again.

Friday 26th October was a busy day in the school. We held our annual fancy dress parade and once again the standard of costume was very high. Every year we place an emphasis on homemade, creative costumes rather than shop bought ones. All the pupils took part and the judges had a very difficult job in choosing a winner from each class. Sometimes the simplest costume wins. In some classes the costumes were so close that we had to look at who got into the character of their costume the best. Congratulations to everyone for taking part and especially to our winners, Jack, Lauren, Cathal, Ella, Emma, Robyn, David and Adam.



In the afternoon of the 26th we said a very fond goodbye to Ms Gow. Pupils and staff were joined by parents, board members and friends, all of whom were sad to say farewell. Following a few short words Ms Gow was presented with some gifts by the board, parents and staff. We wish her well as she takes up her new teaching position.

We welcome our new teacher Ms Ciara Looney. Ms Looney started with us following the mid-term break. We all look forward to working with her over the coming years.

Our Green School Committee is working hard towards guiding us to achieving our third green flag. This year we are looking at water conservation. We had a short visit from a member of An Taisce to run through what is expected from them. We will be holding a water action day in January, where the whole day will centre around the theme of water. Pupils will monitor water usage in the school. They have already surveyed the school for water leaks and thankfully haven't found any.

The pupils took part in Team Hope Shoebox Appeal again this year. We were delighted to have filled 24 shoeboxes and we thank Mrs Daphne Casey and Mrs Evelyn Lambert for collecting the boxes and talking to us about where the boxes go.

We will be holding our annual fundraising cake sale / coffee morning on Friday 30th November. We also have a



limited number of Christmas cards designed by the pupils on sale. Please contact us if you wish to purchase some.

Our Musical Concert will take place later in December - the date is still to be arranged as we have to wait for confirmation from the North Pole to confirm Santa's availability. School will close for Christmas on Friday 21st December. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### **OXMANTOWN NS BIRR**

#### **FUNDS RAISED IN AID OF BARNARDOS**

On the final day before the Hallowe'en break the staff and students dressed in costumes in aid of Barnardos and raised over €100 and had much fun in the process.



Dress up day at Oxmantown N.S.

### **TRIP TO SHOW**

Our fifth and sixth class students are going to see High School Musical at St. Brendan's Community School in Birr many of our former pupils participate in these shows at St. Brendan's and we look forward to it again this year. We have entered the art competition and await results.

### **VILLIERS SCHOOL VISIT**

The Principal, Pastoral Carer and two transition year students visited school recently and gave a very informative talk on Villiers School life.

### **TESCO CHRISTMAS CARDS**

The winning Cards in last years Tesco art competition were put into print and are available to buy in Tesco's Birr and all of the money raised is given to our School. Two students Jessica Rusu and Ivan Svarychevsky won first and second prizes in a Christmas Card competition sponsored by Jerros, a local boutique in the town, winning a clothes voucher each and having their cards printed in aid of our School also. These are available to purchase at Jerros. Well done to Jessica (4th Class) and Ivan (3rd Class).

### **CAROL SERVICE**

This years Christmas School activity will be a Carol Service which will be held at St. Brendan's Church Birr on Wednesday 19th December at 7 p.m. The pupils will do all the readings and each class will sing Carols. There will be congregation participation too and all parents, grandparents and friends are welcome. The collection will be in aid of the annual Christmas Party.

### **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Our Christmas Party will be held on Friday 21st December for all the school going children - we hope that Santa will pay us a visit and that he will be the bearer of a small gift for everyone.

### **ST JOHN'S NS TRALEE**

It has been a busy term at St. Johns Ashe Street and we are already back to school after the Mid-Term Break and looking forward to Christmas!

This year we welcomed new students Bethany, Billy, Lucy, Shauna, Peace and Nelson to our school.

### **EVENTS**

Start of Year Service in Church - all classes attended and the children did the Readings and Prayers and also presented Candles of Hope with their Hopes and Wishes for the school year ahead.

We took part in the Harvest Thanksgiving Service in the church with the children doing the readings and prayers. They presented baskets of fruit in thanksgiving for the harvest and these were distributed to Nursing Homes/Homeless Hostels in the area.

We organised a return trip to the woods for the senior classes. They were accompanied by the School Garda Seamus Moriarty and their teachers on a cycle trip. It was tough work but much enjoyed by all!

Glenageenty Woods - 2nd to 6th classes had a wonderful visit to Glenageenty Woods - and all enjoyed the walk through the woods. Thanks to the parents and

teachers who drove there and back and took photographs to record the event!



While they were out the junior classes stayed in school for a very enjoyable and much photographed Halloween Dress-Up Day – many spooks and ghosts in evidence on the day!

As Christmas draws near, the pupils have designed their own Christmas Cards, soon to be delivered from the printers, and are rehearsing their Christmas Play to be performed at the School Service on 9 December.

The school will also sing Carols with the Lions Club as part of their Christmas Fundraising collection in December.

The Parents Association have started work on a School Calendar for 2013 – all students will appear on the month of their birthday!

Congratulations to the Parents' Association for their efforts in organising the hugely successful Cake and Produce Sale last week

We were happy to welcome back to the school three past pupils as part of their Transition Year Programme – Amy Lynch, Jack Price and Mark Lynch. Great to play a role in their continuing education. This programme provides for one day per week of work experience in a variety of work situations.

The school took part in the Cheerios Childline Breakfast Together – this is a national initiative to raise much needed funds for Childline. This was organised by the Parents Association.

As part of the Kerry Film Festival 2012, the senior classes attended one of the School's Screenings in Siamsa Tire. They watched a number of short films followed by a screening of "Arrietty" which is based on the children's book The Borrowers. It was most enjoyable!

#### **SPORT**

Football Coaching – Mr. Micheal Quirke, from the Kerry County Board, provides football coaching to classes 2nd to 6th on every second Monday morning. Hurling has also started and in addition we are involved in Soccer, Rugby and Cricket.

We hope to take part in Cumann na mBunscoil which will be starting shortly.

Congratulations to Jack and Nathan Rogers – and of course Mum and Dad Anne Marie and Fintan – on the safe arrival of their baby brother Shane. We are sure he will join his brothers on the football field in time!

#### **COMING EVENTS**

The senior classes have plans to paint the wall near the school shed and we have exciting plans for some after school activities. Watch this space!



#### **VILLIERS SCHOOL**

##### **TY FASHION SHOW**

We were all treated to a feast of glamour and style in our recent TY fashion show held in the Strand hotel. This proved an ideal location for this important event in our TY calendar. Many thanks to Hilary Thompson for all her hard work and patience throughout rehearsals and preparations. We must not forget our own Mr Penny who, as always, entertained us with his wit and enthusiasm as MC.

##### **LOUGH DERG WAY**

Our TY have now successfully completed the first leg of the Lough Derg Way hike from Clonlara village to Killaloe / Ballina. We were kindly treated to a guide of St Flannan's cathedral and a demonstration of bell ringing in the tower by Brian Brislane. The day ended with finger food for all in Gooser's restaurant in Ballina.

##### **TY DRAMA**

All that Glitters..., written by Maeve Stone (Assistant Director, Abbey Theatre), will enjoy its world premiere at the hands of the Transition Year students of Villiers School on Thursday 6th & Friday 7th December.

In the grim capitalist dystopia of The Factory, workers are exploited and plagued by rickets, black lung, scurvy, whooping cough, jaundice and pneumonia. When plans are afoot to enslave their children, a dramatic escape is planned. Along this perilous journey they must deal with Hawk Guards, Pirates, Yesmen, Sirens and Island Reps.

All That Glitters... is a colourful adventure combining physical theatre, choreography and both original and well known musical offerings. Presented by a cast of over 80 students and directed by Ann Blake and Niamh Bowen, this show promises a night of fun-filled entertainment.

Ticket prices: Adult €15, Student €10, Family (2 Adult + 2 children/students) €40. Tickets are available from School Reception - Contact 061-451447



All That Glitters...

## ACADEMICS

Forms 6 and 3 have now completed their Christmas exams and are preparing for their mock exams in February. We wish all remaining students good luck as they prepare for their upcoming Christmas exams.

Congratulations

To all our Munster schools hockey representatives – Kate Healy and Holly Reddan who participated in the

recent girls' inter-provincial tournament, and Ian Gibson, Johnny Powell and Andrew Tutty who will represent Villiers in the upcoming boys tournament.

Music Trip – London

Our music department is currently in London with more than sixty students who are attending musicals in the West End and taking in the sights of London on their travels.

## NEWS FROM THE VILLIERS SANCTUARY

Plans are afoot for our annual trip and the gang are busy planning and organising. We hope to go to the Carhue Centre in Bandon in February for a spiritual retreat weekend with some fun activities also on the menu.

The main event this month of course was our Service of Remembrance in St Mary's Cathedral on Wed 14th November. Last year the theme was based on a meditation where everyone was giving a stone at the beginning of the service. At a point during the worship everyone placed their stone in a cairn and this year the same stones were used to outline a cross on the floor. Inside the cross we place daffodil bulbs so everyone got to take a bulb and hopefully will go home and plant this beautiful flower which promises hope and renewal in Spring time.

This was a very important occasion and it was wonderful to see so many people there not just searching for some peace but also in support and fellowship with all in the Villiers community who have suffered a loss.

A special note of thanks to Dean Sandra Pragnell for all her support and we all wish her God's blessings on her ministry in Limerick City Parish. Thank you also to Father Daly from the Diocesan Pastoral Centre who took part in our Liturgy. Of course none of this was possible without the help of all those people in the background so a big thank you to all who contributed to this very special event.

Chaplain Jackie McNair

## KILLALOE DIOCESE

### Killaloe & Stradbally Union

*Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.*

*Vacant*

**Priest in Charge: Rev. Stan Evans**

The Deanery, Killaloe, Co. Clare

Tel: 061 - 376687

Email: dean@killaloe.anglican.org

**The Rev. Lucy Green**

Tel: 062 - 79941 Mobile: 087 6670425

Email: lucygreen06ie@yahoo.co.uk

### THINKING FUTURE

As we go to press plans are well advanced for a Board of Ministry delegation to visit the Group to explore the hopes and expectations for the parish in preparation for the appointment of a new Dean and Rector. Watch this space!

### ADVENT CAROL SERVICE AT ST FLANNAN'S

The annual Advent Carol service will be held on Advent Sunday at 6.00pm – do come and share in this celebration at the beginning of our new Church Year.

### CHRISTINGLE AND CAROL SERVICE IN ALL SAINTS, STRADBALLY

Sunday 16th December at 3.00pm is a must for all families with young children to experience this beautiful service as you prepare for the coming of the Christ-child. All are welcome – adults as well!

### HOLY BAPTISM

Baby William Benson will begin his journey of faith as he is baptized into the Church of God on the Feast

of the Epiphany. William is the son of Keith and Claire. We look forward to welcoming him into the family !

### CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Christmas Eve: Inniscealtra (Mountshannon) 11.30pm – Celebrant: Revd Stan Evans

Christmas Day: All Saints, Stradbally – 9.30am – Celebrant: Revd Lucy Green

St Flannan's Cathedral: 11.30am – Celebrant and Preacher: Bishop Trevor

### FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

There will be a United Service of Holy Communion (2) at St Flannan's Cathedral at 11.30am. Celebrant and Preacher: Revd Stan Evans

## The Birr Group of Parishes

*Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha*

**Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney**

Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly

Telephone: 057-912-0021

Mobile: 087-786-5234

e-mail: mapleire@eircom.net

**Assistant Priest: The Rev. Ruth Gill**

Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly

Telephone: 057-913-5341

Mobile: 087-948-4402

e-mail: ruth\_gill40@hotmail.com

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Friday, 14th December**

Lorrha : 7:30 pm Ecumenical Carol Service

**Sunday, 23rd December - Advent 4**

Lockeen: 9.30 am Holy Communion

Lorrha : 10.00 am Morning Prayer

Birr: 11.30 am Morning Prayer

Birr: 7.30 pm Ecumenical Carol Service  
**Monday, 24th December - Christmas Eve**  
 Lockeen: 7.00 pm Pageant & Family Communion  
 Birr: 11.30 pm traditional Holy Communion  
**Tuesday, 25th December - Christmas Day**  
 Dorrha: 9.30 am Holy Communion  
 Lorrha : 10.00 am Holy Communion  
 Birr: 11.30 am Holy Communion  
**Sunday, 30th December - The Epiphany**  
 Birr: 11.30 am Service of the Word & Carols  
**Tuesday, 1st January - The Naming & Circumcision of Christ**  
 Birr: 11.30 am Holy Communion  
**Sunday, 6th January - The Epiphany**  
 Lockeen: 9.30 am Morning Prayer  
 Lorrha: 10.00 am Holy Communion  
 Birr: 11.30 am Holy Communion  
**ADVENT SERVICES**

There will be Advent Services, looking at the Advent themes of Confidence, Community, Caring & Celebration, on the 5th, 12th, and 19th of December at 8 pm in Birr Church. All are welcome.

#### **MIDLANDS SIMON**

There will be boxes in all the churches in the Group of Parishes for anyone who would like to contribute to the Christmas appeal for Midlands Simon. These will be in place for two Sundays, the 2nd and the 9th December and items of food (best before date after Christmas), anything you feel will bring pleasure to someone and toys and clothes in good condition please. These gifts are truly appreciated by those who receive them. Many thanks to those who give so generously every year and support not only the homeless but those who are helping them regain a home and independence.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to June and Aidan Lanigan on the birth in Dublin on the 14th November of their second beautiful baby girl, Maeve Hannah, a sister for Olivia. June is the daughter of George and Ruth Gill, whose joy and wonder of grandparenthood is delightfully expanding!

#### **BEREAVEMENT**

Sincere sympathy is extended to Peter and Helen Whyte on the death of Sadie Champ. Sadie was an aunt of Peter's and besides being well known locally in Birr and Shinrone, was also a familiar face throughout the Dioceses. She attended Holy Communion in the Community Nursing Home in Birr where it was always a pleasure to hear her latest exploits and her travel plans to visit with her family.

#### **PASTORAL**

We keep in our prayers those who are ill at home or in hospital. We remember those in full time care and those who care for them.

## **Roscrea Group of Parishes**

*Roscrea, Bourney, Corbally and Kyle*

**Priest in Charge: The Rev. Lesley Robinson**

St. Cronan's Rectory, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

Tel: 0505 - 21725 Mobile: 087 - 9091561

#### **HOLY MATRIMONY**

Congratulations to Clive Davis, Corbally, and Mary Ryan who were married in a beautiful ceremony in St. Mary's Church, Drom on 27th October by Fr. Martin Murphy, assisted by Rev. Lesley.



**Mr. and Mrs. Clive Davis cut the cake at their wedding reception in the Templemore Arms**

#### **HANDEL'S MESSIAH**

Saturday 15th December will be a landmark date for Roscrea and the surrounding area as Handel's timeless masterpiece, Messiah, will be performed in St. Cronan's Church by the East Cork Choral Society under the direction of Colin Nicholls, a former organist of St. Finbarr's Cathedral, Cork. Tickets are available in advance from Rev. Lesley @ 087 9091561, and from Roscrea parishioners, priced at €15 each. This is the final celebratory event of St. Cronan's bicentenary year of 2012, and what a way to end! Messiah is a truly inspired work of genius by Handel which will be the highlight of our Christmas celebrations. Profits will go towards the church window repair fund. The performance will begin at 7.30pm with doors opening at 6.30pm. Seating is unreserved, and parking in the church yard is confined to people with limited mobility.

## CAROL SERVICES

Kyle: Sunday 16th December at 3pm  
Corbally: Sunday 23rd December at 9.30am  
Bourney: Sunday 23rd December at 12pm  
Roscrea: Sunday 23rd December at 3pm (with Virtuoso Chamber Choir)

## PARISH LUNCH

Sunday 27th January, Damer Court Hotel at 1pm.  
Bookings to Rev. Lesley by Wednesday 23rd January. All welcome.

## AROUND THE PARISHES

As always we keep the sick and recuperating in our prayers. We offer our condolences to Sharon Talbot, St. Cronan's National School, on the death of her father, Jim Leinster, in Bailieborough. We also offer our condolences to the Doherty Family, Roscrea, on the tragic death of Niall in an air crash in Birr.

At time of writing, there is still lots to look forward to between now and the New Year. Corbally parishioners are busy selling raffle tickets and making plans for the monster draw in Fitzpatrick's Lounge, Clonmore on 23rd November. An ecumenical Service for Swaziland is being held in St. Cronan's on 25th November at which the music will be led by the choir of Foundation Ministries, Ennis, to add an African flavour. Proceeds from the collection at that service will go towards the Luyengo Farm Project. We also look forward to the baptism of little Emily Wallace-Keeshan in St. Cronan's on 17th November.

## Nenagh Union of Parishes

*Nenagh, Templederry, and Killodiernan*

**Rector: Rev. Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke**  
(Sabbatical Leave until 22 July 2012)

St. Mary's Rectory, Church Road, Nenagh. Co. Tipperary.

Tel: 067-32598 Mobile: 085-1474792

e-mail: revdmarie@eircom.net

## SUNDAY SERVICES

9.30 am Templederry, 1st 2nd and 4th Sundays

11.00 am St Mary's Nenagh

12.15 pm Killodiernan, 2nd and 4th Sundays

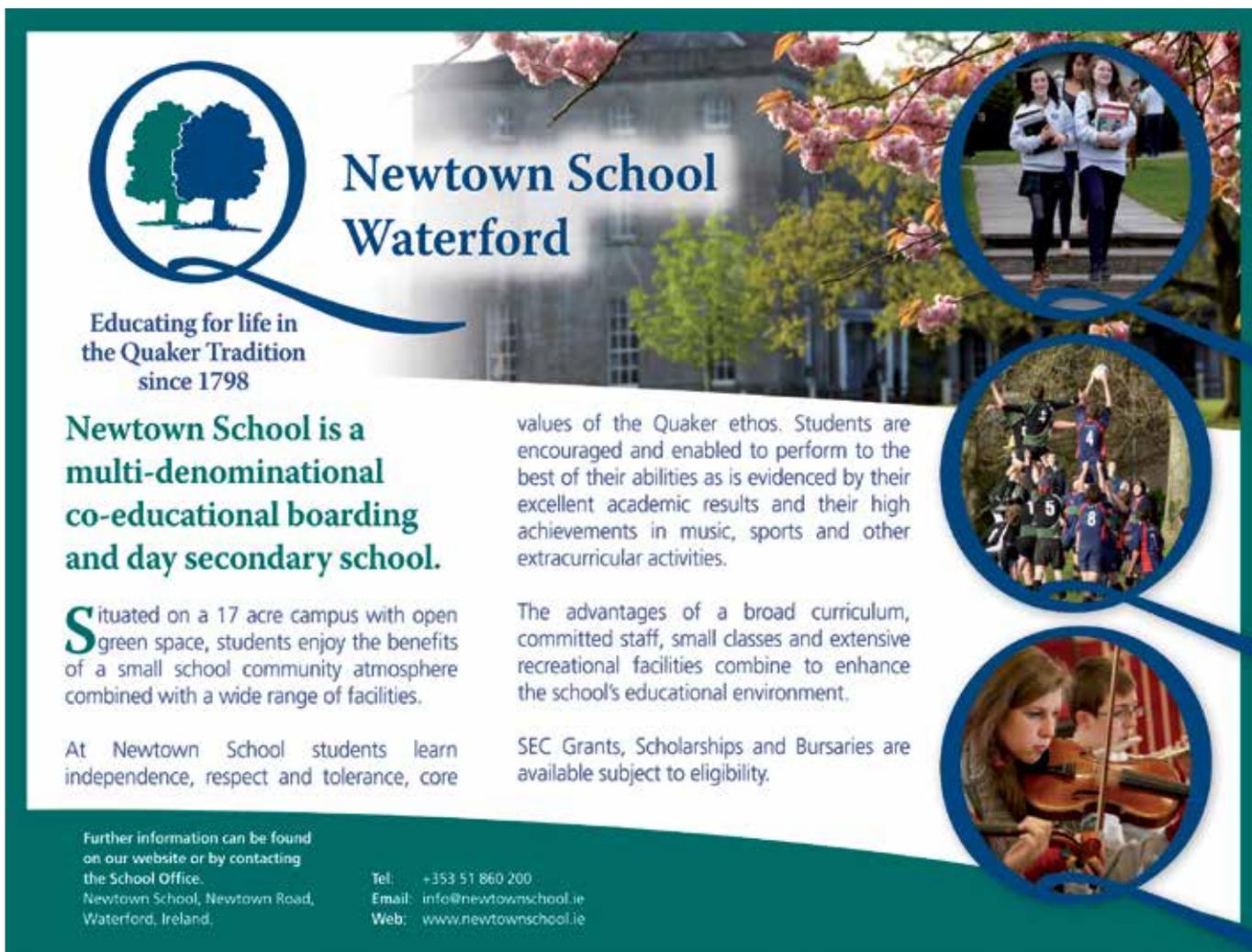
Ichthus Christian Fellowship came to lead our Family Worship in October, and we enjoyed lively worship with modern worship songs and sweets! We shared lovely refreshments afterwards, and then a bring-and-share lunch.

Our Family Worship in November saw the enrolment of new members in Boys Brigade and GFS. Both groups presented Scripture readings brilliantly - and their participation was hugely appreciated by the very large congregation present (see BB and GFS reports as well, with pictures).

## BALLYMACKEY

As usual a Commemoration of the Faithful Departed was held in the graveyard of Ballymackey Church, on 3rd November, and was well attended in spite of very cold

*continued on page 20...*





## Newtown School Waterford

Educating for life in  
the Quaker Tradition  
since 1798

**Newtown School is a  
multi-denominational  
co-educational boarding  
and day secondary school.**

Situated on a 17 acre campus with open green space, students enjoy the benefits of a small school community atmosphere combined with a wide range of facilities.

At Newtown School students learn independence, respect and tolerance, core values of the Quaker ethos. Students are encouraged and enabled to perform to the best of their abilities as is evidenced by their excellent academic results and their high achievements in music, sports and other extracurricular activities.

The advantages of a broad curriculum, committed staff, small classes and extensive recreational facilities combine to enhance the school's educational environment.

SEC Grants, Scholarships and Bursaries are available subject to eligibility.

Further information can be found on our website or by contacting the School Office.  
Newtown School, Newtown Road, Waterford, Ireland.

Tel: +353 51 860 200  
Email: info@newtownschool.ie  
Web: www.newtownschool.ie



# The Trip to Güntersberge

by Pauline Dobbins



*Admiring Gernrode Church*

The journey we made to Güntersberge, in the Hartz mountains, involved flying from Dublin to Berlin, then travelling on three trains to Halberstadt. It was more than just the opportunity to visit another country that I thought it was going to be. We were met at the station by our smiling hosts and whisked off to the various houses where we were to be billeted, then when we were settled in we were all invited that evening to a lovely meal in the Rathaus (Town Hall) accompanied by a lively choir (complete with yodelling!) We felt very welcome and very well-fed after our long journey, and Aine even played us some Irish jigs on the keyboard and afterwards, within minutes, had us all, Germans and Irish alike, singing together in perfect harmony.

The following day, Saturday, began with a visit to St. Cyriakus Church in Gernrode, which is a medieval church founded in the year 969. This has a 12th century chapel which houses a late 11th century replica of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.



*The Rathaus (townhall) in Güntersberge*

Because we were staying in private houses (we were in an old converted mill house) and spending all our time with our hosts, we quickly formed wonderful friendships with them, even though there were occasional problems with the language barrier. I was very impressed by the amount of hard work and time these lovely people were happy to dedicate to us and what I found very inspiring was the way they supported their Pfarrer (pastor), Dr. Michael Labahn, who is a very caring and charismatic presence in the community. His sense of humour and ability to converse freely in both English and German made it easier for those of us who spoke little or no German.

We were fortunate to be there for the Feast of Saint



*The altar in Gernrode Church*

Martin, when there was a service in St. Martin's church where the children of several parishes performed a play telling the story of St. Martin, a Roman soldier who cut his cloak in half to keep a beggar warm. Afterwards we all accompanied the children of the parish when they paraded after dark around the town carrying lanterns, then returned to the church, where there was a barbecue with glühwein (mulled wine) to warm us up. The feast is also celebrated with a carnival, and on Sunday morning we were entertained outside the Rathaus by a spectacular display from the carnival band and some very energetic girl dancers in brightly coloured military-style uniforms.

Each morning at eight we all congregated in the Rathaus for breakfast, which was served by various ladies from the parish, who brought with them, in a variety of baskets, everything we needed for a hearty German breakfast. Because we made such an early start there was plenty of time to fit in a busy schedule every day and we were treated to a ride on a narrow-gauge railway, passing through beautiful forest scenery, and even a service in the church where Dr. Labahn's wife, Antje, is the pastor. This was a truly international event, as it was also attended by a group of young people from India. We also were given a guided tour of a Museum of Cinema, with photographic equipment dating from the earliest days of photography, which we all found very interesting.

Perhaps for me the most moving event was when we were privileged, on the day before we left, to be present in Siptenfelde at the ceremony of Einführung (Introduction into the Church) for Dr. Michael, which made us feel really part of things. We came away with lovely memories of a lively community, some great new friendships, lots of laughter, lots of new things learned. I am really glad Peter and I went along, and we both hope to be able to welcome some of our new friends when they make a return visit in the New Year.

# Things I learnt in Germany - Rev. Máirt Hanley

1. We have a lot in common with the rural area of the Hartz, it is beautiful, has a rich culture, lovely churches, big unemployment and a problem with emigration.
2. They like to yodel and make cheese and sausages (not necessarily at the same time).
3. The Anhalt Landskirke is divided into 6 areas (dioceses, or maybe deaneries is a better name).
4. Each of these has an archdeacon-like figure to head the group and they meet together at least once a month for a half day.
5. Like us in Kerry they in Hartzgerode area are about 2 hours from the centre.
6. Within their group they have 6 priests. Each one has an area of responsibility (Michael's is liturgy) and each also looks after a parish.
7. They also feel isolated sometimes and as if they are supposed to be all things to all people.
8. They are looking at the way church is organised and thinking about a more formal type of team ministry but some of them feel that a lot of the good that they can do is with linking into organisations outside the church in the small local communities and being a focus point in these communities. This might suffer if the local link is weakened.
9. They have a system of elders which combines the role of church warden and parish reader. Some of these may even be preachers, free speakers is the term they used.
10. They are very enthusiastic about our link and were very generous, cheerful and considerate hosts and the blessings we have received through this are immeasurable.

## 2012 Appeal

The year ahead will, regrettably, be another challenging one financially, with many households suffering considerable hardship to make ends meet.

The Church of Ireland community is not immune from such pressures and to address that problem two years ago, the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of Ireland - together with Protestant Aid - initiated a special appeal to parishioners throughout the 26 Counties to give whatever they could to help relieve the difficulties experienced by members of our community.

The response was most encouraging but sadly financial hardship continues to be a fact of life for many families so the Archbishops and Bishops have again asked Protestant Aid to spearhead a major fund-raising and awareness campaign.

During the course of November, Protestant Aid will be sending a letter to each family through the parish network seeking their support for those parishioners who are struggling in the present economic climate.

**Your generous response would be much appreciated.**



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CHY591

# Reflecting on Epiphanies

Rev. Patrick Towers

*Editors note: Epiphany can be a manifestation of God or a sudden, important realisation, as well as the Church Festival. Here Patrick reflects on a personal Epiphany which changed his life.*

On Sunday November 4th of this year my wife and I returned to Christchurch Cathedral in Sapporo, Japan. It stands beside the southern gate of the prestigious Hokkaido University. On clear days it is possible from the coast of the northern tip of Hokkaido to look across at the large Russian island of Sakhalin. Up until the end of the Second World War the Japanese had possession of half of Sakhalin.

Forty years ago Anne and I first arrived in Sapporo to take charge of Hokkaido University Centre. The Centre was built by the American Episcopal Church. There was a dormitory for fifteen students, a chapel, a well stocked library, a small theatre and an eight sided reception room that would not look out of place in Downton Abbey. Such a facility was the outward sign of the civilised prowess of the wartime victors. The softer, more inward sign was the instruction in the Christian faith given to the elite students who lived in or attended the various programmes in the Centre. This was civilisation: the Christian faith and notable aspects of the Zen Buddhist Japanese culture joining with ideas of freedom and democracy. So in the battle of ideas that waged on and off the university campuses at that time we were to play our part in ensuring the communist ideal would not prevail. It was for us to continue the mission of the founders of the Centre and bring the Christian faith to the students of the University.

The Japanese Bishop of Hokkaido at that time and subsequent Primate of the Nippon Seikokai (The Japanese Anglican Church) was one of those human beings whose inner light of goodness and awareness of grace prevails against most challenging odds. Born in the Japanese territory of Sakhalin into a Buddhist home, the young man joined the Japanese navy in those early days of the Pacific War. He was a midshipman at the naval base near Hiroshima when the atomic bomb was dropped. In the aftermath of the war, at a loss in the ruins of Tokyo, he met a Canadian medical missionary. The young Japanese naval officer trained in that samurai tradition of stoic duty, eschewing all forms of self-regard, turned from his allegiance to the Emperor to an allegiance to Jesus Christ.

This Bishop called me one day to his modest home. He asked me why I had decided some years previously not to have been ordained despite my university and theological training. I could only reply that I never felt worthy of becoming ordained. He then paused and I half expected him to say that he understood completely my reasoning as coming from the inner voice within. Instead he said "Why do you westerners always go on saying "I feel this or I think that, or I must do this. Always 'I'."

I could hardly reply to this and anyhow he went on,

"The people in this Diocese want you to be their priest. Today you will be measured for a cassock and when you stand before the people dressed as a priest you will indeed become a priest." I was taken aback. I knew he was not suggesting ordination was reducible to a state of packaging. It was far more profound. He was saying to me that I have all the training and ability to become a priest. The Japanese people are asking you to serve them and they are calling for you to do your duty.

That day something happened, something changed. I did say yes to his request. I was ordained in Christchurch Cathedral along with my close Japanese friend, Michael Hiroya who until a few years prior to that day was a Buddhist.



*Rev. Patrick's ordination in Christchurch Cathedral Sapporo, Japan. He is seated on Bishop Watanabe's right and Michael Hiroya on the Bishop's left.*

When we eventually returned from our work in Japan 30 years ago, I had no thoughts that I would continue as a priest in the West. After all I had become a priest in a special set of circumstances and everything I had done as a priest had been through the Japanese language and within that culture.

The remarkable Bishop who had ordained me has now died. I talked with the new Bishop, who is also the present Primate of Japan, in what was once our home in the Centre.

He asked me if I could stay on for another two weeks to join the Clergy Conference near Wakkanai not far from that Russian island of Sakhalin.

I gave my excuses. I know I said 'I' several times.

I was sure though I could hear again the voice of that Japanese Imperial Navy Officer, out of Sakhalin, who became a Bishop saying in Japanese "Towers-sensei, you are a priest of the Nippon Seikokai. Why do you not stay?"

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# Reflecting on the Incarnation

The Very Rev. Sandra Pragnell, Dean of Limerick

*“O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go  
by.”*

How often will we sing these words this month, or hear the familiar tune from countless shopping malls, bars, and children’s nativity plays. Do we ever stop and reflect on these words, written by Phillips Brooks (later Bishop of Massachusetts) when he visited the Land we call Holy in 1865? Spending time in the Shepherds’ Field, and able to attend the midnight liturgy in the ancient Church of the Nativity, left a lasting impression on Brooks, inspiring the carol.



*View from Shepherd’s Fields, Bethlehem, 2011*

My first visit to Bethlehem was during the Intifada in the 1980s, and I have visited many times since. Romantic ideas of such a holy place, revered for two millennia as the birthplace of Jesus, can lead to real disappointment, when faced with long queues and crowds of tourists and pilgrims failing to observe silence inside the basilica, on top of the hassle from hawkers of postcards and trinkets outside. And when you actually get to the stone steps beyond the high altar, and descend into the gloom buffeted on all sides by others anxious to get the best view, and snapping or videoing everything in sight indiscriminately, you finally reach the lower level with a silver star marking the place, most likely the home of some relatives of Mary and Joseph (which would have been built above or in front of a cave). Now, with all the decorative hangings, and lanterns, and candles, and the flashes of so many cameras to distract, some will find the visit just leaves them cold.

But for me, on every visit, I have to go back to Bethlehem because just being there in that basilica feels an enormous privilege. It is the oldest church in continuous use in the world, now the property of the Greek Orthodox Church, with the mosaics of the original church of 339AD still visible beneath a later floor. Standing there where countless millions of Christians have prayed down through the years, and so close to the reality of

the Incarnation, the Word made flesh, despite all the crowds and distractions, Bethlehem never fails to move me deeply.

Maybe the problem for many of us is that we see in our mind’s eye those cute stable scenes on Christmas cards and in shop windows, and we don’t want to lose that cosy image. Yet the shepherds, the first to hear the Good News, were neither cute nor cosy – but rather, lowly uneducated men and youths at the bottom of the social scale, who were understandably fearful at first of heading into the little town, into society because they were considered unclean. Bethlehem today is not cute or cosy – it has had a painful history, it is now surrounded by a high security wall, cut off from the rest of Palestine, and memories of the fear and invasion and siege and fighting in 2002 are still vivid. Life there is a struggle still. But.... 2000 years ago was also a time of hardship, turmoil, and occupation. The family and the world that Jesus was born into knew all about struggle – a yet to be married woman finding herself pregnant, would have feared the other women who were within their rights to stone her to death; the arduous journey to her cousin Elizabeth in the hill country (not far from Bethlehem) was perhaps necessary for Mary’s own safety; in Bethlehem itself there was no sophisticated neo-natal care, simply female relatives with plenty of experience of life and birth and death; and then with their infant son Jesus thriving, Mary and Joseph faced the horrific threat of infanticidal massacre, leading them to seek refuge far away from home in Egypt.

Christmas is a time for celebration. Yet the real message of the Incarnation can be hard to discern among the tinsel and turkey and trimmings. For us who call ourselves Christian, that far off birth is a gift and privilege, something we should ponder with awe and gratitude. At the same time we celebrate the birth of Jesus into a real world, one of ordinary peasant families, who were helped by common people, and sheltered by relatives and strangers. We celebrate a child that grew, knowing the importance of hard manual work, and learning over many years, how to discern his calling and his destiny, which was not riches and glory, but injustice and the Cross. We celebrate a man who died for us, who points us to God. We celebrate the Prince of Peace.

The Incarnation is about you and me and every other human life ever lived – we have a Saviour who knows the human struggle of a family, who understands how unfair and fickle life can be, who has lived through the cruelty of betrayal, and who knows us better than we can ever know ourselves, and who gave his life for us. Whatever life throws at us, Jesus understands, he is there with us always, in the hard times as well as the good times – a real gift.

*‘O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.’*

# Oh Little Town of Bethlehem

By Kate Cargin, Ecumenical Accompanier in Palestine

*Editor: Kate returns from the West Bank on 1st December. As violence escalates in Gaza, she writes that she and the other EAPPI volunteers are safe, and asks that we keep the people there in our thoughts and prayers. See her excellent blog [kateinpalestine.wordpress.com](http://kateinpalestine.wordpress.com) for more reports.*



Busloads of tourists disembark in front of the Church of the Nativity in Manger Square, Bethlehem. Many of them are Christian pilgrims from all over the world coming to worship in a place which has special significance for them. Many are praying, saying the rosary, or singing to familiar hymn tunes in a myriad of languages I don't understand. They are whisked quickly round the holy sites, from church to church and of course to the souvenir shops. They never speak to local people other than official tour guides. It is entirely possible to go to Bethlehem and not notice the occupation. Special day trips are laid on from Jerusalem and fast tracked through the separation wall. Some people are even surprised to be told that Bethlehem is not in Israel but in the Israeli occupied Palestinian Territories. It has particular irony for their fellow Christians who live here and claim an unbroken line from the first Christians.

Life in Bethlehem is difficult under the occupation. Christian Palestinians along with their Muslim brothers and sisters are suffering. There is no part of their lives which the occupation does not touch. Many are leaving. Almost everyone has relations who have left, usually the young people. Grown up children issue invitations for their parents to join them. Reluctantly when it all seems too hard, they do. Others stay and carry out their own form of resistance.

Every Friday, in winter, in the olive groves of Beit Jala, Salem Lolas celebrates mass. Beit Jala is a district of Bethlehem and the mass is a protest against land confiscation by the separation wall. There are two incomplete ends to the wall, one on the hill behind us and the other across the valley towards Jerusalem. All depends on how these two ends are joined up. Potentially the local people could lose most of their olive groves, an increasingly important income source in this devastated economy. The local monastery on whose land the mass is celebrated could end up separated from its sister convent. It is a lovely service in beautiful countryside. I look at the priest as he holds up the cup and the wafer against a background of the illegal settlements of greater Jerusalem. He prays for peace in his land, respect for his people and for a fair court judgement.

Round the corner from the Ecumenical Accompaniment placement flat, we attend the Friday 'Wall Prayer'. We say the rosary with local Palestinians and some visitors, mostly in English and sometimes in Arabic as we walk slowly back and forth along a stretch of the massive concrete separation wall and come to a stop in front of an icon of Mary and the infant Jesus painted on the wall itself. After it has ended, our neighbour, Clemence Handal, tells her story to the visitors. A refugee in 1948 from what is now Israel, she has lived since then here in Bethlehem. She points out her house and says quietly that this section of the wall is built on her land. Her hope is that one day walls will come down not just in her land but in the hearts of all the peoples who live in it.

Ashraf Tannous, the Evangelical Lutheran pastor in Beit Sahour, a district of Bethlehem better known as Shepherds' Fields, gave me his Christmas message for people in Ireland. 'We are not just Palestinian Christians, we are from the first Christians. A few metres away from here the angels appeared in this small town, to shepherds in their fields, preaching and announcing the birth of the king of peace in Bethlehem.' He issues an invitation for a different sort of pilgrimage. 'We send an open invitation from our hearts. Come and see us, come and visit us here in the holy land, because the moment you come you will be able to see the beauty of the birth of the Son of God. You will learn from us as Palestinians how to love, how to hope and how to be peacemakers.'



Icon on the separation barrier'



Evangelical Lutheran Pastor Ashraf Tannous

# In Appreciation – Olive Stanley-Wetzel

by her family

It is difficult to comprehend that it was one year ago on Sunday, 18th December, 2011 that Olive Stanley-Wetzel fell asleep in the peace of Christ.

There have been many tributes paid to Olive throughout the past year and all have remarked to her living life to its fullest. A quotation taken from a tribute in Newslink earlier this year is so true to her form “Olive celebrated the gift of life that she had received, she lived life to its fullest and she fought for every last moment of that life she could get. Because Olive recognised what we too often forget or take for granted - that life is the most precious of gifts, a gift that we must always be profoundly thankful for, and live to the very best of our ability - as God intended it to be when it was bestowed on each one of us”

Olive had chosen the hymns for her funeral services. They were intensely meaningful and encapsulated her love of life, acceptance of her illness and her love and support she gave and gives to her family and friends even in death,

*“Father, I place into your hands  
The things that I can’t do  
Father, I place into your hands  
The times that I’ve been through  
Father, I place into your hands  
The way that I should go*

*For I know I always can trust you*

*Father, I place into your hands  
My friends and family  
Father, I place into your hands  
The things that trouble me  
Father, I place into your hands  
The person I would be  
For I know I always can trust you”*

And Olive’s complete trust in meeting our Lord

*“Here I am Lord  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night  
I will go Lord  
If you lead me  
I will hold your people in my heart”*

Olive’s husband Helmut, her mother Ruth, and family greatly appreciate and thank all those too numerous to mention individually for their support and kindness, spiritually, emotionally and practically over the past years

*“now in God’s keeping, safe at rest”*



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weather. Afterwards Jean Hodgins offered very warm and generous hospitality at her home.

**ELIZABETH SAVAGE**

In the afternoon of 4th November a Service of the Word was held in Templederry Church to bless and dedicate altar covers, (picture) and a plaque, in memory of Elizabeth (Lil) Savage, (née Wallace). The church was full of family and friends, and once again we all enjoyed an excellent selection of refreshments. It was good to see Willie and Ruby Wallace there too, and Willie was in fine form the day before going to Croom for an operation, from which he is recovering well.



*Altar covers dedicated in Templederry Church'*

**ACTS OF REMEMBRANCE**

The Rector led this ecumenical service on Saturday 10th November at the War Memorial in Ashe Road, Nenagh, well supported by ex Peace-Keeping soldiers from the area. The numbers at this Service have been growing year on year, and some people just stop and join in as they are passing. The Remembrance Service at Killodiernan Church took place on the following day where there was once again a good attendance.



*At the War Memorial in Ashe Rd*

**CONDOLENCES**

Our condolences to John Wilde, husband of Carrie (nee Mounsey). Carrie died unexpectedly at the end of October, and she was laid to rest in Ballymackey Graveyard.

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**SPECIAL DECEMBER SERVICES**

Sunday 2nd, Advent 1 - 11.00am St Mary's: The Advent Sequence - Veni Emmanuel. A service of readings, hymns and prayers published by the Royal Schools of Church Music (RSCM) of which the Nenagh Union is a member. Both main choir and Junior Choir have been working hard towards this.

Sunday 9th, Advent 2 - 5.00pm, Killodiernan: 'The Prophecies and the Birth'. A candlelit service of Advent and Christmas readings and carols.

Sunday 16th, Advent 3 - 11.00am St Mary's: Family Worship: Christingle and dedication of new crib set.

Sunday 23rd, Advent 4 - 8.00pm, St Mary's: The Carol Service

Christmas Eve: 7.00pm Templederry - Carols and Communion; 11.00pm St Mary's - Midnight Eucharist

Christmas Day: 10.00am St Mary's - Morning Prayer with Carols; 11.00am Killodiernan - Carols and Communion  
26th - St Stephen's Day, 27th - St John, 28th - Holy Innocents: 11.00am St Mary's, Communion and Coffee all three days

**JANUARY 2013**

Friday 18th January, 8.00 pm, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, there will be a special service entitled 'United in Song' at St Mary's, Nenagh. Our own two choirs, along with visiting choirs will join in hymns and worship songs, to celebrate our unity in music, and to share refreshments afterwards. Everyone welcome!

Sunday 20th January, 11.00am, we look forward to welcoming Jessie Rodgers who will lead our Family Worship, and introducing us all to Godly Play.

# Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group

*Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.*

**The Rev. Canon Stephen Neill**

Modreeny Rectory, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary.

Tel/Fax: 0505 - 42183 Mobile: 087 - 2328172

Email: [stephen.neill@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.neill@gmail.com)

Parish website/blog: [www.modreeny.com](http://www.modreeny.com)

My Blog: [www.paddyanglican.com](http://www.paddyanglican.com)

## BAPTISMS

We welcomed Jody David Williamson Donnelly, son of Tracey & Seamus, into the fellowship of Christ's Church on Saturday 29th September in Borrisokane Church. The rector was assisted by the parish priest of Cloughjordan, Fr. Tom Whelan in conducting the service. We wish Jody David every blessing in his life.

We welcomed Emma Victoria Austin, daughter of Gareth & Gwen Austin of Borrisokane parish into the fellowship of Christ's Church on Sunday 28th October. We wish Emma Victoria every blessing in her life.

## BEREAVEMENTS

It has been a very sad time for many within our parish in recent weeks.

Carrie Wilde's sudden death was a huge shock to all of us and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to John her husband and the rest of the family circle at this sad time. Carrie's funeral took place from St. Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan and burial was in Ballymackey alongside her late sisters. Many of John's family travelled from Australia specially for the occasion.

Maud Coghlan also left us quite suddenly and peacefully after a long life and one in which she enjoyed the comfort of her own home until the end. Maud formally of Sopwell, Ballingarry had lived in Cloughjordan since the death of her husband Charlie in 2006. Our thoughts are especially with Phyllis & Iris her daughters, Her Brother Tommy Stephens in Borrisokane and her sister Liz and the rest of the family circle at this time. Maud's funeral took place in Ballingarry and burial was alongside her late husband in the church grounds. Maud's cousin the Rev'd Jim Stephens assisted at the funeral.

Hilda Kent was well known to many within the parish community and especially in the Terryglass area. Her late husband Alex and daughter Caroline were both former parishioners and Hilda was often among us in Borrisokane Church. Her funeral took place in Terryglass Roman Catholic Church with the rector assisting at the service. We remember all the family circle at this time.

## RETIREMENT OF BOB KELLY

Our longest serving Parish Reader, Mr Bob Kelly of Moneygall retired on Sunday 28th October after decades of service in the parish. Bob has led worship in all our churches on a regular basis and as part of the team of Readers helped to maintain the worshiping life of our parish which is the bedrock of any community of faith. Bob's dignity and reverence in leading worship was appreciated by so many through the years and we wish him a long and healthy retirement alongside his wife Hermione. A presentation was made by the whole parish

to both Bob and Hermione at the final Harvest service this year in Borrisnafarney on Sunday afternoon 28th October. A Celtic cross which was specially inscribed to mark the event was presented along with a bouquet of flowers for Hermione and a cheque to be enjoyed at their discretion.



*Bob Kelly & his wife Hermione with representatives of all churches within parish at the presentation*

## Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin

**Rector: The Rev. Michael Johnston**

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Email: [shinrone@killaloe.anglican.org](mailto:shinrone@killaloe.anglican.org)

## APOLOGIES

Many apologies for the lack of notes last month. This was due to illness.

## CONDOLENCES

Many condolences to the families of Harry Talbot, who died on 20 October, and Sadie Champ (wife of the late Dean Cyril Champ), who died on 4 November. Harry's funeral took place in Aghancon parish church on Monday 22 October with burial in Dungar cemetery, Roscrea. Sadie's funeral took place in St Mary's church, Shinrone on Friday 9 November with burial in the adjoining graveyard. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to Michael Ryan and Joyce O'Neill from Dublin who were married in St Finian's church, Kinnitty on Friday 16 November. The reception took place in Kinnitty Castle Hotel. May they enjoy a long and happy life together.

## AGHANCON AUTUMN FAIR & CRAFT FAIR

Congratulations to all who organised and ran the Aghancon Harvest Fair on 26 October and Craft Fair on 18 November. Both took place in Aghancon Community Hall and were very well attended. Thank you to all who supported them.

## 'JESUS ON SCREEN' FILM SEASON

A season of films showing the life of Jesus from various periods and points of view began on Thursday 1

November in Aghancon Hall with the silent classic King of Kings (1927). Although the following week's film had to be unfortunately postponed until a later date the season continued with the wonderful Italian film The Gospel According to Matthew (1964), the Johnny Cash film The Gospel Road (1973), and then the controversial The Last Temptation of Christ (1988). The season continues on Thursdays at 7.30pm until 20 December, followed by a family matinee at 4.30pm on Saturday 22 December. All the films are projected onto the Hall's 'big screen'! Please contact the Rector for details of the upcoming films.

#### **CRAFT EVENINGS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

The first of hopefully regular craft evenings for parish young people took place on Friday 23 November in Aghancon Community Hall. This was a pottery evening led by Sandra Cole O'Brien and was greatly enjoyed by the young people attending. A fundraising disco for parish young people in aid of the craft evenings will also be held on Friday 21 December in Aghancon Hall. Further details on upcoming craft evenings and the disco can be had from Sandra Reid on 0505-21627.

#### **FUNDRAISING DANCE**

A social dance in aid of Aghancon church will take place on the evening of Wednesday 5 December in Aghancon Community Hall. Music will be by John and Jerry. All welcome.

#### **MOTHERS' UNION**

The annual MU Carol Singing at Clover Lodge Nursing Home, Shinrone, takes place on Thursday 13 Dec from 11.15am. This is open to all, not just MU members, and any support would be greatly appreciated. The annual MU Meal takes place on Thursday 17 January at 7.00pm in Roscrea Golf Club.

#### **CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES**

Aghancon – Sun 16 December at 3.00pm  
Kinnitty – Sun 16 December at 7.30pm  
Shinrone – Wed 19 December at 7.30pm  
Dunkerrin – Sun 23 December at 7.30pm

#### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

##### **Christmas Eve:**

4.00pm Shinrone – Children's Candlelit Christingle Service around the Crib

(Children of all ages, and their families, from the whole group (and wider!) are warmly invited. Gather from 3.30pm for Christingle making! Children please bring an orange!)

8.00pm Kinnitty – First Eucharist of Christmas

##### **Christmas Day:**

9.00am Dunkerrin – Eucharist  
10.25am Shinrone – Eucharist  
11.45am Aghancon – Eucharist

##### **Christmas 1 (30 December):**

11.00am Shinrone – Group Service (No other services that day)

## **Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh**

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Seasonal hospitality intermixes with the Advent-Christmas narrative and gospel once more to make up a busy time for Church members over December. Culture is to the fore in St. Columba's for no less than five concerts!

And a climax to this indulgent time of Celebration for the Christian is music and word at the Feast time - the moment of Arrival/Nativity - with special moments on Christmas Eve at Kilnasoolagh (8.00pm -HC) and Kilfenora (Christingle 4.00pm), and the splendour of organ music for Christmas Morning Eucharist (11.30am) in Drumcliffe (Ennis). (See website and printed schedule for full programme).

We look forward to exiled and extended family members join us at the Stable when we most certainly will recall all absent on holiday or work.

#### **LUNCH**

Kilnasoolagh host their annual Christmas Lunch on Sunday December 9th, at the Clare Inn when Santa is as ever expected to appear. All Group parishioners are welcome.

#### **CONCERT**

'Carols by Candlelight' on Friday 21st December (8pm St Columba's) crowns the Advent concert series richly with sacred songs from three of our top regional singers Helen Houlihan, Edel O'Brien, and Owen Gilhooley, accompanied by pianist-organist Irina Dernova. St Vincent de Paul charity will benefit from the proceeds.

This follows the season opener on December 2nd when soprano Regina Nathan returned for her 'Christmas Spirit', joined by tenor Philip Scott and Bryonie Hopper on violin and Padraic O'Cuinneagain, piano. The Lismorahaun Singers also return for their Christmas programme under conductor Archie Simpson on Thursday 13th December, 8pm. Add to this Ennis Brass Band's Carol Concert on Saturday evening 15th December, 8pm.

#### **LUYENGO FARM**

We hope to boost the diocesan Advent surge to hit the target for the Swaziland appeal highlighted by Bishop Trevor of late, with cash from Christmas music as well as our Mission Day Envelope Appeal. (See last month's Newslink article).

#### **PRAYER**

We remember Bill O'Connor, husband to Maeve and father to Jessica and William who is in Ennis hospital following a stroke; also Mervyn Groves whose health at home outside Corofin gives cause for concern; also Sadie Blake who is suffering with sciatica.

## BIBLE STUDY

Thanks to Mr Jackie McNair for his invite to host a study fellowship in his lovely new Sixmilebridge home along with wife Andrea. This opportunity for an eclectic gathering of layfolk interested in knowing their Bible better is indeed a gift and cause for gratitude. Jackie, a busy chaplain at Villiers and diocesan reader did his theological training at Milltown Institute, Dublin, after leaving Industry. Please note a warm welcome to all on Monday evenings 7pm, commencing with refreshments.

## CHILD SAFETY

The Rector, Mr Edwin Bailey and Ms Caroline Counihan formed a threesome at the Child Safety training day in Adare. Others will be part of the on-going training as personnel with experience working with children in the Group parishes. The supervising Panel of three consists of the Rector, Mr Bailey and Ms Maeve Lait-O'Connor.

## CLARE WAR DEAD

Over the Armistice ceremonial period in November, the now annual ecumenical gathering to remember Clare's 'forgotten' 600 plus fallen (and 7,000 serving) from the Great War (and participants in subsequent campaigns) was held in St Peter-Paul Cathedral, Ennis, led by Fr Tom Hogan and Canon Bob Hanna, who represented the Protestant traditions. Keynote speaker was Mr Barney Callaghan, a former Irish Army officer, now head of Gaisce youth training scheme in the Republic and recently retired Governor for Rotary in Ireland.



*Mr Pascal Sage, presents a wreath in memory of the Clare War dead on behalf of The Royal British Legion (Limerick Branch) at an Armistice ceremony in Ennis Cathedral. Fr Tom Hogan receives the wreath and also one from the Munster Fusiliers Association, with Canon Bob Hanna in attendance.*

In a forward-looking and inspirational address, Mr Callaghan said he would leave aside for the occasion his usual emblems of medals and the Poppy, to use solely a single 'golden blood drop' tie-pin motif to universalise his message that all who served in the cause of truth and peace, wherever the conflict, were one. He added that his other symbol was his two sons (both adults, one of which is a Munster rugby forward coach!) whose generation had the task to take up the torch and express Remembrance in their own language. Mr Callaghan and his wife live in Limerick.

Days after the Ennis Monday evening event (12th November) Mr Callaghan handed over a Poppy Badge set amidst a shamrock to Prince Edward, in Malta, where there were representatives from the Munster Fusiliers and the Royal British Legion, and the Clare War Dead Commemoration Group laid wreaths in the Cathedral. Mr Pascal Sage from Kilnasoolagh helped plan the event and link with the colour parties and the wreath layers.

(Mr Callaghan's address may be picked up on the Drumcliffe Group Parish website)



*Mr Barney Callaghan gives the address at the Armistice ceremony. The past belongs now to our young people, who must be allowed to shape Remembrance, he said.*



*Fr Hugh O'Donnell, author of "Eucharist and Living Earth" brought his ecological spirituality to Harvest Celebration at Kilnasoolagh. He is seen with Mrs Mary McMahon, a member of the Clare Music Circle Choir who led the singing.*

# CLONFERT DIOCESE

## Aughrim & Ballinasloe Unions of Parishes

*Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn*

**Rector: Rev. George Flynn**

Tel: 090 9673735 Mobile: 087 20 74739

georgeandgwyn@eircom.net

www.aughrim.clonfert.anglican.org

Festive greetings from Co. Galway, wishing all readers a very happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. I hope that you all have an enjoyable time with your family and friends. As we enjoy this special festive time let us bear a thought for the families within our parishes and community who will have a loved one absent from their table maybe for the first time for whatever reason and trust that the strength, unity and love of all present will help allow them have a very enjoyable day.

### HARVEST THANKSGIVINGS

The end of October saw our final harvests taking place. In St Catherine's the guest speaker was Fr. Kevin Reynolds the Parish Priest of Ahascragh who addressed a very large congregation.

The Harvest Songs of Praise in St. John's attracted a large congregation coming along and enjoying 'A harvest' with a difference. Thanks to Michael McCullagh our organist, the visiting choirs and soloist, our visitors from the community and parishioners for making this a great success.

### GRADUATION DAY ATHLONE

It is great news to extend congratulations to Linda Sheppard, and Robin Cooper from Clontuskert and Aughrim respectively who both graduated from Athlone IT with an Honours Degree in Business Studies. Linda also received the top Management Accounting award. We wish these young people continued success as they pursue their respective careers.

### PASTORAL CARE

It has been difficult days for a number of parishioners and people connected with our parishes in the recent past. We extend to them our deepest sympathy and especially the family of the late Sarah (Sadie) Champ. Sadie and her late husband Dean Cecil Champ were very much respected here in Aughrim and the surrounding district during their incumbency. Sadie will be fondly remembered for her tremendous work with the Mothers' Union within the parish and Diocese and the Irish Countrywomen's Association in our community.

May all our departed loved ones be at rest and enjoying the promise of eternal life and their loved ones enriched with the presence of Christ in their lives.

### DECEMBER SCHEDULE

At this time of the year our parish strives to bring as much cheer to as many people within our parish and community with a programme that reaches out to them where ever they are or invites them to come to the rectory whenever possible.

### HIGH MILEAGE CLUB

The 'Old Folk' of our extended parishes are known as 'The High Mileage Club' and are invited to come to the Rectory for their Annual Christmas Party on Saturday 15th starting at 1.00 p.m. The usual 'Christmas fayre' will be on offer and it is hoped that as many as possible will come along. It is always a great occasion for the well travelled parishioners giving them a chance to meet up with old acquaintances once again.

Carol singing will take place in Ballinderry NH at 4.00 p.m. followed by a further call to The Millrace NH at 7.00 p.m. on Saturday 22nd These are always very enjoyable visits for the residents and gives our singers a wonderful opportunity to wish our parishioners and their fellow residents Christmas greetings. Anyone who would like to join us is most welcome.

### AHASCRAUGH ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Fund-raising Christmas dinner will take place in De Courcy's Ahascragh on Sunday 17th. This is always a successful occasion and in thanking all who have supported this in past year the parishioners and their team of helpers from the community look forward to your continuing support this year.

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES (See Web for full details)

Sunday 16th December is Carol Service Day throughout the parishes with arrangements this year as follows.

10.00 a.m. Ardrahan Special Christmas Service

10.00 a.m. Ballinasloe Traditional Carol Service

11.00 a.m. Woodlawn United Carol service (with Aughrim and Clontuskert)

### Holy Communion Services

Christmas Eve 24th: 19.00 Ardrahan, 21.00 Woodlawn, 23.30 Aughrim

Christmas Day 25th: 8.30 Ahascragh, 10.00 Ballinasloe, 11.15 Clontuskert

Family Service - Farewell to 2012 and welcome to 2013

Holy Trinity Aughrim, United Service 14.30 Sunday 30th January 2012

## The Clonfert Group of Parishes

*Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna*

**The Rev. Alan Nevin**

**Priest in Charge: Very Rev. Patrick L. Towers**

**Tel: 0909-9684547 Mobile: 086-8140649**

### CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

Group parish service in Clonfert Cathedral on 16th December at 4pm.

Eliza Lodge Holy Communion at 11am on December 19th followed by house Communion.

23rd December group parish service at Banagher at 11am.

Christmas Eve First Eucharist in Christ Church Portumna at 7pm

Christmas Day at 9.30am First Eucharist at St John's Church Eyrecourt followed by Eucharist at St Paul's Church Banagher at 11am.

The above does depend on St Paul's Church being available in time. Would parishioners check nearer the Christmas period and if in doubt check with church

wardens or ring the Rev Patrick on 086-8140649.

### **THE HARVEST THANKSGIVING**

At St John's Church Eyrecourt on the last Sunday of October was well attended this year. The church was superbly decorated and the joyful service conducted by Archdeacon Wayne Carney was very much appreciated, as were the tea and cakes after the service.

### **BISHOP TREVOR**

Bishop Trevor conducted the following week's service of Holy Communion at Eyrecourt. There was a short break in the service while the church warden hunted for some bread for the communion as it appeared to have been omitted in the pre service preparations. The problem was solved by the appearance of a plate of scones that were to be used with our tea at end of the service and Bishop Trevor reminded us that God does provide. We are all thankful to the Bishop for coming so far to lead our worship and hopefully we contributed to him having a pleasant day.

### **THE NIALL MELLON TRUST**

We wish Roy Stoddert all the very best as he has returned to Cape Town to help to build houses for those that are in so much need of them. We pray that God will keep him safe and in good health.

### **ST PAUL'S CHURCH BANAGHER**

Work has started on the church to reinstate it to the condition it was in before intruders started a fire and inflicted damage. We sincerely hope that work will be completed so that we resume services before Christmas. Meanwhile we have been thankful for the good attendance of Banagher parishioners at St John's Church Eyrecourt for our Sunday services which have been thoroughly enjoyable. We would like to thank the Banagher Church Wardens for all the work they have put in so far, they have very willingly devoted a lot of time and effort into getting this far.

### **A HUGE EFFORT**

A huge effort was put into our Remembrance Day service by the Rev Patrick once again and we are happy to have raised €25.00 for the Royal British Legion and would like to thank everybody for their generosity.

### **BEREAVEMENT**

It is with regret that we hear of the unexpected death of Hilda Kent of Terryglass. Our sympathies and prayers go to Caroline Haslam and Hilda's other three children in this their time of grief. We thank God for Hilda's life and pray the he will receive her into his heavenly home.

### **ANOTHER YEAR**

Another year has nearly gone and for most of us we have a lot to thank God for. All too often we take things for granted and now is a good time to reflect on all the good things we have to be thankful for. For those who truly have had a bad year, and for those who because of health and disability have so much difficulty in their lives, we pray that God will bring better things next year.

Happy Christmas to you all, and all the very best for 2013.

## LIMERICK DIOCESE

### **Limerick City Parish**

*St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Michael's Parish, and Abington*

#### **The Very Rev. Sandra Pragnell**

The Deanery, 7 Kilbane, Castletroy, Limerick.

Tel: 061-338697 Mobile: 087-2658592

Email: sandrapragnell@eircom.net

#### **The Rev. Jane Galbraith**

50 Ballinvoher, Fr. Russell Road,

Dooradoyle, Limerick.

Tel: 061 - 302038 Mobile: 085-1450804

Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

### **SINCERE SYMPATHY**

Sincere sympathy is extended to Patricia Bunworth (nee Bennis), her husband Alan, their families and relatives on the death of Patricia's brother Martin who died on Thursday the 1st November in Golspie, Scotland; to the family and relatives of Gerard (Gerry) Browne who died on Sunday the 4th of November; to Fr. Adrian (Redemptorists) and his family and relatives on the death of his father Patrick (Paddy) Egan who died on Sunday the 11th of November and to Dr. Mary Gray, her husband Frank Sheahan, their daughter Jennifer, their families and relatives on the death of Mary's mother Nora Gray who died on Thursday 15th of November in Cork.

### **INSTITUTION**

Sandra's Service of Institution and Installation as Rector of Limerick City Parish and Dean of Limerick and Ardfernt.

Huge and heartfelt thanks are due to so very many for the superb united offering of skills on Wednesday 24th October. The service for our new Dean and Rector was, from start to finish, a magnificent tapestry of many colours, textures and sounds. From the detailed pre-planning, the gathering of lists of guests, the music, the organisation of the building, the financial offerings unsought but gratefully accepted, the flower people, the catering people, the augmented choir people, the car park people, the candle lighters and already mentioned in previous dispatches, the small army of chandelier cleaners...so many people gave of themselves to create a wonderful surround for a spiritually uplifting ceremony led by our Bishop Trevor. You know who you are and it is almost unfair to single out individuals. However to Catering co-ordinators Tracey Lyttle, Elizabeth Stanley and Louise Fitzgerald, Flower co-ordinators Avril Gill, Louise Fitzgerald and Jemimah Egbulam, the augmented Choir and Music Director Daniel Battle and Organist Anthony Matthews, Secretarial Services Peggy Carey, to the young people and the Churchwardens - to these people lay the responsibility of organising their groups. To those in the Dioceses who supported the organising of the service, your support was richly appreciated. It seemed at one point during the evening that the whole united parish was mobilised. What a wonderful start you gave us for the new chapter of parish life, with our new

Dean and Rector The Very Rev'd. Sandra. Well done all concerned.

### CONCERT IN ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

St Michael's Church and St Michael's Church Choir invite you to a big fundraising night on Tuesday 11th December at 8pm ~ "The Light of Christmas" with Helen Houlihan (soprano) and Owen Gilhooly (baritone) - classical masterpieces and favourite carols - Sheila Allen (clarinet) and Irina Dernova (organ and piano). Tickets €10 (concessions €5). Proceeds in aid of St Michael's Church Organ Fund.

### LIMERICK CITY PARISH WHIST DRIVES

Sat 8th December (RAFFLE) – St. Michael's Church

Sat 22nd December (RAFFLE) – Villiers Square

Sat 12th January 2013 (RAFFLE) – St. Michael's Church

Sat 26th January 2013 – Villiers Square

All Whist drives start at 8pm sharp. Admission including supper €5. We welcome your support.

## Adare & Kilmallock

### Group of Parishes

*Adare, Croom, Kilmallock, Kilpeacon*

The Rev. Gary Paulsen

Tel: (061) 396227 Mobile: (085) 7640533

e-mail: [adarerector@gmail.com](mailto:adarerector@gmail.com)

On Sunday the 4th November we had a lovely service as we remembered those who had died during the year and the congregation in Adare also had the opportunity to light a candle for a loved one.

In our Baptismal Covenant we, along with traditional Christians around the globe, profess in the ancient Baptismal Creed the words: "I believe in... the communion of saints, ... the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting." In our annual observance of All Saints' Day, and the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed on the following day, we make those words a tangible reality in the here and now by recognizing and celebrating our relationship, not only with those around us today, but also with all those who have gone before us in all times and places. There is a Mexican saying that we die three deaths: the first is when our bodies die, the second is when our bodies are lowered into the earth out of sight, and the third is when our loved ones forget us.

Jack Huggard died after spending his last years at Caherass nursing home and his funeral was held on 17th November. Jack was just short of his 100th birthday which would have been on 5th January 2013. So we give God thanks for his life.

The good news is that at Kilmallock church the emergency repairs are now completed and the bell is secure again without the risk of it falling on anyone. Ongoing work is needed in the building and we will have to continue this momentum. A fundraiser Christmas lunch will be held on 9th December at Bruff RFC club for building funds: contact Jessie Griffen for tickets on 0876392267.

A full building conservation building survey has been completed in Adare and here too loads of money will be

required. The burden of church buildings continues to fall on the small congregations. Friday 14th December, at 7.30pm. St. Nicholas' Church is hosting a "Nollaig Cois an Maighe" Christmas Concert. The concert will consist of local people performing in spoken word, choral and solo musical traditional pieces. Following the concert, seasonal fare of mulled wine, mince pies will be served. A cover charge of €10.

The season of advent is upon us and the advent wreath helps us to focus on the season of preparation for Christmas when we give God thanks for the birth of the Christ child among us. The Word made flesh. It is also wonderful to see people make their way back to churches at this time of year. Some have returned to be with family and others remain attached through their annual pilgrimage. May God touch us all in that gentle loving way again this year through the simplicity of an ordinary birth.

Christ who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature.

## Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin

### Group of Parishes

*Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin*

Rector: The Rev. Keith Scott

The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

Tel: 061 - 398647 Mobile: 087 2885169

E-mail: [rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org](mailto:rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org)

December is always a busy month with Christmas galloping up on us without warning. This year there is a little bit of extra confusion as there are five Sundays in December.

The Christmas action kicks off with the Tarbert Carol service on Sunday 16th December at 7:00 p.m. in the Roman Catholic Church in Tarbert. There will be tea afterwards and everyone is most welcome to come and join in.

Christmas Day services are as follows:  
24th December 11:00 p.m. Castletown, Kilcornan  
25th December 09:00 Holy Trinity Rathkeale  
25th December 10:30 St. Mary's Askeaton  
25th December 12:00 St. Brendan's Tarbert.

Again everyone is most welcome to come and join in.

January and February are going to be active as well, with weddings and baptisms on the horizon. Well it is one way of dealing with those winter blues. Pray for all those preparing for these events.

# ARDFERT NOTES

## Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy,  
Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney.

### Vacant

Parish Office: Teach an tSolais, St. John's Church,  
Ashe Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry.  
Tel: 066 - 7122245 email: tralee@ardfert.anglican.org  
Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Jim Stephens  
Tel: 066-9767735 Mobile: 087 052 9107  
Email: stephensj@temmler.eu, stiofain.s@gmail.com

Ballyseedy: 9.45 a.m. 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays  
Kilgobbin: 10 a.m. every Sunday  
Tralee: 10.45 a.m. every Sunday  
Ballymacelligott: 12 Noon every Sunday  
Dingle: 12 Noon every Sunday

### Our congratulations to;

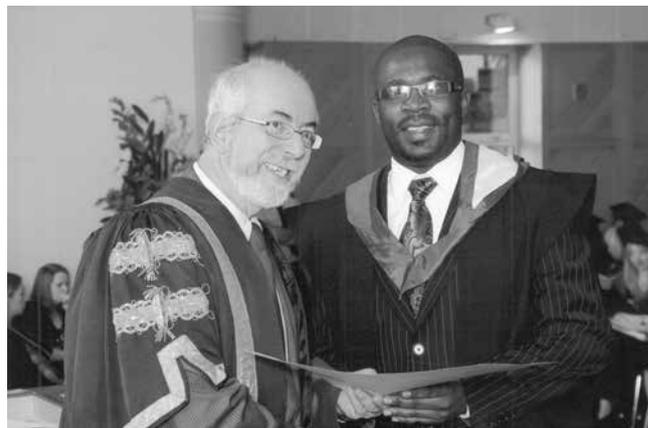
- Amon Mwakyanjala who, after a long wait, has finally been granted residential status in Ireland. While he was waiting for his application to be processed he volunteered to serve in our Civil Defence Service and achieved many First Aid qualifications and has recently been promoted to Supervisor.



*Civil Defence volunteer Amon Mwakyanjala*

- On a similar theme, Desire Busingye has completed a 3 year course under UCC's Adult Continuing Education Programme and was presented with his Diploma in Youth & Community Work by Prof. Paul Giller, Vice President UCC, on Friday 2nd November. Unfortunately, unlike Amon, he is still awaiting a decision on his application for residential status.
- David Frizelle on passing Stage One of the Foundation degree in Theology for Ministry. Having been a Diocesan Reader since 1984, he calculates that, he will be 95 by the time he passes Stage Two!

A Soup Kitchen is being held in Teach an tSolais every Saturday offering homemade soup, sandwiches, tea and coffee for people who are struggling to feed themselves and their families. A growing number of people are availing of this service and are most appreciative of it.



*Desire Busingye receiving his Diploma in Youth & Community Work*

A Christmas Fayre will be held in Teach an tSolais on 15 December to raise funds for the Tralee and Ballymacelligott Union. The many stalls will include Cakes, Home produce, Christmas Decorations, Bric-a-Brac and much more, as well as door prizes, raffles etc. Come along and bring your friends.

We are saddened to hear of the death of Bill Jeynes, who died suddenly at his home in Derrymore, on Friday 2nd November. Born near the Malvern Hills in Worcestershire, he was a keen musician from his time as a choirboy in Worcester Cathedral. He served as an R.A.F. pilot during World War II and afterwards emigrated to Canada. Bill retired to Kerry in the mid 1980s, and joined the congregation of Kilgobbin Church to which he donated a very handsome organ and served as church organist until quite recently.

A well attended ecumenical memorial service for deceased members of the I.C.A. and people of the wider community was held in Kilgobbin Church, on Thursday 22 November.

The School Christmas Service will be held in St. John's, Tralee, on Sunday 9th December. Also in St. John's on Sunday, 16th December, there will be a Service of 'Greening the Church', during which the church will be prepared for the Christmas season. On the following Sunday, 23 December, our first Carol Service of the season will be in Kilgobbin Church at 4pm. There is a time change for the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass in Ballymacelligott Church which is being brought forward to 10pm. We will wind up the season with the traditional Carol Service in Ballyseedy Church at 11am on Sunday 30 December.

## Killarney & Aghadoe Union

*Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross*

### Priest in Charge:

**The Rev. Canon Susan Watterson**  
The Rectory, Rookery Road, Ballycasheen,  
Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 064-6631832 Mbl: 087-6892025

Email: smwatt@eircom.net

### SERVICES

December 2nd 11am Advent Family Eucharist.  
December 6th 8pm Highlights of Handel's Messiah,  
Kerry school of Music

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December 9th 11am Service of the Word.  
December 12th 8pm St Oliver's Schl Choir & Killarney Golf Club Choir Concert  
December 16th 11am Holy Communion.  
December 23rd 11am Service of the Word  
3.30pm. Annual Ecumenical Carol Service.  
December 24th 11.30pm 'Midnight' Eucharist.  
December 25th 11am Family Christmas Eucharist.  
December 30th 11am Holy Communion  
January: Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays, 2nd and 4th a Service of the Word.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed during our appeal for toys and biscuits. After our Toy Service on 25th November the gifts were taken to KASI (Killarney Asylum Seeker Initiative) to be distributed at Christmas to the 25 families living in Atlas House where there is a total of 35 children. At least the children will have a gift to open on Christmas Day. We are very grateful to Heaton's Store and the Bargain Book Shop in Killarney, who gave such generous discounts that the value of our funds increased by 40%. We were therefore able to provide extra help for families with young babies. Thank you again to everyone concerned.

As we approach Advent, the calendar seems to fill up. We look forward to welcoming Kerry School of Music on 6th December for their performance of Handel's Messiah, admission is free – although there will be a retiring collection for the local branch of St. Vincent de Paul.

On 12th the choirs of St. Oliver's National School and Killarney Golf Club combine to bring us a Celebration of Christmas Music once again. We are very grateful to Noel Patrick O'Sullivan and Noreen Coffey who arrange the concert each year. This year the collection will be shared with the local Chernobyl Children's Fund.

Café Church will resume on Saturdays 8th and 15th December to provide coffee and mince pies for shoppers. Anyone who can help by providing mince pies, or by taking a turn on the rota for an hour please contact Canon Sue.

Book Club members seem to be enjoying the present book *The Prisoner of Heaven* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon. Our next meeting is on Thursday 13th, a week later than usual. There will be no January meeting due to holidays and the fact that the next book *Shantaram* by Gregory David Roberts is quite a tome, so we will need the extra month to finish it. Many have said it is one of the best books they have read, so something to look forward to. We will meet the first Thursday in February in the Malton Hotel at 8pm.

On Saturday 12th January there will be a training day for those interested Christian haling called Growing a Healing Ministry. Details will be sent out to clergy during December. The course will be held in the Aghadoe Room, next to St. Mary's Church in Killarney from 10.30-4.30pm. This would normally be a Parish Readers' training day but it is extended to include any who are interested.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Annie Wharton of Faha on 25th October. Annie's funeral took place in St. Mary's on 27th followed by interment in Aghadoe Churchyard. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Thomas, Liam, Tony Andrew and Myra, Hannah,

Eileen, Teresa, Mike and Joan, and with Annie's many grandchildren and great grandchildren. May she rest in peace and rise in Glory.

Prayerful good wishes for a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

## Kilcolman Union of Parishes

*Kilcolman, Kiltallagh and Glenbeigh*

**Priest in Charge:**

**The Rev. Máirt Hanley**

20 Knocklyne, Sunhill, Killorglin, Co. Kerry.

Mobile: 087-6194733

As I sit to compose these notes I have just finished writing an article for a local mag in which I have appealed to people to pay attention to the spaces in between big events, and said that it is how we travel to these that defines the nature of these events. Events such as Christmas should not be seen as times of a suspension of reality but part of our every day lives and our journey to them is very important, so Advent can mean as much as Christmas.

So our first service of the season in Kiltallagh is very much an ADVENT service, Sunday 2nd December at 7 pm in Kiltallagh church followed by tea and coffee in the school

From Monday the 3rd till Friday 7th there will be an exhibition highlighting the issue of domestic violence, comprising of pieces created by students from Dingle. This is brought to the church in conjunction with the Family Resource centre in Iveragh Park.

Tuesday 4th December at 8pm our evening prayer service will be themed around this issue, which is indeed a suitable topic for Advent as we pray for God's light to shine in the darkest of places.

Also on the 4th we have a ladies outing to Kenmare to join with their Mothers Union for a talk about our trip to Gúntesberge. The provisional plan is to meet at St. Michael's at noon to arrange cars for travel down. The M.U starts at 2 pm and we should be home for 6.

Saturday 8th will see our friends from the Lutheran church in Dublin holding a German language service.

Sundays the 9th and 16th will be normal Sundays.

On the 23rd there is just one evening service in Killorglin. This will be a carol service at 7 pm and there will be refreshments in the hall afterwards.

Christmas day will have services at the normal Sunday times.

And then on to a brave new year...

## Kenmare and Dromod Union

Priest in Charge:

The Rev. Michael Cavanagh

St Patrick's Rectory, Kenmare, Co Kerry

Tel: 064 6648566 Mobile: 087 1606312

Email: michael.cavanagh@eircom.net

### PENCILS FOR PUPILS

Remember the joy of a new pencil and pencil case – the scent of cedar wood and all the opportunities of a new school term?

Since Linda and Jan's recent visit to our parish – and their request for pencil cases for pupils in the schools they visit in Swaziland - our church family have been pretty busy – gathering together and sharpening pencils, looking out for pencil cases, rulers, crayons, erasers...

There has been a great response to this and we are busy packing boxes with wonderful (filled) pencil cases – 100 of them! And yet more: we were given a huge supply of pencils, charcoal, graphite, colouring/drawing pencils, watercolour pencils that were just not quite of the highest standard (but are perfectly good). A huge thank-you to everyone and to the generous team at Derwent Pencils, Cumbria. Details of the pencil manufacturing process can be seen at their website [www.pencils.co.uk/heritage](http://www.pencils.co.uk/heritage).



Church warden Liz Topham is shown with some of the pencil cases we dedicated on the 4th November as a tribute on All Souls Sunday, remembering and giving thanks for all who have gone before whose inspiration and commitment has allowed us to become who we are. We pray that in turn, those pencils will become poems, prose, pictures, stories... and alter the shape of the lives of the children. We ask God's blessing upon them on their journey and especially on the pupils as they discover their gift.

*My tongue will be the pen of a ready writer*

*And what the Father gives to me I'll sing*

*I only want to be His breath*

*I only want to glorify the King*

*Psalm 45*

## METHODIST NOTES

### Adare & Ballingrane

### Methodist Circuit

The Rev. Elizabeth Hewitt

Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Road, Adare,  
Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 - 396236

Email: [liz.hewitt23@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:liz.hewitt23@hotmail.co.uk)

The Annual Christmas Fair & Charity Christmas Card Sale was held in the Village Hall in Adare on Saturday 24 November. We appreciated the generous support of many people in the community who came to buy Christmas cards and thus support local charities. The Church also benefited from the proceeds of the various stalls and by providing teas and coffees while everyone shopped.

### CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Family celebrations at Christmas are looked forward to, eagerly, and the Church is no exception! The 'Church Family' will be joining together for a united Carol Service, in Ballingrane, on Sunday 23 December at 11.00am.

Christmas Day Service on Tuesday 25 December will also be united, in Adare at 10.00am.

Everyone is invited to the Manse for 'Open House' on Friday 14 December for coffee and Christmas Fare.

We also look forward to the ecumenical Red Cross Carol Service for the village which will be held in our Methodist Church. (Date TBA).

Bringing Christmas to our older residents: members of the Circuit will be visiting the homes of some of our folk who are no longer able to attend Church on Sundays. We plan to sing carols and we hope that the people we visit will feel a part of our Christmas in the Church.

### LIVE CRIB

Each year, the congregation of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church organises 'A Live Crib' in the village of Adare. This will take place from 2pm – 5pm on Sunday 16 December. A stable is set up, in the open air, and the characters in the Nativity form a tableau. Mary and Joseph, and baby Jesus are represented by families who have had a baby baptised in the past year; the families take it in turn to complete the tableau, for 15 – 20 minutes each. This is a lovely way to draw the community together as Christmas approaches.

We wish everyone in the Diocese a very Happy & Blessed Christmas!

### Christ Church Shannon

Joint Methodist, Presbyterian

& Church of Ireland Congregation

Dr. Rosemary Power, Pioneer Minister

5 The Grove, Shannon, Co Clare

061 - 363717

### RTE MORNING SERVICE

The RTE Morning Service on Sunday 18 November was

broadcast from Christ Church Shannon at 10.45 a.m. on RTE Radio 1 Extra (long-wave) and can be heard on the internet. The service includes singing by the Shannon Folk Group, and also Psalm 23 in the Shona language of Zimbabwe. Christ Church Shannon has always served an international congregation, and is joint Methodist, Presbyterian and Church of Ireland. It was founded in 1962 with the development of the airport, industrial zone and the town.

#### REMEMBRANCE

A Peace in Remembrance service was held in Shannon on Sunday 11th November. The dead of both Wars were remembered, and in particular the Clare dead. The service reflected on our responsibility to create a just and peaceful political order in our world.

In conjunction with the Clare Museum, which has a special exhibition, a series of talks on aspects of the two great Wars, and the spiritual reflections which emerge from them, was held during November.

#### DECEMBER IN CLARE

A number of Advent, Christmas and New Year services and events are in planning. These include Christingle services in Shannon and West Clare, the ecumenical carol service at Ennis cathedral on Sunday 16th December, the Christmas Eve service at 11.30 p.m. and a Watchnight service for the end of the year. Further details from 087 9888 508 or the website, [www.shannoncoclare.wordpress.com](http://www.shannoncoclare.wordpress.com).

## Christ Church Limerick Presbyterian & Methodist

Rev Vicki Lynch

The Manse, 15 Aylesbury, Clonmacken, Limerick  
061 325325 & 086 8292073

Despite the extremely wet weather, the Heritage Walk was a great success. Randel Hodkinson led us on a tour of places connected to Methodism and Presbyterianism in Limerick City. It really was fascinating to hear the journey of the two traditions as they witnessed to, shared and celebrated their faith over more than three centuries. I think we're all looking forward to the Genealogy Day that's coming up early next year. People will then have the opportunity to trace their own family history in Limerick and beyond and to look through a variety of church and school documents connected with different Christian traditions in the City.

A little earlier in the month Derek Roulston joined us and talked about his work on mission in Kenya. It was a very encouraging example of sharing the Good News through practical hands on work to improve farming methods, build much needed bridges and provide new educational opportunities and by building relationships that opened up hearts and minds to the love and experience of Christ through prayer, worship and religious education. Christ Church congregation will keep Derek and Linda in prayer and we look forward to regular updates as they continue their ministry.

November 18th was Home Missions Sunday and the Home Missions Department provided all churches with a

DVD showing exciting new outreach ministry in Belfast and in Waterford. We were encouraged to remember that inspiration for mission can be as simple as 'God has been kind to us therefore we want to be kind to others' or 'we love God therefore we love the community' and that acts of mission need not be complicated or grand. One woman described her vision for church as 'so entwined with the community that if we weren't there it would make a difference'. If anyone would like to see the DVD just give me a call.

We'll let you know the date for the Genealogy Day and look forward to seeing you there.

#### Service Schedule

Sunday Service 11.30 am.

Holy Communion 1st Sunday

Family Service 3rd Sunday

Sunday School 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays

Youth Group 2nd & 4th Sundays

Lectio Divina every Tuesday at 11 am in the meeting room (access from the lane)

#### Christmas Services

Nativity Service 16th December, 11.30am

Carol Service 23rd December, 11.30am

Christmas Day 10.30am

## Killarney & Kenmare Methodist Churches

[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]

Minister: Rev. Laurence Graham

10 Flesk Grove, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 064 6631613

Email: [laurence.graham@irishmethodist.org](mailto:laurence.graham@irishmethodist.org)

Website: [www.irishmethodist.org/kerry](http://www.irishmethodist.org/kerry)

**Kenmare Lay Pastoral Team:**

**Ed & Jean Ritchie; Larry & Meriel O'Mahony**

Tel: 064 6620580

**KILLARNEY METHODIST CHURCH EAST AVENUE,  
KILLARNEY**

Sunday Services: 9 and 11am (inc. Children's programme at 11)

Prayer meetings: Monday – Thursday 8.00 – 9.00 a.m.

Bible Study Meetings: Wednesday 8.00 p.m., Friday 10.00 a.m.

Drop in for coffee each Friday 11.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.

Parent and Toddler Group. Tuesdays 10am – 12pm

Youth Club (11+) 2nd & 4th Fridays 8-10pm, preceded by Youth Bible Group at 7pm.

**KENMARE "GATEWAY" GORTAMULLIN,  
KILLARNEY ROAD, KENMARE.**

Sunday Service: 11am (preceded by coffee) (inc. Children's programme)

Weekly Bible Study/Fellowship meetings: Tuesdays at 8.00 p.m. (Prayer time at 7pm) & Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m.

Drop in for coffee each Wednesday 11am – 12.00 p.m.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Gneeveguilla Home fellowship group is scheduled for Thursdays 6th and 20th December at 8pm. Contact Laurence for directions to the venue.

In Killarney the monthly men's breakfast will meet on the 8th December from 8.30 – 10am. There will be a quiz at this meeting.

South Kerry Parkinson's Association meet in Killarney Methodist Church on the second Monday January (14th) at 7.30pm.

Services continue to meet every Sunday evening in the Canon O'Donovan Centre at 6.30pm on Clara Road in Millstreet town. Our service includes Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. On Sunday 16th in Millstreet the meeting will take place in Drishane Castle. We hope to have a service for adults and a separate children's programme to which all of the residents of Drishane are invited. This is scheduled for 6.30pm.

Recently Methodists from Killarney have begun to facilitate a Bible study in a home in Lispole near Dingle. These are beginning to be publicised in the Dingle Peninsula area. The meeting will meet on Thursday 27th December. Contact Laurence at the number above for further information.

The Tuesday night Bible studies recommence but we look forward in the spring to having some Wednesday nights together again with other Churches. In Kenmare there will be no Bible study or drop in for coffee on the 27th and 28th December or the 1st and 2nd of January.

Women's fellowship groups are beginning around our Churches. Women in Killarney are planning to meet on Monday 3rd December from 10am-12pm. Early in the New Year the women in Kenmare are planning to begin meeting monthly around lunchtime on Wednesdays. Conversations are also taking place in Millstreet but date yet to be finalized.

Carol Services are planned for Killarney on Friday 21st December at 8pm and Millstreet on Sunday 23rd December at 6.30pm. The Kenmare United Carol service is in St. Patrick's Church of Ireland on Sunday 23rd at 6.30pm.

"Unbound" Christian bookshop from Cork are having a stall of books, music, Christmas gifts etc. on Saturday 1st December from 1-5pm in Killarney Church building.

## North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

**Minister: Rev. Brian Griffin**

The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

Tel: 0505 21670 Mobile: 087 987 0755

Email: beg08@eircom.net

RTE Nationwide will feature the work of CAHPA, the Charity founded in 1981 by Eirene Griffin in Abidjan, La Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa on Monday 3rd December. The invitation to address the Roscrea, Durrow and Killaloe Venture Scouts about her work was in connection with their Inter-Cultural and Community Event for the President's Award scheme. Eirene spoke of how she

visited men and women with a physical handicap as they begged on the streets of Abidjan. The weekly meal under the trees progressed into teaching sewing, macramé and basket weaving as people gave donations or offered their expertise. Eirene encouraged the Scouts to look not at the poverty of Africa, but at the richness of people, that each person is valuable, has resources and gifts that can be harnessed to benefit themselves and society as a whole. Instead of being dependent on the community, CAHPA has become an integral part of community through their work, which gives them the opportunity to live in dignity, with hope. Eirene writes: "The enthusiasm of the 35 young Venture Scouts who listened intently and participated in the discussion was not only an affirmation of my on-going work, but also a positive indication that the youth of today are not self-centred but anxious to be involved in positive projects." The Fair which the Scouts organised sold Crafts totalling £1,919 euros and included a "Cahpa Café". Eirene is available for illustrated presentations and crafts are always available for sale. Contact: eirenegriffin@gmail.com tel: 085 745 1017 or 0505 21670.



*Venture Scouts presenting the handsome cheque for the sale of crafts at the Fair on 3rd November, U/r Eirene Griffin, Alanna Rigney, Naimh Marks, Caroline Marks Scout Leader*

Coffee Morning on Saturday 8th December in Borrisokane Methodist Church from 10.00 am – 1.00 pm hosted by the local group of MWI (Methodist Women in Ireland).

Nativity Live on Saturday 15th December from 3.00 – 5.00 pm organised by the Roscrea local group of MWI

Ecumenical Carol Service on Thursday 20th December 8.00 pm in Roscrea Methodist Church, featuring the Nenagh Folk Choir and local Community Choir.

Radio broadcast from RTE Longwave 252 at 10.45 RTE1 Television broadcast at 11.15 am, featuring members of the congregations from the North Tipperary Circuit.

Special music by the Cloughjordan Community Choir with John Armitage, organist.

On Sunday 23 December at 7.00 pm  
Monday 24th December Service of Holy Communion in

# Prayers for Advent & Epiphany

DECEMBER 2012

Luther was no puritan – he loved music, he loved children, and he had a deep feeling for the festival of Christmas. What better, then, than this prayer he wrote as a carol for his own children in 1531, to pray together as we look forward expectantly through Advent for the birth of Jesus, our incarnate Lord, on Christmas day.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Make thee a bed, soft, undefiled,  
Within my heart, that it may be  
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.

My heart for very joy doth leap,  
My lips no more can silence keep,  
I too must sing, with joyful tongue,  
That sweetest ancient cradle-song,

Glory to God in highest heaven,  
Who unto man His Son hath given  
While angels sing with pious mirth.  
A glad new year to all the earth!

*Martin Luther, 1483-1546*

*The last 3 verses of the carol*

*“Von Himmel hoch da komm ich her”*

*Translated by Catherine Winkworth, 1855.*



JANUARY 2013

During Epiphany we reflect on how God reveals his nature to us. A natural response is to pray that he may reveal himself to others in and through us. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, who remained a priest in the Church of England all his life, encouraged his flock to make this covenant with God to be his in all things. Methodists still use it at Covenant Services, traditionally held at the start of the New Year.

I am no longer my own, but yours.  
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;  
put me to doing, put me to suffering;  
let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,  
exalted for you or brought low for you;  
let me be full, let me be empty;  
let me have all things, let me have nothing;  
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your  
pleasure and disposal.  
And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and  
Holy Spirit,  
you are mine, and I am yours.  
So be it.  
And the covenant now made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven.  
Amen.

*As used in the Methodist Covenant Service, 1974*

## Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

ROSCREA MOTHERS' UNION had a meeting on Monday 12th November at which Mr Ryan from Roscrea Osteoporosis Clinic gave a very interesting talk on facts regarding the treatment of and prevention of Osteoporosis and of the use of over the counter remedies. There was a very good attendance which included members from Birr, Shinrone & Aghancon and Cloughjordan & Borrisokane branches.

**LIMERICK BRANCH INDOOR MEMBERS  
AFTERNOON TEA PARTY**



Sheila Fogerty, celebrating her 93rd birthday in style.

Sheila has been a member of Mothers' Union for over 60 years and has seen many changes in her time. Sheila continues to be a faithful member and really enjoys coming to as many meetings as possible for a good get together and chat.



Enjoying our afternoon Tea Party for indoor members, Emily Groves, Violet Despard, and Sheila Fogerty have, between them, have been members of Mothers' Union for over 170 years!



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All families who pay before a specified date each semester are entered into a draw for a refund of their net fees for that semester. Please contact our School Bursar for specific information on all our grants, scholarships and bursaries. All enquiries are dealt with in the strictest of confidence - [bursar@villiers-school.com](mailto:bursar@villiers-school.com)

**Weekend bus service - Killaloe, Ballina, Nenagh, Borrisokane, Birr, Roscrea. \*\* New route - Tralee, Killarney, Tarbert and Listowel.**



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