



NEWSLINK

The Magazine of the Church of Ireland United Dioceses of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert

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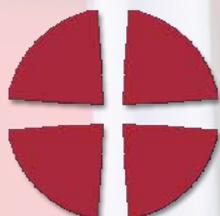
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The Bishop Writes

The Church - A Delivery Point For Good News

Our new Primate has already made an impact. The Archbishop of Armagh, Richard Clarke, giving his first Presidential Address to General Synod made the point that the church is an 'organism' not an 'organisation'. And he went on...

...the fundamental purpose for which this organism of the Church has its existence is simply this – to receive the Gospel and to hand on the Gospel in the world ... a delivery point for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Everything the Church does or says is, or should be, connected to this single and fundamental purpose in one way or another – our worship, fellowship, evangelism, prophetic interaction with the world (whether in encouragement or rebuke), our churches and church property, our social activism and compassion, our ecumenical endeavours.'

The Mission of the Church is to deliver Good News in a needy world. And who is it that brings the Good News? Every member of the Church. The clergy yes, but first and foremost members of the congregation. It is the primary job of clergy is 'equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ' (Ephesians 4.12). All of us who belong to Church, are the Body of Christ, the means through which God's presence is made real in the world. Or as Archbishop Richard put it 'a delivery point for Good News'!

Each of us, in our daily lives – in our unique encounters with other people, the events we are part of, the special moments and the hum-drum of daily routine – each of us play a part in God's mission in the world.

Do we feel inadequate? Yes!

Is that a problem? No!

Remember Pentecost. Frightened disciples became wonderful ambassadors for Good News through the presence of the Holy Spirit. And each of us, who are baptized Christians, has been given the gift of the same Holy Spirit.

Are we unprepared? Perhaps. Together as congregations we need to meet and discern what God is calling us to do, and how we can equip ourselves to do this. Some of us may feel that we don't understand our faith very well or that we don't know one end of the Bible from the other. If that is the case, ask your Rector to consider how best to meet that need. It may be to put on a course to meet that need for you and others in the parish, or it may be something

more personal. Part of the Rector's job is to 'equip the saints (you



and me) for the work of ministry'.

Some who attended the Bishop's Lenten Conversations have asked me to come to their parishes and share the session with a wider group of people. This was central to what I was trying to get across in these events. I am more than happy to do this and gladly welcome further invitations as parishes ask how this might apply in their setting.

What is the purpose of our Diocese, our parish,our lives? It's to be a delivery point of Good News. The Good News is that each person is loved uniquely by God, is a precious gift from God and their lives have a wonderful and unique purpose, to be a delivery point of God's Good News. This is how God has planned to transform our world. As we seek to see Christ in the other person, we will be led to that community which is God's gift and purpose for our world.

Our Diocesan Synod on June 15th and our "Gathering to Go" Diocesan Day on Sunday 29th September will give us more encouragement on this exciting journey.

Yours in Christ

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Letter to the Editor

LEGIBILITY OF NEWSLINK PRINT

Sir,

I want to make a few observations regarding the print on this year's Newslink. I am finding it much more difficult to read and believe it may be the lower contrast of the typeface. Another point I would like to make is regarding the size of the print of the captions under the photographs – absolutely miniscule – one needs a magnifying glass to read them!

I wonder if any other readers are having these difficulties. It is such a pity as I love the magazine and all it does to keep us in touch with our neighbouring parishes and church affairs.

Yours, etc.,

Jacqueline Reid, Newmarket-on-Fergus

Editor: Jacqueline is not the only reader who has commented that the type face of the new Newslink is difficult to read. We hope this month's is an improvement – do let us know.

DEADLINES

The next issue will be double one for July and August, published for Sunday 7th July 2013.

All material must reach the Editor by Friday 21st June 2013 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed.

Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

Editorial - Let Us Rejoice Together!

The high point of General Synod 2013 for me was the historic decision by the Church of Ireland to move in 2014 toward full interchangeability of ministry with the Methodist Church in Ireland. The decision was taken with almost complete unanimity and great rejoicing. In response Methodist President Rev Ken Lindsay declared: *'I came as an outsider, but I go away as one of you!'*

This is the next step in our two churches' Covenant journey toward the unity that Jesus prayed for. It does not mean that either church loses its identity – most of us will continue for now to worship in our different churches in our own traditions. But it will make it possible for Methodist ministers to take up posts in Church of Ireland parishes. The Methodist Church in Ireland moved before us to allow priests ordained in the Church of Ireland to take up posts in Methodist circuits. We are ahead of the curve in this Diocese. Rev Vicki Lynch, ordained in the Church of Ireland, has been chosen to serve the Christ Church Limerick and Christ Church Shannon Methodist congregations.

General Synod 2013 also passed a motion urging congregations to celebrate the Covenant relationship with neighbouring Methodist congregations each year on or around September 26th, the anniversary of the signing of the Covenant. Let us resolve to do so this year, with great rejoicing!

God bless,
Joc Sanders, Editor



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Diocesan Calendar

(for updates see Diocesan web site – www.limerick.anglican.org)

Wed 12th – Sun 16th June
Methodist Annual Conference, Carrickfergus, Co Antrim
Sat 15th June
Diocesan Synod, Kenmare
Sat 15th June, 8.15pm
Whist Drive, Aghancon Hall
Sat 15th June, 9pm
Concert (German meets Irish), St John's Church, Eyrecourt
Fri 21st – Sun 23rd June
GFS Diocesan Camp 2013, Durrow
Tue 25th June, 8pm
Kilcolman Book Club, St Michael's Hall, Killorglin
Fri 28th June – Tue 2nd July
Summer Madness with UDYC, Glenarm, Co Antrim
Sun 7th July, 2.30pm
Aghancon Church Summer Fete & Sale, Aghancon Hall
Sun 21st – Sat 27th July
UDYC Junior Summer Camp, Avoca, Co Wicklow

Newslink

Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert, which also includes the historic dioceses of Aghadoe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly. For further information about the United Dioceses see the diocesan web site: www.limerick.anglican.org.

Newslink also covers Methodist Midlands and Southern District Circuits within the boundaries of the Church of Ireland Diocese.

EDITOR

In addition to parochial news, the Editor is delighted to receive articles and letters for publication, as well as suggestions as to how Newslink may 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/circuit matters must first be cleared with the Minister concerned.

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NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2013

(Reduced by €3 from 2012, for 10 issues)

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NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2013

(Reduced by 5% from 2012)

	Rate per annum (Euro)		Rate per single issue (Euro)	
	10 x Colour	10 x B&W	Colour	B&W
Full Page	1193	1069	154	143
Half Page	596	534	77	71
Third Page	398	357	51	48
Quarter Page	299	268	39	36
Eighth Page	149	133	19	18

General Synod 2013

A Clergy Woman's Reflection, by Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke, Rector of Nenagh



Our Editor's request to write a 'Reflection' on General Synod absolves me from writing a report on everything that took place, so what follows obviously comes from a selective and personal perspective.

I arrived in Armagh in plenty of time to have breakfast before Synod began. The self-service toaster in the Hotel restaurant had three speeds: slow, very slow and exceedingly slow! This turned out to be a good metaphor for what was quite a stodgy Synod.

When time was spent in passing Motions and Bills so that the Constitution could be altered in order that information could be acquired via email rather than snail mail, and dotted lines could be inserted in forms to enable signatures for Vestry membership, it seemed to me that we had totally lost the plot. It has become quite anal: it is what I would call CONSTITUTIONOLATRY – the placing of the Constitution at the centre of Church of Ireland identity. Quite simply the organisation is more important than the Mission of the Church, and it remains an organisation rather than an 'organism' as suggested and sought by the Archbishop of Armagh in his Presidential address. It is quite simply dragging us down.

Is General Synod also just a Convention for Senior Citizens? (I am one such myself!). There is no questioning the integrity, loyalty and commitment of those attending, no matter what their age, but there is also no doubt that General Synod does not represent the Church of Ireland in its entirety. Synod was urged to take on the Hard Gospel recommendation to work towards full representation

A Lay Man's Reflection –

Kieran Brislane, Adare & Kilmallock Group



Thursday 9th May. Day one of General Synod 2013. We approached Armagh with maybe a little trepidation. Synod 2012 had generated a lot of negative emotions mostly because of the highly-charged debate around human sexuality. Was it going to be the same this year?

Up to 500 representatives from every corner of this island, clerical and lay, are elected from Diocesan Synods every three years to meet together in General Synod usually held in May. Recent Synods have alternated between Dublin and Armagh – this year was Armagh's turn.

Being a synodical church means that Synod is very structured and business is conducted to a strict agenda. Bills are proposed, seconded and debated. So are various Motions. As are reports of the various committees. On your third or fourth synod you begin to see a pattern – despite maybe 300 delegates in the room, the same dozen or so speakers tread a path to the podium to add their penny halfpenny's worth to whatever topic is under discussion; and despite repeated pleas from the chairman to keep contributions concise, to the point and assurances that they would, inevitably they did not.

This was Archbishop Clarke's first synod as chairman since his

of Church of Ireland membership in Synod membership, with a more representative gender balance, age balance, racial and immigrant balance and working-class balance. However, it is hard to be lectured on such things whilst staring at a bank of middle-class, middle-aged, white, heterosexual male Bishops. The irony of this quite obviously escaped them.

OF COURSE we need the wisdom of mature and experienced church folk, but we also need the fire, passion and enthusiasm of those who would take the church to a different place, however disturbing and NEW (oh my goodness!) that might seem. I think a biennial Synod could get through all the important stuff (if one takes out the naff stuff), leaving a year in between (and the funds) to perhaps hold a smaller gathering of about 120 folk, 10 from each Diocese to talk about nothing except Mission. Oh, but that would mean SERIOUSLY CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION!

My daughter saw me reading the Book of Synod Reports and was horrified by its size. Is there not a Kindle edition published she asked – what a good idea – it would save money and the environment (and perhaps the money saved could fund a crèche so that young parents might be able to attend?) Attending General Synod requires time and money and perhaps taking some precious holiday leave – and also the valid point was made that holding Synod in May excludes all those young folk who are sitting exams.

I shall end with a wonderful highlight on the final day, which ultimately redeemed the whole Synod for me – the unanimous passing of a Motion (to become a Bill next year) to enable complete interchangeability of ministry between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland. See? We CAN do great things. We just need to stop sweating the small stuff!

election as Archbishop of Armagh last Christmas. He chaired Synod with a firm hand on the tiller – keeping business moving, interjecting with appropriate, usually witty, comments and generally ensuring everything was kept on track.

A marker was thrown down early on in proceedings when a delegate reprimanded the Church of Ireland for appearing to spend so much time debating human sexuality while maintaining a silence on important issues of today – including negative equity, mortgage foreclosures, poverty, and school closures. An audit of Church of Ireland press releases over the past year backed up this statement.

So it was a pleasant surprise as business wore on that a number of social Motions were adapted – including support for the IF Campaign, and a call for international corporations to pay appropriate tax in countries of operation rather than moving "business" to off-shore tax havens.

Other matters that attracted lively and enthusiastic debate were the clergy pension fund (very obviously!) and the report of the Board of Education.

The "usual suspects" of exhibitors were present; these included the Church of Ireland Gazette, Changing Attitudes, the Church of Ireland Youth Department, Ecclesiastical Insurance, Ministry of Healing and many more. These stands give the perfect excuse to excuse one's self from the debating chamber every now and again to stretch legs, pick up a free pen or two and procure a cup of coffee; as well as taking the chance to catch up with old friends.

At the end of the first day's business it was then across the street to St. Patrick's Cathedral for the "piece de resistance" – the Synod Service. This service exhibits all the pomp and ceremony of the good old Church of Ireland at its best. The procession is a sight to behold ... the choir were followed by Ecumenical guests, followed by the

Deans of the Church of Ireland, then the Secretaries of General Synod, the Dean and Chapter of St. Patrick's Cathedral (Dublin), then the Dean and Chapter of St. Patrick's Cathedral (Armagh) and finally the bishops and archbishops of the Church of Ireland. This year's preacher was the Bishop of Derry who posed the question "What was so special about 12 men that they changed the course of

history over the next 2000 years?" He then took nearly 30 minutes to answer his own question.

The consensus in the car on the homeward journey was that this year's Synod had been better than expected, and in fact some good just might come from it.

Quotes to Remember

'The Church is an organism, not an organisation. Change is not unhealthy – as in all organisms, some parts wither as others flourish. Our purpose is simply this – to receive the Gospel and hand it on to the world – to be a delivery point for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.'

Archbishop Richard Clarke, in his Presidential Address.

'When the rate of teenage and rural suicides is soaring, we talk about sex; when the economy is collapsing and folk are losing their jobs and homes, we talk about sex...'

Gillian Purser, Cashel, in frustration, during the debate on the Select Committee on Human Sexuality.

'I came as an outsider, but I go away as one of you!'

Methodist President Rev Ken Lindsay, responding to the historic decision to press ahead with interchangeability of ministry.

Editor:

See also Canon Stephen Neill's comprehensive report on the diocesan web site www.limerick.anglican.org.

Newslink received a 'highly commended' (3rd place) award in the Diocesan Magazine section of the annual Communications Competition – a nice recognition of the work of the Newslink Team!

Bishop Trevor won the Synod Caption Competition with this entry:



I can see through you!

**Have you considered advertising
in Newslink?**

See page 4 for rates and details.

Máirt's Musings – Don't forget to breathe!

I have recently made a major spiritual discovery. Unless I am very much mistaken and have seriously misread the evidence, it would seem that the Dali Lama is a student of Jane Fonda.

For an explanation of this we need to go back to 1982. My mother struggled to keep her figure after having children, as am I at the moment, though mine is slightly more chocolate related than my mother's! As a way to rectify this some one gave her a present of The Jane Fonda Workout. I have some very fond memories of doing the workout with my mum, but the thing I remember most is the regular reminder, 'Don't forget to breathe!' The connection to the Dali Lama comes through a conversation I had with a mate of mine a few days before his wedding. I shared with him Jane's advice to my mum, millions of exercisers and me – "Don't forget to breathe", as a famous person once said: 'Oh, the Dali Lama', he said. And of course I put him straight. However he then told me that a friend of his was doing some PR work with the Dali Lama the last time he was in Ireland, and at one particular point of stress he lent over to her and said, 'Don't forget to breathe!' So there you have it, the Dali Lama is a student of Jane Fonda, and he is right to be.

Recently I was at the General Synod of the Church of Ireland. Our parliament in three houses – lay, clerical and bishops – who sit together to discuss weighty matters and pass bills and motions to decide on the laws and ordinances of the church. It's a great occasion as it brings together what is a very diverse organisation.

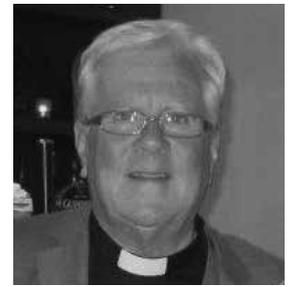
In the Church of Ireland we sometimes presume that the rest of the church probably looks just like our local church, and it really is good to have somewhere where people from around the whole church can get to see what a broad church we are. So what do we do when we come together? Well a lot of the time we seem to worry about finance, procedures, demographics, church structures – and that 'thing' that those on the other side of the liberal-conservative divide are trying to push through. Often the synod is hard pressed to get through all its business, and it really is dizzyingly busy. But sometimes I wonder do we need Jane's advice – 'Remember to breathe' – to do the basic stuff on which everything else is based.

For us that is remembering before everything else to love God and love everyone else regardless of who or what. Whatever it is in your business or your personal life, remember Jane and 'don't forget to breathe'!



Moving the agenda from maintenance to mission

by Rev Stan Evans



If we actually calculate the amount of time, energy and finances we devote to maintaining the buildings and fabric within our parishes we would be astounded. Select Vestries and diocesan committees existing to maintain the 'branch' network – a necessary task of course, but not the vision which we need to grasp if we are to fulfill the inspiring agenda set before us by Bishop Trevor at the Diocesan Synod last June and furthered by the regional discussions engaged in during Advent 2012.

AGENDA OF CHANGE

It all began at the Clergy Conference last year when we were all energized as we engaged with the agenda of change which would inspire our vision for the future of our church. No longer a message of dwindling numbers and no-hopers, but an agenda of confidence in our faith, a church engaged in caring within our communities, and by so doing a church that would celebrate what 'being the Church' truly is all about in this land. This was not going to be another paper exercise but a real engagement with those we are called to serve in Jesus' name.

Within the world, our land and our Church we are facing challenges of paramount importance. In ministry we are experiencing anxiety and pain that has rarely surfaced before within the Church of Ireland. The debris of the 'Celtic Tiger' is all around us with devastating consequences as communities struggle to come to terms with the realities of life. At the beginning of the recession, one dear friend and colleague commented that 'of course our people will not be affected by the recession – not in our Church'. How wrong he was!

Day by day we hear the economic commentators pouring out the stock phrases of 'burn the bond holders', we need 'a further haircut' and 'perhaps we should kick the can down the road'. Well, this Church of ours is facing the challenge; we are not going to kick the can down the road and we need to demonstrate that we can bring new hope and vision to our people and our communities right across our Diocese and beyond.

PEOPLE ARE HURTING

People are hurting and are longing for direction and a coming together which can only be achieved by doing exactly what Jesus asked of us – to love God and our neighbours as ourselves. We are in a unique situation, having a 'branch' office in almost every community. At the moment there is unbelievable pain being experienced in homes and behind closed doors: – people too proud to ask for help – young unemployed facing emigration once again – young couples under incredible negative equity pressure – relatively 'secure' middle-class families facing eviction – the retired seeing their investments wiped out and their twilight years being lived in poverty – the sick terrified that they may need carers which they cannot possibly afford, to dress them, feed them and tuck them up in bed at night – young people, particularly in our rural farming communities, thinking they have no one to turn to – taking their own lives. The list goes on..... This is our challenge; no-one is unaffected.

So often the Church is seen as irrelevant and out of touch. Unwelcoming and a middle-class clubhouse with the curtains closed. This is not, and must not be the case as we are called to bring confidence to our communities by demonstrating and fulfilling the centrality of caring which is at the heart of the Gospel which flows from the heart of God in Christ. It is by this caring and sharing of

the pain that we will bring others to ask the question 'what makes us tick', and it is by God working through us that His love will spill over onto those around us.

A TIME OF CARING AND SHARING

This is a time for caring and for sharing – and this brings me to what Bishop Trevor describes as the 'manifesto of Jesus' – 'to bring good news to the poor, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour'. Pope Francis reminded us all that this is what lies at the heart of being a Christian – to be loving servants of those in need. Christian faith is Good News to the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized. They are loved by God and must be cared for by the Christian community. So how do we do it?

Just recently the people of this Diocese met the challenge and raised over €40k for the farm project in Swaziland. An incredible success – love and compassion in action. But now we face a bigger challenge, for if faith is real we need to bring love and support to those around us as we have never done before.

Some of the most dedicated and committed officers within our Church are our treasurers! They must be so sensitive to situations with so many under pressure, but by gathering as God's people with the wider community we will find that we can spread the load – those who can give more must be encouraged to do so. Support wherever possible must be given to organisations that bring compassion and care – Protestant Aid, and Christian Aid – should be at the forefront of Mission giving.

It is by this awareness of the need and caring within our communities that we will celebrate what being a living Church truly means.

Vision
Mission
& Ministry



Diocesan Synod Reminder

The annual ordinary meeting of the Diocesan Synod of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert will be held in Kenmare, Co. Kerry at the Carnegie Arts Centre, Shelbourne St, on Saturday 15 June 2013. Proceedings will commence in St. Patrick's Church, Kenmare at 10am.

Yvonne Blennerhasset
Diocesan Secretary



Girls Friendly Society

ROSCREA BRANCH

The girls have been very busy since Easter. Mark Crawford showed them how to sow plants, bulbs and tubers. The pots are doing really well and they hope to sell them at the Parish Sale in June. We had a Teddy Bears' Picnic. There were games, food and fun and the girls made Eton Mess and enjoyed eating it. The season ended with our Enrolment Service. Rev. Lesley gave a very interesting talk. We were delighted to have Diocesan President, Mrs Rose Langley with us for the service.



BIRR BRANCH

Girls held an Open House at the Rectory where they baked and sold cookery items as part of their Cookery Badge. All money raised at this event went towards GFS Missions and Branch funds. Girls enjoyed a visit to Bramber Studios to decorate photo frames. At their Badge presentation evening girls received their GFS Knowledge and Cookery Badges from Mrs Freda Kenny. All Ireland winners received their awards - Diane Dagg and Laura Bulfin whose crafts represented the Diocese at All Ireland Competition and both won 1st prizes.

NENAGH BRANCH

Badge presentation Day was on Saturday, 18th May. Audrey Clarke-Gordon welcomed Canon Marie, leaders, parents and Mrs Freda Kenny who kindly presented the badges and awards to girls. Badges were for GFS Knowledge (younger girls), Health & Hygiene (older girls) and all did the Church Knowledge Badge. Girls have done tremendous work during the year with their crafts, Bible Study, taking part in GFS Diocesan events and participation in Church Services. Well done girls and thanks. Heather Hayes won 2nd prize in All Ireland completion - a wonderful achievement for Heather and the Branch. Heather's work can be seen on the Notice Board in St. Mary's Church. Before they finished for the year girls created a Welcome Banner for Bishop Trevor's visit to Nenagh Union of Parishes on Saturday, 25th and we look forward to seeing you all at this family fun event. Girls and Leaders thank North Tipp VEC, School House Trustees and Nenagh Union of Parishes for their continued support of our branch.



GFS ALL IRELAND COMPETITION WINNERS FROM KILLALOE DIOCESE

Bible Study Winners:

Jnr Members - Highly Commended - Robyn Fitzgerald and Emma Mooney from Cloughjordan Branch

Handcraft Prize Winners:

Jnr Candidate -

2nd prize - Tabitha Larke, Cloughjordan

Candidate -

2nd prize - Heather Hayes, Nenagh

Jnr. Members -

1st prize - Laura Bulfin, Birr and H.C. - Melanie Lakatos, Nenagh

Members -

H.C. Grace Langley, Nenagh and Lorraine Armitage, Cloughjordan

Snr. Members -

1st prize - Michelle Armitage, Cloughjordan

Townsend Members -

1st prize - Diane Dagg, Birr



UPCOMING EVENTS

GFS at Synod

GFS will have a stand at the Diocesan Synod on the 15th June - please call to see us.

GFS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 'SURPRISED BY JOY'

GFS Broadcast service is to be recorded in RTE on Sunday the 16th of June 2013.

The first rehearsal was on 25th of May 2013 - from 11 a.m. to 4p.m. approx. in Rathfarnham Parish Centre.

Each Dioceses is asked to nominate 3 adults and 3 young people all

of whom need to "be good singers" and perhaps sing in choirs and are prepared to help with readings, take part in the Drama enactment and sing in harmony (as there are no male singers).

Anyone interested in attending should contact the GFS office.

CAMP (21-23 JUNE)

in the Faith Mission Centre, Knocknagally, Durrow, Co. Laois
Girls aged 9 and over will enjoy icebreaker games and crafts, visit Castlecomer Discovery Park and shopping in Kilkenny. Best of all there will be lots of fun, fellowship and friendship!

Parents/ guardians are asked to drop participants directly to the Faith Mission Centre in Durrow between 5.00 pm – 5.30 pm on Friday, 21st June. Camp will finish on Sunday and girls can be collected from the

Centre at 3pm. The Cost is €60 for one girl and €55 each for two or more from one family. This includes transport on Saturday, food, activities and accommodation for the weekend. Please note prices remain the same as last year. Please contact your Branch Leader for Booking form and more details.

GFS FACEBOOK

GFS is now on Facebook so why not check out the link <https://www.facebook.com/GirlsFriendlySociety>. You don't need to have a Facebook account to keep up to date with GFS news and events.



1ST NENAGH COMPANY

We were delighted to enrol two more boys officially into Boys' Brigade at Family Worship on Sunday 19th! We also had our lovely new banner dedicated, which was made for us by Rae Croft and we are grateful to her for that. Our readers did a great job and all the boys were a credit, as always. They were rewarded for their efforts with a birthday cake that celebrated Pentecost!

We still have plenty to look forward to: 22nd May is "Superhero" themed night and 5th June sees a return to the popular Courthouse – this time maybe with some added blue flashing lights courtesy of the Gardai... Our summer trip to Bunratty should be great fun and we have a couple of meetings lined up for the summer holidays too.

Lisa recently attended the "Active Leadership" training course run



by the Sports Council. It is aimed at Leaders planning activities with groups of any age and was absolutely ideal for Boys' Brigade. I would recommend it highly – and she came away with loads of tips and ideas to try out on our group!

1ST TRALEE COMPANY

On Friday evening May 17th, members of the 1st Tralee company and 1st Clonakilty company of the Boys' Brigade met at Tower View Hostel, Tralee for their weekend camp. After settling in we went for a walk where the Irish weather was not too kind to us, so back to the Hostel we went, to play a few games and to get the customary lack of night's sleep J. Saturday morning we went to Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre where we went pond dipping, orienteering, enjoyed team games and the much loved ride on the pedal boats. After lunch we went to the Aquadome where we spent a couple of hours swimming and having fun in the pool, back to the Hostel for dinner and chill out before bed. Sunday morning we headed to Banna Beach where we went surfing, followed by a BBQ on the beach. We waved goodbye to the Clonakilty company and our exhausted kids were collected by their parents. All in all we had a great weekend and we are already looking forward to next year!



Mothers' Union

BEREAVEMENT

The members of St. John's Mothers' Union remember with great affection our very faithful and long standing member Helen O'Duffy who recently passed on in her 95th year. Helen shared her strong faith with us throughout the years and also enlivened many a meeting with her enthusiasm and love of fun, there was never a dull moment with Helen in our midst. We shall miss her greatly.

"Well done thou good and faithful servant"

MARGARET CRAWFORD'S VISIT

We were delighted to welcome Mrs Margaret Crawford, MU All Ireland Indoor Members' Representative to visit the Diocese on

30th April and 1st May. On the first day we travelled to Limerick for an afternoon in Richmond Tce. Limerick ladies welcomed us with afternoon tea and Margaret then spoke on her work keeping in contact with indoor members, highlighting the fact that she is not always made aware that some ladies may have died, and she therefore would be still writing to them. She also told us that she is pressing Mary Sumner House to either lower or drop Indoor member's fee as these members have been long time members in their branches. Before the meeting ended long time member's cards were presented to some of the members present.

Then we travelled to Killarney and met with Mrs Marjorie

Cavanagh and members of Kenmare Branch, where once again Margaret spoke and then we had an informal chat on different aspects of MU. It was a long but very exciting day.

The next day we had an afternoon in Aghancon, which was organised by our Faith and Policy team, it began with Margaret speaking on Indoor members and she also talked on her visit to Uganda during her term as All Ireland President.

Mr John Armitage, from Cloughjordan led us in a sing song, after which Rev Ruth Gill read a portion of scripture and ended with prayer. That afternoon was as an afternoon of fellowship and chat and everyone was welcome, we were delighted to have nearly fifty attend including seven MEN. During and after teatime everyone chatted including Margaret's husband Ian, who had travelled down with her and he even met some old friends. A lot of people commented that it was nice to have a meeting in the afternoon, so perhaps this might be repeated again.

Margaret and Ian travelled back to Enniskillen on Wednesday evening

AUGHRIM MOTHER'S UNION

Aughrim Mother's Union presented a recliner chair to the newly formed East Galway Cancer Support Group for it's premises at Brackenagh Ballinasloe. They are to be commended for their generosity. The Aughrim Coach House Art Group will stage an Art Exhibition in the centre on Saturday 15th June - 10 am till 4 pm

Holy Trinity Aughrim hosted the Annual Diocesan MU Service on Sunday 19th May when a large congregation of Branches and Members assemble from Northern Parishes. The theme of the service was the global theme for 2013 'THE SEEDS WE SOW' which was evident throughout the service especially with the chosen hymns, intercessions and in particular the Address given by the rector Rev. George Flynn who emphasised the point that all Christian followers of Christ must be aware of their responsibility as disciples to take care that all our actions, words and deeds, all our interaction with other people should all times sow the seeds of good positive truths and conform to the will of our Creator. The readers were Eileen Armitage Cloughjordan Rosemary Davis Roscrea, and Ina Blackwell Diocesan President, organist was Jill Cooke, and floral arrangements were beautifully arranged by Anne Hyde and Mary Stoddard. I am

most grateful to the visiting clergy of Archdeacon Wayne Carney, Rev Lesley Robinson, Rev. Ruth Gill for attending and supporting this service. The congregation continued it's fellowship in the Aughrim Coach House (attached to the Rectory) for afternoon tea. Many thanks to all who brought provisions.

ST JOHN'S MU BALLINASLOE Concluded it's programme with a very valuable and worthwhile talk and presentation by Seamus Harney on CPR procedures and the Heimlich manoeuvre in April, followed by a craft evening in May. We had two of our members, Penny Kearney and Marie Quinlan demonstrating. Penny showed us how to decorate plates and glass using Acrylic paint and accessories, very suitable for gifts, and Marie showed us how small pieces of slate (recycled broken slate!) can be varnished, holes drilled for hanging, with Bible texts or anything one chooses, written in gold or silver pen or in Acrylic paint. The members then tried their skills at both these crafts and produced really beautiful items. Tea/coffee and a delicious selection of tray bakes made by members brought a very happy meeting to a close and we now look forward to our summer outing in June.

As these notes go to print we are looking forward to having a Service in Holy Trinity Church Aughrim, with most Branches winding down until autumn after a various amount of meetings, and with just some day outings to go to now.



St John's MU Craft Display

A Final Farewell To Former Headmaster, Mr John Ruddock.

It is with great sadness that we note the death of former Headmaster, Mr John Ruddock. Mr Ruddock, 'Jack', joined Villiers as Headmaster in 1963 and was Headmaster until 1986 - a remarkably long tenure of twenty-three years.

Despite his death, his legacy to the School lives on. We consider Villiers a community, a family, 'the Villiers family' - a fabulous concept for a school community such as ours. This sense of family began with Mr Ruddock and his wife Doreen who were Mum and Dad to all the children who lived here, including their own children, Gillian and Alan who grew up with the Villiers boarders.

As a School we have expanded hugely since Mr Ruddock's time with us, however he was instrumental in the establishment of Villiers on the map in terms of Protestant education in Ireland. He was part of the delegation representing the Protestant Secondary Schools in negotiations with Minister Donnach O'Malley which led to the establishment of the SEC grant scheme, which assists Protestant families send their children to Schools of their ethos. How disappointed he was with the recent stringent cuts to Protestant Schools.

In Villiers specifically, Mr Ruddock oversaw huge developments. He instigated what at the time was referred to as, 'The New Building', now the main building, the all weather hockey pitch and the

upgrading of the sports pavilions (no longer in existence). His final task was to inaugurate plans for a new Dining Hall, kitchen and boys' boarding block.

When he left the School in 1986 numbers had doubled and Villiers could hold its head high in the field of education. We were delighted to formally welcome him back last year as the Guest of Honour for our annual Prize Day where he was inscribed on the Villiers Roll of Honour for his outstanding contribution to the School. Despite having departed from the School almost thirty years earlier the smiles, the fond memories and the reminiscing his presence encouraged was a testimony to his time in the School.

John Ruddock's name is synonymous with music and during his time in Villiers not only did he found the Limerick Music Association (now Music Lovers Association), he was also responsible for bringing many international musical names to Villiers including the Vienna Boys' Choir, the King's Singers, and Jacqueline du Pré. Past pupils associate his name with music, and many smile with wry regret over the lack of appreciation their teenage selves showed to the world class opportunities Mr Ruddock opened to them.

It is with great sadness, tinged with fond memories and a genuine sense of gratitude that we remember this great man, who contributed so deeply to Villiers School. We particularly remember his daughter Gillian at this time.

'He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.'

United Diocesan Youth Council of Limerick and Killaloe

YOUTH
STUFF

DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION WEEKEND

Our Diocesan Confirmation Weekend will be taking place hopefully over June Bank holiday weekend as Newslink readers are reading these notes. We hope to provide a full report in July/ August Newslink on this event.

SUMMER MADNESS

Summer Madness will take place again this year at Glenarm Castle Estate, Glenarm from Friday June 28th to Tuesday July 2nd 2013. It is hoped that to have a group from our Diocese at the event again this year with a bus leaving from/returning to Limerick and picking up/dropping off along the route at Nenagh, Roscrea & Portlaoise. The event as always will contain a mix of music, debate, worship, activities, seminars and gigs. The theme this year is " The Good Life and where to find it". In order to be part of the UDYC group one must be 15 years of age. The cost per person will be €150 for return transport, food and Summer Madness ticket. Watch out for those booking forms dropping through your letter box in the coming weeks.

JUNIOR SUMMER CAMP

Our Junior Summer Camp for 10- 13 year olds takes place this year from Sunday 21st July to Saturday 27th July 2013. The event this year will take place at the splendid facilities of Densmore Lodge, Ovoca Manor, Avoca, Co. Wicklow. This venue is an outdoor adventure centre owned and run by the Christian organization Scripture Union. The price this year will be the exact same as the last two years of

€220 which will include return transport, transport during the week, all activities , food and accommodation. The usual action packed programme will be on offer with some splendid worship times as always included.

SENIOR SUMMER CAMP

Our Senior Summer Camp this year will return to the ever popular venue of Catherine McCauley House in Spanish Point, Co. Clare and will be for all those from 13 years of age upwards. The dates of this event are Saturday 17th August to Wednesday 21st August 2012. The reduced cost this year will be €170 for this fun-filled, action-packed 5 day event. For those that participate at Summer Madness and Senior Summer Camp the cost will be €300 for both events. Thus 10 days of UDYC Madness for only €300 so the message is we really want you to come this year.

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 the UDYC website: udyc.ie as well as the Diocesan Website at limerick.anglican.org/udyc_news.php and limerick.anglican.org/udyc_prog.php and our regularly updated UDYC group page on Facebook.

Until next month,

Damian

Email: 05shortend@gmail.com

Surf's Up! – God in the Surf

The Surf Project is a new pioneer ministry under the Methodist Church in Ireland that will be starting in a full time capacity from this month. Jono & Beth Griffin will be running the ministry across the whole island of Ireland and will be based in Shannon, Co Clare.

The Surf Project has 2 residential camps in July in Lahinch, Co Clare. Places are still available for young people aged 12-17 years of age.

- Camp 1: 12-14yr olds, 30th June - 5 July, €315
- Camp 2: 15-17yr olds, 14th-19th July, €315
- Both include: 6 Surf Lessons, Theory sessions, Food, Lodge Accommodation, Excursions, T-shirt, Daily Bible teaching in a relevant and relaxed environment.
- Booking through our website: www.thesurfproject.org, or phone Jono & Beth.: 086 128 2803

Church of Ireland

*LIMERICK AND KILLALOE
DIOCESAN BOARD OF MISSION*

AN INVITATION TO A MISSION EVENING

WEDNESDAY 12th . JUNE 2013

THE WOODLANDS HOUSE HOTEL ADARE

AT: 8.00 P.M.

- **BISHOP TREVOR REFLECTS ON HIS TRAVELS IN PALESTINE**
- **REPORTS BY PARISH MISSION REPRESENTATIVES.**
- Everyone with an interest in mission both within their local community and overseas is very welcome to attend.
- Refreshments will be served both before and after the meeting

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' N.S. Adare

The senior pupils are putting the final touches to their "Gathering" pictures and we look forward to seeing some of these on display in Adare Heritage Centre next month.

April is usually the month when we take part in An Taisce's Spring clean but this year because of the cold weather we postponed this event until May. As usual, the staff and pupils donned their gardening gloves, dusted off the garden tools and headed out around the school and church grounds for a big tidy up. We weeded, cleaned, swept, trimmed and fed our young trees and now the grounds are very smart indeed. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work.

The pupils also brought an old shoe to school on that day and these were filled with plants and flowers for the flower festival in Adare Methodist Church. Rev. Liz had asked the school to be involved in this wonderful event and the filled shoes created a bright and colourful walkway into the church for the festival.

Active Week will take place in school from the 27th to the 31st of May with a great variety of events organised. The committee has planned a sponsored walk in Adare Manor Grounds on Monday followed by a trip to Curragh Chase on Tuesday. Later in the week we plan to learn some Zumba, how to play golf and teach one another some playground games from bygone years. I'm exhausted just thinking about it!



Ms. Brown, Mrs. Walker and two senior members of our Green Schools' Committee, Megan Flood and Garret Sparling travelled to Cork to this year's flags' presentation. We have now been awarded our fourth green flag which will be hoisted up beside our existing three flags before the end of term.

Pupils in 4th 5th and 6th classes were invited to participate in Villiers Sports Day for primary schools. Once again we had a wonderful day playing tag rugby, soccer, bench ball, orienteering along with some other fun games. Thanks to Mr. Atkinson and the Transition Year students for a highly organised and enjoyable day.

Well done to our two quiz teams who took part in a recent Credit Union Quiz for primary schools and congratulations to one of the teams who were runners-up on the evening.

St Mary's No 2 N.S. Nenagh

The busy third term is well underway at St. Mary's.

On Tuesday, 21st May our students will have completed their six week swimming programme, fulfilling the Aquatics strand of the Physical Education curriculum.

We have a number of exciting events planned for the coming

weeks. Our Infant Classes will be going on their school tour on Friday, 24th May. A trip to Turoe Pet Farm in Co. Galway will provide a fascinating opportunity for our younger students to meet a variety of animals, hike a nature trail and play in the indoor activity centre.

Our senior students will take their trip in June. A full, exciting day of team building and sporting activities awaits them in Horizon Adventure Centre.

Our end of year assessment is currently underway. From standardised testing to teacher designed tasks and tests, everyone is busy with their books.

We would like to thank the following people who have made valuable contributions to our school this term. Firstly, the Nenagh Fire Brigade gave an informative and important fire safety class. Our students took this learning seriously and showed exemplary behaviour during our fire drills each term this year.

Dedicated parents, Mr and Mrs Davey, along with Mrs Hayes took responsibility for our outdoor spaces, maintaining the school garden and window boxes. Go raibh mile maith agaibh!

Our congratulations go to our talented student, Heather Hayes from First Class, who took 2nd place at the All Ireland GFS Handcraft Competition.

Wishing everyone a peaceful (and sunny) month ahead!

St Michael's N.S. Limerick

Leprosy Mission Big Red Box – Ms. Stevenson suggested that we start collecting our brown coins, even the ones we find lying on the street! By doing so, as a school we will be able to fill the very big red L-shaped Leprosy collection box that we have in school.

We are also collecting plastic bottle tops – any size, any colour, any shape! A local charity is collecting plastic bottle tops to fundraise to help purchase Wheelchairs For Hospice. Our target is 50,000 which will, in turn, go towards buying a brand-new wheelchair. Should any of you like to help us reach this huge target, please feel free to collect your own bottle tops and give them to any parent, pupil or staff member of St Michael's NS.

The second Villiers Inter-School Sports Day on May 15th was another great success and blessed with reasonable weather. The pupils participated in tug-of-war, bench ball, tag rugby, orienteering and a fun animal game, all organised efficiently by Neville Atkinson and the Transition Year students. We greatly appreciate the huge effort that goes into planning such an enjoyable day and would like to say a big thank you to all at Villiers for their hospitality and welcome to us.

The pupils from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Classes have been upping their fitness levels while participating in athletics training, in spite of the winter-like weather conditions! There was a boys' team and a girls' team representing St Michael's NS in the Limerick City Schools Sports at UL on May 21. Also on that day, there was a Junior Sports Day in St Michael's NS for the rest of the school, ably and efficiently organized by a number of Senior pupils, in conjunction with the staff.

As always at this time of year, many classes take off on their annual school tours. 1st and 2nd Classes are eagerly anticipating next week's visit to Irish Seedsavers in Scarriff, Co. Clare where they will be involved in a variety of gardening and nature activities. We hope this will continue to enthuse our students with our own small school garden. Both Junior and Senior Infants will visit "Free Range Kids", in the Old Rectory in Croom where they are guaranteed an action-packed morning of fun-filled activities which include cookery and a myriad of outdoor pursuits.

One of our charity endeavours this year has been to collect and

fill 100 pencil cases, destined for Swaziland. We are delighted to be handing over all these pencil cases filled with the necessary pencils, pens, rubbers, rulers and sharpeners to Dr. John Jarvis.



Our Molly Bloom tulips eventually "bloomed" and are still giving much needed colour to our school flower bed as they are in the newly planted tulip bed in People's Park. Sadly we did not make it up to the Botanical Gardens to see the James Joyce tulip portrait made from 23,000 Molly Bloom tulip and grape hyacinth bulbs.



St Cronan's N.S. Roscrea

All pupils enjoyed 4 weeks of tennis lessons with Gail O'Meara and pupils from 1st to 6th class are now attending swimming lessons in the Roscrea Leisure Centre.



The pupils played their part in An Taisce's Spring Clean Campaign

and were helped by some of our parents. Thanks to everyone, our school grounds and environs look neat and tidy. Thanks to our gardening experts, we can look forward to fresh vegetables and herbs.

4th, 5th and 6th class travelled to Villers Inter School Sports Day where they took part in activities organised by Transition Year Students. Thank you to the Staff and Pupils in Villers for organising this experience for our pupils.

The pupils in the Senior Room will take part in the Christian Aid Photo shoot Campaign "Bite Back at Hunger".

The Parents' Association organised an Internet Training Evening for Parents and Staff highlighting safe usage for their children. Later that evening the Parents' Association presented the Board of Management with a generous cheque, the result of their fundraising activities during this school year.

The local Fire Officers spoke to pupils in 3rd class about fire safety in the home.

We had a visit from Environmentalist Michelle Castineaux to bring us up to speed with our Litter and Waste Management Project for our 6th Green School Flag Award.

The Infant Room successfully hatched out two chicks a 100% increase on last year.



Kiltallagh N.S. Castlemaine

Summer Term is well under way here in Kiltallagh with plenty of news of our recent events to relay .

Congratulations to Richard and Katie Boyle who both won medals in the recent District Primary Sports. Katie now goes forward to the County final of the Primary Schools Sports in An Ríocht at end of May.



District Primary School Sports

Keel Kiltallagh Community Games

Katie Boyle was again a Gold Medal winner in the 100 metres

sprint at the Keel Kiltallagh Community Games. Katie will now compete in the county final of this competition in Castleisland in June. We wish you every success Katie.

On Thursday April 25th we had our Monthly service in Kiltallagh Church. Our chosen theme was our talents and how we use them and share them. The children from senior infants along with first and second class read all the prayers while the children from the senior room complimented our singing with some recorder playing. Gavin Boyle gave a beautiful solo performance of 'This Little Light' a song which encourages us all to use our talents everywhere we go and not to hide them.

A special Thank You to Rev. Máirt for leading us in prayer.



TAG RUGBY BLITZ

Despite some light drizzle, the enthusiasm and sporting spirit of our senior room was not dampened when we travelled to Tralee Rugby Club for our Tag Rugby Blitz on April 24th last.

We played 4 games and scored 8 tries in total-Holy Family School, Killarney, Blennerville School, Tralee, Ballyheigue N.S. and Lissivigeen N.S. Killarney were our opponents.

All our pupils played really well and we secured 3 draws and 1 loss. Some amazing tries were scored by Tom Stephens, Zach Buckley, Naoise Buckley and Colin O' Meara.

A special 'Thank You' to our referee on the day and to Shane, our Rugby Coach for organising the blitz

MÍLE BHUÍOCHAS VILLIERS

Our 4th to 6th class pupils were invited to partake in 'Villiers Inter Primary School Sports Day' on May 15th along with the other Primary Schools of our Diocese. This was an absolutely brilliant day where all the pupils got the opportunity to enjoy many different sporting activities including Bench Basketball, Tag Rugby, Tug-of-War and orienteering as well as games.

All pupils were treated to a packed lunch and the teachers enjoyed a delicious lunch also compliments of Villiers.

A special commendation must go to the Transition Year Students along with their P.E. Teacher Neville who organised and co-ordinated the entire day. They were so professional in every way, displaying maturity way beyond their years and are a credit to themselves, their families and their school.

We were particularly impressed with our group co-ordinators namely Aoife Curtin, Morgan Clarke, Conor Curtin and Aishling Finucane.

Míle bhuíochas do Jill Storey, Headmistress of Villiers School, for extending this invitation to us and we are already looking forward to a return visit!



Pictured above are our pupils with Headmistress Jill Storey and their co-ordinators following the presentation of certificates.

Oxmantown N.S. Birr

VISIT FROM BARNARDOS

Louise Keogh from Barnardos visited our School recently to collect a cheque for €1800 which we raised during this year's Lenten Project, she was very impressed with the result of our campaign and the various ways our pupils had used to raise funds. Louise told the children about the work of Barnardos and said that this money would be used to help children in the Midlands.



GARDENING CLUB

The gardening club has started again, so far we have been so lucky with the weather. Thanks to our two parents Breda Phealan O'Meara and Paul Malone who give of their time each Wednesday evening from 3.00pm. to 4.00pm. The first task was to plant the window boxes and to weed the beds in preparation for the vegetables, we hope that our plants will survive the slugs this year!

THEATRE GROUP

M&M Productions visited the school on 10 May with a good production of the musical 'Oliver Twist'. This was a chance for some of our most ambitious actors to be a part of the show.

SALE OF WORK

The Parents Association has organised a bake sale and coffee morning after the family Service on Sunday 19th May in aid of our building fund. The building of our new classroom is expected to begin in June.

SPORTS DAY AT VILLIERS SCHOOL

Our 4th, 5th and 6th class pupils enjoyed a very well organised inter- schools sports day at Villiers School, our students shared a bus with the pupils of St. Cronin's in Roscrea and we were entertained by their lively sing-off on route. All of the children enjoyed the activities and excellent facilities. We really appreciate the kindness and friendship shown to us by the transition year students on the day.

St. John's Parochial School Tralee

Well done to the Parents Association – the collection of Clothing/Textiles/Mobile Phones on 2nd May proved very successful. It afforded a wonderful opportunity to do a "spring clean" and de-clutter and, in addition, raised much needed funds.

On the next day – 3rd May, the PA organised an equally successful Cake/Bake Sale in Teach an tSolais. We are all awaiting the next such sale when one of our parents (who shall remain nameless for the moment) has promised to dress up as a giant cup-cake!

The senior classes spent a morning cleaning up part of Tralee Town Park as part of Kerry County Council's Anti-Litter Campaign. They were equipped with gloves, plastic bags and litter pickers.

The school vegetable garden has been planted at this stage – potatoes, cabbages, onions and a variety of lettuces in the bigger raised beds and strawberries and a range of herbs in the smaller beds. So far it has not been necessary to use the watering can – hopefully the weather will improve and the sun will start to shine soon!

The Kingdom County Fair is a long standing country show and dates back to 1948. St. John's School has a long association with the Fair and has won many prizes and rosettes over the years for a variety of entries in the vegetable, flowers, cooking and arts/crafts classes. This year was no different with a good range of entries both at class and individual level. The senior classes prepared a mask and a collage and the junior classes did some art work – pictures, book-marks and cards with an agricultural theme.

On 15th May, 3rd to 6th classes participated in the Sports Day for Primary Schools in Villiers School. The excitement started before the day when the students designed their own posters for the event. It was a wonderful and memorable day from the moment of departure on the bus in the morning until their return at 5.30 p.m. that evening. It was a wonderful day of fun and games and opportunity to meet with students from other Primary Schools in the Diocese and to experience a little taste of second level school at Villiers. They were looked after and supported by the Transition Year students and enjoyed the range of activities from orienteering and tug of war to tag rugby. A big thank you to Mr. Neville Atkinson and the other staff at Villiers but especially to all of the Transition Year classes for making the day so enjoyable.

Our School Tours have been organised at this stage. We will have three tours this year for the different ages. The Junior classes will go to Muckross Traditional Farms where they will visit the Pet Farm, participate in the hand milking of the cows and try their hand at baking soda bread on an open fire. A "Day at the Zoo" is the choice of our middle group. They will go by train to Dublin and have booked in to the Safari Tour. The Senior Classes will go to Star Outdoors in Kenmare for a day of activity on land and sea. We wish them all a fun time!

Over the next weeks, we have plans for a "Tasty Treats" day when the students will try their hand at cooking and baking in the Teach an tSolais kitchen and we will also have our Sports Day before end of term.

The school will also take part in Tralee's Feile na mBlath in mid June and are already preparing their entries for the Primary Schools Art Competition and Display – A World of Colour.

Slan go foill.

Rathkeale No 2 N.S.

With the recent unseasonal cold and wet weather we were lucky to have had a good day for our annual Spring Clean around the school environs. Pupils prepared the vegetable patch for sowing, picked up litter and washed down our garden seat. We have also, by now, planted our vegetables and are delighted to see that some brave seedlings have made an appearance even with the very cool weather. Hopefully they will get some warmer weather soon and will grow for us.

A big thank you to everyone who supported our runners in the Great Limerick Run, we are delighted to report that we have raised just over €1000 for school funds. In these difficult times it is wonderful to see that people are still willing to support our school.

On Wednesday 15th May we, along with pupils from schools throughout the diocese, took part in the second Villiers inter primary schools sports day. We had a fantastic day which was thoroughly enjoyed by our pupils from 4th to 6th class. This year we had two teams taking part and everyone got totally engaged in the different activities which included tag rugby, football, bench ball, orienteering, tug-o-war and a treasure hunt-type game. The tug-o-war was extremely popular with our pupils. We owe a big thank you to the Transition Year students and their teachers for organising such a wonderful day. We were delighted to have come 3rd overall and pass on our congratulations to St Nicholas, Adare on coming second and St John's, Shannon on coming first. Already the pupils are looking forward to next year's sports day.



Representatives of our Green School Committee travelled to the Silversprings Hotel, Cork on Thursday 16th May to collect our third green flag. We are all looking forward to welcoming Ms Gow back on Friday 31st May to raise the flag for us.





Villiers School

END OF TERM IN VILLIERS – MS JILL STOREY, PRINCIPAL

We are rapidly approaching the end of another school year, it's almost incredible to believe that our students will be on summer holiday in less than two weeks time, marking the end of the 2012-2013 academic year.

Of course our Form III and Form VI students will stay on campus for most of June as they tackle the State Examinations. All the weeks, months and years of preparation will finally come to a finish and we wish each individual member of Forms III and VI every success as they face the challenges of the exams.

End of term is always a nostalgic time, it's a time of farewells and we are especially sorry to say goodbye to all our Form VI students as they leave Villiers to enter the next stage in their lives. They have been a wonderful group of young people and we know that their journey beyond Villiers will be eventful and positive.

Their departure from Villiers is formally marked in the Form VI Graduation Ceremony, held on Thursday 23rd of June. Always an emotional occasion, this year all the more so as some of our students prepare to leave not just Villiers, but also Limerick and in some cases even Ireland as they take college and university places overseas.

Of course during this time of change we look forward to welcoming our 'newbies'. We held our annual Scholarship Exam on May 11th and were delighted to see so many new and enthusiastic faces joining the Villiers family.

Our existing students complete their programmes and get ready to progress through the School. This year's Form III will begin the Transition Year programme in August. An information evening held on Wednesday 9th of May was fabulously well supported by both parents and students. Both Staff and this year's Transition Year Students presented on the night to give an overview of the year and an introduction to the unique experience that lies ahead. Those

completing this year's Transition Year Programme were invited, with their parents, to the annual TY Award Ceremony, held on May 29th.

The final week of term, is as always, taken up with end of year exams, and so, we wish all our students well, both with their exams and for the holiday period.

News From the Villiers Sanctuary

First of all I would like to wish all our exam students God's blessing on their upcoming 'summer quizzes'. It is always a stressful time but as my wife, Andrea, keeps telling me, "all you can do is your best and leave the rest to God".

Congratulations are in order for the 2nd year group involved in the stained glass window art project. This was a project set up by the Limerick Diocesan Youth Project and it involved designing a stain glass window. Each pane had to tell a story of faith connected with the Bible. So after a lot of hard work, and some serious inspiration from Ms Geraldine O'Brien, our art teacher, a window of some magnificence was produced. So much so that the Limerick Youth Project are going to use each pane as an illustration in their forthcoming book 'Letters to God' which will hopefully be on sale in September. The 'window' will certainly be on display in Villiers but I also hope to display the 'window' in St Mary's Cathedral in the near future. I will let everyone know where they can view it shortly and would encourage everyone to take the opportunity to see this wonderful spiritual display by our 2nd years.

Other exciting news is that we have opened our Prayer Garden which has very quickly become established as a unique and peaceful place to sit and get in touch with God and nature. Many thanks go to Ms Anita Mahon who has worked tirelessly with the environment group that was formed to help establish the garden. We are all off to Dublin on the 22nd May to the Mansion House where the garden project is in the finals of the UNESCO Eco Den competition where we will get to meet President Higgins. Hopefully the next time I will be able to show some winning photographs and some of the story of our Prayer Garden.

As I have already said, good luck to all exam students

1600 Years of Christian Witness in Castleconnell

On Sunday 5th May an Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving was held in All Saints, Stradbally (Castleconnell) to mark the 1600 years of Christian witness on the site. Tradition claims St Patrick established Christianity in Stradbally during his missionary travels in County Limerick.

An Ecumenical Committee had planned the service and this beautiful church was packed with members of the whole community who came to celebrate this unique occasion.

The service was led by Rev Stan Evans, acting priest in charge, and was recorded by RTE for broadcast at a later date. The preacher was Bishop Trevor and the sermon text is on the web site. Mary Maloney and Edward Richardson, members of the Organizing Committee, read two readings, and the Gospel – The Great Commission – (Matthew 28: 16-20) was read by the Abbot of Glenstal, Patrick Mark Hedderman. Intercessions were led by the Dean of Limerick, Very Revd Sandra Pragnell. Fr Brendan Kyne, Parish Priest of Castleconnell delivered a thanksgiving prayer before Janet Harbison of the Irish Harp School brought our prayers together with her own composition 'Kyrie' – a beautiful meditation to conclude with.

Special thanks go to the choir of St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick under their Director of Music, Mr. Peter Barley, and also to our organist Mr. Trevor Selby. The choir sang Jubilate by Stanford in B Flat and also a most appropriate rendition of Friedell's – Draw us in

the Spirit's tether. We were also delighted that Fr Ger Fitzgerald, born in Castleconnell, and now serving in Ennis, and Canon O'Malley of St Mary's Catholic Church in Limerick were able to join us.

All Saints is well known for its Sunday School activities under the guidance of local artist Barbara Hartigan. The children of the 'Young Church' had engaged in and produced a beautiful mural, depicting the 1600 history, and this is available for all to see as it takes its place alongside the many other colourful images which adorn this little church. Children were at the forefront of the worship, with pupils of 5th Class of Castleconnell Primary School singing verses from St Patrick's Breastplate – Christ beside me.

As is customary for such a gathering in this part of the world – the ladies of the whole community came together to provide the most amazing 'feast' which was served to the congregation in the pews!!

A fitting end to a wonderful celebration of our one-ness as a Christian family.



Diocesan Finances – Diocesan Treasurer Lorna Gleasure speaks to Newslink

Editor: Lorna has supplied a summary analysis (see box) of the full Diocesan accounts for 2012, which will be presented for approval by Diocesan Synod on 15th June 2013 in Kenmare. She also kindly agreed to be interviewed to give Newslink readers an insight into diocesan finances.

NL: Thank you Lorna for agreeing to this interview – I feel sure Newslink readers will appreciate your insights into the financial position of the United Diocese. Firstly I want to congratulate you on being able to report a surplus of some €22,000 for 2012, reversing the deficit reported for 2011. Is this down to good budgeting and cost control, or are there other factors to explain it?

LG: Well, the Finance Committee and I do keep a careful eye on finances! In order to avoid increasing per capita parish assessments in these straightened times we actually budgeted for a deficit in 2012, to be covered by our diocesan contingency fund. The main reason we returned a surplus for 2012 is because of several unforeseeable vacancies occurring in the course of the year, such as the departure of Canon Robert Warren from Tralee and Dean Stephen White from Killaloe and the retirement of Rev Joe Hardy in Tralee. This reduced expenditure on parish clergy in 2012 by some €55,000 compared to 2011. Most of the diocesan expenditure goes on parish ministry, as you can see, and we always plan to cover foreseeable clergy costs.

NL: I notice that expenditure on the Youth Ministry reduced substantially in 2012 compared with 2013. What is the background to this?

LG: This was expected and budgeted for. Rev Vicki Lynch's 5 year contract as Diocesan Youth Officer came to an end in mid 2012.

NL: Turning to income, I see that 2012 Parish Assessment income was down some €42,000 compared to 2011. Was this planned? What is expected for 2013?

LG: The Parish Assessment consists of two parts. The first is the per capita assessment based on Easter Vestry census returns, which Diocesan Council decided to leave unchanged for 2012. The second is the levy the Diocese takes on parish investment income on property of which the parish is beneficial owner. This amounts to 50% on the first €3,800 of such income, and 67% on sums in excess of this. Parish Assessment income to the Diocese was down in 2012 because parish investment income was down. This was expected. I expect 2013 Parish Assessment income will be much the same as 2012.

NL: I know Diocesan Council has approved a budget for 2013. What assumptions have been changed from 2012? How do you see 2013 out-turn at this early stage in the year?

LG: We have made no significant changes to the budget for 2013. The parish per capita assessment is unchanged. The Diocese will make some savings over the year from another unexpected vacancy, with Rev Susan Watterson leaving Killarney.

NL: We've heard rumours of significant cost increases coming down the line, with the Local Property Tax and a 'Levy for Clergy Pensions' agreed at General Synod. Can you say anything about how those will affect us?

LG: The Local Property Tax will be paid by the RCB, who will bill the Diocese. The Diocese will pass on the cost to each parish – I shall in effect be acting as a debt collector! The changes agreed by General Synod to Clergy Pensions are more serious, not so much because of the levy, which is small, but because of changes to the way it is calculated. There will be no change in 2013, but it will have an impact in 2014 and later. The extra costs will have to be recovered

from parishes through parish assessments, but we have been assured that some help towards the extra cost may be available from central Church funds.

NL: Lastly, Lorna, is there anything else you would like to add?

LG: I want to say thank you to the parishes and to parishioners for their generosity in keeping up their commitment to the Church even in these difficult times.

	2012	2011
Income	€	€
Investment Income	108,536	109,296
Current Year Assessments	852,974	895,469
Chaplaincies	30,299	33,658
Miscellaneous	9,720	7,473
Total	1,001,529	1,045,896
Expenditure		
Ministry & support for Ministry	867,335	926,010
Financing Episcopacy	31,292	31,292
Assessment refunds	8,151	8,832
Youth Ministry	34,458	55,415
Administration	34,442	34,809
Mission & Outreach	3,627	4,077
Total	979,305	1,060,435
Deficit (Expenditure - Income)		14,539
Surplus (Income - Expenditure)	22,224	



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The Shinrone Group Visit Harzgerode

On the 1st April 2013 an intrepid group of fourteen, ranging in age from 10 to 89, departed Ireland to spend a week with our link church in Harzgerode, Germany. Unsure of what to expect, the week turned out to be a wonderful experience – both in getting to know our hosts, and in how we gelled together and had so much fun as such a disparate group of parishioners. Here's a little taste of what we experienced.

Day 1:

Ooh, very early start (2.00am!). Blearily eyed, but excited as we gather in Dublin airport for the flight. Most of us caught up on sleep on the way over to arrive (relatively) refreshed in Berlin, to receive a warm welcome from Pastor Anke and Juergen Dittrich – our hosts for the week. A good meal together sets the tone for the days ahead as we travel by minibus 2 hours south-west to the Harz Mountains. We'd been warned there was snow but didn't expect the winter landscape and sub-zero temperatures that greeted us and would be our companions for the week! But it was warm in our accommodation – the Wolfshof Pension. We gathered that evening in the church hall for a meal together and to plan the week ahead!



The interior of St Mary's, Harzgerode

Day 2:

Thoughtfully, after yesterday's travel, Day 2 was confined to sightseeing in the town of Harzgerode itself. First stop was a guided tour of St Mary's, a beautiful church with three tiers of balconies decorated with intricate white wooden fretwork. We were lucky enough to be there when the local kindergarten arrived for their annual Easter Egg hunt in the church. After this it was off to the lovely Town Hall where we were met by the Mayor and given a presentation on the area, followed by lunch in a local restaurant. The afternoon was spent on a guided tour of Harzgerode Castle and museum, and in the evening we split up and were hosted by individual families for an evening meal – a really kind and thoughtful gesture!

Day 3:

Today was Leipzig day, about a two hour drive away – but a fascinating one. First through the snow-covered forests and fields of the Harz Mountains then down onto the autobahn and toward Leipzig, passing dozens and dozens of wind turbines as we went, and plenty of evidence of East Germany's industrial past in the shape of vast slag heaps like miniature mountains. Leipzig itself is a beautiful city, a jumble of ancient buildings and modernist Eastern bloc architecture. Lunch was a grand meal in the famous Auerbach's Cellar, an underground restaurant founded in the 15th century, often frequented by the writer Goethe and inspiration for his play Faust. Leipzig was home, at one time, to Johann Sebastian Bach and our trip

included a visit to St Thomas' Church where he worked as director of music. Also visited was St Nicholas' Church, where peaceful demonstrations against communist rule began in 1989 and which eventually became the symbolic seat of the democracy movement. A spot of window shopping and a visit to the Coffee Museum rounded out the day.

Day 4:

Today we set out for nearby Quedlinburg, an amazingly well-preserved medieval town that has been granted World Heritage status by UNESCO. A guided tour left us all well-prepared on how to identify the exact century in which a wooden-beamed house was built! The afternoon was spent in the Cathedral of St. Stephan and St. Sixtus in nearby Halberstadt, with a conducted tour of both it and its amazing Treasury, preserving the most wonderful collection of art, furnishings, vestments and reliquaries from the cathedral's history – including a finger of St Nicholas himself. The evening was spent at a concert given by a parishioner in a tiny chapel in the spa village of Alexisbad, followed by a meal with the Parish Council.



Exploring medieval Quedlinburg

Day 5:

After so much travel the morning of today was time off, before meeting to view the mummified bodies in a crypt in St Mary's Church. Then it was off for a tour of Ballenstedt Castle, then on for a 'safari' in the grounds of the Nordmann Hotel and Stables – driven in open topped trucks though the mud and snow to view (and feed) various species of cattle, buffalo, camel, sheep, deer and boar. Hot drinks and cake thawed us out again ready for a viewing of all the horses stabled at the Nordmann.

Day 6:

Off to the city of Halle today, birthplace of George Frederick Handel. First stop was a conducted tour of the Francke Foundation, founded in the 17th century as a Christian, social and educational work by the pietist August Francke. Included was the Cabinet of Artefacts and Curiosities, a room containing artefacts from around the world, used for educational purposes, and considered Germany's oldest museum. The afternoon was free time, some using it to view the death mask of Martin Luther in St Mary's church. Evening was spent in the great company of Harzgerode parishioners who had prepared a wonderful buffet meal for us in the church hall.



Relaxing with Harzgerode parishioners

Day 7:

It was wonderful to worship with St Mary's congregation in their church this morning, and to be made to feel so welcome. Despite being in German (apart from yours truly's sermon!) we all understood the devotion and prayerfulness expressed. And what a wonderful choir – evidence of what can be achieved with even small numbers! It was during the service that we presented to our hosts a gift from our own parishes – a beautifully painted silk wall hanging depicting a Celtic cross. The artist, Hazel Greene, did the presentation only to then be surprised when the choir struck up a chorus of Happy Birthday just for her! Lunch was spent with parishioners in the hall, and the afternoon was a leisurely stroll and ice-cream in the perfectly preserved medieval village of Stolberg in the Harz mountains.

Day 8:

Departure day today, and off to Berlin. Some by minibus, and others by train. Great fun! A visit to the Brandenburg Gate (symbol of the once divided Berlin), to the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe

(an incredibly powerful experience), and to Berlin Cathedral (some venturing high up to the Dome for great views of the city), plus some strolling through the streets, was all that could be managed before the trek out to the airport and the flight home. Most fell into bed about 1.00am the following morning, and needed a few days to recover!



The Shinrone Group at the Brandenburg Gate, Berlin

In all a great time, filled with many happy memories. You can find more photos and memories from others who travelled from Shinrone on the diocesan website www.limerick.anglican.org. The warmth and fellowship we experienced from everyone we met will not be forgotten, and we look forward to welcoming our friends to Ireland when they visit us in July. We have a lot to live up to!



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St. Brigid's Retreat and Conference Centre, Kenmare

- Rev Michael Cavanagh outlines exciting plans



WHAT

... are we proposing? A purpose-built facility to allow for groups of up to 50 to meet in comfort, with access both from the main church building but also from outside. The building, with a plan view of St Brigid's cross, will be designed and built to be architecturally and functionally outstanding in order to support the usage requirements described below.

WHY

... do we need it? The only facility we currently have for meetings, other than the main body of the church, is the resource room at the rectory, which is only suitable for meetings of up to about 16 people, and up to 12 for craft/ young people's activity.

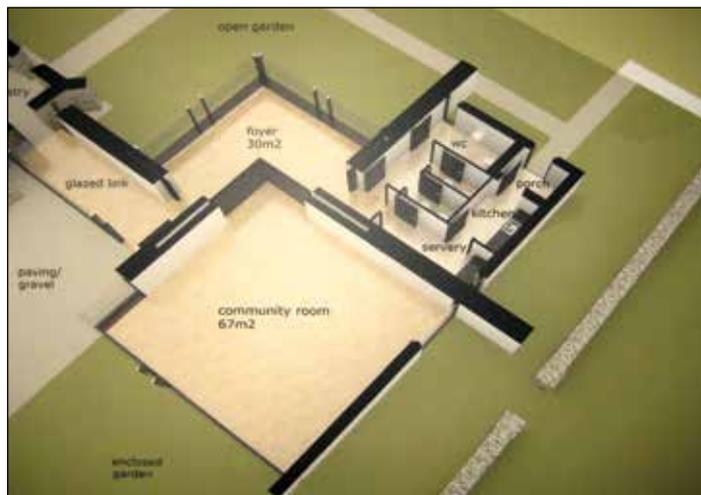
Our Friday Praise and Play service averages around 20 under-fives plus parents/ grandparents – on one occasion in March there were sixty people in the space at the back of St. Patrick's.

At the moment, the 'Kid's Shed' group for 4-8 yr.-old children meets in the Resource Room – there are 8 members at the moment plus three parents and two/ three helpers. There is massive opportunity for growth. If families wish to attend Sunday Services with small children, the only facility is that at the back of church, which is not ideal for a number of reasons. We have enough young people to aspire to starting up a Sunday School/young person's group to meet on a regular basis.

Additionally, there is an opportunity for 'open' events – possibly Sunday afternoon teas, exhibitions, evening gatherings and other fund raising activity.

WHERE

... will it be? The current proposal is to build up to the wall at the back of the Church building. The concept studies illustrate this.



WHO

... will use it? We envisage three user groups:

- Our own congregational usage as described above, plus Bible studies, meetings, lectures
- The town itself – apart from the Carnegie Arts Centre and Hotels, there is no meeting room or exhibition space availability in Kenmare. There is a great potential for a location for more intimate concerts and recitals, especially with a Christian ethos.
- Church groups countrywide – on a wide ecumenical basis – many churches run retreats, parish weekends and day conferences. Again, other than hotels, there is no real facility for these in the Kerry/Cork/South Limerick area. To be able to use St. Patrick's (or Holy Cross, or the Gateway) for their own Worship combined with the St. Brigid's room for meetings would be a major attraction – and a very useful additional source of revenue for the town itself, both in terms of B&B occupancy, restaurants and shopping.

WHEN

... will it be ready? This of course depends on when we start, but the elapsed time from the first groundbreaking would be around 25 weeks. Given the time needed for final design, approval and planning permission, we aim to start the build in April 2014.

HOW

... will we fund it? Again, there are a number of approaches:

- The parish itself, in giving (perhaps buy-a-brick?), fundraising activity and use of existing funds which are vested with the RCB (possibly on a loan basis);
- Grants from both church and other trusts;
- Support from the town/Chamber of Commerce
- A 'glossy' prospectus, to be used as a mailshot to solicit donations from possible church users (of all denominations) across the country, not to mention overseas – one possibility being every single St. Patrick's church in the US, Canada, UK and Australia, all countries from where the region gets many visitors – perhaps offering a 'friends of' discount on subsequent use?
- And, in the longer term, room hire/ rental income.

WHAT NEXT?

The Parish was asked the question – Are we prepared to commit to this? To which the answer was a resounding and enthusiastic YES! We are now in the process of setting up two subgroups – one to take care of fund raising, the other to be responsible for oversight of the design, planning application and build.

But we would ask that the whole Diocese (and the wider Church) surround this project in prayer. Our scripture card for this year – 'Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain' – is central to our thinking and our planning. If you would like to help in any way, please e-mail michael.cavanagh@eircom.net.

Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union

Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.

Vacant

Priest in Charge: Rev. Stan Evans

Tel: 065 708 4970

Mob: 087 636 9473

Email: stanevans@eircom.net

Rev. Lucy Green

Tel: 062-79941 Mob: 087 667 0425

Email: lucygreen06ie@yahoo.co.uk

Alastair James Musgrave was welcomed into the household of faith in All Saints, Stradbally on Saturday 11th May. His parents are Margaret (nee Egan formerly of Castleconnell) and Sam Musgrave also have a two year old daughter Rowena who helped present her baby brother with his Baptismal candle.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Sarah Holmes on her recent appointment as a staff teacher in Broadfield East School, Crawley, West Sussex. Following her graduation from the University of Limerick in 2009 Sarah moved to Doha, Qatar where she taught for three years with Sabis International School. Last September she moved to England where she obtained her Higher Diploma in Education from the University of Sunderland and taught in Ashington C of E school in West Sussex.

CONCERTS AT ST FLANNAN'S CATHEDRAL

On Friday 19th April an evening of traditional Irish music, led by Deirdre Scanlon, was part of the Kincora Music Festival celebrations and an audience of over 100 attended.

On Saturday 4th May the Cathedral was full to enjoy a magnificent Annual Choral Concert in aid of the Cathedral Restoration Fund. Special thanks go to Dan Minchin for acting as MC for this very successful evening.

JOY IN WHITEGATE

As we go to press we have the wonderful news of the birth of a son to Vanessa O'Riordan and Nigel Worrell on Friday 17th May. A grandson for Dorothy and Francis Worrell. Their joy is even greater following the loss of their new born just twelve months ago. The greatest gift of all is that of a child - we rejoice with them at this happy time. Mother and baby are doing well and daddy of course!



Daly Family in Stradbally

The Birr Group of Parishes

Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha

Rector: Venerable R. Wayne Carney

Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057-912-0021 Mob: 087-786-5234

Email: mapleire@eircom.net

Assistant Priest: Rev. Ruth Gill

Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly

Tel: 057-913-5341 Mob: 087-948-4402

Email: ruth_gill40@hotmail.com

MOTHERS' UNION

Members and friends visited Gloster on the 16th May where Mr. Tom Alexander gave us freedom to roam around the beautiful grounds. The wild flowers under the beech trees on the avenue were a wonderful sight! He also gave a personal tour of the house ending with a welcome cup of tea and scones. We are very grateful to him for giving us so much of his time.



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PASTORAL

It's good to see Henry Harding home again and making good progress, as is Diana Odum. Our thoughts and prayers are with Derek Kenny, recovering from major surgery. We remember all who are ill or anxious at this time and those who care for them. May each find peace and strength from God and may he hold them in his loving arms.

BUSY PEOPLE

There are some very talented people in the parishes making great headway in their chosen areas. Lucy Reid is a member of the Kilcormac Speech & Drama School where she's achieving really good results. Suzanne Corcoran, with her team, is clearing all before her at golf and George Harding maintains his interest in traditional music.

LOOKING AHEAD

We look forward to welcoming into the Christian family, Ava Maclean, baby daughter of Deirdre (Walsh) and Neil, who will be baptised in Birr on the 16th June. Please keep this family in your prayers, and also all those who will be sitting exams during the month.

BEST WISHES AND CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Kathleen and William Landin on the birth of their son, Lucien; a little brother for Owen and another grandson for Archdeacon Wayne and Norma-Jean Carney.

George Watkins celebrated his 94th birthday early in May – unfortunately, this coincided with the first day of Synod but he was suitably looked after by the matron and staff in Elmgrove!

Our best wishes go with Canon Sue Watterson, Rector of Killarney, who is moving to Cork.

CONFIRMATION

Holly Dagg and Jessica Fryday were confirmed in Kilkenny Cathedral on Sunday, 21st April by Bishop Michael Burrows, and on Sunday, 12th May, Richard Alexander and Zara Horan were confirmed by Bishop Trevor Williams in St Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan. We keep all of them in our prayers as they continue on their Christian journey, having passed this important milestone.

BIRR SUMMER FETE

Because of the imminent start of construction of the new classroom at Oxmantown School, we are unable to have our Summer Fete at the school as we did last year. The Fete will instead be held at the Rectory grounds on Thursday, 20th June, and combined with the Oxmantown School Sports Day. The Sports Day activities will begin at 12:00 noon; the Fete at 2:00 pm. Further details will be announced.

Roscrea Group of Parishes

Roscrea, Bourney, Corbally and Kyle

Priest in Charge: Rev. Lesley Robinson

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

Tel: 0505 – 21725 Mob: 087 – 9091561

Email: kandlrobinson@eircom.net

MU OUTING

On Wednesday 19th June the MU are organising a parish outing to Clonohill Garden and Angling Centre, Coolrain, Co. Laois. Everyone welcome to join us for the trip which will conclude with a meal in the Cosy Kitchen restaurant, Roscrea. Booking through Doreen Roe 087 2714331.

ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

On Saturday 22nd June Rev. Lesley will celebrate the 10th anniversary of her Ordination to the Priesthood with a service of Holy Communion in St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea at 8pm, followed by refreshments in the rectory.

PARISH PICNIC

The annual Group Service of Holy Communion followed by a

Parish Picnic will be held in Corbally Church and Hall on Sunday 30th June at 12pm. There will be no other services in the group of parishes that day. Lots of fun and fellowship for all ages. All welcome.

ST. CRONAN'S CHURCH WINDOW RESTORATION APPEAL

Work has commenced on the second window to be repaired while the first window now looks resplendent once again, having been painted. The final figure from the Cosy Kitchen Dinner Party now stands at the incredible sum of €1,345. Since the last issue, in addition to Leslie & Violet Dreaper's full contribution of €2,650 for the cost of the first window repaired, we have received a couple more four figure donations: €1000 anonymously and €1,250 from Evie Lupton. A misprint in last month's Newslink did not do justice to the donation of €2,500 from Bourney Parish, which we acknowledge again, and a number of parishioners and friends have also donated €200 in lieu of hosting dinner parties: Iris Allen, George & Violet Stanley and David & Marjorie McCorduck. €350 was donated by Mai Hamilton from the sale of knitted chickens; €300 donated by Liz and Mervyn Tyndall and Ed Clarke; €250 donated by Des and Florence Reid; and €200 by Michael & Mona Maher. Thanks to these and all our generous donors. The appeal continues as the chutes on the church also need to be replaced at a cost of €8,000.

FLORA LADIES MINI MARATHON

Mrs. Ann Powell, Principal St. Cronan's NS and Rev. Lesley Robinson, Chairperson Board of Management, will be taking part in the Flora Ladies Mini Marathon in Dublin on Bank Holiday Monday, 3rd June, in aid of the school. Funds raised will be used to fund the purchase of tablet computers for the senior room – your support would be appreciated!

BBQ & FAMILY FUN AFTERNOON

St. Cronan's Parish annual fundraising event will be held on Sunday 9th June in the new venue of St. Cronan's National School, Roscrea from 2-6pm. All the usual stalls and attractions including bric-a-brac, horseshoes, wheel of fortune, cake stall, sweets and ice cream stall, and the draw for the monster Cash of Splash Raffle. New this year will be some beautiful flowering pots for sale, planted and tended with TLC by the GFS girls and leaders, and a nail, hair and tattoo (fake!) bar run by beautician Serena Cooper. Come along and join the fun!

31 WONDERS OF ROSCREA DVD

This wonderful DVD, compiled by the St. Cronan's Day Friendship Walk Committee and written by our own Adrian Hewson, was launched to a standing-room-only crowd which included Bishop Trevor Williams, in the annex of Damer House on 5th May. An excellent production, it is to be commended to anyone with Roscrea links and is available to purchase in Supervalu, Roscrea and other outlets priced at €15.

AROUND THE PARISHES

We had a number of joyful occasions in the parish since the last edition. Congratulations to Luke Hoffler who was confirmed



by Bishop Trevor in St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick on 21st April; congratulations also to Nikola Evans and Philip McKelvey who were



married in St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea on 27th April. Prayerful good wishes to Robert Roe Jnr who became a communicant member of the church in St. Cronan's Church, Abbey St., Roscrea on 28th April during a lovely service in which Rev. Lesley took part. Congratulations to our oldest parishioner, Alice Harvey, who celebrated her 94th birthday on 1st May with a service of Holy Communion at her home in the company of her family and Rev. Lesley - a lovely occasion. On 12th May a number of girls and leaders were enrolled in GFS at a service in Roscrea at which the Diocesan President, Rose Langley was present, while at time of writing the BB are packing their tents and the bags in preparation for an overnight camp out. At time of writing we also look forward to baptising little Rachel Hodgins in Bourney Church on 19th May and Nadia and Zaffy Fletcher in St. Cronan's Church on 25th May. Our condolences to Edith Rafter on the recent death of her brother-in-law. Best wishes to all our Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate students.

Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan.

Rector: Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke

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

Tel: 067-32598 Mob: 085-1474792

Email: revdmarie@eircom.net

We had a huge turnout on Sunday 28th April for our Confirmation Service. Zoe Hayes, Ian Knight, Grace Langley, Devin Rusk and Luke Mooney and Devin Rusk were well supported by their family and friends. Junior Choir sang 'I have decided to follow Jesus' - most appropriate for the candidates making their own profession of faith! - and the 'Senior' Choir sang a delightful number entitled 'Chantez Alleluia' which they enjoyed thoroughly! There were lovely refreshments afterwards before the candidates and their families disappeared off for their own celebrations.



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The Rector and Diocesan Reader, Joc Sanders, (aka Editor of Newslink), attended General Synod in Armagh. Separate reports on the main businesses of the day are covered elsewhere, but congratulations to the Newslink team on scooping an award - Highly Commended - at General Synod for the best front cover! Well done team! Canon Stephen Neill wrote an excellent article in the Church of Ireland Gazette on the frustrations surrounding the changing of what are minutiae in the Constitution, and the NUP Rector has added her own, more robust, comments also in the Newslink!

The Rector was privileged to preach at the service in Limerick Cathedral on 12 May to celebrate IDAHO (International Day against Homophobia).

Family Worship in St Mary's at Pentecost celebrated the birthday of the Church with the natural accessories - balloons and birthday cake! Boys Brigade had their new banner dedicated - many thanks as ever to our talented embroiderer, Rae Croft. Two new members, Andre and Dylan were enrolled, and the boys also presented in drama form the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Worshippers also had an opportunity to see and admire GFS member Heather Hayes' bunting, which won 2nd prize in the All-Ireland GFS competition. Well done, Heather! Our resident craft embroiderers Rae and Debbie will be eyeing you up for future projects!

The Society for Musicology in Ireland is holding its annual Conference from 21-23 June in Maynooth. The Rector will be presenting a paper at this conference under the heading Music and Theology: Marian Hymns in the Church of Ireland. So also will the Nenagh Union's occasional organist, Roisin Rowley-Brooke under the heading Source Studies: A Case Study on digital manuscript restoration. Is this the first occasion when a mother and daughter have presented papers (both completely different!) at the same Conference?



Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.

Rector: Canon Stephen Neill

Modreeny Rectory, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary.

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Email: stephen.neill@gmail.com

Parish website: www.modreeny.com

Stephen's blog: www.paddyanglican.com

CONFIRMATION 2013

Sunday 12th May saw three candidates from our parish, Eoin England, Stephen Harding & Joel Young confirmed in St. Kieran's Church in Cloughjordan. They were joined by two candidates from Birr, Richard Alexander & Zara Horan. We were delighted to have Bishop Trevor and Mrs Joyce Williams with us straight from General Synod which had only finished the day before. Also present was Archdeacon Wayne Carney of Birr who prepared the Birr candidates for Confirmation. Mrs Pearl Whiteford acted as Bishop's Chaplain. It was a most enjoyable service and thanks are also due to Mrs Pamela Armitage our new organist on this her first Confirmation Service as organist since coming to the parish.



WEDDING BELLS

Best wishes to Melissa Austin of Soolmoy, Borrisokane, who is to wed Michael Foley on 22nd June in Borrisokane Parish Church; and also to Maeve Foxton of Terryglass who is to wed Andrew Deasy on 28th June in Terryglass Church.

We wish both couples every happiness in their lives together.

CLOUGHJORDAN/BALLINGARRY BARBEQUE AND FAMILY FUN EVENING

Sunday 9th June 3-6pm @ St.Kieran's Hall/Church Green. Spin the Wheel, Cake Stall, Activities for Children. All are welcome.

Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin

Rector: Rev. Michael Johnston

St. Mary's Rectory, Church Road, Shinrone, Birr, Co. Offaly

Tel: 0505-47164 Mob: 086-6086567

Email: shinrone@killaloe.anglican.org

Parish Website: shinrone.blogspot.ie

HARZGERODE TRIP

Do read the article elsewhere in this issue of Newslink to find out a little more about our parish trip to Harzgerode. More photographs can be seen on the parish website: www.shinrone.killaloe.anglican.org. And we look forward to a return visit from Harzgerode parishioners 23rd-31st July. There are lots of trips and events planned to which all our parishioners will be welcome. More details next issue!

SHINRONE GRAVEYARD

Many thanks to the Shinrone Heritage Group who are providing manpower this year to tidy up the graveyard around St Mary's, Shinrone. A lot of overgrowth, saplings and ivy to be cut back so their help is much appreciated.

MOTHERS UNION AFTERNOON

The afternoon for Mothers Union and friends held on the afternoon of 1 May was most enjoyable and all appreciated hearing Mrs Margaret Crawford, All Ireland Indoor Members Rep., followed by a sing-song led by Mr John Armitage from Cloughjordan, and Rev Ruth Gill, the Diocesan Faith and Policy rep, closed the meeting with a reading of scripture and prayers. Afterwards Jean Talbot and some younger ladies (and some men) provided a lovely tea. Many thanks to all.

ALZHEIMER'S FUNDRAISING SALE

Many thanks to all who supported the sale in aid of Alzheimer's research which took place on the evening of 10 May in Aghancon Community Hall. Over €450 was raised which was very much appreciated.

CONFIRMATION

Many congratulations to Laura Stanley and Stuart Greene

who were confirmed in Wilson's Hospital School on Ascension Day evening. It was a lovely intimate service taken by Bishop Warke, formerly of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. We wish Laura and Stuart many blessings on their Christian journey.

BOYS BRIGADE

It was great to have the Roscrea Boys Brigade in the parish on Pentecost Weekend. Moving their camp indoors to Cloghmoyle Schoolhouse due to bad weather the boys had a great night. It was good to have them worshipping with us in St Mary's, Shinrone on Pentecost morning where they read lessons and prayers and collected the offertory. Glad they had a good weekend.

AGHANCON PARISH FETE

This will take place on Sunday 7th July from 2.30pm at Aghancon Community Hall. Stalls, teas, games, raffles plus a dog fancy dress show! So get your pooch all dressed up and come along for a great afternoon of fun.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15th June: Whist Drive in Aghancon Hall at 8-15 pm

Sun. 7th July: Annual Summer Fete and Sale in Aghancon Hall at 2-30pm. In aid of Aghancon Church. Note change of DAY!

AGHANCON QUIZ - CORRECT ANSWERS

Scented Blooms - Roses

Nervous Infants - Jelly Babies

Equestrian Game - Polo

Only these have the answers - Smarties

Superior thoroughfare - Quality Street

Spin round - Twirl

Garment fasteners - Buttons

All because the lady loves - Milk Tray

Made to make your mouth water - Opel Fruits/ Starburst

Can not be eaten before 20-20 - After Eight

A piece of snow - Flake

Assortment of girls toys - Dolly Mixtures

American Coin - Dime

Sweet coated nuts - Sugared Almonds

Eastern pleasure - Turkish Delight

Dark tricks - Black Magic

Milky container - Dairy Box

ENOBTLROE - Toblerone

A planet in a drinking place - Mars Bar

Feline sports gear - Kit Kat

Music makers - Minstrels

Edinburgh Family - Scots Clan

Drink for inside your mouth - Wine Gums

Gallant people - Heroes

good as well.

President Michael D. Higgins, himself Clare raised, spoke sensitively and passionately to the annual gathering of remembrance, this year at the Atlantic port which housed one of the five famine work houses in the County. At least one boat of famine victims left Kilrush for America.

Addressing a crowd of some 1,000 people, the President referred to the political policies put in place by British Prime Ministers Robert Peel and Lord John Russell. He reflected: "The catastrophic consequences which followed remind us all of the damage that can be inflicted by an unthinking and uncritical adherence to a flawed ideology."

An irritant in the recall of many was the harshness of the evictions which took place among hungry and struggling families, not least in Kilrush, leading to many folklore tales (And coming all too close to the reputation of Anglican personnel !)

However, he also paid tribute to those who fought valiantly to help the starving and dispossessed People of West Clare including a Captain Arthur Kennedy, a native of County Down, who arrived in Kilrush in 1847 as an employee of the Poor Law Commission. Deeply disturbed by events he witnessed on a daily basis, his family worked tirelessly to help victims of the Famine. Captain Kennedy's reports whilst in Kilrush are reckoned to be the most detailed accounts available in Ireland and they name literally thousands of people evicted from their homes, said the President.

President Higgins said he believes people have finally started talking about the Famine and its impact upon the Irish culture and psyche. "The Great Silence" is effectively broken. I think people must discuss the Famine, what lay behind it, and how so many of the population became so dependent on a single crop."

Bishop Trevor Williams and the Rev Vicki Lynch of Clare Methodist Pioneer Ministry were among a number of national church leaders who attended the event which had full military ceremonial.

Among the rich variety of events organised for West Clare, Canon Bob Hanna attended a re-dedication of the graveyard next to the old St Senan's Church which had a soup kitchen for the famine. Fr Michael Sheedy, PP of Kilrush, Rev Vicki Lynch and local Evangelical pastor Mrs Mary Hamilton also took part. Later in the day the Doonbeg Community held a Famine walk and Commemoration during which Canon Hanna shared prayers with Fr Joe Haugh and Fr Gerry Kenny.

Clonfert Diocese

Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

Ennis, Kilfenora, Kilkee, Spanish Point, Kilnasoolagh and Shannon

Rector: Rev. Chancellor Robert Charles Hanna

The Rectory, Bindon Street, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Tel: 065 - 6820109 Mob: 086 2167040

Email: bobhanna@eircom.net

Parish website: www.churchofirelandclare.com

WHEN HISTORY AND NEW UNDERSTANDING RHYME.

West Clare and the estuary port of Kilrush in May brought many together over a week to mark the National Commemoration of the Famine. On our doorstep and our watch, came another opportunity to find fresh bearings around the tragedy of the potato famine which in lost lives and displacement became in its dimensions a holocaust changing the world for bad...and perhaps ultimately for

Aughrim & Ballinasloe

Unions of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn

Rector: Rev. George Flynn

The Rectory, Aughrim, Co Galway

Tel: 090 9673735 Mob: 087 20 74739

Email: georgeandgwyn@eircom.net

Parish website: www.aughrim.clonfert.anglican.org

VESTRIES

Easter Vestry meetings are well past and some changes have taken place regarding the composition of our two Union Vestries - Creagh Ballinasloe and Ahascragh, and

Ardrahan, Aughrim, Clontuskert and Woodlawn

The meetings were well attended and the Treasurers of each parish reported that each account had a healthy balance considering the difficult financial headaches affecting so many in our country.

The chairman stated that we are living out today the vision of the parishioners of circa 1800 when they saw the need to build five churches that come within our parish boundary today. Ardrahan celebrated its bi-centenary in 2009 while Ahascragh, Aughrim, Ballinasloe and Clontuskert are not too far away from their day of celebrating theirs. More news of this in time to come but as the chairperson stated we all need to have our own vision so as to live out the dream of past generations and continue to move forward with a realistic vision for the years and generations to come and do all we can to ensure that these churches are maintained to the highest standard with our parishioners active support and our need to have sufficient funds available.



MU Service Members taking part in the Intersession Prayers

Very few changes were made to the previous year's elected Vestries and while new members are welcomed it must be stated that the work of vestry members is much appreciated. All who give of their time and expertise have served their church well and we welcome our newly elected members wishing them well in their service in their respective churches and Vestries. New Rector's Churchwardens were named as follows:

Ballinasloe: George Newton, Aughrim: Dale Cooper, (Student)

Ardrahan: Malcolm Taylor, Clontuskert: William Sharpe, (Student)

Woodlawn: Alfie Seale: Also as a new Vestry member we welcome Elizabeth Seale Woodlawn, and Robert Cooke who has taken over the role of Glebe Warden.

THE LATE HELEN O'DUFFY

It is with deep sadness that St. John's Ballinasloe said farewell to it's most senior parishioner Helen O'Duffy who in her 95th year past away after a short illness on Sunday 5th May. Helen is survived by her sons Kevin and Martin and their extended families.

Helen was the first Diocesan reader appointed under the watchful eye of Dean Camier she won the hearts of all parishioners and all who came to know her. She was a tremendous character but space in our magazine limits my appreciation of her service to our parish. Please see our web site that will cover a broader appraisal of her service.

MARRIAGE PLANS

The engagement has been announced recently between Simon Hyde of Aughrim and Elaine Faulkner of Kilconnell. We wish this young couple every blessing as they work towards their special day in due course.



MU Service

The Clonfert Group of Parishes

Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna

The Rev. Alan Nevin

Priest in Charge: Very Rev. Patrick L. Towers

Tel: (090) 9684547. Mob: (086) 8140649

Email: towers@iol.ie

CONGRATULATIONS

To Alan Delahunt and Janice Ramirez on their wedding in Orlando, Florida. Several members of Alan's family from Banagher Parish joined them for this happy occasion. Alan's brother Ivan was best man and young Ruby Flanagan, Alan's niece was flower girl. Alan and Janice spent their honeymoon in Hawaii and we pray that their lives will be full of health and happiness.

THINKING ABOUT

All the young people in our parishes who at this time are taking their exams. We hope and pray that they may achieve the results they deserve after their long weeks of studying and wish them enjoyment in the weeks of holiday that will soon follow.

ELIZA LODGE NURSING HOME

We continue our monthly Holy Communion services at the home each month which are always happy occasions and we are always thankful of the good attendance. We pray for Phyllis, Sarah, Isaac and all the other people who live their lives at Eliza and all those who care for them.

WE PRAY

For Ann Menheneott at this time as she recovers from recent surgery, may God give her the help she needs for a complete recovery to good health. We continue to remember Margaret Broodle as she continues to fight against poor health, and the Rev Alan Nevin our rector. We especially pray for those who struggle alone with their pain and anxieties.

PORTUMNA ARTS GROUP

Organised a most enjoyable concert in Christ Church Portumna on Friday 12th April in aid of a local group that support Sean Cian, a young boy that is receiving on going treatment for cancer. Taking part in the event were the Omna Singers under their Director Marie Power, Portumna Pen Pushers together with a number of guests. The singers performed five songs to their usual high standard. Seven poems and readings were performed by the Pen Pushers. A mother and her 12 year old daughter sang and played harp and violin. Other performers included; Noelle Lynskey performing Irish dancing accompanied by Mary Smith on Fiddle. Noreen Ryan played Tin Whistle accompanied by Brian Horaigan. Readings included Margaret Hickey reading Aon Moylan, Wiltrud Duell—Sherkin, Pat Donnellan—D'ya Know, Gerry Davis—The Gathering and Scattering, and Mary

Rourke with A Walk in Gortnacooheen.

Altogether a night of outstanding entertainment which was enjoyed by all. It was certainly a celebration of local talent.

DON'T FORGET

German Meets Irish concert at St John's Church Eyrecourt on Saturday 15th June at 9pm.

Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish

St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Michael's Pery Sq. and Abington

Dean: Rev. Sandra Pragnell

The Deanery, 7 Kilbane,

Castletroy, Limerick

Tel: 061-338697 Mob: 087-2658592

Email: sandrapragnell@eircom.net

Rev. Jane Galbraith

50 Ballinvoher, Fr. Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick

Tel: 061-302038 Mobile: 085-1450804

Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

On 21st April at St Mary's Cathedral: the following were confirmed by the Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe: Gift Ify Amaeze, Jessica Chinonyerem Egbulum, Elias James Hannon, Samuel Thomas Kingston Ryan, Sophie Lorna MacMahon, Hazel Robyn Holly MacMahon, Singobile Philile Precious Makhanya (adult), Ingrid Eleonora Dorotea Melin, Ben Kevin Quilligan, and Stephanie Jean Saidha, all of Limerick City Parish, and Luke Andrew Ben Hoffler of Roscrea Parish. Thank you to all who provided refreshments and to the florists and choir who enhanced the overall ambiance with their talents.

TRAVELLING SUPPER

34 people plus 8 hosts participated in the travelling supper which took place on Saturday 27th April. Thank you to our hosts and hostesses, Frank Sheehan & Mary Gray, Peter & Margaret Schutz, Joe & Lucy Kavanagh, and Bill & Elizabeth Stanley for cooking up delicious dishes. After dinner we all moved to Cratloe Woods House by kind invitation of Gordon & Sylvia Brickenden, for gorgeous desserts provided by Sheelagh Morrow, Gill Cheatley, Lindsay Boyle, Margaret Brickenden, Ruth Stanley, Peggy Carey, Margot Marsden, Susi Eckhardt & Tracey Lyttle and lovely homemade biscuits provided by Emma Melin. Thank you to all the organisers, and also to Gordon & Sylvia Brickenden for providing us with a beautiful venue to finish up in. All the food & drinks were provided free of charge and thanks to everybody who contributed so generously to the success of the evening. Some generous donations have also been received. Approximately €900 will be divided between St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Michael's Church and Abington Church.

MUSIC

On 6th May St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, hosted a Harp Jamboree of over 50 Concert and Celtic Harps. The two hour recital was the result of an innovative educational exchange between the National Harp Orchestra from the Irish Harp Centre in Castleconnell, and visiting harpers from the Conservatoire of Agen/Bordeaux from France, under the direction of Mrs Janet Harbison (of the Irish Harp Centre) and Mme Aude Fortict (from the Conservatoire).

With a wide global repertoire of music, the harp playing was of the highest calibre, and especially impressive due to age of the harpers - the youngest player was only 8 years old, and the oldest

only in their twenties. The exchange will continue when the National Harp Orchestra go to visit the Conservatoire in Bordeaux in the autumn, and they hope together to work next year in Limerick as part of the City of Culture year activities.



DEATHS

12th May 2013 - Eddie Ryan. Eddie was an employee of The Job Initiative Programme and was based at St Mary's Cathedral. We extend sincere sympathy to his partner Eileen, their sons and daughters, and family and to his colleagues in The Job Initiative Programme.

17th May 2013 - John Ruddock. Our sincere sympathies to his daughter Gillian and family and his daughter-in-law Jackie and family. John was loved and admired by all who knew him and he touched so many lives as Principal in Villiers School and through his passion for music.

NEWS

On 28th May the missionary, Katey Moreland of the Word of The Lord Ministries came to St Mary's Cathedral in Limerick as part of her Munster leg of a prayer walk covering the whole of Ireland, to pray for anointing and blessing of this city.

LENT HUNGER LUNCHESES

The final amount raised from the Hunger Lunches totalled €393.55 for the work of Brother Stephen House with the homeless. Again very many thanks to everyone for their help and support and particular thanks to the 'cooks' Emma, Margaret, Gail, Lindsay, Lucy, Joyce and the Dean.

The collections taken at the Holy Week services raised €177.49 for the Irish Cancer Society's Daffodil Day Appeal.

EVENTS

Summer Concert in St. Michael's Church, Barrington St., Limerick on Friday 28 June @ 8pm - Irina Dernova and guests will perform. - Tickets €10 (concessions €5) available from the Churchwardens and at the door of St Michael's Church on the evening of the concert. Autumn Fair will take place in October so please bear us in mind when dividing your perennials, etc. as we will have a plant stall, cake stall and many more.

Adare & Kilmallock Group of Parishes

Adare, Croom, Kilmallock, Kilpeacon

Rector: Rev. Gary Paulsen

The Rectory, Adare, Co Limerick

Tel: 061 396227 Mob: 085 764 0533

Email: adarerector@gmail.com

There seems to be a rush on as everything has the feel that it has to be completed by end of June when everyone would have reach the

finishing line and fall flat on their faces and roll over and rest for the summer. Things in all the churches in the group are ticking over, the students have their heads buried in books..

KILMALLOCK SUNDAY SCHOOL

Kilmallock Sunday School is going strong! Our numbers are small but growing – and we have great fun. Highlights of our year included singing in the Harvest Festival and performing our Alphabetical Nativity at Christmas. On behalf of the teachers and the children, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Deebert House Hotel in Kilmallock, without whom there would have been no Sunday School for the best part of the year. They have stepped in and provided a home for us while the school building is under repair. We thank you for your gracious hospitality.

BOOK CLUB

The Reverend Reader's Book Club will hold the final meeting of the season on 4th June at the Woodlands Hotel, we take a break until the first Tuesday in September. We read a wide diversity of books over the last ten months, ranging from 'Wind in the Willows' to James Joyce and Kate O'Brien, for May the choice is 'Dark lies the Island' a book of short stories by Kevin Barry, a Limerick born author. One member in rotation chairs the meeting having chosen the book for that month and that book is discussed by the members, and I can assure you there have been many lively discussions. It is interesting to hear the various 'slants' people will put on the same book!! Anyone interested in joining – just come to the Woodlands on the first Tuesday of each month from September to June at 8 p.m. You will be most welcome.

KILPEACON

We used the CMS Children's Annual Project [based on Sudan this year] in Sunday School which started during Lent when we receive the material. [We usually use this project every second year and the children enjoy it]. This year our end of Sunday School Service is planned for 16th June. We have asked the Liaison Officer, who presents the project in parishes, Andy McCormack, if he would be able to come to the parish on that day in relation to the project, and we will do something around it in the service.

ADARE

There is to be an evening of music in St Nicholas' Church on the 28th June in the evening and Meriel Clarke is arranging this in the parish. This forms part of the Adare Welcomes Festival with The Gathering 2013. Events will take place all weekend called 'Storm the Castle' including a mediaeval banquet and many other events in the village. It is geared to be a great community event. For more information on what promises to be a great weekend, go to www.adareweekendofwelcomes.com

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan Et Kilnaughtin

Rector: Rev. Keith Scott

The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

Tel: 061 – 398647 Mob: 087 2885169

E-mail: rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org

Summer is coming, or at least so we hope. After a busy Eastertide we are now looking forward to June and July.

The last weekend of June will involve a visit from our Bishop to explore some of the themes around Vision Ministry and Mission on Saturday 29th June and on Sunday 30th June St. Mary's Askeaton will host a special service to celebrate the Askeaton Chalice. Donated in 1663 by the then High Sheriff of Limerick the Chalice was a Restoration gift. It is made of Limerick Silver. Given the turbulent times that followed, what with War of the Two Kings and the Siege of Limerick, the War of Independence and the Civil War hanging on to such a valuable piece for 350 years is an achievement worth celebrating. We will have a chance to look back over the years and

to look forward with hope and confidence for the next 350 years of Anglican witness in this part of the world.

Our congratulations go to Sam and Ena Downes who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in April. Here's to the next 50!

Ardfert Diocese

Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney (Vacant)

Parish Office: Teach an tSolais, St. John's Church, Ashe St., Tralee. Co. Kerry

Tel: 066 712 2245 Email: tralee@ardfert.anglican.org

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Jim Stephens

Kilderry, Miltown, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 066-976 7735 Mobile: 087-052 9107

Email: stiofain.s@gmail.com

SUNDAY SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

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

ABOUT PEOPLE

We are pleased to hear that William Fitzelle is recovering from a recent illness and is looking forward to rejoining our flock.

Robert Groves is also doing well after his surgery, we wish his wife Betty 'good luck' in getting him to take it easy while he recovers.

We welcomed Caoimhe and Jemma, daughters of Katherine and Ben Skinner-Syme, into the Christian family when they were baptised during the service in Kilgobbin Church on Sunday the 12th May.

PARISH ORGANISATIONS

It is the time of year when most Parish groups and organisations, Youth Club, LINKS, etc., are about to stand down for the summer (if one should happen along). We will, of course see most of their membership in our various churches over the coming months and look forward to their coming together again in the autumn to continue their valuable contributions to the life of our Parishes.

RECTORY MAINTENANCE

Our sincere thanks go to the band of willing volunteers who have undertaken the 'sprucing up' of St. John's Rectory in anticipation of the eventual arrival of a new resident. The work to date has included the erection of a new boundary wall, a new lay-out in front of the house to accommodate more parking, and the fitting of new windows and doors. Since the work is still ongoing we hope to have a full report on the results of their efforts, with pictures, in the July edition of Newslink.

PENINSULAR PARISHES

A bilingual Holy Communion Service was held in St. James', Dingle, on 5th May as part of the Féile na Bealtaine Festival. It was conducted by Rev. Canon George Salter, ably assisted by Rev. Máirt Hanley and took the opportunity to introduce the new bilingual An Choimaoineach Naofa. The large congregation included Catherine Nolan, who is the Irish Language Development Officer with special responsibility for the publication. As has become a recent custom on the peninsula, a group met later in the afternoon for another of Rev. Máirt's popular inspirational walks. A very pleasant day was enjoyed by all.

Killarney & Aghadoe Union of Parishes

Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross

(Vacant)

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Máirt Hanley.

Mob: 087-619 4733

Email: rev.hanley@gmail.com

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday Services at 11am.

BLASKET ISLAND OUTING

This year our Wild Flower and Natural History Walk will have a homely nature when we forsake the annual trip north to the limestone lands of the Burren and Aran Islands for a bit of a home-grown adventure. Once the current inclement weather comes to an end and we return to our standard sunny summer fare the plan for this June is for a day on the Great Blasket Island. Pre-booking will be essential so get your names to Mike O'Sullivan as we will be provisionally booking seats on the ferry once the date has been decided.

INNISFALLEN TRIP

Boat trips seem to be the order of the day just now as a trip to the ancient ecclesiastical settlement at Innisfallen on Killarney's Lower Lake also involves a short sailing. This will be an evening only trip with a short prayer service in the monastery ruins. Once again, names please as soon as possible.

CONCERTS

As the concerts are our main fund raising events it is critical that we have as many in attendance as possible, especially during the vacancy. Upcoming concerts this month include

June 1st	Amherst College Choir
June 8th	Spraio Chiarrai
June 11th	Chumley Methodist Choir
June 22nd	Spraio Chiarrai
June 29th	Capella Cantorum Choir

EXAM WISHES

All in St Mary's are keeping Aoife Giles, Maude Eadie and Jonathan Harig in our thoughts and prayers as they prepare for their Leaving Cert examinations and also with Ben Eadie whose Junior Cert is looming.

CANON SUE'S FAREWELL

If there was ever any doubt as to how much Canon Sue's departure is going to be felt, it was quickly dispelled by the size of the congregation that turned up to her penultimate service on June 12th – the church was packed! Many stayed on for the barbeque lunch so expertly provided and cooked by Lynda and Meredith O'Connor. In her sermon Sue reminded everyone that despite the austerity and uncertainty at the moment, the main task ahead of us is the continuation of the ministry and welcome which St Mary's has always afforded visitors and locals. Sue asked that we continue also to treat the thousands of prayer requests left at the church each year with the compassion and reverence they deserve.

Not to share one's goods with the poor is to rob them and to deprive them of life. It is not our goods that we possess, but theirs.

St John Chrysostom, Homily on Lazarus, C4th



Part of the congregation at the BBQ and presentation

The parish presented Sue with a painting of Killarney to bring with her to Cork and Andy Eadie, in his presentation speech, said that she was living proof that women priests were not only the equal of their male counterparts, but in many respects, surpassed them. He thanked Sue for the new ministries she had built up in the parish remarking at the great wealth of liturgical and reading resources we have gained since she first arrived. He also spoke of Sue's talents in the ministry of healing, listening and support to individuals and families at times of difficulty and stress.



Andy Eadie and Canon Sue at the conclusion of her final service in St Mary's

Kilcolman Union of Parishes

Kilcolman, Kiltallagh and Glenbeigh

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Máirt Hanley

20 Knocklyne, Sunhill, Killorglin, Co. Kerry.

Mob: 087-619 4733

Email: rev.hanley@gmail.com

Parish Website: www.kilcolman.ardfert.anglican.org

GREETINGS ALL,

Well it has been quite a busy month. We have had our last few confirmation classes, there was a trip to Armagh to General synod and St. Cartach's Day Service in Castlemaine. Also by the time this is being read we will have had our IDAHO Day Service in conjunction with the first Kerry Pride Festival and we will have had our Confirmation Service.

We have also made some progress towards organising the visit of our link parish of Guntersburge in Germany. We had a very productive meeting where we made out a general schedule including meals and

entertainment and copies of this are available at the back of the churches. We now have to concentrate on a bit of fund raising. The money we collect at the tea and coffee after church is going towards the twinning fund and we are planning a parish Garden Party on the afternoon of Sunday 23rd of June from 2 to 5 pm to raise some more. This will be in Peter and Pauline's garden in Castlemaine, and thanks to them for opening their show garden a week early for the parish.

Thinking of the tea and coffee after church, my thanks to all the musicians who have been keeping us entertained after church, I was particularly impressed a few Sundays ago when they were playing some Villa Lobos! If anyone would like to help with the tea and coffee please do put your name down, there is a new rota at the back of the church

The other things to remember in June are to please pray for Billy Galvin who will be baptised on Saturday 8th and our end of year service in the school will be on Monday 24th of June.

The Cricket Club is back again hoping for a better season weather-wise and if you are interested please do contact me, or Ron.

So to finish, congratulations to our confirmands, please continue to pray for them, and congratulations to the Boyles on their recent award for Best Hardware Store in Ireland!

Kenmare & Dromod Union of Parishes

Kenmare, Sneem, Waterville and Valentia

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Michael Cavanagh

St Patrick's Rectory, Kenmare, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 064 664 8566 Mob: 087 1606312

Email: michael.cavanagh@eircom.net

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Our meeting in May was really special – we were fascinated to hear Rachel Topham, a student at Pobalscoil Inbhear Scéine, describing her recent trip to China. Rachel has been learning Chinese for the last two years, and was invited by her language teacher to accompany the family on a visit their family in the north of the country (Neidin to Neimongol!). Her presentation – which we wished could have gone on for much longer – included details of local customs, local culture and local food, some of which might have been a little, shall we say, 'different' from Irish cuisine. However, the samples of Chinese food which followed Rachel's presentation certainly disappeared quickly enough – followed by authentic China Tea, poured from an authentic Chinese teapot into authentic Chinese China cups. What a treat!

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN KENMARE

After the Easter break, our joint Bible studies resumed, continuing the 'Discipleship Explored' course based on Paul's letter

to the Philippians. Held at the Gateway, each study is led in turn by members of each of the three Kenmare churches – not that you could tell the difference – we are constantly amazed and delighted to find out just how much we have in common. Even though we express our worship in different ways, we are one in Christ – and we must not only never forget that fact, but live it every day!

LABYRINTHINE LOVE

On Sunday 19th May we were blessed, not only to be joined by MU members from Limerick, but at our worship services and in the evening by the Celtic Tenor James Nelson and friends for a wonderful concert of word and music in aid of the Cheryl's Children's home in Nairobi.



Rachel visiting The Great Wall China



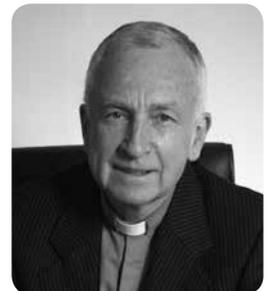
Rachel enjoying a Chinese meal

The Methodist District Superintendent writes

As is the yearly custom, the Methodist Conference to be held in June in Carrickfergus, Co Antrim, will elect a new President. The Rev Dr Heather M E Morris will be installed as President. I believe Dr Morris will be the first woman to head up a mainline Christian denomination in Ireland. She is a daughter of the Manse. Born in Nigeria where her parents Rev Paul and Audrey Kingston were Mission Partners, she now follows in her father's footsteps. Her father was President in 1984-85. Dr Morris is presently the Director

of Ministry at Edgehill College, Belfast.

Like other denominations, the Methodist Church has taken a long time to accept women as ordained ministers. In 1803, the British Methodist Conference debated the question: 'should women be permitted to preach among us?' The Conference said: 'in general they ought not' because the vast majority of our people are opposed to it.



However, back in 1780 Alice Cambridge had engaged in open-air preaching in Dublin, Limerick and Cork. Many Methodists tried to have her stopped but John Wesley in one of his last letters encouraged her to carry on discreetly. Only in 1910 was the restriction of women preaching only to groups of other women lifted.

Aileen Dunbarr Harrison, a graduate of Trinity College was appointed in 1930 to the post of Librarian of Mayo County Council. There was such a public protest it almost brought down the government. The problem was her being a Protestant and above all, a Trinity-educated Protestant. This position put her in charge of reading material for Catholics as well as Protestants. She was forced to step side-ways to a post as Librarian at the Department of Defence in Dublin, with an increased salary. Later, she posed as a candidate for the Methodist Ministry but the church blocked her candidature by failing her in a written examination. A Trinity graduate, it was most unlikely that she would have failed. A number of decades were to pass before the Methodist Church changed its mind and allowed women to become ministers.

The Church of England is still trying to change its mind about women bishops, even though some of the parishes led by young

women priests are the fastest growing congregations. Perhaps there are some signs that even the Catholic Church will yield on women as priests.

St Paul of course is confusing, sometimes appearing to disallow women in minister: 1. Cor. 14 34 - 35; 1 Timothy 2. 11-15. Yet, on the other hand many women are his collaborators in ministry: Priscilla, Lydia, Phoebe, Tryphena, Tryphosa, Persis, Evodia and Syntychevre. Junias (male), is believed to be a female, June or Julia, but her name was changed to the male name of Junias: Acts 18. 2 & 26; 16. 14; Romans 16. 1, 7, 12. Perhaps the hard passages excluding women were later insertions and not written by Paul. Or, alternatively, Paul was trying to exclude or silence particularly vocal women. Not everything that was done in the Church of the New Testament is normative for the Church in all ages.

Paul's great declaration that in Christ there are no longer gender distinctions represents his more mature thinking. Galatians 3. 28.

Yours in Christ,
Rev Brian D Griffin
Superintendent of the Midlands & Southern District

Methodist News

Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev. Elizabeth Hewitt (on Sabbatical)
Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Rd,
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Minister in Charge during Sabbatical
Rev. Vicki Lynch
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Acting Superintendent during Sabbatical of Rev. Hewitt
Rev. Brian Griffin
Tel: 0505 21670
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CIRCUIT FLOWER FESTIVAL

A very successful Flower Festival was organised by the Circuit in May and held in Adare Methodist Church.

The theme explored our Methodist and Palatine Community Heritage in Adare and Ballingrane. The exhibits were prepared by a number of expert flower arrangers from the local community as well as from our own congregations. This wonderfully creative team was led by award winning arranger, Tony Mackessy. The imagination and the talents of all the arrangers was amazing; the exhibits were beautiful and showed great skill in interpreting the various aspects of the theme. Members of the congregation were involved in the 'Coffee Shop' where visitors could relax after viewing the exhibits and enjoy a delicious selection of cakes. At the closing service on Sunday evening, there was a great sense of thanksgiving for all the blessings we had received over the weekend. It was an inspiring weekend for all of us and we were delighted to welcome so many people to our Church. The Festival also realised approximately €6,800 which will go to supporting the work of the Circuit.

The annual united Service for Methodist Women in Ireland (MWI) will take place at 11.00am on Sunday 26 May in Adare Methodist Church. Guest preacher: Ms Elsie McDonnell, District President of

MWI.

June will be a quieter, and more restful, month!

Our annual Field Meeting will be held on Tuesday 4 June at 11.00am in the grounds of Adare Manor Golf Club. The service is held at a memorial stone which marks the place where John Wesley is reputed to have preached while visiting Adare. The service will be led by Rev Vicki Lynch and the preacher will be Rev Brian Griffin, District Superintendent. The children from St Nicholas' National School will be singing.

The congregations are looking forward to welcoming various ministers and local preachers who will be conducting Sunday worship while Rev Liz Hewitt is on sabbatical.



Mairead Laverty (Irish Farmers' Journal) Lady Geraldine Dunraven and Rev Liz Hewitt attending the Opening of the Flower Festival.



A display depicting Methodist Women in Ireland.

**Christ Church Limerick,
United Presbyterian & Methodist and
Christ Church Shannon, joint Methodist,
Presbyterian and Church of Ireland**

Minister: Rev. Vicki Lynch

The Manse, 15 Aylesbury,

Clonmacken, Limerick.

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Last year we were invited to record the Sunday Service for RTE and at the beginning of May the day eventually came round when we had to go up to Dublin. It's really great to be asked and it's wonderful to have the opportunity but it's also quite a lot of work and a substantial time commitment for all the people involved.

We've been trying over the last months to combine the different musical skills and styles and come up with something tuneful! Actually that hasn't been too difficult; it just took a bit of letting go and getting on with it! At least that's what it looked like to me. There may be other versions of the truth! But I think the combination of a rock band, African drumming and a mixed choir sounds great and you'll see when it's on the TV, August 4th, that people are enjoying taking part which means something must be working.

Later in May, in Christian Aid week we joined with Limerick City Parish in a fund raiser. We put together a pop-up coffee dock in Central Buildings. It really did look lovely and the cakes that were donated were amazing. A good sum was raised and we'd hope to give it ago next year too.



We're looking forward to more activity in Central Buildings as the City of Culture 2014 begins to take shape. We're planning a coffee dock/network centre/meeting place in the street front office and space above for meetings, talks and training. It's all a bit 'coming together' at the moment but we hope it will be a helpful contribution to the year ahead. So, if you want to use the space for something 'cultural' do get in touch!

Limerick

Sunday Service 11.30am.

Holy Communion 1st Sunday

Family Service 3rd Sunday

Sunday School 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays

Youth Group 2nd & 4th Sundays

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

Youth Group Wednesdays 7- 8pm – contact Rev Vicki Lynch

Shannon

Fellowship group 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7pm – contact Rev Vicki Lynch for details

Holy Communion every 2nd Sunday 6pm – contact Rev Vicki Lynch for details



**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

Web site: www.irishmethodist.org/kerry

Kenmare Lay Pastoral Team:

Ed & Jean Ritchie

Tel: 064 6620580

KILLARNEY Methodist Church East Avenue, Killarney

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

Prayer meetings: Monday – Thursday 8.30 a. m. – 9.30 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.

Women's Fellowship 1st Monday of the month 10am-12noon.

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.

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 June at 8pm. Contact Laurence for directions to the venue.

In Killarney the monthly men's breakfast will meet on Saturday 8th June 8.30-10am with Nick sharing about his experience during the tsunami in Sri Lanka

South Kerry Parkinson's Association meets in Killarney Methodist Church on the second Monday, 10th June, at 7.30pm.

The Alzheimer's Support Group meets in Killarney Methodist Church on Saturday 22nd June from 2-4pm.

In Millstreet our Bible study is moving to a more public venue in the town. Every Tuesday we will meet at 8pm in Millstreet Enterprise Centre on the town square. Entitled "Step by Step Bible Group" this group is open to anyone who wants to know more about the Bible and grow in their faith. Also services in Millstreet continue every Sunday evening at 6.30 p. m. Meeting in Drishane Castle. These services are a lively mix of contemporary worship and Bible based preaching. There is also a great mix of people from various nations as well as from the local area. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Our Bible study outreach meetings in Lispole near Dingle continue on the last Thursday of each month and the next one is planned for the 27th June at 8pm. Also we are exploring the possibility of having a Bible group in a more public venue in Dingle town. Please pray that God would guide us in this. Contact Laurence for details of the venue.

We are planning a praise and prayer celebration on Sunday 9th June at 2pm in Killarney. The plan is for as many as possible to gather from Kenmare, Millstreet, Killarney and other places for a time of worship and also to spend time focusing on each of our Churches and other places where we hold meetings.

The purpose of this is so that we all become more aware of the worship and witness that is going on in our area. After the 11am service and the usual tea/coffee we will share a pot luck lunch together from 1pm. Hopefully by this time we will be joined by people from the other Churches so we can share lunch together. The service will then begin at 2pm and child care will be arranged during the service.

Please plan to be there so that we can worship and pray together.

From 12th -16th June the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church will meet in Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim. This promises to be a very special time. At this Conference routine business is being kept to a minimum and as much time as possible is being set aside for us to reflect on our mission and listen for God's guidance as to the future. The theme of the Conference is "A People Invited to Follow". Please pray for this Conference that God would guide us as to what in our Church must change for the sake of His Kingdom and what must remain for the sake of His Kingdom.

PRAYER CORNER

by Rev. Michael Johnston

Collect Reflection –
Birth of John the Baptist (24 June)

*Almighty God,
by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born,
and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour,
by the preaching of repentance:
Lead us to repent according to his preaching,
and, after his example, constantly to speak the truth,
boldly to rebuke vice, and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

The collect for this day was originally composed for the first Prayer Book in 1549 and it focuses on two aspects of John the Baptist's life – his wonderful birth and his fearless preaching of repentance. These are by God's providence, God's protective care. God foretold the coming of John, the herald of Christ, through the prophet Isaiah. Through God's providence John's parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, were fitted to become the parents of this great child. The fearlessness of John's preaching can be seen in the fact that he called ALL to the baptism of repentance – a rite originally reserved only for Gentile converts to Judaism. John fearlessly insisted that all needed to repent and turn to God, showing his courage again in challenging Herod Antipas for his adulterous marriage. John is a challenge for all would-be Christians. We are called in this collect to truly repent and, like John, "constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice, and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake."

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Brian Griffin

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The North Tipperary Circuit will be represented at the Annual Methodist Conference in Carrickfergus from 12 - 16 June, by Rev Brian Griffin, Pamela Parker (Borrisokane) and Edgar Lee (Roscrea). This year promises to be more inspirational inviting representatives to discuss the theme "A people invited to follow".

On 24th May last, Katey Moreland arrived at Roscrea Methodist Church as one stop on her prayer walk through every county of Ireland. Region by region those who accompanied her, joined in praying for hearts to be revived by Jesus and lives to be restored. She shared her vision at an ecumenical service in the evening. For Methodists it was very timely, marking the 275th Anniversary of John Wesley's Aldersgate experience. (See Newslink May edition Page 27).

The annual Open Air Service at Gloster House, near Roscrea will take place on Sunday 30th June at 3.30 pm. John Wesley stayed and preached at Gloster in June 1749. This year, Mrs Gillian Kingston the outgoing Lay Leader of the Methodist Church in Ireland is the guest preacher. Tom and Mary Alexander warmly invite everyone to come to their home, to share in this occasion and to meet friends, particularly the former students of the Girls' Boarding School which was run by the Salesian Sisters at Gloster from 1958 - 91.

On Tuesday 25th June, Irvine Gray will launch his book 'Two by Two' – the shape of a shapeless movement in the Abbey Court Hotel in Nenagh at 7.30 pm. This book is an academic study of a religious movement that started in the Methodist Churches of Cloughjordan, Borrisokane and Nenagh in 1897 by a Scots man, William Irvine who was joined by an Enniskillen businessman, Edward Cooney. During the 20th century the movement spread to Northern Ireland, USA and Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. A considerable number of Methodists joined the movement.

Partners in Prayer – June 2013

Each Sunday

The Dioceses of Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh and Bishop Ferran Glenfield
Our Companion Dioceses: The Diocese of Saldahna Bay (South Africa) and the five Dioceses of the Protestant Church of Anhalt, Germany.

2nd June, Trinity 1, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The work of the Anglican Centre in Rome & the Diocese of Northern Mexico and Bishop Francisco Moreno

Our Diocese: Young people from throughout our diocese preparing for State, College and School exams

9th June, Trinity 2, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Norwich, England), the Bishop of Norwich Graham James, and his assistant Bishops of Lynn Jonathan Meyrick and Thetford Alan Peter Winton

Our Diocese: Diocesan Synod meeting in Kenmare on Saturday

16th June, Trinity 3, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Ogbomoso, Ibadan, Nigeria and Bishop Matthew Osunade

Cofl: Deepening of relationships with our brothers and sisters in the Methodist Church

23rd June, Trinity 4, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Oke-Ogun, Ibadan, Nigeria and Bishop Solomon Amusan

Our Diocese: Couples preparing for marriage throughout our diocese

30th June, Trinity 5, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Oklahoma, USA and Bishop Edward Konieczny

Our Diocese: Schools, teachers and students throughout our diocese as they break up for summer holidays



Barney's Page

What a plan for us!



Barney says

Hello friends,

Our promise from God this month is one that I really love.

God promised his people that he would never abandon them. Instead, he has really exciting plans for them. Wow!

Sometimes we can feel like we are all alone and no one wants to be our friend. But God does! Always!

God also wants us to have nothing but the very best ... it's all part of His plans for us.

We don't always know where God is leading us, but we can hold on to his promise that his plan means taking care of us. Always.

That's exciting!
Love Barney



Barney's jokes

How did the farmer fix his jeans? With a cabbage patch!

What is the best way to speak to a monster?
From as far away as possible!



JUSTICE

Every time there is a story about the law and justice in the newspapers or on television they always use the same symbol to show justice – a woman wearing a blindfold over her eyes, holding a set of scales in one hand and a sword in the other.



right when both sides weigh the same and that all are equal before the law. The sword is there to show that the good are protected and the wicked punished.



God's word

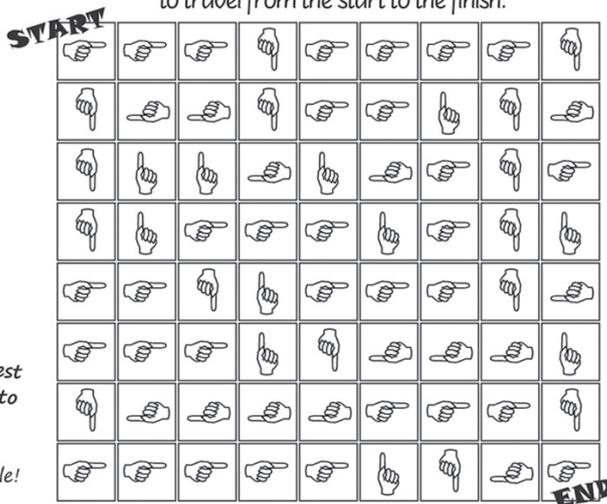
I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.

Jeremiah 29:11 (The Message)



Follow the plan!

Follow the direction the hand is pointing to travel from the start to the finish.



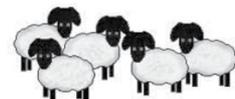
SHEEP & GOATS

The answers to these are all animals in the Bible. Answers below.

- 400 young men escaped on these (1 Samuel 30:17).
- They eat under the table (Mark 7:28).
- They live in the high mountains (Psalm 104:18).
- One was lost and 99 were safe (Luke 15:6).
- Benaiah killed this animal in a pit on a snowy day (1 Chronicles 11:22).
- There were 4 of them, coloured white, red, black and pale green (Revelation 6:1-8).
- Jesus rode this into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:21).
- Their dung is used to bake bread (Ezekiel 4:15).

What did the cloned sheep say to the other sheep?

I am ewe.



What do you call a sheep with no head or legs?

A cloud.

Answers: 1.camels 2.dogs 3.goats 4.sheep 5.lion 6.horses 7.donkey 8.cow



Let's talk to God!

Dear God, thank you that you have an amazing plan for me. Please help me to remember your promises. Amen.

The blindfold is there to show that nothing affects the decision except the scales. The scales show that justice is only

All through Jesus' teaching is the idea of judgement – that we all shall stand before the throne of God and answer for what we have done. And when we do, the judge will be Jesus because he lived on earth as we do. St Matthew's Gospel, chapter 25, verses 31 to 46 tells us about this judgment.

Will you be a sheep or a goat?

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