

NEWSLINK

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

The Gates are open for the Gathering

see page 5



See you Sunday 29th September at Villiers School, Limerick

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**The Headmaster,
Mr Adrian G. Oughton
B.A., HDip. Ed., D.E.M.**

The Bishop Writes

WARS AND RUMOURS OF WARS

I am writing this having just heard of a car bombing in Beirut killing over 20 and countless number injured by the blast. I was in Beirut this time last week! A few days ago the Egyptian Army killed untold numbers of civilian protesters on the streets of Cairo. Meanwhile the Syrian unrest continues with the death toll increasing day by day. Good news from Iran as its new political leader promises to promote a better relationship with the West – or is it as some commentators say just pulling the wool over our eyes? Certainly the early promise of an Arab Spring has turned into a summer of discontent.

Then on the brink of peace talks between Israeli and Palestinian leaders, there is an announcement of thousands of new Jewish homes to be built on land which Palestinians say belongs to them. It seems even good news is designed to disappoint.

Readers of the Gospels shouldn't be surprised. As St Matthew quotes Jesus as saying "... you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet." (Matthew 24.6). These are the times we are living in.

MY VISIT TO LEBANON

I have been privileged in the last few months to have visited the Middle East on two occasions. In February I visited Christian Aid's humanitarian programmes in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. I have just returned from Lebanon visiting the Irish troops who are on peacekeeping duty with the United Nations – see my report on page 12. The war between Israel and Lebanon may not be active, but no one has said it is finished.

I was inspired by what the Irish Army is doing in Southern Lebanon, and in the way they are doing it. Their work is to prevent any action which would heighten tension and to ensure both sides keep to the commitments they have made. All of this in support of the Lebanese Armed Forces who have the primary responsibility. The Irish are also making friends with the locals, whenever possible taking time out to drink in their coffee shops, and buying bits and pieces in the local markets. As well as that, the Army in collaboration with Irish Aid, has supported numerous projects to support the local community such as building water storage facilities and installing street lighting in the villages.

That's what being a follower of Jesus is all about – being a peace maker. 'Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God'. Peace isn't a project or even something that can be accomplished. Peace is a way of living. It is the building of wholesome, respectful and loving relationships that honour not only 'our people' but all people, as we work together to live in a way which refuses to waste the earth's scarce resources.

DIOCESAN GATHERING

To build community we must commit ourselves to work together. To work together we must know one another. That is the purpose of our Diocesan Day on Sunday 29th September. "Gathering to Go" is our 'Gathering' event – for details see page 5. The Church is called to live by the principles of God's coming Kingdom. We are challenged to live the future, now! A large part of that is committing ourselves to build community across the divisions and barriers which divide people.

The challenge for our Diocese is that the barriers that divide can be our parish boundaries. We are in real danger if all we care for is what happens in my parish. We are called to a model of living which crosses boundaries to meet, greet and create relationships with those who are different from ourselves. This is part of making peace a way of life.

It's a small commitment to take the trouble to meet other members of our Diocese in Villiers on the 29th September. But if we refuse to take the trouble to do that, have we any right to ask peacemakers in the Middle East to meet with their enemies to create a peaceful future?

Looking forward to meeting you with the rest of the Diocesan family on the 29th September if not before.

Yours in Christ
+Trevor



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Diocesan Calendar

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

Sat 14th September, 2pm: Shinrone Parish Fete, Cloghmoyle Schoolhouse
Sat 14th September, 9.30am–12.30pm: Meet the Director of the RSCM, St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.
Wed 18th September, 8pm: Food & wine tasting with Peter Ward of Country Choice, Irish Food Ambassador, Aghancon Hall.
Thurs, 19th September, 8.15pm: Whistdrive, Aghancon Hall (note night changed)
Tue 24th September, 8pm: Kilcolman Book Club, St Michael's Hall, Killorglin
Thu 26th September, 8pm: Diocesan Council
Sun 29th September, 11am: Diocesan Gathering, Villiers

October

Tue 22nd October, 8pm: Kilcolman Book Club, St Michael's Hall, Killorglin

Apartment to let *Henry Street, Limerick.*

An apartment suitable for a student will be available from September.

This is in a secure and quiet area. For details contact

Allan Callender at 087-1421525.

Editorial - Pilgrim Fellowship

I've just been reading an interesting book: 'High Street Monasteries' † by Ray Simpson, Anglican priest and founding guardian of the Community of Aidan & Hilda, based on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne in Northumbria.

In it he begins with a useful survey of recent experiments in forming Christian communities more relevant to our times than older structures. His own Community of Aidan & Hilda, and the Iona Community are examples.

He goes on to articulate his dream of what future 'villages of God' might look like:

- communities of Christians drawn from and valuing different traditions,
- flexibly organised, whether centred on an area or dispersed and virtual
- respecting creation and life, seeing Christ in the face of others, trusting in God,
- valuing simplicity that sheds possessiveness and hospitality that allows others to be themselves.

Finally, he notes the terrible economic, climatic, political and religious winds which threaten to tear us apart. And he poses a question: could such communities provide a heart for our global village by modelling an alternative society?

A number of us, clerical and lay, met with him in Nenagh recently. We resolved to meet again in October to continue discussions, with a view to forming a 'Pilgrim Fellowship' to take such ideas forward. We would welcome any others who would like

to join us, whether from CofI or other traditions. If you want to know more just get in touch with me.

God bless,

Joc Sanders, Editor

Email: joc_sanders@iol.ie, Tel: 087 699 6775

† to order a copy online google title & author

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 Emlly. 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. Newslink received a "Highly Commended" award in the Church of Ireland Communications Competition for diocesan magazines at General Synod 2013.

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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DEADLINES

The next issue will be for October, published for Sunday 6th October 2013.

All material must reach the Editor by Friday 20th September 2013 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed. Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.



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NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2013

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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

'Gathering to Go' at Villiers School, Limerick

Sunday 29th September, 11am – 5pm

We're nearly there! 29th September 2013 promises to be a memorable day in our Diocesan life together as we have our very own 'Gathering' in Villiers School. The theme of the day is 'Gathering to Go' and we will be emphasising the need to go out into the world as active disciples of Christ. It is envisaged that there will be no services in the parish churches that day, although Saturday evening services may be provided to accommodate anyone unable to travel. In 2009 almost 600 people from around our United Dioceses gathered for our Celebrate Together event in St. Mary's Cathedral – let's make this gathering even bigger and better! There will be something to cater for all tastes and all ages so don't miss out.



Timetable for the Day

10.30am	Arrivals at Villiers School, registration for workshops, mingling
11.00am	Gathering Worship
11.45am	Presentation by the 3 Diocesan areas – good news
12.30pm	Lunch & Leisure (Chill Zone for teenagers, Bouncy Castle for under 12's, face painting, costume characters, sheet quizzes)
2-2.45pm	Workshop sessions1
3-3.45pm	Workshop sessions 2
4-5pm	Closing Worship

Workshops

A variety of workshops will run for children and adults in the afternoon, with everybody getting to attend two. A Crèche will be in operation during those times for the babies and preschoolers. Confirmed workshops at time of going to press include:

Adult	Teenage	8-12yrs	5-8yrs	
Songs of Praise	Fun, Faith and Fellowship led by Ed Hardy and his UDYC Team	Circus Workshop	Puppets	
Beautician		Arts & Crafts with Bramber Studio	Arts & Crafts	
Ethics of Technology		Games	Games	Games
Prayer				
Godly Play				
Wine Tasting				
Contemporary				
Worship Songs				
Arts & Crafts				

Food Options

A hot, 2 course meal will be available in the canteen at lunch time for the incredible value of €5, but must be pre-booked with Janet Bray, Villiers @ 061 451400 by Wednesday 25th September. The school cafeteria will be open most of the day to sell limited hot and cold drinks, sandwiches, sweets, crisps etc. People are also free to bring packed lunches so there is an option to suit all needs, tastes and budgets.

Transport

Directions to Villiers School, North Circular Road, Limerick. For those wishing to travel by car, there is ample parking available on site.

Approaching Limerick from Nenagh on Dublin Road

Follow signs for city centre, passing the Parkway Shopping Centre on your left

Follow signs for Airport, crossing the Shannon at King John's Castle, passing Thomond Park Rugby Ground on your right and Limerick Institute of Technology, also on your right at small roundabout.

Continue to follow signs to Airport to Ivan's.

Turn left at traffic lights at Ivan's shop.

Take 2nd turn on right, just after AIB (also on right)

At T- junction turn right.

Villiers is on your left in about half a mile – large white gates with the school's name on them.

Approaching Limerick from south – Cork, Tralee, Adare

Follow signs for Airport until you cross the Shannon at Jury's Inn – by the new bridge.

Take the first turn right. Within about thirty yards there is a small roundabout. Take the first exit off the roundabout and turn left on to the North Circular Road.

Villiers is on your right after one mile.

Cars should enter through the gates. Buses should continue on and take the next turn left through the back entrance.

Bus Transport

For those who would prefer to be driven, buses have been arranged from the three Diocesan areas for a nominal fee of €5 per person, children under 12 free.

	Depart	Return
Route 1		
Tralee (Teach an Solas)	8.30 a.m.	7.10 p.m.
Farranfore (Junction)	8.50 a.m.	6.50p.m.
Castleisland (GAA.Grounds)	9.00 a.m.	6.40p.m.
Abbeysfeale (Superdine)	9.30 a.m.	6.10p.m.
Newcastlewest (Hotel)	9.50 a.m.	5.50p.m.
Adare (R.C. Church)	10.15 a.m.	5.30p.m.
Route 2		
Birr (Square)	9.00 a.m.	7.15 p.m.
Roscrea (Grant's Hotel)	9.20 a.m.	6.45 p.m.
Moneygall (Hall)	9.35 a.m.	6.35 p.m.
Nenagh (Courthouse)	9.50a.m.	6.20 p.m.
Birdhill (Bus Stop)	10.10 a.m.	6.00 p.m.
Route 3		
Ardrahan (Square)	8.30 a.m.	7.15 p.m.
Aughrim (Rectory)	9.00a.m.	6.45p.m.
Portumna (Church)	9.30 a.m.	6.15 p.m.
Borrisokane (Church)	10.00 a.m.	5.45 p.m.

Please note that all times are approximate but the bus will not be in a position to wait beyond the scheduled pick-up time listed. In the interest of all passengers please note that there will be no refreshment stops on outward or return journeys unless for very brief emergency stops. There will be bus coordinators appointed in each parish and a pre-circulated and pre-paid bus ticket will be collected from all passengers.

Máirt's Musings – Do you presume...?



I have recently been reminded of the power of presumption. It has the power to colour whatever comes after it and prevent us from asking questions, thinking critically or even realising that either of those two things might be a good idea.

This came to me as I was in downtown Killorglin, with Puck Fair in full flow all around me, and the eldest two of my children in tow. I bumped into a young man, who, towering over me, kindly told me who he was, including who his mother was, so I had some context for the name and realized exactly who he was. I had not met this young man for quite some time - he is very much grown up and now managing a band, half of whom I taught to play the instruments of which they are now making such good use. Our conversation did not get much further as I had two children with me, one of whom was very focused on what she wanted, which was to be playing some fairground game 'just over there daddy', and the other who was not focused at all, his eyes and mind wandering from one fair day delight to another. He asked how my Puck was going, and I started to say, 'Well with two small children in tow..' when I was interrupted by the pleadings of the focused one. After I had told her off for interrupting, this now quite impressive young man finished my sentence for me '.....yes it must be magical with children.'

Now I imagine that any of ye out there who don't have young children will think 'yes I presume that is what the vicar was thinking'. I am also presuming that anyone else with smallies is currently laughing and that all the grand parents are getting misty eyed at the remembering of it all.

What I was going to say was that it is hard work being in such a large crowd with so much happening when you have two small kids, and I did manage to get words to that effect out before being dragged off in the direction of the candy floss. Now it is hard work

but it is worth it. My experience of such events is one of periods of high stress - I really don't like large crowds and navigating them with children I like even less - punctuated with points of pure magic. The thrill on the face of a small child as they jump off one of 'the merries' or see some colourful toy dangling from a stall, is indeed lovely. The kids love the whole thing.....I love the look on their faces.

I do however wonder about the power of presumption, how much of my stress is due to the fact that I presume that it will be stressful. How much do I miss because I presume what some one thinks about something, what they will say, what something is going to be like. Maybe I notice then the things that confirm my presumptions. I was caught off guard when the presumption of the young man I met and my own presumption could give such different endings to what seemed like a very clear half sentence. I can see the logic in both presumptions, but here is where it struck me what presumption really is.

Presumption is Faith's evil twin. Both take what is known and then take a step into the unknown. They are what happens when logic steps into the fog. Faith, though, should be open and know that it doesn't know. It should be reaching and wondering even though it might feel fairly confident that it is still on the right track. Presumption though thinks it knows what it doesn't. It might be right, it might be wrong and if it finds out for sure that it is either, it can't hope to know how it got to be so.

I have a sneaking suspicion that a lot of people mix up



presumption and faith and I shall be keeping an eye on myself that I don't!

Girls' Friendly Society



ROSCREA BRANCH

The girls and leaders would like to thank Rev Lesley Robinson for all her help and support over the last 9 years, and to wish her the very best in her new ministry in Clontarf.

GFS LEADERS TRAINING DAY

This will be held in Abbeyleix on Saturday the 7th of September 2013. Leaders are encouraged to attend to update skills and learn new ones. Please contact Florence Reid, Diocesan Secretary to confirm numbers asap - the published deadline was 29th August.

Mothers' Union

TEDDY BEARS

Some readers may have wondered about the picture of the teddy bears which accompanied the MU notes in the last issue of Newslink. The teddies did indeed come as a gift from members in Connor diocese when they heard that we are starting to supply the Ambulance Service in Limerick with "Comfort Teds". Beverley

Callender delivered them and they were very gratefully received. They will be used by ambulance personnel to give to children who have been involved in an emergency.

There is an on-going need for such teddies. So, please, members and friends, get out your knitting needles so that we may continue to provide this small comfort to children at a difficult and frightening time in their lives. Knitting patterns are available if needed and finished teddies can be given to your MU branch leader.

YOUNG WOMEN'S "BREAKAWAY"

'Sow and Grow' is the title of this year's Young Women's Get Away Weekend which takes place in the City North Hotel, Julianstown, Dublin, on Friday and Saturday 11th and 12th October. This is a great opportunity to take time out to relax, have fun and hear some very special speakers led by Patsy Devoy from Cork whom many will remember from our Showcase day last year. The week-end is open to all younger women - there is no need to be a member of Mothers' Union. The charge of €110 per person covers the cost of accommodation - dinner, bed and breakfast and lunch in this lovely hotel - and the conference fee.

It is important to book soon so don't delay - contact Betty Delahunt, tel: 057 9139019, or Margaret Schutz, tel: 061 336141/087 220 0216 for further details.

United Diocesan Youth Council of Limerick & Killaloe

SUMMER MADNESS

report by team member Hannah Scott (Rathkeale Group of Parishes)

This is a non-denominational Christian youth festival that takes place at Glenarm Castle, Co. Antrim in Northern Ireland. On the first weekend of every July for the past 25 years, teenagers from across Ireland have gathered for five days to attend seminars, worship sessions and simply to have a good time together – regardless of what church or what part of Ireland they are from. This year the theme was “The Good Life”, with talks focusing on how to follow a Christian lifestyle and what benefits can be drawn from it.



Enjoying a break in the sun on Inis Mór

Summer Madness is a particularly special event in the UDYC calendar. It can often be hard to catch up with friends from different parishes in our widely spread diocese, but this event is an opportunity for us all to spend time with each other. A camping experience with no electricity or readily available running water, and the lack of mobile phone reception in Glenarm, can draw a few complaints – but it does strip life down to a simplicity rarely achieved in daily life. This allows us really to take the time to get to know ourselves, our friends, and God better.

For me as a member of the event crew, Summer Madness is an opportunity to serve – it can only be held with the help of a large number of volunteer staff. Working behind the scenes has provided an insight into just how much work is involved in running such an event, which a visitor may not realise. As event crew, we carry out a wide variety of jobs from ensuring health and safety standards to looking after main stage speakers. Whilst nobody could say that car



Unafraid of heights - The boys on Inis Mór

parking duty in the driving rain is much fun, there are definite perks to the job, such as free bacon sandwiches every morning – and of course driving around in golf carts! Volunteering is also a fantastic way to make friends. Team spirit is always very high in the event

crew – we may work long hours, but we always manage to entertain ourselves doing so and form long lasting friendships with the rest of our team.

On behalf of the group that travelled up to Glenarm this year, I'd like to thank all the leaders for the hard work they put in, particularly Ed without whom the trip would never happen. I'd also like to invite anyone interested to join us for Summer Madness next year. We promise that the seven hour bus journey will be well worth it!

JUNIOR SUMMER CAMP

Our Junior Summer Camp was held 21st to 27th July 2013 in the lovely Densmore Lodge, Ovoca Manor, Co. Wicklow. The week was blessed with beautiful weather for the activities which our group took part in.

We spent several days taking full advantage of the wonderful activities onsite at Ovoca Manor, which included slides, senior and junior assault courses, low ropes courses, crate climbing and an adventurous afternoon of orienteering. Our off site trips included a trip to Dublin with an open deck bus tour, a trip to the zoo, and a trip to the ever popular National Aquatic Centre in Blanchardstown. Another day we travelled to Sealife in Bray, to Bray Bowl for a game of bowling, some fast food in McDonald's, ending with a trip to the cinema in Arklow.

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Our morning and evening worship and workshop times were creative and engaging under Rev. Jane Galbraith's leadership - thank you to her especially for the huge amount of work she put in.

This year's Junior camp was a great success and it was especially good to have such a lovely group of participants with us. Thank you of course to our brilliant group of leaders, with special mention going to Valerie, Paula, and Henry, our newest leaders, who on their first event in a leadership role excelled themselves in truly serving and giving their all, as well as to Eleanor who fed us well (very well!), and to Ed without whose huge amount of work as always these events would not happen.



Beach walk at Spanish Point

SENIOR SUMMER CAMP

At the time of writing our Senior Summer Camp in Catherine McCauley House, in Spanish Point, Co. Clare is coming to a conclusion. Our community of leaders and participants have had (so far) four days of fun, faith, and fellowship. We have had beach walks, icebreaker games, water sports including kayaking and surfing, a trip to the Aran Islands (Inis Mór) for a bus or cycle tour of the island, as well to Ennis for an evening of bowling, quazar and a visit to the cinema.

The rest of our days were spent at Catherine McCauley house with worship led by Damian Shorten. The theme explored for worship times was "Christian Values". Our leader team organised many games, table quiz, beetle drive and charades. There was plenty of free time which was much appreciated to allow opportunities for growth of fellowship.



Ready for Kayaking at Kilkee

GATHERING TO GO

UDYC look forward to joining in assisting in the running of Diocesan event on Sunday 29th September in Villiers School. Our main role will be running the teenage programme and chill zone. Do try to join us!



The Group at the Senior Summer Camp

FUTURE EVENTS

The final weekend of the three part youth leadership course for current group of participants will take place on the second weekend in October at Clairvaux House, Roscrea. Over the October bank holiday weekend Anois Youth event will take place for teenagers at Kilkenny College. There will be full details on this event in next month's notes.

As always, further information about any UDYC events and activities can be got from Edward on (087) 2907553 or our regularlyupdated UDYC group page on Facebook.

Until next month, Damian (Email: 05shortend@gmail.com)



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SCHOOL NEWS



Villiers School

August is always an exciting month in second level education.

In Villiers we have just lived through the Leaving Certificate Results, which is inevitably a nerve-wracking experience for those involved. The results are closely followed by CAO offers, equally nerve wracking, but bringing an end to the long wait to secure the next step for our class of 2013. All this is closely followed by the Graduation Ball, this year held in the Strand Hotel in Limerick, where our newest past pupils surpassed themselves, not only in their glamour and sense of celebration they brought to the occasion, but also with their maturity, confidence and sense of friendship and support for each other. Their time in Villiers has drawn to a close, and they will be missed.

Yet the School cycle continues. We welcome a new Form I, who are poised to start their Villiers journey - six years of education, camaraderie, growing up and above all fostering a sense of community and value.

The School has been a hive of activity all summer; we've hosted many camps - hockey, languages, music, chess and lots more. In between camps we use the summer time as an opportunity to carry out maintenance and improvements. We have refurbished classrooms, upgraded the boys' dorms, taken the first big steps in developing the extended campus and we are just completing the new access route to our rugby pitch. All of these improvements are designed to optimize the campus for our students.

By the time you read this, the new term with all that it brings will be well underway. We wish all in the Villiers family a fulfilling 2013-2014.

Jill Storey, Headmistress

Diary of a Church Mouse

Here among long-discarded cassocks,
Damp stools, and half-split open hassocks,
Here where the vicar never looks
I nibble through old service books.
Lean and alone I spend my days
Behind this Church of England baize.
I share my dark forgotten room
With two oil-lamps and half a broom.
The cleaner never bothers me,
So here I eat my frugal tea.
My bread is sawdust mixed with straw;
My jam is polish for the floor.
Christmas and Easter may be feasts
For congregations and for priests,
And so may Whitsun. All the same,
They do not fill my meagre frame.
For me the only feast at all
Is Autumn's Harvest Festival,
When I can satisfy my want
With ears of corn around the font.
I climb the eagle's brazen head
To burrow through a loaf of bread.
I scramble up the pulpit stair
And gnaw the marrows hanging there.
It is enjoyable to taste

These items ere they go to waste.
But how annoying when one finds
That other mice with pagan minds
Come into church my food to share
Who have no proper business there.
Two field mice who have no desire
To be baptized, invade the choir.
A large and most unfriendly rat
Comes in to see what we are at.
He says he thinks there is no God
And yet he comes ... it's rather odd.
This year he stole a sheaf of wheat
(It screened our special preacher's seat),
And prosperous mice from fields away
Come in to hear our organ play,
And under cover of its notes
Ate through the altar's sheaf of oats.
A Low Church mouse, who thinks that I
Am too papistical, and High,
Yet somehow doesn't think it wrong
To munch through Harvest Evensong,
While I, who starve the whole year through,
Must share my food with rodents who
Except at this time of the year
Not once inside the church appear.
Within the human world I know
Such goings-on could not be so,

For human beings only do
What their religion tells them to.
They read the Bible every day
And always, night and morning, pray,
And just like me, the good church mouse,
Worship each week in God's own house,
But all the same it's strange to me
How very full the church can be
With people I don't see at all
Except at Harvest Festival.

John Betjeman (1906-1984)



News from the Villiers Sanctuary

Well summer is all but over and the new term is just around the corner.

First of all I want to say congratulations to all the Leaving Certificate students for finally getting to the end of the road. However, as one door closes the door of various colleges and universities swings wide open. God's blessing to one and all as you start this new and exciting chapter in your life.

The other excitement of course is all the new first years that are about to grace Villiers with their presence and enthusiasm. Open day is almost upon us, and I always find this day one full of nervous energy, and that's just the parents! The kids soon settle and take to life in their new surroundings like the proverbial ducks to water.

However, in saying that it can be a difficult time for some as they make the transition from primary to secondary, and that is why the Sanctuary exists. It is a place where those who may find life a little bit daunting can come to find their way, so with God's help the Sanctuary will once again fulfil its purpose.

I, for one, am really looking forward to the new term and all the challenges that it will bring. I hope that all of you are too!!

God bless one and all!!!
Chaplain Jackie McNair

The other Schools are on holiday and have not contributed notes.

Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes

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

MUNSTER WELL REPRESENTED

A congregation of 240 attended the wedding of Ian Dowling and Gillian Quigley in St Flannan's Cathedral on Friday 9th August. Members of the Irish and Munster rugby team were prominent as they supported Ian and Gillian. Gillian is a Food Nutritionist working in Castletray and Ian graces the turf of Thomond Park.

Rev. Stan Evans officiated, assisted by Ian's parish priest, Fr Tommy Murphy and Mr. Trevor Selby was the organist.

We wish Ian and Gillian God's blessing as they begin their married life together.

DEATH OF LOCAL BUSINESSMAN

A large congregation packed into St Flannan's Cathedral on the evening of 9th August for the funeral service of local businessman Roger Porritt. Roger had passed away peacefully in the loving care of Milford Hospice on the previous Tuesday after a long battle with cancer.

Roger was born in Cumbria before moving to Ireland, where he was engaged in a variety of business ventures including White's Hotel in Wexford, Durty Nelly's in Bunratty, and Goosers in Ballina.

Roger was the proud father of four daughters, Joanna, Eve, Juliet and Elizabeth, all of whom made wonderful contributions in the Eulogy to Roger. Roger also had eight grand daughters who also made offerings during the service. Revd Stan Evans officiated, supported by Revd Lucy Green and Roger was removed to Cork for cremation on the Saturday morning. May he rest in peace.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Jonathan and Kristy Cullen on the birth of their son, Rory, a brother for Darcy and grandson for Richard and Avril Cullen.

HOLY BAPTISM

In St Paul's Chapel, St Flannan's Cathedral. Kate Lua - daughter of Capt. Kieran Woulfe and Emer Sugrue of Royal Parade, Killaloe. Congratulations and welcome into the Household of Faith. Revd Stan officiated.

In St Flannan's - Ronan Louis Firby Downer, son of Kevin and Carla Downer, and grandson of Roger and Jean Downer - we welcome Ronan into the Church of God as he begins his journey of faith. Revd Stan officiated.

MOVING FURTHER WEST...

On Sunday 8th September the parish is coming together for one combined service in St Flannan's to say good-bye to Revd Stan and his wife Rosemary. Revd Stan has been appointed Priest in Charge of the Omev Group of Parishes in the Diocese of Tuam. The parish covers the picturesque town of Clifden, the fishing village of Roundstone, and churches in Errislannan and Moyard. Kylemore Abbey and the Connemara National Park also fall within the parish.

Revd Stan writes:

Whilst being very sad at leaving so many friends in this Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert, Rosemary and I are looking forward so much to moving to this wonderful parish. We hope that we will see many of you from time to time as you hopefully will spend long weekends in Connemara - the Rectory door is very easy to find!

My Service of Introduction is on Friday 20th September at 7.30pm and we hope that we may see as many of you as possible - it is also Clifden Arts Festival week so there will be plenty of activity if you make a weekend of it.

Finally, we thank you all throughout the many parishes in which it has been our privilege to serve and wish you God's blessing. We are all members of the one wonderful family in His church in this beautiful land where we are called to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

Please keep in touch!

Editor: Newslink takes this opportunity to wish Revd. Stan every blessing in his new ministry.

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

BEST WISHES

Our best wishes go with the Carter family who have returned to live in Sligo; we are very sorry that they have left us. For the short time that they lived in these parts, they had entered into the life of the parish and the school and it was always a pleasure to hear Jonathan and Fionnuala joining in the singing on a Sunday morning. We wish them every blessing for the future.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Over the past couple of months there have been some happy occasions for offering sincere congratulations. Hazel Abbott and Darren Whelton were married in Birr on the 19th July on a gloriously sunny day - an ice cream cart was on hand outside after the service with a tasty selection of ice creams to help everyone cool down! The service was conducted by the Revd Ruth assisted by Fr Eoin Whooley from Darren's home parish and the singing was led by members of Tullamore Gospel Choir. The church was beautifully decorated by Ina McCarthy of Midleton. Hazel and Darren are wished every blessing in their life in Midleton.



On Sunday, 28th July, baby Lucien Landin was baptized by his grandfather, Archdeacon Wayne, in the ancient Knights Templar chapel in Crea'h, near St-Brieuc, in Brittany. The only difficulty came later, when, after a hearty French seafood meal, everyone went for a walk and Lucien's mother, Kathleen Carney-Landin, tripped over a rock and broke her foot. Lucien, big brother Owen, and papa William are doing fine, mother is recovering!

100 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG!

Mrs Charlie Hodgins celebrated her 100th Birthday at home on the 5th August! There was a small gathering of family and friends to celebrate Holy Communion just before the big day. It's wonderful when someone lives so long and is able to enjoy their party. Charlie's grand-daughter, Sacha, had her hair cut to raise funds for the Irish Cancer Society, which was a very thoughtful thing to do.

Mrs Beatrice Fletcher has also celebrated her 100th Birthday with family and friends!

A huge 'congratulations!' to both these ladies, who each thanks God for all the blessings he sends them.



Mrs Charlie Hodgins



Mrs Beatrice Fletcher

PASTORAL

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have had to spend time in hospital. Charlie Ardill and Barbara Haslam have both been in Tullamore and we pray that they, and all those who are ill, will feel the healing power of God bringing them relief and comfort.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs. Teresa Grant of Cree on the death of her husband, Robert, last June. – also to his children Rachel and John. The service in Birr was conducted by the Rector, Archdeacon Wayne Carney assisted by the Revd Ruth.

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: kandrobinson@eircom.net

HEALER PRAYER

The monthly Healer Prayer services return after the Summer break on Monday 2nd September in St. Cronan's Church at 7.30pm, and thereafter on the first Monday of each month.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING, KYLE

St. Molua's Church, Kyle, will hold its annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 15th September at 4 pm, when the guest preacher will be Rev. Rosemary Lindsay, the Methodist Minister in Birr. Refreshments afterwards, all welcome.

DIOCESAN GATHERING, 29TH SEPTEMBER

There will be no Sunday services in the Group of Parishes on 29th September as everyone possible is being encouraged to attend the Diocesan Gathering in Villiers School, Limerick. A bus will travel from Roscrea, picking up at Church Street at 9.20am and returning at 6.45pm for a nominal charge of €5 per person with children under 12 free. Bookings to Adrian Hewson @ 085 1108659 by Sunday 22nd September.

For those unable to attend there will be a service in St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea on Saturday 28th at 8pm.

HOLY BAPTISM

Stephen John Dann, son of David and Ann Marie, was baptised in Christ Church, Corbally on 7th July. We wish him and his family every blessing on the journey ahead.

Proud parents David and Ann Marie Dann following little Stephen's



baptism in Corbally Church

AROUND THE PARISHES

Sadly, a lot of our parishioners have experienced dreadful loss during the last couple of months and our thoughts and prayers remain with them. Our deepest sympathy to all the relatives of the Pearson family on the tragic death of little Sophie following an accident. Deepest sympathy also to Des Reid and his family on the sudden and untimely death of his niece, Hazel Kelly. We also sympathise with June Dunne, a former teacher in St. Cronan's National School, and her family, on the death of her husband, John; and to the Greene family of Shinrone and their Roscrea connections on the death of Richard in a motorbike accident. May God grant eternal rest to the dead and peace and consolation to the living.

On a much happier note we congratulate Ken and Margaret Connor on becoming grandparents again through the birth of Lynda and Liam's first child, Bill Robert. We also congratulate all our Leaving Certificate students on some excellent results and wish them well for the future. Best of luck to all those currently awaiting Junior Cert results, and welcome back to all our school children and students.

APPOINTMENT TO CLONTARF

On Sunday 14th July it was officially announced in Roscrea Group of Parishes and in Clontarf Parish that Rev. Lesley had been appointed Rector of Clontarf. Her Service of Institution will be held on Friday 20th September at 8pm in the Sports Hall of Mount Temple Comprehensive School, Malahide Rd., Clontarf (the parish church is currently closed for roof restoration). Her last service in Roscrea will be a Group Service of Holy Communion in St. Cronan's Church on Sunday 8th September at 3pm. All welcome to both services.

Editor: Newslink takes this opportunity to wish Rev Lesley every blessing in her future ministry.

Bishop Trevor Williams in The Lebanon

Monsignor Eoin Thynne, Head Chaplain of the Irish Defence Forces invited me to join him on a Pastoral Visit to the 108 Irish/Finnish Battalion on the 5th-9th August 2013. It is made up of 332 Irish and 176 Finnish personnel at their base in the At Tiri area of South Lebanon. We had met at several St Patrick's Day celebrations at Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick where we both enjoyed the generous hospitality of the Chaplain, Fr Seamus Madigan. Seamus is now in the Lebanon serving with the 108 Irish Finn Batt as their chaplain.



Traveling companion Mons Eoin Thynne (Head Chaplain, Irish Forces) and host Fr Seamus Madigan (Chaplain 108 Irish Finnish Battalion UNIFIL)

I had the privilege of laying a wreath at the Tibnin Monument in South Lebanon, dedicated to the memory of 47 Irish personnel who died while on peacekeeping duty in Lebanon. The dignified ceremony with colour party, prayers, a piper playing a lament followed by the last post took place to remember five of the 47 Irish soldiers whose anniversaries are in August. A similar ceremony takes place each month. I was reminded of the cost of keeping Peace and how easily the work of the Irish Forces with the United Nations can be taken for granted and go unacknowledged. Standing at that memorial in Tibnin, I felt a sense of pride in the Irish Defence Forces who have given 55 years of service on peacekeeping operations in some of the most hostile countries of the world.

It was fascinating to discover what Peacekeeping involves. The war between Lebanon and Israel has had no agreed conclusion. However there is an agreed "Blue Line" which is there to keep both sides apart. During our stay however, there was an incident where a small group of Israeli soldiers crossed the Blue Line and accidentally were injured by a land mine. Incidents like this can increase the tension.



Wreath laying ceremony at Tibnin to commemorate the 47 members of the Irish forces who have died in Lebanon

The UN forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) are not primary actors. They are present to support and assist the Lebanese Armed Forces in the role of peace keeping. I visited an Irish platoon manning an observation post, yards from the Blue Line. Their task is to report any suspicious activity. I chatted to a soldier in a pill box observation tower and asked how he would recognise 'suspicious activity'. He told me that it's only after days and weeks of observing normal activity that something 'unusual' can be spotted. It is an extremely difficult job that takes disciplined patience. I was impressed by each soldier I met, their ability, skill and commitment - they were genuinely great people.

There are foot patrols with the Lebanese Army and weekly visits to the markets in Tibnin, Bint, Jabayl and Aytaroun when soldiers can have a chance to mingle with local people and perhaps buy some things from the stalls. This 'low profile' approach is essential in establishing good relationships in the area, crucial to the work of peace keeping. It is clearly understood that driving around in heavy armoured vehicles can be intimidating and alienating, while it is necessary at times. Over the years, because of this approach, the Irish Army has won a very good reputation with the locals. As we travelled around people waved and smiled at us. What has also helped is the humanitarian assistance the Irish Forces have given to local villages, such as water storage, street lighting and support for their schools. As we have learnt in Northern Ireland, much of peacekeeping is about winning hearts and minds.

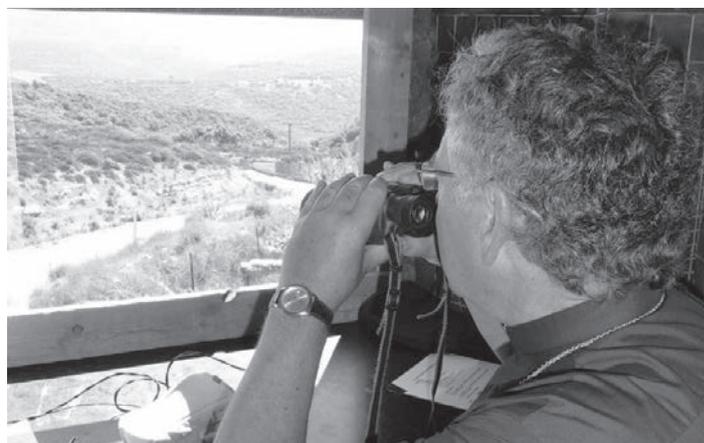


Convoy personnel who brought us safely from South Lebanon to Beirut on our way home

The Commanding Officer is Lieutenant Colonel Anthony McKenna. He insisted that other welfare agencies could not replace the Chaplaincy. This was clear at the Tibnin Monument, and at the Mass I attended at the At Tiri base, where soldiers packed into the chapel and each one lit a candle as a prayer. But Seamus' great strength is the easy way he relates to people, no matter what their rank - and his great sense of humour! As we walked around he greeted every soldier by name, he is always available for chat, or a more serious conversation. As a Forces Chaplain Seamus assumes the rank of the person he is talking to. This unique position in what is a highly structured organisation enables the Chaplain to provide real pastoral support.

The Irish Forces may not solve the problems in Lebanon. What they are doing is creating a safe space in which local political and religious leaders can move beyond past and present hostilities and create a peaceful future. We should keep them in our prayers.

+Trevor (16 August 2013)



Watching the Blue line

Obama family views Templeharry parish registers



Viewing the Templeharry parish registers, Mrs Michelle Obama and her daughters Sasha and Malia (photo courtesy of theobamadiary.com)

The survival of the parish registers of the small rural parish of Templeharry in County Offaly helped to underpin the return visit of Michelle Obama with her daughters Sasha and Malia to Dublin on

17 June 2013. The registers, which contain the ancestral evidence of the Kearney family, from whom President Barack Obama is descended are, along with many other collections of parish registers from all over Ireland, safely and permanently housed in the Representative Church Body Library in Dublin, the principal repository for the Church's written heritage.

With the agreement of the National Archives, the RCB Library loaned the registers recording the birth, marriage and death of various members of the Kearney family for the day to the Library in Trinity College, so that the Obama family could view them along with other materials from the College's collections where one antecedent John Kearney was Provost from 1799 to 1806, and also a map of lands in County Offaly from which the Kearneys sprang (now in the National Library of Ireland). In 1806, John Kearney became the Church of Ireland bishop of Ossory, where he served for the remainder of his life until 1813.

The registers had initially been shown to President Obama by Canon Stephen Neill, rector of Cloughjordan (linked to Templeharry) during the President's historic visit to Moneygall in 2011. Thereafter they were transferred to the safe custody of the RCB Library where members of the public are most welcome to consult them and the many other collections of parish records in its custody.

For further information about the library's holdings see this link: <http://ireland.anglican.org/about/92>

Caring for Rural Communities

Cashel, Ferns and Ossory Committee for Social Affairs invite clergy and people concerned for rural Ireland to a day conference, "Caring for Rural Communities in Times of Change: A Church of Ireland Response".

This takes place on Saturday, 12th October 2013 at Horse and Jockey, Co Tipperary. We have a very strong line up of speakers, which, it is hoped will inform and enable those who attend, and send them away with ideas for their own parishes. We particularly hope Mothers' Union branches, who have a special concern for families, homes, and communities, will be strongly represented.

The conference timetable is:

10.30 Coffee

Morning Session: Rural Challenges

10.50 Opening reflection

11.00 Matt Dempsey - Irish Farmers' Journal

11.40	Kieran Stafford - National Vice-President, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
12.20	Bernie Carroll/Louise Ryan - National Office for Suicide Prevention
13.00	Lunch

Afternoon session: Rural Responses

14.25	Charles Smith, Chief Executive, Farming Community Network UK
15.05	John Evoy, Chief Executive Officer, Irish Men's Sheds Association
15.45	Closing reflections

The conference is free for anyone who wishes to attend, but places must be booked to facilitate catering. Please contact Ian Poulton at ianpoulton@gmail.com or at The Rectory, Portlaoise Road, Mountrath, Co Laois, not later than Saturday, 5th October, if you hope to attend.

The Eucharist: Part III - Proclaiming & Receiving the word.

The third of a series of articles on the Eucharist by Archdeacon Wayne Carney

Anglicans have always heard the Bible read at their services. It is a practice which dates back to the 1st Century, when St Paul's letters and fragments of what would become the Gospels were read at the Eucharist. Gradually, these readings were organised into a Lectionary, so that virtually the entire Bible would be read in church over a period of time. Over the centuries, these lectionaries became incredibly complicated, and since the readings were in Latin, few people were able to understand them.



Archbishop Thomas Cranmer simplified the Lectionary (portrait by Gerlach Flicke)

At the Reformation, Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, simplified the lectionary, so that readings, in English, would be heard and understood by everyone. At daily Morning and Evening Prayer, there were to be readings from the Old and New Testaments and a Psalm. At the weekly Eucharist, there would be an Epistle and Gospel. Unfortunately, as people were unused to taking Communion regularly, the Eucharist in most places became monthly or even just

quarterly, so the Morning Prayer readings (with no differentiation between the Epistle and Gospel) were almost the only ones heard. When the Eucharist was celebrated, there was no Old Testament reading or Psalm.

New lectionaries brought into use in recent decades (including our Revised Common Lectionary) have addressed this by having the same lectionary for all services, giving a continuity of readings over the course of the 3-year cycle. Each Sunday, there is an Old Testament reading, Psalm, Epistle and Gospel.

Some parishes regularly omit one or two of these, thereby ensuring that parishioners never hear from the Old Testament or the Epistles. There are other places where the service can be shortened if need be!

Ideally, readings should be introduced with a sentence to give the context, so everyone understands what they're about. We sit for the Old Testament, Psalm (unless it is sung), and Epistle, and stand for the Gospel, to show our respect for the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is quite silly to stand for the Gospel at the Eucharist, and the next week sit down for it during Morning Prayer, when we're using the same lectionary for both!

The Liturgy of the Word concludes with the Sermon. This really should immediately follow the Gospel – to have it after the Creed, or at the end of the service means it is cut off from the readings that it should be referring to. Gone are the days (I hope) when a preacher would begin his or her sermon with, "My text for today is..." and then preach on a passage of Scripture not heard in the readings.

We hear the readings, we think about them during the sermon as some truth from at least one of them is expounded, and then we are ready to respond to the Word of God as it impacts on our lives – and more about that next time.

'Run4Christ' Team on 52 Marathon run!

Church of Ireland ordinand, Alastair Donaldson, has now reached the official halfway point of his challenge to run 52 marathons in eight and a half weeks, spreading the Gospel as he goes. The 31 year old, who has just finished his first year at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, left his home town of Crossmaglen on Monday 1 July and is currently running through the United Dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe. Alastair along with some members of the Run4Christ team passed through Limerick City on Tuesday 30th July having run from Rathkeale that morning. The following day they proceeded to Ennis.

Alastair's 1,298 mile journey will take him and the team on a lap of the island of Ireland. To date he has been accompanied by a number of other runners, van drivers and physios as the team run from location to location. He is inviting local runners to join him along the way. He is accompanied by a support van which is being driven by various volunteers including fellow ordinands, CITI staff and his sister, Janice. At night he and his team are generally given hospitality by well wishers along his route. On arrival in each town they hand out leaflets and talk to passers by.

"We're very relaxed. Some people are interested in the idea of running around Ireland and others are happy to talk about the Gospel message we bring," Alastair explains. "We have found that for the most part people are very responsive and supportive

of what we're doing. They are encouraged by seeing 'Christians' who believe in the message they proclaim. Sometimes you would nearly believe that people have become anti everything in this country and wouldn't appreciate being given information about the Gospel. But I have found that people are pleased to talk to you. We're in a landscape of feeling against all things Church but we're trying to share the Gospel, not flogging a Church," he adds.

International mission agency, Crosslinks, are partnering the ordinand on his venture and hope to be able to link with a number of churches across Ireland. Alastair was pleased as he ran across the United Dioceses to link up with a number of Church of Ireland parishes and rectors including Rev. Mairt Hanley from Killorglin and Rev. Jim Stephens from Dingle. As of writing he and the team still have another 3 and a half weeks and 550 miles to complete. They hope to return to Alastair's home village of Crossmaglen in Armagh Diocese on the 29th August. Your prayers are appreciated.

For further details please check out www.run4christ.org



Alastair with the Run4Christ support van

A Story of Church Planting

by Rev. Laurence Graham, Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches

Editor: I am sure Laurence's inspiring story is quite as relevant to Church of Ireland folk as it is to Methodists. Decline is not inevitable, change is to be welcomed. As Laurence says, 'All mission is God's and we just need to be open to his leading so that we can follow where he is already working.'

I am blessed to be ministering amongst the Methodist congregations in Co. Kerry. The oldest congregation which I am involved in was planted about fourteen years ago. The Methodist building in Killarney had been closed for over forty years, except for July and August when people drove from Cork to offer a service to tourists. However in 1998 a retired doctor and his wife began to travel more regularly to Killarney, sponsored by the Methodist Church in Cork. Services began all year round and within a few years the Church was full. Some people also began to travel over from Kenmare, so in 2005 an opportunity arose to have a mid-week Bible group in one of their homes. A year later this developed into a monthly Sunday night service in rented premises, which another year later became a weekly Sunday morning service. And so Kenmare Methodist Church was born. It's called "Gateway", because it stands at the gateway to the Ring of Kerry, and we hope and pray that it will be a gateway to the Kingdom of God for many people.



Home fellowship in Dingle area

If you leave Millstreet town and drive in any direction you like, you will drive for at least a half hour or maybe more before you come to any Church of any kind other than Roman Catholic. That huge circle approximately fifty miles wide includes three other major towns, many villages and numerous town lands. The beginnings were not dramatic but were God inspired. They began as God implanted a thought in somebody's head, a quick look at the map, and then a phone call from a minister in Dublin about two asylum seekers who were being moved from Dublin to a hostel just outside Millstreet. Then three years ago all that I did was spend an afternoon walking up and down the main street of Millstreet in and out of every pub looking for a room that we might be able to rent! In the end we were able to rent a room in a small community centre in the town. We put up a few posters for a monthly Bible study and praise time. That was over four years ago. Now there's a weekly Sunday evening meeting and a weekly Tuesday night Bible study in different venues in the area. It is still small but there is a nucleus of local, committed people growing in Christ and praying for their area. A small Church with a healthy heart.

A year ago I met with a lady in Cork who originally came from the Dingle Peninsula. She now had a holiday home there and wanted to open it up for a Bible study. Who could refuse such an invitation! We've been meeting monthly for a year and are just beginning to make a few local contacts. We're now exploring the possibility of renting a more public premises in Dingle town.

Some years ago we had monthly meetings in rented premises in Castleisland. In the end they petered out although more people now come to Killarney Church from Castleisland than ever went to the meetings in Castleisland. However, just this summer, one of those people has opened her home for a monthly meeting because she "wants her friends to discover what she has found."



Millstreet Congregation at worship

I share all these stories simply to show the variety that they contain. There is no secret formula to Church planting that I know of. All mission is God's and we just need to be open to his leading so that we can follow where he is already working. A few years ago the Church gave a Minister a little time, sent him west and offered him permission to have a go and to see what God was doing. A report for the recent Methodist Conference raised the question: "Is it a case that we have leaders who are spending so much time managing that they don't have time to be leaders?" I would want to answer 'Yes' to that question. It is a problem. The little time that I was given didn't last for very long - it's all filled up!



the gathering
"ADELAIDE HOSPITAL NURSES"
will take place
at **Fitzpatricks Castle Hotel, Killiney, Co. Dublin**
on **Saturday, 12th October, 2013**
at 12.45 p.m.

*This is a unique gathering for all Nurses who trained in Peter St.
Further details and booking please contact Nola Lambart 087 6889845*

Cost for 4 course lunch €35.00
Please come and bring your colleagues

My time in Swaziland by Maureen Moss, Portumna

Sunshine, blue sky, a cool breeze rustles the dry grass. Yes, I'm still in Swaziland. Back home on the 24th August.

I arrived here on the 17th May. I'd flown from London to Johannesburg then on to Manzini. I was met at the airport by Archdeacon Bheki Magongo. My job was to teach English at Usuthu Mission Primary school. This, coincidentally, is next to Luyengo Farm, Bishop Trevor's mission appeal.

On arriving at the school I was told that they hadn't been informed I was coming, until the week before I arrived, so there was no job for me. They gave me the key to the Library and I was told I could use the room, for what I wasn't sure. Over the next week I visited classrooms and spoke with teachers and we worked out that I would take small groups of children who were considered 'slow learners'.



The children say 'Thank You!' for the pencil cases

It didn't take long for the children to feel comfortable with me. The first groups I had were Grade 1&2, little 5&6 year olds. I really enjoyed their smiles and laughter. It was a joy to teach them. It is imperative the children learn English at an early age. It's the language of all official business. The Universities and Colleges use it for Exams. Anyone not able to speak English will have no chance of getting a job that pays anything like a living wage.

In July a team arrived from Ireland - they had raised the funds for a new kitchen, which was built by local labour. The team painted seven classrooms. They worked very hard and did a wonderful job. The children were thrilled when they played games with them and tried to teach them the rules of cricket.

I've also been involved with Care Points. These are places where, orphans and children from destitute families come to get food, clothes, medical attention and counselling. I spent a day helping the women who cook the maize or rice and beans. Some days they might have a donation of food, something different. This day we took fish and eggs.



Demonstrating the 3-Legged Race at the School Sports Day

Swaziland is a beautiful country - even though we are coming to the end of a dry winter the trees are still green. We drive on the left and almost everyone speaks English so it doesn't feel all that 'foreign'. There is ample clean water fit to drink from the tap, although there are still places that don't yet have running water. The Townships are desperate places though, with one tap and one toilet to share between several families, and large family groups living in one or two rooms.

The contrast between rich and poor is extreme. The children at my school come mostly from poor families. In a situation like this it is often difficult to see the bigger picture. If there is money, should it be spent on shoes and clothes, or should it be spent on something to improve their education and give them the chance of a better life?



Maureen dressed in Swazi clothes at her farewell party

So many things have happened since I've been here it is difficult to pick out any special one:

- The blessing of the Reservoir, at the farm: this was a lovely day - we had a meal made with produce from the farm, except for the meat.
- The day the Bishop blessed the new kitchen: the school children put on a wonderful display of singing and dancing.
- I had an amazing day at the Wild Life Reserve.
- I've visited most of the tourist attractions, seen the wonderful craft work done by local women, and Fair Trade shops selling locally produced goods.
- My visit to the Cultural Village: their culture and history are very important to the Swazi people.
- School has now finished: the Teachers and Committee gave me a lovely farewell party - lots of speeches, good food and unexpected presents.



Orphans at one of the Care Points



The Irish team raised funds for a new kitchen and painted seven classrooms

I have had an amazing time in Swaziland. It is a predominantly Christian Country, where the church services are conducted with passion and vigour. The Swazis are happy, friendly people and have made me feel welcome wherever I've been. I now have a Swazi name – Siphwe. I hope I will be able to come back next year to see the completion of projects we've started.

Would you like to know more? Call or email, I'd love to hear from you: Mobile 086 262 7069, Email mossmaureen@ymail.com.



Newtown School Waterford

Educating for life in
the Quaker Tradition
since 1798

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

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

At Newtown School students learn independence, respect and tolerance, core

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Web: www.newtownschool.ie

Christians in Bethlehem

by Kate Cargin

Kate has provided this update to her report on life in Bethlehem in the December 2012 issue of Newslink.

On Wednesday 24 April 2013, the Israeli Special Appeals Committee for Land Seizure under Emergency Law released its verdict on the case of the Cremisan Valley.



The Cremisan Valley is one of the last green areas between Bethlehem and Jerusalem with substantial fertile agricultural lands belonging to the village Beit Jala, a district of Bethlehem. The valley is home to the Salesian Cremisan Monastery and, a short distance away, the Salesian Sisters Convent. Currently, there are two incomplete ends to the Israeli Separation Barrier, one on the hill behind the Convent and the other across the valley towards Jerusalem. How these two ends are joined up has been the subject of an appeal lasting seven years. Some of you may remember from my last article that I described attending mass in the Cremisan olive groves. This mass is celebrated every Friday as a non-violent protest against the route of the Separation Barrier and seizure of Palestinian land in the valley. We prayed for peace in their land, respect for their people and for a fair court judgment.

That judgment has now come. The Committee approved a route in which the Separation Barrier will surround the convent and school on three sides separating it from the monastery and from 75% of their land. Fifty-eight Palestinian families from Beit Jala will also lose free access to their farmland. Appeals to the Committee from the Convent and the local Palestinian people were ignored. Israel defends the verdict on the grounds of security for the illegal settlements of Jerusalem.

The villagers have been promised access to their land through agricultural gates. I know from Jarryus, the village where I lived for three months, that this kind of access to agricultural land is very precarious.



Mass in the Cremisan olive groves (photo: Sophie Wickham)

In the case of Jarryus, half the applications made by villagers for permits to their land were refused. Additionally, gates can be arbitrarily locked and conditions for transporting produce made very difficult.

Beit Jala is one of the few Christian villages left in Palestine. Many Christians are leaving because their livelihoods have been destroyed by the restrictions of the Israeli occupation. The additional loss of this land will cause huge economic hardship to an already dwindling Christian community.



**St Maelruain's Parish, Tallaght
Flower Festival**

**Designed by Richard Haslam
"Circle of Life"**

Festival of Hands
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Woodturning, Art, Photography
and lots more

Dates & Times
**27th, 28th & 29th
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11.00am - 6.00pm Friday & Saturday
11.00am - 4.30pm Sunday
followed by a closing service at 5.00pm

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Children under 14 free

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www.stmaelruainsflowerfestival.com
Email: stmaelruainsflowerfestival@gmail.com or call
Regina 086 1255161 - Janet 087 2943964

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

What a wonderful summer weather-wise we all enjoyed! Long overdue of course! At the time of writing all Leaving Cert students are awaiting the first tranche of university offers, and we wish them every blessing and success as they prepare for their new futures.

Worship in the Union was ably undertaken during the Rector's holidays by Joc Sanders, Audrey Clarke-Gordon, Rev'd Janet White-Spunner and Andrew Elleker, and our organist Sylvia Crawford had a very well earned break, with music accompaniments provided by Joan Larke and Christopher Kelly. Many thanks to all of them.

Our two Morning Prayers in July and August using the Iona Community liturgy were appreciated, both by our regular congregation and by visitors. Regular worshippers in the Union are already familiar with Iona worship as we use it in our Family Worship Sundays.

Killodiernan welcomed sailors and friends from the Lough Derg and Lough Ree Yacht Clubs on 18th August to the annual ecumenical service of thanksgiving for the Shannon Regattas. Diocesan Reader Joc Sanders led the well attended service and preached a suitably watery sermon. Fr John Slattery PP of Puckane and Carrig RC Parish sent his greetings - another engagement prevented him attending, but Margaret Kennedy represented his parish leading the intercessions. Lessons were read by Alan Algeo and Denis Hassey, Commodores of the Ree and Derg Clubs respectively. Diana Whitehead played the organ and all sung lustily. The collection of €265 will be split between the RNLI and Missions to Seafarers.

Ellen Langley took time out from university hols to build us an Ark! Now it needs filling, so lots of opportunities for our children to decorate/colour in every earthly life-form known to humankind! We shall be featuring the Ark in our first two Family Worship services in September, with the emphasis on Creation.

Many of our parishioners, as usual, took prizes in the Nenagh Show, and particular mention must be made of Betty Powell who was selected as Most Suitably Dressed Lady. Well done Betty! Setting new sartorial standards in the Union!

Also concerning the Powell family, we must record the marriage of Barry Powell youngest son of John & Betty Powell of Ballycrennode House and Elizabeth Tye daughter of Walter & Gay Tye of Paeroa New Zealand in the beautiful little Church of Ireland church in Glandore West Cork on the 23rd May last by the Rev. Chris Peters, Dean of Ross. It was followed by a wonderful reception next door in The Rectory overlooking the beautiful Glandore Harbour with family and friends from all around the world with the sun shining all day long. We wish them a happy future together.

We continue to work on our inclusiveness, hospitality and general welcome - Marty Sanders has produced three excellent leaflets giving information about the history of the churches in the Union and the current church activities. Also the Select Vestry unanimously passed a resolution to include the Nenagh Union of Parishes on the Changing Attitudes website as a Union of churches that welcomes and affirms the presence and ministries of all gay and lesbian Christians. (www.changingattitudesireland.org)

Our two choirs will be resuming this month - Grace, Zoe and Emily have moved into secondary education, so we're hoping for new recruits from the school to replace them. We're looking forward to the choir 'jolly' to St Mary's Cathedral on 14 September to meet with the new RSCM Director, Andrew Reid, and take part in some singing and fellowship.

We send our best wishes and every blessing to Rev'd Stan Evans

as he is installed as Priest-in-Charge in the Omev Group of Parishes this month.

September of course sees the start of the Harvest Thanksgiving season - Templederry Harvest takes place on 8th September, 3.30 pm, where the guest speaker is James Armitage, Methodist Lay Preacher. St Mary's Harvest will be on Friday 27th September, 7.30 pm, with the Dean of St Mary's, Sandra Pragnell, preaching. We look forward to singing the great harvest hymns of thanksgiving, and sharing in food and fellowship.

We hope everyone has had an opportunity over the summer to enjoy rest and relaxation, whether away or on 'staycation', and that we're all refreshed and renewed for the coming months. We're looking forward to catching up with many friends at the 'Gathering to Go' Diocesan Day at the end of the month. See page 5 for details - and see you there!

Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.

Rector: Canon Stephen Neill

Modreeny Rectory, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary.

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

Email: stephen.neill@gmail.com

Parish website: www.modreeny.com

Stephen's blog: www.paddyanglican.com

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

To Geri Burn of Burntwood, Cloughjordan on the death of her Sister-in-law May Gilpin in Kildare. Following the funeral in the Cathedral in Kildare on Tuesday 25th June May was buried in Modreeny graveyard. To Eileen Cavanagh of Modreeny on the death of her mother Margaret (Nan) McCormack of Brownstown,

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CloughJordan on 21st July. Nan was a very proud and popular mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great great grand mother and will be sorely missed by her family and many friends.

MONEYGALL SALE

The annual Summer sale held on the 18th July was a great success and many thanks to all those who supported the event.

MONEYGALL HALL/OLD SCHOOL

The renovation of our parish hall in Moneygall has finally commenced after almost a year of planning and logistical obstacles. The project, which has been given generous LEADER funding through Offaly Local Development Association, will provide the parish with an effectively new hall from top to bottom. Among the jobs involved are the replacement of the roof and floor throughout, the provision of a modern kitchen facility, rewiring, new plumbing and toilet facilities, wheelchair access, new furnishings and landscaping of the grounds. Thanks are due to the new Trustees of the Hall, the Hall Committee members, the Select Vestry and our consultant Mr Brian England who have got us this far. It is hoped to have the job completed before Christmas and for both the parish and the wider community to have the use of a very fine new community space. While there has been generous grant funding the parish has also made a very large financial commitment to this project which is a very positive sign of a community which is investing in its future and in the needs of the wider community.

DIOCESAN GATHERING – SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER

As requested by the Bishop there will be no services in the parish on Sunday 29th September to facilitate the Diocesan Gathering event at Villiers School, Limerick (see page 5 for more details). It is suggested that where possible people share cars or even hire a bus to attend the event. Anybody who is interested in bus transport please give their name to the rector as soon as possible so that we can ascertain if it is viable. If not please share cars as much as possible and remember parishioners who might need a lift to get to the celebrations. Anyone who has concerns about securing a lift contact the rector if you have no alternative arrangements and I will make sure that a lift is available.

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

CONDOLENCES

It was with great sadness that we learnt of three deaths in very quick succession in July:

John Dunne of Shinrone parish passed away on 18 July. His funeral took place in Shinrone Church on 20 July with burial in Etagh Graveyard.

Hazel Kelly (née Reid), formerly of Dunkerrin parish, also passed away on 18 July. Her funeral took place in Dunkerrin Church on 20 July with burial in Dunkerrin New Graveyard.

Richard Greene, of Roscrea, passed away on 21 July. His funeral took place in Shinrone Church on 23 July with burial in Ballingarry Graveyard.

Our condolences and prayers go to the families of each of them at this very difficult time. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

AGHANCON FETE

Aghancon Parish Fete took place on the afternoon of Sunday 7 July at Aghancon Community Hall. As usual a great crowd turned up

to support the event, with plenty of teas, stalls, raffles and prizes to keep everyone entertained. A big thank you to everyone who helped organise or who supported this valuable fundraiser.

NEW HEATING

A new oil-fired heating system has been installed in Aghancon church which should make a big difference come the cold weather. Also installed was a new high-tech composting toilet, which upgrades the facilities there.

DUNKERRIN DOG SHOW & FETE

The Dunkerrin Dog Show took place on the afternoon of Sunday 14 July in the grounds of Dunkerrin church. A large number of dogs were entered in the various categories this year, and a good crowd turned out on a fine day to view and to visit the various stalls, and enjoy the teas. Many thanks to all who organised and supported, especially to all the sponsors who donated toward the event.



12 Year old Belgian Shepherd Seiko, Overall Champion & 1st Prize in Golden Oldie class at the Dunkerrin Dog Show

KINNITTY AMERICAN TEA PARTY

A fundraising meal and dance in aid of Kinnitty church was held on the evening of 23 July in Kinnitty Castle Hotel. A great night was had by all with eating and dancing until late. It was good to welcome in particular visitors from our link parish in Harzgerode who joined the evening and had a great time. Many thanks to all who organised and supported, in particular Ivan Sheppard.

LINK VISIT

We welcomed a party of 16 from our link church in Harzgerode for a 10 day visit from 23 July. Staying in the County Arms Hotel in Birr the group had a packed itinerary with trips to Bunratty, Limerick, Kilkenny, Strokestown, Dublin, and Kildare amongst others, and enjoyed boat trips, walks and art classes, as well as worshipping with us and enjoying a parish meal on the Sunday in Aghancon church. During their visit they very kindly presented a wooden cross for the sanctuary in Shinrone Church, which was made by a local woodturner in Germany.

SHINRONE FETE

The Shinrone Parish Fete will take place from 2pm on 14th September at the Cloghmoyle Schoolhouse on the Main Street in Shinrone. All the usual stalls, raffle and auction will be there as well as extra attractions this year for children. Do come along and support the fete – proceeds go toward the repainting of Shinrone Church.

NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those going back to school this month, particularly those starting school or a new school. Prayers too for all teachers as they begin another year.

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

HARVESTS

Autumn is upon us and consequently also thoughts of Harvest Thanksgiving and the opportunity for us in Clare to offer hospitality in our own inimitable fashion to our friends and neighbours.

Happily two major Church figures have agreed to join us for Harvest celebration in Ennis and Newmarket-on-Fergus. Fr Sean McDonagh, a Columban Missionary with roots in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary and a widely-read author on ecological and justice issues will speak at Kilnasoolagh Church, Newmarket on Sunday afternoon 22nd September, 4.00pm, with Clare Music Circle leading the singing.

Friday October 4th at Drumcliffe, Ennis, the Rev Ray Simpson, now the Church of England's outstanding speaker and writer on Celtic Spirituality, returns among us to share thoughts on fresh models of Church amid the Harvest celebration of all things earthy and mystical. Linked with and resident on Holy Island, Lindisfarne, Rev Ray is Founding Guardian of the Community of St Aidan and St Hilda, a worldwide 'new monastic' and lay community inspired by the simplicity and creation-orientated first Christian churches in these islands led by people like Columkille (Columba), Aidan, Colman, Caimin, Cronan, to name just a few. Ennis Cathedral Choir under Mr Michael Hennessy will lead the singing.

Rev Ray will meet in Kilfenora with the members of the pioneering Pilgrimage Route building group, Clare Pilgrim Way, for a camino walk and dialogue in St Fachnan's Cathedral on the Saturday (5th).

GATHER TO GO

Between the Harvests is the major gathering of the whole diocese at Villiers School on Sunday 29th for a collective act of Worship and "koinonia" (fellowship)...a key moment of intent and cohesion for our scattered and fragile Church of Ireland congregations which Bishop Trevor asks us to take seriously. So all worship closes down on the Sunday within the Drumcliffe-Kilnasoolagh Group. That said the Rector is happy to minister to the worshipping needs of any unable to make it at any other time over the weekend.

MARRIAGE

Douglas and Jackie Reid and youngest of two sons, Nick flew out to the San Francisco area in late August for the marriage of Alex, eldest son, to his Chinese born partner Huilin, a financial analyst. Alex who obtained his Ph.D in physics from Oxford University is currently undertaking research at the famous Stanford University. We pray much blessing on the happy couple and look forward to welcoming them back to Kilnasoolagh Church community in Newmarket-on-Fergus.ummer chaplain

HOLIDAY MINISTRY

Thanks to all who contributed to the Summer chaplaincy from Spanish Point mobile home, to Valerie and Dot Bolster for looking after them and to Terry and Catherine Shaw who held things together at St James Church Kilkee, during July and August. Canon Trevor Sullivan, Dean Maurice Sirr (Rtd), Rev Patricia, Prof. Steven Ellis, Mr Steve Fletcher (London) and Mr Jackie McNair, Mr Edwin Bailey and Mr Eckhart Wurm, kindly filled preaching roles over the Summer.

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

These musical events featuring local sopranos (and one guest tenor) on a fortnightly basis proved a popular success, much to the satisfaction of Mrs Helen Houlihan who managed the two month Summer programme. It is good to be able to host such events in St Columbas which is becoming a renowned venue.

Clonfert Diocese

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

Greetings from Co. Galway - here's hoping you have had a happy holiday time, a chance to enjoy the lovely weather that has come our way this year, boosting our spirits and hopefully producing a worthy harvest in due course.

FAMILY SERVICE JUNE

The Family Service held in St John's Ballinasloe brought together (in spite of a rainy morning) a wonderful congregation of over 100 parishioners representing all six parishes in our extended Unions of Parishes.

It was our first family service of 2013 but what a wonderful atmosphere, created thanks mainly to our young people (some twenty-four in total) who played their part in making it a great success. They responded to the leadership of Gwyn, Beatrice and Jennifer who gave of their time at two rehearsals making various props, animal masks, and pew artwork etc. for their modern-day adaptation of Noah's Ark.

The service was introduced by Joshua Kohlmann, a new parishioner of Ballinasloe, and among our other young people were a number who took part for the first time, all showing great encouragement for years to come.

Following the service a gathering of some seventy assembled at the rectory for a fun day and bar-b-cue. This was great craic with the 'Rectory crew' laying on great food and a feast of fun and games, for not only the young people but adults as well. The rainy morning soon gave way to a sunny warm day that encouraged the large gathering to stay around for quite a while. A great day was had by all and I thank all who came along to both the service and the rectory, making it a great day of fellowship and a chance to meet old friends and make some new friends too.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH BALLINASLOE

At long last the scaffolding that has defaced St John's Clock Tower for many years has been finally removed. As far as the Select Vestry is concerned the clock is the property of the Town Council, yet the maintenance and up-keep of same is disputed by the Council Members. The Select Vestry will strive to resolve this long standing issue in the near future. The lack of clarification has cost the parish dearly and must be resolved as a matter of urgency. However the eyesore of scaffolding has gone and the clock is ticking and chiming correctly as is expected.

GLEBE SCHOOL AUGHRIM

The new school year is about to commence with additional students bringing our numbers up to sixteen. This augurs well for future years as the children enrolled then will not reach secondary school status until June of 2016, and between now and then it is anticipated that additional children within the parish and catchment area will boost our numbers to new heights. Hopefully we will reach the stage soon for the need to engage an additional teacher.

SCHOOL EXAMINATION RESULTS

I hope that our young people throughout the Diocese have achieved great results from their examinations, that will enable them to move forward to the next step of their education and to fulfil their career dreams.

HOLY BAPTISM

The baptism of Ashley, the youngest daughter of Noel and Alma Maher, and sister to Holly and Josh took place on Saturday 3rd August in Holy Trinity Aughrim. A gathering of family and friends gave Ashley a great welcome as she was baptised into the world wide fellowship of Christ's Church. We pray that she will be enriched, protected and guided by the Holy Spirit throughout her life.

DIOCESAN FAMILY DAY

We are all looking forward to our United Diocesan Day on Sunday 29th September at Villiers School, Limerick – see page 5 for details. I hope that all parishes will give the day the support that it deserves.

As far as our parish is concerned there will be no service on Sunday at local level but a service of Holy Communion on Saturday evening in Holy Trinity Aughrim starting at 7.30 pm will facilitate parishioners who are unable to support the Bishop's request.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Josh and Alison Walshe who were married recently in America. Josh is the eldest son of Francis and Tina Walshe and grandson of Bertie and Phoebe Walshe of Clontuskert. We wish the happy couple God's Blessing as they embark on their family life together.

PASTORAL CARE

We continue to think of all who are ill at this time in hospital or in residence in Nursing Homes. We remember especially Bertie Walshe who at present is in Ballinderry NH Kilconnell.

It has been a time of sadness for all of our parishioners who had the pleasure to know the late Lily Pepper. Lily had no immediate relatives and during recent years resided in The Millrace NH Ballinasloe. Lily was born almost ninety years ago and reared in Ballinasloe. She will be sorely missed by her many friends especially the Rafter Family and her many friends in St. John's and her Mother's Union members in Aughrim and beyond. May she rest in peace.

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

GREAT SUMMER

We are indeed very thankful for the fine weather we have had this summer, during which we have achieved and enjoyed so many activities that were not so easily done over the last few summers.

WHAT GOOD LUCK

... we at St Paul's Church Banagher had, when we chose to get some long overdue work done on the Church during this good spell of fine weather. The work mainly consisted of repointing stone work, resealing joints on the roof and around the spire, and clearing away a good bit of vegetation that had taken root around the fabric. We now wait to see if this has cured some annoying leaks we have had around the church for some years, though as the weather continues to be fine we may have a little longer yet to see the results.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Kathryn and Brian Caffrey on their first born, a fine boy who has been given the name of Charlie, a grandson for Noel and Isobel Finney. May God Bless Charlie and give him a long happy and healthy life.

WE CONTINUE

To pray for, and keep in our thoughts, Ann Menheneott as she continues her treatment in Galway Hospital. We also pray for her children and all the other people that care for Ann in this difficult time for her.

MAUREEN MOSS

Has been continuing her work in Swaziland. On the 24th July Maureen was invited to the opening and blessing of the newly completed Reservoir at Luyengo Farm. Bishop of Swaziland the Rt Rev. Ellinah Wamukoya conducted a short blessing and planted a tree to commemorate the occasion. The blessing was followed by a meal using produce grown on the farm (see photo – for more photos see Maureen's article on page 16). The contribution made by the Limerick Diocese mission appeal was mentioned and very much appreciated.



Swazi ladies prepare the feast

WE WERE THRILLED

With the generosity of the people who came to our Bring-and-Buy sale held in our parish hall at St Paul's. It was well supported by the people of Banagher and by the Parish of Eyrecourt, and by people who had travelled from well outside the town. Many of our stalls were almost sold out after 90 minutes of frantic buying. The evening concluded with the Rev'd Patrick Towers conducting the raffle – with so many prizes to win this took quite some time to complete. We would like to thank very much all those people who worked so hard to make this a success, and especially those who contributed so generously to make this such an enjoyable and fruitful evening. Over €1,400 was raised on the night. We would also like to thank all those who have donated towards the costs of the repairs to St Paul's Church.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Will be held at St Paul's Church Banagher on 22nd September at 3pm. We hope the good weather will continue long enough so that farmers will be able to complete their harvest.

LET US PRAY

For all the young people who have returned to school for another year of study, or are about to do so. May God guide their work to enable them to get fulfilment from their lives.

Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish

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

Dean: The Very 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

DEATHS

27th June - Sheila Fogerty (nee Haselbeck) - We extend our sincere sympathy to her sons Walter and Barrie, their wives and children.

7th July - Evelyn Robinson (nee Smyth) - We extend our sincere sympathy to her daughter Shirley Webster, her husband Colm and her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

10th August - Liam Ryan - We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife Marian, their daughters Emma, Lauren and Elaine and their son Mark and the wider family circle.

12th August - Teresa Allen - We extend our deepest sympathy to her daughter Noreen Johnston, Noreen's husband Niall, their daughters Gillian and Katie and the wider family circle.

BAPTISM IN ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

On 29th June - Conall Xavier Hayes was welcomed into the household of faith. Conall is son of Amy Kavanagh and Peter Hayes, grandson of Joe & Lucy Kavanagh. Wishing Conall and all his family a future enriched by God's blessing.

SUMMERTIME CONCERT AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

A big THANK YOU to Irina Dernova for putting together an excellent evening of entertainment, and also to the parishioners who helped with the organisation of the event, and to all who attended. The performance ended with the choirs and solo artistes joining to sing You'll Never Walk Alone to resounding applause from the audience - climaxing a wonderful evening of entertainment. Over €700 was raised towards the repair of the large stained glass window in the Chancel. Well done Irina!

PLANT SALE AND AUTUMN FAIR

This is taking place in Villiers School on Saturday 19th of October. We will welcome contributions of plants, cakes, jams, and preserves. This year for your entertainment, we are limiting the types of books for the book stall and welcome books on Cookery; Gardening; DIY; & Natural History. We are also looking for non perishable items for the raffle hampers. There will also be a bargain stall for odds and ends (nothing electrical) which might be someone's idea of treasure. So please keep us in mind when spring cleaning your house and/or garden. Offers of goods and novel ideas for stalls welcome. For further details please contact lizbthstanley@gmail.com.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Emily Groves who celebrated her 90th birthday on the 13th August. We hope Emily had a memorable day.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

The long wait is now over and we extend congratulations and best wishes to them as they set off to further their education in many different places, both here and overseas.

THE REV'D STAN EVANS

Congratulations Stan on your move to be Priest in Charge of the Omev Group of parishes in Connemara, Co Galway. Stan's installation takes place on Friday 20th of September at 7.30pm in Christ Church, Clifden.

Adare and 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 can be no complaints about the weather this summer as it has been such wonderful warm weather, the garden furniture could actually be used and barbecue was on the menu for many a day. It has been quiet in the parish with the numbers attending on a Sunday lower than usual as many were away on holidays locally and abroad. Roberta, the rector's mother, visited for June and July this summer and many invited her to come back next summer and bring the sunshine back with her on her return (she promised to send it even if she did not return next year!)

Ian Shire and Mandy Judge were married at St Nicholas church in Adare on 18th July. The weather was just perfect for them and the day and the celebrations could not have gone any better. Our best wishes to them on this new chapter of their lives together. Ian who makes furniture made our new altar which we featured in our last article in this magazine.



Mandy Judge & Ian Shire on their wedding day

The Mother's Union also had a few outings during the summer and it was great that Jessie arranged this for the group. Many of those in the Mother's Union don't go away on holidays, so a day trip here and there can do wonders to lift the spirit in the company of others, especially when you on your own for a lot of the time.

The old school is being cleaned and painted in preparation for the children's return to school at the end of August. It seems that when the schools begin people return to the usual rhythm of life and at times it becomes a hectic pace. We trust that this year people will pause and recognise God in the ordinary fabric of life and appreciate the gracious presence of a loving God, and not get lost in the distractions of 'busyness'.

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin

Rector: Rev. Keith Scott

The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

Tel: 061 – 398647 Mob: 087 2885169

E-mail: rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org

Everyone says that the summer is the quiet time of year. Well maybe numbers are a bit lower than usual – but our parishes have had a busy time this summer.



The Askeaton chalice and paten dating from 1663

On the last Sunday in June we celebrated the Askeaton chalice and paten, given to the parish as a gift in 1663 following the restoration of the Anglican church after the years of neglect during the Commonwealth. Bishop Trevor joined us for the celebrations and the barbecue after the service.

The chalice is the first piece of restoration church silver commissioned from the Limerick silversmiths and it's design was widely copied elsewhere. We feel that we deserve a celebration for managing to hang on to such an important and historical piece for 350 years. It also reminds us that, bad as times are now, the Anglican Church in Ireland has come through difficult times in the past and we should never ever give up on our witness, faith and hope.

In July Samantha White and Trent Bowen were married in St. Mary's Askeaton – many congratulations and prayers for a long and happy future to them both. It was a wonderful day for all concerned.

In August Rev'd Keith gave a talk in St. Brendan's Tarbert about the parish and the Church. This was a "Gathering" event organised by one of the parishioners. It was a truly pleasant surprise to find a large group of people gathered on a damp evening in the Church to hear about its history, a story which includes Lord Kitchener and the 2nd Munster Fusiliers. As St. Brendan's is about to celebrate 200 years (St. Brendan's day 2014) this event made a great start to both looking back at the past and looking forward to the future with hope and faith.



Samantha White & Trent Bowen on their wedding day

Thinking of hope by the time you get to read this we will have celebrated a double baptism at St. Mary's Askeaton. Congratulations to Richard and Claire Langford, and Fiona (Claire's sister) and Matt Taylor on the birth of their children and a big joyful welcome to Isabel Dorothy Francis (Langford) and William Jeremiah (Taylor) to the Christian community.

Ardfert Diocese

Killarney and Aghadoe Union of Parishes.

Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross

(Vacant)

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Máirt Hanley.

Mob: 087-619 4733

Email: rev.hanley@gmail.com

EXPLOSION ROCKS ST MARY'S

The congregation at St Mary's were shocked and saddened by the events of Saturday July 13th when an early morning explosion claimed the life of a good friend to all. Although James Gleeson was not an adherent of the Anglican tradition, he did attend St Mary's throughout the concert season and donated towards the upkeep of the church. Our sincere sympathies are extended to his bereaved family and many friends. Had the explosion happened the previous weekend, when up to 10,000 cyclists were preparing in our part of town for the Ring of Kerry charity cycle and there was also a massive crowd around for the Munster final, it is almost certain that the death toll would have been far higher.

BOAT TRIPS

At present it looks as though we will not be going to the Blaskets in the near future despite much interest being shown initially. We did, however, have a couple of cruises on the Lakes of Killarney during the summer and stunning is the only way to describe this beautiful place at sunset. Landing at Innisfallen with Rob Eadie and family, who were "home" from the US, was very special. On our first trip we visited Glengarriff where the Hogwarts doorway in the old Doyle homestead bowled over the entire "Irish section" of the Eadie clan. Tom and Ben certainly lived up to form when they decided to defect to the wilderness leaving Yvonne and Andy hoarse and midge-weary before the family was finally reunited. That said, the family wasn't really complete because Maud went AWOL even before the launch!

CONCERTS

The concert season is finally winding down and, once again, I'm absolutely astounded and proud of the commitment of every one from St Mary's who puts in such an effort each year to ensure these are run off smoothly. Bookings for next year are already coming in fast and we need to alleviate some of the organisational pressure on Andy, so all suggestions are welcome.

ACADEMIA

It's not often that a Church of Ireland academic spends warm summer days wrapped up in winter clothes in various archives doing research. And certainly it's not often that during the course of their research they come across a recurring name who sits 4 pews away from them on Sundays. Dr Fiona Brennan has found out some interesting facts about Richard Hilliard in prepping for her October exhibition on the theme of the founding of the Kerry Drama Festival which goes on display in Killarney Library. Fiona will also give a talk on amateur drama in the Killarney area as part of the Autumn National Park series of lectures around the same time and she promises to reveal all (especially about Richard!) Fiona delivered a paper on the Tralee playwright Neil Flynn in Queens' University, Belfast, during late July, so she's a busy girl.

FURTHER ACADEMIA

Congrats to all of our young adults who completed their exams and have got, or are in the process of getting, their results. You make us proud in St Mary's because of who you are and what you mean to all of us as individuals: after all, that's what's really important.

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

A BOUQUET OF ROSES

On Sunday 18th August, as a part of the Rose of Tralee Festival, St. John's Tralee hosted a group of Rose contestants from places as diverse as New Orleans, New Zealand, London and Longford, together with their friends, family members and many other Festival visitors.

Thanks to some of our newer parishioners, the Ecumenical Service of the Word opened with the bass voices and compelling beat of the African drum group under the direction of Samuel Kiwanuka which was, as usual, much appreciated by the congregation.

The service was lead by our Priest in Charge, Rev. Jim Stephens, with some of the readings being taken by our guests including Nicola McEvoy, the reigning Rose of Tralee, in what was to be one of her last public engagements before she handed her Tiara to the 2013, Texas Rose Haley O' Sullivan, a few days later.



Outgoing Rose Nicola McEvoy (right) read a lesson

As ever we were delighted to welcome Bishop Trevor to the pulpit on this special occasion, when he spoke about the love story that inspired the song in which the Festival has its genesis. His light-hearted reflections on the subject were much appreciated, especially when he reminded the young hopefuls that part of the song speaks of 'The truth in her eyes ever shining'.



A carnival atmosphere after the Rose Service

Afterwards we welcomed even more of the Roses who had been attending another church but joined us for the inevitable after-service tea and bikkies; all of which added to what can only be described as a general carnival atmosphere.

The success of the event was heightened by the fact that the Lord blessed it with dry, bright, unKerry-like weather!



Rosebuds with Bishop Trevor

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

Life in the parish here has been overshadowed by the sudden death of Áine Nic Ghabhann. Áine was an incredible woman who was a real force of nature. As Bertí her son said at the funeral service, he only knew two sorts of people - those whose lives had been deeply affected by Áine and those that had not met her yet. Áine came into the life of the parish as a paid organist but became an integral part of the community. Over the last few years she served on the Select Vestry and was part of the group that went to Germany. She was very involved in our planning for the visit of our friends from Güttesberge and always on hand for music or baking. Dhéis Dé go raibh a anam.

Our first service after Áine's passing was the Christening of baby Pheobe which was a beautiful event - a very fitting expression of our belief in the communion of saints and a passing on of the light of Christ. Congratulations to her parents Caroline and Ciara, and thanks to Séan and Edele, Áine's son and daughter-in-law, for providing the music.

Congratulations to the O'Niell and Galvin Clans on their christenings earlier in the summer.

Looking forward, we are now getting ready for the commissioning of Barbara Ingang Buckley as a parish reader on 1st September. Congratulations to her - she will be a very valuable addition to our ministry team. Our harvest festival will be on the 15th with the usual BBQ and celebrations. We welcome the Germans on Wednesday the 25th. We will have our guests until the Monday and take them to Limerick for the Gathering on the Sunday. The more help we have, the easier and more enjoyable this will be, so please to contact me if you can help.

The Cricket team have avoided the bottom of the County League having beaten Valentia twice, so well done - maybe we will make the play offs next year!

Cheers all, and God Bless,
Rev. Máirt

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

WHAT A SUMMER! – MUSIC & FRIENDSHIP

At the end of June, four young people on a cycling tour of the Ring of Kerry sent an e-mail asking if they could sing at the Communion service in Sneem. We were prepared for anything, but not quite expecting three PhD music students from Trinity and a professional soprano. Just amazing.



The Teddy Bear service at St Patrick's

A couple of weeks afterwards, the St. Lawrence Schola Cantorum from Berkshire UK gave us three concerts at Waterville and Valentia in aid of the Heritage project at St Michael's, and once more we were led in a magnificent choral Holy Communion service.

The last Friday of June had a nautical flavour as we sailed 'Round the Bay with Praise and Play' on the Star of Kenmare, watching the seals and cormorants before a picnic lunch and highly competitive round of crazy golf.

On the August Bank Holiday Monday, Sneem church opened its doors for the now annual 'Friendship Day', providing an opportunity to welcome the whole Sneem community and holiday visitors, offering lunches, games, facepainting, plant and cake stalls. The weather was ideal, and throughout the day we were able to welcome a steady stream of people including people from the village who had never before entered the Church of the Transfiguration.



Round the Bay with Praise & Play

The week afterwards, the monthly church family service at St Patrick's was held as an ecumenical Teddy Bear service, followed by a Teddy Bears picnic on the church lawn. Teddies of all shapes and sizes, ranging in size from about five feet to a couple of inches tall, helped us to understand better the unconditional love that Jesus offers us all, no matter how long we've left Him in the cupboard as we 'grew up'.

As well as all this, a wedding or three and a lovely service of renewal of the vows on the 30th anniversary (plus one hour) of the wedding of Brad and Debbi, a visiting couple from Ohio.

And now, holidays over, deep breaths as we prepare to start fundraising in earnest for the St Bridgid's Conference and retreat centre. Never a dull moment in South Kerry!

Here 2 Help

Here2Help is an established crisis pregnancy counselling service. It is one of the 'Positive Options' agencies that offer free non-judgemental counselling to anyone affected by a crisis pregnancy. We are based in Nutgrove Office Park in Rathfarnham, Dublin 14 and cover mainly south Dublin.

Here2Help was formerly part of Pact, an adoption society that assesses couples wishing to adopt a child. Pact and Here2Help separated in 2011 due to a change in the law (Adoption Act 2010). The new legislation precluded adoption assessment and adoption placements from being offered by the same agency. However, it was evident that there was still a need for a counselling service. Therefore Here2Help was set up and all the crisis pregnancy counselling services moved from Pact to Here2Help.

Here2Help's counselling service's ethos is to create a comfortable, non-judgemental environment so that anyone attending our services can explore their situation and find solutions to whatever difficulties they are facing. Just over a quarter of all women who have ever experienced a pregnancy, have faced a crisis pregnancy. There are many different reasons why a pregnancy becomes a crisis: a person may feel too old or too young, they may not feel ready to parent, the pregnancy may be planned but their circumstances may have changed, they may be in an unstable relationship, or there may be a risk to the health of the mother or baby. The reasons can be numerous but none the less they represent a crisis for the individual and having a service like Here2Help can alleviate some of the stress by offering someone to talk to.

Here 2 Help continued on next page...

here2help
support • counselling • information • education

**No opinions,
just support**

**Crisis Pregnancy
Services**

+OPTIONS
CRISIS PREGNANCY SERVICES
Help. Support. Understanding.

Free Pregnancy Tests!

Talk it out!

Helpline: 1850 67 3333. www.here2help.ie
Located by Nutgrove Shopping Centre.

Here 2 Help Contd...

We are a three option agency whereby we can provide counselling, practical support and information relating to parenting, adoption, abortion. A crisis pregnancy may lead to crises in parenting. Therefore at Here2help, we offer ongoing support to anyone who decides to parent their child following a crisis pregnancy. This can include adjusting emotionally to the pregnancy and parenthood or around issues concerning parenting, entitlements and housing.

Here2Help is accredited by the Adoption Authority of Ireland to provide a full, voluntary adoption service to birth parents considering this option. We offer free pre-adoptive foster care to allow the parents take their time in making a decision about their future.

It is illegal to have an abortion in Ireland but it is not illegal to travel to a country where the procedure is legal. If requested, we can provide information about abortion services to women, and give the woman and her partner the opportunity to reflect on what is involved. However, this needs to be done in face to face counselling and in conjunction with a discussion on the other two options of parenting and adoption. The provision of this information is set out in the Regulation of Information (Services outside the State for Termination of Pregnancies) Act, 1995. We also offer post-abortion

counselling for anyone who has had an abortion whether in the recent or more distant past, and to anyone close to them.

Here2Help is committed to the prevention of crisis pregnancies. We facilitate a schools education programme whereby our counsellor visits schools and facilitates an interactive discussion with the young people around relationships and sexual health.

If you or someone you know is in need of crisis pregnancy support or post abortion support, Here2Help can help individuals explore their positive options. Our counsellors can be contacted on 1850 67 3333 or email info@herehelp.ie. Our website is www.here2help.ie and referrals can also be made by professionals.

Here2Help also provides Information and Tracing Services for individuals and this service is specific to the adoptions that were arranged by Pact since 1952. The Agency also holds the records of the Bethany Home and The Magdalene Asylum and provides information and support to anyone who has had a connection with either home.

Here2Help would like to thank you in anticipation of your support, and request that your parish consider Here2Help when making its annual charity donations.

The Methodist District Superintendent writes



The 'Gay' Wedding of Rory and Deeno on Mrs Brown's Boys last February, reminded us all that this is a real live issue today. The Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore said recently "the time has come" referring to marriage of same sex couples.

Several County Councils have passed motions supporting Gay Marriage and it has also been commended by the Constitution Convention. Recently, France and Britain joined about a dozen other countries who allowed Gay marriage.

The Methodist Church in Ireland does not support Gay marriage or even the blessing of a same sex couples. The Church does make it clear that homosexual orientation is not a sin. Methodists cannot agree on their interpretation of what the bible says on homosexuality. Some are convinced that the bible forbids intimate relations between people of the same sex. The pattern for marriage between man and woman is clearly set in Genesis, chapter 2. Others are equally convinced that the thrust of scripture is towards toleration, even celebration of difference. There are churches in the world, following modern insights into the nature of sexuality, which are giving consent to such a lifestyle where there is a relationship of deep commitment.

The Methodist Church in Britain continues to refuse requests for same sex blessings and the United Methodist Church in America voted narrowly in 2008 to uphold their traditional opposition to approving same-sex relationships.

The pastoral response of the Methodist Church in Ireland to issues regarding homosexuality includes the following recommendation:

"for various reasons and at various times in their lives, people may struggle with their sexual identity and with its rightful expression. We underline the need to listen more and say less, so those who experience such struggles know they are valued as persons."

The book "First Steps Out, by Christy McFerren tells of her struggle with same-sex attraction from the age of five. When Christy became a Christian, she felt a strong calling to ministry but, believing the two were not compatible, she spent 23 years struggling. This book offers insight for family members, friends or church members who are struggling with this issue... how to love and value those orientated to same sex attraction, without compromising their values and without losing the relationship. (<http://firststepsout.com>)

The challenge to us all is summed up in the Iona Prayer Lord of the Excluded:

**Open my eyes Lord, to those I would prefer not to see
Open my ears Lord, to those I would prefer not to hear
Open my life Lord, to those I would prefer not to know
Open my heart Lord, to those I would prefer not to love
And so open my eyes to see where I have excluded You.**

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,

Adare, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 396236

Email: mliz.hewitt7@gmail.com

SERVICE TIMES

Adare: 10.15 am

Ballingrane: 11.45 am

Sunday School during morning services

SUMMER SUN!

One of our hymns begins with the words, 'Summer suns are glowing, over land and sea!' How true that has been this year; beautiful weather and warm, dry sunny days. The hymn goes on to give thanks to God and to praise God's creation.

The sunshine has been a blessing to me as I was on sabbatical over the summer months. My main focus was to have a time to study to supplement a course I have been following on Pastoral Supervision. I was based in the pretty village of Rostrevor, Co Down, on the shores of Carlingford Lough. So I was able to appreciate the beauty of the sea as well as the Mountains of Mourne in the background.

On the outskirts of the village there is a monastery which was established around the year 2000. It is run by a small community from the French order of Benedictines. It is in a beautiful setting, nestling in the valley above the village. The monks meet to pray at regular intervals during the day and people are invited to join them. I often attended Vespers (evening prayer) and found this spiritually refreshing. The centuries' old chanting of the Psalms gives a sense of peace which helped me to feel in communion with God. The Chapel is always open for private prayer and meditation.

This gave me a balance between study and prayer, something which we need to keep in perspective in our daily working lives. I feel renewed and invigorated by this special time and am grateful to the Methodist Church for the opportunity given to Ministers to reflect on their ministry, to seek spiritual renewal and develop and enhance the tools of ministry.

HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

The Harvest season begins each year on the last Sunday of the month with the Harvest celebrations in Adare. The details are as follows:

Sunday 29th Sept - 11.00am United Family Service led by Rev Liz Hewitt

Monday 30th Sept - 8.00pm Harvest Supper & Auction of Harvest produce (in aid of World Development)

Guest Preacher: Rev Wesley Campbell, West Cork Circuit

The Choir of Holy Trinity Abbey Church will be leading the praise.

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.

Tel: 061 325325 Mobile: 086 8292073

Email: vickilynch@eircom.net

We're coming towards the end of our Year of Anniversaries. We've had some interesting experiences, from a tour around Limerick in the torrential rain, to quiet moments of recollection. The year ends with our Harvest Festival weekend, September 28th - 29th. Rev Tony Davidson of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland will be there to preach and we're planning afternoon tea on both the Saturday and Sunday in Central Buildings. This year our Harvest theme is 'All are one in Christ Jesus'. We have the added blessing of a baptism of twin sisters at the morning service on September 28th. Please look out for full details of all the Harvest celebrations. We'd love you to come and join us.

We've been working away on the Central Buildings Community project. We're delighted that we've had the support of Limerick City of Culture. CB1, the ground floor office will soon become a hub for community groups connected with the City of Culture 2014. We'd like to welcome anyone who needs a space to meet and work on their particular project. All we're asking for is a small donation to contribute to the cost of the running the space. CB1 is also a great place to exhibit or hold an event so if that's something you're interested in give us a call.

Open House Limerick will be one of our next 'inhabitants'. They tell us - "The simple but powerful Open House concept is based on a unique experience of our built heritage - both modern and historic - with architects, architectural historians and building owners offering access and a unique educational experience."

Many buildings are not normally open to the public, such as private residences, workplaces and government offices, which further enhances the appeal of the event.

Open House was the first group to use CB1 and we're very glad to have them back to prepare for their second event. Do call in to get information about the project. They may even be looking for volunteers!

Our youth group is starting up again after a summer break on Wednesday evenings and again we're making use of CB1. Anyone of secondary school age is welcome to come along and join in. Jonathan Griffin will be visiting soon to talk about the Surf Project and how you can get involved. Again we'll keep you posted on that.

We hope you managed to see something of the RTE broadcast in early August. Our music group plays each month at the Family Service so if that's your kind of worship music do come along and join us! You'd be very welcome.

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 & Millstreet 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 – 9.30am

Bible Study Meetings: Wednesday 8pm, Friday 10am.

Drop in for coffee each Friday: 11am – 12noon

Parent and Toddler Group: Tuesdays 10am – 12noon

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 8pm, Wednesdays at 10am.

Drop in for coffee: each Wednesday 11am – 12noon.

MILLSTREET

Services every Sunday evening at 6.30pm. Meeting in Drishane Castle.

Bible study every Tuesday 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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

As well as all the regular activities listed above the Gneeveguilla Home Fellowship group continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings of each month at 8pm.

In Lispole (Dingle) the Home Fellowship group continues on the last Thursday of each month at 8pm. However we are hoping soon to begin another meeting each month in the Gairdin Mhuire Day Care Centre on Green Street in Dingle Town. The date of the first meeting is to be confirmed – watch this space.

The newly commenced Home Fellowship meeting in Castleisland has got off to a great start – the next meeting is planned for Monday 16th September at 8pm and it will then continue on the third Monday of each month thereafter.

We're looking forward to the visit of Pastor Bob Warning and his wife Laurie from California during September. In conjunction with their visit there will be separate mini retreats for men and women. The men will meet on Saturday 14th September from 8.30 am to 12 noon including breakfast. The women will meet on the evening of Saturday 21st September beginning with a meal together at 6pm.

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Brian Griffin

The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

Tel: 0505 21670 Mobile: 087 987 0755

Email: beg08@eircom.net

The Methodist Women's District Rally will be hosted by the Roscrea Church on Sunday 1st September at 11.00 am. The guest speaker is Mrs Rhoda Nixon, a former Mission Partner in Zambia who, with her husband Rev David Nixon, now serves on the North Dublin Circuit.

The Midland/South Autumn District Synod will take place in Gurteen College, Co. Tipperary on Saturday 14th September at 2.30 pm.

Harvest Festival Services will be held in Shinrone on Friday 27th September at 8.00 pm. Rev Helen Freeburn, the new Minister in Galway, is the guest preacher.

On Sunday 29th September at 7.00 pm in Roscrea, the guest preacher will be the Rev John Stephens of Dublin Central Mission and also Mr David Lee formerly of Roscrea.

In Borrisokane on Friday 4th October at 8.00 pm the Rev. Laurence Graham, Chair of the Board of Governors at Gurteen College, is the guest speaker. Laurence comes from the Cork and Kerry Circuit. Cloughjordan Harvest celebration will take place on Sunday 6th October at 7.00 pm, with Mr Salters Sterling, formerly Warden of Gurteen College, as the guest preacher.

Too much luggage

For all those who have struggled with bags on holiday.

Oh my Lord,
I am carrying too much luggage,
and it's weighing me down,
holding me back.
I worry about losing it,
but I don't need much of the stuff I'm dragging about.
It blocks up the aisles and gangways,
getting in the way,
making people cross
and wrapping itself round my ankles.
I need to learn to travel light,
but I don't know what to do with all this stuff.

Here,
you take it.
I'm leaving it with you.
Perhaps you can find a better use for it.

*For who knows me better than you,
who has given me the substance of my life,
bone and marrow, patterned in my mother's womb?
You are my unfolding and my unburdening.
You are the keeper of my deepest secrets.*

Kathy Galloway

(from 50 Great Prayers from the Iona Community, published by Wild Goose Publications, Compilation © Neil Paynter)



The promise of the harvest



Barney says

Hello friends.

The Apostle Paul liked to write letters to encourage the first churches. He wanted to reassure the early Christians and remind them that God was with them.

It was very dangerous to be a Christian in Paul's day. So it was important to be reminded that God would take care of everything the needed.

There would be days when the Christians in Philippi would wonder if following God was worth it.

Paul says it is! God is there for you and he wants the very, very best for us.

That's a promise worth remembering.

Love Barney



Barney's jokes

How do you make an apple puff? Chase it around the kitchen!

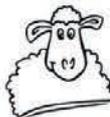
Why is a tomato round and red? Because if it was long and green it would be a cucumber!



DIFFERENT HARVESTS

The beginning of autumn and the time of harvest is here again – a time when we thank God for all his blessings.

The Harvest Festival service in churches and schools are full of tins of beans and boxes of fruit and vegetables. There are flowers and lots of different sights and smells. Harvest Festival is a very popular service but while we are busy saying 'thank you' we have to remember that there are lots of different harvests.



God's word

For as long as Earth lasts, planting and harvest, cold and heat, Summer and winter, day and night will never stop.

Genesis 8:22 (The Message)



Veggie tales...

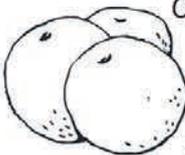
Can you unscramble these words to find out which parts of the body belong to which item of food?



Potatoes have **SYEE**



Artichokes have **STARHE**



Oranges have **NIKS**



But fish don't have **GERFINS**

Wheat has **SEAR**



Let's talk to God!

Dear God, thank you for the seasons of the year and thank you for harvest time, help us to enjoy the food you create. Amen.



Very few people work on the land nowadays and most people don't grow their own food but buy it from the supermarket. Perhaps our harvest isn't one that others can easily see. We might not make or grown things but we can offer whatever we do to God as our harvest.

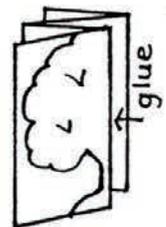
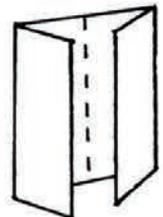
Outside, the trees are beginning to lose their leaves but you can

MAKE YOUR OWN FOREST

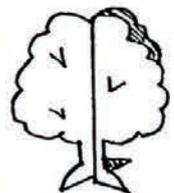
Take a piece of stiff card or thin paper and fold it in half, creasing it down the centre. Then open it out and fold both sides to the centre crease.

Fold the paper as shown and draw half a tree on the top fold. Cut round the tree then glue the centre faces together. This makes a three sided tree.

You can paint the tree before gluing it or afterwards. A forest of them would look good as name cards for a party or you could make just one as a different birthday card for a friend.



glue



What is a tree's least favourite month?
Sep-timber.

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2

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1



3

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- Varied and multi-cultural society.
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- Grant assistance, bursaries & scholarships available.



Bursaries & Discounts

In addition to the SEC and other grants available Villiers School offer the following assistance with fees: Hannah Villiers Bursary. Governors' Bursary. Villiers School Bursary. Sibling Discounts.

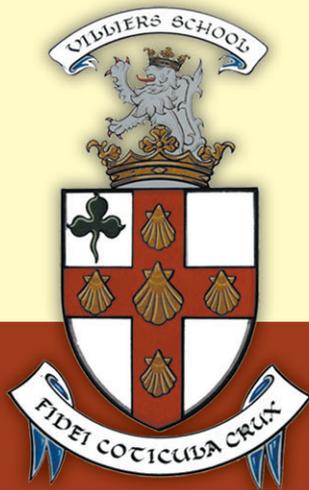
Scholarships

Four Academic Scholarships, currently €1,000 per year, are awarded based on the results of the scholarships exams set each May for students entering Form I. These are awarded to the best Day Girl, Day Boy, Boarding Girl and Boarding Boy.

Prompt Payment Draw

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

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



VILLIERS SCHOOL

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CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL

Headmistress - Jill A Storey M.A. H.DIP. Ed (Hons) DIP. in REM. Ed. (Hons)

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