



NEWSLINK

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

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

Letter from the Commissary

'The Lord be with you!' A familiar greeting, as we hear it at the beginning of most of our services in church, except during Eastertide. What we need to remember is that it is not just a casual greeting, like 'Good morning' or 'How do you do?'. It is both a wish and a reminder of a promise. The wish, of course, is that the Lord will be with the congregation. The promise is from Jesus: 'Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. (Matthew 18:20)'. When we gather in his name, for worship and praise and thanksgiving, he is with us. That is something we need to remember (especially when the congregation is small), but it isn't very surprising. That is, after all, why we're there – to meet Jesus in Word and Sacrament, in prayer and praise. If Jesus *wasn't* there, we shouldn't be either!

But Jesus' promise to be present whenever Christians were gathered in his name wasn't just restricted to times of worship. He is present *whenever* we are gathered in his name – Select Vestry meetings, Diocesan Synods, Mothers' Union, GFS and BB gatherings, building or fundraising committees, Sunday School teachers' meetings, Diocesan Chapter meetings – wherever and whenever we as Christians gather. That is, of course, a great blessing, and one we need to be aware of. But it is also a great responsibility. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords is in the meeting with us, hearing everything we say, everything we think. Are our words, our thoughts, always those we would want to share in front of Jesus? Do we sometimes lose our tempers, say angry, hurtful things to others in our meetings? If we do, are we really gathered *in his name*? After all, whether we're worshipping or planning how to fix the roof, surely we ought to be there in his name. Our parishes are not organisations dedicated to collect money and maintain buildings. Of course those things are

important, but they're important precisely so the money and the buildings, can be used to worship God and to build his Kingdom in our world through our ministry and our mission.

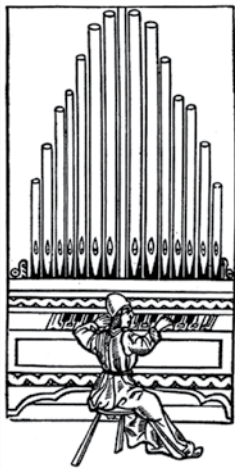
And so, perhaps we should begin every meeting, every gathering, with 'The Lord be with you!' Right at the beginning, before the opening prayer (if there is one!), before the apologies and the minutes, no matter if we're meeting in the church building, a parish hall, a hotel, or someone's sitting room. And remember that he *is* with us, if we invite him to come into our gathering, into our hearts. And also remember to act accordingly, as our Creator, Redeemer, and Judge is with us, aware of everything we say. 'And also with you!'

I want to thank everyone for their support of the Flynn family, and of me, following Canon George's untimely death. We have lost a great pastor and priest, and we continue to keep Gwyn and the boys, and their extended family, in our prayers in this difficult time. Do also please keep Canon Ken Kearon, our Bishop-elect, in your prayers as he prepares to come among us as our Father-in-God.

Yours in Christ,
Wayne Carney, Archbishop's Commissary

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Editorial

- Where are the prophetic voices?

As I write this on Tuesday 23rd September, 100 government leaders are meeting in New York at the Climate Summit called by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon. I have been watching some of their speeches on UN web TV: President Obama said, "We have to raise our collective ambition"; President Hollande pledged \$1 Billion to poor countries for adaptation; Prime Minister Cameron called for a "new, ambitious global deal" to restrict global warming to 2°C; our Taoiseach Enda Kenny called for world leaders' "conviction, clarity, courage and consistency" in response to climate change.

The science is clear: climate change driven by human behaviour is real, and too little has yet been done to prevent looming climate catastrophe. The economics are clear: it will cost more to delay climate action than to take it. The social effects are clear: climate change will first impoverish the world's poor, who already suffer its effects, but the rich will also suffer, if a little later. The theology is clear too: God created this wonderful world, saw it was very good, and placed us in it to till and keep it; Jesus enjoins us to love God and our neighbour as ourselves; to knowingly damage God's world and impoverish our neighbours is sinful.

It is our Christian duty to act to limit climate change. We must pray that world leaders' fine words are matched by action and flexibility in future negotiations. But as parishes and individuals we must also strive both to limit our carbon emissions, and to hold leaders to account.

But what about the Church of Ireland? Despite the efforts of organisations like Eco Congregation Ireland and individual priests, the voice of our Church on climate change is strangely muted. Where are the prophetic voices for climate action? It would be good to hear from the Bishops.

God bless, Joc Sanders

Diocesan Calendar

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

Wed 8th October, 1.15pm – 2pm

Lunchtime Concert, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Sat 11th October, 8pm

Storytelling and Music, Aghancon Hall, Admission €10

Sat 11th October, 8pm

Whist Drive, St Michael's Church Hall, Limerick

Sun 12th October

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

Thu 16th October, 8.15pm

Whist Drive, Aghancon Hall

Sat 18th October, 11am–2pm

Limerick City Parish Fête, Villiers School, Limerick

Sat 18th October, 2.30pm

Annual Autumn Fayre and Auction, Aghancon Hall

Sat 18th October, 7.30pm

UDYC Fellowship Group, Kilmurry Church, Castletroy, Limerick

Wed 22nd October, 1.15pm – 2pm

Lunchtime Concert, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Sat 25th– Mon 27th October

CIYD Anois Youth Event, Kilkenny College

Wed 5th November, 1.15pm – 2pm

Lunchtime Concert, St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Fri 7th – Sun 9th November

UDYC Junior Weekend, The Durrow Centre, Durrow, Co. Laois

Sat 8th November, 8pm

Whist Drive, St Michael's Church Hall, Limerick

Newslink

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

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

Editor

In addition to news from parishes, schools and diocesan organisations, the Editor is delighted to receive articles and letters for publication, as well as suggestions as to how Newslink may be improved.

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

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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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Half Page	596	534	77	71
Quarter Page	299	268	39	36
Eighth Page	149	133	19	18

Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer – October 2014

Each Sunday

Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Cashel, Ferns & Ossary and Bishop Michael Burrows

Companion Diocese: The five Dioceses of the Protestant Church of Anhalt, Germany.

Diocese: Rev'd Canon Dr. Kenneth Kearon, our Bishop Elect & Archdeacon Wayne Carney the Archbishop's Commisary during the episcopal vacancy

5th October – 16th after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church in Wales and Most Revd Dr Barry Morgan, Archbishop of Wales & Bishop of Llandaff

Diocese: We pray for all the plans and initiatives which have come from our Diocesan Synod yesterday, that God will bless all our endeavours; and we pray for the Diocesan Youth Leaders Retreat taking place next weekend in Roscrea

12th October – 17th after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of West Africa Gambia, presently vacant

Diocese: Pray for the farming Community throughout our United Diocese, giving thanks for a good year and celebrating the harvest of the land.

19th October – 18th after Trinity, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church in the Province of the West Indies and Most Revd & The Hon Dr John Holder, Archbishop of West Indies & Bishop of Barbados

CofI/Diocese: We pray for the ANOIS Youth event taking place next weekend in Kilkenny College

26th October – 5th Sunday before Advent, Green

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Ceylon (E-P to the Archbishop of Canterbury), Rt Revd Dhiloraj Ranjit Canagasabey, Bishop of Colombo, and Rt Revd Greg Shantha Kumar Francis, Bishop of Kurunagala

Diocese: As we approach the season of All Saints and All Souls we remember all those both lay and clerical who have faithfully served this diocese and are now in God's nearer presence and we recall especially Canon George Flynn giving thanks for his life and ministry

MEET UP

Are you Separated or Divorced?

Join us for coffee and a chat in the Arts and Heritage Centre, Old Kilmurray Church, Castletroy.

Last Saturday of October, November & December. 10.30am – 12 noon

Does your spouse have dementia?

We are carrying out research looking to gain an insight into the health and wellbeing of those who live with someone who has dementia. For more information about taking part please contact Alan Galvin or Dr Maria Pertl at Trinity College on 01 896 8414.

Meditation for July & August

It's not just the stones that will cry out...

One day, the trees will tell their story;
how throughout the growing of the world
they held their peace – sighing sometimes,
sometimes weeping as their bark was flayed
but always breathing, that the earth may breath.
How they built the ships of exploration, fuelled
the stoves that warmed and fed; how they strung
the bows of conquest, struck
hard leather in men's games.
How they, fashioned by men's hands, offered
comfort to his tired back and legs.
How, in their most degraded usage, they
held the nails that held the hands
that healed the humankind that slew them.
Their forebear told them, in a dream, that
Crīst wæs on rōde.

One day, the trees will tell their story;
how throughout the growing of the world
they were content to offer up their bodies to be burnt
and how we burned them,
used them till the world itself began to weep its floods.
Greedily we burned them, used them as a means to gather
money made of paper made of them.
Burned until they stood as lonely as an owl at sunrise,
and could not breathe enough, and choked
and withered from the smoke they burnt by.
As did we.

One day, the trees will tell their story;
but not to us. For they will find
a better ear to tell it to,
with gentler blood, and less self-centred mind.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu's - Prayer for Climate Action

As the leaders of the world return from the UN Climate Summit held in New York on 23rd September, let us reflect on the outcome, and redouble our commitment to protect the world God has given us, praying in the words of this prayer by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Creator God,
You have called us to be keepers of your Earth;
Through greed, we have established an economy that destroys the
web of life.
We have changed our climate and drown in despair.
Let oceans of justice flow,
May we learn to sustain and renew the Life of our Mother Earth.
We pray for our leaders, custodians of Mother Earth,
as they gather in New York City at the climate talks.
May they negotiate with wisdom and fairness,
May they act with compassion and courage,
and lead us in the path of justice,
for the sake of our children and our children's children.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Máirt's Musings – The benefits of exercise

by Rev Máirt Hanley, Kilcolman Union

I wrote the following article about a day before the tragic death of George Flynn. I offer it here because it is mostly about the blessing of difference. George always struck me as a little bit different, someone who brought variety and good humour to our diocese. We were greatly blessed by his time with us; Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

I have two themes fighting in my head for attention and as usual when I don't know which one to go with I will try both. The first one is the most obvious to me and any Church of Ireland person – it's Harvest Festival time! The second is probably what the rest of ye think I will be thinking about, the passing of Ian Paisley, of the actor who played Jaws in the Bond films and of the English actor with the really posh voice. There is actually a link here and that link is biodiversity. Now before you decide that I have finally lost the plot for good, let me explain.

I will start with the second point, the recent passing of so many famous people, and not just famous, but iconic. Mork has gone back to Orson, Joan Rivers has flowed to the sea, the Rockford Files have closed. Ian Paisley, Richard Attenborough, Lauren Bacall, Mickey Rooney and Shirley Temple have all passed away this year. It feels like many of those icons who made up my childhood have just died – and more than that, those who were the last representatives of their age, as well as a smattering of other memorable public figures. When I look at these, I am struck by the variety that they represent. Maybe it is just the eyes of nostalgia seeing this, but it seems to me that there was a lot more variety in the days of my youth. It was great to see such different people being paraded in front of us to stir up our imaginations. They may not always have been to

our liking, but they were who they were. These days a lot of people in the public eye, who are courting public opinion, seem to have sent out scouts, done focus groups, decided what the public wants and have moulded themselves to suit the results. This gives us a blander world with less spice and difference. Which brings me back to Harvest Festival.



One of the things that it is traditional to do is to decorate the altar with produce. In many parishes the younger children will make up baskets from their gardens. One of the things that strikes me when I look at these displays is the biodiversity that they show. The massive range of taste in flowers, fruit and veg speaks to me of the richness of God's blessings to us in creation. It also reminds me of our need to keep it real (I don't like artificial plants, especially in churches) and keep it diverse. Oil Palm trees might be fine in and of themselves but hundreds of acres of them and nothing else seems a waste. There are more to gardens than lawns and roses. When we have the opportunity to steward part of God's earth let's do it with a bit of variety thrown in to the mix. It makes for a healthier and more interesting world. Like the celebrities of my youth and their media appearances, it may not always be neat and tidy but it will be more vibrant and, please God, life giving.

Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

Welcome back everybody! Hope you all enjoyed the lovely summer.

CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH held an Ice-cream Party for their first GFS Meeting on 10th September. The girls enjoyed scoops of delicious ice-cream in cornets topped off with sauces and various sprinkles. There was enough for a second and even a third helping. The ice-creams certainly went down well. Girls played some games also and there were plenty of opportunities for the girls to chat and catch up. We look forward to continued fun and friendship in the year ahead.

DIOCESAN FUN DAY

This year GFS Council decided to have a Diocesan Fun day instead of the annual Quiz night. The fun day was held in Cloughjordan on the 20th September and many thanks to Grace Healy and all the leaders in the branch for the tremendous work undertaken. As with all new ventures, there were many concerns about how the event would be received well by girls and leaders. We need not have worried as the day was a massive success. 54 girls attended beginning with cup-cake decorating with Valerie and Charlotte Lewis. Many thanks to Valerie and Charlotte for providing all the equipment and materials for the girls to decorate their cup-cakes.



Hip Hop Dancing followed with Michelle Richardson from MY School of Music. There was great participation from all the girls. After an hour of great activity girls were well able to perform a Hip Hop routine.



When the music stopped and girls were sitting comfortably Michelle Armitage kindly shared her memories of GFS World Council. Michelle was the All Ireland Delegate to World Council in Wales. She showed photography, gifts she received and lots of happy memories (see Michelle's report page 22).

The day concluded with lots of cup-cakes and other refreshments provided by Cloughjordan branch. A very big thank you to all the leaders and girls who attended.

GFS WORLD COUNCIL

Grace Healy and Michelle Armitage (Junior Delegate for Ireland) attended World Council in Wales in July. We are really looking forward to hearing about their time at World Council. On behalf of us all, thank you Grace and Michelle for representing their branch, the Diocese and All Ireland.



25 YEARS OF DIOCESAN CAMPS

2014 is the 25th Anniversary of GFS Camp in the Diocese of Killaloe & Clonfert. There are plans to celebrate this wonderful achievement during the summer. We are looking for memorabilia or photos which may be used as part of a celebration event. Please contact myself or any branch leaders if you would like to share your memories. Camp is always the highlight of the GFS year so I look forward to hearing from anyone who attended at any time during the past 25 years. Please email rose.langley@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Diocesan Council Meeting in St. Mary's Church, Nenagh on Thursday, 13th November at 8 pm.

Christmas Craft Day is scheduled to take place in Birr on Saturday, 29th November. All proceeds from this event go towards Diocesan Camp in June – the more money we raise from events like the Craft Day the less parents will be asked to pay June.

Christmas Tree Festival – GFS will take part in the Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's Church, Nenagh from 13th until 21st December. Leaders and girls in all the branches are very busy getting started on the Bible Study and Craft Syllabus for 2014/5.

Wishing you all fun and friendship in GFS for the coming year.

Marching is something that Boys' Brigade no longer needs to introduce to its younger companies, it is still a very impressive set of skills to keep for the more established.

Next time, for two of our activities, we will be delighted to welcome back basket ball coach Patsy Farrell for some skills training, and our own David O'Brien will be doing some soccer skills training.

Mothers' Union

DIOCESAN FESTIVAL SERVICE

On September 14th 2014 the Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Service took place in St. Flannan's Cathedral in Killaloe Co Clare.

The service was led by the Very Rev. Gary Paulsen, Dean of Killaloe, with The Venerable Archdeacon Wayne Carney representing the Bishop.

Dean Paulsen welcomed the large congregation, especially our visitors from our companion Diocese of Anhalt in Eastern Germany and Mrs Phyllis Grothier, All Ireland President of Mothers' Union.

The service began with the procession of clergy followed by the procession of Mothers' Union banners from many of the branches represented at the service.

Mrs Ina Blackwell, Diocesan President, read the first letter from the Book of Ezekiel and the Gospel was read by the Dean and taken from the Gospel according to St. Mark.

Mrs Phyllis Grothier gave the address, relating to the congregation the news that the Mothers' Union in Iraq now have 3,000 members and talking about the theme "Sowing the Future Together", in that, we as Mothers' Union members are part of an "active, dynamic, praying organisation" focusing on Faith in Society today, Families needing support and our motto "Christian Care for Families Worldwide". Phyllis also introduced us to a new motto when she asked us all to be DAFT!

DAFT being D – Daring, A – Agreeable, F – Faithful and T – True. She said there is plenty of evidence to convict us of being Mothers' Union members from all the work being done through Mothers' Union for example the Parenting programme, the Literacy programme, Prison and Care Home visiting, A.F.I.A., the Relief Fund and Overseas projects but most importantly Prayer.

Following the address, Dean Paulsen invited members of the Diocesan Trustees to come forward to be commissioned by Archdeacon Carney, who blessed the work they carry out in their office as Trustees. Following this members of the Mothers' Union from different areas of the Diocese led the prayers prior to the Eucharist.

The collection taken up during the service will go to further the work of Mothers' Union.



Archdeacon Wayne Carney, Mrs Phyllis Grothier, Mrs Ina Blackwell and Dean Gary Paulsen

Boys' Brigade



NENAGH 1ST COMPANY

We're back! Peter Moynan from Moynan Cycles, Nenagh put the boys through some fun cycle skills training that will help them achieve their cycling proficiency badge in October. The boys practiced negotiating cones laid out in circle, rectangle and figure of eight configurations, which will build their control skills. They all observed our "helmet at all times" rule, if not the "not too fast" one... We did a time trial too, just for fun! Well done to Daniel (4th), Brehon (3rd), Harry (2nd) and Jack (1st).

We had a surprise visitor too! Harry Backhouse who is the Captain of 1st Chryston Company in Scotland came to see what we get up to and also to tell us a bit about their own company, which formed at the start of the twentieth century! They have had a full marching band for most of that time which, although

Dean Paulsen thanked all who had taken part in the service and invited all to stay for refreshments.

Mrs Ina Blackwell thanked Dean Paulsen, Archdeacon Carney and Mrs Grothier and all those who had participated in the service and gave special thanks to the ladies of Killaloe for arranging the refreshments and she asked Phyllis to say a few words.

Thanking Dean Paulsen for inviting Mothers' Union to hold their Festival Service in Killaloe, Phyllis commented on how beautiful and special St. Flannan's is and how much she enjoys occasions like these where she can get to chat and mingle with MU members in such a friendly atmosphere.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

In May Rev. Ruth Gill and Jean Talbot of Faith and Policy Unit had an afternoon for older people (members and non members) in Aghancon. Rev Ruth opened with prayers and a Hymn, then all joined in a sing along with Mr John Armitage from Cloughjordan. Ms Susan Jackson brought a various number of leaves and all had fun guessing the correct names. Afternoon tea was provided by the ladies from Shinrone/Kinnitty/Aghancon branch.

In June our oldest indoor Member, Mrs Charlotte Hodgins died – just 101. She had been an active member of Aghancon Branch many years ago. She had gone to live with her son and daughter-in-law for some time, but kept in touch with her many friends even till her passing.

BALLINASLOE

St. John's Church Ballinasloe was the venue for the combined Opening Service of Praise and Prayer for Ballinasloe/Aughrim branches. Approx. 12 members participated in the prayers and bible readings. "A joyful and very prayerful service" – comment of member after the service.

The first meeting of the new season takes place on October 10th at 8pm, when the speaker will be Jacqueline Daly – coordinator of the East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support Centre in Ballinasloe. Non members are invited to join us for what promises to be a very interesting and informative meeting.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

"There are still vacancies for "A one day Conference for young Women" to be held on 18th October in Killeslin Hotel, Portlaoise. The day will be a time to relax, have fun and find out about Mothers' Union. Contact Betty Delahunt – 057 939019/ Margaret Schutz – 061 336141 or Ina Blackwell 057 9131253 .

Will Trustees and Diocesan Council members please note that their next meeting will be held in old Killmurray Church Dublin Road, Limerick, on November 1st. Agendas and full details will be sent in October.

United Diocesan Youth Council

U.D.Y.C. FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The group held their meeting for the new term on Saturday 20th September where those present had a great evening. Please note that this group will be meeting again on third Saturday of each month (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. Booking essential for bus – contact Edward at 087 2907553.

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.

ANOIS 2014 – "PASSION"

Kilkenny College, Castlecomer Rd., Kilkenny
Saturday 25th October – Monday 27th October 2014 (Bank Holiday Weekend) 13 – 19 Year Olds

We are delighted to announce that JASPER RUTHERFORD from Summer Madness will again return this year to be our main speaker at the event...not only that but the MARK FERGUSON BAND will also return to lead worship. The theme chosen for this year's event will be "PASSION". If you're up for the challenge and adventure ANOIS provides, come along this year – you'll not regret it!

The Anois programme will include the following: Creative and Exciting Worship, Small group times for fun, exploration, discussion and prayer, Dynamic lively workshops, Karting at Kiltorcan Raceway at Ballyhale, Bowling & Activities at K-Bowl Entertainment Centre Kilkenny followed by shopping and coffee, Zipline, Archery, Climbing & Abseiling at Team Dynamics Kilkenny, Inflatable Bungy Run, Rodeo Bull and Gladiator, Chill zone with more games than ever before, Tuck Shop, Pancakes, Pamper Zone is back, Café with the ever famous Table Quiz and acoustic sessions, Giant Games including Jenga, Dominos, Connect 4, Table Tennis, Archery, Swing Ball etc, Sacred Space: A special place set aside to pause...pray...reflect...a space to explore faith and be creative, Some old favourites including soccer; uni-hockey; basketball, Once again the "Anois Factor" & Disco. The event in total will have good food and much more fun and fellowship than ever before at any other weekend event.....

The cost for the event is €80 if booked and fully paid up by Friday 17th October 2014 the final date for bookings. There will be return transport from numerous locations country-wide at a special price for an additional €20 OR £15 from all locations.

Junior Weekend 2014

Friday 7th – Sunday 9th November 2014
Durrow Centre, Knocknagrally, Durrow, Co. Laois
10-13 year olds

What's on? Our action packed programme for our Junior Weekend 2014 will include the following: Zany Icebreaker Games, Awesome and Creative Worship & Workshops, Karting at Kiltorcan Raceway at Ballyhale, Reptile Zoo Conservation Village Kilkenny, Dunmore Cave Kilkenny, Fast Food at Supermac's Kilkenny, Swimming at Portlaoise Leisure Centre, Disco, Good Food, A bit of sleep, And much more FUN, FAITH and FELLOWSHIP than one could ever imagine.....

How Much? The weekend will cost €100 per person and this will include all transport, food, activities and accommodation. Final Date for receipt of bookings is Friday 31st October 2014.

For Further information and booking forms for all events please contact Edward at 087/2907553.



On the 17th of August a small, but lively, group gathered in Mucross Venture Centre in Killarney for a chance to catch up with old youth council friends and to make new ones. The week began with some "zany" icebreaker games and a lovely walk around Muckross Abbey. Once everyone returned from their walk, and enjoyed some lovely biscuits, Damian led a beautiful opening worship to get us into the swing of things. Throughout the week the group participated in many activities such as a visit to Cappanalea, the Aghadoe High Ropes course and an overnight trip to Cape Clear. An impromptu trip to the cinema was enjoyed by all and though it rained during a scenic walk through the Gap of Dunloe (quite suddenly and without shelter) everyone managed to avoid contracting a cold. The subject of baptism was explored and explained well by Damian and all of the participants joined in worship, asking insightful questions and sharing their opinion with the group as a whole. Though some of our gathering left midweek for their Debs ball, they provided us with plenty of pictures and assured us of their extreme enjoyment of the night. During our small but invigorating game of paintball we took part in a "Last Man Standing" contest, won by none other than Edward himself! A fun time was had by all and the week was closed by a Eucharist service led by Killarney parish's own Simon Lumby and attended by many members of the surrounding parishes.

UL Chaplaincy

Highlights of the past year through the story of the posters

The colourful posters in my Desk Folder, ready for inspection by my Line Manager, UL Quality Review Team and other chaplains, give a good review of a slice of life in the Chaplaincy over the last year.

- The first poster was created for our **Diocesan event in Villiers**, in September 2013. The organizers cleverly thought of a clothes line of colourful posters pegged together to represent the activities of the Diocese. Students past and present made a valuable contribution to the day.
- A poster for the joint UL/Mary Immaculate College, Limerick seminar on 17th October, 2013, for a day of reflection on '**Building the Common Household of Faith; Gender and Inter Faith Dialogue**'. This was held in Mary I as a combined regional initiative, supported by the work of the Inter Faith Working Group of the Church of Ireland. A broad mix of participants of different ages, occupations and faith backgrounds met to hear good speakers on the day.
- A fundraising poster was created for a **Coffee Morning**

reminding me that in November we raised funds to help a UL PhD student to send money to a remote community in **Georgia, Eastern Europe**, whom she met while on a field trip for a music project in liturgical choral singing. Another UL M.A. student then wrote up a very original **thesis on the UL Chaplaincy**, giving a generous analysis of the hospitality of the chaplaincy and the day's events which included a performance of a choral group from the UL World Academy of Music and Dance.

- A **Christmas Meditation and Tea Ceremony** poster was created for the 12th of December, 2013, a very successful relaxation, mindfulness and deep meditation exercise, followed by an awakening Tea Ceremony in the Teach Fáilte, Drop In Centre. Students reported that it helped them as they were studying for exams and asked for it to be repeated.
- A **UL Inter Faith Directory** was completed after long research in order to help students find a contact point in the city for the vibrant number of faith communities to be found there. It is now being reprinted.
- A stream running through a desert in Egypt created the poster for the **UL World Day of Prayer Service**, held in March 2014. Forty or so people took part in this event.
- **Worship and Sharing** was the theme poster for a very well attended event held in the Contemplative Centre and Teach Fáilte Drop in Centre on Sunday 18th May, 2014. We did run out of seats but had a great afternoon of music, singing and readings, organised as a joint venture between the **MidWest Inter Faith Group**, who met in UL over the winter, and the UL Chaplaincy. A delicious array of international food meant many lingered to chat outside.
- Finally a **Menu** helped students at the start of the year to understand the function of our Chaplaincy Drop In Centre. It reads: *'Do show respect for all; Do make new friends and reach out to your neighbour; Do enjoy the facilities; Do tidy up; Do listen to each other; Do share and learn about other's beliefs; Do not be afraid to ask for help; Do not overstay!... A place of welcome to all. A place to meet, have fun and rest. A place to be together.'*

Rev'd (Dr) Patricia Mckee Hanna
Email: patricia.hanna@ul.ie

Safeguarding Trust

On the 1st of January 2014 the Child and Family Agency became an independent legal entity, comprising HSE Children & Family Services, Family Support Agency and the National Educational Welfare Board as well as incorporating some psychological services and a range of services responding to domestic, sexual and gender based violence.

The Child and Family Agency is now the dedicated State agency responsible for improving wellbeing and outcomes for children.

The Agency operates under the Child and Family Agency Act 2013. Under this act, the Child and Family Agency is charged with:

- supporting and promoting the development, welfare and protection of children, and the effective functioning of families
- offering care and protection for children in circumstances where their parents have not been able to, or are unlikely to, provide the care that a child needs. In order to discharge these responsibilities, the Agency is required to maintain and develop the services needed in order to deliver these supports to children and families, and provide certain services for the

psychological welfare of children and their families

- responsibility for ensuring that every child in the State attends school or otherwise receives an education, and for providing education welfare services to support and monitor children's attendance, participation and retention in education
- ensuring that the best interests of the child guides all decisions affecting individual children
- consulting children and families so that they help to shape the agency's policies and services
- strengthening interagency co-operation to ensure seamless services responsive to needs
- undertaking research relating to its functions, and providing information and advice to the Minister regarding those functions and commissioning services relating to the provision of child and family services.

All child protection concerns should now be reported to the Child and Family Agency. A standard reporting form is available from their website – www.tusla.ie. Details of all the duty social workers and their working hours are also available on the website.

We have a diocesan safeguarding trust support team which has been carrying out training evenings during the past year. Parish panel training took place in Cloughjordan on the 18th March and we are grateful to Mrs Renée English, Child Protection Officer for the Republic for attending and helping with the training. Ten panel members were trained on this occasion. Worker training has taken place in Cloughjordan, Ennis, Banagher, Limerick and Killorglin. In total approximately 120 workers have been trained in the past year. It is the parish panel's responsibility to ensure all workers and panel members are trained and training can be arranged when requested, if possible neighbouring parishes should try to arrange training in a central location convenient to as many people as possible.

All parishes are now due a safeguarding trust evaluation and we have begun to arrange dates with the parish panels.

A new Garda vetting form has been introduced and all new applications for Garda vetting must be made on this new form, a copy of which is available for download from the diocesan website.

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

The school year ended in June with some memorable events. Lady Geraldine Dunraven invited all the pupils, parents and teachers to her home on the 25th June to celebrate the school's 200th birthday. This was a wonderful birthday party with delicious treats, a super birthday cake and lots of entertainment. The party was held in a magnificent tepee in her garden. Thank you to Lady Geraldine for organising such a splendid party.



St Nicholas' 200th Anniversary cake!

The talent show highlighted the diversity of talent amongst our pupils with displays of music, singing, dancing and acting to name but a few.

Our final event was a gathering of all pupils, parents and teachers in St. Nicholas' Church to say farewell to those who were leaving at the end of the year and to thank them and their families for their contribution to the school.

School re-opened on a beautiful sunny day on Thursday 28th August and we have enjoyed some lovely September weather since then. Our new pupils have settled in and we hope Calum, Rose, Lorna, Lily, Chloe, Robbie, Stewart, Tobi and Ciarán will enjoy all the fun of Junior Infants. Emma has joined Senior Infants, Keeva and Ruadhri are in 2nd class and we welcomed Kristoffer to 6th class. We were very sorry to say goodbye to Michael Southgate as he and his family moved to Co. Galway at the end of August.

We were delighted to welcome Rev. Liz Beasley to school on our first day back and she will join us for assembly on Thursday mornings.



Well done to St Nicholas' Novice Junior Chess Team

Swimming classes have begun and take place every Friday morning in Askeaton Pool for pupils in 1st to 6th classes until mid-term break.

We welcomed new parents to school on Wednesday evening 10th September to introduce our Bookworm Club, Mata le Chéile and Jolly Phonics programme.

On Tuesday 16th September the senior pupils headed off to the Hunt Museum in Limerick to take part in Open House Limerick, a project which encourages children to look at the buildings in Limerick and explore ideas on how to improve them. The results of this project will be on display in Arthur's Quay in October.

A short service was held in the church on September 11th to mark the beginning of the school year. Thank you to Rev. Liz who took the service.

We participated in the Harvest Thanksgiving service in St. Nicholas' Church on September 26th when the children sang "Who put the White in the Clouds".

St Mary's No. 2 National School, Nenagh

We returned to our books on the 28th of August. We welcome our new students to junior Infants – Harriet, Oliwia, Samuel, Joshua, Danny, Filip, Noah and Edas. We also wish Danielle, who joins 4th Class a very warm welcome.

We would like to welcome two new members of staff to the school. Ms Karen Hogan will be providing Learning Support classes on a part time basis. Ms Denise Shouldice will be teaching the senior classes for the duration of Mrs Maher's Maternity Leave.

Our warmest congratulations go out to Mrs Maher and her family

on the birth of her son, Daniel. All our best wishes to you. The school sporting calendar kicks off with Tennis in mid-September. We welcome Coach Anne Fitzpatrick back again. Senior French classes have begun already, and a warm welcome back to Mme Healy-Bernard.

As the fruit ripens on the brambles we turn our attentions to Autumn bounty and give thanks. Our school Harvest Service took place on Monday 22nd of September.

St Michael's National School, Limerick

It feels quite strange to be back in the classroom when the beautiful summer weather continues to shine. We welcomed 14 Junior Infants and a new Senior Infant to St Michael's. Our new easing in of both new pupils and parents with a cup of tea, homemade biscuits and a chat seems to greatly help our new pupils settle in to their new school environment. We are blessed to have on staff, two wonderful Special Needs Assistants who go far above and beyond the call of duty, as does our part-time, hard-working secretary.



Junior Infants St Michael's NS Limerick

We are delighted to welcome back Adam Shier, a past pupil, who is now in Transition year in the Crescent Comprehensive. As part of his work experience, he is coming to the school every Thursday and helping out with a variety of activities, especially sports, reading and science. Also we are privileged to have a Fourth Year Psychology student from UL who, as part of her co-op placement, is working three days a week in the school helping out in all classrooms. Extra help is always welcome, especially at the beginning of the new school year.

Class allocations remain the same as last year. Sally Fossitt has 5th/6th Classes. Maria Robinson has 3rd/4th Classes. Sheelagh Morrow has 2nd/3rd Classes. Áine McMahon has Senior Infants/1st Classes. Lorraine Moran has Junior / Senior Infants. Sandra Wallace is the Resource Teacher. Rosalind Stevenson is the Principal and Learning Support/EAL Teacher.

Cloughjordan No. 1 National School

The school was a very busy workplace right throughout the holidays. We are very grateful to the Department of Education and Skills for providing most of the necessary funding, and to Knockrath Construction for carrying out the mechanical upgrade of the school and for completing the work on time. Knockrath Construction did a tremendous job and we look forward to a warm, efficiently heated school this winter.

Congratulations to Mrs. Amanda Hayes and to her husband George on the birth of baby George. We were delighted to hear this great news and wish George, Amanda, Emma and baby George all the best. We said farewell to Mrs Emma Crawford last month as she began her maternity leave. We wish Emma and her husband Mark all the best and look forward to hearing their good news.

We were delighted to welcome our new Junior Infants: Joshua Dann, Óisín Gaffney, Jack Hurley, Joshua Kennedy, Nell Curran, Alice Davis, Clodagh Davis, Olivia Fitzpatrick, Sophie Platt and Marie Manley. We also welcomed Evan, Alex, Niamh and Emma into other classes throughout the school. We hope that all of these pupils and their families will be very happy in our school. We welcomed Miss Emma Doherty as substitute Learning Support teacher and Mr. Seamus O'Dwyer as substitute mainstream teacher to our school and hope that they will be very happy while part of our staff.

The school year got off to a chilling start for some! Mr. Hayes accepted the nomination of Hugh Guest, a Sixth Class pupil, and took the ice bucket challenge in aid of the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association (IMNDA), much to the delight of pupils looking on.



The Ice Bucket Challenge - well done Mr Hayes!

Parents of our infant children enjoyed an informal opportunity to get to know each other over a cup of coffee in school one afternoon. We welcomed back Anne Fitzpatrick to coach tennis to all pupils and look forward to welcoming Cassandra Kenny to teach dance to all pupils over the coming months.

Oxmantown National School, Birr

Welcome to all of our new Junior Infants and the other students who have joined us at Oxmantown this year and our good wishes to our sixth class as they begin their secondary education, Adam Fletcher, Raymond Armitage, Niamh Nettleship, Lyndsey Armstrong, Filip Plonka, Dominik Jozwiak, Leona Spain, Chloe Smith and Wren Higgins.

MC GILL CUP

We would like to congratulate Raymond Armitage on winning the Mc Gill Cup which is awarded annually to the student who achieved excellent academic results. We hope that Raymond will continue to do well in Kilkenny College.



6th Class after their leaving Service

NEW SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANT

Mrs. Margaret Feehan has joined our team as a Special Needs Assistant in the Junior and Senior Infants Classroom, Mrs. Feehan has replaced Mrs. Alice Carroll who retired in June. We hope that she will settle in and enjoy her work with us at Oxmantown.

REFURBISHMENT

During the Summer Holidays we had the first and Second Classroom repainted and had new floor covering laid in the wet area, and had interactive white boards installed in each classroom.

SWIMMING

As we begin our Swimming Strand of the P.E. Curriculum we would like to thank the Parents who have kindly volunteered to help the teachers at the Swimming pool on Tuesdays.



Villiers School

BOYS RUGBY

We are now back into the full swing with all age groups back training on both Tuesdays and Thursdays. Congratulations to Mervyn Hayes, Darragh Oxley, Conor Ryan, Richard Bateman and Conor Murphy from Form 5 who have been involved in the Munster u17 development training sessions during the Summer.

Well done to Alan Fitzgerald who has represented Munster u18s in the recent inter-provincial tournament, and to both Richard Bateman and Conor Murphy who have made the u17 squad.

Both our u17s and u15s have played Kilmallock in the McCarthy cup and Bowen Shield 'B' competitions with our u17s winning comfortably.

Our seniors kick off their season when they take on St Clement's in a friendly.

Our new 1st Year students are getting to grips with training and look forward to several blitz competitions coming up in the near future.

BOYS HOCKEY

Our first years have hit the ground running and travel to Bandon Grammar for their second blitz competition this Wednesday 24th Sept. Their introduction to competition started last Wednesday when we travelled to Kilkenny College for an inter-school blitz. Hockey is new to most and they are training well and picking up the basic skills.

Our seniors have been preparing for their Munster All Ireland Schools qualifier tournament in Garryduff, Cork. They have been back training since August and have travelled to King's Hospital School in Dublin where they were victorious 3-0. They are training hard and in the process of integrating many new players. We wish them well when they play Bandon Grammar, Ashton School and Midleton College.

Our junior and senior B's have also played Kilkenny College and King's Hospital and performed.

Our minor and junior sides are also preparing themselves for their tour to Edinburgh from Thursday 9th Oct to Sunday 13th Oct.

TRANSITION YEAR

Our new TYs are now settled in and enjoying their new challenges and experiences. They have attended a team building day in Lough Derg Yacht Club, signed up for Gaisce, experienced a day's outdoor pursuits caving and rock climbing in the Burren, went pony trekking and laser shooting in Kinnitty and sailing in Dromineer.

Their PE programme has seen them begin rowing in UL, tennis in Limerick Lawn tennis club, golf in Coonagh Driving Range and judo in school. A busy and exciting year awaits!

PREFECT TRIP TO DERG ISLE, SCARRIFF

Bright and early on the morning of the 29th of August the prefects of Villiers School set out for their weekend bonding trip to Derg Isle Activity Centre, Scarriff, Co. Clare. Not knowing what to expect we jumped on the bus and got on our way. The prefect system in our school is made up predominantly of 6th year students but also has a number of 5th year students. Therefore a teambuilding trip like this was a perfect way to get to know one another.

After a short journey we arrived at Derg Isle, bursting with enthusiasm, to be met by Fergus, the ever friendly and co-operative head of the centre. He instructed us to leave our bags in the "Celtic hut" for a small meeting. Derg Isle is by far the best activity centre I have been to in Munster. It boasts a spacious picturesque campus with a fantastic army style obstacle course, a 110m long canal with a boat house and much more. The instructors are very friendly and easy to work with, while maintaining a strict emphasis on teamwork and punctuality. The punishment was not fun for the latter!! After the meeting we got changed and started our activities for the day. One of these was a full campus relay, incorporating all the games and activities around the site. This varied from crawling through a tunnel to dragging an injured manikin down the canal on a makeshift raft! All of the activities were extremely enjoyable but always had a strong emphasis on teambuilding.

After a long day of activities, we could just about hear our beds calling! Even a thin mat on the uneven floor of an 8 man tent was more than appealing! There was still one minor obstacle however.... The absence of tents! So 33 tired teenagers, with little-to-none experience in the vast field of tent-erecting went about it none the less! Several failed attempts and many misplaced poles pegs and other tent-making paraphernalia later, 6 relatively sturdy-ish looking tents were standing, and as long as they stayed that way, we weren't too fussy on the position of pegs, poles or anything of the sort. Getting the tents up ourselves simply served as another teambuilding experience, as we all had one common goal... bed. A bit of enthusiasm, teamwork, and extremely amateur engineering was all we needed, and thankfully, we had plenty of all three! In the end everyone had their long awaited beds and despite the lack of goose feather duvets or 50" thick mattresses, there wasn't an unhappy camper in sight!

NEWS FROM THE VILLIERS SANCTUARY

School is very much back and everyone is settling in to the routine of busy schedules and time tables. Everyday seems to be quite a rush and I sometimes wonder as to how we all seem to be living either in what has just happened to us in the past or thinking about what we need to do next. The consequence of this of course is that we end up missing out on the place where we actually live, the present. It can be very difficult not to allow the past to influence the present, we have a tendency to let past angers, fears, desires and attachments control our present and affect our future relationships. I wonder how many opportunities are missed due to dwelling on the past, instead of seeing and being conscious of what is happening at the present moment?

I believe that it is vital to take time and simply 'be'! Especially take time and simply 'be' in the presence of God. You see, allowing God to be in our lives in the present opens up a path of healing in our past and which leads to being enabled to focus on what is happening right now, enjoying it and making the most of it. This leads to a brighter future where God plays an important part of our daily lives and God gives a future which is full of light and life and promise with no weight on our shoulders from the past. I talked to a group of students recently about encountering someone who was angry and how this may affect you. We have a choice, we can either react to that person in anger, or probably carry that person's anger around with us for the rest of the day,

or we can say that we don't want to be that angry person and choose to be free of the anger.
Take a moment in the present and give the anger to God, He has big shoulders!!! Live in the present and be happy. Talk to God and allow Him to carry you into the future.

Until next time,
Peace and blessings to all
Chaplain Jackie McNair

Howlers from Church Newsletters...

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the jumble sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.

Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.



*After his induction, Harry met the
leaders of the other denominations*

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

It was great to have the Carise Singers visit the Cathedral as a visiting choir on the Sunday morning of 24 August. It was by default that they were able to be with us on the Sunday morning but their musical contribution brought a sense of energy to the morning Eucharist. They were to perform a concert in the Cathedral the Saturday but we had a double booking and they had to do so in St John Cathedral in Limerick. Their offer to sing at the Sunday Eucharist turned out to be a blessing to all of us.



The Carise Singers with conductor, George Parris, Rev Lucy and Dean Gary

The Arts Office of Limerick City & County Council for the last 7 or 8 years, with the help of the Castleconnell community have run a series of Classical Concerts in All Saints Church Castleconnell. This series will happen again this year over three evenings during the autumn, on Tues Sept 30th, Tue Oct 28th and Thursday Nov 20th. Please do support these events. (See page 20)

The Mother's Union had their church service at St Flannan's Cathedral on the 14 September. It was encouraging to see members of the branches travelling to Killaloe. Phyllis Grothier gave the address and really passionate about the work of the Mothers' Union. It was a privilege for the Cathedral to host the Mothers' Union and we trust they will do so more often in the future. We had visiting clergy from our Anhalt link attend this service thanks to Canon Michael Johnson, who continues to nurture and develop this link.

We had the ashes of Hugh Goodbody interred at Castleconnell on the 23 August. He died in 2011 but through circumstances it was only possible to do so at this time. Jean Currie of Whitegate died after being frail for a long while. The funeral service was held at St Flannan's Cathedral on 16 September. The service was conducted by the Reverend Lucy Green.



Betty and Bryan Brislane

Bryan and Betty Brislane, a very faithful couple at St Flannan's, continue to amaze us with their energy and enthusiasm to help in the church and community. Bryan, an organist here at one stage, has been doing the bell tower tours for visitors who want to go up the tower and have a look and ring. I admire his energy on some days going up the many steps more than once a day. Always willing and seldom says 'no I cannot'. Betty visits our nursing home and is always willing to help. It was just encouraging to see her so busy with tea at MU service. So this little paragraph is just an acknowledgment of a wonderful couple who continues to be an encouragement to all of us not only by their words but a willingness to serve and do for others. In October there will be harvest services in three of our churches: Mountshannon on 5th, Killaloe Cathedral on 12th and Tuamgraney on 26th all at 4.00pm. This will be in lieu of usual morning services on the day at that particular church.

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

CONGRATULATIONS

To Caroline and Kevin Morgan on the birth of their second child, a baby daughter, another grandchild for Peter and Helen Whyte.

PASTORAL

Sincere sympathy is extended to Mr Charlie Ardill on the death of his sister Peggy in Roscommon in August. Charlie is living in Mount Carmel Nursing Home in Roscrea and was unable to travel to her funeral. Many thanks to the Matron and staff, and especially Adrian Hewson, for arranging a service of remembrance and thanksgiving in the home at the same time as the funeral service was taking place. Barbara Jackson's brother-in-law David passed away in England after a long illness. Our condolences to Barbara and all her family.

The Revd Ruth was invited to attend an ecumenical service on the 10th September in the Church of the Assumption, Tullamore, to mark World Suicide Prevention Day. It was arranged by Midlands Living Links, part of Living Links, in conjunction with the HSE. This was the second ecumenical service over the summer months which was organised for those who have been bereaved. When a person

is bereaved, particularly by suicide, they may find themselves in a very lonely place and feel they need someone they can talk to who will understand how difficult it can be, especially if it's some time afterwards and it seems that the rest of the world has moved on. There are many organisations offering support and a listening ear and details about them are easily accessed on line, just Google "suicide in Ireland". Sometimes The Midland Tribune also publishes a list of organisations and contact details in the Birr notes. For those who have been bereaved as the result of a farming accident, a new support group has been formed, at the moment centred in Abbeylax, and information about them can be found at www.embracefarm.com and also on Facebook. Making that first call has brought a great sense of relief to many people.

Pam Reid had a nasty fall in Roscrea, and spent a few days in hospital, followed by a stay in Cloverlodge Nursing Home, Shinnrone. Thankfully, she is now on the mend, and at this writing staying with her daughter in Cork. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are ill and are having health problems investigated.

Our Sunday School in Birr is up and running at the 11:00 am service; many thanks to the teachers who give of their time, expertise, and faith to help our parish children in their spiritual growth. Our Family Service is on the second Sunday of each month, except in November, when it will be on the first Sunday, with Remembrance Sunday on the second.

Our Sunday service in Birr moves to 11:30 am on Sunday, 26th October.

Roscrea Group of Parishes

Roscrea, Bournay, 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

Bar-B-Q

While at the time of writing official financial returns are not yet finalised, the results seem excellent. Well done to everyone: organisers, patrons and supporters – thank you. The event just had everything and the hard work of all paid off. Children's amusements from Derry, a monster raffle which ran out of tickets with almost 2,000 books sold, good food served in a carnival atmosphere, well stocked stalls, an auction with value for money, relaxing social dancing, good humour and God given September sunshine were the order of the occasion. The organizing committee's hard work has done Roscrea Parish proud!

CORBALLY SOCIAL EVENING

It's now Corbally's turn and we wish the parish equal success with its fundraising event to be held at the social evening in Fitzpatrick's Lounge, Clonmore on Friday, 10th October. With music by Liam Mannering and Band, it promises to be an enjoyable occasion. Ticket sellers are out and about and the attractive prize list includes 150 bales of briquettes, a day at Fairyhouse Race Course with overnight accommodation and dinner for 2 at Fiacri Country House. A venture worthy of support and best wishes to the organisers. We are sure they will not be disappointed.

BEREAVEMENT

It was with regret that we heard of the passing of Mrs Gill, mother to Rev. Lesley Robinson. The parish was well represented at the funeral service and burial in Mountrath. To Rev. Lesley and all the

family, we extend our deepest sympathy, while Rev. Lesley wishes to acknowledge with thanks all our parishioners who attended the funeral and supported her in other ways at this sad time.



Charlie Ardill and friends following the service in memory of his sister Peggy

KYLE HARVEST THANKSGIVING

As is traditional, the Group's Harvest Thanksgivings began with the afternoon service in Kyle. Resplendent in the September sunshine, the church was tastefully and colourfully decorated. Well attended, the congregation joined heartily in singing all the favourite Harvest hymns. Guest preacher was Rev. Shannon de Laureal, Methodist Minister and based on 'the mustard seed' her words were both inspiring and encouraging. Harvest time never loses its appeal and it's good to see so many joining together to give thanks. Hopefully the attendance at Kyle has set a trend for the other Harvest Services in the Group. Thanks to all who prepared the church, to the preacher

and to all those who took part in the Service. Another successful occasion in the parochial calendar of events.

THE SICK

We continue to remember Eddie Clare in Dun Laoghaire together with various other people in the parish who have been unwell of late and we wish them all well. Healer Prayer: Monday, 6th October 2014 at 7.30 pm.

CONGRATULATIONS

And again we end of a positive note with congratulations to all who got such good results in Junior Cert and Leaving Cert exams and also in higher education end of year exams. Best wishes to them all for the coming academic year.

ST. CRONAN'S YOUTH CLUB

St. Cronan's Youth Club would like to acknowledge with thanks receipt of grant aid from the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme 2014, administered by Tipperary etb. These funds enable Leaders run a busy and vibrant Club with a variety of activities which our teenagers enjoy.

St. Cronan's Youth Club will next meet at Kenny's of Knockshegowna on Saturday, 25th October 2014 from 7.00 – 9.00 pm for Halloween activities. Further details from Rosie Gee – 087 1973311.

ST. CRONAN'S B.B.

Boys Brigade would like to also acknowledge receipt with thanks, grant aid from the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme 2014, administered by Tipperary etb. Once again, these funds provide a valuable resource which allows the Leaders provide useful activities to develop children's skills in many different ways and gives them opportunities which they may not otherwise experience.

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New Bishop Elected for Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert

Following the retirement of the Rt. Rev Trevor Williams the Episcopal Electoral College for the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe met on Monday 8th September at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin and elected Rev Canon Dr Kenneth Kearon as the next Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe.

Canon Kearon is Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, a position he has held since 2005. Born in 1953, he is a native of Dublin. Educated at Trinity College Dublin (TCD), he served his curacy in All Saints Raheny and St John's Coolock, before becoming Dean of Residence at TCD in 1984, a position he held until 1990. He was Rector of the Parish of Tullow (Dublin) from 1991 to 1999 after which he became Director of the Irish School of Ecumenics (1999-2005). Dr Kearon is a Canon of Christ Church Cathedral Dublin and an Honorary Provincial Canon of Canterbury Cathedral, St Paul's Cathedral London and St George's Cathedral Jerusalem. He also has an extensive list of publications to his name, including "Medical Ethics: An Introduction" published in 1995 by Columba press.

Our new Bishop elect is married to Jennifer and they have three adult daughters: Gillian who lives and works in New Zealand, Rachel and Alison, both of whom live and work in Ireland.

The Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin, said, 'Canon Kearon has expressed his delight at returning to work in Ireland and his intention to serve the people of Limerick and Killaloe and the communities of which they are a part. I have known Canon Kearon for many years and have always appreciated his personal friendship. I wish Kenneth and Jennifer all that is best within the love of God in their time in Limerick and Killaloe.'

The bishop-elect said: 'I am honoured and delighted to have been elected to the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe, and I look forward to getting to know the diocese, its people and its clergy well in

the near future. Ireland has been through a very difficult period in its history, and I look forward to helping the diocese play its part and making its contribution to shaping the future. This diocese has made a distinctive contribution to the Church of Ireland in the past, in part through the work of its bishops and most recently through Bishop Trevor Williams, and I hope to be able to continue in their footsteps.



Our Bishop elect – Rev Canon Dr Kenneth Kearon

Canon Kearon will be consecrated as our Bishop on the Eve of the Conversion of St Paul, Saturday 24th January 2015 at 2.30pm. No dates are yet set for his enthronement in our Cathedrals. We look forward to welcoming Dr & Mrs Kearon as Bishop Kenneth and Jennifer to their new home amongst us here in the Mid-West of Ireland and offer our prayerful support as they prepare for the upheaval of moving.

Nenagh Country Market Celebrates 50 Years

2014 is the 50th anniversary of the beginning of Nenagh Country Market. The Market started its life in the Church of Ireland Lecture Hall in Nenagh, before needing bigger premises and moving to the New Institute in Friar Street. For fifty years the Market has been providing the people of Nenagh and further afield with delicious homemade and home grown foods, crafts, and flowers.



Alice Wallace, Olive Powell and Betty Powell, Nenagh Union parishioners who supply produce to the Nenagh Country Market, at the 50th anniversary celebration on Friday 13th September

Nenagh Country Market Ltd is part of Country Markets Ltd, a national organization of some 62 co-operative groups, founded in 1947, to enable and support the sale of produce and craft produced in rural areas direct to the customer. The distinctive Country Market logo identifies the sellers as belonging to an organization that registers and regulates local producers to ensure high standards. All produce is produced locally and is free from additives and preservatives. The wide range of food on offer includes chickens, eggs, jams, chutneys, honey, vegetables, fruit, salads, breads, biscuits, cakes, buns, meringues, quiches, lasagnes, tarts – a veritable feast! This is added to in the Christmas season with the most amazing cakes, puddings, mincepies, turkeys, geese and ducks, along with beautiful wreaths and holly.

Daffodils, tulips, iris, peonies, roses, sweet pea, dahlias, Michaelmas daisies – these and other flowers in all seasons are supplied by gifted grower, Alice Wallace – but get there early, they don't last long! The Nenagh Country market is open every Friday, 8.30 am to 1.30 pm.

Minister Tom Hayes, Cllr Phyll Bugler, Margaret Sweeney, National Chairperson of Country Markets Ltd, and Peter Ward of Country Choice, Nenagh, were amongst guests at the 50th anniversary party held on Friday 13th September.



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B.A.(Mod), B.Sc., HDipEd.

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www.kingshospital.ie

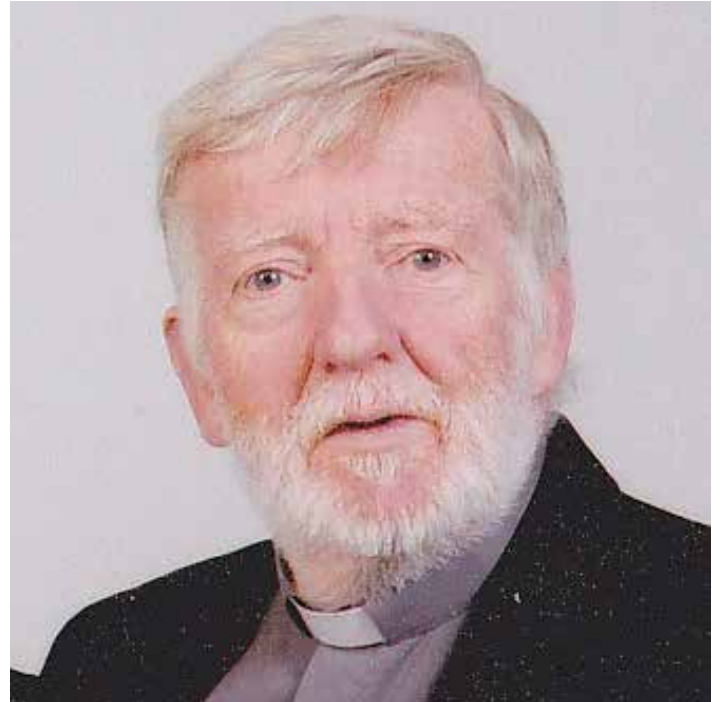
Sudden Death of Canon George Flynn

Our diocese has been deeply shocked and saddened by the death of Canon George Flynn, Rector of the Aghrim & Creagh Unions of parishes. George collapsed and died on Wednesday 17th September, just before a meeting in Ardahan at which Archdeacon Wayne Carney was also present.

Rev. George, as he was affectionately known by his parishioners, was a late vocation, ordained by Archbishop Robin Eames in Armagh Cathedral 24th June 1990. He served as Priest in Charge in Kilsaran Group of Parishes in Louth, as Rector of Clonenagh Group in Laois, before arriving in East Galway to serve in the most northerly parish in our Diocese. He was appointed Canon to the Preband of Iniscattery with Kilconnell in January 2014 in the joint chapter of St Mary's Cathedral Limerick and St Flannan's Cathedral Killaloe.

George's Funeral Eucharist took place in St John's Church Ballinasloe on Saturday, 20th September, with Archdeacon Wayne Carney presiding. The church was packed, and extra seats had to be found for over 30 robed clergy and readers in the choir stalls. Rev Lesley Robinson, George's sister-in-law and Rector of Clontarf, gave a very personal and heartfelt address on the life and qualities of the man she admired and loved – see the box below. Burial followed in Antrim cemetery, Co. Laois.

We offer prayers for George's wife Gwyn and the extended family in their loss. May George rest in peace and rise in glory.



Canon George Flynn

Extracts from Rev Lesley Robinson's Funeral Address

'Do not let your hearts be troubled'

These are words of comfort from the scriptures, from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ himself. Yet, there are times when words fail us, seem totally inadequate – this has been the painful reality for us as a family over the last few days. There is no denying, no disguising the grief and the shock and the anguish which George's sudden passing has caused. A family, a union of parishes, a community, a circle of friends, a diocese, are all devastated in the wake of the loss one so loved and so loving. Yet we would do him, and the God whom he loved so much and served so well, a huge injustice were we not to celebrate and give thanks for his life, even as we mourn his death.

George was a Dub, born in Glasnevin on 26th September 1945, the third child born to his parents William Angus and Maude. As a child, George suffered badly with acute asthma, which prevented him starting school until he was 8, and necessitated the family moving home to Dun Laoghaire, beside the sea and all its therapeutic benefits. After attending Kingstown Secondary School in Dun Laoghaire, he joined the staff of Irish Lights at age 18, where he spent the next twenty three and a half years. In 1987 he left to pursue his vocation to the ordained ministry and was ordained Deacon in Armagh Cathedral on 24th June 1990.

The size of the gathering here today is testimony to the kind of Rector he was, and the kind of man he was. Quite simply, his faith, his work ethic and most of all his pastoral care were just exceptional – second to none. George Flynn was the kindest man you could ever meet. Nothing was ever too much trouble and no one was ever outside the remit of his care. Not only would he regularly visit his older or more vulnerable parishioners, he could often be found driving them to hospital appointments, bringing

in the fuel for their fires, cooking meals for them or getting their laundry done.

His devotion to the sick was exemplary: he was committed to the Church's Ministry of Healing and to his role as Church of Ireland Chaplain in Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe, as well as to his care of those who were recovering at home or in nursing homes. He also had the rare gift of being able to relate and minister to people of all ages equally. He adored children (and they him), and put huge effort into children's ministry in his parishes, especially the Family Services. Who could forget when this pulpit was transformed into an ark which rapidly filled with children arriving up the church from the back, suitably disguised as animals of various sorts. Or the delight of the children at Easter to have newly hatched out chicks in church symbolising the new life that the resurrection of Jesus offers us all.

George's pastoral care and sensitivity during times of loss and bereavement was also incredible. His warmth, sincerity and deep spirituality always somehow managed to make even the darkest and most difficult of situations a little bit more bearable. That same depth of spirituality was also evident in the healing services he used to hold regularly as a conduit for God's love and God's grace.

George loved God with a passion and lived to serve him by serving others every minute of every day. The cost of such dedication by a cleric is often borne by his or her family, but that most certainly was not the case with the man we all affectionately knew as 'Rev'. Despite the endless hours he worked, and the endless people he served, Gwyn and the boys always came first. He adored each and every one of them – a love that was thoroughly reciprocated – and his every waking thought revolved around how to make them happy, how to make life easier for them, and how to keep them safe and well. What a wonderful team they made, as any of you who have been at the countless meals, parties or BBQs in the rectory itself, or the magnificent coach house so lovingly and wonderfully restored by George, will know from first-hand experience.

There are so many memories to make us smile through the tears.

The suddenness of George's passing has left us reeling in despair and disbelief. And the fear is that as we encounter those haunting 'why' questions, or experience the doubt and anger which often intrude in such situations, that our faith will be weakened or damaged. But for any of us to allow that to happen would be such an inappropriate reaction to the death of a man who lived to bring us all closer to God.

Only last Sunday, I stood in this church and preached for George at the Harvest Thanksgiving service here. And basing my thoughts on a reading from Deuteronomy I spoke of how important it is to recall and remember God's goodness and faithfulness in the

past, to sustain us when the present is difficult, and to give us hope for the future. Little did any of us know how very difficult the present was about to become, or how very much we would need to cling on to our hope for the future.

But God is good and faithful, and our hope for the future is in Jesus Christ who died for us and rose again that we might live with him forever. That was George's faith, a faith not just spoken of but embodied and lived. That is the faith out of which has sprung the wonderful legacy of love and service he has left behind. That is the faith which will not only sustain us now, but will bring us to a brighter tomorrow.

St. Brendan's Tarbert Celebrates 200 years

For the past two centuries the elegant steeple of St. Brendan's Church (Kilnaughtin), has been a prominent feature of the landscape of Tarbert and its expansive bay. Like another local monument, the Tarbert Lighthouse, the Tower of St. Brendan's with its pinnacled crown and rookery is iconic of home for many natives of this North Kerry town worldwide.

To celebrate the Bicentennial, the parish hosted an Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving in St. Brendan's Church on Sunday 17th August 2014 at 3.00pm. The service was led by The Rev'd Dr. Keith Scott and featured music led by the choir of St. Mary's Church and local choir, Lyric Voices led by Priscilla O'Donovan, a member of the congregation at St. Brendan's.



St Brendan's Church (©Kevin Langan Photography, all rights reserved)

Dr. Declan M. Downey, RAH, (University College Dublin) gave an account of the history of St. Brendan's. The church was actually built in the late 18th century when it was decided that old Kilnaughtin Church, already in very poor condition, was not close enough to the town and port of Tarbert. A new church was built in the present location. The original structure was a simple rectangular barn nave along the East-West line with tower and spire at the west end and sanctuary at the east end. This arrangement was almost universal amongst Church of Ireland churches built in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The building was extensively remodelled in 1814, which is the anniversary celebrated this year. It was remodelled again in the 1850s under the influence of the Anglo-Catholic "Oxford Movement" so giving the present, rather unusual shape and structure. The Irish Anglican Church was always thought to be more "Calvinist" and "Protestant" than the Church of England,

and Churches built, or rebuilt, under the influence of the Oxford Movement are not particularly common. The story of this building is a story of a whole community of all social classes and conditions working together to build something of importance in Tarbert, this wonderful building, whose tower is a prominent feature of the surrounding area and even a navigation marker for shipping. It is this deep sense of community which we need to celebrate and affirm for the future, as much as the building itself.

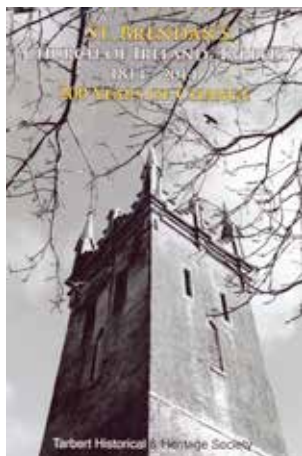
Dr. Keith Scott spoke of the importance of rediscovering the stories of the past in the light of nature and purposes of God. In these few years we are commemorating the anniversaries of the First World War and the Easter Rising. Today we are discovering that the communities of Ireland, Protestant and Roman Catholic, Anglo-Irish and Gael, although asserting that they are different from one another, have an intertwined history. This is deeply important in the light of our Christian understanding of God as Trinity. When we speak of God as Trinity we might use difficult and technical language, but what we are trying to say is that we can never speak of God as one without also speaking of God as three distinct persons, and never speak of God as three without also speaking of God as one. God is diverse and distinctive and also one; three persons bound together inseparably as one God. When we rediscover ourselves as people bound together in our distinctiveness we rediscover the full Christian insight into God as Trinity and begin to live as the Christian Church ought to live, in the light of our understanding of God in Jesus Christ.



Cutting the Bicentennial cake

After the Service there was a reception, which featured a birthday cake for the church, cut by one of the oldest members of the Congregation at St. Brendan's Lt. Col (retired) Edward Buckingham, ably assisted by St. Brendan's newest member, Gemma Fitzell along with her cousins Daniel and Molly. This proved an opportunity for many of the "Old St. Brendan's Association" and the present congregation as well as our sisters and brothers from St. Mary's to meet, chat and enjoy one another's company.

In association with the celebration a well-researched and finely illustrated book entitled 'St. Brendan's Church of Ireland, Tarbert, 1814-2014 - Two Hundred Years of Change', was launched by Professor John Coolahan, OECD & Emeritus Professor of Education at NUI Maynooth, on behalf of the Tarbert Historical and Heritage Society. Given its unique history and wealth of detail and imagery, this book would be an ideal gift for family members far from home and for visiting friends. It is available for sale at €20.00 at Tarbert Bridewell and local bookshops, or from Alan Fitzell - 087 2026695 / 068 36245 (postage extra).



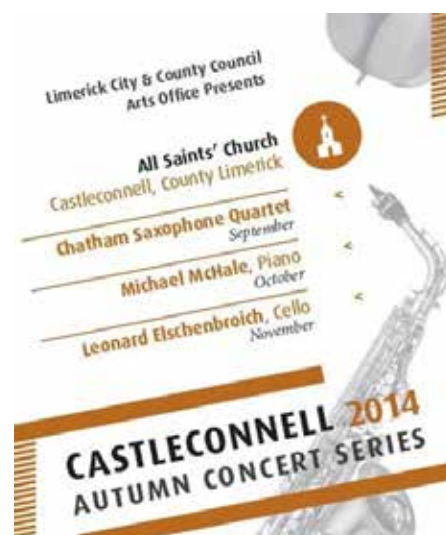
Castleconnell 2014 Autumn Concert Series

For a number of years now the Limerick City Council Arts Office has run an autumn series of concerts at All Saints Church in Castleconnell. The remaining concerts this year are as follows:

Tuesday 28th October, 8pm – Michael McHale, solo piano
Belfast-born McHale has established himself as one of the leading Irish pianists of his generation. The programme includes Schubert, Debussy and Mussorgsky.

Thursday 20th November, 8pm – Leonard Elschenbroich, solo cello
One of the most charismatic cellists of his generation, Elschenbroich presents masterpieces from the solo cello repertoire by Bach, Hindemith, Piatti, Taverner, Lombardi and Volans.

For further details see <http://limerickcityofculture.ie/categories/music>. Tickets at €15 are available at the door.



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Nenagh Christmas Tree Festival 2014

This December, St. Mary's Church of Ireland Nenagh will host Nenagh's first ever Christmas Tree Festival. "What's that?" you ask. Many things to many people is the answer! The Festival will provide free advertising to the businesses of Nenagh who choose to participate, and an extra dimension to the spirit and enjoyment of Christmas to the many citizens we hope will visit! It is hoped also that we will tempt groups from outside our immediate locality, bringing extra Christmas business into our local shops and markets. The benefits don't stop there; valuable fundraising for our chosen charity, as well as for our own urgent projects is high on the agenda.

for updates, please contact nenaghchristmastreefestival@gmail.com.

Lisa Drummond, PRO, Nenagh Christmas Tree Festival 2014



So, how does it work? From, the "exhibitor" point of view you would apply to nenaghchristmastreefestival@gmail.com and we would allocate you a slot. Display benches will be set up in the church, with plenty of power sockets for lights if desired. Decorated trees should be set up and in position during and by the end of Friday 12th December. Businesses, clubs, charities and organisations of any and every description can, and definitely should, take this opportunity to promote themselves to potentially a whole new set of customers! The trees can be real or fake, traditional or "out there", anything goes - up to a maximum height of five feet. The more variety the better to entertain the visitors and remember - there is absolutely no charge for all that publicity!

From the visitor point of view - just turn up and enjoy! Admission will be €3 per person, with children (accompanied by an adult) free. Refreshments will be available for sale along with a tempting selection of home-made jams, chutneys and crafts. A visit will be made extra-easy as the Christmas Tree Festival will be one of the scheduled stops for the Nenagh Christmas train! It will also be made extra-enjoyable by the various musical and worship events that are planned to take place during the Festival.

The official opening of the St. Mary's Nenagh Christmas Tree Festival will take place on Saturday 13th and the Festival will run until Sunday 21st December. Our chosen charity that we shall be supporting through this Festival is the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind. For more information on events, exhibiting, visiting or to join the emailing list

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GFS World Council 2014 in Swansea, Wales

by Michelle Armitage, Junior Delegate for Ireland

When I first got offered this position, I was ecstatic at the idea of travelling to Wales for the GFS World Council 2014. The experience itself was nothing like I imagined – it was an experience of a lifetime. We met GFS members from all over the globe the minute we arrived in Swansea University. They came from places like Australia, Kenya, Japan, Sri Lanka, The Philippines, USA, UK, and many more countries. As a junior delegate I was responsible for helping to make decisions on behalf of GFS Ireland. In the conference meetings we discussed changes to the guidelines, heard reports from other countries, voted for the new World Project, and I became part of the new Youth Working Party which is co-ordinating the new Youth Exchange Scheme.



We had a day trip to Cardiff, visited the Senedd which is the National Assembly in Wales, and visited St. Fagan's Folk Museum. We also visited different branches of Welsh GFS for supper, where we were introduced to Welsh Folk Dancing and Singing. Overall the trip cannot be described in a few words, but I would thoroughly recommend GFS World Council to anyone who hasn't attended. We are all counting the days till we are reunited in Australia in 2017. A big thank you to everyone who wished me well in Wales, to all in my branch in Cloughjordan for their support and to my family and friends who helped in the preparation for this trip.

Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan.

Rector: Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke

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

Tel: 067 32598 Mob: 085-147 4792

Email: canonmarie@me.com

Our final 'summer event' in the Union was a United Blessing of Pets Service in Templederry on 31 August, followed by a Treasure Hunt and parish picnic – we had great weather and well-behaved dogs!



Pet Blessing

At last the woodworm treatment was finally completed, and a great team of 11 from the Cleaning Rota turned out to give St Mary's a real clean-up – thank you Yvonne, Jane, Jean H, Lisa, Franny, Jack, Lynne, Sylvia, Betty, Caroline and Jean B!

When they'd finished, St Mary's once again had that lovely well-cared for 'glow' that so many visitors comment on appreciatively.

We're all delighted at the news of our Bishop-elect, Canon Ken Kearon, and will be holding him and his family in our prayers as he prepares to 'come amongst us.'

The Harvest season is upon us, and we 'kicked off' in St Mary's on Sunday 21st, with Pastor Matt Tuttleby, Nenagh Baptist Church, as our Guest Preacher. With Fr Des Hillery of St Mary of the Rosary reading the Gospel, it was a truly ecumenical event, and the large congregation participated in joyful singing of the great harvest hymns, led by our choir and Junior choir. Roisin Rowley-Brooke, currently Organ Scholar in St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny, came over to accompany on the organ. As always the church was beautifully decorated, and the refreshments afterwards as yummy as ever! Many thanks to all who made this happen.



Our school came to St Mary's for their Harvest Festival on Monday 22nd, and enjoyed singing the harvest hymns and exploring the words hidden in the word 'Harvest' (of which 'Share' and 'Starve' are two very important ones). Each family was asked to bring a small donation of €2 to support the work of Christian Aid, and afterwards each was given a gift of some harvest produce to take home – a working symbol of 'Sharing'.

As it becomes more and more difficult to attract a commitment of families with young children to regular Sunday worship, or even our monthly Family Worship, ensuring that the basics of the Christian faith – our worship, our celebrations, our learning together – are fully presented, we all have to think creatively of how we can impart a joyful faith to our precious young people. This is a huge challenge! We actually only see some of our own parish children at the three or four school church services in the year. "Messy Church", now celebrating its 10th Anniversary, is one of a number of bright innovative methods of imparting the Good News of the Gospel. The Rector's daughter-in-law, a C of E Vicar in Buckinghamshire, is an enthusiastic practitioner of Messy Church, so the Rector has first hand experience! The Keynote Speaker at this year's Building Blocks Children's Ministry Conference is Lucy Moore, Founder of Messy Church, UK, and I do urge those of you in the Diocese in any way interested in new ways of promoting children's ministry to try to attend. You will come away enthused, inspired, and raring to go! All Hallows College, Drumcondra, Saturday 22nd November 2014. www.buildingblocks.ie

We were all shocked to learn of the recent sudden death of Canon George Flynn. Please hold his widow Gwyn, his children and stepchildren and wider family, and the parishioners of Aughrim, Ardahan and Ballinasloe, where George was Rector, in your prayers.

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

HARVESTS 2014

Friday 10th October Cloughjordan 7.30pm

Preacher Mr Joc Sanders – Diocesan Reader

Sunday 12th October Borrisnafarney 7.30pm

Preacher Rev'd Dr Keith Scott (Rathkeale)

Friday 17th October Ballingarry 7.30pm

Preacher Adrian Hewson – Diocesan Reader

Sunday 19th October Borrisokane 3.30pm

Preacher Rev'd Martin Hilliard (Kells, Kilkenny)

BEREAVEMENT

Mrs Gladys Cromer, previously living in Dublin had lived very happily in Toomevara for the last number of years with her son John and family. A very gentle and caring lady, she was widow of the late John T Cromer and mother of Lillian (Webb) and John, mother-in-law of Liz and dear granny of Simon, Jonathan and Louise, nana of Aaron, Sean, Alex, Evan, Callum and Elliot. Her Funeral Service took place at St. Andrew's Church, Lucan, with burial afterwards in Esker

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Cemetery, Lucan. We extend our sympathy to the whole family at this time of sadness.

CANON GEORGE FLYNN

It is in shock and sadness that I write these words. It is only a matter of days since the terrible news of George's sudden death was announced. For my own part I had known George in one capacity or another all my life. We were actually next door neighbours, sharing a partition wall in a semi-detached house when I was a babe in arms in Glenageary where my father was curate. George's mother used to babysit me and apparently used to bang on the wall if I cried too much at night as the walls were paper thin. In later years we met in Theological College, he at the latter end of his training and I about to embark on mine.

Since his arrival in the diocese it has been good to reconnect and also to witness the wonderful work George has done in Aughrim and Creagh Union. George's energy and determination was never lacking and he put heart and soul into his ministry in the parish and never saw any obstacle as insurmountable. In a relatively short space of time George did an extraordinary amount of good work in that parish which will stand as a testimony to him. We will miss him in the diocese too, especially on the Cathedral Chapter, at Diocesan Council, the Board of Mission and all those areas of ministry which he found time and energy to support. He has gone from us all too soon and we are especially conscious of the profound and inexpressible loss that Gwyn and the family are feeling at this time. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

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

No Notes Submitted.

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

CANON GEORGE

The prayers of our Grouping go out to Mrs Gwyn Flynn and her family following the sudden loss of Canon George Flynn who, in addition being a neighbour through Ardrahan Parish was also Rural Dean for this parish area. George will be greatly missed as an involved and enthusiastic diocesan figure and by his clergy colleagues who gather without him for their annual retreat in Dingle this October.

BLESSINGS

To Drumcliffe Group treasurer Maria Kerins, and husband Pat, on the birth of a granddaughter Kyra Marie, born to son Denver and Gallina (from Ukraine) and to Maureen and John Pennill on the birth of grandchild Isobel to daughter Zoe.

ST COLUMBA'S BELLTOWER ROOF has undergone re-tiling work following damage by storm earlier this year. Because of the height involved it was delicate work but thanks to modern technology – a high extended hoist arm—it was completed in one extended day and is covered by insurance. Further work involves new down spouts on several parts of the 1871 neo-gothic building.

ASPIRE

The name given to property work at Spanish Point—the restoration of the small decorative steeple—is also complete and what's more paid for, thanks to a marvellous fundraising effort led by two senior citizens, Mrs Judith Ironside and Mrs Dot Bolster (and supported by a dedicated group of others from inside and outside the congregation). A barbeque (with great hospitality from the Armada Hotel), a raffle for a donated quilt, Tibetan-type ribbon prayer venture and a magnificent final concert in the local Roman Catholic Church meant the target was achieved. A heritage grant also helped greatly. Thanks to all within the group parishes who supported the venture in its several forms.

Closure on a marvellous Summer campaign was to take place on October 1st with a Thanksgiving Prayer Service, incorporating the Ribbon Prayer requests and involving the whole ecumenical community.

Many thanks to Kilnasoolagh parishioner Mr Colin Thickbroom who has produced a set of copies of his beautiful water painting of the Church as a fundraiser, to go towards the cost of new spoutings. At €15 each these framed productions of the old church linked to the O'Brien and Fitzgerald family estates, make a lovelyChristmas gift ??

HARVEST

Ennis Harvest will have passed (Friday October 3rd) and Kilnasoolagh is due on Sunday October 12th, 4.00pm, with Mr Salters Sterling from Birr as preacher. We welcome as guests at this event, neighbours from the nearby Cratloe community who are keen to link with Kilnasoolagh in an ecumenical partnership. (More of this later) A Harvest Supper will be hosted by Edwin and Frances Bailey in their lovely Urlanmore, Newmarket-on-Fergus home on Friday October 31st as a fundraiser towards roofwork on Kilnasoolagh Church costing €4,000.

COMING UP

World War One is the theme of a concert in St Columba's on Friday 17th October to launch fundraising for a Peace Park Memorial near the Glor Theatre in Ennis. Sopranos Edel O'Brien and Helen Houlihan will sing songs to evoke the WW1 era, interspersed by readings and poems. Armistice Day on November 11th brings the annual commemoration of Clare's War dead in St Peter-Paul Cathedral, Ennis, when leading Irish Times journalist and broadcaster Mr Patsy McGarry will give the keynote address.

Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn

Rector: Canon George Flynn

The Rectory, Aughrim, Co Galway

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

Editor: The Newslink team were shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden, untimely death of Canon George Flynn on Wednesday 17th September. Please see page 18 for a report of his funeral at St John's Church, Ballinasloe on Saturday 20th September.

George was a good friend and a conscientious contributor to Newslink – we shall miss him. We pray for his wife Gwyn and the extended family as they mourn their loss, and also for the parishioners he served so faithfully.

Clonfert Diocese

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

We are pleased and grateful in the parishes of the Clonfert Group that, trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the clergy and people of our United Dioceses and of the wider Church of Ireland have chosen Canon Ken Kearon to be the Bishop and chief pastor of our Diocese. We look forward to his consecration as a bishop and to welcoming him, his wife and family at his Enthronement soon afterwards. We know that the beat that keeps the Diocese alive springs from pasturelands of Adare, but we look forward to catching the new episcopal rhythm as it travels eastward through the Diocese. May it set us Clonfertians all a-dancing!

The Parish wish to thank the Rev'd Denis Sandes very much indeed for his kindness in looking after the Sunday Services on the two

Sundays of our Priest-in-Charge's holiday and the Rev'd Ruth Gill in 'being there' for the parishes in his absence.

We welcome Ella Killeen, daughter of Carol and Ken, and granddaughter of Olive and John Kenny into the Church. Ella was baptised in Clonfert Cathedral on September 14th. Looking ahead we are looking forward to the baptism, again in Clonfert Cathedral, of Sullivan, son of Heather (née Johnston) and Aidan Cooke on Saturday, September 27th.



Ella with her parents and Rev'd Patrick following her baptism

Harvest Festivals: Banagher was held on Sunday September 28th with the Preacher: Rev'd Clodagh Yambasu of Birr Methodist Church and Circuit Superintendent. At Portumna October 5th at 3pm with at present, Rev'd Patrick Towers. At Eyrecourt on October 26th at 7pm with Ms Thea Boyle, Diocesan Reader, Dublin & Glendalough Dioceses.

The Priest-in-charge of the Clonfert Group would particularly like to thank the Parish of Banagher for the superb BBQ Party following the Sunday Service at the end of August. The burgers were so mighty that Priest-in-charge Patrick and his wife left, upon finishing their fourth burger, for the Western States of the USA. Upon returning they said that they had in all their travels through the Great Plains of Nebraska, the Black Hills of Dakota, the Montana Battlefield of Custer's Last Stand and the cowboy State of Wyoming never tasted any burger as awesome as was served that Sunday by Val in Banagher.

EYRECOURT

Congratulations to Helen and Jonathon on the birth of their new baby, Cathal. A grandson for Freda Kenny. We would also like to congratulate Jackie and Sam on the birth of a baby girl, Eve, a granddaughter for Isobel Finney.

BANAGHER

Parish Bar-B-Q: We had a most enjoyable time and a great turnout, thanks to our neighbours from Portumna and Eyrecourt. A special thank you to Mervyn Hardy for having the hall and grounds looking so well. Thank you to our Chef who arrived back from Kerry only that morning just in time to take his place at the Grill!!!! A new electric stove arrived just in time for the day, thanks to Val!!

Thanks are also due to Jean Doran who knitted and raffled a lovely Dolly, and to all who made this day a great success with their hard work and generosity.

An enjoyable way to raise badly needed funds for the parish.

Congratulations to Katie Phair on excellent Junior Cert Results.

Our Sympathy is extended to Mrs Isobel Delahunt and family on the death of her mother, Gladys Elizabeth Gill, in early September.

PORTUMNA

Christ Church Portumna is looking particularly well at the moment. The grounds have been tended and the flower beds made ready for the winter. The Church, always popular with the artists and musicians for its intimate atmosphere and great acoustics, will, once again be the venue for two concerts during the Portumna Shore Lines Festival. These sell-out concerts have always been a great success.

Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish

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

Dean: The Very Rev. Sandra Pragnell

The Deanery, 7 Kilbane,

Castletroy, Limerick

Tel: 061-338697 Mob: 087-2658592

Email: sandrapragnell@eircom.net

Curate Assistant: Rev Edna Wakely

50 Ballinvoher, Fr. Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick

Tel: 061-302038 Mob: 085-1450804

Email: ednawakely@hotmail.com

Congratulations to Canon Ken Kearon who will become our new bishop later this year. Following his Consecration in Christ Church, Dublin, we will look forward to welcoming him to Limerick at his Enthronement in St Mary's Cathedral. The Dean knew Ken when she was a curate in Dublin, and knows that he will come to us with pastoral and leadership qualities, a track record in ecumenics, as well as a wide breadth of experience of the Church in Ireland, in the UK, and the wider Anglican Communion. We pray for our bishop elect at this time of transition and an increase in responsibility, and for his family. Bishop Trevor will be a hard act to follow, but we are sure that we have an exciting new chapter for our parish and diocese ahead of us.

BEREAVEMENTS

Our sincere sympathy to Dolly Shier and family on the death of her brother Billy Hayes (Torquay, England) who died on 26th August; to Bernard Amaeze and family on the death of his mother Eunice Amaeze (Nigeria) who died on the 17th of August; to Lionel Watts and Patsy Pomeroy and their families on the death of their sister Joyce Howes (Canada) who died on 2nd September and to Philip Bingham and family on the death of his brother Frederick Bingham who died on the 3rd of September.

HOLY BAPTISM

31st Aug 2014 - St Michael's Church - Isabella Christina Boluwatife Egbedire-Ololuwo, daughter of Michael and Yewande, Annacotty.

NEW WEBSITE FOR LCP.

Still in its early stages, the new website for St Mary's Cathedral and Limerick City Parish is live and accessible: www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org

We welcome items to put on the site, especially pieces about our history - monuments, stained glass, etc. as well forthcoming events, and other ideas. (Please contact the Dean.)

LIMERICK CITY PARISH AUTUMN FETE

This will be held at Villiers School (by kind permission) on Saturday 18th October from 11am to 2pm. Raffle tickets are on sale in a church near you – please take some and try and sell to your family and friends – tickets €1 each or a book of 6 for €5 – and there will be a box for non-perishable items at the back of all three churches. These donated items will be used to make up hampers for the raffle prizes so please be generous. WANTED – bottles of any kind for the Bottle Stall (e.g. shampoo, shower gel, drinks or basically anything in a bottle!), cakes, jams, chutneys, plants, fruit & veg, Books & DVD's, handbags, jewellery and good quality bric-a-brac (no electrical) for the stalls. As the bric-a-brac will need to be sorted into groups and the volunteers will be short of time on the day of the sale, please deliver your donation of good quality odds and ends to St. Michael's Hall between 7.30p.m. and 8.30 p.m. on Wednesday October 15th. (No items will be accepted on the day). Please contact Tracey Lyttle on 086-6486197 or Elizabeth Stanley on 086-2687123 for further information or to offer your services – volunteers will be welcomed with open arms. Please do support this fundraising event, by donating items or baking etc for sale, and by coming along and inviting family and friends. Spread the word.

HARVEST THANKSGIVINGS

Abington Church led the way this year, with a lovely celebration of harvest on 14 September: the church always looks stunning and this year was no exception. Well done to all who arranged this year's decorations. The collection was in aid of the Bishops Appeal.

St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 5th October at 11.15am.

St Michael's Church on Sunday 12th October at 10am.

All welcome.

WORKING WITH OTHERS – HOME AND ABROAD.

We continue to support the work of US. in Swaziland, through our Diocesan link. We are also looking forward to a visit to Limerick from our friends in Anhalt and Berlin later in the year, to discern a constructive way forward together. In the Cathedral, we have baskets asking for a donation of €1.00 for Gaza and Iraq, which is administered through the Bishops' Appeal.

Cityone Exhibition of 4 Iconic Performance Sailing Boats

St. Mary's Cathedral from Saturday 27th September until 11th October.

Part of the Millennial O'Brien Year – acknowledges the work of Conor O'Brien (d.1952) – who was a round the world yachtsman, an author, and an architect (the screen at the high altar was his work.) This is an International Graphic Arts Exhibition – with four performance sailing boats, the outcome of an Ilen School multi-disciplinary architectural, community building, sporting, and educational programme. The four iconic boats will be sited appropriately in the nave of the cathedral, making a cross, and accompanied by local gandelows. Do not miss it. Entry is free.

See Diocesan Calendar (page 4) for the Whist Drive and Cathedral concert dates.

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

The talk of the last month has been the weather: warm, dry, even balmy. Some say that the new Rector brought the weather with her from Hawaii. They also warn her and her husband, Kirk, that this weather won't be continuing...

It is said that "things come in threes," including death. Unfortunately, after the two deaths reported in last month's Newslink, another parishioner died on 3rd September. Victor Bingham was a long-time member of St. Nicholas, Adare, and the brother of Bobby Bingham, Churchwarden in the Kilpeacon Church, and brother-in-law of Diocesan Reader Barbara Bingham. A visitation in St. Nicholas on the evening of 5th September saw many townspeople paying their respects. The funeral was on 6th September, with burial afterward in the new cemetery in the centre of the village. We extend condolences to the entire Bingham family.

On a happier note, on 12th August, Paddy Cassidy and Caroline Corrigan were married in Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Kilmallock, with Dean Maurice Sirr officiating. It was a joyful occasion, with bright splashes of red, and candles in lanterns, which the couple gave to the church for Christmas celebrations. Congratulations, Paddy and Caroline!

The Parish was sorry to see Parish Reader Ann Gill depart for another town, parish, and diocese. Ann has held many roles in the Group, including that of contributor to Newslink, over her 20+ years of living here. After her last service at St. Nicholas on 10th August, the parishioners held a special reception to bid her a fond farewell and Godspeed – though we look forward to welcoming her back to celebrate the Harvest! And we wish her and Sam well in their new home.



Remembrance Service in Kilflynn Church

Also 10th August was the Annual Open Day of the Kilflynn Church, situated on the edge of the Ballyhoura Mountains and one of the churches whose parishioners now attend Sts. Peter and Paul, Kilmallock. The Open Day was a remembrance service in honour of those from Ballyorgan who died in the Great War, 1914–1918. Five men were honoured, as well as a former Rector of Kilflynn who died while serving as a Chaplain and one man who died in World War II. The church was filled for the occasion, which featured a talk from the Irish Great War Society on what it was like to be a Private serving in the War. The service concluded with the unveiling of a special memorial in the churchyard and the laying of a wreath.

Now St. Nicholas N.S. is back in full swing, and Sunday School is starting back up after the summer break. The Group is looking forward to celebrations of the Harvest, and plans are underway for Advent and Christmas. Looking further ahead, St. Nicholas is preparing for its 700th anniversary in 2015. Stay tuned for more details! Meanwhile, the new Rector is enjoying visiting with parishioners, and learning the highways and byways of the area at the same time.

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcormac & Kilnaughtin

Rector: Rev. Dr. Keith Scott

The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

Tel: 061 – 398647 Mob: 087-2885169

Email: rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org

After a busy summer September has been quiet, but we did have one special event in September with the unveiling of a plaque at Mount Trenchard graveyard, commemorating, amongst others Mary Spring-Rice and Conor O'Brien. Mary was a member of the Spring-Rice family of Mount Trenchard House. Conor O'Brien, from Foynes Island, was the famous sailor, who commissioned the "Saorise" and sailed around the world flying the flag of the newly independent Irish Free State. Both were Irish Nationalist activists, both were involved in smuggling arms for the Irish Volunteers in 1914 and both were buried in Mount Trenchard Graveyard. Their story is one of those complexities of Irish history which demand that we dispose of those old lazy "tribal" identifications and start thinking again about who we are and want to become as Irish people.

The next few weeks will be busy as we have a number of events coming up.

First up is a Community Harvest Service in Rathkeale on Friday October 17th at 8:00 p.m. We will be sharing that with our sisters and brothers in the Roman Catholic community. The service will be in Holy Trinity Rathkeale and we hope for a Harvest Supper in the Roman Catholic Parochial Hall. The parish priest, Fr. Phonsie, will preach.

On Wednesday October 27th we will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of our local Mothers' Union Branch with a special service in Castletown Church, Kilcormac at 8:00 p.m. The preacher will be the Rev'd Jane Galbraith.

On Friday 7th November we have a special service to celebrate Harvest and to think of the needs of the wider world as we welcome Mr. Jackie McNair to St. Mary's Askeaton at 8:00 p.m. He will talk about his recent trip to Zimbabwe and the work of Christian Aid amongst the valley Tonga people displaced in the 1950s by the building of the Kariba Dam and still described by one commentator as "environmental refugees".

We congratulate Garret Teskey and Sandra Mulvehill who were married on Friday 19th September at Holy Trinity Adare and pray that they will have many happy years together.



Garret and Sandra

We join with the rest of the diocese in prayers for Gwyn Flynn, widow of Canon George Flynn together with their family. My God give the comfort and hope of the resurrection to the bereaved, may all those we have loved rest in peace and rise in Glory.

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

Our thoughts and prayers are with Aidan and Linda Butler and little Alison who brought baby Hannah Joyce for baptism to Ballymacelligott Church on 21st September. It was a lovely occasion, and a joy to welcome another child into the ever-growing crèche and Sunday School in Ballymac.

At the time of writing Margaret and John Groves are preparing to head off to Dublin with tickets for the 'All Ireland', as Margaret said – there will be no losers in their home with Margaret from Donegal and John from Kerry.

Ballmac' Harvest Festival and Gift Day took place on 28th, when we look forward to welcomed as preacher the Rev'd Simon Lumby, Priest in Charge of Killarney.

Tralee will hold their Harvest the following week on 5th October at 10.45am when our preacher will be Barbara Buckley of Glenbeigh. Tralee Harvest Festival this year will have an international theme. Kilgobbin's Harvest will be on Sunday 12th October at 3.30pm, the preacher has yet to be confirmed.

David Frizelle and Tom Blennerhassett have designed a carrot washer for Luyengo Farm, which has been made in Kerry Institute of Technology. Before the machine is shipped to Africa there will be a service in the College on 3rd.

On Wednesday October 8th the second class of CBS School in Tralee will join the Wednesday Congregation and children of St John's School for what has become something of an annual event. Fr Sean will join us for a short Ecumenical Service which offers an opportunity for the schools to worship together. All are welcome. There is a service of Holy Communion on Wednesdays in St John's Tralee at 11am, on Wednesday 15th however, there is a Service for Healing with the Laying on of Hands also at 11am.

Plans for 'Who Wants to be a Thousandaire' are beginning to come together. The actual event will take place in the Ballroe Hotel at 8pm on the 4th December, and will take the form of a quiz similar to the TV programme. It seems a long time off, but between now and then our 8 team leaders are busy approaching sponsors to offer

them advertising during the event. This will be our major Fund Raiser this year as we are having a break from the Christmas Fair, which is immensely popular but very hard work. This event is being shared across the three churches and St. John's School will also have some involvement. Thank you to everyone who has joined the leaders' group at what is a very busy time for so many.

Enquiries are continuing regarding the formation of an indoor bowls club in Tralee, if any one knows where we might obtain second hand equipment perhaps they would let us know. We hope to start as soon as the equipment has been sourced and an afternoon meeting seems to be preferable.

In a couple of months' time we shall begin a book-club, which will have one book a month. Whilst the books will largely be secular (not necessarily always fiction), it is interesting how, when the books are considered and discussed at meetings, our Christian views come to the fore. More details next month.

It was with great sadness that the parishes heard of the passing of Canon George Flynn of Ballinasloe. Our heart-felt sympathy goes to George's wife Gwyn and the boys, and to Gwyn's sister the Rev Lesley Robinson. May George rest in peace and rise in glory.

Killarney and Aghadoe Union of Parishes

Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckcross

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

SAM'S BACK – AND MAY BE COMING HOME!

There's something in the Kerry air – or it may be just our DNA – that marks out the third Sunday in September as being special. The special day involves leaving a Rector behind scratching his head wondering where the congregation is and making our own pilgrimage to Jones' Road. This year saw Kerry reclaim both Minor and Senior All Ireland football titles and even Simon (the bemused Rector) got into the act of welcoming the Sam Maguire cup back to the Kingdom – he was perched right in front of the TV cameras amongst the 20,000 fanatics who turned out at the Glebe Car Park on the Monday night.

Of course Sam Maguire – whom the cup is named after – was a member of the Church of Ireland in Dunmanway and at a recent meeting of parishioners of St Mary's it was decided that we should approach the Kerry Co Board of the GAA to see if we could get the cup to the church if we won! If we won? Did anyone really doubt it? What we weren't so sure of was the Minors; but fortunately the Tom Markham Cup is also in the Kingdom for a sabbatical, so it'll be nice to have both cups in the church. Currently Simon is brushing up on his Irish in anticipation of a big night in the church (he may as well; Derby County, Simon's bog ball team back in England, aren't likely to be bringing many cups home very soon).

PARISH MEETING

On Sunday September 7th the congregation at St Mary's had an open discussion as to how we could improve all aspects of our church and the Ministry we provide. A lot of innovative ideas were floated and there was a certain feel-good factor in the air following the meeting. There have already been a number of changes and many more are being costed and the results will feature in future editions of Newslink.

HARVEST

As I write this the ploughing championship is in full flow and this means only one thing – the harvest is in and our annual Harvest Festival Sunday is almost upon us. This year we will not be holding the Service until October 12th because of holiday commitments, etc. With that much time to prepare, we hope to make this year's service very special indeed and everyone is asked to give their best to ensuring the church is looking especially good.

BAPTISM

Another event to mark in the calendar for October is the baptism of Lindy and Vincent's baby Ralph. Vincent's parents have come over and are currently enjoying our extraordinary Indian Summer as they plan the Christening with Simon. At the time of going to press the date has not been set, but we are all looking forward with anticipation to what will be a special occasion for all of us.

CONCERTS

With only one concert planned for October, many of the congregation are taking a well earned rest following their exertions during what has been a very long season. Andy's diary for next year is filling up nicely and – thanks to the commitment of so many people during the year gone by – the quality of our bookings for 2015 looks excellent.

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

By the time this is being read we will have had our Harvest in St. Michael's so thanks to the school, the readers, preparers of salads, bakers of cakes, flippers of burgers and to our preacher Linda Chambers from the United Society. Next for our First Sunday Family Service, we will be having a pet service. If I survive that, which I am assured I will as Rev. Jim did before me. The next Sunday, the 12th of October, there is an ecumenical gathering of all the protestant churches in South Kerry. This will be from 2.30 pm in St. Michael's and is being organised by the pastors meeting. This is the second such gathering to worship together, the last one having been in Killarney Methodist at the start of the summer. Then on the 18th the Lutheran Church will hold a harvest service in Killorglin.

Before that however on Wednesday the 15th of October the parish has the Sale of Work from 12 to 4 in the CYMS hall in Killorglin, Bakers please do bake, makers of jam please be jamming and bargain hunters please come on down.

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

"It might as well rain until September..." ...except it didn't. Instead we enjoyed a wonderful, warm and sunny summer, which brought visitors from across the world to our Union of Churches to share in our worship and enjoy the beauty of God's creation, which of course is at its most stunning in His Kingdom of Kerry.

We celebrated the weddings of Andrew & Sally Barber and Sarah & Adam Paul; we worked closely with our friends from Holy Cross in their 150th anniversary activities, which included pilgrim walks around Kenmare and being a part of a wonderful celebration service on the 14th; we enjoyed a visit from the Rosen Choir and their

American friends; but perhaps most of all, we came together with our Teddy Bears for a special service and picnic. What have Teddy Bears to do with the Gospel proclamation, you might well ask?

Why Teddy Bears?

Because you can share secrets with them knowing they'll never tell; you can tell them what you're frightened of and you know they'll always be there with you; because they will always forgive you no matter what you've done; and even if you've left them in a cupboard for years and years they will be there when you need them. And because they love you unconditionally. Now who does that remind you of?

Our Growth Action Planning (GAP) process continued with a very well attended workshop held in the Gateway Methodist Church. The principle behind Growth Action Planning is based on the principle that 'Just because we can't do everything, it doesn't mean we can do nothing'.

We worked on addressing four challenges, derived from our recent parish questionnaire. How can we:

- Enable people with physical/ mental impairment or historic psychological damage to become fully part of our fellowship?
- Build our relationships with the local community in order that they will allow us to serve them?
- Help the little children to come to Jesus?
- Build our own faith and use our gifts?

In summary, this means that we need to work on accessibility, get much better at communication, develop closer relationships both within the fellowship and with the wider community, and be 'brighter'. Doesn't sound much – but its going to need a lot of commitment.

Methodist News

Adare & Ballingrane Methodist Circuit

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

No Notes Submitted.

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

Minister: Rev. Vicki Lynch
The Manse, 15 Aylesbury,
Clonmacken, Limerick.
Tel: 061 325325 Mobile: 086 8292073
Email: vickilynch@eircom.net

We had originally hoped to have our Christian Unity Service in one of the lovely rooms in Thomond Park; however, that was not to be, due to financial constraints! 'Of One Heart' will now take place at 7pm on

Sunday October 19th in Christ Church, Presbyterian and Methodist.

The title 'Of One Heart' comes from Acts 4:32 where the new community of believers was described as wonderfully united, being of one heart and mind and sharing everything in common so that no one was in need. Verse 33 follows; 'With great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God poured rich blessings on them all.' We are hoping that we will give great witness at our gathering and that the City of Limerick and beyond will be greatly blessed. The City of Culture year gives us such an opportunity to express our Christian culture and invite people to share with us. The service will be simple and the music well-known. Our guest speaker Peter McVerry SJ will be able to share his experiences of society which affect and are relevant to us all, and his personal story; a faithful and pioneering worker in God's Kingdom, passionate about social justice and living in solidarity with those who struggle on the margins. Please look out for the posters and encourage friends and family to come along – everyone is welcome.

Again 'thank you' to Deloitte Limerick and Cork who made a lovely job of our makeover. About sixty (mostly) young people who normally work at desks came along and gave us a day of their time and energy. The church and halls look great, light and fresh. A big 'thank you' too to Will Power and his crew of painters – Pat, Al and Gerry – who also gave their time, expertise and immense good humour free of charge when it was needed.



Deloitte team at work

Vicki writes: If you need painting, Will and the gang are your men! Seriously, I've never met a group of tradesmen like them. They are so good humoured and good natured; it does you good to just have them around! And they give really good prices.

Our film makers and selectors are putting the final touches to pieces which will complement our organ recital on October 30th at 7.30pm. Mr Nigel Bridge will be playing and in good old fashioned style we will be able to see some very new silent film and a couple of extracts from the classics. So do come along and enjoy our Halloween event!



Will Power and his crew of painters – Pat, Al and Gerry

The Methodist President Rev Peter Murray will be joining in our worship on November 9th at 7pm where our young people will be taking a leading role in the service; again all are very welcome.

Door of Hope church members are now gathering for prayer on Wednesday nights at 7.30pm in CB2. The prayer focuses on the city and anyone is very welcome to come and join in.

Open House Limerick joined us for the third year in CB1 working with volunteers and architectural experts to open the doors of buildings in Limerick that are not usually able to be enjoyed by the public.

Keep your eyes open for further exhibitions in CB1 including the Red Cross and Christ Church artists. The space is booked out for the rest of 2014 so there's still plenty to come along to enjoy.

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

Prayer group Wednesdays 7.30pm, CB2

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)

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 1st and 15th October at 8pm.

Our meetings in Dingle continue at the following times – Gairdin Mhuire Day Care Centre, Green Street, Dingle on the 26th October at 7.30pm and at 14 Cluain Na Fiadh, Deerpark. Lispolle on the 30th October at 7.30pm and BeenBawn Cottage, Binn Ban, Dingle on the 9th October at 7.30pm.

In Castleisland everyone is welcome to join us on the last Monday of each month meeting at 7.30pm in An Ríocht, Cragreens, Castleisland. This is the health and leisure club located beside the athletics track in Castleisland. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday 27th October. Please pray for this new initiative.

"No Biscuits" ladies lifestyle group had a fascinating meeting last month regarding the incredible nettle plant as a valuable food source. Everyone will also remember the lovely soup and the salad made from sea beet growing wild at Fenit. The October meeting is scheduled for Monday 27th at 11am.

Men's Breakfast meeting in Killarney at 8.30am on Saturday 25th October.

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 Sunday 12th October we're looking forward to joining with other churches from the area as we share in a joint worship celebration service at Killorglin Church of Ireland this is a follow on from the wonderful event we had at the Methodist Church in Killarney in May. On that occasion Christians from ten different congregations gathered and there were four different denominations represented in the worship group alone. We hope and pray that the 12th October will be an equally inspiring day.

From mid-October until the end of January Laurence will be on sabbatical. This will be a time of reading, prayer and reflection as well as a chance to walk some of the Kerry hills. Also for two and a half weeks of this time he will lead a mission trip in Haiti. The building element of this trip will be to refurbish an accommodation block at a Methodist teacher training college in Port-au-Prince. The team also hopes to take some children's holiday Bible clubs in various churches and there are some medical people on the team who will be running short term clinics. The team will also be accompanied by Rev. Peter Murray, the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland and he along with Laurence will lead some seminars for preachers in Haiti. These seminars will also afford us an opportunity to learn about the mission of our sisters and brothers in Haiti. We have much to learn from the folks in this church which is growing rapidly even in the midst of difficult circumstances. Please pray for Laurence and family during the sabbatical and also for all of the team of people who will be continuing the work of our churches during this period.

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Shannon DeLaurel

The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

Tel: 0505 21670 Mobile: 085 1920 808

Email: Shannon.delaurel@irishmethodist.org

The psalmist writes, "Let us worship the Lord with gladness!" (Psalm 100:2). All are welcome to join us for our worship.

Sunday Services:

10:15am – Borrisokane

11:30am – Cloughjordan on 1st & 2nd Sundays

10:15am – Cloughjordan on 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays

11:45am – Roscrea

7:00pm – Shinrone

BAPTISM

We welcome into the fellowship of the Church, Sophia Victoria Brennan, infant daughter of John and Shirley Brennan, who was baptised on Sunday 14 September 2014 by the Rev. Tom Kingston in Borrisokane Methodist Church. We give thanks to God for this precious life and for her parents' commitment of raising her in the Christian faith.

As Autumn gets into full swing, our regular weekday church activities resume.

Here are dates and activities for your diary:

Autumn Bible-Study – Adults are invited to attend a weekly ecumenical Bible-study with Rev. Shannon on Mondays (beginning on 13th October) at 8pm in the Borrisokane Vestry and Thursdays (beginning on 16th October) at 8pm in the Roscrea Vestry. Biblical knowledge is not necessary – just a learning spirit! We will explore lectionary scripture passages and apply them to our everyday living. All are welcome.

St. Cronan's Boys' Brigade (Roscrea) – The company started back on Friday 26th September in our Methodist Hall at 7pm. BB caters for boys between 1st and 6th class. New members are welcome. Enrollment forms to be filled in on the night. Subs – €25 for 1st child and €20 for each additional sibling. Future meeting dates are 10th and 24th October, 14th and 28th November, and 12th December.

St. Cronan's Youth Club (Roscrea) – Our youth club will have their monthly get-together on Saturday 25th October for Halloween activities. We will meet at Kenny's at Knockshegowna at 7pm. Contact Rosie Gee at 086 1973311 if you have any queries. Cost is €2/head/night.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

"Girls Night Out" –MWI Pink Party – Tuesday 14th October at 8pm in Roscrea Methodist Church Hall. All the ladies on the circuit (Roscrea/Shinrone/Borrisokane/Cloughjordan) are invited to come and to bring a lady friend. This will be a fun party, where we wear pink and eat pink goodies in celebration of being a woman! Donations in aid of Marie Keating Foundation.

Walking Tour of Christian Rome – "In the Footsteps of St. Peter and St. Paul" – Gillian Kingston and Rev. Andrew Kingston will be leading a group of Irish Methodists on a walking tour from Wed. 25th Feb – Wed. 4th March 2015 in Rome. There is a great deal of walking on this tour so one needs to have a high degree of mobility. Cost is €870/person + extras for meals, entrance fees, and public transport. For more information, please contact Rev. Shannon DeLaurel.

Autumn blessings,
Rev. Shannon DeLaurel

Anglican Al Ahli Hospital continues to serve Gaza

The Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem operates Al Ahli hospital in Gaza City. It provided critical healthcare during the recent fighting and now faces a future treating severe injuries and trauma. In a message to the Anglican Communion, Bishop in Jerusalem the Rt Revd Suheil Dawani said serving the immediate needs of the community in Gaza "remained a high priority" for the Al Ahli Arab Hospital and its staff. The bishop was writing primarily to thank the Communion for the "outpouring of support from our development partners, churches and individuals" after a humanitarian appeal for Al-Ahli Hospital on July 15th. Support from the Anglican community worldwide meant Al-Ahli could continue to treat men, women and children injured during the two months of violence that killed 1,663 Palestinian and 67 Israeli civilians and soldiers.

Once described as a "haven of peace" in the middle of one of the world's most troubled places", the hospital has become a key centre for those impacted by the horrors of war. Bishop Dawani says:

"Although we celebrate the news of the August 26th ceasefire and an end to two months of violence, rebuilding Gaza will be a huge task. For Al-Ahli Hospital, serving the immediate needs of the community in Gaza remains a high priority.

"Al-Ahli has distributed first-aid packages to community-based organisations to enable them to treat some of the injured. Long-term care at the hospital is needed for those with severe injuries, while thousands of people are receiving psychosocial support to deal with the impact of the war.

"As so many buildings and homes in Gaza have been destroyed, many people still seek shelter and food for themselves and their families. With water and sanitation infrastructure damaged in many places, Al-Ahli is also working hard to help contain the spread of

communicable diseases and other hazards of polluted water and inadequate hygiene facilities."

Half of all the hospitals in Gaza were damaged or destroyed in the violence. Al-Ahli was not one of them, but it did lose staff. One of the hospital's nurses, Nivine Attar, was killed at home after her night shift at the hospital, as she tried to protect her two daughters – aged 2½ years and six months – during a bombardment of the area around her home. The girls are now orphans. In the latest update from the hospital, it recorded receiving 4,300 patients; treating 45 patients a day for burns (50% of those were children); and 120 people per day (again mainly children) were affected by the lack of sanitation, water, and food. Children in particular were suffering from chest infections, rashes and scabies.



A medical team treats a victim of the war

Bishop Dawani said, the terrible news coming out of Israel/Palestine, Iraq and Syria could cause people to lose hope but he went on, "When we look more carefully at our communities – our schools, hospitals and other places of healing, as well as places of worship – we see

promising signs everywhere of the Spirit moving hearts with love to help others."

From Fenloe to Chung'gang-jin

by Rev Paul G. Mooney

This moving account of the death and burial of an Irish Anglican woman missionary in the midst of the Korean War was written by an anonymous Roman Catholic sister, probably from France or Belgium. This piece was published after the Korean War in French in the Holy Ghost Fathers magazine Mission. This woman known as Sister Mary Clare is little known or remembered in her home land and in the Church of Ireland in which she was so deeply rooted.

"This morning we found our dear Sister Mary Clare, an Anglican Religious, sixty-years old, dead on her bed of straw. A person of deep Christian charity, she helped us in times of distress. We loved her very much. She shared with us the unbearable life in camp, and now she had finished her bitter Calvary. May she rest in the peace of the Lord!"

With her companions who helped her so much on the forced march, we prepared her body for burial. Preceded by our guard; her friends; Sister Bernadette (a Carmelite) and myself, we carried her, the five of us, on an improvised bier to the top of a neighbouring hill, quite close to the camp. We ourselves dug her grave, only so deep as our failing strength allowed, and we laid her down there, showing a sisterly reverence. Then, after the last prayer, we covered this poor body with a little earth and stones. With bits of wood we made a cross, and placed this sign of Redemption on her tomb."

Sister Mary Clare, also known as Mother Mary Clare was born on May 30, 1883 in Fenloe, County Clare and was registered in Ennis, Co. Clare as Clare Emma Whitty daughter of Richard Lawrence Whitty and Jane Alicia Whitty. Her father's profession is listed on her birth registration as a land agent. Her mother was originally a Hickman who were land owners around Fenloe.

Her mother, Alicia Jane Hickman, was a granddaughter of Bishop Edward Stopford, Bishop of Meath and so Mary Clare's mother would have been a cousin of Alice Stopford Green. Her father, Richard Lawrence Whitty was born in 1844 and was baptized in St. Mary's Church, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow on 24 April 1844. His parents were the Rev'd William Whitty, curate of Rathvilly, and his wife Gertrude (nee Langley). They lived at Cromwell's Ford, Rathvilly. The Rev'd William Whitty died a few days after Richard Lawrence's baptism on March 1, 1844 at the age of 43. He had been curate of Rathvilly for 20 years and was buried in Rathvilly on May 3, 1844. He was survived by his wife and four children, of whom Richard was, of course, the youngest. This particular branch of the Whitty family provided many clergy for the Church of Ireland in the 18th and first half of the 19th centuries and there were Whitty relatives who served as clergy in Clare as well as in the Carlow area. Rathvilly seems to have been the homeland of this particular Whitty sub-clan and many were returned to be buried in Rathvilly after they died. Richard Lawrence Whitty qualified as a medical doctor in August 1888 and was mentioned as Dr. Whitty, 11 the Crescent, Limerick in the death notice for his mother-in-law who

died in June 1889. By the time of the 1891 Census, the family had moved to England and were living at Loughton, Essex. Mary Clare had an older sister, Sophia Angel St. John Whitty, named after her mother's mother, and no other brothers or sisters. On November 1, 1897 her father died aged 53 in London. The family were living with her mother's brother, Hugh P. Hickman, an army officer who was stationed at Woolwich Barracks in London at the time of the 1901 census.

In the 1911 Census Clare Emma Whitty was living as a boarder in a house in Birmingham and her occupation was listed as Elementary Teaching. In the first decade of the Twentieth Century her education had included some training in art in Paris and she spoke fluent French. In the meantime, her mother and sister had moved back to Ireland and they were living in Rathmichael, Co. Dublin at the

time of the 1911 Census. Alicia Jane is listed as head of the household and Sophia's profession was stated as Artist-Designer, her marital status was single. Sophia Angel St. John Whitty died on 26 February 1924 at Drumcondra Hospital, Dublin and at the time her home address was in Old Bawn, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Mary Clare's mother died on 17 June 1931 and she lived at Wayside, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow at the time of her death.

Clare Emma Whitty joined the Anglican Community of St. Peter in 1912 who were then based in Kilburn and on her profession as a sister in 1915 she took the name Mary Clare. The Rev'd Mark Trollope who had been vicar of St Augustine's Church of England Church in Kilburn became the third Anglican Bishop of Korea just before the First World War and asked for Sr. Mary Clare to help him found a society of Korean sisters in Seoul. The War made it impossible for her to depart for Korea immediately and she went out to Korea in 1923. Following Korean language studies and preparations for setting up a community of Anglican women religious, she became the novice mistress and later first mother superior of

the Society of the Holy Cross which was set up in 1925 in Seoul. Mary Clare was back in Britain for a time in 1928-1929 and resided at the mother house of the Community of St. Peter in Kilburn. After that she returned to Seoul and took up her role as first Mother Superior of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

With the advent of the Second World War, Mother Mary Clare was repatriated to England in 1941. In 1946 she departed England for Kure, Japan on route to Korea where she arrived in January 1947. On the ship's passenger list, her profession was described as a teacher. She then resumed her duties with the Society of the Holy Cross and the Anglican Church of Korea. With the outbreak of the Korean War and the arrival of the North Korean army in Seoul in June 1950, she took refuge with some other foreign civilians in the British Embassy but they were interned by the North Korean forces as they consolidated their occupation of the Korean capital. On the retreat of the North Korean forces from Seoul following the



Sister Mary Clare SHC from Fenloe, Co Clare

success of the United Nations forces landing at Inchon, she and other civilian prisoners from various nationalities, including a good cross section of Christian missionaries from various denominations, were relocated by the North Koreans to the northern part of North Korea. The last part of this journey involved a forced march of over 100 miles in early winter with little food or warm clothing. Mother Mary Clare was not in great health and died due to the difficulties imposed by the "death march." As reported above she was buried in a shallow grave somewhere near the Chosin Reservoir in the North West part of North Korea by French speaking Roman Catholic sisters who gave her as dignified a Christian burial as was possible in their circumstances.

In April 1954, about ten months after the armistice that marked the end of the Korean War in 1953, there was a short obituary

notice about her in the Church Times in which she was described as a "devoted and courageous English Sister". While Mother Mary Clare is well remembered in the Anglican Church of Korea, she remains virtually unknown in Ireland or in the Church of Ireland. Her family line was not continued and died out with her. Her religious community had no representation or direct contacts with churches in Ireland, but there is no doubt that she was a daughter of the Church of Ireland and an Irish woman whose faith and trust in God's calling brought her from the respectable surroundings of her birth in Fenloe in 1883 to a cold death on a bed of straw in an internment camp on Monday 6 November 1950 in a place called Chung'gang-jin in the north of North Korea.

Changes ahead in Religious Broadcasting

by Rev Eileen Cremin – Chair, C of I Broadcasting Committee

I am now in a position to pass on some news to everyone regarding changes that will be happening this month in the field of Religious Broadcasting (Radio). We have already been through some change when the Medium Wave (MW) transmitter was switched off in 2008 and Morning Services were moved to Long Wave 252 (LW) and DAB (Digital Audio Broadcasting). When this happened it was very difficult to gauge the effect this change had upon our regular audiences; and now more change is on the way.

After much reflection and some consultation, it has been decided by RTÉ to proceed with the closure of the Longwave Service on 27th October, 2014. The decision has now been ratified at RTÉ Executive Board level. It is not a step that has been taken lightly.

I encourage those of you that are 'technologically literate', at local level, to offer neighbourly outreach to our most marginalised and technologically challenged listeners, in order to ensure that they are shown how to find the religious content on their TVs, radios or computers. The key message is that the level of RTÉ Religious content – in particular religious services – will be undiminished, with weekly Masses and Services on Radio 1extra; a Mass OR a Service every Sunday and on significant Festival days on RTÉ One TV; and weekly Mass, in Irish, on Raidió na Gaeltachta, on FM. This output complements a wide variety of religious output from other non-RTÉ sources, ranging from local radio to Vatican Radio, from EWTN to the BBC, plus narrowcasting shortwave output and online links to an ever increasing number of churches.

The reasons for the closure are:

1. Longwave 252 is not a popular service

FM is dominant and ubiquitous in Ireland and digital platforms offer the best quality and most future-proofed service for our listeners.

There are now many modern alternatives to Longwave.

2. The technology is dated, expensive and poor quality

Other public broadcasters are closing their services, e.g. BBC and VGTRK (Russia).

3. Digital platforms have overtaken Longwave, especially abroad

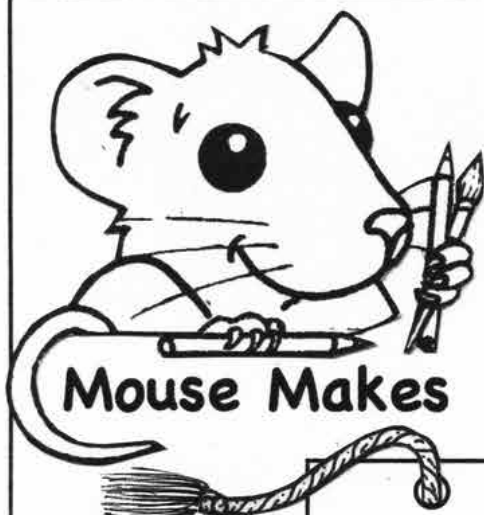
In the past 10 years the computer, the television and most recently the phone have all effectively become radios. There are approx 400,000 DAB digital radios in Ireland. The RTÉ Radio Player serves 3.8 million streams per month. 40% of RTÉ Radio's online consumption is overseas. RTÉ Radio 1 is also available on Sky, UPC, Saorview, FreeSat (UK) and on Shortwave to Africa. Since the switch-off of analogue TV services, all households with a TV in Ireland have had access to digital television.

4. RTÉ is working to minimise the disruption to listeners

The present Sports and Religious splits will continue on Radio 1 Extra. Radio 1 Extra is now available on all digital platforms. RTÉ Radio is reviewing nationwide FM coverage to ensure the best service. RTÉ will work with relevant agencies and with the public, at home and abroad, to manage the closure and to make sure people are aware of the alternatives.

In the weeks to come you will see more publicity about this change from RTE. I hope that the switchover will be as smooth as the previous one. If you have any comments or observations about this forthcoming change, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at evcremin@eircom.net.





GOD'S WORD FOR US

"All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for **teaching** the truth, **rebuking** error, **correcting** faults, and giving **instruction** for right living, so that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed."

2 Timothy 3:16-17



READ
Psalm
119:105
Proverbs
30:5,6

ETGJUDEUTERONOMYEBJJDOEXODUS
AHAMOSAZECHARIAHZEUOABZMICAH
FELCHRONICLESHEPRUDNNGEACGOD
JSAMUEL LSLNAHUMHAGGAIMKLMARK
ESTHERRPREVELATIONEHMIAHDTP
RAICCOLOSSIANSKLAISDLJEC LTHH
ELAMENTATIONSPHILEMONOLHUMOE
MONEPHESIANSATAPROVERBSIKASB
INSSONGOFSONGSSPJBHTOJFPETER
AIDECORINTHIANSIOETIMOTHYTAE
HABAKKUKZEPHANIAHDGTAHRUTHMW
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PSALMSELEVITICUSIADSSJOELWCS
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• Micah • Nahum • Habakkuk • Zephaniah • Haggai • Zechariah •
• Malachi • Matthew • Mark • Luke • John • Acts • Romans •
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All families who pay before a specified date each semester are entered into a draw for a refund of their net fees for that semester. Please contact our School Bursar for specific information on all our grants, scholarships and bursaries. All enquiries are dealt with in the strictest of confidence - bursar@villiers-school.com

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