



NEWSLINK

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

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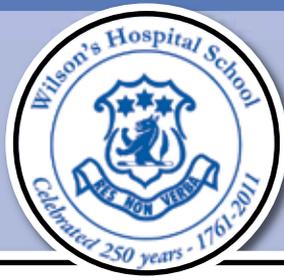


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Dandelion clocks wait for the wind to sow them



- as disciples wait for the Spirit at Pentecost



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The Bishop Writes

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all who have got in touch to wish Joyce and me well in our retirement. My list of 'To Do' items seems to be growing rather than diminishing. But I am looking forward to the weeks that are left.

One of the distinctive parts of a Bishop's ministry is 'ordination'. It is wonderful to welcome the Reverend Edna Wakely as Assistant Curate to Limerick City Parish. Edna is a gifted Priest and comes with a lot of experience to offer. I am delighted that within the last weeks of my ministry in this Diocese I will have the privilege of ordaining Edna as a Priest on Saturday 14th June at 2.30pm in St Mary's Cathedral. This is a significant day for Edna, for our Diocese and for God's Church.

THE CHALLENGE OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The ordained ministry is one of the most difficult, challenging and rewarding callings you can imagine. It is all about relationships. Being a pastor is only possible with trust. It is a two-way trust between Church members and their minister. As I look back on 42 years ordained ministry I recall countless occasions when I was given the privilege of sharing in the precious and significant moments of people's lives; baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and funerals. To walk alongside people on such occasions is to walk on holy ground. Another aspect of ordained ministry is the call to teach and to lead. However being teacher of a group of parishioners is only occasionally about teaching a skill or how to do a task. In the Church's ministry a teacher searches with those around them, for what God may be saying or calling us to do. Of course training in theology is important. But it is not enough. Preaching and teaching is as much to do with the spiritual gift of discernment as it is to do with passing on theological information. Teaching requires the priest to be open to God, but also open, sensitive and empathetic to people of the parish, and what they are experiencing. The ability to listen, really listen, is the basic skill of ministry. And for some of us (including myself) listening is an art which I am still learning how to do well.

A MINISTRY OF SERVICE

Presiding at the Eucharist is one of the few aspects of ministry that is confined to the priesthood. The Church entrusts a Priest to preside at Holy Communion. From a distance this looks like a position of power and authority. But that is to misunderstand the role. It is a ministry of service for others, for their benefit. The president at the

FAREWELL SERVICE FOR BISHOP TREVOR

A farewell service for Bishop Trevor will be held on Sunday, 22nd June in St Mary's Cathedral in Limerick, starting at 4:00 pm. The service will be in the context of Choral Evensong. Refreshments will follow in the Cathedral. Parishes are asked to bring two trays of food for the reception - one sweet and one savoury.

It is hoped as many as possible from all parishes will be able to attend, as we wish every blessing on Bishop Trevor and Joyce in their retirement. There will be a retiring collection at the service for Christian Aid Ireland, of which Bishop Trevor is the Chairman.

Eucharist is there to enable the Christian community hear our Lord's invitation to come to a banquet and be nourished by His presence and renewed in our lives as we remember God's love for us and receive Christ afresh in the bread and wine.

The call to ordained ministry is not about power, status and achievement. It is about humble service and loving care for others. Essentially ministry is about ensuring that every church person is valued, appreciated and enabled to use their gifts in ministry. As people love God and their neighbour in their daily lives they offer their unique service to the Church and their world.

MINISTRY OF ALL IN THE COMMUNITY

The Church is a community that God resources through the gift of His Holy Spirit, to be agents of God's Loving Concern for the world. This is ministry. And the people at the centre of this activity are not the ordained, but the people of the parish. Those who are ordained are there to encourage, support and enable the Church members to exercise their ministry in their day to day lives. It is through the lives of Lay People, that the Church's ministry is made real in a needy world.

Pray for your clergy, love them, care for them. Because they are there - for YOU.

Your Bishop
+Trevor

The Rt. Revd. Trevor Williams
Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe
Rien Roe, Adare, Co Limerick
Tel: +353 (0)61 396244
Mobile: +353 (0)87 9772125
Email: bishop@limerick.anglican.org





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Editorial - Better Together

There was great rejoicing at General Synod, and a standing ovation, when the bill to provide for interchangeability of ministry between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland was finally passed by the required two-thirds majority in all three houses - it was in fact passed almost but not quite unanimously. The coming together of our churches in this way is historic. It applies only in Ireland, but we are told it is being closely studied in ecumenical circles overseas and in other churches.

In his subsequent address Archbishop Richard Clarke assured those unable to support the bill of respect in the Church, while expressing his view that it does "no damage to our Catholic heritage", and speaking warmly of Irish Methodism. Rev Dr Heather Morris, the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, in her notably gracious address said that both Methodist and Church of Ireland folk "cherish and are appropriately proud of our traditions". "This legislation does not change or undermine that in any way", she said - the challenge is "to allow our traditions to enrich and help each other as we partner together in the Gospel". Her prayer is that "we each have the grace to receive as well as give".

So what are the practical effects of this? There will be no change in our current parishes and circuits - we will continue to come together for worship and the sacraments in our own churches as we have been used to do. But Methodist ministers can apply for, and if chosen be appointed to, Church of Ireland parishes, when they will come under the discipline of the Church of Ireland. And vice versa, Church of Ireland priests may apply for and be appointed as ministers in the Methodist Church under their discipline. This has already occurred: Rev Vicki Lynch, ordained in the Church of Ireland in this diocese, has been appointed to lead Methodists in Limerick and Shannon.

But let us pray with Heather Morris that the biggest practical effect may be our having the grace to receive the spiritual gifts the other church has to offer. I have no doubt that we in the Church of Ireland can be enriched by the Methodist tradition, and I dare to hope the reverse is true too. We are better together than we are apart!

God bless, Joc

Diocesan Calendar

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

Friday 13th - Mon 16th June,
Festival of Flowers & Music, St. John's Church, Tralee

Saturday 14th June,
3 - 5pm Ordination to Priesthood of Rev. Edna Wakely,
St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Saturday 14th June, 7.30-9.30 pm
UDYC Youth Fellowship Group,
Kilmurray Church Arts & Community Centre, Castletroy

Thursday 19th June, 8.30pm - Whist Drive in Aghancon Hall

Friday 20th June - Sun 22nd June
GFS Diocesan Camp, Faith Mission, Durrow, Co. Laois

Sunday 22nd June, 4pm
Diocesan Farewell Service for Bishop Trevor,
St. Mary's Cathedral Limerick

Friday 27th June - Tue 1st July
Summer Madness (14+), Glenarm Castle, Glenarm, Co. Antrim

Sunday 6th July, 2.30pm
Aghancon Parish Fete & Sale, Aghancon Hall

Friday 18th July,
8 - 11pm, Installation of Rector, St. Nicholas, Adare

Newslink

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

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

Editor

In addition to news from parishes, schools and diocesan organisations, 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.

Contact details:

Joc Sanders
Turravagaun, Dromineer,
Nenagh, Co Tipperary
Tel: 067 24987 Mob: 087 699 6775
Email: newslink@limerick.anglican.org

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(contact: Peter Schutz, Ardhu, Castletroy, Co. Limerick,
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NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2014

(unchanged from 2013)

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Full Page	1193	1069	154	143
Half Page	596	534	77	71
Quarter Page	299	268	39	36
Eighth Page	149	133	19	18

Máirt's Musings – So what do you do all day?

by Rev Máirt Hanley, Kilcolman Union

One thing I get asked from time to time goes something like this, "Yes, well I know you do, like, Sundays and weddings and funerals and baptisms and stuff, but apart from that what do you actually do?" Now firstly let me apologise for the appalling grammar in that sentence – but that is what some people sometimes do say. Secondly, if you have ever asked myself or some other priest or ordained person that question and you have been met with a quizzical stare, it is not because it has suddenly occurred to us that we either don't know or have just realised that we spend all our time doing basically nothing. It is because there is no easy way of saying what we do because we get to do so many different things. One week is usually not the same as another. Yes there are the yearly cycles of things that come up, as I have written about before, but there are always things that come up: opportunities, privileges, difficulties and surprises. Some you can see coming, and some catch you by surprise. There are even ones that you see coming and still catch you.

Just recently I had the privilege to organise a graveside service for Mr. and Mrs. Ruth, who were founding members of Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise na hEireann, it being the Cumann's Centenary this year. This was both a great privilege and nerve racking, as the service was all in Irish and my Irish, despite my enthusiasm, to be frank "is briste". So I had some one else to preach and one or two 'big wigs' coming down to it. I must admit I didn't know how many people would come or how it would go, but some times you have to just do things. It was great some one had the bright idea to have tea after and sorted it (thanks by the way!), and we had a good congregation, and two short but brilliant talks on the Ruths and particularly Mrs Ruth. I must say I was surprised by how well it all went.

One of the things about Mrs Ruth is that she was the first woman to be elected to the General Synod, the parliament of the church of Ireland, where 650 elected clergy and lay people legislate for

the church, pass motions and usually have interminable debates about finances. These are occasionally punctuated by fierce arguments between the more catholic and the more protestant factions in the church – and often God does not get a look in. But this year, to use the words of Bishop Burrows at the Synod Communion service on the Thursday evening, the synod was a place of Godly talk. God was mentioned in the finance debate. When the two wings of the church nearly had an argument, they just made their case and promised to listen carefully to the other side.

And most surprising of all I got up and spoke. It was actually about the use of Irish and was partially to give information in response to someone else's speech. But that doesn't matter – what does is that I spoke. I had not planned to and I was more nervous than I have been for a long time. It is strange. I have spoken in full Cathedrals before. I usually have a dress on, which I didn't this time, but I think it was just different, with all those bishops and someone taking notes in front of you.

The point is that even the regular things can surprise you if you let them. We live in a world of surprises. There is nothing new under the sun but every thing is still happening for the first time. If we can keep being surprised, or find the wonder, potential or newness in regular and foreseen things, then life is rich indeed. But it does make it difficult to answer the seemingly simple question, 'So what do you do all day?'



The Church of Ireland recognises Methodist ministers

by Bishop Trevor Williams

At the Church of Ireland General Synod in Dublin last month, a Bill recognising Methodist ministry was passed by an overwhelming majority of lay, ordained and Bishops (all Bishops were in favour).

INTERCHANGEABILITY OF MINISTRY

What this means is that a Church of Ireland priest can work as a Methodist minister and a Methodist minister can work as a Church of Ireland Rector. However if a clergy person moves from one denomination to the other, in that post they will work to that Church's system and structures. So this hasn't changed the Church of Ireland, nor the Methodist Church. The Bill allows a Methodist minister work as a Church of Ireland Rector without having to be ordained again, and visa versa.

As different denominations we value the traditions of our Church, and that is good. Diversity among Christians is something to be valued, indeed it is necessary. St Paul used the picture of the Body of Christ with each member different and distinct but each part vital to the Body as all work together in Unity.

PROBLEMS OVERCOME

The difficulty with denominationalism is that it defines my Church as better than others. This is called 'negative identity' – I know who I am because I am not like you. The resistance in the Church of

Ireland to candles or a cross on the Holy Table was largely because these were seen as Roman Catholic practices, so we couldn't do that, because we are not like them. There have been instances of such thinking between Methodists and Church of Ireland people in some places. The informal worship, hearty singing and evangelical zeal of Methodists have been off-putting for some Church of Ireland members. The formality of the Church of Ireland and its sense of superiority have been difficult for some Methodists. However powerful these feelings, the real problem has been 'Bishops'. Previous attempts to grow closer to Methodists managed to do a lot of good work, but they always floundered on the topic of Bishops.



Revd Dr Heather Morris, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland warmly welcoming passage of the Bill

The break through in these talks leading to the mutual recognition of ministry is that both Churches have recognised that in the role of Methodist President there is a permanent ministry of oversight. Methodists still have a reluctance to use the word 'Bishop' in Ireland (though in other countries there are, in fact, Methodist Bishops!). However Episcopal Minister (which means the same thing) is an acceptable term.

On the Church of Ireland side, we had to rethink 'episcopal succession'. That is the unbroken line of bishops from the present day back to the Apostles through the laying on of hands. This was a wonderful 'idea', but its historical accuracy has become increasingly difficult to sustain. The Church of Ireland has come to accept that

it is the passing on of the Apostolic faith through the role of Bishop which is 'Apostolic Succession', not the physical act of laying on hands from one bishop to the next.

BLAZING A TRAIL OF UNITY

So both sides have had to give a little to reach this agreement. Was it worth it? Absolutely yes. The greatest scandal and impediment to mission of the Christian Church is our 'dis-unity'. In Ireland, Methodists and the Church of Ireland have blazed a trail of Unity for others to follow.

Thanks be to God!

Girls Friendly Society

Killaloe Diocesan Camp, 20-22 June. This year we return to the lovely facilities of the Faith Mission Centre, Knocknagrally, Durrow, Co. Laois. There will be lots of fun, friendship and activities. We will enjoy the magic of a train journey from Kilmeaden and journey through the countryside along the River Suir. We plan to have beach games and environmental exploration on the beach in Tramore. There will, of course, be the essential shopping this year in Waterford City. This will be a great weekend so please contact your branch leaders for more information and booking forms. Cost to remain the same as last year: €60 for one girl or €55 each for 2 or more from one family.

BIRR BRANCH

Five girls attended the All Ireland Camp in Wilson's Hospital and had a most enjoyable weekend, meeting members from other Dioceses and taking part in many activities. We are busy working on our "Arts and Crafts" badges at present and are looking forward to our closing meeting with the presentation of badges and a tea party for the parents and friends.

CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

We were well represented at All Ireland Camp with four leaders and eight girls attending. It was a wonderful weekend and everybody had a great time.

By the time these notes are in print, our Parents' Night on Friday 16th May will have taken place. We had a few weeks to practise our singing and to plan for our tea party. Our crafts, badge work and Bible Study were on display and our badge presentation also took place.

A craft competition was organised for us all:

Age 5 - 6: decorate a paper plate to hang in your room

Age 7 - 9: make a pencil pot from recycled materials

Age 10 - 12: make a notice board for your room

Age 13 - 21: decorate a bottle to use as a base for a reading lamp

Leaders: decorate a glass jar to use as a cookie jar

More about this next month. We look forward to our Diocesan Camp which takes place on 20 - 22 June.

NENAGH BRANCH

The branch closed for the year on Saturday, 17th May. Girls received badges for Cookery, Homemaker and Bible Study. Jean Blackwell kindly presented the badges to girls and also reviewed their cookery books and inspected their homemaker skills. Five girls from the branch attended All Ireland Camp and received special camp badges.

Thanks to leaders in the branch for all their hard work during the year - Sandra Manthe, Audrey Clarke-Gordon, Deborah Powell, Laura Clarke and Marion Hayes. It has been a great year for the branch in which the girls did some amazing crafts and successfully represented their branch at Diocesan level and the Diocese at All

Ireland level. Well done to all.

Girls and leaders are looking forward to Diocesan Camp (20-22 June) in Durrow. The branch thanks Tipperary Education and Training Board and the Trustees of St. Mary's No.2 National School for their support during the year. Please note that TETB are now receiving Local Youth Club Grant Scheme applications for 2014/5.



Nenagh Girls displaying their badges!

Boys' Brigade

NENAGH 1ST COMPANY

A huge well done and thank you to the boys of Nenagh 1st Company who presented "Joshua" and prayers on Sunday 18th May to the congregation of St. Mary's, Nenagh. It was possibly one of the noisiest services ever, but fun and we were delighted as always with their acting, reading and narrating skills - and behaviour!

At the end of the service the boys were presented by Canon Marie and our new friend, Kevin Murray (Strong Man and fitness coach) with their first Challenge & Achievement Badge, "Basic Health & Fitness". We have appreciated his support on several occasions, before and during the achievement of this badge (and hopefully on many occasions to come!), and we thank him for generously giving his time.



Nenagh Boys with Leaders - Nicola, Lisa, Ger and Kevin

As a reward for their great work Ger has organised a trip to Nenagh Castle at the next meeting, followed by story-telling by the fascinating local historian and author, Marjorie Quarton, whom we are very excited to welcome to Boys' Brigade.

Mothers' Union

ST JOHN'S, BALLINASLOE

St John's Mothers' Union "winter" programme came to a close in May with a very varied discussion evening. In groups of 3 or 4 we discussed our favourite Bible verse; after about 20 minutes we shared our thoughts with the full group. This has been described by members as 'well worth while' – 'interesting' and 'amazing'.

The next topic – "which six objects would you take with you if you had to leave your home in 30 minutes before a tornado hit?" We then shared the results. "Hilarious" best describes the findings.

The meeting ended with tea/coffee and home bakes, and we then voted for where we would like to go for our Summer outing – Coole Park winning out for that and we all look forward to an enjoyable time.

United Diocesan Youth Council

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

U.D.Y.C.'s A.G.M. took place on Saturday 26th April 2014, in Kilmurry Church Community & Arts Centre. Refreshments were available from 2.30 p.m., followed by a celebration of the Holy Communion at 3.00 p.m, led by the Rev'd Jane Galbraith. It was great to see so many new people, particularly younger people, at the meeting and that some of them have been elected to the Committee for the coming year. The newly elected committee is as follows:

President: The Venerable Wayne Carney

Chairman: Damian Shorten

Hon. Secretary: Kieran Sparling

Hon. Treasurer: Edward Hardy

Diocesan Youth Officer: (Vacant)

Public Relations Officer: Kenneth Baker

Representative from Diocesan Council: (To be appointed)

Representative to the Board of Mission: Adrian Hilliard

Newslink Representative: Maud Eadie

Villiers School Representative: Laura Cooke

Ardfert Representatives (2): Ciara Fitzell, (Vacant)

Killaloe Representatives (2): Sandra Wakefield, Andrew O'Brien

Limerick Representatives (2): Henry Cooke, Wendy Walker

Co-options (5): Beverley Callender, Oscar Egubulam, Emma Gardiner, Alec Perrott, Valerie Walker

Thanks were expressed to Ellen Langley, Michelle Armitage, Eleanor Walker, Rev. Jane Galbraith, Nikki Downes, and George Walker for their time and effort given as members of the Committee in the past. I welcome the election of Maud Eadie as Newslink Correspondent, and we look forward to her contributions to the Diocesan magazine over the coming months.

SUMMER MADNESS FRI 27 JUNE – TUES JULY 2014

What? Summer Madness is an amazing event....The first Summer Madness camp began in July 1987 with less than 250.....it now attracts about 4000 people with participants from throughout Ireland and beyond..... 5 days for fun, friendship and freedom ...a pure camping experience. The Summer Madness Festival offers an opportunity for faith building encounters, an action packed programme and a mind blowing mix of music, worship, workshops, seminars, outdoor activities, debates and worship. The theme for this year's event is "Insight – more than meets the eye".

Where? Glenarm Castle Estate, Glenarm, Co. Antrim (www.glenarmcastle.com) which allows the opportunity to avail of all the facilities and opportunities that the wide open space offers in one of the oldest estates in Ireland. The village of Glenarm is 10 miles north of the port of Larne on the coastal road.

Who? 14 years or older. The festival is primarily designed for teen to twenty somethings who want to wrestle a little with their faith and develop a lifestyle that reflects God's all embracing love. Closing date for bookings – 20th June 2014.

What's On? The mornings are filled with awesome Spirit-filled worship, practical teaching from leading youth speakers and performances from a wide range of international and local Christian artists. In the afternoons an endless range of activities with workshops and seminars, myriad of activities and bountiful supply of talented musicians to keep you entertained, chill-out zones, cafes, acoustic afternoons, caged football, sports activities, climbing walls, Barbecues – or one can take time out to soak up the Sun (or maybe the rain) with friends. From evening running into late nights are cafes, various live band venues, karaoke, themed discos, continuous worship, 24/7 prayer....the list goes on.

VISIT www.summermadness.co.uk for more information. The confirmed main stage speaker for this year is Adam Cox (Kansas City Boiler Room) with many others including Jasper Rutherford. and the worship band SM COLLECTIVE. Definitely – "something for everyone".

How Much? €150 – paid by 20th June 2014. This includes return transport, food during event & entrance ticket to Summer Madness.

SPECIAL OFFER – €20 discount on every booking when more than one event from same family booked over summer months. This discount includes Summer Madness and Junior and Senior Summer Camps.

SUMMER CAMPS

It's nearly summer holidays and time to book for U.D.Y.C.'s Junior & Senior Summer Camps.... both camps promise to be superb opportunities to join old friends, make new friends, enjoy amazing fun and awesome opportunities to learn more about God. We have an amazing action packed programme planned for both summer camps which is fully detailed on booking forms now in circulation. Book today and don't delay!!!!

Junior Summer Camp (10–13 year olds) Sunday 20th July – Saturday 26th July 2014 Densmore Lodge, Ovoca Manor, Avoca, Co. Wicklow.

Senior Summer Camp (13 years and over) Sunday 17th August – Saturday 23rd August 2014 Muckcross Youth Venture Centre, Muckcross, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Last date for receipt of bookings for Junior Camp is Friday 11th July and for Summer Camp is Friday 8th August.

The Junior & Senior Summer camp fee will be same as last the number of years at €220 for 7 days.

SPECIAL OFFER – see above

The cost for Senior Summer Camp for all participants also joining International Exchange Trip to Germany is only €120. The fee includes return transport, food, accommodation, transport during the event and all programme costs.

Return Transport from/to Adare Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea & Portlaoise for all events!

Please contact Edward in confidence if financial support might help. For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward (087) 2907553 or myself, or visit our website (<http://udyc.ie/>) or our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month, Damian,
Mobile: 087 2274663 Email: udyc@limerick.anglican.org

Diocesan Board of Mission

Mission Evening 15th May 2014, report by Joc Sanders

Jackie McNair, Diocesan Reader and Chaplain at Villiers School, gave a most interesting illustrated talk on his recent trip with Christian Aid to Zimbabwe. Andrew Coleman of Christian Aid, organiser of the trip, then gave us some background to Christian Aid's work in the country.

Jackie told us of the amazing spiritual experience of vibrant worship in a Methodist Church in Harare on their arrival. After arriving at 8am for the 10am service to be sure of a place in the packed church, the service lasted 4 hours, and was followed by 2 hours of dancing with the Youth Group.



Jackie McNair, wearing a shirt made by a shirt making project

He then described some of the projects they visited, supported by Christian Aid with local partners. These included development projects to help disadvantaged women establish shoe and shirt making businesses, a gardening project, and a market place. As a teacher, though, his passion really shone through as he described projects to provide very basic schooling for kids unable to afford primary school fees. The main challenges, he was told, were hunger, health, toilets, distance to travel, furniture and uniforms. Much of what he saw was heart-breaking, but the hope and faith of the people he met are amazing – they never asked for things, but constantly told him, 'Hear our story, and pass it on!'



Jackie McNair and Andrew Coleman

Next we were given an update on the carrot washer for Luyengo farm, being built by students from IT Tralee. It is almost complete but running a little over budget – it is expected to be shipped out next month, thanks to IT Tralee

David Frizelle the Treasurer then presented the Board's accounts for 2013. We have committed to raising €15,000 for the Luyengo farm reservoir. So far €5,000 has been sent and the Board has close to €5,000 in hand – hence the need for a big push to raise the balance by organising the mid Summer Fun Cycle. (see page 15)

Safeguarding Trust

Report of Communications Training Day

By Rev Ruth Gill

A meeting was held in Church House, Dublin on the 31st March for those church workers who work in communications and youth work. Representatives from most Dioceses were present and were welcomed by the Bishop of Clogher, Dr. John McDowell, who also opened the meeting with prayer. The two Child Protection Officers, Mrs. Renée English and Mrs. Margaret Haar were present as was Dr. Paul Harron, C of I Press Officer.

The first speaker was Mr. Jim Gamble, Chief Executive INEQE. This is an umbrella organization for a large group of companies involved in social media, covering such areas as cyber bullying, trafficking and general proper use and safety of the internet etc. He had previously worked with the RUC and other jobs in the rescue services, and was an absolutely no-nonsense speaker! He covered areas where most of us will hopefully not have to deal with but he was a reminder of how important it is to implement the guidelines when working with children in particular.

The second speaker was the Revd. Dr. David Rock, Team Leader IMYC, which is the UK Methodist Church equivalent to Safeguarding Trust. His presentation was probably more in line with the guidelines needed by church workers and certainly drew the most questions from the floor. He had a sample of the Methodist Church's Guidance for workers in Social Media and I'm sure this will be shared with the CPOs in Ireland.

In the afternoon, we broke up into groups and were asked to discuss three topics of concern to those involved in internet, mobile phone use, and developing parish and diocesan websites. The intention I believe was to use the answers in coming to an overall agreement for use in the Church of Ireland.

The three headings were:

1. To agree guidelines for safe and appropriate use of internet and mobile phone communication with young people.
2. To agree best practice guidelines in developing parish and diocesan websites.
3. To agree guidelines for workers in relation to their personal social networking or instant messaging accounts.

It is an area which could be fraught with pitfalls if not given strict guidelines which should be adhered to. Unfortunately, I couldn't stay for the feedback but hopefully, the result will eventually appear in Safeguarding Trust.

A new section for the ring binder was distributed giving guidelines on the use of media; the internet, mobile phones and the use of photographs. Safeguarding Trust is developing its own dedicated website. www.sgt.ireland.anglican.org.

continued on p. 9

OTHER SAFE GUARDING TRUST NEWS

Members of the Safeguarding Trust Support Panel will begin the second round of triennial evaluations in the coming weeks. We would ask that parish panels would review their previous evaluation form and pay particular attention to the Parish Action Plan. There have been a number of training evenings in the Limerick, Ennis and Cloughjordan ends of the diocese recently, all of which have been

well attended. If parishes have training needs they should contact Niall West (087-2900668 or email niallballycannon@gmail.com) to arrange workers or panel training. Select Vestries are asked to complete an annual declaration stating that SGT procedures are in place in the parish, this declaration form was available at the Easter General Vestry meeting

Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer – June 2014

Each Sunday

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh and Bishop Ferran Glenfield

Companion Dioceses: The Diocese of Saldahna Bay (South Africa) and the five Dioceses of the Protestant Church of Anhalt, Germany.

1st June, Easter 7, the Sunday after Ascension, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

A hymn of glory let us sing
New songs throughout the world shall ring
Christ, by a road before untrod
Ascendeth to the throne of God.

Alleluia

Diocese: Candidates for Confirmation throughout the Diocese and the Diocesan Confirmation Weekend taking place this weekend

8th June, Pentecost, Red

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico and The Most Revd Francisco Moreno, Presiding Bishop of La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico & Bishop of Northern Mexico

Cofl: Those being ordained to the diaconate and priesthood at this time

15th June, Trinity Sunday, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma) and The Most Revd Stephen Than Myint Oo Archbishop of Myanmar and Bishop of Yangon

Diocese: The GFS Diocesan camp next weekend and the Diocesan fun cycle in aid of Swaziland Mission Project

22nd June, Trinity 1, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) and The Most Revd Nicholas Okoh Metropolitan & Primate of all Nigeria & Bishop of Abuja

Diocese: For Bishop Trevor and Joyce on the occasion of the Diocesan Farewell service in St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick today

29th June, Trinity 2 (Green) or St Peter (Red)

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of North India (United) and The Most Revd Dr Philip Marandih Moderator of CNI & Bishop of Patna

Diocese: For members of our Youth Council and their leaders attending Summer Madness at this time

Meditation for June

by Rev Michael Cavanagh

Discendi, amor santo

Dove, when I am angry.
Desert wind, when I am confused and life's clutter needs sweeping away.
Tongue of fire, when I feel too weary to speak or act.
Water, when I need to be washed clean again.
Oil, to anoint me to your service.
Wild goose, when I am fearful and timid.
But you come in less recognisable forms too.
When I need comfort, a cup of cocoa in front of an open fire.
When I need a vision of heaven, a swirling, heartstopping line of music.
When I need a reminder of your power, the inexorable pulse of Atlantic rollers.
When I feel uncared for and unloveable, my dog.
When I forget who I am, my memories.
Different people, different icons, not necessarily the same as mine.
Here's a space to write them down.

.....
.....
.....
.....

Love descends in many forms. Bless us to our recognition.

9th June – the Feast of St Columba

Columba was born in Donegal of the royal Ui Neill clan, and trained as a monk. He founded the monasteries of Derry (546), Durrow (c.556) and probably Kells. But in 565 Columba left Ireland with twelve companions for Iona, an island off southwest Scotland. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada.

Why would a monk in his mid-40s go into such voluntary exile? Various explanations include: voluntary exile for Christ, an attempt to help overseas compatriots in their struggle for survival, or even as some sort of punishment for his part in a row over a psalter in Ireland. Whatever the reason, Columba went to Iona and spent the rest of his life in Scotland, returning to Ireland only for occasional visits.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a fearless commitment to God's cause. Able, ardent, and sometimes harsh, Columba seems to have mellowed with age.

As well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts. Columba had great skill as a scribe, and an example of this can be seen in the Cathach of Columba, a late 6th century psalter in the Irish Academy, which is the oldest surviving example of Irish majuscule writing. In his later years Columba spent much time transcribing books.

Here is a prayer of St Columba:

*Christ With Us
My dearest Lord,
Be Thou a bright flame before me,
Be Thou a guiding star above me,
Be Thou a smooth path beneath me,
Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
Today and evermore.*

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

After a very busy term the pupils celebrated the last day of term with an Easter bonnet display. Everyone had been busy designing and making these colourful hats for the previous few weeks and their efforts were very well received by their fellow pupils and teachers. We had an Easter bonnet fashion show in the hall and the standard was so high everyone got a prize.

The Active School committee is active again with plans for another active week next term. We also plan to purchase new P.E. equipment and re-organise the school's P.E. shed in the coming weeks.

Congratulations to Millie Halpin who took part in Noyes Fludde in St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick. This was a wonderful production and we were all very proud of Millie's performance.

We always take part in An Taisce's Spring Clean every year and once again we put on our wellies and gardening gloves and headed out around the school and church grounds for a tidy-up. We also used the opportunity to do some planting in the school garden under the watchful eye of our green-fingered school secretary, Jayne Benson. The potatoes and onions are planted and we will add to these next term.

Summer is definitely in the air as our thoughts turn to school tours, talent show and sports day. The junior half of the school had their outing on May 29th while the senior classes will head to Kerry towards the end of June. This may be a short term but it is packed full of activities.



Pupils at the Inter-Schools Sports Day at Villiers

The senior pupils had a visit from two fire officers from Rathkeale Fire Station to deliver the new fire safety resource to the pupils. Pupils were encouraged to check out smoke and fire alarms at home and plan an escape route in case of a fire.

The Active School's Committee has had a number of meetings and our Active Week took place at the end of May. Many thanks to the Committee for organising this week of activities which included a Cycle Day for all the family, yoga classes in the school hall, soccer tournaments and cricket. Pupils are also taking part in the Irish Heart Foundation's Active Planner which encourages everyone to be active for at least sixty minutes a day for four weeks. We have a very active and energetic group in St. Nicholas' so that shouldn't be a difficult task



Zumba dancing

Pupils in 4th 5th and 6th classes had a wonderful day at the Inter-Schools' Sports Day in Villiers. Many thanks to Mr. Atkinson and his team of Transition Year students for organising a fun-packed day. Even the rain couldn't dampen our spirits! The students took part in orienteering, tag rugby, basketball, soccer, fun Science and games. Congratulations to our three teams on winning joint runners-up on the day.

Recorder exams took place on May 16th so we now await the results. The school photographer will be with us on June 4th and the Parents' Association Committee has organised our annual Cake Sale and Coffee Morning on June 7th.

Our new Infant pupils will spend a morning in school on June 13th so they will meet their teacher and one another before the big day in September.

The senior pupils are working on our last magazine for this school year and we are very grateful to Leteke Oggel for giving so generously of her time and expertise.

St. Mary's No. 2 National School, Nenagh

*The plains are decorated with my beautiful colours,
and the air is scented with my fragrance*
-Khalil Gibran "Song of the Flower"

How quickly the days become longer and the sleeves become shorter! This time of the year is always one of revision, assessment and reflection upon the work we did since September. Standardised testing took place in May, as well as teacher-designed tasks and tests in June.

However, it isn't all examinations, as the term is peppered with so many enjoyable activities. Junior and Senior Infants will be adventuring at Glendeer Farm in June, while First to Sixth Classes will be exploring the rocky pools and beach at Lahinch, Co. Clare.

The Senior students also took part in the Villier's Activity Day in May. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children and we are thankful to the staff and students who make this event so enjoyable. Mme Healy-Bernard continues to take French conversation classes every Thursday this term, and we thank her for her contribution this year.

The coaching programme continues this term with Hurling, and the students are developing great proficiency with the camán agus sliotar.

St. Mary's held a Literacy through the Arts week. This is a week dedicated to the exploration of English Curriculum objectives through the use of Visual Arts and Music Strands of the curriculum. Our Open Day takes place on 10th June. We invite the parents, guardians and grandparents of our students to visit the school, have a look at the classrooms and enjoy the artwork displays and portfolios around the rooms.

Sport's Day takes place on June 20th, weather permitting.

Our graduation Service takes place in the Croft Hall on Tuesday, 24th June at 1.15pm. Grandparents, parents and siblings of 6th Class pupils are welcome attend and our last day of term is on June 25th.

May we take this opportunity to wish everybody in our school, church and local communities a warm and enjoyable break. We look forward to seeing everybody again in September!

Le gach dea-ghuí

St. Michael's National School, Limerick

Two families known to the school have had very ill children which necessitated lengthy stays in hospital. Being away from one's family and caring for a sick child greatly increase the demands of family life and brings additional financial pressure. St Michael's NS decided to do a fundraiser to help such parents. On Friday May 9th we had a bumper cake sale and raffle in the church hall, thanks to the wonderful generosity of many people who donated raffle prizes, baked and helped on the day. €3,000 was made on the day! A huge achievement for us and one of which we feel very proud. Two huge cheques were presented to the Mater Foundation and Ian's Trust (supporting children with brain injury).



Presentation of cheque for The Mater Foundation

As always, May brings the annual sporting events in which the pupils love participating. For us here in St Michael's NS two big events clashed on the same day! One bus headed to the UL Sports Track for the Limerick City Schools Sports, while another bus headed over to Villiers for what has now become a lovely opportunity for our pupils to meet and get to know pupils from other schools in the Diocese. Well done to this year's Villiers TY students who organized and supervised a myriad of interesting activities, greatly enhanced by the extra space from Derryvoher House.

Our spring garden burst into full bloom over the Easter holidays and everyone has enjoyed seeing the fruits of our labours.



Cheque for Ian's Trust from St Michael's National School

1st and 2nd Classes are planning to visit Craggaunowen on their school tour. We hope the weather will be kind! Junior and Senior Infants are off to Stonehall Farm near Curraghchase on their trip. 6th Class will very shortly be closing their primary school chapter and heading to their secondary schools. This year a large number are bound for Villiers, with others going to Ardscoil Ris, Crescent Comprehensive and Castletroy College. We wish them every success as they leave us – it has been a pleasure to watch them mature and blossom.

St. Cronan's National School, Roscrea

Pupils from 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th Class sang in The Dean Maxwell Nursing Home and at The Christian Aid Coffee Morning on Friday 9th May.

Pupils in 4th, 5th & 6th enjoyed the Inter-schools Sports Day in Villiers School on Wednesday 14th May. Thank you to the Transition Year Pupils, Mr Neville Atkinson and Staff for organising this enjoyable event.

Best wishes to all our pupils who are making their confirmation.

The End of Year Service will be held on Thursday 19th June where we will say farewell to our current Sixth Class.

As the term comes to a close our thoughts and best wishes are with our Patron, Bishop Trevor Williams on his retirement.

Oxmantown National School, Birr

Congratulations to the pupils of Oxmantown School who raised an impressive €1000 for the Mission Project in Swaziland. Mr David Frizelle, Hon. Secretary-Treasurer of the Diocesan Board of Mission recently attended the school to receive the cheque from all the pupils.



Presentation of cheque for €1000 to David Frizelle



St. John's Parochial School, Tralee

After all the bad weather, it is lovely to see the changes in the garden since Spring, closely followed by Summer, took hold. The potato plants are doing well and our shrub and flower beds are blooming and flowering well.

With the help of June, the children in the Junior Room planted pansies in the autumn and their efforts were rewarded by winning an award at the Kingdom County Fair last week. Emma, Rosie and Amy also won awards in various categories and Kate won a number of trophies and was in fact the Overall Winner in the Junior Horticultural Section. Well done to all involved.

Congratulations also to Michael who won yet another award for sea angling. Michael is in 6th class and is a proficient fisherman – fishing from the shore for Bass and Flounder. He is a member of the North Kerry Fishing Club and has won a number of Trophies in Angling Competitions already.



Bloom at St John's!

Six of the children in the senior room were confirmed by Bishop Trevor on 4 May. Congratulations to Mary, Megan, Kaplan, Eliakim, Ben and Michael.

May is Food Dudes month and we are almost half way through at this point in time. A very good response to all the fruit and veg with the numbers eating the full amount each day increasing day by day.



Kate with her prizes from the Kingdom County Fair

Next week the children will visit the Tralee Wetlands for a day out. All are very much looking forward to partaking in some of the activities – including Mammal Trapping, Frog Catching, Bird Watching and Orienteering.



Michael with his Fishing Trophies

It is School Tour time again. We have two tours organised this year. One to Jamie Knox Watersports in Castlegregory where the children will have the opportunity to take part in a number of water based activities. The other tour is to Crag Caves in Castleisland and in addition to touring the caves and spending play time in the Krazy Caves, they will have an opportunity to see the Birds of Prey in action.

Slan go foil.

Rathkeale No 2 National School

The pupils from 4th to 6th class took part in the 3rd Villiers Primary Inter-School Sports Day on Wednesday 14th May and had a great day. The morning's wet weather failed to put a damper on the fun and activity and by lunch time the rain had cleared. Pupils took part in a range of sports and were looked after very well by their Transition Year leaders. The day gives the pupils a great opportunity to meet with children from the surrounding schools and also gives those not on teams a chance to partake in team sports. This year's fun science activity proved to be very popular with all. We pass on a big thank you to Mr Neville Atkinson and his team for organising this wonderful day.

June is always a busy month in school. Mixed in with finishing off courses and end of year tests we do include several fun events. We are all looking forward to our school tour, our Green School Action Day, our own school sports day and a visit to Adare Village Park for a study of the flora and fauna.

We pass on our sympathy to the O'Grady Family on the untimely death of Rachel. Rachel gave freely of her time to help us achieve our Green Flag status. She advised us in the early days of our school garden and we were all very sad to hear of her passing.

St. John's National School, Shannon

St. John's NS is delighted to welcome Ms Suzanne Theising to our team. Suzanne is a student teacher in her native Germany and is on placement with us from Osnabruck University for the third term. The children are benefiting from her tuition in German and are really enthusiastic linguists!



Suzanne Theising

In other news, 4th class pupil, Tom Butler, recently took part in Today FM's 'Shave or Dye' fundraising campaign in aid of the Irish Cancer Society. Tom chose to dye rather than shave. His efforts raised €50 for a very worthy cause. Well done Tom!



Tom Butler

We have two medal-winners in our school community this month. The afore-mentioned 4th class pupil, Tom Butler, took part in the children's leg of the Great Limerick Run over the bank holiday weekend and ran 2km around the University of Limerick campus. He achieved 5th place out of approximately 270 participants. Meanwhile, second class pupil, Shane Duggan, excelled at Gaelic Football in the Clare Community Games. Pictured below are both boys with their medals.



Medal Winners



Villiers School

Villiers

Athletics Update

It has been an incredibly short and hectic athletics season in school with such a late Easter. Surely something can be done to standardise the length of our school terms!

We returned this term to the annual 1st Year Mile. The girls race was dominated by Zara Bolger who is, at present, making a bit of a name for herself as a sprinter, second – Eva O'Sullivan with Siofra McInerney in third.

Quenten Eacrett won the boys' race with Luke O'Donnell in second and Stephen Tutty in third.

NORTH MUNSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

In the North Munster Championships Tanya Cox won Gold in the Inter Girls' 1500m Steeplechase and Silver in the 3000m. Zak O'Farrell took Bronze in the Junior Boys' 1500m and Luke Devine won the 800m in the Inter Boys' section.

Zara Bolger won Gold and Silver in the Minor Girls' 100m and 200m respectively, and Roisin Harrison went one better with a Golden Double in the same events at Senior Girls' level.

The Junior Boys Relay team took Bronze in the North. Well done to Ethan Boyle, Jack Hennessy, Henry Egbulam and Zak O'Farrell.

INTER SCHOOLS SPORTS

The Inter School Sports, hosted by Newtown School were held in Waterford Regional Sports Centre, a splendid venue. The Villiers' squad were joined by squads from Ashton, Bandon Grammar, Kilkenny College, Middleton College and Newtown. Both Boys and Girls teams came third, with Bandon and Ashton ahead of them. Bandon retained the Girls cup while Ashton won the Boys.

MUNSTER SCHOOLS RESULTS

Congratulations to Zara Bolger who was second in the minor girls 100 metres, to Tanya Cox who was second in the Munster girls steeplechase, to Ellen Larkin who was second in the inter girls polevault and finally Roisin Harrison who was second in both the Munster 100 and 200 metres. Well done to all the above.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS SPORTS DAY

Our annual Primary School Sports Day was held in Villiers on Wednesday 14th May. We welcomed eleven schools in total with over 250 pupils.

All our visitors took part in tag rugby, soccer, basketball, fun games, orienteering and fun science in an action packed day. The morning started off damp but thankfully cleared up in the afternoon.

Many thanks to all our TY students who helped organise and accompany the pupils throughout the day. Cloughjordan turned out to be the overall winners. Well done to them.

A final thank you to Mr.Sutton, Mr.Hanna, Mr.Storey and Ms.Mahon for their help on the day.

ART EXHIBITION – HUNT MUSEUM

This TY project was administered by Jane Murtagh and based on the students engagement with the Hunt Museum Collection. A total of 30 pieces of Repousse were made along with prints, ceramics and knitted Sculpture.

Dr Dominique Bouchard and Hugh Maguire of the Hunt Museum were enormously impressed with the standard of skills in craftsmanship displayed in the work and have invited Villiers back to exhibit in 2015. Well done to all concerned.

ACHILL 2014

Our TYs headed off to Achill on their annual Outdoor Pursuits trip from Mon 28th April to Fri 2nd May.

We set off from Villiers in the early hours and arrived in Achill after a brief stop in Castlebar. On arrival we were greeted by the Outdoor Education staff and split into groups for the week.

We were blessed with the weather and took part in the following activities throughout the week – surfing, kayaking, rock climbing, camp craft, coasteering, gaisce adventure, geography fieldwork, mountain boarding, archery and canoe surfing.

We returned to school late on the Friday evening after a most enjoyable and hectic week. We thoroughly enjoyed the new

activities and experiences gained and many of us hope to return at some stage in the future.

Trinity Sunday, 15th June – celebrating Three Persons in one God

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space – unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, and which illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are of the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

Protestant Aid - Care and Compassion in action since 1836

It's not a very high profile building but number 74 Upper Leeson Street in Dublin 4 contains the busy offices of Protestant Aid – an organisation whose tagline is more about action than rhetoric. Notwithstanding the name, Protestant Aid distributes funds regardless of ethnicity or religion because to them it really is about 'care' and 'compassion' and ultimately 'need'.

In 1836 when the newspapers of the day were reporting on the 'alarming condition of the poor' several business and professional men took the steps that were to lead to the founding of what is now Protestant Aid. That first year cash paid out to 457 deserving families amounted to £140.17.8 ½ (just over 6 shillings or about 40 cent per family!). While of huge help and significance at the time this pales beside today's grant figures of around €800,000 annually. These grants are dispersed variously as Education Grants, General Grants, Fuel Grants and Annuities.

THE 100% MODEL

In an era where charities are under particular scrutiny Protestant Aid is happy to be transparent about its Fund Raising and Charitable Expenditure models. And why not when astoundingly, it distributes 100% of all donations received without any deductions for administration. "We like to run a tight ship" explained CEO Robin George "Our donors are incredibly loyal, trusting us to make the best use of their generous giving and that's a responsibility we take very seriously".

HUGE NEEDS STILL EXIST

As we see our economy slowly improving it might be easy to think poverty and need were dissipating. Unfortunately the daily grant applications received by Protestant Aid reveal another narrative. Stories of hardship, despair and need still abound due to unemployment, illness or family break-ups. "If anything has changed in recent times", says Geoff Scargill (Charitable Services Officer), "it's that poverty is hitting families never before touched in this way". Referrals from Clergy and Social Workers alike reveal a sub-culture of distress that Protestant Aid endeavours to address with sensitivity and compassion.



The Protestant Aid team: Robin George (Chief Executive), Mrs Pat Adam (Case Secretary), Geoff Scargill (Charitable Services Officer) and Mrs Alanna Carter (Office Manager)

GRATEFUL

Protestant Aid is very grateful for the annual grant received from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government that is so vital to its work. An extra €130,000 received in 2013 from the Department of Social Protection also made a huge difference to so many people as this wonderful and unexpected surprise was fully discharged to over 450 families throughout the country in the form of Heating and Fuel Grants as well as General Emergency Grants.

THE WORK GOES ON

Should you wish to give to the work of Protestant Aid donations can be sent to it at 74 Upper Leeson Street, Dublin 4. It is very grateful for whatever amount is given and you can be sure that nothing is wasted with 100% being redistributed to those in need.

Mid Summer Fun Cycle - Saturday 21st June

'Luyengo Farm, Swaziland'..... 'Not again!' I hear the parishioner say.

As you know we have been supporting this project since 2011, with the aim of making the Diocese of Swaziland self supporting in the long term. Have we been successful in our objective to date? The answer is 'yes' in spite of hailstones, exceptionally heavy rain storms and gales... all to do with changes in the weather patterns world-wide, so we are told! Under the good management of Mr Tiki de Beers, and the support of US Ireland, (e.g. the United Dioceses of Limerick & Killaloe), they have 'weathered' all the storms to date, both financial & climatic, to the point where they are now exporting packed vegetables into the South African market and starting to rear pigs to consume the vegetable by products.

This is good news since the monies generated from sale of vegetables and pork products will go directly to the Diocese to help fund, much needed medical & educational programmes.

Due to problems with maintaining a reliable water supply and, to assist in rain water harvesting, a reservoir c/w pumping equipment was constructed in early 2013. This has proved to be a good investment under the current unstable weather conditions. The Board of Mission, at their September meeting in 2013, agreed to support the construction of the reservoir to the value of €15,000. To date we have raised just half of this amount, including the funding of a carrot washer for the farm, currently being finished by two students in the Agricultural Engineering Department in IT Tralee.

Since this will be our final effort for the Luyengo Farm Project, we decided to raise some extra cash, hence the Mid Summer Fun Cycle, details of which can be found on the adjoining advert. We decided on two routes, namely the blue route of 60 km (35 miles), for those 'of a relaxed mode and out for the crack', and the red route of 107 km (62 miles), for those of a 'more serious intent and well able to burn the rubber'.

Come along to Clonfert Cathedral on Saturday 21st June, when we will hold a short service at 9.30 am and a 'blessing on our labours' from the Rev Patrick Towers! At 11 am the cycle run will commence when Ms Linda Chambers from Us Ireland will 'drop the flag'. At 3.30 pm approximately we hope to hold a barbecue in Clonfert Community Centre, when there will be music and spot prizes along with beef burgers and sausages provided by the Youth Council.

We ask you for your support. If you are unable to attend or to take part in the cycle run, please support/sponsor fellow parishioners from your parish.

The road may be long, let not the cyclists be few!

Organisers: Archdeacon Wayne Carney (Chair), Rev Jane Galbraith (Secretary), Ed Hardy (Diocesan Youth Council), Dave Frizelle & John Chadwick (Diocesan Board of Mission)

Mid Summer Fun Cycle

Saturday June 21st 2014 in aid of Luyengo Farm Swaziland
The Diocesan Board of Mission and United Diocesan Youth Council

Cycle starts at 11am from St. Brendan's Cathedral, Clonfert after a short service at 9.30am.

Registration outside St. Brendan's Cathedral from 9.30a.m.

Two routes. Long and short.

***After all that you are invited to a diocesan BBQ
- come for the BBQ, if not the cycle, from 3.30p.m.***

This is our last big push for our brothers and sisters in Swaziland who are trying to become self supporting.

They can do it with our help. Can we do it? ... Yes we can! ... but only with your help

Registration forms and sponsorship forms available on the day or from

David Frizelle 087-6855251 davidfrizelle@eircom.net
or John Chadwick 086-2112985 john.chadwick@live.ie



Island Spirituality

'Spirituality is not about us as individuals, but about community' ~ Alastair McIntosh

Scottish environmentalist, author and broadcaster, Dr Alastair McIntosh, was well received in NUI Maynooth recently when he delivered a lecture on his book 'Island Spirituality'. Hosted by the Centre for Irish Protestant Studies, he gave fascinating insights into religious change and spirituality from the Outer Hebridean islands of Scotland where he grew up. This was illustrated by a variety of slides he took during a 12-day pilgrimage he made on the island of Lewis five years ago.

During his pilgrimage "out in the wilds", he sought out places of sanctity, in particular pre-Reformation chapels/temples, holy wells and sheelings (stone structures like the beehive huts that can be found in parts of Ireland). This helped him get a glimpse of the spiritual life of the island before "the harsh Presbyterianism" of his childhood took a hold.

While walking the length of the island, Alastair reflected on the Calvinist tradition and on the idea that there was something in the Celtic spirit about spiritual freedom – that one didn't have to go through a hierarchy or priest to connect with God and that one didn't need an intercessory in order to have the Bible "opened to you".

Reflecting on the many different denominations that exist today, Alastair reached the conclusion: "We've all different windows and no window is perfect. What window does our own tradition shed on spirituality? Our task today is to repair our windows to let in the light again."

Alastair talked about the necessity of recognising faith in each other, regardless of denomination: "Jesus said, 'I am the real vine and you are the branches' ... we are profoundly inter-connected. That is the meaning of community ... spirituality is not about us as individuals, but about community. Real spirituality is to be of the living vine. How does the vine grow? The gardener erects a trellis ... Our religions, at their best, are like those trellises – helping the vine grow. The vine has to be continually reformed ... leading the vine to life."

Alastair went on to say that at the end of the day what mattered was expressing spirituality in all its forms – "How we see and experience and nurture what we see that's good in the world around us. The human face is made up of the image of God, is an icon of God – each of us is the face of God and when we start seeing that, that's when we start living as the communion of saints It's all about the work of love."



Alastair McIntosh

Alastair McIntosh's book 'Island Spirituality: Spiritual values of Lewis and Harris' can be ordered over the internet from www.theislandsbooktrust.com.

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Finding Anam Cara

– The first of 3 articles by Archdeacon Sue Watterson

In the Celtic Spiritual tradition, it is believed that the soul radiates all about the physical body, what some refer to as an aura. When you connect with another person and become completely open and trusting with that individual, the two souls begin to flow together. Should such a deep bond be formed, it is said you have found your Anam Cara or soul friend.

Your Anam Cara always accepts you as you truly are. In order to appreciate this relationship, you must first recognize your own worth as a child of God – not always easy to do. According to John O'Donoghue, "... When you are blessed with an anam cara, you have arrived at that most sacred place: home."



Today, we use the term spiritual guidance or spiritual direction – which somehow loses the aesthetic quality the term anam cara suggests. Never-the-less spiritual direction is soul friendship, and all the qualities of anam cara are necessary if two souls are to bond in true soul-friendship. There is a vocabulary – a very ancient use of words which has sprung up from the Ignatian Tradition and is now firmly grounded in anam cara. Somehow more contemporary language cannot replace what is conveyed by the use of words like consolation, desolation, movement, attachment and detachment. These words, despite their ancient roots, convey what the Holy Spirit initiates or reveals within the soul friends' relationship and conversation.



Celie & Shug

Alice Walker's novel *The Colour Purple* is made up of letters from Celie – the main character – to God. Living in the black communities of the Southern States of America, Celie's relationships with men (father, step fathers, husband) brought abuse,

beatings and humiliation. Almost two thirds of the way through the book Celie stops writing to God and confides this to her close friend Shug, who is alarmed by the desolation and loss of freedom that Celie feels.

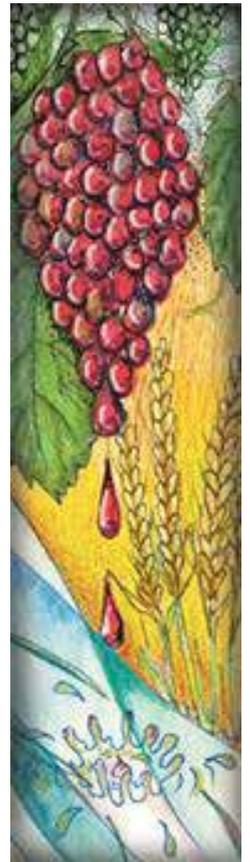
Shug listens to Celie's distress and asks, evocatively, "Tell me what your God look like Celie?" As Shug listened she remembered something of her own story, her own movement and

countermovement. Whilst her vocabulary is very different to that of Ignatius, Shug recognised Celie had a very distorted and wrong perception of God. Celie explained

"When I found out God was white and a man, I los' interest. Trying to chase that old white man out of my head. I been so busy thinking 'bout him I never truly notice nothing God make. Not a blade of corn (how it do that?) not the color purple (where it come from?) Not the little wildflowers. Nothing."

Like Shug, Celie also realised that her internal blindness had been caused by obsession, for her – a white man God, who doesn't love her or listen to her. Reflecting, pondering and lingering on the love of God which Shug describes to her and evokes through her questions, Celie awakens and understands, and for the first time recognises God in creation. Celie experiences further movement and countermovement, especially as she struggles with prayer, but recognises and admits her distractions are caused by the hatred she holds for the men who have abused her. Celie moves forward and is enabled to speak *from* rather than *about* her relationship with God. The final letter in the book begins "Dear God. Dear stars, dear trees, dear sky, dear peoples. Dear Everything. Dear God – Thank you....." Reflecting, pondering, lingering is what soul friends do

The Reverend Canon Anne Long recognises our need for relationship and our benefit from "encounter with other persons", and believes this to be one reason why spiritual direction is an essential part of personal growth.



"We were created for relationship and most of our learning happens in a context of relationship, whether through talking, questioning, discussing, telling, off-loading, or through listening, watching, considering, receiving, taking in. Relationship is vital to personal learning."

Relationship within spiritual direction however, is embodied in the form of companion rather than advisor or guru. The personal learning which Anne Long speaks of is facilitated by the spiritual director in much the way that a mid-wife would "attend" a birth. As in true soul friendship spiritual direction focuses on the directee's personal relationship with God (at a given moment), and the director must not influence an individual but as Ignatius himself suggested must "stand in the centre like a balance, leave the Creator to act immediately with the creature, and the creature with its Creator and Lord."

Reflecting on General Synod 2014

General Synod was held in Christchurch Cathedral Dublin between Thursday 8th and Saturday 10th May 2014. We are grateful to our clergy and lay correspondents for their reflections on the proceedings.

Canon George Flynn, Aughrim & Creagh Unions, reflects on General Synod

Christ Church Cathedral is a magnificent historic building but it sadly lacks the facilities required for such a large gathering of people. Some have special needs that are not adequately provided for, and it was warmly agreed by a special member's motion that a more suitable venue would be sought to host the 2016 Synod following the 2015 Synod in Armagh



Each day's proceedings opened with short Morning Devotions led by the Bishop of Meath and Kildare the Most Rev Pat Storey with the singing of a hymn, scripture reading and prayers. David Bremner the assistant organist provided the music. The opening hymn on the first day - Guide me O Thou great Jehovah - set a worthy introduction to the Primate of Armagh's presidential address, which emphasised the need for a long-term positive approach to serve the needs of our people:

- promoting the themes of service, unity and growth,
- at the same time Anglican in worship and practice,
- and very much part of the world-wide Christian Church.

The Synod in my mind is an essential annual gathering of our Church, an occasion of meeting up with past friends and making new contacts, of sharing thoughts and experiences, together considering where the past and present is bringing us into the future. They are three long days addressing reports, bills and motions, hearing opinions of committed church men and women - what they consider acceptable or not - before the gathering is asked to vote on the matter in hand. All these reports are considered at length and it is good to know that nothing is agreed without due consultation.

In the course of the Synod it was well noted that many people elected by our own Diocesan Synod three years ago came in great numbers and spoke on a number of items. The motion regarding Human Sexuality continues to be addressed in detail and in this regard Mr Eric Champ of Killorglin and Joc Sanders of Nenagh expressed their points clearly. While the report was adopted, further dialogue will continue.

The report of the Representative Church Body (RCB) was presented by Robert Neill. He outlined that the past years had been a most challenging experience, but the report confirmed that much of the loss of capital since 2006 has been recovered. If the RCB's forecasts are achieved we will build capacity for future growth and the situation will become more sustainable. The funds continued to perform well. He assured Synod that only property or money arising from the sale of Glebes or Churches is held in trust by the RCB and subject to rules laid down by General Synod. All other monies or investments are freely available to their owners at any time without limitations, subject to the terms of any trust. In seconding this

report Bishop Trevor drew attention to the advice available from the RCB on property issues. The RCB ensures that the resources of the Church are used for Church purposes and in support of its community to serve others in the name of Christ, working for a world of justice peace and reconciliation.



The Primate delivering his Presidential Address

Bill No.1 provided for the Interchangeability of Ministry between the C of I and the Methodist Church in Ireland. Introduced to Synod on the Thursday after a number of years work and lengthy debate, it was rapturously and overwhelmingly passed by Synod on the Saturday, in an 'historic moment' of joy and rejoicing in our journey of faith. A moment of Church History in the making that will be seen of great relevance to ecumenical dialogue throughout the world.

As far as our own delegates are concerned it was a very enjoyable Synod. The system adopted by The Primate to allow his fellow Bishops to chair the proceedings throughout the three days was warmly welcomed.

However on a sad disturbing note many of us heard on Saturday that on the Friday evening Lorna Gleasure (our Diocesan Treasurer) was 'mugged' while travelling to her over-night accommodation, sustaining injuries that required hospitalisation and surgery the following Monday. We are all glad to hear that Lorna is progressing well and we all wish her well and hope to see her back with us as soon as possible.

EDITOR:

Like everyone else the Newslink team is appalled to hear of Lorna Gleasure's awful experience. We pray for her speedy and complete recovery.

Edward Hardy, Clonfert Group and UDYC, reflects on General Synod

Due to work commitments I only managed to arrive on the afternoon of first day of General Synod, feeling a little guilty that I was not present from the start. However it became evident that the majority in attendance were in some way employed by the Church of Ireland, or were retired from employment, with some self employed willing to donate one or two days of their time. Employed persons like myself were few, and likewise the number of students with college exams taking place. It was hard not to notice that many spent a large amount of their time on coffee, extended lunch breaks and the odd shopping break or two. Is it right to post messages on social media networks indicating one has left Synod to go shopping etc??

The report from Church of Ireland Youth Department on the Thursday afternoon was seconded by Damian Shorten from Limerick Diocese. He highlighted that the Youth Ministry which is offered in our Parishes and Dioceses is an essential component of the whole ministry of the Church of God. Through it, the future leaders of our Church are nurtured and formed as they are supported in their Christian discipleship, encouraged to play their part in the life of the Church NOW, and to share their insights and experiences as full members of Christ's Body. He spoke about the privilege of being involved in providing this Ministry to young people, though this privilege comes with huge responsibilities. The main responsibilities are firstly to ensure that leaders are fully committed and equipped to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and secondly to ensure that opportunities are provided for this essential component of Youth Ministry provision in our Parishes & Dioceses throughout the Church.

decide to take a morning off from Church, when we really have no excuse. We should reflect on the challenges that other Christians around the world endure to partake in Christian worship.

The Council of Mission report was uplifting and hopeful. There were examples of church planting that maybe need more exposure. Speakers talked of the impact of Suicide, recalling the effect on congregations. In the late afternoon a number of discussion groups gave opportunities for those that may not speak from the front at General Synod to express an opinion. A summary of discussions at recent mission conference in Dromantine was the basis for these groups. I really feel that our United Diocese should hold a mission conference in the near future, using some of the speakers at the Dromantine event and the document produced there as a basis for local discussion.

On Saturday morning the unanimous adoption of the Bill to provide for interchangeability of ministry between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland was a highlight.

Later that morning Synod debated a simple motion, "Pride in People and Past - this house appeals to the Church to take pride in her people and in her past". One speaker rightly asked, 'Can we take pride in all of the actions of all our people from the past?' This motion also allowed very many speakers on both sides of the Human Sexuality debate to express opinions. It is without doubt a very sensitive issue. If one felt that the Cavan Conference, tripartite meetings etc had moved towards a greater unity in our Church, this was not apparent in the debate.



General Synod in session in the nave of Christchurch Cathedral, for perhaps the last time

The Synod service on Thursday evening was well attended with what can only be described as an impressive procession at the start and end of the worship event. The sermon by Bishop Burrows spoke about the importance of good "Godly Conversations". Not too sure if I would totally agree with the claim that "All is well"...

I was privileged to attend a humbling and challenging Synod Mission Breakfast event on Friday morning in St. Werburgh's Church. The main speaker was the Rt Rev Justin Badi (Bishop of Madri Diocese in South Sudan) whose input was themed "Through Thick & Thin - Partnership that works". He spoke about the church in Sudan and the current political unrest in South Sudan. I couldn't help but think of how so many of us sometimes wake up on a Sunday morning and

Is the Church of Ireland a Church with a Mission and a Church on the Move? We need to be revived. Whitsunday is coming. Are we going to let it come and go once again? Regardless of the report, motion or bill under discussion, plenty of Synod speakers called for the Church to move from a maintenance focus to much more mission and ministry focus. Some said that time is really running out for some parishes and congregations, and it might even be too late in some cases. There was certainly a focus at General Synod that ACTION is required urgently - we need to take risks and "Just Do It!!



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Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union of Parishes

Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.

Rector & Dean: The Very Rev. Gary Paulsen

The Deanery, Abbey Road, Killaloe, Co. Clare

Tel: 061-374 779

Mob: 085-764 0533

Email: abbeydean2@gmail.com

Rev. Lucy Green

Tel: 062-79941 Mob: 087 667 0425

Email: lucygreen06ie@yahoo.co.uk

Easter has come and gone and the Gloria and Alleluias resound as we remember that Christ is risen indeed. Phil and Grace Anne who spent six months living in Ballina were regular attenders of church services at the Cathedral returned to the USA and we wish them well as their presence will be missed. The Easter vestry meetings were held and all the new or mostly reappointed select vestry members are in place for the New Year and we trust they will find joy and fulfilment in this position of service in the church. This is a role of servanthood and not one of status in the church and once the attitude of taking off the outer garment and bending down to wash the feet of the people is adopted the correct posture is then taken up in this role.

William Duncan and Lyanne Curtin were married in Stradbally church on 3 May. This was a wedding that was to take place in Adare but the repairs in the church was still ongoing and so the venue was moved. We wish them both well.

Our congratulations to Bruce and Mary Carrick on their first grandchild Holly Amelie born on 3 May and she and her mother Abigail and dad Jason are all doing well.

The Boru Community Choir in Killaloe organised some choral singing in the cathedral on 3rd May which was a great success. Sadie Scanlon, who was the organiser, invited a number of choirs. The variety of styles and pieces of music made for interesting listening which was appreciated by all who attended. There is so much singing talent in Ireland and it is great to see that choral singing is still popular with young and old. It was well attended and it was great to see the cathedral filled with people.



Launch of the Brian Boru Festival



Nenagh Octaves in St Flannan's

Clare County Council and Killaloe / Ballina launched the National Brian Ború Trail. This event was done by Jimmy Deenihan, TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and took place on Friday, 25th April 2014 in St Flannan's Cathedral Killaloe. Many people attended this event from all over the island of Ireland. We also had the opportunity to see the replica of the Brian Boru's sword.

An ecumenical service of remembrance was held at St Cronan's Church in Tuamgraney. Fr Donagh O Meara and his pastoral council took the initiative in organising this event in this historic building. The church service was conducted by Rev Gary and Fr Donagh and the East Clare Community Choir led the singing during the service. The pastoral council under the leadership of Theresa Browne arranged tea and buns after the service. Our thanks to all who put in the effort to arrange this service. It is hoped that this will be the start of good relationships with all the churches in the area as we discern how we want to use this church building.

We also want to highlight one of the many events in St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe and this is the Killaloe Chamber Music Festival taking place from 13 June to 15th June you can book online at www.uch.ie or box office 061 331549

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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

PARISH SUMMER FETE

The Birr Summer Fete will be held on Sunday, 15th June at Oxmantown School, using the new classroom and nearby entranceway, as well as the yard areas and adjacent covered space. There will be the usual stalls, activities, teas, and refreshments, and races and games for the children. Entrance off Pound Street. Time: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. All welcome.

LOCKEEN CONCERT

On Midsummer Day, Saturday June 21st, Fancroft Mill, Roscrea will be the venue for a fundraising concert towards the cost of restoring the three stained-glass windows in Lockeen Church. The Delmaine String Quartet will play works by Haydn and Dvoák with the poetry of F.R. Higgins (1896-1941), read by Michael James Ford. Tickets are €25. Concessions €10, available from Irene Sweeney at 0505-31484 or millgardens@gmail.com. Seating is limited and pre-booking is essential. Gardens open 6:00 pm; performance at 7:30 pm.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sincere congratulations to Elma Jackson, daughter of Barbara and Arthur of Lacka who recently announced her engagement to Graham Weekes, Raheny, Dublin. We wish the couple every blessing as they plan their future together. Congratulations to Doireann and Trevor Bailey on the birth of a baby boy.

PASTORAL

We continue to remember in prayer those who are ill. Mrs Charlie Hodgins spent some time in hospital and is now in Eliza Lodge nursing home where she is being lovingly cared for by the staff and her family. Mrs Beatrice Fletcher has been able to return to her home. Our prayerful thoughts are with Tom Dagg and Billy Dagg on the death in England of their sister Lilly. Sympathy is also extended to Tom Hayes on the death in England of his brother.

EXAM TIME

The best of luck to everyone preparing to sit exams shortly.

OXMANTOWN SCHOOL

Congratulations to Oxmantown School pupils, who for their Lenten Project raised €1000 for our Diocesan Mission Project, Luyengo Farm in Swaziland. They raised a further €800 for furnishings for our new classroom. Bishop Trevor Williams will be present for the official opening of the new classroom in conjunction with our first Multicultural Day on Friday, 6th June at 12:00 noon

A Festival of Flowers and Music

to mark the re-dedication of the Denny Organ,
Church of St. John the Evangelist - Ashe St Tralee
from Friday 13th to Monday 16th June.

For the Flower Festival

the church will be open each day from 10.30am until 4pm
during which time there will incidental organ music,
poetry readings
and items from St. John's singers and musicians.
No admission fee, donations appreciated.

Evening concerts

Friday 13th 8pm Spraoi Chiarrai International Concert
Saturday 14th 8pm Opus 96 in concert
Sunday 15th 7pm. Choral Evensong & re-dedication of the organ.
with the Choir of St. Mary's Cathedral Limerick.
Monday 16th 8pm . Organ recital by Declan Walsh, Kerry Schl Music.

No admission fees, but retiring collections will be taken.

Roscrea Group of Parishes

Roscrea, Bourney, Corbally and Kyle

Vacant

Priest in Charge: Ven. Wayne Carney

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly.

Tel: 057 – 9120021 Mob: 087 – 7865234

Email: mapleire@eircom.net

HOLY BAPTISM

Easter Day, 2014 in St. Cronan's – Cameron William, son of Clive and Ciara Allen, with Michelle Morrisroe, Pat Browne and Noel Allen as godparents and Rev. Ruth Gill and Adrian Hewson officiating.

May 3rd in St. Cronan's – Molly Aoife, daughter of Vincent and Ruth (nee Graham) Shields, with Lucy and Kelly and Conor Siggins as godparents and the Ven Wayne Carney, Rev. Fr. P. Brennan, Boherlahan and Adrian Hewson officiating.

SICK LIST

Our prayers continue to be with Nevin Alton and Eddie Clare. Thankfully Eddie has now moved from The Mater to Rehab, a positive step along the road of progress. While at the time of writing, Nevin is awaiting a return for further surgery. We pray for successful outcomes for both.

BEREAVEMENT

Our prayers are with Tommy, Betty and Jason Patterson on the passing of Tommy's sister-in-law, Muriel Patterson. There was a large attendance of parishioners at the funeral service in Castlefleming. We also sympathise with the family of the late Victor Read, Glentara, Roscrea whose death occurred on Maundy Thursday.

FUNDRAISER

Sometimes when tragedy strikes a family, people find that besides remembering them in prayer, there are other ways they can help. Such was the case here recently when a fund raising Coffee day and Bring and Buy Sale was held at the Rectory. Our sincere thanks to Heather Evans and her efficient team of organisers and to all who supported the event. The family found the gesture both helpful and encouraging. Thank you.

EASTER

Lenten and Holy Week observances, private Communion and our annual Good Friday ecumenical walk 'in the way of The Cross' all climaxed with our Easter Day Holy Communion services with Rev. Janet White-Spinner as celebrant and preacher. An Easter egg hunt added to the Bourney celebrations and all churches looked well. Our thanks also to Rev. Ruth Gill who was celebrant on Maundy Thursday, while on Low Sunday, our guest preacher in all three churches was Rev. Brian Griffin, Methodist Minister prior to his departure from Roscrea in the near future. It was nice to see him accompanied by his wife Eirene, in Roscrea who read a lesson.

BIRTHDAYS

Our two most senior parishioners recently celebrated birthdays. Many happy returns to Harry Hodgins, who was 92 in April and to Alice Harvey, who was 95 on May Day. Both always greatly appreciate the church's ministrations and we are happy to recognise their many years of service as loyal parishioners.

LEPROSY MISSION

A recent 'thank you' card has been received "on behalf of all the boys, girls, men and women who have leprosy". €330 was raised in this parish for the cause. Well done to Wilfred Moloney who does such efficient work in this sphere of parochial life.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Roscrea Musical Society's production 'Annie' has been a major talking point in town with Kate Williams as 'Annie', Hannah Benn in a supporting role and Gillian Wallace among the adult cast. Well done girls and all readers watch this space!!

The Annual St. Cronan's Friendship Walk, the fifth to be held in honour of our patron saint, was held this year on April 27th, the eve of his feast day. Well attended on a glorious afternoon the event concluded with an excellent tea provided by St. Cronan's Services. Our parochial representatives who led the reflections were Valerie St. Leger, Jason Patterson and Adrian Hewson.

EASTER VESTRIES

All annual Easter Vestries were held and with the Archdeacon as Chairman, all business was completed. Best wishes to those who were appointed to office and sincerest thanks to those who served the churches so well during the past year.

Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan.

Rector: Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke

Holly Cottage, Sallypark, Lateragh, Nenagh. Co. Tipperary.

Tel: 067 32598 Mob: 085-147 4792

Email: canonmarie@me.com

Many thanks to Boy's Brigade who led a wonderful Family Worship service on 18th May! The theme was Joshua, and many congratulations to the boys who had prepared very hard for the presentation, prayers, and other parts of the service. At the end the boys were presented with their Health and Fitness badge. Little people had a good time as well during the service in preparing more life forms for the Ark, and we all enjoyed wonderful refreshments at the end. As always Junior and main choir led the singing, and all particularly enjoyed singing the spirituals 'Joshua won the battle of Jericho' and 'I'm going to lay down my sword and shield'. (See BB notes, page 6)

The Union held its Easter Vestry on 7 May and the following were elected/appointed:

Rector's Wardens: St Mary's – Dennis Croft; Killodiernan – Caleb Clarke; Templederry – Hilary Lewis

People's Wardens: St Mary's – Ann McKee Walsh; Killodiernan – Mary Ryan; Templederry Melvyn Mooney

Secretary – Rae Clarke; Treasurer – Jack Bayly

Rector's Glebe Warden: Deborah Powell; People's Glebe Warden: Leslie Dagg

Select Vestry members: Joc Sanders, Catherine Lidwill-Bouma, William Wallace, Olive Powell, Jean Blackwell, Jane Coman, Lisa Drummond, Caroline Hayes, William Jones, Rae Croft, Norman Hayes.

Elected as Diocesan Synod delegates 2014-2017 – Caleb Clarke, Lisa Drummond, Deborah Powell, Patrick Rowley-Brooke.

Elected as Parochial Nominators 2014-2017 – Audrey Clarke-Gordon, Rose Langley, Baden Powell, Joc Sanders.

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Trevor to St Mary's on 15th June for his last visit to the Union when he will confirm Maruna, Anna-Mae and Seren. We wish him and Joyce every happiness and blessing in their retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Thelma Percy and Mike O'Brien on the arrival of twins Sarah and Mae in April. This was a very early arrival, and both babies are progressing steadily in the ICU of

Limerick Maternity Hospital. Please hold them in your prayers. Congratulations also to Kathleen Newton (daughter of the late Gladys Hodgins) who celebrated a Big Birthday and who held a wonderful birthday party in Riverfield, Templeberry, which Kathleen has renovated beautifully. Our prayers are with all those pupils currently sitting Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations - remember, students, exams are a wonderful opportunity for showing off!

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

Confirmation 2014: Please pray for the following young people from our parish who are to be confirmed in Cloughjordan by the Bishop on June 1st:

Eoin Geraghty	Mark Stanley	Kevin Harding
Olivia Grant	Ellen Austin	Richard Donaldson
Rebecca Mooney	William Mooney	Jonathan Mooney
Ben Chadwick	Megan Humphreys	Keith O'Meara
Shane Whelan		

MONEYGALL HALL

The parish Hall in Moneygall reopened last month after a major refurbishment project under the LEADER scheme. The hall now boasts a new roof, a brand new floor which was christened at the opening dance on 2nd May last and a state-of-the-art kitchen along with renewed facilities and a patio area and newly landscaped garden to the rear. There will be an official opening in the near future where we will have an opportunity to thank everyone who made this possible. It is hoped that the new hall will be of benefit to the parish and the wider local community who were very generous in lending their facilities while the job was in progress. In this regard a special word of thanks to the Catholic parish of Moneygall who kindly lent the Legion Hall to us on a number of occasions.

EASTER VESTRIES

Thanks to all who attended the three meetings and to all who agreed to take office and responsibility in the administration of the parish.

THOMAS MACDONAGH WEEKEND IN CLOUGHJORDAN

A very significant event took place on Saturday 3rd May in Modreeny Graveyard outside Cloughjordan. A time of Remembrance and Thanksgiving was held to remember those from the parish who lost their lives and were wounded in the First World War. That such an event was organised by the same committee who were organising the commemoration of Thomas MacDonagh, one of the men of 1916, speaks volumes of the inclusiveness of our local community. One of those remembered was Sergeant James Somers who won the Victoria Cross for his valour on the battlefield. Among his relatives in the parish today are Harold Williams who laid the wreath on behalf of all the dead at the ceremony and Pearl Whiteford who read a reading of Scripture. The event also featured the traditional silence and the playing of the Last Post (thanks to Patrick Rowley-Brooke) and a lone piper who played a lament for the dead. The rector was accompanied in leading the ceremony by Rev'd Brian Griffin (Methodist Superintendent) and Fr Tom Hannon (PP).

BORRISOKANE SOCIAL CLUB OUTING

The newly formed Borrisokane Parish Social Club had a very successful outing to Portumna Workhouses on Sunday 11th May. The workhouses have been almost fully restored and give a fascinating insight into the hardship that the occupants endured during this dark chapter in our nation's past. Thanks are due to Nigel Foxton for organising the visit.

WEDDINGS, WEDDINGS AND MORE WEDDINGS!

Congratulations to David Crawford & Pricilla McCarthy and Graham Harding & Triona O'Keefe who were wed on 31st May and also best wishes to Philip Stanley & Mags Egan who are to be wed in Ardcroney on the 14th June and Debby Kenny & Adrian Shine who will be wed in Ballingarry on the 21st June. Hopefully some more news and pictures from these happy events in the next edition.

Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin

Rector: Canon 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

CONFIRMATIONS

Congratulations to all those young parishioners who have recently been confirmed - Jake Dunne, David Auld and Emily Greene (Shinrone); Rebecca Reid and Niamh Nettleship (Aghancon); and Lyndsey Armstrong (Kinnitty). We wish them every blessing as they begin this next step in their Christian journey.

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Telephone: 076 31541

- Mobile - Philip 087 6874775

Philip@jjryanundertakers.com - www.jjryanundertakers.com

SHINRONE PLAY

Many thanks to all who helped put on or who supported the Shinrone Church fundraising play 'Drinking Habits'. Over 500 people attended over three performances and over €2,500 was raised toward the repainting of Shinrone church.

KINNITTY DREAM AUCTION

Thanks to all who supported the Dream Auction in aid of Kinnitty roof repairs. A great number of lots were offered and around €20,000 raised. This is a fantastic sum and congratulations to all who helped organise the event.

AGHANCON SUNDAY LUNCH

Thanks as well to all who organised and attended the very enjoyable Sunday Lunch held in aid of Aghancon Church. A great crowd attended and over €2,000 was raised.

ALZHEIMER'S SALE

Jean Talbot would like to thank everyone who came/contributed to the Sale on Friday 16th May in aid of Alzheimers Association in Aghancon Hall. A total of €400 was made and it was much appreciated.

MOTHERS' UNION OUTING

... on 5th June to Burtown House and Gardens, Athy, Co. Kildare. Also visiting Dunnes Garden Centre, Durrow with tea in Durrow Castle. Bus leaves Aghancon at 10.30am and Shinrone at 11.00am. Cost is €25 (includes bus, entrance fees and tea/coffee). All Welcome. Names and monies to Liz Edge or Ruth Stanley please.

KINNITTY FUNDRAISING CONCERT

Dublin Welsh Male Voice Choir will be in concert in St.Finian's Church, Kinnitty on Fri. 13th June at 8 pm, supported by St.Flannan's Choir. Tickets €25. Proceeds are in aid of Church roof. For tickets please contact, Ivan Sheppard (0864082118), Iris Peavoy (0579137018) or Andrew Armstrong (0872922064).

AGHANCON PARISH FETE

Sunday 6 July from 2.00pm at Aghancon Community Hall. A great selection of stalls, events and refreshments. All are very welcome.

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

Bishop Trevor's retirement shortly after some six years among us, elicits gratitude as well as sadness at losing his kind and generous personality as well as his vision and gifts as our spiritual leader. Likewise Joyce Williams, for those of us who had the pleasure of her company. will be greatly missed. We wish them both rich blessings in retirement among their children and grandchildren and within their new life, community and pursuits.

Archdeacon Wayne Carney and Archdeacon Sue Watterson, and Diocesan Secretary Mrs Yvonne Blennerhassett deserve our prayers of support as they hold up the joint dioceses over the vacancy and during the process of selection of a replacement for Bishop Trevor. Also in our prayers is Mrs Lorna Gleasure, Diocesan Treasurer, who recovers from a broken hip following a violent attack in public by a robber whilst leaving General Synod in May.

Continuing the change of personnel in our diocese of late, we welcome as a neighbour in Adare and Kilmallock Group of Parishes

its new Rector, all the way from Hawaii, the Rev Liz Beasley whose experience and gifts should be a wonderful gift addition to our fellowship. Also (already arrived in May) happy landings to new Curate-Assistant in Limerick City parish the Rev Edna Clare Wakely.



COMMISSIONING

The Rector will be attending on July 6th in the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, Hertfordshire, the Admission and Licensing as a Diocesan Reader for the Diocese of St Albans, Mr Steve Fletcher, a regular visitor and nearly indispensable worship leader within Drumcliffe Group. Steve's training has been overseen by Bishop Paul Bayes of Hertford who has just been appointed as the new Bishop of Liverpool.

BENJAMIN

We give thanks for the safe arrival by Caesarean Section of baby Benjamin Raymond Joseph Doherty, son of Kevin and Joanne of Newmarket-On-Fergus, a May Festival Baby.

Mum, delighted with her second baby (Isobel was first), is recovering well. Baby takes his additional names from grandparents, Raymond (our late former Rector and husband of Catherine) and Joanne's dad from Kilkee.

CHORISTER

Linked closely with choral life in Ennis and its ecumenical sharing with Drumcliffe Parish was Mrs Ita O'Shea who died in her 90s at Cahercalla Hospital. A competent musician who played the organ in St Peter and St Paul Cathedral, Ennis, Ita had close links with our own Nigel Bridge and her contemporaries the late Leslie McCrum and his wife Anna (who was only a corridor away in Cahercalla Nursing Home.) Fr Tom Hogan's eloquent reflection on Ita's life was a reminder of a wonderful musical culture within our churches which has no equal today.



Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn

Rector: Canon 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 once again from the Northern Parish hoping that Easter celebrations brought uplifting services to your parishes as was the case here in Galway.

EASTER TREASURE HUNT

Easter Saturday in the Coach-house was great fun for the gathering of some 25 children and adults. Between decorating Easter buns and cakes, making Easter bunnies, Treasure Hunting for various items and bursting a Pinatta full of eggs, etc. a great time was had by all who disappeared around 4pm to allow yours truly start my Easter travel around the parishes.

EASTER SERVICES

The closing date for last month's notes came prior to Easter and on the Saturday and Sunday all six parishes supported our Easter celebrations with a total of just under 200 parishioners in attendance. Thankfully the pleasant weather contributed to an enjoyable journey as together we 'claimed Christ is Risen' with our joyful response 'He is Risen indeed Hallelujah'.

GENERAL EASTER VESTRY MEETINGS

Were held in Aughrim and Ballinasloe to bring to the parishioners the reports for Aughrim and Creagh Union of Parishes. Aughrim meeting was held in the Coach-house on 29th April while the Creagh meeting was held in Gullane's Hotel on 1st May. A good attendance at both heard the Chairman's report that took the form this year of a Power Point presentation with a backup dialogue reporting in word and photos the resume of the past year.

It has been an exciting successful year and the outgoing officers and Select Vestry were thanked for their contributions. Two parishioners Claire Besynoe - Aughrim, Hon Secretary and Marjorie Salter - Ballinasloe Treasurer Sustentation Account, were thanked for their long standing support and work for many years on their respective Select Vestries. Their much valued knowledge and wisdom has brought our Unions forward to the present high standings and we thank them most sincerely.

ARDRAHAN SUNDAY SCHOOL

The building of the long awaited new Sunday School room has commenced and it is hoped to have this completed within six weeks. It has taken a long time to finalise the planning process. With the latest planning regulation stipulations additional costs will be incurred and the parishioners have agreed to organise additional fundraising events in the near future. Please give your support as best you can when these events are made known.

ST. JOHN'S PAROCHIAL HALL BALLINASLOE

The Parochial Hall has been without 'tenants' for some time and it is good news to hear that INVOLVE has agreed to use the Hall. INVOLVE supports teenagers of Settled Travellers, who avail of their Projects weekly attending after secondary school hours in a number

of places around the county such as Ballinasloe.

This project will be supported mainly by INVOLVE, but also partly by the parish, who see this Agreement continuing into the future, providing further facilities for the community in Ballinasloe. This will mean that the Hall will be well maintained and of practical use to many.

PASTORAL CARE

We continue to remember all in our parishes who have health concerns being cared by loved ones in their homes or under the care of the staff of our Nursing Homes. We pray that the healing presence of Christ may bring healing and peace and positive thoughts for the future. Please note that on the first Wednesday at 3.00 p.m. there is a Healing Service in St. John's Ballinasloe. All visitors are welcome.

PLEASE ALSO see our Web site for details of our Sunday Services and events.

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

EYRECOURT

Saint John the Baptist Church has received a grant of €2,500 from Galway Heritage. This money will be used to re-furbish the tiles by the Main Door.

Congratulations to Carol and Kenneth Killeen on the birth of a baby daughter Ella, born on the 13th May, Ella is a sister for Ryan and Ethan, and grand-daughter for John and Olive Kenny.

CLONFERT

Aaron Richard Kenny was baptised in Clonfert Cathedral on Sunday 4th May. Aaron is the son of David and Bronagh Kenny of Fynagh, Eyrecourt. It was a joyous occasion presided over by Rev Patrick Towers.

PORTUMNA

We are delighted to welcome a new baby into the church family. A baby boy, Sullivan Johnston-Cooke, was born on the 6th May to Heather and Aidan Cooke of Eyrecourt. Sullivan is a new grand-child for Harriet and Jim Johnston. We wish them all well.

Easter Vestry meetings were held in each of the churches.

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

A WARM WELCOME to our new Curate-Assistant in Limerick City, the Rev'd Edna Wakely, who was officially introduced to the parish at St Mary's Cathedral on 18th May. We all pray that her time with us here will be blessed, and we look forward to getting to know her. Having worked in parishes in Dublin, Edna is very much looking to getting to know the parishioners of our three congregations, and to begin her curacy and training for her ordination in St Mary's on Saturday 14th June 2014 at 3pm.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL FLOWER FESTIVAL

- Please note that because of the International Flower Festival in Dublin this summer involving every flower club in Ireland, we have made the decision to postpone our Flower Festival to September 2015. In the meantime, we will be seeking sponsorship and doing some fundraising. So please stay in touch, and we will begin work in earnest in January 2015. The theme remains the same: *For the Beauty of the Earth*.

CONGRATULATIONS

..to Kayleigh Yeoman and James Ronan on the birth of their first baby, a little boy, Noah, born on 18th April 2014, and to the grandparents Audrey Yeoman Hannon and Damien Hannon and to Noah's Aunt Lauren Hannon and his uncle Eli Hannon. May Noah be a source of great joy and happiness to all his family

..to Niall Johnston, a final year student with LIT studying Marketing and Management. Niall presents a programme on Wired FM and in the Wired FM Awards 2014 Niall won the 'Best Interview Award' with Noreen Keane who joined him in studio to tell about the Counselling Services in LIT. Niall also won this award in 2013. Niall extends sincere thanks to all who voted for him. Very best wishes to Niall for continued success especially in his forthcoming final exam.

Well done to ST. MICHAEL'S N.S on the wonderful success of its recent Cake Sale in aid of The Mater Foundation and Ian's Trust. Two families known to the school have benefited greatly from excellent medical care and long term accommodation while their child was ill, and the money raised will help other families who find themselves in a similar situation and away from their family for lengthy periods of time.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

..has been alive in recent weeks with a wide range of events beneath the ancient vaulted roof. It was full house for the concert by the Augsburg Choir from Minneapolis, with An Cor. Then as part of the Irish Georgian Society series of lectures, the cathedral hosted a huge crowd who were fascinated by the illustrated lecture given by the Oscar winning actor Jeremy Irons, who spoke about the renovation of his home, Kilkea Castle, in Co. Cork. In total contrast, the cathedral was lit up for the Matrix Hair Road Show, an international trade event, showcasing innovative and creative styling. The Wednesday lunch-time concerts continue to attract a good crowd, with a retiring collection supporting the Companions of St Mary's Cathedral Music.

We look forward to some very special church services in St. Mary's in June: The Ordination to the Priesthood of Rev'd Edna Wakely on 14 June at 3pm; The Diocesan and City Farewell Choral Evensong to mark the retirement of Bishop Trevor on 22 June at 4pm and Confirmation on 29 June.

LIMERICK CITY PARISH CONFIRMATION: Please pray for Serena, Tom, Isabelle, Quentin and Kikelomo, as they prepare for Confirmation in St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 29 June (St. Peter's Day) at 11.15am and congratulations also to Caitriona and Finnian Brady-Halmschlag, who were confirmed in St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 11th May by the Rev'd Corinne Diestelkamp, Pastor of the Evangelisch-Lutherischen Kirche in Irland (the German Lutheran Church in Ireland).

TOURISM IN ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL: It is that time of year again when we are looking for people to man the Cathedral desk at weekends. If you feel you can spare a few hours on Saturdays or Sundays please contact Andrew on 087 - 249 2068. Thanking you in anticipation.

Adare and Kilmallock Group of Parishes

Adare, Croom, Kilmallock, Kilpeacon

Vacant from 12 December 2012

Priest in-charge: Rev. Keith Scott

Tel: 061 - 398647

Mob: 087 2885169

E-mail: rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org

We are delighted to welcome our new Rector Liz Beasley to our group of parishes. Rev Liz is coming from Hawaii, but has spent time here in Ireland previously. This is an exciting time for us and we are looking forward to her institution on July 18th.

Meanwhile, Rev Keith Scott is finding time to care for us and arranging all services and visitations. He is ever busy with a big area to cover. What

would we do without good neighbours?! They have flying Doctors in Australia - maybe we could have flying Clerics here? Thank you for all the miles Rev Keith.

St Nicholas' in Adare is still being rejuvenated, new carpet down on the middle isle and painting still to be done. The scaffolding is still up as there is a bit more to be done on the roof. But all is going well.

It's amazing! The effort in time that our community is putting in to getting our church back in order - working together and praying together. The storm damaged the building but has cemented the congregation. We are truly blessed.

AU REVOIR TO REV MAURICE SIRR

A fond farewell to Rev Maurice from the parishioners of Killmallock, Killpeacon, Croom and Adare. We thank you for caring for us during this part of the vacancy. Your kindness and happy spirit supported us at this time. Our good wishes to Rev Maurice and his wife for the future and we hope to continue our friendship with you when you return to Limerick.

Thank you again Maurice and God Bless you and your family always.



Ann Gill & Rev Maurice Sirr

The Adare Community is holding the annual fete this year on the 15th of June, so it's all hands on deck, (as we are to receive a portion of the takings for our Rejuvenation Fund.) time 2pm to 5pm ish! We are praying for fine weather. This is a great community event, lots of bargains, lots of fun, a great family day out , hope to see you all there, you never know - you might get your photo in Newslink.

For July :

A little diversion to our usual service rota there will be a combined service in St Nicholas' Adare on Sunday the 8th of July at 12 noon. The Union of Adare, Killmallock, Killpecon and Croom usually have this service on the 5th Sunday of the month – so this is an odd one! We really enjoy our combined worship, so we look forward to seeing all our parishioners on that day.

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

Well spring is passing, summer nearly on top of us and we are still running to stand still in the Rathkeale and Kilnaughtin group.

For some time now we have been working on the entrance gates and steps at Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale. The pillars had started to lean over and threaten to fall, and the gates were not helping. The gates were taken off and major repair works to the pillars and first couple of steps carried out. The gates were cleaned and repainted and now are replaced, and they look like new. And for added spice both now swing open and shut perfectly for the first time in 40 years. All this with a good deal of volunteer labour. Well done and many thanks to all those who helped out.

We have also had our Easter General Vestries and we are pleased to welcome some new members on to the vestries. Change is not really all that bad, and it is good to see new faces for the vestries, especially one or two younger members.

It is surprising what you can find wrong with even the newest house. The Rectory was inspected recently and although it is not going to fall down anytime soon there is maintenance work to do. We have a duty to preserve and maintain our buildings as best we can. They are an important investment in the future of your parish and need tender loving care. Glebe wardens of the diocese arise.

We have had our difficult times as in the past month and we extend our very deepest and most prayerful sympathies to the families of Mark Fleming of Glinn and Rachael O'Grady of Askeaton, both of whom recently died very untimely deaths.



Emma Shorten on her confirmation day with her family & Bishop Trevor

On a brighter note we welcomed Bishop Trevor to the Holy Trinity, Rathkeale to confirm Emma Shorten. It was a real joy to gather with Emma and her family and celebrate this moment. We commend all the young people in the diocese taking the step of confirmation at this time of year to your prayers.

There are weddings coming up in the parishes and we commend all those who are making preparations to your prayers. We also ask your prayers for the family of Harry Langford, who will be baptised in St. Mary's Askeaton in June.

Ardfert Diocese

Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney

Rector: Ven. Sue Watterson

Archdeacon of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoc

45 Liosdara, Oakpark, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Tel: 066 719 3416 Mob: 087 689 2025 Email: smwatt1@gmail.com

Associate Priest: Rev. Jane Galbraith

Tel: 066 713 0780 Mob: 085 145 0804

Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

Parish Office: St. John's Parish Centre, Teach an tSolais,

Ashe St., Tralee. Co. Kerry

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

Congratulations to Alan Kelliher and Sarah Condell who were married in Killgobbin on April 26th, to Janet Slye and Maurice Whelan who were married in Spanish Point on Friday 9th May, and to Heather Groves and Jerry Sugrue married on 17th in Ballyseedy, prayerful good wishes and every blessing to the couples as they begin their married lives together.

Plans are more or less in place now for the Flower and Music Festival from June 13th to 16th which will mark the re-dedication of the restored tracker organ, originally purchased by the Denny family in 1884. The organ was built by Messrs Hill and Sons of London and this recent restoration has been undertaken by Neiland Organs of Wexford and was completed in time for the Christmas Services in 2013.

The Flower Festival opens on Friday 13th of June and will continue until Monday 16th from 10.30am until 4pm (on Sunday 15th from 1pm until 4pm). Our team of flower arrangers come from across the parishes and is headed by our experts Sue Latchford and Margaret Groves. Thank you to Sue and Margaret and their helpers who have not only undertaken to oversee the Festival but were also the inspiration behind the plant and cake sale which has financed the supply of flowers. Incidental organ music will be played for part of the time that the church is open to the public.

As part of the Festival a number of concerts have been arranged – the first being on Friday 13th at 8pm – an International Concert presented by Tim O'Shea and Spraoi Chiarrai.

On Saturday 14th at 2pm a Poetry Reading with Kerry Poets' Corner, at 3pm a selection of music from St John's singers and musicians. At 8pm the well-known Tralee choir, Opus 96, will present a varied programme of sacred music.

On Sunday 15th our morning service takes the form of 'Our Favourite Hymns' and is an opportunity for the Church Choir and Congregation to enjoy joining together in their favourite hymns accompanied by our organist, Myrtle Boyle, and Choir Director, Anne Mackensie.

At 7pm on Sunday 15th we will be joined by Dean Sandra Pragnell of St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick (who is also Dean of Ardferf) with the Cathedral Choir and Organist Peter Barley. During the service of Choral Evensong the Dean will preach and later re-dedicate the organ. We are very grateful to the Dean, Organist and Choir for agreeing to travel to Tralee.

Monday 16th is the last day of the Flower Festival and at 8pm in the evening organist Declan Walsh of Kerry School of Music will give a short organ recital.

We are very grateful to all who have given so freely of their time and talents to contribute to the events of the Festival. Admission is free for the festival and concerts, but there will be retiring collections and donations would be appreciated. Programmes and brochures will be available for purchase.

NOTES FROM THE WEST

Irish Red Cross Congratulations to Chairman David Frizelle who received an award from Kerry County Council on behalf of the Tralee Branch, which was founded in 1939.

Feile na Bealtaine We welcomed Canon George Salter to preach at our service as Gaelge in St. James, Dingle. Many of the 40 or so congregation mentioned how interesting and homely his words were. Caroline Nolan of Cumann Gaelach na hEaglais read the first lesson and the silver-tongued Michael O'Shea read the prayers. The service was held this year in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of An Cumann Gaelach by Mrs. Ruth of Callinafercy, Milltown, Co. Kerry.

Killarney and Aghadoe Union of Parishes

Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckcross

(Vacant)

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Máirt Hanley.

Mob: 087-619 4733

Email: rev.hanley@gmail.com

UPCOMING BAPTISM:

Congratulations to Lindy and Vincent on the safe birth of their baby Ralph. The newcomer has already been to several Sunday services and seems to accept our hymnal efforts without complaint. We look forward to Ralph's baptism in the church during the summer when several family members will travel from the Philippines to celebrate with Lindy and Vincent. God bless the parents and new born and we pray for a safe journey for all visitors travelling to the baptism.

FUNERAL:

On May 10th John Scott's funeral took place at St Mary's and the church looked excellent for the service with beautiful floral tributes. Although John and his family lived in Carragh Lake for many years, he is best remembered as the founder and Managing Director of Scott's Tools factory in Park Road, Killarney, where many Killarney workers learned the skill of making precision tools and dies. There was an appropriate turn out of locals to pay their last respects. To the extended Scott family, all in St Mary's offer our sincerest condolences.

LUYENGO FARM PROJECT:

Adrian Hilliard advised the congregation of a cycle in aid of the Luyengo Farm Project at the service of Morning Prayer on May 18th. This will take place on mid-Summer's Day on June 21st and although two of our parishioners have taken up the challenge, it is hoped they will be joined in their training by others.

VACANCY:

As Newslink readers will be well aware by now the vacancy has exercised all our thoughts and minds over the past 12 months and, hopefully, an end is in sight. The Board of Nominators met twice recently to consider all applications for the position and, as I write these notes, they are about to go into interview mode. Meanwhile, many of the men of the parish are tackling immediate restoration and renovation work at the Rectory with gusto.

CONCERTS:

The concert season is in full swing at the moment and, thankfully is being well supported by parishioners, visitors and locals alike. On May 22nd a special concert was held at St Mary's in aid of Kerry Immigrant Services when the Killarney Golf Club Choir gave a wonderful performance. Indeed, it is fitting to state that our concerts benefit not only St Mary's coffers, they are an integral back-up to our parishioners' charity giving. Concerts during June are:

- June 7th Spraoi Chiarrai
- June 10th Kirkwood Children's Choir (USA)
- June 16th Christoporos – Kantorei (Germany)
- June 18th Waterford String Orchestra (USA)
- June 21st Spraoi Chiarrai
- June 27th Bentonville High School Choir (USA)
- June 28th Red Rose Children's Choir (USA)

All concerts start at 8pm and last approximately one hour. For further details please contact Andrew Eadie at andrew@kerrywoollenmills.ie, or scrahanmf@eircom.net. All welcome.

EASTER VESTRY:

Full details of Easter Vestry personnel will be in the July Newslink Killarney Notes.

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

One always thinks of the time after Easter as being quieter but I'm not sure that that has held true for us this year. The past few weeks have had their share of sadness as we learned of the passing of Peter Bickle and John Scott. We had the memorial services for Elsa Stern and John Jones, and there has also been the loss of Tom O'Reilly who though not a parishioner has many connections with our community. There have also been some happier occasions with our May Day service and time of worship in the Quaker style with the school children and also the wonderfully successful Grandparents service. Our Sunday School and our environmental officer Ron, have stated the process of producing our Bio-Diversity plan through which we hope to remind ourselves of the richness of God's gift to us in creation and the importance that diversity plays in keeping and system healthy!

Cricket has also started back and this year practice is on Thursday evenings from 7 on the V.E.C pitch behind the Community College in Killorglin. As I write we have just played our first match of the season, losing to Tralee by about 5 overs but we broke our record score and took more wickets than they so it should be onward and upward from here. Also as I write we are preparing for our IDAHO

Day Service which is being held in conjunction with the Kerry Pride Festival for the second year running. After all that we have our Garden Party to get ready for on Sunday the 1st of June in Peter and Pauline's lovely Garden which will hopefully boost parish funds. Just to finish looking back, my thanks to all who assisted with putting together the Centenary event in Milltown to make 100 years of Cumann Gealach and thank God for the witness of George and Maire Ruth, it was a fantastic day and we did the parish proud in remembering two of it's very influential offspring!

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

GROWTH ACTION PLANNING (GAP)

Our GAP project continues – just under 40 questionnaires were completed, with some interesting results, ranging from the very optimistic:

'what is your vision of the church in 2024?' FULL!!!

- to the quite pessimistic

'what is your vision of the Church in 2024? Broken and Childless!

All in all, though, there were far more positives than the opposite, with a general consensus that we need more interaction and congregational participation in our worship services, be open to more modern music and language, and, most importantly, be active in and relevant to all ages in the community where we live, serve and seek to proclaim the gospel.

The next step will be an open meeting to discuss the results and produce a prioritised action plan to deliver the positive vision. We will not be broken: we may possibly not be absolutely full; but there will be children and young people! Lots of them!

EASTER

On the Wednesday evening of Holy week, we once more enjoyed a Seder meal led by Alan Shaw – it was particularly pleasing to be joined by our friends from Holy Cross and the Gateway Methodist. The Maundy Thursday supper was held in Sneem this year; on Good Friday we carried the cross into St Patrick's Garden, where it will remain as a witness to all who pass by during Eastertide.

And then, on a glorious Easter morning, we proclaimed the risen Lord at daybreak (well, at 7:30) by Kenmare pier and shared breakfast in the open air before our Easter Day Eucharists in Sneem and Kenmare. As has now become tradition, there were Easter bonnets a-plenty – not exclusively worn by the ladies of the congregation, either, as you will see if you look closely!



Easter Bonnets



.... and more Easter Bonnets!

The Methodist District Superintendent writes



The ultimate aim of the Boko Haram in Nigeria, is to overthrow the Government and establish an Islamic State, through the havoc and terror they cause; bombing Churches and bus stations; attacking villages, and most recently, abducting hundreds of school girls and forcibly converting them to Islam. They draw inspiration from Koranic Text: *"Anyone who is not governed by what Allah has revealed is among the transgressors"*.

Any kind of political or social activity associated with western society is forbidden, for example, attending state or church schools, or even wearing shirts and trousers. Northern Nigeria is very poor and is the breeding ground of militancy. A number of mainline Islamic organisations have condemned the Boko Haram abductions. In Ireland, Islamic pirates abducted the Church of Ireland community in Baltimore, Co. Cork in 1631 and carried them off to Algeria in North Africa. It took the British government 15 years to rescue them, but by then many preferred to stay and enjoy the better weather. Only two ever returned to Ireland. On the other hand, during the Great Famine, an Islamic Sultan in Turkey sent three ships laden with food for the people of Drogheda. As a mark of appreciation the Islamic Crescent is still incorporated into the Coat of Arms of the town.

During the time Eirene and I served as Mission Partners in la Cote d'Ivoire, we had many experiences with Muslims. One very busy day, the car broke down and I was somewhat exasperated. The receptionist at the garage, a devout Muslim said to me "Pastor you will now have plenty of time to pray". Muslims are a people of prayer, which they do five times a day.

I sometimes wonder if Christians had been more united would Islam have emerged. In the time of Mohammad there were Nestorian Christians living in Mecca. Nestorius had opposed Cyril of Alexandria who argued that the divine and human nature of Christ were fused together, making Mary the bearer of God, which led to her adoration. Nestorius believed that Mary only gave birth to the humanity of Christ. Muhammad was clearly influenced by the Nestorians.

However, Muslims and Christians do share a common reverence for Jesus. The Koran accepts the virgin birth, the miracles of Jesus, His sinlessness, His Ascension and expects His return when poverty will be history. The Koran is unclear about Jesus' death on the cross. Prof. Hasan Askari drew my attention to a very significant text in the Koran which speaks of those stationed near to God in Heaven. Only Jesus is named (Sura 3/40).

Christians largely ignore the existence of people of other faiths in Ireland and that's not good enough. I brought a group of people from Knock Methodist Church to visit the Islamic Centre in Belfast. Like Moses at the burning bush we removed our shoes at the entrance. We were warmly welcomed and for over an hour the President of the Community and the Imam, graciously fielded our questions. Michael Shaw, just 16 years old, said afterwards that he felt the visit was important and made him more moderate and less fearful of Muslims.

Muslims greet one another when they meet, using the same words used by Christ when he met His incredulous disciples after His resurrection "Peace be with you" John 20. 19. Muslims and Christians make up 55% of the world's population and together with Jews, all share Abraham as a common ancestor.

If these three faiths cannot live in peace, the world can never be at peace.

Rev. Brian D. Griffin

EDITOR'S NOTE OF CORRECTION:

An Inadvertant change was made to the text in the May issue. The change totally reversed the meaning of the African Proverb which should have read as follows:

Through other people's wisdom we learn ourselves.
No single person's understanding amounts to nothing.

Methodist News

Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev. Elizabeth Hewitt
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

Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday of the month

Sunday School during morning services

As Editor I must apologise for omitting the notes Rev Liz submitted for the May issue – entirely my fault. Happily she has included the relevant ones this month.

VISIT OF REV DR HEATHER MORRIS

The President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Rev Dr Heather Morris, visited the Circuit on Thursday 27 March. Fortunately there were no storms or other catastrophes to interfere with her visit this time! In the afternoon, Rev Liz took her to meet some of our older members who are no longer able, through age and illness, to attend Church events.

In the evening she addressed a group of our members and visitors from Active Retirement and the other churches in the village. She told us about her journey around the Methodist Churches in Ireland. She also spoke of the significance of some of the emblems on her presidential stole and challenged us all to continue to find new ways to witness for Christ in the community.

We wish President Heather God's blessing as she finishes her year of office in June and takes up a new appointment as Methodist Home Mission Secretary in July.

LENTEN STUDIES AND EASTER EVENTS

This year we joined with friends from St Nicholas' Church of Ireland to engage in Holy Reading and Reflection on Scripture, or Lectio Divina. The scripture passages used each week were the Gospel readings for Lent and this made the passages more meaningful when we heard them the following Sunday in Church. We are grateful to Jackie McNair, for the new insights he brought to the

reflections on the Gospel readings.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

The churches in Rathkeale and Ballingrane joined together on Good Friday for a Prayer Walk through Rathkeale. There were several Stations / prayer points, set up in the streets where we halted to read the story of Jesus' final journey through the streets of Jerusalem to Calvary. At each place we prayed in turn for people in the community including the various congregations, the traders, the sick and bereaved and those suffering from injustice and poverty. It was a beautiful afternoon, the sun shone – just perfect for the slow, reflective mood of the procession.

Both of our Methodist congregations joined together for our traditional services of reflection on the Wednesday of Holy Week, in Adare, and on Good Friday in Ballingrane, which was a Tenebrae Service.

On Easter Day there were joyful celebrations of Holy Communion in both churches. In Adare we welcomed a number of visitors; some were family members returning for Easter holidays, others were strangers from N Ireland and the USA. Their presence enriched our worship and reminded us of the worldwide nature of the Christian family, when strangers quickly become friends in fellowship with one another.

A KIDZ PRAISE PARTY

... was held in May in Adare Church Hall for the children in our Church family. This was great fun and included stories, games, craft – and of course FOOD! It was organised by the Sunday School teachers and Raymond Ruttle, Midlands & Southern District Youth Officer.

METHODIST WOMEN IN IRELAND

The annual MWI Service was held on Wednesday 28 May in Ballingrane Church. We were pleased that women from local churches were able to join us. The guest preacher was Rev Eithne Lynch from Mallow.

JUNE EVENTS

Our annual Field Meeting will be held on Tuesday 3 June at 11.00am in the grounds of Adare Manor Golf Club. The service is held at a memorial stone which marks the place where John Wesley is reputed to have preached while visiting Adare. The service will be conducted by Rev Liz Hewitt. The children from St Nicholas' National School will be singing.

The Bible Study Group will meet on Wednesday 4 June at 8.00pm in the Manse.

The Methodist Conference will meet from 11 to 15 June in Leeson Park, Dublin.

The Sunday School will be going for their Outing to Ballymorris Pottery and Cratloe Playground on Saturday 14 June. It will definitely be a sunny day!!

UNITED FELLOWSHIP IN CHARLEVILLE

The monthly meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Sunday 15 June in McAuley House in Charleville.

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

The Sunday of the May Bank Holiday weekend saw us all decamp to Spanish Point for a church family day out. The Great Limerick Run makes it difficult to worship in Christ Church so we used our imaginations and went worshipping and surfing on the coast of County Clare.



Surf May 2014

The Surf Project's Jono and Beth plus Timroy, Nicky and Karen helped us with a great all ages programme in McAuley House and on the beach. The weather was typically unsettled but that didn't dampen the spirits of our surf students who are aged between nine and fifty something; one of our older participants had never been in the sea before and really embraced the idea of 'she who dares wins!' Our musicians really helped uplift our worship and Timroy put together a great presentation of photos and film for the final session. We're saving up for our next trip and several of our members have committed to going surfing – we have it in writing!

To build on the success of the intercommunity Stations of the Cross in Rathkeale an exhibition of the artwork and experience was put together and shown in CB1. An extra 'station' was added showing the 'resurrection' of a community working and praying together to overcome division and separation in the town. Father Phonsie had an opportunity to resurrect Café Theology which had been so well received in the City several years ago – more of that next time.

We're now looking forward to DoCoMoMo Ireland presenting the 'Rank's Silo in the 21st Century' exhibition. This is the result of an open design competition to develop ideas for what this building might become. As a valuable architectural contribution to Limerick City of Culture this competition sought to encourage once more a 'certain disregard for convention, a quest for adventure and an exploration of possibilities' as it generated discussion among designers and decision-makers about the future of the Rank's Silo Building.

The competition was open to all and offered a prize fund of €6,000. Its assessors were drawn from strategic planning, architecture, culture, architectural history and current affairs backgrounds and included Peter Carroll from SAUL who recently helped launch the City of Churches exhibition still running in the City.

Our Mums and Tots group is up and running in the church hall on Tuesday mornings. It runs from 10am – 12.30pm on a drop in basis and gives mothers whose first language is not English an opportunity to engage in conversations and practise their language skills in a relaxed atmosphere. Do please spread the word or call in yourselves – all welcome!

Some of you may have noticed Christ Church member Brian Park taking part in the Outside Art Demonstration at The Gallery, Bedford Row. Some of the other artists that were involved were Paul Weerasekera, Anne Fitzgerald and Peter Lunn showing their unique painting styles. Brian's lovely watercolours of Limerick city and County Clare scenes are on sale in the gallery.

LIMERICK

Sunday Service 11.30 am.

Holy Communion 1st Sunday

Family Service 3rd Sunday

Sunday School 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays

Youth Group 2nd & 4th Sundays

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

Youth Group Mondays 7.30 – 9pm – 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

KILKEE Sunday Service 11am

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 11 a.m. (inc. Children's' programme at 11)

Prayer meetings Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8.00 – 9.00 a.m.

Wednesday 9.15–10 a. m.

Bible Study Meetings

Wednesday 8.00 p. m.

Friday 10.00 a. m.

Drop in for coffee each

Friday 11.00 a. m. – 12.00 p.m.

Parent and Toddler Group.

Tuesdays 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Impact Youth Club (13+) 1st, 3rd & 5th Fridays 8–10 p.m.

Kingdom Krew Junior Youth Club (9–13) 2nd Friday 7–8.30 p.m.

Women's Fellowship 2nd Monday of the month 10.30 a.m.

KENMARE "Gateway" Gortamullin, Killarney Road, Kenmare.
Sunday Service. 11a.m. (preceded by coffee)
(inc. Children's' programme)
Weekly Bible Study/Fellowship meetings. Tuesdays at 8.00 p.m.
Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m.
Drop in for coffee each Wednesday 11am – 12.00 p.m.

MILLSTREET

Services every Sunday evening at 6.30 p. m. Meeting in "The Lighthouse, Town Square, Millstreet.
Bible study every Tuesday at 8 p.m. in "The Lighthouse" 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

Gneeveguilla Home Fellowship group has moved to Wednesday nights. They will meet on the 4th and 18th June at 8pm.

Dingle's new schedule of meetings is now fixed to meet three times each month as follows. Gairdin Mhuire Day Care Centre, Green Street, Dingle on the 29th June at 7.30pm and at 14 Cluain Na Fiadh, Deerpark. Lispole on the 26th June at 7.30pm and Been Bawn Cottage, Binn Ban, Dingle on the 10th June at 7.30pm.

In Castleisland everyone is welcome to join us on the last Monday of each month meeting at 7.30pm in An Ríocht, Craggeens, Castleisland. This is the health and leisure club located beside the athletics track in Castleisland. Our June meeting is scheduled for Monday 30th. Please pray for this new initiative.

"No Biscuits" ladies lifestyle group had a fascinating meeting last month regarding the incredible nettle plant as a valuable food source. Everyone will also remember the lovely soup and the salad made from sea beet growing wild at Fenit. The June meeting is scheduled for Monday 30th.

Killarney Women's Fellowship group continue their "Christianity Rediscovered" at 10.30am on Monday 9th June.

Kingdom Krew (the children's club in Killarney) for 8-13 year olds has now stopped for the summer but we'll be having holiday Bible clubs in Killarney and Kenmare on the first three days of the school holidays. Killarney will be Monday 30th June, Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd July at 10am-12noon and Kenmare will be on the same dates from 2.30-4pm.

We're really looking forward to being joined by a team from California during the last two weeks of June. As well as the holiday Bible clubs mentioned above there will be a special men's conference on Saturday 21st June from 4-9pm and a women's conference on Saturday 28th June at the same time. Both are at Killarney Methodist Church.

On Sunday 22nd June from 4-8pm we're planning a special children's club at Drishane Castle just outside Millstreet.

Another highlight coming up in June is Thursday 26th when we've been invited to lead a worship celebration at Kiskeam Parish Church in North West Co. Cork.

Over the June bank holiday thousands of bikers descended on Killarney for the annual BikeFest. We partnered with the Christian Motorcycle Association of Ireland who manned a stall up at the BikeFest and also opened the grounds of our Church in Killarney with a bouncy castle, face painting, balloons etc. and served refreshments and just generally welcomed everyone in Christ's name. Please pray for all these initiatives that they may convey the good news of God's grace.

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

At the end of June, Eirene and I will be leaving the circuit after 6 years of service in Tipperary, and 41 years of Ministry in both Ireland and la Cote d'Ivoire. I am retiring! Our final service of worship will be held in Roscrea Methodist Church on Sunday 29th June at 7.00 pm. A warm welcome to friends in other denominations.

In July the new Minister, the Rev Shannon DeLaureal will be welcomed and will conduct her first services on Sunday 13th July. Shannon is originally from the State of Louisiana in the United States. She has been serving for the last 5 years at Greenisland on the Carrickfergus Circuit. Shannon is married to Doug, a retired policeman and they have one son Brennan who is looking forward to attending St Cronan's National School in Roscrea.



Rev Shannon DeLaureal

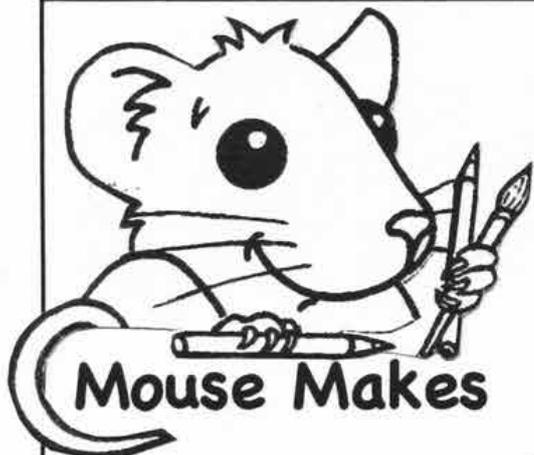
I know that you will give the same welcome to the DeLaureal family as you gave to both of us. We have enjoyed the ecumenical spirit and the collegueship that accompanied it. We also appreciated the extraordinary talent in singing, music and dance by young and older in the community, which provided many wonderful evenings of entertainment.

Thank You and God bless

Rev Brian D Griffin
Circuit Superintendent

EDITOR: We in Newslink wish Brian and Eirene Griffin every blessing in their retirement. Brian has not only kept us up-to-date with news from the circuit, but as District Superintendent has given us a thought-provoking reflection every issue. Eirene has helped us with proof-reading. We are very grateful to both of them. We look forward to welcoming Rev Shannon DeLaureal to our pages





Mouse Makes

Colour in the picture then carefully cut out. Glue onto bright card and pin on your wall 



THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Now when the day of Pentecost had come the disciples were all together in one place.

Suddenly a sound like a violent wind blowing came from heaven and filled the entire house where they were sitting. And tongues spreading out like fire came to rest on each one of them.

See Acts 2:1-47

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