



NEWSLINK

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

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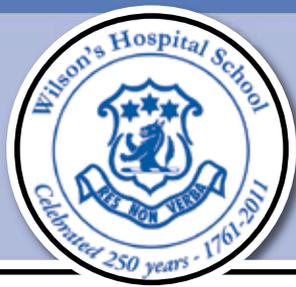


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- A financial millstone, or a medieval jewel awaiting a new mission?



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**The Principal,
Mrs Rosemary Maxwell-Eager,
BA(Mod), HDE, MEd.**

Letter from the Commissary

Dioceses without a bishop – like parishes without a rector – can react to the vacancy situation in two different ways. They can sit and do nothing, or they can move forward, carrying on with what needs to be done. There are a few things that need to begin to be 'tidied up' before a new bishop comes on board.

The first issue is a proposal that was passed by Diocesan Council some time ago, but never carried out because of difficulties that cropped up with it. The idea was to ensure greater parity amongst clergy in the various amounts paid to them by their parishes to cover some or all the costs of oil, telephone, bins, and other amenities. Some parishes pay generous amounts for some of these, some pay very little or none, so that a Rector moving from one parish to another might lose several thousand euro a year. To complicate matters, it was discovered that some of these payments could be considered 'benefits-in-kind' by the Revenue Commissioners, and are therefore illegal unless they are taxed. We need to have a Diocesan-wide system that is legal, and is fair to both clergy and parishes.

The second issue is a situation that has cropped up in recent years, and also needs to be regularised. A number of our Diocesan clergy are serving as Priests-in-Charge under contract, rather than as Rectors. We must develop a fair way to evaluate how the parish in each case is developing, so a decision can be made about whether to renew the contract or not. Such a decision must respect both the rights and the need for job security of the Priest-in-Charge, and

the necessity for the parish to move forward cooperatively with its clergy. It must also be an ongoing process that begins partway into a contract period, so that there is no last-minute dismay or anxiety on either side. In time, we also need to begin a process of working out how to evaluate clergy who are instituted as Rectors, and their parishes, so that potential difficulties can be averted before they happen.

Both these issues are complicated, and will not be easily resolved. But, as a Diocese, as the Church, we need to make every attempt to be fair to all people, clergy and lay, parishioners, and all others we have dealings with, both inside and outside the Church. I hope the Diocesan Finance Committee, and Diocesan Council, will find a way to deal with both these matters so that they do not cause trouble for the new Bishop.

The Episcopal Election takes place on Monday the 8th of September. Please keep the Diocese, and the Episcopal Electors, in your prayers, that the Holy Spirit may be present with them in Christchurch on the day, and with our new Bishop as he or she prepares to lead us in ministry and mission in the years ahead.

Yours in Christ,
Wayne Carney,
Archbishop's Commissary

Notice of Diocesan Synod

In accordance with Standing Orders, please note that the Annual Ordinary Meeting of the Diocesan Synod of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardferd will be held in Villiers School, Limerick, on Saturday 4th October 2014.

Yvonne Blennerhassett
Diocesan Secretary

Diocesan Calendar

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

Mon 8th September

Episcopal Election, Christchurch Cathedral, Dublin

Wed 10th September, 8 – 10pm

Board of Mission, Woodlands House Hotel, Adare

Thurs 11th September, 9.30pm – 12.30am

Fundraising Dance for Birr Church, Dooley's Hotel, Birr; Music by Solitaire; Admission €10

Sun 14th September, 7pm

Service for Healing, St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Wed 17th September, 11am

Service for Healing, St. John's Church, Tralee

Sat 20th September, 7.30pm

UDYC Fellowship Group, Kilmurry Church, Castletroy, Limerick

Sat 27th September, 10am

UDYC MAD Day, St. Nicholas N.S., Adare

Fri 3rd October, 3.30pm

Presentation of Carrot Washer to Us, South Campus, IT Tralee

Sat 4th October

Diocesan Synod, Villiers School, Limerick

Sun 12th October

UDYC Youth Leaders Retreat Weekend, Clairvaux House, Mount St. Joseph's Monastery, Roscrea

Sat 18th October

Limerick City Parish Plant Sale & Autumn Fair, Villiers School, Limerick

Sat 18th October 7.30pm

UDYC Fellowship Group, Kilmurry Church, Castletroy, Limerick



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Hedgerow berries are colouring, leaves beginning to turn, and much of the harvest is saved. I am rejoicing in my first honey crop – 45lbs to be put in jars, thanks to a kind friend's loan of an extractor. One neighbour is pleased by his winter barley yield, another by his good hay and silage for the sucklers. Both are anxious about prices, but the beautiful land God has placed us in is once again yielding its bounty. It is right for us to thank God for it in the coming season of Harvest Festivals, a lovely part of our Church of Ireland heritage, something joyous that we have to offer our neighbours from other traditions – let us be sure to invite them to join us.

But will we continue to enjoy God-given bountiful harvests? Evidence gathered by climate scientists has convinced most of us by now that irreversible climate change will put future harvests in doubt, unless the human race rapidly moves to sustainable lifestyles. The biggest issues are greenhouse gases, CO2 from burning fossil fuels and methane released by global changes to farming practices. Reduced biodiversity is also a threat – as a beekeeper I am concerned about the impact of neonicotinoid sprays on pollinators.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has invited world leaders to a Climate Summit on 23rd September in New York to press for a global agreement in 2015 to limit climate change. We must prepare to do our bit as individuals, because that is how our faithful God will work to continue his bounty. And we must pray.

We can focus our prayers by joining with other Christians to celebrate Creation Time – a time “dedicated to prayer for the protection of Creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change” – between 1st September and the Feast of St Francis on 4th October. Resources for 2014, prepared by Eco Congregation Scotland on the theme ‘God, Whose Farm is All Creation’, can be downloaded from www.ctbi.org.uk. What will you do in your parish?

God bless, Joc Sanders

Bishops Appeal

Bishops' Appeal is acting as a conduit for funds being raised for the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem. The Diocese runs the Al-Ahli hospital in Gaza which has been damaged whilst simultaneously being inundated with casualties and people seeking refuge in the hospital grounds. Donations will go towards medical supplies, fuel for generators, and basic supplies of food parcels and blankets. Archbishop Michael Jackson has encouraged support from members of the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough and Bishops' Appeal welcomes individuals and parishes throughout Ireland to contribute.

Bishops' Appeal is also acting as a conduit for any funds raised for those who have been displaced due to violence in Iraq. The number of people displaced now exceeds 1.2 million. Earlier this week Archbishop Richard Clarke issued a statement of prayer for those who are being persecuted. Funds will be directed towards the Anglican Church in Baghdad which is providing refuge, medical assistance and food relief to many who have fled their homes.

Donations can be sent to Bishops' Appeal, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Lodgement details are on the website www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/donate

Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert, which also includes the historic dioceses of Aghadoe, Clonfert, Emlly, 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.

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Deadlines

The next issue will be for October 2014, published for Sunday 5th October.

All material must reach the Editor by Friday 22nd August 2014 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed. Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2014

(10 issues, new subscriptions pro rata)

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(contact: Peter Schutz, Ardhu, Castletroy, Co. Limerick,

Email: peterschuetz@gmail.com)

NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2014

(unchanged from 2013)

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	10 x Colour	10 x B&W	Colour	B&W
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 – The benefits of exercise

by Rev Máirt Hanley, Kilcolman Union

There are a number of things clamouring for attention in my head, a few of which have made it to the front and will get out onto the page.

WALKING UPHILL

The first is just about me. I walked up a hill at the start of the summer and it was hard going but I made it. At the end of the summer I went for a wander up the same hill and flew up it. It is great how much fitter I feel even for getting just a little regular exercise. The fact that most of this regular exercise has been cricket based just shows what a low base I was coming from, but hey – regular is surprisingly powerful. A little every day as they say. I find this a bit funny, since if it is only a little, it can be easy to leave it out and say to yourself that it doesn't make much of a difference. I will do twice as much tomorrow and make it up, you will tell yourself, only to discover that tomorrow never comes. I think this applies equally to my spiritual life. Regular prayer and meditation beats a two week retreat on some obscure island with only black tea and porridge.

TREADING WATER

One of the other things at the front of my thoughts at the moment is of course the selection of a new Bishop. It is a great privilege and responsibility. I, along with others elected from our diocese and still more from the southern province of the Church of Ireland, will go to Dublin to sit in Christchurch Cathedral until we hopefully have decided on a name. This is of course a great way of preventing a whole load of senior church bods from complaining about Bishops, since their elections were their fault. Some may ask, 'what is the point in having them – aren't they expensive and a bit blingy, don't things carry on without them?' If it is just a matter of maintaining the Apostolic Succession Ordained by Christ, and ordaining deacons and priests, why don't we just have two? Well, whilst Church of Ireland

Bishops don't have the same power that their colleagues in the Roman Catholic Church do, they still can change the feel of a diocese. At the moment it feels like our diocese is treading water, fine and dandy but not going anywhere, waiting for the pilot to set a course. Now to use a musical metaphor, the tune may be dictated by the Bible, the constitution of the Church and Church doctrine, but it will sound very different if played on a ukulele, a church organ or a tin whistle.

Which brings me back to the very Anglican point of all this. It is said about the Church of Ireland and all the Episcopalian/Anglican Churches that we are defined not by earthly leaders or theologians or confessional statements or even doctrines but by how we pray. If you want to know us read our Prayer Book. So it's not the power of a bishop that matters most, but the feel that they bring. I think I have said this before – it is not so much where we have been that makes us who we are, but how we move. With my own spiritual health, it's how I am when I pray that tells me how I'm doing – not hours logged on a knee splitting marathon session.

So to finish where I started, I am thankful and see the benefit of 'little and often', when I climbed the mountain the other day, not in terms of 'time taken' or the fact the I could 'do it', but, in feeling the way I moved and how much better it was.



Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief issues invitation to contributors to its discussions

The Select Committee was established by the General Synod in May 2013 to enable the listening, dialogue and learning process on all issues concerning human sexuality in the context of Christian belief to continue. The Committee is currently examining same-sex issues confronting the Church and is inviting members of the Church of Ireland to bring to its attention live issues that they feel should be considered by the Church.



The Select Committee will use the insights gained from the experiences shared by members of the Church through this process to help develop the content for discussion by the wider Church. The process offers the opportunity to speak directly to members of the Select Committee. The committee welcomes insights on any relevant aspect of this subject, but particularly hopes to elicit insights into the experience of being a gay person in the Church of Ireland.

The Select Committee is inviting people to participate in a 'listening meeting', either as an individual or in groups. These meetings can be arranged during the day or evenings by mutual agreement in neutral venues. It is hoped to have these meetings between now (August) and the end of October. The submissions will contribute to a section of a reference document to be produced by the Select Committee.

Confidentiality and Submissions

While the content of meetings will be noted for subsequent consideration by the Select Committee, this content can be delivered conversationally, or in written submissions. It is intended that the participants will remain anonymous in terms of committee reporting, unless this is specifically waived by the individual or group concerned. Each meeting will be hosted by two or three members of the Select Committee.

If you would like to meet with members of the Select Committee or to send a submission, please express your interest in confidence through the following e-mail address: selectcommittee@synod.ireland.anglican.org or write to:

The Select Committee (submissions process)
C/O Church House
Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6, IRELAND
Tel: Synod Office – +3531 4125621

Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer – September 2014

Each Sunday

Church of Ireland: Meath & Kildare and Bishop Pat Storey

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

7th September – 12th after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church of the Sudan and The Most Revd Dr Daniel Deng Bul Yak, Archbishop of the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan & Sudan & Bishop of Juba.

CofI/Diocese: The Electoral College meeting tomorrow in Dublin to appoint a new bishop for our United Dioceses and especially our own Diocesan Episcopal electors.

14th September – 13th after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Tanzania and The Most Revd Jacob Erasto Chimeledya, Archbishop of Tanzania & Bishop of Mwapwa.

Diocese: Our newly appointed bishop as he/she prepares for leadership in our United Dioceses.

21st September – 14th after Trinity, Green / St Matthew, Red

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of Uganda and The Most Revd Stanley Ntagali, Archbishop of Uganda & and Bishop of Kampala

CofI: The Church of Ireland Theological Institute and all those training there for various ministries in our Church.

28th September – 15th after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church (USA) and The Most Revd Dr Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of TEC

Diocese: Our Diocesan Synod on 4th October

Meditation for July & August by Rev Michael Cavanagh

August 1914 – in Memory of Pte William Valentine Matthews,
1st/4th Bn., Sth. Lancs Regiment

It was just like going to work,
Just like every other morning.
I crossed the road and waved to the children at the upstairs window,
Still in their nightclothes, waving back.
I waited for the tram with everybody else,
Just like every other morning.
I could still see the house while I waited,
The door,
The step,
An entrance to safety, the exit to the world.
I waved every now and then.
They stayed at the window for a while,
Then they got tired of waiting and went away.
Only you stayed, just like every other morning.
I couldn't see clearly,
But I fancied there were tears on your face,
Like there were on mine.
And if you didn't see the Khaki,
Didn't see the tears,
Didn't wonder, didn't ask,
You'd think that I was going to work,
Just like every other morning.
But this morning, work is war
And I won't be home for tea.

Prayers for West Africa

Church leaders in West Africa have asked for our prayers as the Ebola virus continues to spread, with over 1,000 reported deaths as we go to press. Please consider using the following in your prayers.

God of our anguish, we cry to you
For all who wrestle with Ebola.
Grant we pray, peace to the afraid,
Your welcome to the dying and
Your comfort to those living with loss.
And, merciful Father,
bless those many loving hands
That bravely offer care and hope.

By the Revd Canon Edgar Ruddock, Us

God of healing,
whose Son healed those who were brought to him.
Hear our prayer for the peoples of West Africa
suffering from the Ebola outbreak.
Inspire and enable your church
to be a source of healing, comfort and hope to those affected,
and an agent for the education
and equipping of communities
to stop the spread of this disease.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

By the Revd Tim Harford, Us

Diocesan Organisations

Boys' Brigade



NENAGH

We had a busy summer term! Local basketball coach, Patsy Farrell, very kindly offered his expertise with some fun and competitive skills training. We have lots of boys who are keen on basketball so that was a great evening. We also were able to monopolise on the skills of one of our boy's dads...Dave O'Brien coaches soccer so he gave us a great evening too! Huge thanks to Dave and Patsy.

We have "kicked-off" our next Achievement Badge...."Cycling Proficiency". There isn't an official qualification in the Republic (that we have found) that enables children to train for a cycling qualification that is essentially going to help them cycle safely. So, for Nenagh 1st Company, there now is! Operated by local cycle expert, Peter Moynan and Garda John Carney we will be able to give the boys that training, culminating in their next badge, on successful assessment in October. So far Peter has given them a training session in basic maintenance and some cycling skills – that all happened, appropriately, in National Bike Week. Next was road safety with John, followed by more training on all the above in September. We are extremely grateful to these two volunteers for making this possible for us!

Our summer trip was the next thing to look forward to. Our Treasurer, Nichola Hayes, organised a pool party in Roscrea, with re-fuelling delivered in from Supermacs! It was such good fun – thanks Nichola!

To round off our year we held a barbecue for the boys in July – just an informal kick-about, chill-out, a game of basketball and a bit of fun. So now we look forward to kicking off again in September! First meeting will be Tuesday 9th.

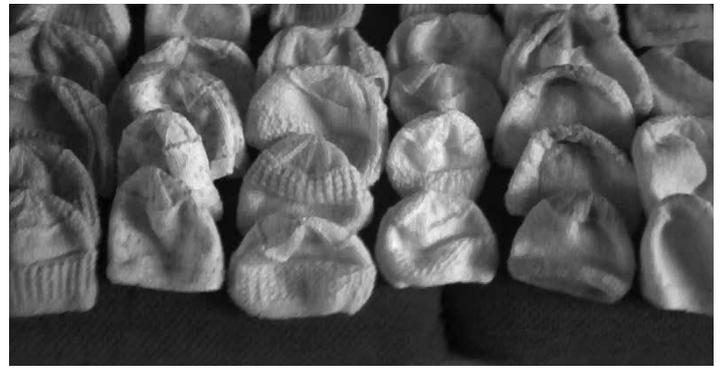
Message from Ger Maher, Captain: "A big thank you to all boys and leaders who have made this a really enjoyable year and thanks too to those parents on the rota whose extra hands are always welcome!"

Mothers' Union

ST. JOHN'S, BALLINASLOE.

While MU members are enjoying summer sunshine and relaxation St. John's members are also continuing their non-stop projects. They are collecting used postage stamps for the National Bible Society. The sale of these stamps provides a much appreciated addition to funds.

Our Branch Leader has received a letter of grateful thanks for a recent contribution of 46 hand-knitted bonnets for the Special Baby Unit at Portiuncula Hospital (the second batch given this year). Busy knitters are making blankets for the Women's Refuge in Athlone, and are very grateful to Jo, a lady in Castledermot, Co Kildare who, having heard of this blanket project, sent the branch a bag of D.K. wool, and asked if she may give them more! She said she wanted to be a part of the blessing St. John's Branch obviously is to people in need.



These beautiful bonnets, knitted by Wendy Argent and sewn up by Annie Healy, (St. John's members), were much appreciated by the Special Care Baby Unit at Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe.

ADARE, KILCORNAN AND LIMERICK CITY MOTHERS' UNION - Mary Sumner Day

We started the day with a trip to Bruree House and Garden Centre and we then enjoyed a fabulous afternoon tea at The Old Mill, Bruree, home of Jessie Griffin, Branch Leader, Adare. The rain stayed away and the sun shone and everyone had a very enjoyable time catching up with friends before the start of our new season of meetings in September.



Some of the ladies from Adare, Kilcornan and Limerick City Mothers' Union branches are joined by Rev Liz Beasley, Adare, to celebrate Mary Sumner Day on 9th August.

YOUNG WOMEN'S DAY CONFERENCES

"Sowing Friendship" is the title of this year's Young Women's Days' Conferences. Instead of the usual overnight conference, we are holding two day conferences – one in Enniskillen on Saturday 4th October and the other in the Killeshin Hotel in Portlaoise on Saturday 18th October. Both are open to all 'younger' women – there is no actual age limit – and the days promise to provide an opportunity to relax, have fun and find out a bit about Mothers' Union. The days are scheduled to start at 10.30 am and to finish at 3.00 pm and will include refreshments and a three-course lunch. The inclusive charge for Portlaoise is €25.

Further details and booking forms from: Betty Delahunt, tel: 057 9139019, email emmadelahunt@gmail.com or Margaret Schutz, tel: 061 336141, email m_schutz@eircom.net.

United Diocesan Youth Council

For reports on recent events see page 19. See below for brief details of future events.

UDYC FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Please note that this group will commence meeting again on third Saturday of each month (20th September, 18th October, 15th

November & 20th December) at Kilmurry Church Arts & Community Centre, Castletroy, Limerick from 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm. This year the group will be open to all persons attending secondary school and upwards. A bus will operate to and from meetings serving Birr, Roscrea, Moneygall & Nenagh.

MULTI ACTIVITY DAY IN ADARE

A Multi Activity Day will take place from 10.00 am to 8.00 pm at St. Nicholas Parochial National School Hall Adare on Saturday 27th September 2014. This event is open to all persons from 3rd to 6th class in National School. The cost will be €25. The Multi Activity Day will include a superb selection of activities for all that participate. A bus will operate to and from event serving Birr, Roscrea, Moneygall, Nenagh & Limerick. Full Information and booking forms available shortly.

YOUTH LEADERS RETREAT WEEKEND

Our Youth Leaders Retreat Weekend will take place from Friday 10th to Sunday 12th October at Clairvaux House, Mount St. Joseph's Monastery, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. The weekend is open to all leaders over the age of 18 years. The retreat this year will be facilitated by Rev. Patrick Burke rector of Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny. The fee for the weekend will be €80. Transport can be facilitated from and to Roscrea if required.

Diocesan Board of Mission

CARROT WASHER FOR SWAZILAND



As you will see from the photograph, the carrot washer for Luyengo Farm in Swaziland, is now manufactured after a prolonged period of development and testing.

Thanks to the generosity of Cross Engineering, Rathangan, Co Kildare & Dairymaster, Causeway, Co Kerry, on 22nd Aug, we were able to despatch the unit to Shannonside Galvanisers in Limerick for hot dipping.

On Fri 3rd October, at 3.30 p.m. in the South Campus, IT Tralee, we hope to hold a short ecumenical service and presentation, followed by refreshments in the staff restaurant.

In the middle of August we sent a second cheque to Us Ireland for €5000 as the diocesan contribution towards the cost of building a much needed reservoir at Luyengo Farm.

Next meeting for members of the Diocesan Board of Mission is scheduled for Wed 10th Sept. at 8 p.m. in the Woodlands House Hotel, Adare.

Archdeacon Wayne Carney, (Chair)
David Frizelle, (Secretary/Treasurer)

UL Chaplaincy

Calendar, August to December 2014.

For students at the start of the university semester:

- In Ireland, the first university calendar was published in 1833.
- Students who enroll in a university degree course today get a copy of the yearly academic calendar. It is a handy source of information.
- In the University of Limerick we have a second calendar.
- It is the Students Union Diary, which is handed to first year students in their start up pack.
- A Chaplaincy page in the SU Diary gives contact information and a list our key activities: support, worship and outreach.
- A sharing faith group meets on Thursdays, from 5pm to 6pm at our Drop In Centre, starting on the 11th September.
- In November 2014, we will be exploring the kind of aid we should send to strife torn parts of the world, via the experience of Christian Aid.
- We run meditation classes.
- Lots of other events 'just happen' so come along with your ideas, friends, questions.
- The chaplain offers one to one time, so book a space.
- To contact a Church of Ireland Chaplain in UL, send an email to: patricia.hanna@ul.ie;
- Teach Fáilte Chaplaincy Drop In Centre is in the Students Square, UL, phone 061233635. Open Monday to Friday, 10.30am to 4.30pm. The part-time Church of Ireland Chaplain is there every Thursday, Friday and some Mondays.

SCHOOL NEWS

St. John's National School, Shannon

We begin the school year with the sad news that we have lost Ms. Knowles due to DES staffing rules. We are fortunate to have Ms. Power and Ms. Leahy and Principal Ms, Noone to carry us through the year. Our good news is that our board have finalised the project of erecting a fence round the school. We hope to be able to have a school garden in operation next Spring. We are working towards our Green Flag, our second Active schools flag and in conjunction with the HSE the whole school community are working towards a Health Promotion flag. Our results improved again this year and we are continuing the process of school self evaluation. We are enrolling at present also. Looks like it will be a busy year!



Villiers School

- The Headmistress Writes

Greetings and welcome to the 2014-2015 school year from all in Villiers.

The beginning of every school year is an exciting time, offering as it does, the promise of a myriad of new experiences and challenges for all the young people in our care.

This year we are particularly delighted to congratulate Jan O'Sullivan TD on her appointment as our new Minister for Education. Jan is a past pupil of Villiers and has a strong family connection to our School. We look forward to the innovations she will bring to the world of education, and we wish her every success.

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

At this time of year our primary focus is to ensure that our new first formers are welcomed and supported as they make the transition to life in secondary school. It's always a big change to move from primary school and we aim to ensure that all our new students and their parents have a smooth introduction to life in Villiers. This year we have students coming to us from all over Ireland - Limerick, Clare, Tipperary, Cork, Kerry, Waterford, Kilkenny, Laois, Kildare, as well as from overseas, the UK, the USA, France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Russia, Mexico, Brazil, China, Japan, South Korea, Africa, India, Pakistan and we are delighted that our school encourages so many nationalities the opportunity to learn from each other in so many ways.

Welcoming our new first formers means of course that we say farewell to another group. We wish this year's Leaving Certificate class every success as the students we know so well move from our school into the next step of life's journey. At this stage they have accepted their college offers and I know the colleges and universities they attend will be enriched with their presence. They have been a fabulous group of people to know over the last six years. They truly embraced school spirit and got involved in so many areas of school life, sports, music, community work, clubs and societies. Their Leaving Certificate results are to their particular credit, with almost 60% of the group achieving over 400 points, 23% achieving over 500 points and 2% over 600 points in their exams. Achievement is personal, in Villiers we welcome students from all abilities and backgrounds and we are proud of every result when it means someone has fulfilled their potential.

All that remains is for the new year to begin and we look forward to sharing our School news on these pages over the coming months.

With every good wish, Jill Storey, Headmistress

News from the Villiers Sanctuary

The beginning of the new term is upon us once again. The summer is over and it's time to welcome new and welcome back familiar faces to the Villiers community. It's always an exciting time as a new future awaits both staff and students who will face new challenges. It's a particularly difficult challenge for all new students as they make the journey from primary to secondary and have to find their way in a new and strange environment. But as ever, given time they will soon settle and discover that it's not that terrifying really. Try to remember that everybody in the school, including the staff, all had to face that first day so everyone knows just how you feel and are there to offer help and support. I would like to take this opportunity to say a fond farewell and God's blessing to all our outgoing students as they too face a new challenge and become first years all over again. I would like to share this prayer with everyone who is facing new beginnings as first years everywhere!

Prayer for the beginning of a new term

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year.

Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us.

Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open our hearts and minds to new friends and new teachers.

Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help us to be attentive to our teachers and let us experience Your presence in new friends.

Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year! Amen

Until next time, God's grace peace and blessings to all
Chaplain Jackie McNair



Enjoying the Deanery Barbeque!

We had two baptisms during the summer. Jacob Hartigan was baptised at Castleconnell Church on 6th July. Proud parents Shane and Anna had a busy week of birthdays and celebrations. Family and friends attended the service and some of Anna's friends and family came over from Poland for the baptism. Rory John Cullen was baptised at St Flannan's Cathedral on 10th August. Jonathan and Kristy Cullen are the wonderful parents of Rory. It also happened to be Richard and Avril Cullen 40th wedding anniversary. They are the grandparents of Rory, and so there was lots to celebrate in the family. It is always wonderful when friends and family come from all over to celebrate these occasions. Celebration is at the heart of the Eucharist and it is something we should treasure.

The Bensons have some new arrivals. Suzanne delivered Ellis Roy Cantrell safely on the 23rd July and welcomed by his daddy Bevan and big brothers Oliver, Harry and Beau. Claire safely delivered Amelie Elizabeth Benson on Sat 2nd Aug-- welcomed by her daddy Keith and big brother William



Jacob's Baptism

We also had a visit to the Cathedral from our link Diocese of Anhalt on 24th July. Kirchenpräsident Joachim Liebig and his wife, Berlin Mission Society Director Herpich and his wife and Christof Theilemann, Chaplain for Ecumenical Relations and Worldwide Mission of the Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian Upper Lusatia. It is hoped that in October some of the clergy will be able to come and visit our Diocese as we try and develop this link and we hope that Berlin Mission will be instrumental in building up this link.

Our holy bikers Revds. Nigel Kirkpatrick and Andrew McCroskery with their very reliable support team of Jan and Linda arrived at St Flannan's on 4th August punctually after a long day in the saddle. It was lovely to have them visit St. Flannan's Cathedral. They are to be commended on undertaking the task of going to thirty cathedrals and trying to raise awareness and funds for the ongoing work of US in this year of their 300th anniversary, and particularly its work in Swaziland.



Dean Gary with Jonathon and Rory Cullen

Archbishop Dermot Clifford along with Dean Gary Paulsen blessed the new chapel at the Waterman's Lodge Day and Respite Care Centre which is situated in the heart of Ballina/Killaloe village. President Higgins did the official opening on 6th June 2012. The chapel was recently completed.

Castleconnell Harvest Service takes place on Sunday 28th September at 4.00 pm - the start of the 'harvest season' in our Union of Parishes.

Birr Group of Parishes

Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha

Rector: Venerable R. Wayne Carney

Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert

The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly

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

Email: mapleire@eircom.net

Assistant Priest: Rev. Ruth Gill

Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly

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

Email: ruth_gill40@hotmail.com

WELCOME!

On Saturday 26th July, Dylan Bailey, son of Trevor and Doireann, was baptised in St Brendan's Church, Birr by the Revd. Ruth Gill, with Fr Tony Cahir assisting.

FUNDRAISING

Lockeen and Dorrha parishes have had fundraising events to help finance necessary repairs to their buildings. Helped by the Lockeen parishioners, Hazel Perdue held a Garden Tea Party at her home, with a wide variety of stalls and lovely homemade foods and goodies on

offer. The Mad Hatter and Alice from the Rectory in Wexford graced the afternoon with their presence, and, along with many others who came along, enjoyed a time of relaxation, chat and retail therapy! Over €3,500 was raised for the restoration of the Joshua Clarke windows in Lockeen.

Linda and Whitten Gill held a very successful BBQ at their home on 17th August, helped by parishioners and friends. Some €4,100 was raised for repairs to Dorrha Church.

On Thursday, 11th September, Birr Church has their annual Fundraising Dance in Dooly's Hotel from 9:30 pm to 12:30 am. Music by Solitaire; Admission €10 (including tea and sandwiches), in aid of the church repair fund. All welcome.

GOODBYE AND HELLO

We were very sorry to bid farewell to the Revd. Rosemary Lindsay on her retirement from active ministry in the Methodist Church in Birr. We look forward to getting to know the Revd. Clodagh Yambassu, her replacement.

PASTORAL

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been bereaved this summer.

- On 26th July, King Pennefather, brother to Lavinia Fryday, died in Limerick. His funeral service was held on Monday 28th July in Mary Immaculate Church, Shannon, conducted by the Revd Edna Wakely assisted by Fr Arnold Rosney.
- Jonathan Pyle's father, David, passed away on 29th July. His funeral was in the Church of St John the Evangelist, Sandymount on 31st July conducted by the Revd John Marchant assisted by the Revd Edna Wakely.
- Mrs Olive Eastwood died on the 31st July; her funeral was in St Brendan's Church, Birr on 5th August. The service was conducted by the Revd Ruth Gill assisted by Fr Tony Cahir.
- Mr Frank Bulfin died very suddenly while out herding cattle on the 6th August. His funeral was held on 9th August in St Brendan's Church, Birr with burial in Eglishe churchyard.
- Mr Alfie Dyer died in the Portumna Retirement Village on 12th August. His funeral was in St Ruadhan's Church, Lorrha on 14th August; burial took place in the adjoining graveyard. Fr Freddie Warner, who had given Alfie pastoral care, assisted at the removal.

We are extremely grateful to members of the Roman Catholic Church Choir and Birr Choral Society who led the singing at the services in Birr. May God in his infinite mercy be with all those who mourn and give them strength in the times ahead.

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

BURIAL

July 19th, 2014 in Corbally Alice Frances St. Leger, Cloncourse. Alice's passing has severed a link with the older way of life in Kyle where she was born and lived all her life. A loyal and devoted parishioner of St. Molua's Church, Kyle she rarely missed a service until ill health set in. She will be missed. To John, her husband, Valerie, Mae and David and all the family circle, we extend our deepest sympathy and remember them in prayer. At the funeral service, her son-in-law, Eddie Clare, was especially remembered as he continues his stay in Dun Laoghaire.

THE SICK

While the list is quite long, overall the news is encouraging. Eddie Clare remains in Dun Laoghaire but it's good to hear that he was able to enjoy some time at the Horse Show. Alice Harvey is comfortable and doing well at home. Eva Harvey spent a short time in hospital, but is now home and her cheery self again. We also remember Stephen Carter who is at present convalescing from a sporting injury, while other parishioners have also had relatives in hospital. We wish all well and remember them in our prayers. Healer Prayer Group recommences in September.

BEREAVED

A number of parishioners have been bereaved over the summer and we sympathise remembering Seany and Shelia Bohan on the passing of Seany's mother; Lynn and Cecil Wallace on the passing of Lynn's father; Myra Stanley on the passing of her sister-in-law and Barbara Duke and Lorraine Clarke on the passing of their aunt. We also remember Charlie Ardill in Mount Carmel Nursing Home on the passing of his sister Peggy, who is also a sister-in-law to Elsie in Dean Maxwell.

BAR-B-QUE

– Saturday, 13th September – 2 pm onwards Roscrea Rugby Club
A September highlight and so much effort has gone into organizing the event. Raffle tickets are on sale for attractive prizes, parishioners are busy searching their attics to supply 'lots' for the monster auction, all types of fun and games organized by professionals, stalls and bargains galore, pig on spit and a wide range of competitions and novelties. The event of the year!! Admittance to BBQ: €5. Social Dancing and Supper from 9.00 pm to 1.00 am. All welcome. An ideal social occasion to help overcome those early autumn blues!

SERVICE FOR ROSCREA

At present Roscrea as a town is experiencing some difficulties and following a recent public meeting with a record crowd, St. Cronan's Church was the chosen venue for an ecumenical service to pray for the town. The Lord Abbot, Fr. Tom Corbett P.P., Fr. Bavo OSCO, Wesley Beck representing the Methodist Church and Rev. Ruth Gill shared in the service, while Adrian Hewson gave the address. Local representatives led the prayers. All present felt that they benefitted from the occasion. Thanks to all our parishioners and choir who prepared for the event at such short notice.

A TIME OF CHANGE

Roscrea is experiencing many changes in clerical circles. The parish was well represented at an evening service to say farewell to Rev. Brian Griffin and Eirene and we wish them well as we welcome Rev. Shannon de Laoreal, Doug and Brennan to The Manse. We were pleased to have them with us recently at morning worship in Roscrea. Also we wish Fr. Tom Corbett P.P. well on his retirement, but happily he is staying in Roscrea and we congratulate his successors, Fr. Treacy and Fr. Harding, who will take up the position of joint P.P.

LOOKING BACK!

It has been a busy but happy summer. June 29th saw our Family Service in Corbally with the Archdeacon and this was followed by a picnic lunch.

In July a fun walk around Kinnitty organised by Keith Stanley in aid of Parish funds, with refreshments in the Community Centre, and the results of the 'Animals at Large' Quiz were announced in August – congratulations to: 1st Rosie Gee, 2nd Hazel Alton and 3rd Joyce Wallace. Many thanks to the organizers of all these events.

HARVEST TIME

Please remember the Harvest Thanksgiving dates:
Sunday, 14th September – 4.00 pm Kyle
Sunday, 28th September – 3.00 pm Corbally H.C.
Sunday, 5th October – 7.00 pm Roscrea H.C.
Sunday, 12th October – 4.00 pm Bourney

CONGRATULATIONS

And we end on a positive note with congratulations and best wishes to all leaving Certificate students who now have their results and to Marine Carry who graduates on September, 3rd with a B.A. in English and Drama. Well Done to all.

Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templeberry, 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

People are beginning to return from holidays, and preparations are well under way for starting/returning to school. We hope Junior and Leaving Certificate results were all that pupils expected, and that 3rd level students achieved the points they needed and are being offered the university places they selected.

This summer saw a few meetings which normally don't happen in the holiday season! The Diocesan Episcopal Electors had their second meeting on 14th July, and will have had their third and final meeting on 1st September before travelling to Dublin on 8th September for the official election procedure. In the Nenagh Union our Select Vestry met in July also in order to discuss the plans for the refurbishment and extension of the Rectory, and many thanks are due to the committed and dedicated team undertaking this complex task.

Very necessary woodworm treatment in St Mary's to the organ casing, the interior of the organ, and the gallery area has been completed. Unfortunately due to contractors' delays, the work stretched out much longer than planned, resulting in St Mary's being closed for more Sundays than anticipated.

Alongside the necessity to pay for the Rectory work and the remedial woodworm work, the Union also needs to repair the beautiful rose window in St Mary's, so after a gap of some four years when we didn't have to engage in any fabric fundraising, now we do! However, this time we're going to try something completely different – a Gift Day, which will take place on Saturday 20th September, when parishioners will be asked to simply make a cash donation towards the work. St Mary's will be open all that day, with tea and coffee on tap, details of the projects for which we are raising funds, and music and prayer as well. The St Mary's Harvest Festival will take place on Sunday 21st September, and we hope to complete the weekend on a joyful note of celebration and worship as we give thanks for our many many blessings.

In addition to the Gift Day, we will of course be working towards our Christmas Tree Festival which will take place from 13th – 21st December inclusive. Enquiries, should you wish to decorate and display a tree, to nenaghchristmastreefestival@gmail.com

Regular visitors to the parish in the summer included Nicky Croft with her new guide dog, Edward. Edward came to Templeberry Church for a special blessing in his new task!



Edward with Nicky following his blessing

Special thanks to Rev'd Janet White-Spunner and Andrew Elleker for taking services during the Rector's hols, and to Christopher Kelly and Joan Larke for keeping the organ music going!

We extend our condolences to the family of the late Doreen Galbraith, former resident of Rivervale Nursing Home, Nenagh, who died in July.

Congratulations to James Hodgins and Laura Conlon-McKenna who were married in Booterstown Church, Dublin, on 23rd August



James and Laura's Wedding Day

REGATTA SERVICE

Dermot Desmond of Mission to Seafarers spoke on 17th August at the traditional Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving for the Lough Derg Yacht Club Regatta in Killodiernan, led by Diocesan Reader Joc Sanders. The charity operates a centre on the Dublin docks where crews can go for relaxation and refreshment. He told us that the overwhelming demand was for Wifi to enable them to contact their families - so important when you are away from home for 10 months at a time, and wages are not large. The centre also provides spiritual help and counselling when required. Dermot and Mission to Seafarers chaplain Rev Willie Black also go aboard on occasion, usually if there has been a death. This, as Dermot explained, can be quite physically daunting to someone unused to boarding these huge vessels! A most interesting talk about a little-known charity. The collection of €350 was divided between Mission to Seafarers and the RNLI.

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

See Page 29



As far as Reg could tell, the burglar had disturbed nothing in the vestry

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A 'Rainbow of Colour' from Bangor to Adare after Flood & Fire!

by Valerie Shine O'Kelly, Church Warden, St. Nicholas' Church, Adare.

As most of you know St. Nicholas' Church in Adare was under flood in February of this year - 2 feet of water raged through our church during a very bad storm. Bewildered parishioners gathered on the bank around the Church. Lorry loads of sand bags arrived and everyone worked tirelessly against the rising tide. Local parishioner Samuel Shine had the sense to open a gap in the grass embankment with a tractor and loader behind the Church and immediately the water began to subside and flood out into the adjacent field.

We slowly trudged through the church, amidst floating kneelers and carpets - what a sight! How blessed we were that the water was relatively clean and the workmanship in the Church stood up to the deluge. Dehumidifiers, Insurance Assessors and Conservation Officers arrived as well as multiple mops and buckets. The whole congregation was involved in the clean-up. The carpets were lifted, but unfortunately had to be destroyed, along with our kneelers. And the LONG drying out process began.

Amazingly enough we had church one week later! With parishioners bringing along their cushions and rugs in case of getting a wet behind or even worse the flu! Dean Maurice Sirr brought us through the following few Sundays with uplifting sermons and some mysterious well-wisher left a trio of yellow rubber ducks on the pulpit which are still in the church and continue to make us smile as we remember those swampy, damp days!



Edie McBride & Doreen Shine hatched the plot to bring the kneelers from Bangor to Adare

Meanwhile, two years ago and some 400 kms away, St. Comgall's Bangor Parish Church suffered a similar fate to ours, but with fire. Blessed like us, the building survived but was devastated with smoke damage to the interior walls and fabric.

In 1980 the then Rector's wife Mrs Moira Mitchell began her mission of making new kneelers for the Church. Many ladies in the parish worked tirelessly from 1980 to 1994 to produce the most amazing needlework kneelers, some depicting Biblical scenes, some in memory of dear friends - and many a chat and cup of tea were shared while producing them. The needlework became very much part of the Parish life - meeting every fortnight, running a Nearly New shop, holding Parish Suppers & donations from the Thursday Club, all to raise funds for wool, canvasses and compressed foam pads.

As the ladies became more experienced the designs evolved into Celtic symbols, more intricate Biblical Scenes, Red Cross, RNLI to mention but a few. Further donations to keep the project alive came in as people donated funds in memory of loved ones. The project finally came to a halt in 1994, after some 550 Kneelers were produced.

Sadly after the refurbishment of Bangor Parish Church following the fire, these kneelers were no longer required. Many were sold and money raised was given to the restoration project.



Jim Crawford & Edie McBride loading the kneelers in front of St Comgall's

During a routine sisterly conversation between Bangor's Edie McBride and Doreen Shine of Adare had the dream plot to get some kneelers to Adare after the flood was put into place. I found myself embroiled in the plot simply as Doreen's daughter (& Edie's niece), the mere facilitator of this wonderful act of kindness.

And so the journey began, one Tuesday morning in June to Bangor in pursuit of 100 kneelers! Bangor man Mr. Jim Crawford had single-handedly brought down all the kneelers from an upstairs storage facility, before we even arrived! He and my lovely Aunt Edie took me on a guided tour of the refurbished St. Comgall's - the care, attention and thought which went into the refurbishment of this beautiful building is so evident, a wonderful job.

Some hours later we headed off on the road to Adare, loaded to the hilt with 105 kneelers! We unloaded our kneelers with great care (Auntie Edie insisted on straightening each one under each pew with great precision - it's the Teacher instinct in her!)

Dust has now settled, we have a new carpet in St. Nicholas and we are truly indebted to St. Comgall's Bangor Parish Church for supplying us with the truly magnificent array of colour which greets us in our pews every Sunday.... A true light at the end of a long dark tunnel.

This very kind gesture reminds us of God's promise of the rainbow; and the true meaning of it as it supplies us with promise and hope. St Comgall's Bangor Parish Church has presented St. Nicholas Church with the promise of a 'New Day' after the flood in keeping with the Eternal Promise of God. And St. Nicholas has made a contribution to Bangor Parish restoration fund in lieu of the kneelers.

Aloha to Canon Liz Beasley!

by Rev Keith Scott

The evening was what can only be described as "sultry" at the end of one of the warmest days of summer so far when Rev Liz Beasley was instituted as Rector of the Adare and Kilmallock Group of Parishes on Tuesday 22nd July, the feast of St. Mary Magdalene. St. Nicholas' Church in Adare was packed for the occasion, and one parishioner commented that St. Nicholas Church had never been quite so warm.

The preacher at the service was Liz's former colleague from Hawaii, The Rev Austin Murray. Originally from Monaghan, the Rev Murray began his sermon by reading the account of the acceptance of a Rector to a parish in Monaghan, by an aristocratic "personage" sometime before disestablishment. It seems to have been a daunting encounter. Happily Liz did not have to go through such an examination and the welcome was as warm as the temperature as she was instituted. The Rev Murray spoke of the awesome nature of the position of Rector to a parish. A Rector will need all the warmth and welcome, all the prayerful support of the people in order to rise to the challenge. The priest is the means of grace for the people, a focus and mirror of the one true priesthood of Jesus Christ. The priest is, however, part of a team, or rather a community, for the whole Christian Church is called to be a "royal priesthood" and everyone is therefore called into the "priesthood of all believers". Prayer is essential to this. Liz, he said, is a person of deep prayerfulness and shares a life of prayer with her husband Kirk. She will need this life of prayer, of being with God, in order to fulfil her calling, but all of us need to be people of prayer, of living a life with God in order to bear witness to the work of God in Jesus Christ in and through our lives. Rev Murray also spoke of the traditional Hawaiian greeting, "Aloha". It meant something like "The Spirit of God be with you" and in Hawaiian culture people touch foreheads and breath upon one another, exchanging "breath" or "spirit". Liz comes as a person of the Spirit, to share that Spirit with the parish, and we should share the same divine Spirit with her and with one another, so that the Spirit of God fills the whole Church. At the peace we greeted one another with that same greeting "Aloha".



At Canon Liz Beasley's Institution

At the end of the service the Rev Murray read a proclamation from The Rt. Rev Robert L. Fitzpatrick, Bishop of Hawaii through which Liz was made an honorary life Canon of the Cathedral in Honolulu, Hawaii. This is a rare honour and a mark of the respect and affection in which Liz is held by her colleagues and former Bishop. She therefore remains officially "Canon Liz", even though she has left her former post.

Canon Liz was serving as Canon to the Ordinary (similar to an Archdeacon!) in the Diocese of Hawaii, she is originally from Norfolk, Virginia. Ordained in 1997 she has served in various parishes and roles in Indianapolis, Massachusetts and Hawaii. Canon Liz first came to Ireland as a new university graduate to work in the print industry, where she spent 3 years. She returned to Ireland in 2011 to spend 6 weeks sabbatical studying structures and workings of the Church in Ireland in rural areas. Her sabbatical paper is here and very well worth reading.



Canon Liz with her husband Kirk Beasley

Our prayers are with her as she settles into life in Ireland, Aloha Canon Liz, the Spirit of God be with you and do wonders through you.

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St Mary's Killarney gets a new Priest-in-Charge

Friday July 18th was a very special occasion at St Mary's Parish Church for the Service of Welcome for Rev Simon Lumby as he took up his position of Priest-in-Charge of the Killarney & Aghadoe Union of Parishes. The Service was led by Bishop Trevor Williams supported by Dean Sandra Pragnell, Archdeacon Sue Watterson and 14 other clergy from the Church of Ireland, Methodist, Roman Catholic, and Baptist communities. The packed congregation of Union members, dignitaries and visitors welcomed Simon and his wife Noleen to the area and this was followed by light refreshments in a marquee which had been erected in the church grounds. Diocesan reader Andrew Eadie, who gave the sermon during the Service, said we were fortunate in attracting a Minister of Simon's calibre and he called on the local congregation to support him in all his endeavours to grow both our congregation and ministry. Andrew said that Simon would need to look at new and innovative methods of ministry because of the huge numbers of visitors who come to our church throughout each day.



(l-r) Andrew Eadie (St Mary's), Archdeacon Susan Watterson, Rev Simon Lumby, Bishop Trevor Williams and Adrian Hilliard (St Mary's)

Simon and Noleen circulated widely throughout the evening and spoke with most of the parishioners and there was a definite feel-good factor in the balmy evening air. Many thanks must go to John Flynn and his army of volunteers for supplying and erecting

the marquee and also to the ladies of the parish for preparing and serving their very appetising fare.



Noleen Lumby, Rev. Simon Lumby and Bishop Trevor Williams

Simon comes to us from the Peak District National Park in Derbyshire, England where he has been helping small rural churches to engage with the issues their communities face living in remote situations, with a particular emphasis on tourism and on churches as community resources. He has served in the Church of England as a rural parish clergyman and brings experience of ministry to both the tourism industry and to tourists. Simon has travelled widely all his life; his professional background has been in Electronic and Telecommunications Engineering and, prior to his ordination, he worked in academia devising theological degree programmes in England and in Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and South America for indigenous students.

On Sunday 20th Simon's first Service of Holy Communion in the parish was again very well attended. During his Sunday sermon Simon spoke of his hopes to further develop the ministry the parish extends to visitors and locals alike and his wish to ensure that anyone who visits St Mary's will find a fitting welcome throughout the year.

St. Fachtnan's Cathedral, Kilfenora

by Canon Bob Hanna

On the western edge of the Burren in County Clare and dating from the early 12th century, St Fachtnan's Cathedral, Kilfenora is thought to have been built on the site of Fachtnan's 6th century original monastery which gave Kilfenora the designation of "Ye Citie of the crosses."

Today it is a popular calling place for bus tours which park at the Burren Interpretative Centre next door, visiting the Cathedral and the High Crosses of the medieval period. Tourists – or pilgrims! – undertaking this section of the Wild Atlantic Way now have daily access to and commentary about ecclesiastical Kilfenora since the villagers themselves man the Cathedral seven days a week over a protracted Summer season.

While used only occasionally – 5 or 6 times a year – for seasonal and Celtic-type Services and gatherings, under the direction of Canon Bob Hanna and the Drumcliffe Group of parishes, the small

and plain Cathedral is assuming an increasing place in ecumenical life within County Clare. For instance the Clare Pilgrim Way, an organisation researching and constructing Pilgrim paths between Clare abbeys, churches and holy wells has designated the building and its precincts as a key hub.

This leaves the teasing question still to be answered. How long can our diocese and church with its minimal resources of manpower and wealth continue to take responsibility for such places where there is little or no adjoining Anglican congregation?

On the other hand, with increasing interest in Celtic history and spirituality and with the spinal cord of the Shannon River system holding so many great sites – including Clonfert and Clonmacnois – can we work with others to develop a new mission for this medieval jewel, to foster a fresh spirituality, a new monasticism covering the Wild Atlantic Way and the Heart of Ireland?

Finding Anam Cara: Part 3

- The last of three articles by Archdeacon Sue Watterson

There is nothing of the stranger when you meet your Other.
For your Anam Cara is the reflection of your own soul,
they do not complete you,
they do not fill your emptiness,
they reflect you back to yourself exactly as you are,
and in their eyes, and arms and heart
– you are home.
S.S. Henry

In finding Anam Cara we undergo a spiritual homecoming, discovering a place (relationship) where we come to know our worth as a child of God as it is reflected back to us. As the quote from Henry suggests the relationship will never be all encompassing, but it will move us forward into more of God – and prayer is of course the foundation for this movement.

There are as many ways to pray as there are praying people, but our prayer life is a changing and fluid thing – or at least it should be. As we journey through our faith we hopefully learn to pray differently, we learn to cope with the 'chattering monkeys' as they are often called which so can distract us, or put us off. We find we use less words, or no words at all. It becomes easier to simply sit with God, to be, to 'waste time' in his presence.

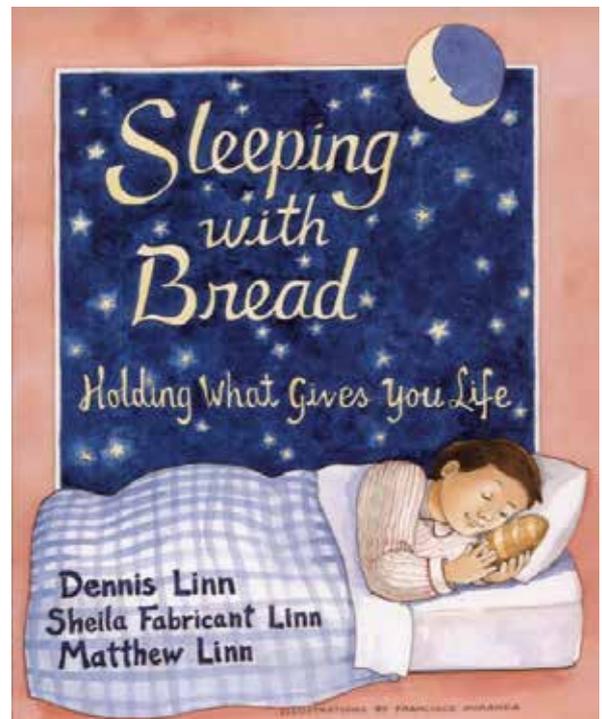


As we move from the prayers of childhood – which will always be special and sacred, we may discover that we ask for less, and notice more of God in our surroundings, in creation, in other people, and our noticing becomes prayer – contemplation. We give ourselves permission to gaze, and to reflect without striving for the words which will give God the information he already has. Our love and concern for those dear to us, our indignation at the suffering of strangers can all be expressed in sighs and groans – and we can be content that our Heavenly Father hears and receives them. For many people, prayer becomes an attitude of mind, almost a way of life rather than something which is dipped into at certain times of day. This is not to detract from the importance of specific times of personal devotion or corporate worship, but prayer can become a sensitive awareness of God which evokes response whilst going about day to day work and social activity.

In times of distress or real difficulty however prayer can seem impossible. We don't know where to start as God seems so distant. It is in these times that our Anam Cara (spiritual director) will remind us of our forgotten experiences of God, will point out to us

that we have known God's presence and care for us in the past and will come to that place again.

Recently in Tralee during our Wednesday morning service we used a mediation on an account called 'Sleeping With Bread – Holding on to What Gives You Life' written by the Linn family. We considered an account of the thousands of children who were orphaned and starving during the bombing raids of World War 2. The more fortunate children were placed in camps where they received food and care, but many of the children had lost so much they could not sleep at night, and were fearful and distressed during the day in case once again they should be without food and shelter. Nothing seemed to reassure them but eventually it was decided to give the children a piece of bread to hold at bedtime, and through the night the bread reminded the children 'Today I ate and I will eat again tomorrow'. In times of distress we may need our Anam Cara to remind us of the spiritual nourishment we have received in the past, and which will sustain us through the present crisis. During such 'dry' times it may help simply to look back over the day before we retire, and notice where God may have been present.



Viktor Frankl wrote of how 'Sleeping with Bread' brought not just survival, but hope and inner freedom to many.

We who lived in the concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number... but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing; the last of his freedoms – to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.

Anam Cara is a two way relationship, and 'sleeping with bread' need not be just for our own bad times. Being always mindful of what God has done for us empowers us to choose our own way. Like Frankl's associates we can become people who, by grace, may be able to offer to our soul-friend (or others) the bread of life they need to hold on to.

Faith and Hope in Swaziland with the United Society (Us)

by Dean Sandra Pragnell

In July 2014, accompanied by the Rev'd Andrew McCroskery from Dublin, I was privileged to travel to our link diocese in Swaziland for 6 days, where we were welcomed by Linda and Jan of Us. I had no idea where the country was, but finally spotted the little Kingdom of Swaziland on the map, totally surrounded by South Africa, very near the border with Mozambique. In my ignorance I was concerned about the accommodation provided: but the diocesan centre in the capital Mbabane, not only had an impressive conference centre, Thokoza, but also generous comfortable bedrooms with all mod cons ensuite. Although a brief visit, thanks to Linda and Jan, we were able to see much of the country apart from the north-west corner, and to enjoy two game drives, where endangered animals are conserved. In this brief overview I aim to share some of the insights and hope for the future for our sisters and brothers in Christ in Swaziland.



At the Hlane Game Drive - tourist revenues helps conservation of endangered animals

EDUCATION

A key area of work for Us in Swaziland is the network of 22 primary schools, and we were welcomed to a meeting of the Trust Board (facilitated by Us.) with all the school principals in attendance. Given the remoteness of most schools, it was valuable for the principals to share and discuss mutual concerns. A Safeguarding Trust presentation was given by Ms Thulie Ncongwane, who had recently returned home to Swaziland after a valuable three months work experience in a Derry parish. Visiting Ingwempisana Anglican Primary School in the north-east, we met the Principal, the Rev'd Abraham Gama, (also an NSM in the church). One school had a splendid new kitchen provided by a Dublin parish. Another was waiting for repairs to their kitchen. Nearly all the schools provide a cooked meal (rice, beans and mealie) for the children at lunchtime, as most of them in remote areas have no food at home, so the school meal, carefully rationed, is their sole meal each day. Although the food is provided by the authorities, principals have to pay their own costs to transport the food from the central location to the remote outlying schools in the bush. Lack of books was a concern for many schools.

HEALTH

Although poverty is a real issue, land is provided by the king, so every family is able to construct the traditional circular thatched cottage. 40% of the Swazi people are stunted due to poor nutrition, highlighting the importance of the daily school meal for the children. Visiting one of the poorest and driest parts of Swaziland, at Mpandesane, there had been no rain for over 7 years, and with no clean water or sanitation, it was poignant to see the Simelane family, barely scratching a living on their land, yet out of their Christian duty, struggling each day to make a meal for pre-school children in the locality, doled out at the Neighbourhood Care Point across the lane. We brought sacks of meal and rice to help them. Most children were barefoot, and appeared to have just one very worn dress or shorts, but each carried his own plastic food bowl that they were required to bring each day. A local teacher came to be with them as they waited for food, and with no blackboard, used a stick in the dust to teach them the alphabet and numbers. Later we saw older children, all very proud of their school uniform. In the dry heat, we noticed one of the girls drink the water from the washing up bowl – which prompted us to fetch all the bottled water we had brought with us to give to them. Whether it will be possible to find a borehole there, or near the school, remains to be seen. Unaware of their poverty, the only reality these children have, they seemed content, and sang really beautifully for us. At one school we realised that the oral tradition in Swaziland is very strong: the pupils they would all sing a capella, and in harmony, many old folk songs which appear never to have been written down.



Interior of a traditional Swazi house

Thulie Ncongwane, back from Derry, runs the HIV Office, based at Thokoza. Medication is provided, but only for those who have sufficient nutrition. Fr. Gregory estimates that 80% of the population live with HIV or AIDS. The issue of OVCs – Orphaned and Vulnerable Children, also falls within Thulie's remit. Because of the health issues, it is said that 15% of Swazi households are headed by a teenager or child. Very few older men were seen – but we were able to visit some elderly women, many housebound and with differing health issues. Accompanied by Mrs Takis, a parishioner from All Saints Cathedral, we were privileged to see at first-hand what real poverty is, and how the local church is making a real difference to these poor communities. My colleague and I were touched by how much these poorest people appreciated our prayers and blessings in their own home, dark and smoked-filled by the central hearth.

CHURCH

On the first evening, the Dean of All Saints Cathedral, the Very Rev'd Advent Dlamini, joined us for dinner at the Thokoza Church Centre, and the following Sunday we were glad to be able to join the congregation there, and to present to the Dean, and to Bishop Ellinah (who was in the congregation with her family) an Irish cross for each of them. One of the parishes we visited had to build a new church to cater for numbers, leaving the old church in ruins.



All Saints' Cathedral in Mbabane

new reservoir to be filled, and it also attracted fish (bream). A new development is the piggery, with 15 sows and 32 piglets the day we were there –providing much needed meat for the local people. Chickens scratch around, and there are plans to raise goats. In time, Luyengo hopes to be in a position to expand by selling their fresh produce in South Africa. Clearly this has huge potential and I am in no doubt that we in the United Dioceses must commit for the long-term.



Spinach from Luyengo farm on sale at a supermarket

THE LUYENGO FARM PROJECT

This was the most exciting prospect for the future of Us' work in Swaziland. Many of you will have had regular updates about Luyengo. Already the farm is supplying vegetables and herbs for a supermarket chain in Mbabane – providing regular revenue and local employment opportunities. The repaired canal enabled the



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United Diocesan Youth Council

SUMMER MADNESS 2014 by Ciara Fitzell, 18

Another great few days was had by all attending Summer Madness this year! It was five short days filled with God's love and the Holy Spirit. God could truly be felt moving and changing the lives of several people throughout the campsite. It was an amazing and life changing experience, no different to last year. It seems each year brings something new, and you return home with a new, refreshed frame of mind. The theme of this year's Summer Madness was 'Insight'; God's insight into our lives in the past, present and future, which was definitely food for thought. This, of course, was brought to us by the wonderful main stage speakers. The worship sessions were also amazing with the various worship leaders and the band stirring up an electric atmosphere in the Big Top - it really was God's party! There was a lovely atmosphere around camp with everyone keen to welcome others, whether they were strangers or great friends. One of the highlights had to be the CIYD hosted BBQ for all Southern Irish participants. It was great opportunity for everyone to catch up with those from the neighbouring dioceses. The fabulous weather throughout the five days certainly made that experience all the better! Summer Madness is an amazing event that everyone should experience at least once, or if you're like me it will be the only thing written in the calendar for next year, the countdown to SM15 has begun!

JUNIOR SUMMER CAMP 2014

On the morning of the 20th of July, 22 participants made their way to Densmore Lodge in Avoca, Co. Wicklow for an action-packed week of fun, faith and fellowship. Wonderful worship by Wendy was on both morning and evening, including fun things such as making yeast bread, a race to fill up a bowl with orange juice and the side-splittingly funny Boffin and her ironically named assistant Brainwave, as well as a lovely play about Professor Ian Ventor, his assistant May Kamess and the evil Dr. Upton O'Good! When we weren't enjoying our free-time or the excellent worship, through some creative (?) song and dance, we were enjoying the brilliant activities that Ovoca Manor had to offer, examples including crate-climbing, abseiling, assault courses and a zip-line. Aside from the on-site activities, we left Avoca for some combat laser tag, bowling, quasar and a daytrip to Dublin where we visited the Leprechaun museum, took a Viking Splash tour and took a dip in the National Aquatic Centre. Of course, in order to complete all these activities we needed to be well-fed and energetic, so a big thanks to Eleanor Walker for the fabulous food throughout the week-nobody went hungry! Everyone enjoyed themselves all week long and we all went home smiling.



At Junior Summer Camp 2014

INTERNATIONAL TRIP TO GERMANY, by Emma Phair

On Saturday 2nd August, we had a very early start so as to make the most of what proved to be a most inspirational and enjoyable international exchange trip. We stayed in the very historically well-known city of Worms, in a bridge tower overlooking the river Rhine, which, I must admit, is the most impressive and magical building I have ever stayed in. After completing the rather formidable task of carrying/dragging our baggage up all 297 steps (we know because we counted) to our accommodation, we were greeted warmly by the German and Romanian groups.

We went on many day trips to different cities, such as Mainz and Frankfurt, where we visited some very impressive Cathedrals and several different museums.



Group on the International trip to Germany

There was also an outdoor aspect to the trip, which included two trips to the outdoor swimming pool, and, best of all, the tree climbing experience in Darmstadt.

There was a wonderful atmosphere throughout the trip, as the German, Irish and Romanian groups got on very well together-however I must admit there were times when my knowledge of the English language was seriously put to test, when the Romanian and German groups started using words I did not know. We had two cultural evenings, which gave the groups an opportunity to give everyone an insight into their culture.

The trip was brilliantly organized and a great experience for us all. I will always remember the ice cream shop, at which we became regulars after only the first day, the variety was what struck me-you could have anything from kiwi or blueberry to Black Forest Gateau or bubblegum.

Overall, it was a fantastic trip, and a big thank you must go to all our leaders (especially Edward) as well as the Germans, Frances and Reinhard, both great people without whom the trip would not have been possible.

Just as we finished each day on the trip with worship led by Damian, I think I shall end this brief summary in appreciation of it. For me, it was a great way to end the day-with some upbeat hymns and thoughtful prayer.

It was a great trip, and I have to say worship was one of the highlights for me.

Bikers on a Mission



On Friday 1st August Rev Nigel Kirkpatrick, rector of Gilnahirk in Belfast, and the Revd Andrew McCroskery, rector of St Bartholomew's and Christ Church Leeson Park in Dublin, set off on a marathon 3,000 km trip. They visited each of the 30 cathedrals of the Church of Ireland over a

period of 10 days. In each place they prayed with those who came along in support for that cathedral, its clergy, people and the diocese it serves, as well as praying for Swaziland and the United Society.

The idea came when they were discussing how they and their motorbikes could mark the 300th anniversary of the United Society in Ireland. The plan was to raise awareness and raise funds – and at the same time have fun.

Linda Chambers and Jan de Bruijn of United Society followed the bikes in a camper-van – the support vehicle – carrying wet gear, spare gloves, boots and helmets, as well as vestments and clothes etc.

It was a marvellous experience. We enjoyed seeing the cathedrals, especially those we had not visited before. The company was good, and most importantly the welcome and hospitality shown us was amazing. Thank you to all who helped in any way: donating, welcoming, feeding, accommodating – all four of us appreciated it all!



The Bikers are welcomed to St Fachtnan's Cathedral Kilfenora



Rev Patrick Towers points out features of St Brendan's Cathedral Clonfert to Rev Andrew McCroskery and Rev Nigel Kirkpatrick



Rev Edna Wakely & Dean Sandra Pragnell welcome the Bikers to St Mary's Cathedral Limerick



In St Flannan's Cathedral Killaloe: l-r Rev Nigel Kirkpatrick, Dean Gary Paulsen, Linda Chambers of Us, Rev Lucy Green, Rev Andrew McCroskery

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

AGHANCON FETE

Thank you to all who helped organise and who supported the Aghancon Fete. A great day and so far almost €4000 was raised for the parish.

DUNKERRIN DOG SHOW

Many thanks to all who helped to organise and run the Dunkerrin Dog Show and Fete, and to all who came and supported. There was a wonderful turn out and it was a very enjoyable day. Over €2000 was raised.

SHINRONE FETE

A fete and dog show will take place at Cloghmoyle Schoolhouse, Shinrone on Saturday 27 September from 2.00pm. All are welcome, as are dogs of all kinds.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Best wishes to all the young people returning to school and college. May they have a very happy and successful year.

Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

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

Rector: Rev. Chancellor Robert Charles Hanna

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

Tel: 065 – 6820109 Mob: 086 2167040

Email: bobhanna@eircom.net

Parish website: www.churchofirelandclare.com

HARVEST TIME is usually the first note of this "back to school" moment in Church life and Ennis - Drumcliffe is first to celebrate with a Friday evening event in St Columba's (8.00pm), Friday October 3rd, when the Rev Dr Johnston McMaster, a leading Methodist churchman will give the homily.

Dr McMaster has become a prominent figure in the world of Celtic spirituality, both in the North and the South. He is a Lecturer and Co-ordinator in the Education and Reconciliation Programme with the Irish School of Ecumenics and is based in Belfast

Recently at the Summer School at Clonmacnois, referring to the sculptures on the High Crosses of Ireland's most renowned monastery site, founded by St Ciaran on the River Shannon, he spoke on "Reconnecting with the Cross of the Scripture." Dr McMaster's latest book is entitled, "A Passion for Justice...Social ethics in the Celtic Tradition"



Rev Dr Johnston McMaster, at Clonmacnois Summer School.

The 2013 General Synod of our Church decided to build on the 2002 Covenant with the Methodists by providing for inter-changeability of ministries. With this level of closeness it is good and appropriate to have Dr McMaster weave his learning and enthusiastic ecumenical faith among all our Christian churches. Recently Dr Heather Morris, last year's Methodist President and now the successor to the Rev Des Bain as Southern Co-ordinator, met with outgoing Bishop Trevor Williams and Canon Bob Hanna, along with Limerick Methodist leader Rev Vicki Lynch, to talk future cooperation. Part of this may be to see how we walk and pray together. Living not far from the hamlet of Dysart O'Dea (near Corofin, Co Clare), a return to the simplicity of the desert is surely one way for us Irish Christians to return to our Christian and Celtic roots and hopefully rediscover the energy of St Columbanus and other great missionaries and builders of Europe whom speakers at Clonmacnois celebrated.



Dr Christy Cunliffe explains history at Clonmacnois. Canon Trevor Sullivan provided the Anglican input at the Summer School.

KILNASOOLAGH HARVEST

This has been scheduled for Friday October 10th, 7.30pm, when we will be joined in an ecumenical act of fellowship by parishioners from the nearby adjacent Cratloe Roman Catholic Church, as well as local Newmarket folk. Details to be confirmed. This exciting link has come about via Church of Ireland members Jackie McNair and Keith Morrow who live in Cratloe (even though they worship in Limerick City Parish!) Meantime Kilnasoolagh are setting about a fund raising programme to pay for urgent restoration work on the church gutters, estimated to cost €4,000.

SPANISH POINT

The fundraising barbeque was a huge success raising several thousand Euro and this, plus the cash raised from the prayer ribbons appeal, left Judith Ironside and supporters well on the way to reaching the cash target to cover the expense of repairing the steeple of Kilfarboy Church. Following this came the traditional musical concert in Miltown Malbay. A prayer service built around the prayer requests on the ribbons will take place soon.

CHILD SAFETY

Thanks to Mr Niall West for his visit to Ennis for the Safeguard Trust Training, assisted by Kim Hutchinson and Caroline and to those who turned up for training. The next session will take place in Limerick and everyone is invited to get briefed on this vital area of our collective life.

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 from Co. Galway as we move into our autumn/winter months and the resumption of activities that we have become associated with year after year.

A fairly good summer is drawing to a close and hopefully not the end of the good sunny weather that we have had in between some periods of unpleasant weather.

BAR-B-QUE

A bar-b-que was held in the Coach-House, Aughrim on Friday 1st August, when a large number of parishioners and friends came along and enjoyed a wonderful evening. Weather was not so kind yet the rainy evening conditions did not put a dampener on the evening. Music was provided by Midnight Melodies a good evening was had by all.

EPISCOPAL ELECTION COLLEGE

We are all looking ahead to the announcement of a new Bishop to our Diocese. The preliminary procedure has involved the Diocesan Episcopal Committee meeting to consider suitable candidates in advance of our summons to the Episcopal Electoral College which will take place in Christ Church Cathedral on Monday 8th September when a short list of candidates will be considered and then elected upon by all in attendance. We will look forward to welcoming the new Bishop in the due course.

AUGHRIM GLEBE SCHOOL

Aughrim Glebe School has had a face lift in advance of the start of a new term. A second teacher has been approved subject to the Roll standing at twenty pupils at the end of September. At this moment the number confirmed for this new year stands at eighteen and to ensure that our second teacher position continues into the future the school needs two more children over four years of age to come among us by the end of September. I pray that this will happen and that you the readers may let me know of any family near you who have a child of this age yet to enroll in a school in the vicinity of Aughrim/Ballinasloe who may be interested in enrolling.

HARVEST TIME OF THANKSGIVING

Harvest time of Thanksgiving is with us again and there are occasions in our churches when we give thanks to Almighty God for his bountiful gifts. These will take place as shown below;
Clontuskert: Sunday, 7th September at 3.00pm - the Rector,
Ballinasloe: Sunday, 14th September at 3.00pm - Rev Lesley Robinson, (Clontarf)
Ardrahan: Sunday, 21st September at 3.00pm - Archdeacon Wayne Carney
Woodlawn: Friday, 19th September at 8.00pm - Br. Althonsus of St Franciscan's Mountbellew
Ahascragh: Friday 26th September at 8.00pm - Rector,
Aughrim: Sunday 28th September at 3.00pm - Former Dean of Cashel Rev. Knowles
Parishioners from around the Diocese are very welcome to attend.

LENREC CLOTHES COLLECTION

This Kilkenny based company will once again be collecting unwanted clothes, bedclothes, handbags and cuddly toys once they are not soiled. This is a good fund-raising project and on this occasion is in aid of the Ardrahan Sunday School Building Project which is almost complete. Anyone requiring details of this fund-raising event can contact me at any time. The closing date for items in black plastic bags is Friday 19th September.

PASTORAL CARE

I hope that we all take time to remember those among us who are having concerns for their health at this time. I trust that the healing Spirit of Christ will bring them peace and healing and renewed confidence for the days that lie ahead.

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

PORTUMNA - Ann Menheniott.

We were delighted to see Ann back and able once again to perform her duties as Diocesan lay Reader.

We thank God for his goodness and pray that Ann's health will continue to improve.



EYRECOURT

Well done to Brian Kenny and friends who have arrived home safely after completing the climb of Mount Blanc. This being a dangerous climb, they were fortunate in having weather conditions suitable for them to make it to the top.

A new carpet has been fitted on the aisle of St John the Baptist Church Eyrecourt, it looks very well.

CLONFERT

Bikers on a Mission (Rev. Nigel Kirkpatrick, Belfast and Rev. Andrew McCroskery, Dublin) called at St. Brendan's Cathedral, Clonfert, on their tour of the 'Cathedrals of Ireland', to raise awareness and funds for Us (formerly USPG). See article on page 20.

BANAGHER

As we near the end of summer we hope everyone had happy holidays and those sitting examinations got the results they expected. We wish all students the very best as they commence a new year in education.

On Saturday 9th August we had a clean-up of the grounds of St. Paul's Rectory. We had a great turn-out of male and female workers from all parishes, but unfortunately another day's work is required to finish the task. Thanks to all who came armed with garden equipment, tractors and trailers.

Work continues on Moystown Graveyard, we have a promise of TUS workers for another year if we have the funds to continue with the work!!

A Parish Barbeque was held in St Paul's Hall on Sunday 24th August after a combined service in St Paul's Church. The aim being to raise funds for the church.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held in St Paul's Church Banagher on Sunday 28th September 2014, with tea afterwards in St Paul's Hall. Further details nearer the time.

SWAZILAND - Maureen Moss writes

I was thrilled to be able to spend a day in Dublin with Rev. Orma Mavimbel and Nola Nixon.

Rev Orma is one of the most hard working people I know. Her work with the church, counselling the youth, and services at the abused women's centre takes up a lot of her time. I worked with her at the Care Points that she runs, providing food and medical assistance for the orphans and impoverished families.

I was able to hand over to her the money we raised, from the party and the Swazi Jewellery sales. There was €1,500 in total. This is a huge amount of money for her, she was so thrilled that the people here care so much about the work she is doing.

Orma has asked me to convey her deep felt thanks and will write when she gets home.



Molly Malone with Maureen and Orma !

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,

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Tel: 061-338697 Mob: 087-2658592

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Curate Assistant: Rev Edna Wakely

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Tel: 061-302038 Mob: 085-1450804

Email: ednawakely@hotmail.com

HOLY BAPTISM

On 24th August 2014 at St Mary's Cathedral: Noah James Ronan-Yeoman, son of Kayleigh and James of Corbally, Co Limerick.

BURIAL OF ASHES

Brenda Rosina May Townsend, widow of Robert George Townsend MBE, died at home in England in November 2013, aged 84. Her ashes were interred in the family grave at Towerhill, Killcuragh, Cappamore, by the Dean, on 11th July 2014.

BEREAVEMENTS

3rd July – Geraldine Hely-Hutchinson (née O'Brien) – our sincere sympathy to her daughter, Fiona, son-in-law Mark and grandchildren, Louisa, Harry, Zoe and Iseult.

25th July – Kingsmill Pennefather of Shannon – our sincere sympathy to his wife Teresa and sons Kline, Robert, Barry and Murt.

MILLENNIUM HARP FESTIVAL

As part of the City of Culture, on 21st August St Mary's Cathedral hosted the Millennium Harp Festival, in a new composition by Janet Harbison, "Brian Boru, Lion of Ireland." With an international gathering of over 60 massed harps, the Limerick Pipe Band, the Limerick choirs of Maire Keary-Scanlan, and soloist Ann Heymann from the USA on a traditional celtic wire harp, we were treated to a real spectacle. The youngest harpist was 8 and the oldest 89. The sounds and amazing light effects highlighted the cathedral's haunting beauty – a backdrop for the story of Brian Boru which carried us through lament, pride, patriotism, and triumph and tragedy. Congratulations to Janet for her composition, in which she successfully conducted, as well as played the harp. And the full house came to an end with a standing ovation.

HEALING SERVICE

Will take place at St Mary's Cathedral at 7pm pm Sunday 14th September, and thereafter on alternate months.

LCP BARBEQUE

a very successful BBQ was held in Villiers School Saturday 23rd of August. The weather was kind to us and over 90 people enjoyed fun games, excellent food and good company. The helpers, food suppliers, games masters, washer-uppers, and bartenders, are too many to mention individually but a huge thank you to all who helped in anyway. A special thank you to Jill Storey, Principal Villiers School for opening its doors to LCP, very much appreciated.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

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

PLANT SALE AND AUTUMN FAIR

This is taking place in Villiers School on Saturday 18th of October. We will welcome contributions of plants, cakes, jams, and preserves, books, bottles, bric-a-brac (no electrical). Please keep us in mind when spring cleaning your house and/or garden. Tracey Lyttle 086-6486197 and Elizabeth Stanley 086-2687123 welcome offers of goods and novel ideas for stalls.

Adare and Kilmallock Group of Parishes

Adare, Croom, Kilmallock, Kilpeacon

Rector: Canon Liz Beasley

The Rectory, Adare, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 396227 Mob: 087-7199750

Email: revlizadare@gmail.com

What a summer! Beautiful weather and lots of visitors in the area. We were very busy in the Parish – we had the great privilege of welcoming our new Rector, Rev. Liz Beasley and her husband Kirk. We gathered for the institution in St. Nicholas Church, Adare. See page 14. This joyful service was also tinged with a little sadness as we were also saying goodbye to our Bishop Trevor Williams and his wife Joyce. The service was followed by a veritable feast of food in the schoolhouse. Thank you to all who helped make this evening a very memorable one. It was wonderful to see the community operating as a well oiled team getting everything ready for the service and enjoying being together.

Rev. Dr Keith Scott conducted the marriage service of Robert Roth (USA) and Maria Doyle (Ireland) on the 5th July 2014. A beautiful happy service accompanied by the famous voices of Anuna filling St Nicholas' Church with melody, complimented by God's own sunshine streaming through the stained glass windows.

The sad news is that death has cast its shadow on our congregation. Please remember in your prayers and give thanks for the wonderful life of Alan Lillingston, Kilmallock, whose funeral was held on the 8th of August, with a service celebrating a long and fruitful life

We also celebrated the long and wonderful life of one of most faithful parishioners in Adare, Elsie Hunt on the 15th August. We offer sincere condolences to their families, and we will remember Elsie and Alan with love and gratitude to God for the wonderful people they were. We will meet again. God grant them an eternity of happiness in your care.



Rev Liz with lay reader Ann Gill

We would also like to welcome back to school the teachers and pupils of St Nicks N.S. We hope you had a wonderful break, and we are looking forward to the "book". It will surely stir many memories.

On a personal note I would like to thank my friends in Adare for their interest and care. It was a pleasure to serve in your community, take care and God bless you all. You still have my phone number and email address.

Ann Gill

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin

Rector: Rev. Dr. Keith Scott

The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

Tel: 061 – 398647 Mob: 087-2885169

Email: rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org

The summer time is supposed to be the time when things slow down, everyone goes on holiday and nothing happens in the Church of Ireland, but that is not how it has been this year in our Group of Parishes.



Attending the Celebrations!

The Parish of Tarbert celebrated the 200th birthday of St. Brendan's Church. A church was built on the present site to replace old Kilnaughtin Church in the late 18th century, and an extensive remodelling project was undertaken, with the bulk of the work being completed in 1814. The parish hosted a huge celebration on August 17th. The Choir of St. Mary's Tarbert joined Lyric Voices, led by Priscilla O'Donovan, a member of the congregation at St. Brendan's, to provide music. An account of the history of the Church was given by Dr. Declan Downey (RAH) of UCD and a brief reflection was offered by Rev Dr. Keith Scott. Afterwards there was indeed cake, a birthday cake cut by Lt. Col (retired) Edward Buckingham, one of the oldest members of the St. Brendan's congregation assisted by St. Brendan's newest member, Gemma Fitzell. Just to add to the celebrations, Tarbert Historical and Heritage Society launched a really excellent book on the history of the Church, entitled "St. Brendan's Church of Ireland, Tarbert, 1814-2014. Two Hundred Years of Change". Illustrated with photos by Kevin Langan and full of local stories and interesting facts this is an excellent publication and is available in Tarbert Bridewell.

Very many thanks must go to all the people who worked so hard to make this an excellent day: to Priscilla and Lyric Voices; John and St. Mary's Choir; and Dr. Declan Downey amongst many many others. A very special thanks must go to Alan and Margaret Fitzell of St. Brendan's who spent many long hours coming up with ideas, putting them into action as well as organising. Happy Birthday St. Brendan's,

We hope there is more, much more in store for the next 200 years.

It is to that youngest member of Tarbert Parish that we now turn. We were pleased to celebrate the Baptism of Gemma Fitzell on August 2nd. Gemma is the daughter of Brian and June and granddaughter of Alan and Margaret. It is a joy to say "Welcome Gemma". In October Kilcornan Mother's Union will be celebrating their 40th

birthday. There will be a very special service in Castletown Church, Kilcornan on Wednesday 22nd October at 8:00 p.m. with guest preacher Rev'd Jane Galbraith. Don't miss out.



Gemma Fitzell following her Baptism

Ardfert Diocese

Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes

Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney

Rector: Ven. Sue Watterson

Archdeacon of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoe

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

The Festival of Kerry and Rose of Tralee Service was a great success, thanks to our preacher Dean Gary Paulsen who greatly impressed the Roses with his understanding of the strains of the high heels, having to look a million dollars all the time with the hair and make-up just right. Thank you Dean Gary for being with us for the service and for making it such a light hearted occasion. Thank you also to our organist Glenn Moore from Enniskillen Cathedral, and to Betty and all who provided the lunch after the service. It was a great day.



Dean Gary and Archdeacon Sue with some Roses

Following the Blessing of the School Bags in Kilgobbin last week, there will be a similar service in St John's Tralee on Friday 5th September at 8.50am before the children go into school. All are welcome.

Our sincere congratulations to Avril Peevers who has graduated from University of Keele with a BSc in Physiotherapy with First Class Honours. She now takes up a position in The Countess of Chester Hospital in Cheshire, England. Congratulations also to Amy Lynch, daughter of Parish School Principal Michael, on the completion of the Leaving Cert.

Work on the tower of St John's has progressed well throughout the summer, and hopefully we will not have such a torrent of water coming into the East Chancel of the church this coming winter. Next summer we hope to be able to refurbish the inside of the building below the tower where the water damage is worst. Thank you to Alan and Ernie Boyle for their hard work and advice.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun. 28 Sept. Harvest Festival – Ballymacelligott 12.00pm

Sun. 5 Oct. Harvest Festival – St. John's 10.45am

Sun. 12 Oct. Harvest Festival – Kilgobbin 3.30pm

There is a service of Holy Communion on Wednesday in St John's Tralee at 11am, on Wednesday 17th September. However, there is a Service for Healing with the Laying on of Hands also at 11am.

We welcome the new biography of Archbishop Caird, frequent and much loved summer visitor to Camp and Castlegregory. The book; 'Donald Caird Church of Ireland Bishop: Gaelic Churchman: A Life' by Aonghus Dwane was launched at the recent centenary celebrations of the Irish Guild of the Church.

Killarney and Aghadoe Union of Parishes

Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Simon J Lumby

The Rectory, Rookery Road, Ballycasheen, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 064 66 31832 Mob: 086-8703997

Email: killarney@ardfert.anglican.org

NEW PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

On July 18th Simon J. Lumby took up residence in the Rectory in Ballycasheen prior to his Service of Welcome as Priest-in-Charge of the Union of Parishes (see page 15) Simon fills the vacancy which arose 15 months ago on the departure of Canon (now Archdeacon) Sue Watterson. Many people held the church and congregation together during the prolonged vacancy, but special thanks must go to Máirt Hanley, Jim Stevens, Canon Brian Loughheed, Joe Hardy, Eric Champ, Andrew Eadie and any others who ensured we had a twice weekly service during the vacancy.

Simon is currently on tour of the parishes meeting and greeting our people in their own homes and working very hard to meet everyone personally. Ironically, this appears to be going very well because we've seen an increase in numbers attending services week-on-week since he took over. Paradoxically, this has been matched by a huge increase in visitor numbers as well, so the church is – as the younger generation would describe – rockin' at the moment. Simon can be contacted at killarney@ardfert.anglican.org

RECTORY

As happens during any vacancy, the rectory required a lot of work in so as to get it in order for the new incumbent and many people rose to the challenge. Thanks to all the builders, painters, hosers, scrubbers and general go-fors who put in such a tremendous effort under extreme time pressure. As always, when it comes to building work and advice, John Flynn's help went beyond all expectation – thanks John! Thankfully, apart from a few finishing touches, the rectory is in near perfect condition and we earnestly hope that Noleen, Simon and Aggie (their madra) enjoy their new home.

NEW PRIEST – NEW CHANGES

Simon has certainly arrived with a fully charged battery and didn't take long to get up-and-running. The select vestry agreed that the Wednesday Morning Holy Communion service was poorly attended and Simon has called for a full congregation meeting during early September where we will consider if it wouldn't be more prudent to change to a service of Evening Worship instead. Indeed, the question of keeping the church open for visitors during the evening throughout the summer is also going to be considered. These are just some of the proposals on the cards at the moment and parishioners are certainly engaging with Simon at all levels as we determine a way forward where our current ministry can be enhanced.

SOUTH TRANSEPT

Visitors to Killarney during the summer cannot have failed to notice the massive scaffolding surrounding the south transept. John Brendan O'Mahony and his staff have now completed the restoration work and the scaffolding has been removed from the skyline in time for the judging of the Tidy Towns competition. John Brendan's work was exemplary and while he was at it he did a lot of restoration work to the chancel roof which we were earmarking for the future – and all of this at no extra cost. Alexander Vuggs, the stained glass expert, has also supervised the design and installation of the protective glass around the south rose window and the overall effect looks spectacularly good.

CONCERTS

The concert season has certainly kept us on our feet this year and this has not gone unnoticed. Andrew Eadie, who puts in such Trojan organisational work to ensure things run smoothly, received a most welcome note from Kerry County Council thanking St Mary's for our efforts in promoting Kerry's cultural identity and congratulating us on our concert season as being really innovative and appropriate to such an important building in the town. Bookings for 2015 are already flowing Andrew's way and he stresses that it would be impossible to contemplate taking them on without knowing the amazing support he's getting from all of those in the parish who give so freely of their time.

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.

God works in us and with us, not against us or without us. John Owen

We were not put on this earth to see through each other.... But to see each other through!

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness; and for poise, walk with knowledge that you are never alone.

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

Well I think it has been a good summer for most of us. The main news from the parish is of course from the cricket so here is Ron's report:

Kilcolman 2014 – So Far:

We had a good squad of players for this season, with at least 16 wanting to play.

Our first 3 matches in the Tralee T20 league went very well, recording victories over:- Kerry County Council, by 56 Runs; Valentia, by 9 Wickets; Bailey's Corner, by 7 Wickets.

We suffered our first (and so far our only) defeat to Kerry County Council, who won on the last ball of the 20th over of their innings. However we were severely handicapped in that match as we only managed to field 8 players.

We gained maximum points from our last 2 league matches but did not play these as they were both conceded to us; Valentia and Bailey's Corner could not field teams to complete these fixtures.

So Kilcolman finished top of Division 2 and go on to play Dingle, who finished 4th in Division 1, to determine who plays in Division 1 next season.

With very best wishes, Ron.

SO TO THINGS AHEAD,

This year I thought it would be good to look at a theme for the parish for the coming year. Since it fitted with some things that will be happening anyway, I opted for the theme of **Diversity**. So I hope we will be looking at the faith of our church in terms of God's gift of diversity and the richness of His grace.

The plan is to do this through looking at:

- Bio-diversity: the richness of God's gifts in the natural world, particularly looking at our buildings and grounds. The aim is to look at this through Creation Time, September 1st to October 4th, an initiative of Eco Congregation Ireland which fits in well with harvest tide.
- Historical diversity: our church is not one thread but a tapestry of many different stories that make up our collective history - old movies might be black and white but our history is not. We are looking at this in the October-November time when many are thinking about the past.
- Liturgical diversity: ways of welcome. We are members of a church that has a richness of liturgical tradition with many ways to pray and express faith. We are celebrating this through the seasons of Advent and Christmas when there are so many different types of service and people might be looking for different ways to pray
- Cultural diversity: we are a church of many different cultures in a multi cultural society. We are looking at this aspect for the season of Epiphany as that season is about Christ reaching out to all people in all cultures and the realisation of God's grace in all human culture.
- Theological diversity: in our church there are a range of different theologies and ways of doing theology. This we are looking at through Lent as this is a time for thoughtful reflection
- Vocational diversity: we all have different vocations and are given different gifts for the building up of the church and the wider community. We will look at this through Easter and

Pentecost season as these festivals are about God's gifts to us. There will be evening prayer every Tuesday with Lectio Devina, or bible reflection on second and fourth Tuesdays and articles discussed on the other Tuesdays. At least one will be chosen to reflect the theme for that season and it would be good if people could suggest or bring along articles for discussion. The third Tuesday of each month will be particularly aimed at young people and since we will have Confirmation in May I would ask that those considering confirmation attend these prayer services. I would also encourage those who were confirmed last year to come along.

Some events are yet to be confirmed but the rough schedule of extra events looks like this;

27th September (Saturday) - Reflective walk for Youth, organised in conjunction with the R.C parish of Killorglin,

28th September (Sunday) - Harvest Festival

4th October (Saturday) - Diocesan Synod, Villiers

12th October (Sunday) - Ecumenical Service (afternoon)

15th October - Sale of Work

18th October - Lutheran Harvest

14th November - Youth Event (TBC - probably pizza, movie and discussion!)

39th November - Advent carols

21st December - Christmas Carol Service, St Michael's

Rev Mairt Hanley

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

When Autumn leaves start to fall...

...it's time to take a breath and reflect on a busy summer.

Weddings:

George Owen and Sarah Harrison; Robert Rust and Nicola Brown; Ed Rogers and Julie Shackleton; and Richard Jakes and Amy Byrne. That's a lot of confetti to clear up - and still two more to come!

In July, we again had a visit from the Berkshire Schola Cantorum, who, in addition to giving very well-attended concerts in Caherciveen, Valentia and Waterville in aid of the St Michael's Heritage project, led a wonderful Choral Communion service in Waterville.

August Bank holiday weather was perfect for the (now annual) Sneem Friendship Day, on which we open the Little Church to the whole Community - lunches, plant stalls, home baking, games, face painting, bric-a-brac and most of all, an opportunity to welcome visitors to Sneem from across the world.

Our friends at Holy Cross celebrate their 150th anniversary this year, and during the redecoration of the church building, we were honoured and blessed to welcome them to celebrate their weekly Mass in St Patrick's on Saturdays throughout the summer.

August turned out to be quite aquatically oriented, with Boat (and duck) blessing at the Kenmare regatta, blessing the All-Ireland offshore rowing competition in Waterville and perhaps most exciting of all, our trip 'Round the Bay with Praise and Play', with the 'Star of Kenmare' filled to capacity with P&Pers and a parent or two,

watching seal, cormorant and the local marine wildlife.

In many ways, September marks the start of a new year, especially for young people changing school or going to college for the first time; and there is a strong sense that when summer comes to a close, it is time to get back to work. To this end, we look forward to the next step in our Growth Action Planning project, when the whole Union of Parishes comes together for a meeting to discuss our response to the challenges we face in achieving both numerical and personal spiritual growth.

Methodist News

Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Bill Olmsted
Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Rd,
Adare, Co. Limerick.
Tel: 061 396236
Email: william@olmsteds.net

July opened with our saying goodbye to Rev. Liz as she retired, and hello to the Reverend Bill as he began ministry here on the circuit. Rev Bill Olmsted came from the Portlaoise Circuit where he had served from July of 2008. A native of Iowa in the USA, he became an Irish Citizen on the 4th of July this year. His welcome service, with District Superintendent Rev Bill Mullally, was on 9/7. Since then Rev. Bill has been getting acquainted.

Other activities this summer have included a cook out at Embury Close, our participation in the Institution of Canon Liz Beasley at St Nicholas Church in Adare, and a special Mass in Askeaton to commemorate the Franciscan Friary there.

Looking ahead we will have a United Service in Ballingrane, where Rev. Bill will celebrate his 71st birthday. Sunday School will begin again on 7th September.

We look forward in faith to our new ministry.

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

After a quiet summer we're beginning to get back into the swing of things. We're looking forward to a full autumn and winter calendar of exhibitions in CB1 so do please come along and see what's on offer.

Our musicians and film makers are working hard to prepare for autumn events, including Of One Heart, a Limerick City of Culture

celebration of Christian unity due to take place on the evening of October 19th. We're delighted that Fr Peter McVerry SJ has agreed to speak at the service. We hope this event will attract members of all Christian churches in the city and beyond and of course anyone else who would like to join in. We have a great opportunity to celebrate our Christian culture together and we're wondering what exactly that will look like! Details will follow!

Our Harvest Service will take place on September 28th at 7 pm and the Very Reverend Gary Paulsen will be preaching. And good advance notice of our contribution to the City of Culture Pipe Organ Recitals – Mr Nigel Bridge will be playing in Christ Church on October 30th at 7.30 pm with some added extras.....

And a very, very big 'thank you' to Deloitte, Limerick, who chose us for their community 'Impact Day'; it was a wonderful surprise. Christ Church and Central Buildings host lots of different community based organisations and creative artists and it's absolutely brilliant to have a revamp making the whole building look fresher and more inviting.

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 Mob: 087-2745044
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 a.m.)

Prayer meetings
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8.00 a. m. – 9.00 a. m.
Wednesday 9.15-10 a. m.

Bible Study Meetings
Wednesday 8.00 p. m. (Term Time)
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.
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 on 3rd and 17th September at 8pm.
- Our meetings in Dingle continue at the - Gairdin Mhuire Day Care Centre, Green Street, Dingle and at 14 Cluain Na Fiadh, Deerpark. Lispole and BeenBawn Cottage, Binn Ban, Dingle
- In Castleisland everyone is welcome to join us on the last Monday of each month meeting at 7.30pm in An Ríocht, Crageens, Castleisland. This is the health and leisure club located beside the athletics track in Castleisland.
- "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 September meeting is scheduled for Monday 29th at 11am.
- Men's Breakfast meeting in Killarney at 8.30am on Sat 27th September.

Please pray for Laurence on the weekend 6th/7th September as he speaks at the annual celebration weekend and convention at Drimoleague Methodist Church. Also from the 11th-14th September the Methodist Missionary Society (Ireland) hosts mission leaders from Methodist Churches around Europe who make up the "European Commission on Mission". Please pray that God would guide all the discussions in this meeting. On Saturday 20th September the Midlands & Southern District Synod takes place at Gurteen College. There will be input from the Purpose and Leadership group of the Methodist Church which is charged with continuing to help the Church think and pray about how we are to be most effective in our ongoing mission. On Saturday 4th October there is a gathering in Portlaoise of representatives from Methodist congregations around Ireland where there is a significant multi-ethnic dimension. What a joy it is in many congregations to have people from many different places around the world. Please pray that this gathering will nurture, support and inspire multi-ethnic churches for ministry and mission.

On Friday 26th September we're looking forward to a worship celebration at the "Gateway" Methodist premises in Kenmare. We're delighted that people from other churches in the area will be joining with us. It should be a blessed night.

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Shannon DeLaureal
The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary
Tel: 0505 21670 Mobile: 085 1920 808
Email: Shannon.delaureal@irishmethodist.org

I want to say a special word of "thanks" to all the people from the Methodist, Catholic and the Church of Ireland churches along with other Tipperary and Offaly folks, who have warmly welcomed my family and me to this circuit. Your kindness, hospitality, and warm friendly spirits have helped us feel very welcomed. We are looking forward to settling more into our home and serving God along with you in ministry.

As I write, the summer sun is fading and the cooler windy weather is arriving. Autumn is fast approaching which means special services are in the making and regular church activities will soon resume. It is Harvest time and we give thanks to God Almighty for the bounty of the earth and the fruits of our labour. Here is a peek at our upcoming special services.

SPECIAL SERVICES:

Sunday 7th September 11:30am – District Methodist Women in Ireland service at Borrisokane Methodist. Rev. Helen Freeburn, from Galway United Methodist Presbyterian Church, is leading the service. Lunch and an afternoon programme to follow. Cost is €20 per person.

Friday 19th September 8pm – Shinrone – Harvest Service led by Rev. S. DeLaureal

Sunday 21st September 7pm – Roscrea – Harvest Service with MCI President, Rev. Peter Murray, preaching

Friday 3rd October 7pm – Borrisokane – Harvest Service led by Rev. S. DeLaureal

Sunday 5th October 7pm – Cloughjordan – Harvest Service led by Rev. Des Bain.

All are welcome to attend any of these special services. May God continue to bless all our communities and deepen our friendships in the name of Christ this Harvest Season.

Grace and peace to you,
Rev. Shannon DeLaureal



Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote:

How beautiful to have the church always open, so that every tired wayfaring man may come in and be soothed by all that art can suggest of a better world when he is weary of this.

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

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Tara Downer & Aiden Creamer who were married in St. Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan on 2nd August.

Best wishes to Hazel Cavanagh & Joe Dervan who are to be wed in St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church in Galway on 3rd October.

We wish both couples every blessing in their futures together.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the fellowship of the Church – Mea Lily Harding Fogarty, daughter of Colin and Olivia and Peadar Edward Murray, son of Sarah Harding and Aidan Murray who were baptised in Borrisokane Church on 19th July and 23rd August, respectively.

BEREAVEMENTS

Doreen Galbraith of Main Street, Cloughjordan died peacefully at Rivervale Nursing Home in Nenagh surrounded by family and friends on 21st July. Her funeral took place in St. Kieran's Church Cloughjordan and she was buried in Ardcolm Churchyard, Castlebridge in Wexford. Doreen had many many friends in the local community where as a businesswoman she was held in high esteem and affection and was unfailingly generous and kind in all her dealings. Just a couple of weeks before her death she undertook a last outing to church in Cloughjordan and was so happy to be back in the congregation where she was a faithful member for so many years. Our sympathy and prayers go especially to Mervyn, Cyril & June her children and all the family in this time of loss.

Freddie Armitage who had lived in Manchester for many years came home for the last time on 19th July following his unexpected death on 14th July. A large crowd of family and friends from near and far came to say their farewells at his funeral in St. Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan. He was buried in Modreeny graveyard and made the trip there by carriage drawn by four magnificent Fresian horses, a fitting tribute for a keen horseman. Victor Austin, one of his nephews gave a very moving tribute to his uncle at the service. Our prayers and sympathy go to his wife Louise extended family Joan, Adele, Lisa, Neil and Patrick, Brother Des (Kilkenny). Sisters Ethel Poole (Rosenallis), Phyllis Wilson (Cloughkeating) and Florrie Austin (Modreeny) and his grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and many friends.

Frances Dann of Nenagh Road, Borrisokane and previously Riversdale, Borrisokane died after a short illness on the 1st August surrounded by her loving family. Frances was a very dedicated and active parishioner and among other things played a huge role in the work of the Mothers' Union at both parish and diocesan level. An extremely talented person, Frances was very caring, and a generous hostess who welcomed all to the home she shared with her beloved Jonathan. Our prayers and sympathy go to her husband Jonathan, her daughters Hazel, Susan, Gillian and Joyce, her brothers George and Harry, sisters-in-law, brother-in-law, sons-in-law and her treasured grandchildren

FAREWELLS

Bishop Trevor

We wish Bishop Trevor and his wife Joyce a long happy and healthy retirement in Dundrum Co. Down. During his time in our midst Bishop Trevor made his mark as one who combined a gentle humility and a warm and generous heart for his people and their clergy. In this he was supported at every step by Joyce and we will really miss them 'about the place' God speed and every blessing.

Rev'd Brian Griffin

Our fellow Christians in the Methodist Church bade farewell to their minister and District Superintendent the Rev'd Brian Griffin who with his wife Eirene has retired to France. A very ecumenical gathering including Bishop Trevor and a number of local clergy and congregations from all denominations gathered to say their thanks and goodbyes. A presentation was made by Canon Neill on behalf of the Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes.

In succession to the Rev'd Brian we welcome Rev Shannon DeLaurel who hails from Louisiana USA to the North Tipperary circuit and look forward to working with her in the years ahead in our common witness and service

MONEYGALL HALL

The hall was officially reopened on 31st July at a public reception attended by parishioners, members of the local community and representatives of grant bodies LEADER and OLDC to whom we are very grateful and the Project Manager Brian England, together with some of the building contractors involved in what was a fine job and a credit to all involved. Presentations were made to Roisin Lennon of OLDC/LEADER for her part in assisting us with the grant application and compliance and also to Buddy and Daphne Powell for their particular role in liaising with the various contractors on behalf of the parish and overseeing a lot of the final touches to the hall. There are many others who are worthy of thanks and we thank everyone who made this possible. The parish has a facility to be proud of and one which will be of benefit to the whole community.

Harvests: Details will be published on www.modreeny.com when finalised.

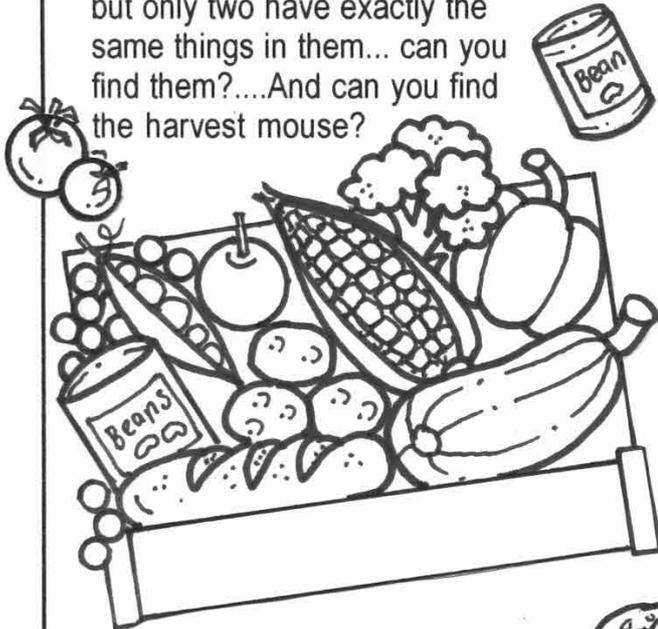


"Delivery for whoever ordered the trendy alternative to a basket of groceries..."



Mouse Makes

The boxes are full of harvest food for Harvest Thanksgiving, but only two have exactly the same things in them... can you find them?....And can you find the harvest mouse?



'Let us **fear and respect** the Lord our God.

He gives us autumn and spring rains at the right time.

He makes sure that we have the harvest at just the right time.'

Jeremiah 5:24



HARVEST THANKSGIVING

'May the peoples praise you, God!

May all the peoples praise you.

The land yields its harvest; God, our God blesses us."

Psalm 67:5-6



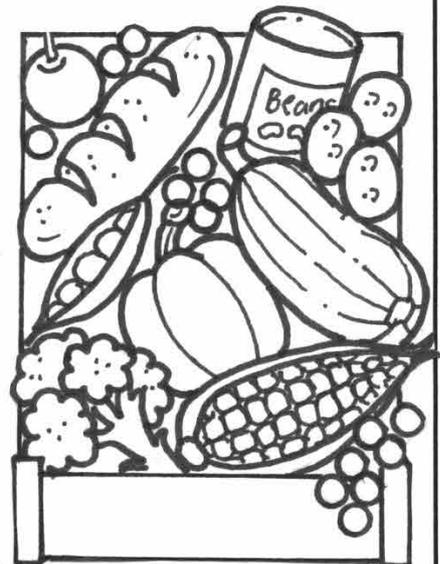
'Honour the Lord with your wealth and the first part of your harvest'.

Proverbs 3:9



'God...gives you rain from heaven and good harvests at the right times. He gives you plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy'

Acts 14:16-17



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Bursaries & Discounts

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

Scholarships

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

Prompt Payment Draw

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

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