



NEWSLINK

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

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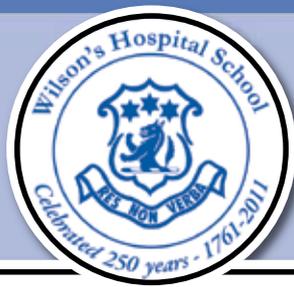
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The angels keep on singing

Detail of the South Transept window, St. Mary's Killarney



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

Letter from the Commissary

Archdeacon Wayne Carney

I once had a conversation with a churchwarden (in a different diocese, in a different country), discussing the future of the Church. I had said that the Anglican Church, with its declining numbers, would have to change or it would be gone in twenty years. He said that he was certain that within fifty years, the whole Christian enterprise would be gone – there would be no one left who believed in God!

Such a statement revealed both a lack of knowledge of Church history (the Church has survived worse situations than ours many times over twenty centuries) and, quite obviously, a lack of faith. It is certainly true that if we're not faithful, if we're not up to the job, if we're too concerned with buildings and money, God will let someone else take on the role of building his Kingdom – he's done it before. We're not indispensable. But, throughout history, every time the Church has run into trouble, every time it has looked like the end was near, God has chosen people to listen to the Holy Spirit in order to find new life in old institutions, to change the direction the Church was taking, to find new ways of sharing the Gospel. There are many examples:

- St Paul bringing the Church away from being a sect within Judaism in order to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles, and, eventually, to the whole Roman Empire.
- Various saints (many of them Irish) who helped the Church survive during the Dark Ages by making it a centre of learning, craftsmanship, and faith.
- Martin Luther and other reformers, who helped the Church rediscover its faith, and the leaders of the Counter-Reformation in the Roman Catholic Church who helped to do the same.
- Charles Wesley, who tried to bring new life to the Anglican Church. His followers, undaunted by the Church's refusal to change, started the Methodist Church to be faithful to his principles.
- John Henry Newman, Edward Pusey, and others who started the Oxford Movement to try to reconnect the Anglican Church with the faith and traditions of the Early Church and away from being controlled by English politicians.

Such reforms are never straightforward, and are always controversial. When someone suggests changing something important about our organisation, or the way we worship, are they merely trying to make the Church conform to the norms of secular society, or are they genuinely being led by the Holy Spirit to bring the Church forward into a new situation? There is no easy answer but we have to keep searching.

The question we face, in the Church around the world, in the Anglican Communion, in the Church of Ireland, and in our Diocese, is whether we are in our age called to a new Reformation. Our old ways of 'being Church', our expectations, our understanding of what we're about – all of these are being challenged, not only by a society that is not particularly interested in what we say and do, but also challenged by God so that we may share the Gospel more effectively in our lost and broken society. A new Reformation – strong words, but appropriate, in that our old ways are not working. We don't want or need to change the Gospel, or change our beliefs, just the way we share that Gospel, those beliefs, in a very different society from what was there fifty or a hundred years ago.

This Diocese will be impacted by the need to change quite drastically over the coming months. We will not have the clergy to carry on the parochial work in the way that we did in the past. In January, we will be saying farewell to Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke at her retirement, and Canon Stephen Neill and the Revd Mairt Hanley, as they depart for other parishes in other dioceses. We have clergy on sick leave, and of course Aughrim Group is vacant since the tragic death of Canon George Flynn. Clergy and lay people together will have to look at new ways to do the things that need doing. We will have the benefit of the wisdom and experience of our new Bishop, Kenneth Kearon, and we look forward to working with him to meet the challenges that lie ahead of us in the short term, and those that are further down the road.

The Christian Church is indeed alive and well – God will make sure that that continues. As for the Church of Ireland, as for our Diocese, that is up to us, responding to God's call, working with him and each other to build up the Body of Christ in our communities. With openness, faith, and hard work, and the grace of God, it will be done.

Yours faithfully,
Wayne Carney

Consecration and Enthronement of Bishop-elect Kenneth Kearon

Canon Kenneth Kearon will be consecrated as our new Bishop in Christchurch Cathedral, Dublin on Saturday 24th January at 2.30pm.

His enthronement in Limerick will take place at St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, on Saturday 7th February at 2.30pm. All are welcome to attend, and to be part of the beginning of a new chapter in our diocese and parishes. Dean Sandra Pragnell writes: "*We would appreciate help with catering – perhaps each parish may like to bring two trays of food – one savoury and one sweet. We look forward to seeing you there. For readers and clergy who wish to robe, please confirm your attendance to Dean Sandra Pragnell.*"

He will be enthroned in St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe at a later date.



Editorial - Thank You! Newslink

I am delighted to tell you that Newslink subscriptions for 2015 remain the same as for 2014 – see the details below – despite increases in postage and printing costs. This is possible because we have enough in our bank account at end 2014 to absorb the modest loss we expect to make in 2015. Our policy is to break even in the long run, so that Newslink is not a drain on Diocesan finances, not salt away surpluses.

I say THANK YOU to our loyal subscribers for your support over the years – there could be no magazine without you. I trust that you will renew your subscription for 2015 promptly when asked. I also hope you will recommend Newslink and urge friends and fellow parishioners to subscribe. We need a steady flow of new subscribers to maintain quality into the future without increasing the subscription charge – if we get enough we might even be able to reduce it!

I must also pay tribute to our Newslink Pew Distributors, all volunteers. Theirs is a difficult and time consuming job. It is not easy to ask people for money at the start of each year. Then for all 10 issues they must break open the packages, write names on each copy, sometimes add inserts, and then distribute them. Some close to Limerick go to the trouble of collecting the packages from the printer, thus saving their subscribers the postage costs. So THANK YOU to our dedicated Pew Distributors too – yours is a hugely appreciated ministry.

THANK YOU to all who contribute notes, photos, articles and letters to Newslink. You keep our readers up to date with what is happening in our Diocese and the wider Church through your skill and effort – that too is hugely appreciated.

Finally, THANK YOU to our loyal advertisers. We reduced our rates to you back in 2013 and they remain unchanged through 2015. We heartily encourage our readers to support you and value your custom.

The Newslink team – Assistant Editor Deborah Powell, Treasurer Peter Schutz and myself as Editor – wish you all every blessing this Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and throughout 2015.

God bless, Joc Sanders

NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2015 (unchanged from 2014, for 10 issues, new subscriptions pro rata)

Delivered to pew in bulk €37

Individual copy by post €45

Collected from printer in bulk €30

(contact: Peter Schutz, Ardhu, Castletroy, Co. Limerick,
Email: peterschuetz@gmail.com)

NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2015 (unchanged from 2013)

	Rate per annum (Euro) (payable in advance)		Rate per single issue (Euro)	
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Quarter Page	299	268	39	36
Eighth Page	149	133	19	18

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

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

Editor

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

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

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Deadlines

The next issue will be for February 2015, published for Sunday 1st February.

All material must reach the Editor by Friday 16th January 2015 before 6.00pm, by email only, unless otherwise agreed. Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

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

**Newslink subscriptions are due in January
at unchanged prices**

A Divided Christmas – managing Christmas after separation

by Glynis Good

Editor: Glynis is the author of "When Parents Split" (Blackhall Publishing – www.whenparentssplit.com, and a former member of Church of Ireland Marriage Council

After parents separate one thing that everyone discovers is that special occasions and family celebrations are some of the most difficult times to deal with. The first Christmas after separation is the hardest and as parents struggle to manage their emotions, children and teens will also have concerns about spending Christmas without their other parent.

Christmas is a time when people are more aware of how things used to be and how much has changed. It takes effort and willingness to cooperate at these times when things are not the same or are not how you want them to be. Children and teens will also experience these feelings and giving them an opportunity to talk about this is helpful. Having a positive attitude will help your children in working towards keeping some traditions and being creative with new ideas.

MAKE A PLAN

Putting a plan in place for the Christmas holidays, well ahead of time, can make a difference.

One teenager commented to me about Christmas "Both my parents want me to please them by agreeing to do things their way. It puts me in a battle that I can never win."

Having a plan for Christmas where children know where they will be and when they will see or have time with their other parent is so important and helps everyone feel more in control. Without knowing or having a plan children and teens are left feeling anxious

and upset. Just because they are not talking about it to you as their parent does not mean that it is not very much in their minds. If you have teenagers then include them in a planning discussion. Everyone's opinion is valid and while compromises will need to be made, knowing what is happening will make things easier for everyone.

When making a plan:

- Make it open to everyone who is involved.
- Be honest
- Be creative with ideas and solutions
- Be willing to compromise on some things.
- Write it down
- Let people know what the plan is and what is expected of them.
- Work at making this Christmas one with good memories.

While there will always be ex-husbands, ex-wives and ex-partners there is no such thing as an ex-child. Parents can sometimes forget how important the other parent is to their child. (Some parents can also forget how important they are to their children.) Without question the single biggest problem for children following their parents' separation is being exposed to continuing parental conflict. A parent who cares deeply for their children often fails to view what is happening through the eyes of their children. Perhaps this Christmas it is worth stopping and making a plan and taking some small steps towards parenting co-operatively over the Christmas period and into the year ahead – the benefits for your children will be worth it.

Anglicans and Oriental Orthodox agree on Christ's incarnation

Senior theologians in Anglican Communion and Oriental Orthodox Churches recently made history by signing an agreement on their mutual understanding of Christ's incarnation.



Anglican Communion & Oriental Orthodox theologians in Cairo in October 2014, among them Archbishop of Dublin Michael Jackson

This was not just a minor point of theology, rather it was a subject that divided the Church following the Council of Chalcedon in 451 AD, leaving the Oriental Orthodox Churches separated from the Eastern Orthodox Churches and the Church of Rome. Chalcedon was a city on the Asian side of the Bosphorus in modern Turkey.

The work to reconcile these branches of the Christian family on the question of how the two natures, human and divine, were united in

one human being – Jesus Christ – began in earnest in the 1990s. By 2002 an Agreed Statement on Christology had been prepared by the Anglican-Oriental Orthodox International Commission (AOOIC) and sent to the participating Churches and an updated statement was recirculated in 2013. By the October 2014 meeting in Cairo, AOOIC members were able to finalise the document and Bishop Geoffrey Rowell and His Eminence Metropolitan Bishop of Damietta signed on behalf of their Churches.

This statement, which is a significant step of reconciliation, will now be sent to "the responsible authorities of the Oriental Orthodox Churches and the Anglican Communion for their consideration and action".

Come and sing Carols

in St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday,
13 December at 5.30pm.



Christmas carol singing fun for all the family. You are invited to come to St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick to join in some hearty carol singing. We will be including many of the Christmas favourites – we hope to put you in the Christmas spirit! Free admission, with retiring collection in aid of Limerick City Parish and the St Mary's Cathedral Flower Festival 2015. With special guests the Limerick Choral Union and the St Mary's Prize Band – a chance to hear two famous musical mainstays of Limerick's rich culture, of which we are justifiably proud.

Prayer Corner

Partners in Prayer

– December 2014

Each Sunday

The Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe & Ardferd and Bishop Elect Kenneth Kearon

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

7th December – Advent 2, Purple/Violet

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Kinkiizi, Uganda and The Rt Revd Dan Zoreka, Bishop of Kinkiizi

This Diocese: The United Diocesan Youth Council

14th December – Advent 3, Purple/Violet

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Kitgum, Uganda and The Rt Revd Benjamin Ojwang, Bishop of Kitgum

This Diocese: Organists and choirs of the United Diocese

21st December – Advent 4, Purple/Violet

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Kontagora, Province of Lokoja, Nigeria and The Rt Revd Jonah Ibrahim, Bishop of Kontagora

This Diocese: All government and voluntary agencies of care and compassion throughout our United Dioceses

CHRISTMAS DAY, White/Gold

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of South East Asia, The Most Revd Bolly Lapok, Archbishop of South East Asia & Bishop of Kuching, and The Rt Revd Aeries Sumping Jingan, Assistant Bishop of Kuching

Church of Ireland: The work of Bishops Appeal on behalf of the Church

28th December – Christmas 1, White/Gold

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: the Diocese of Kushtia, Bangladesh and The Rt Revd Sunil Mankhin, Bishop of Kushtia

This Diocese: The Deans and Chapter of our Diocesan Cathedrals

– January 2015

Each Sunday

The Diocese of Armagh and Archbishop Richard Clarke

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

4th January – Christmas 2, White/Gold

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Dioceses of Lagos West & Lagos Mainland, both in Nigeria, The Rt Revd James Odedeji, Bishop of Lagos West, & The Rt Revd Adebayo Akinde, Bishop of Lagos Mainland

This Diocese: For new initiatives throughout our dioceses at the beginning of this New Year.

11th January – Epiphany 1/Baptism of Our Lord, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Langtang, Jos, Nigeria and The Rt Revd Stanley Fube, Bishop of Langtang

Cofl: For all those preparing for Baptism at this time

18th January – Epiphany 2, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This Diocese: Bishop Elect Kenneth Kearon as he prepares for his consecration this week

25th January – Epiphany 3, White

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Long Island in The Episcopal Church, USA and The Rt Revd Lawrence Provenzano, Bishop of Long Island

This Diocese: For parochial and diocesan nominators throughout these United Diocese and all those exercising pastoral care in vacant parishes

The Christmas Dog

by Rev Michael Cavanagh

If, underneath your Christmas tree,
your family dog you might just see
staring up at all the light,
gaze fixed on the star so bright;
you might be stirred to wonder why
he sits so still, with eagle eye.
Well, let me tell you one dog's story
of a night of ancient glory.
Long ago and far away,
while guarding flocks at end of day
his granddad, too, gazed at a star
that Kings had followed from afar.
The Shepherds knelt in silent fear;
the old dog tensed – was danger near?
But no – an angel came and said
"Don't be afraid – raise up your head
and hurry to the town – you'll see
a child who comes to set you free"
In His manger bed of straw
the child smiled softly as he saw
that ox, and lamb – and yes – a dog!
behind the stacked-up hay and logs

had come to celebrate His birth
and welcome Him to this, His earth.
Although the story's very old,
from dog to dog, it still gets told.
That's how it is that in Decembers
every pup on earth remembers
that the Lord of all creation
loved not only man and nation
but beasts of every size and shape;
dog and spider, whale and ape.
For ALL the earth is His; and we
are sent to guard it, land and sea.
As his job was guarding sheep;
so we too must never sleep
'til those He loves are healed and warm,
kept from all that brings them harm;
and know that they are loved, protected;
because there's none that Christ rejected.

So...

... as you and Fido view the tree
think about how you and he
could sing this message to all earth –
that peace has come through God's child's birth.



When am I to be born?

by Rev Michael Cavanagh

When am I to be born, Father?

Shall I be born in Spring?

So that they will see the beginning of new life,
the fresh green buds,
watch the lamb, free, playful, innocent,
and breathe the crisp, clear air?

Or Summer?

When the warmth of the sun eases the pain
of work-tired muscle?
The time of endless, peaceful evenings,
of holiday and rest?

Autumn, perhaps.

They would know calmness,
the peace of things completed,
the fruitfulness of work well done.

Surely not Winter?

When life itself is cold,
when the darkness seems stronger than the light?
When it seems that the morning will never come,
when hope seems far away?

I see. Let it be in Winter, then.

Sounding the Seasons

by Malcolm Guite

Tangled in time, we go by hints and guesses,
Turning the wheel of each returning year.
But in the midst of failures and successes
We sometimes glimpse the Love that casts out fear.

Sometimes the heart remembers its own reasons
And beats a Sanctus as we sing our story,
Tracing the threads of grace, sounding the seasons
That lead at last through time to timeless glory.

From the first yearning for a Saviour's birth
To the full joy of knowing sins forgiven
We start our journey here on God's good earth
To catch an echo of the choirs of heaven.

I send these out, returning what was lent,
Turning to praise each 'moment's monument'.

*From 'Sounding the Seasons'; 70 sonnets for the Christian Year',
Canterbury Press, 2012, reproduced with the permission of the
author.*

Armchair Christmas Quiz

In aid of: Christian Aid Ebola funds,

Christian Aid/Bishop's Appeal are charities which provides emergency and long term aid where-ever it is most needed in the world. .

Please give generously.

Prizes: €20, €10 & €5 book tokens

Minimum entry €2

All entries will be eligible for prizes, so please send yours in, completed or not! By Feb 6th 2015

Very Revd. Denis Sandes,
Ballyhasty, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary.

Name
Address

ANSWERS: ALL FOODS FOUND IN THE KITCHEN (OR PANTRY)

Example Has this bloom been harvested? CORN FLOUR

1. Sounds like it should be growing in the garden _ L _ _ _
2. Could this be driven in the ground? _ _ E _ _
3. You might do this to a block of wood _ H _ _
4. Sounds like it is from the Baltic! _ _ _ _ E

5. Far end of the Med _ _ _ _ E _
6. Dirtier, also in Med! _ _ _ _ _ E
7. Is this fancy bird a complaint? _ _ _ _ _ E
8. Red head _ _ _ _ _ T
9. Eye black/Jewish Priest _ _ _ _ _ A _ _
10. Could be underfoot _ _ _ _ E
11. Skirt too long? You need to do this! _ _ _ _ _ I _
12. Could be farm animals _ _ O _ _
13. Could be beet or cane _ _ _ A _
14. Could be one of the wise men _ _ _ E
15. Don't say stop! S _ _ _
16. Could be in the river or the wiring _ _ _ _ A _ _
17. You couldn't cash this in: _ O _ _ _
18. But you could cash in your _ _ _ _ S
19. Do C Bees live in these? _ _ _ _ E _
20. Would a goat do this to a lady? _ _ _ _ E _
21. Could be a female Muslim ruler: _ _ _ _ A _ _
22. French little marrow _ _ _ _ _ _ _ E
23. This could be in a bone _ _ _ _ _ O _
24. Sounds like the winner! _ _ A _ _

Please feel free to copy this and pass it among your friends

Máirt's Musings – Reflecting on teams in the transfer window

by Rev Máirt Hanley, Kilcolman Union

Editor: The Newslink team take this opportunity to wish Rev Máirt and his family every blessing in his new parish of Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow. He will be widely missed throughout the diocese, but we in Newslink will particularly miss his delightful monthly Musings.

This was written after the South Africa match, but equally true after the Australian one. As I am in the transfer window at the moment, I think it best to take the sporting metaphor and run with it.....

As I sit to write this there are a couple of sporting events on my mind. I am looking forward to two world cups, cricket and rugby, coming up in the next year. I am also thinking of the German victory in this year's soccer World Cup and of Saturday's game against the 'Boks.

George Hook's words after the game ring in my ears, both his fulsome apology and his comments on where the game was won. It was won on the pitch, yes, but more importantly it was won on a note pad a week or so before. There was a plan and the players stuck to the plan. The folks in the squad were picked to do a job, they were told the job and then they worked at it and won. As a Leinster fan I am used to seeing this from Mr. Schmitt. I remember commenting to a friend a few seasons ago, when we were at our height, that it didn't seem to matter when we had injury worries, as it appeared that the guys who were standing in were able to take their place without the team losing shape. There always seemed to be good planning and solid team work.

I am told that that is what won the World Cup for the Germans. Brazil and other teams had lots of stars, big names and celebs but the Germans had a team. Now this could turn into a rant about substance over form but I don't think that would be fair. There is plenty of substance to some of those star names, and thinking of those Springbok players, the last thing that they lack is substance!

It is about what a team can do. Even though the Brazilians had all those star names, the Germans had a team. The Springboks have many big names in rugby, but whilst we were missing many of our first line players, we played as a team and showed that the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts.



It reminded me of an evening eight years ago when I settled down to watch Ireland v. Pakistan in the cricket, just to see how much we would lose by, and saw a miracle. We had no big names, some of our team were still working as 'sparkies' and postmen but we beat the best players in the world! I suppose that's why some people love sport, you never know what will happen. I love watching team sports because it speaks to me about what we can achieve when we work together, when we do what we can with others around us. I don't care much for this X-factor cult of the individual stuff, for me the real X-factor is team work and togetherness.

No one is an island, entire and of themselves. Why else have people been remembering those who have passed away this month, but to acknowledge somehow that we are all part of a team, and that our field position was earned by players who have left the field for the benches.

So let's remember to play as a team and for the sake of those who will run on after us and those who are on the bench - let's make the most of our field position by working together!

Diocesan Calendar

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

Sun 7th Dec, 3.30pm

Commissioning of Barbara Irgang-Buckley as Diocesan Reader, St Michael's Church, Killorglin

Thu 11th Dec, 11am

Mothers' Union: Carol Singing at Clover Lodge Nursing Home, Shinrone - all welcome

Sat 13th Dec, 6.30-8pm

Nenagh Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Church, Nenagh at 6.30pm (the church will be open for viewing, afternoon teas and musical interludes each afternoon Sun 14th - Sun 21st, 2pm - 8pm)

Sun 14th Dec, 3pm

Commissioning of Dr John Jarvis as Diocesan Reader, St Michael's Church, Pery Sq, Limerick

Thu 18th Dec, 8.15pm

Christmas Whist Drive, Aghancon Hall

Sat 20th Dec, 7.30pm

UDYC Fellowship Group, Kilmurry Church, Castletroy

Mon 22nd Dec, 9.30-12.30

Social Dance, Aghancon Hall (music by Muriel O'Connor & Fran Curry)

Sun 28th Dec

UDYC Senior Christmas Day Trip to Dublin (13+)

Tue 30th Dec

UDYC Junior Christmas Day Trip to Dublin (10+)

Sat 3rd Jan, 1pm

UDYC Committee Meeting - Bev Callender's Home

Sun 11th Jan, 3.30pm

Installation of Rev Jane Galbraith as Rector of Roscrea Group, St.

Cronan's Church, Roscrea

Thu 15th Jan, 7.30pm

Diocesan Council, Woodlands Hotel, Adare

Sat 17th Jan, 7.30pm

UDYC Fellowship Group, Kilmurry Church, Castletroy

Sat 24th Jan, 2.30pm

Service of Ordination and Consecration of the Revd Canon Kenneth Kearon as the new Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, in Christchurch Cathedral Dublin

Fri 30th - Sat 31st Jan

UDYC Committee Retreat - Clairvaux House, Mount St. Joseph's Monastery, Roscrea

Sat 7th February, 2.30pm

Enthronement of Bishop Kenneth Kearon in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Sat 7th Feb, 10.30am - 1pm

UDYC Fundraising Coffee Morning & Cake Sale, Adare Methodist Hall

Wed 18th February

Ash Wednesday - Lent Begins

A Tale of the Truce

By Marjorie Quarton



THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

My father, Standish Smithwick, was born in Lorrha, where his father was Rector. Previously, my grandfather had been curate in Nenagh. My father was happiest out of doors, among horses and taking part in sports and athletics. He was a Rugby International and in the army, a high handicap Polo player

He spent a lot of time at my old home, Crannagh, near Nenagh. I inherited the farm and spent the first 70 years of my life there. I think he would rather have been a farmer than a soldier, but, like many of his generation, he had no choice. The family tradition was that the eldest son joined the army. His elder brother did so and was killed within weeks at 18 years old. So Standish took his place and joined the Royal Dublin Fusiliers where he was a Captain when the First World War began.

He was in France and Belgium from the beginning until the Armistice, being wounded in 1915 and losing a lung from gas in 1917. It is well known that owing to blunders in high places, the time up to Christmas 1914 was a confused and bloody exercise, gaining nothing. On Christmas Eve, the 'Dublins' were close to Messines, in an area that would be fought over for more than three years with fearful losses.

A day or two earlier, my father had been hit by a sniper's bullet, which grazed the top of his ear, and drew a line to his eyebrow. For the rest of his life, he had a white scar and the top of his ear used to bleed and scab over from time to time. On Christmas Day, he was still wearing a dressing on the wound, but was perfectly fit.

We all know the story. How the Germans sang Christmas carols and some of the Irish and British joined the singing. How first the Germans, then the allies emerged unarmed from their trenches and mingled in no-man's land. The Royal Dublin Fusiliers were opposite to a Saxon regiment.

As my father walked towards the Germans, a young officer went up to him and held out his hand. Nodding at the dressing, he said in perfect English, 'I did that. I am glad I did not kill you.' I would imagine my father's response was, 'so am I.' He asked the young man, whose name was Sigmund, what an officer was doing sniping from a tree. 'I saw the blighter,' he said, 'miles away. It was a fluke shot.' Sigmund said, 'Wait a minute, ran back to his trench and emerged with a rifle. He showed my father the telescopic sight. 'It is the first,' he said. 'I am the best shot in Germany, so I was ordered to "bag an officer."' He had almost succeeded.

It seemed that Sigmund was not of the Saxon regiment; possibly not a regular soldier at all. He was from Bavaria, passionate about horses and a crack shot. The two men had a great deal in common besides a love of horses. They were countrymen, keen on sports and well educated. They parted with reluctance. My father gave Sigmund a souvenir, he couldn't remember what. Sigmund gave him a pocket calendar for 1915 with a picture of the Kaiser on it and a photo of a group of British prisoners being rounded up by Germans. I have them still.

That truce might have ended the war, but after a short time, all were ordered back to the business of killing each other. My father told me the story several times when I was a child and impressed on me how it had changed his thinking. A humane man, he saw the army as a career with opportunities for seeing the world. He hadn't thought much about the 'honour and glory' of being a soldier, but had been schooled to think war a glorious affair (for the winners, anyway).

After meeting Sigmund, his outlook changed. He said to me, 'there may be some glory when one empire beats another at war. When Standish is sent out to kill Sigmund and Sigmund is sent out to kill Standish, there is neither honour nor glory; just a waste of lives, no matter who wins.' He told me to remember that and I did.



Capt. Standish George Smithwick

In May 1915, he encountered Sigmund again, when they met face to face, guns raised, at the corner of an undamaged farm-house, later known as Mousetrap Farm. My father, suspecting a trap, had approached alone through woodland. Sigmund had presumably had the same idea. Neither spoke. Each turned his back and returned the way he had come. Probably both were frightened, but reasonably sure they wouldn't be shot.

This meeting, a short distance from their original encounter, reinforced my father's thinking. He worried that he might have wounded or even killed the younger man and spoke about the truce when he was dying in 1958.

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Diocesan Organisations

Girls Friendly Society

CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

The Cloughjordan girls continue to work on their Science & Nature badge and also on their craft work.

We painted and decorated cardboard hearts and stars to decorate our Christmas trees, attended the Christmas Craft Day in Birr on 29th November and our own Branch Christmas Party on 3rd December.

We congratulate Canon Stephen Neill on his appointment to Celbridge Parish and wish him every happiness there. We thank him sincerely for his help and support to GFS, for arranging Enrolment Services and for his help on Parents' Nights. We wish Stephen, Nicola and Aaron all the very best.

ROSCREA BRANCH

The girls are busy at the Bible Study and crafts. They are looking forward to the Craft Day in Birr and attending Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs in Roscrea followed by a Christmas party. The Leaders and girls sympathise with June, Robin, Isobel, Jessica, Lucy and Penny on the Home Call of Joyce, Robin's sister. Joyce was a GFS member. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

NENAGH BRANCH

GFS girls took part in the Service of Eucharist and Commission of Audrey Clarke Gordon as Diocesan Reader on Sunday 16th November in St. Mary's Church, Nenagh. Audrey is a constant supporter of GFS in the branch where she has taken responsibility for Bible Study for many years. We wish her every success and God's blessing in her new role.

The girls are busy working on the Environment & Nature badge. We received an Alder tree from the Tree Council which is currently planted in a pot until it is large enough to be planted in an appropriate site. Girls also planted spring bulbs and are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their daffodils, crocuses and tulips in the Spring.



Nenagh girls preparing for Spring!

We meet on appointed Saturdays from 11am to 1pm in the Back Vestry of St. Mary's Church, Nenagh. Contact Rose Langley tel. 087-6758896 for details

DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING

took place in St. Mary's Church, Nenagh on 13th November. Plans were discussed to have the Diocesan Service in our Cathedral in Killaloe next March and also a new venue for our Diocesan Camp. More details in the Spring. 2015 will see a change of officers in the Diocese. We will be in touch with Council members in the near future for nominations to all the office positions. All leaders are welcome to be nominated and vote in these elections.

RETIREMENT OF CANON MARIE ROWLEY-BROOKE

Canon Marie has been a great support to GFS since she took over as Diocesan Chaplain. The Diocese thanks her for her enthusiasm, support and good fun. We wish her every good wish for her retirement.

UPCOMING EVENTS

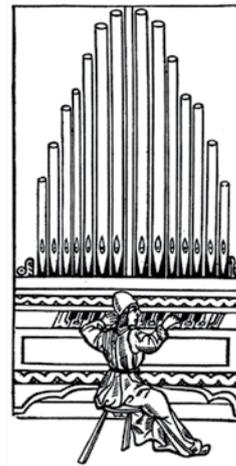
GFS Christmas Tree in the Nenagh Christmas Tree Festival – 13-21 December – St Mary's Church, Nenagh:

During the Christmas Craft Day, held recently and hosted by Birr Branch, the girls made decorations for the GFS Christmas Tree which can be seen at the Nenagh Christmas Tree Festival in St. Mary's Church, Nenagh. Please come to Nenagh and vote for the GFS Christmas Tree (there is a prize for Best Tree at the Festival!). GFS is looking forward to being involved in this unique event and wish Nenagh Union of Parishes all good wishes.

Wishing all girls, leaders and helpers in GFS good wishes for Christmas and New Year.

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Recent works include: Rathkeale Parish Church, Buttevant Parish Church, Former Jesuit Church Limerick.

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Boys' Brigade



1ST NENAGH COMPANY

A huge thank you to the organisers of the "Roll n Bowl" trip in Portlaoise! Another roaring success delivering huge amounts of fun for our "Junior" boys. We just love seeing them having such a good time – and to cap it off, I got to have a go at Laser Quest myself! The younger boys didn't miss out either – they hit Jump n Gyms with their usual enthusiasm! From fun galore to medals galore as the boys showed off their racing, jumping and throwing talents at Sports Day! No-one came away without a medal – some with more golds than Katie Taylor!



Nenagh boys proudly displaying their medals

We have replanted the school borders and window boxes so look forward to seeing their blooms in the spring. Our next creative project will be our Nenagh Christmas Tree Festival entry! We are grateful to Ann Powell for designing and co-ordinating this. She will take control at our December 2nd meeting for the boys to make their creation and we look forward to seeing this and all the other trees at the festival in December. They should make a fine spectacle! We will finish off the term on the 9th with the Christmas party and after that we will wish all the boys and families a very Happy Christmas and a great holiday and look forward to 2015's events! We are excited that Nenagh will host the Boys' Brigade Annual Activity Day next year, so plans have already begun for that! A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Boys' Brigade, Nenagh 1st Company!

1ST TRALEE COMPANY

Members of the 1st Tralee Company The Boys' Brigade were involved in the Remembrance Day Service at St. John's Church Tralee on Sunday 9th november 2014.

The picture is of their nature project – a bug hotel called "The BBBB&B – The Boys' Brigade Bug Bed & Breakfast



United Diocesan Youth Council

ANOIS 2014 - REPORT BY CAROLINE DIX

As the theme this year for Anois was passion, it was only fitting that you walk into the worship hall bathed in red light. Over the two days, the guest speaker Jasper Rutherford based his talks on three things: passion for each other, passion for Jesus and passion for the church. His words were so inspirational, for you could hear in his voice how he loves working with young people.

Not only was there a fantastic speaker, we were thrilled to have the extremely talented Mark Ferguson Band performing for us every worship session. They played some old favourites, some new ones, and their music couldn't possibly be appreciated more.

Some of our friends were unable to come, however (through no fault of their own), but we all live in hope that they can join us next year.



UDYC attendees at Anois 2014

JUNIOR WEEKEND - REPORT BY HENRY COOKE

Our Junior Weekend 7th – 9th November took place in Durrow, Co. Laois, as it did last year. On Friday we played a number of ice-breaker games to get settled into the weekend. This was followed by a great worship session led by Amy McCrea, the CIYD youth officer for the southern region. The participants learned about the different names of our Lord through the interesting game of smarties bingo, learned a memory verse, and learned about praying and much more over the course of the worship sessions. After worship we enjoyed the traditional and much loved UDYC supper of hot chocolate.

Saturday was a thoroughly enjoyable day which began with a very interesting trip to one of Ireland's most historically significant caves, Dunmore cave. After that we went to the reptile zoo which had some intriguing animals that, I at least, had no idea existed. The demonstrations were loved by the participants and we struggled to get them to leave when time was up even after the promise of karting! This was a thrill ride of 15 minutes, hair raising to say the least, and the participants enjoyed hard fought battles of cat and mouse chasing each other round the technical course. After stopping for tea in McDonald's we returned for another empowering worship thanks to Amy.

On Sunday we went swimming in the pool in Portlaoise before having our closing worship and heading homewards. All in all it was a great weekend enjoyed by all.

FUTURE EVENTS

UDYC Fellowship Group

The next meetings of the group are scheduled for Saturday 20th December & 17th January at Kilmurry Church Arts & Community Centre, Castletroy, Limerick from 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm. The group will be open to all persons attending secondary school and upwards. Transport will operate to and from meetings serving Birr,

Roscrea, Moneygall & Nenagh. Booking is essential for transport by contacting Edward at 087 2907553.

Mega Senior Christmas Day Trip to Dublin (13+), Sunday 28th December 2014

Our Action packed day for Senior Trip to include: Worship @ St. John The Baptist Church, Clontarf, Funderland @ R.D.S. (wristband for unlimited rides included again this year), I-SKATE on Ice @ R.D.S., Fast Food @ Mc Donald's Kylemore, Karting @ Kylemore Karting

Mega Junior Christmas Day Trip to Dublin (10-13), Tuesday 30th December 2014

Our Action packed day for Junior Trip to include: Swimming @ National Aquatic Centre, Jumpzone Indoor Trampoline Park @ Stillorgan Industrial Park, I-SKATE on Ice @ R.D.S., Fast Food @ Mc Donald's Kylemore, Karting @ Kylemore Karting

Essential details for both trips...€60 if booked and fully paid by Friday 19th December 2014, €70 if after Friday 19th December. If there are any 13 year olds that would like to participate in both the Junior & Senior Day trips the cost if booked and paid in full by Friday 19th December 2014 will be €100 for both trips. Cost includes transport, all admission charges and evening meal. Return Transport will operate for both trips from/to Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea & Portlaoise.

Fundraising Coffee Morning & Cake Sale

We are holding a fundraising coffee morning and cake sale in Adare Methodist Hall from 10.30 am – 1.00 pm on Saturday 7th February 2015. All proceeds to support programme costs of Youth Council. We do hope that as many people as possible will support this event.

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward (087) 2907553 or Damian on 087/2274663, Email: udyc@limerick.anglican.org or visit our website (<http://udyc.ie/>) or our UDYC Facebook page.

Until next month, Maud, Mobile: 087 9959581

Diocesan Board of Mission

Mission Evening on 12th November, reported by Joc Sanders

MISSION SUNDAY

80% of the collections will go to Luyengo Farm in Swaziland. This is expected to raise enough to clear the €5,000 balance of the debt to build the reservoir. The carrot washer has been handed over to Us, who will be responsible for shipping it to Swaziland. So far the Board of Mission has raised almost €60,000 for the very successful Luyengo Farm project, which our parishioners can all feel proud of. Our diocesan relationship with Swaziland and any future fundraising for them will await discussion with our new Bishop. 20% of the collections will be returned to parishes to be used for local mission. Each Group or Union has been asked to decide what local project should receive the funds.

FUNDRAISING

The Fun Cycle event raised some €3,190, despite the low number of cyclists who took part. The meeting discussed whether something similar should become an annual event. This might take the form of a pilgrim walk, as it was noted the necessary expertise and suitable walks were available in the Diocese, but no decisions were made.

LOCAL MISSION

Salters Sterling gave a talk about local mission, focussing on the work of an ecumenical, faith-based group of which he is the Chair and Rev Keith Scott is the Secretary. This group works with travellers and settled people in Rathkeale, with the objective 'to bring about justice for all and reconciliation between all' in the community. Since September 2013 it has helped to organise cross-community events such as a Christmas tree and carol singing, a St Patrick's Day parade, a Walk of the Cross on Good Friday and shared harvest celebrations. It has also engaged with housing and social welfare services, and begun a process of facilitated meetings to develop a common vision in the community. Keith Scott also contributed his perspective. Those present then shared in lengthy and animated discussion.

The key points I took away from the talk and discussion are these:

- Mission is not primarily about growing church, but more about our calling as Christians to disclose the Kingdom of God to our fellow human beings.
- In order to discern where we are being called to mission we should seek out such injustice as would make Jesus cringe.
- Ecumenical sharing is itself mission – Jesus prayed to the Father that his disciples may be one with him and the Father so that the world may believe (John 17:21).

It was a shame that more were not present to join in this stimulating and important discussion on mission.

STOP PRESS - Farm Equipment, Books & Shoes

Jan de Bruijn of Us is making arrangements for the Luyengo Farm carrot washer to be shipped to Swaziland, and there will be some additional space in the container. He tells us that the farm project also needs protective clothing, rain gear etc., a mower for a 40 hp tractor, a fine seed planter, shovels and hoes and a second hand tractor. Can anyone in our diocese help by donating any of these things? A generous person in the diocese has already donated wellington boots.

Linda Chambers is also asking parishes and schools throughout the Church of Ireland to donate children's story books (not text books!) plus €1 per book to help with transport costs, and also for shoes either new or in good condition for the 6,000 Anglican children who still walk barefoot to school for miles and miles, again with a contribution towards transport.

If you want to help by donating farm equipment, books or shoes, please contact the following Collection Co-ordinators:

JOHN CHADWICK, CULLENWANE HOUSE, CLOUGHJORDAN, CO TIPPERARY
0505 45283/086 2112985, or john.chadwick@live.ie for Killaloe & Clonfert

DAVID FRIZELLE, CURRADUFF, CAMP, TRALEE, CO. KERRY
066 7130209/087 6855251, or davidfrizelle@eircom.net for Ardfert & Aghadoe.

JOHN JARVIS, 28 HEATHERDALE, MONALEEN, CO. LIMERICK
061 338262, or john.jarvis@ul.ie

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas' National School, Adare

We had an action-packed Maths week just before mid-term break. Activities included 'Measurement Day' and 'Baking Day' when the pupils made traditional brown bread under the guidance of teacher, Eleanor Walker. We worked in groups and measured out the ingredients carefully and then each group leader brought home the bread to bake. The best part of this exercise was the tasting the following day! Everyone agreed that the brown bread, butter and home-made raspberry jam was delicious. Later that week the senior pupils were taken on a Maths trail around Adare while the junior pupils had their Maths trail around the school and church grounds. We also had a 'Maths Art Day' when the focus was on using 2D and 3D shapes to make a 3D sculpture. The results were amazing with designs which included rockets, a house, a dog and some robots to name but a few. The week finished with a Maths Game Day when we all used many of our new Maths games.



Infants pupils with their wellies

In November we welcomed two transition year students from Villiers, Lauren and Saskie, who are teaching the senior pupils the skills of spikeball. They will work with us until mid- December. The senior pupils are also benefiting from some hockey coaching.



Making together

As the school celebrates its 200th birthday our book '*40,000 Roll Calls Later*' is now available for purchase locally and through the school at stnicholasadare.ias@eircom.net

It won't be long until we begin preparations for our carol-singing at the Crescent Shopping Centre and our carol service, not to mention Christmas plays on the 17th December. It is going to be a busy December!

St Mary's No. 2 National School, Nenagh

As we marvel at the mild days of November, school life has become busy indeed. Our parent/ teacher consultations took place in early November. Many thanks to all our dedicated parents who show a great interest in the school and in their child's progress.

The Scholastic Book Fair visited St Mary's in November, with a nice selection of books available for purchase.

A great THANK YOU for the generous contributions to the Trick or Treat campaign for Temple Street. We raised €115 for a very worthy cause.

Our Notification of Intention to Apply forms are now available to prospective parents who wish to enrol a child in September 2015. Please contact the school Acting Principal, Mrs Whiteford.

With Advent almost upon us, and Christmas celebrations soon after, the children are excitedly drawing up plans for our school entry to the Nenagh Christmas Tree Festival. We hope to make the Festival a special one.

Our Christmas Nativity play will take place in the Croft Hall on 17th December. Carols and costumes at the ready!

Soccer with Sylvia and Hurling with Doireann continue into December and are greatly enjoyed by the students. It is hoped that our students will be inspired to continue with a sporting life after their school days are behind them.

Wishing all our friends a wonderful and joyous season ahead, Beannachtaí!

St Michael's National School, Limerick

School places for the school year 2015/2016 will be decided by the Board of Management in January, 2015. Parents/guardians will be notified of their child's place in February. If you have not completed an "Information Form A", for your child, please do so as soon as possible. The demand for places in the school in September, 2015, has exceeded all previous years. Parents/guardians of pupils who would have traditionally attended St Michael's NS, are asked to contact the school office to request an "Information Form A" by December, 2014. The Principal/Staff Representative to BOM meets every new family, who wishes to enrol a pupil for the following September, in December and January. Parishioners and other parents/guardians, who have a right of entry to the school, should note that there are already 40 names on the list requesting a place for September, 2015. (Right of entry includes pupils who belong to one of the Reformed Christian denominations in Limerick City & immediate suburbs, and those living in areas where their nearest Church of Ireland school was closed many years ago, eg. Killaloe, Castleconnell, Newport, etc.) It is important that parents/guardians with children in these categories, apply in good time if their child requires a place for next September.

Cloughjordan No.1 National School

Congratulations to Alex Chadwick, Hugh Guest, Ruairi O'Brolchain and Donncha Speight Burns; Robyn Fitzgerald, Laura Hayes, Emma Mooney and Laura Williams; Ross Austin, Odhran Fitzmaurice, Tom Larke and David Persse and to Lucy Fitzgerald, Sadhbh Lummis, Lisa Mooney and Sophia Whelan who represented our school at the County Tipperary Athletic Association Primary School Cross Country Championships recently, and, in particular, to Tom Larke who came 1st his race and to Ross Austin who came 3rd, from a field of 80

competitors, and to the 3rd & 4th Class Boys and Girls teams who both came 5th in the team events.

Pupils from 3rd – 6th Classes attended Gaelic Football training with pupils from St. Michael's N.S., by kind invitation of Mr. Dooley and Mr. Hassett. The team enjoyed mixed success in matches against Moneygall, Roscrea and Puckane. Thank you very much to Mr. Dooley and Mr. Hassett for training the team.

It was a great pleasure to welcome Marjorie Querton to read from her latest book "Corporal Jack: A Dog's Life in the First World War" to 5th & 6th Classes in October.

We welcomed one of our past pupils, Ruby Ryan, from Transition Year in Borrisokane Community College, on work experience. Ruby was a great help about the school – thank you Ruby.

5th & 6th Classes enjoyed their visit to Nenagh Tennis Club. This was a tremendous opportunity for our pupils to play on the courts. Thank you very much to Anne Fitzpatrick for the kind invitation and for the very generous hospitality received on the day.

Thank you very much for the very generous support of our "Trick or Treat for Temple Street" appeal. Pupils and staff dressed in Hallowe'en and many different costumes and had lots of fun trying to identify mysterious bodies! We had some very welcome visitors on the day who brought an abundance of Hallowe'en treats for the children. We raised €306 on the day for Temple Street Children's Hospital!

Garda Kate Jones visited our school before Hallowe'en and reinforced key messages about road and Hallowe'en Safety and answered the children's many questions.

Thank you very much to everybody who helped us to support the "Fill the Van" appeal in aid of the NCBI and to everybody for the generous support for the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Lots of filled shoeboxes were sent into school and will bring much happiness to needy children in Eastern Europe or Africa this Christmas.

5th & 6th Classes really enjoyed their visit to Nenagh Library, by kind invitation, as part of Children's Book Festival in the library. To honour the centenary of World War One, storyteller Niall de Burca put on a very special interactive show explaining how the Great War came about and brought this terrible event to life through the stories of the soldiers who took part in it.

Congratulations to all of our athletes from 4th – 6th Classes who took part in the North Tipperary Primary Schools Indoor Track and Field Competition at Nenagh Olympic Athletic Club. Congratulations especially to Laura Williams who won two medals at the competition. Laura came 3rd in the 600m and 3rd in the Shot Putt competitions for 6th Class Girls – a great achievement.

5th & 6th Classes enjoyed a visit to Borrisokane Community College as part of Science Week 2014 and learned a lot working in the Science laboratories. Each returned with their own handmade candle. We really appreciate this opportunity afforded to our pupils. Ross Austin, Alastair Grant, Andrew Hayes, Tom Larke, Sadhbh Lummis, Evan Mooney, Lisa Mooney & Sophia Whelan from 4th Class participated in the Primary School Soccer Blitz hosted by Borrisokane Community College as part of the Transition Year Programme. Congratulations to our players who were runners up in the final and to Ballinree N.S. who won the competition.

We are delighted to welcome Cassandra Kenny to school to teach dance to all classes in preparation for our school Christmas Concert in St. Kieran's Hall on Thursday 11th December beginning at 7pm sharp. The children are all working really hard in school in preparing for this concert. It promises to be a great night! We really can't thank Cassandra enough for all that she is doing for us.

We send our deepest sympathy to the family of Joyce Wallace. We were shocked and saddened to hear of Joyce's untimely passing last month and remember all the family in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

We have just learned that Canon Neill, our esteemed Chairperson, is moving to pastures new in January. We will very much miss him, thank him most sincerely for his invaluable contribution, unfailing support and dedication to our school community over the last sixteen years. We wish him, Nicola and Aaron every happiness in their new home in Celbridge.

Kiltallagh National School, Castlemaine

What an extraordinary busy term it has been here in Kiltallagh National School in Castlemaine!

The children thankfully all returned safe, happy and healthy after a wonderful summer break ready to face their new school year with a renewed sense of eagerness and enthusiasm.

Since returning in September, we have undergone an intense Department inspection-WSE/MLL-Whole School Evaluation-Management Leadership and Learning and received a wonderful positive and extremely affirming report from our inspector Séan ó Briain.

We have also enjoyed an educational trip to Kerry Films Festivals short film screenings in Killarney.

At Halloween, we enjoyed a spooky visit to the Halloween Hall of Horrors in Kerry County Museum.

As part of Science Week in Tralee I.T. we were entertained by Scientific Sue.

We welcomed Laura Hoffmann (Tralee) for her three week teaching practice from the Church of Ireland College of Education.

We are presently preparing for our Christmas Service and our special re-enactment of the Nativity in St Michaels Church, Killorglin on Sunday December 14th at 11 a.m. All welcome.

We thank all of our extended school community and News link readers for your continued support and interest in our school and for ensuring our wonderful school continues to prosper and thrive. We look forward to sharing our experiences and school news with you once again in 2015. Wishing all our News link readers a very Happy Christmas. Nollaig Shona agus Ath Bhliain faoi mhaise díbh go léir.

Paula Ni Bhriain (Príomhoide) and all in Kiltallagh N.S.

If you are wondering what special gift you could give to the special young people in your lives this Christmas, why not consider a book. International research has shown that regular access to books in the home has a direct impact on pupil's school results – children coming from a 'bookish home' remain in education on average around three years longer than young people in families with empty bookshelves!

Oxmantown National School, Birr

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association has elected a new committee: Mr. Frank Higgins - Chairperson, Mr. Paul Johnston - Treasurer and Mr. Jonathan Pyle - Secretary. Thanks to Mr Stuart Smith and to Mrs. Breda Phealan O' Meara for all of their service to the school , other parents and the children for the past couple of years.

HALLOWE'EN FUN

All of our pupils dressed in costumes before the Hallowe'en mid-term break and raised €84 in aid of the Children's Hospital in Tallaght.



Dress-up Day in aid of Children's Hospital, Tallaght

RUGBY BLITZ

The annual inter- schools rugby blitz arranged for fifth and sixth class was cancelled due to heavy rain, this has been re-arranged for next March.

MUSICAL SHOW IN BIRR

The pupils from fifth and sixth class accompanied Mrs. Colton to the Community School production of Godspell, this was an exciting, polished , dynamic show . It is always lovely to see our past pupils involved in these shows at the Community School. There was an art competition organised for all of the primary schools in the area in conjunction with the musical. This year Jessica Pyle from sixth class won fourth prize in her age category.

CHRISTMAS SHOWS

Each of the four class groups is doing a play this year. Thanks to Mr. William Eades who is building our stage and backdrops. Due to the increase in the numbers of families, we decided that we would do our plays as usual over two nights but that this year junior and senior infants and third and fourth classes would perform on Tuesday 16th December and the other two class groups will have their plays on Wednesday 17th. In this way we hope that everyone can be safe and comfortable.

St John's National School, Shannon

We are happy to welcome Michael Vaughan and Marcus Cilliers to our school. Both boys come from South Africa and have settled in well with us.

Recent developments here include the erection of a school fence and the beginning of a school garden. We are also working on our Green School flag, our second Active School flag, and we are on Year one of our Health Promoting Schools application.



Lucy with her winning entry receiving her prize from Mr. Kelly, Manager - Shannon Town Centre

We would like to congratulate Lucy Huynh , who had won first prize in her category in both the Shannon Town Centre and Shannon Credit Union Art Competitions. We are proud of her and grateful to the teachers, Board of Management and Parent Community who give our children every support.

Tina Noone, Principal.

Villiers School



OPEN DAY

We held our first ever Open Day on Saturday 11th October 2014. We were delighted to be able to show off Villiers to almost 600 attendees. The day had three parts – it began with a presentation on the School by our Headmistress, Jill Storey, this was followed by a tour of the School campus and facilities, and finally an informal meet and greet session over teas and coffees served in the School Dining Hall. School Bursar, Siobhan Moriarty, was as always on hand to explain the SEC grant and the other grants available. Many people were pleasantly surprised at the options open to them. Huge thanks to all staff members, PTA members and students who volunteered their time, as well as all those who turned up on the day. It was a pleasure to see such interest in our School.

CHRISTMAS EXAMS

It's hard to believe, but already our Forms III and VI have taken their 'Christmas' exams. It has become a School tradition to hold these exams in November so that our State Examination students have a well-paced year and can take their 'mock' exams in February. The remaining students still have their exams to look forward to – they happen in the last week of term, with the final exam takes place on the morning of 19th December and is followed by our end of term Carol Service in St Mary's Cathedral.

TY FASHION SHOW

Once again we held our annual TY fashion show in the Radisson Blu hotel on the Ennis Rd. It was a great fun night for everyone, from young brothers and sisters, to friends, to parents to grandparents as their loved ones braved the catwalk for the first time. We thank all the shops who supplied the clothing and Hilary Thompson for organising this high profile event for the school.

VILLIERS MODEL UN 2014

A group of Villiers TY students attended the model UN conference in Esbjerg, Denmark.



At the model UN conference

BOYS HOCKEY INTER-PROVINCIALS 2014

Congratulations to Quentin Eacrett, Craig Morrow and Conor Beck (GK) who represented Villiers and Munster at the recent interprovincial tournament in Dublin.

Also to Andrew Tutty and Calum Morrow who represented Munster at u18 level.

A fine achievement by one and all and the beginning of many more caps to come.

NEWS FROM THE VILLIERS SANCTUARY

The Villiers Remembrance service took place on the 12th Nov in St Mary's Cathedral and lived up to its promise of being a very special evening. Everyone was given a candle and at a point during a reflection they were invited to come forward and have their candle lit and to place it on the cross. A beautiful sight to behold in an atmosphere of such humility and grace.



The Candles placed on the cross at St Mary's Cathedral

The theme for this year was taken from Peter's walk on the water in the Gospel of Matthew. I had this image of what life is like when sometimes the waves can rise and crash against us and the wind can blow us far off course. Just at the point when we feel ourselves sinking into the turmoil if only, like Peter, we can find the strength to raise our eyes above the waves and cry out to Christ, 'Lord, Save me.' It's in that moment that we find an outstretched hand reaching for us to pull us up and lead us to safety. Perhaps in the fast paced modern world of storms and strife and struggles we need to let some of it wash over us but have the faith to reach out and allow Christ to calm the wind and still the waters that threaten to overwhelm us.

A message that I like give to all our Villiers community is to look around and see who may be in the midst of a storm and be Christ-like for that person. Reach out your hand and offer friendship, hope and comfort. If only we could all do this it would make the world and all of God's creation a much happier and better place. It may just start to resemble the Kingdom that Christ came to usher in!

Peace and blessing to all until next time, Chaplain Jackie McNair



Sara preferred to let people work out the hymns for themselves

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Bandon Grammar School unveils new Chapel

The oldest and largest Church of Ireland secondary school in Munster has opened a new chapel. Catering for day pupils and boarders from Cork, Kerry and internationally, the Board supported the project to help deepen the sense of ethos and faith formation among pupils and staff. School Chaplain, Rev Anne Skuse, played a leading role in promoting and designing the chapel, which is located in the heart of the school. The chapel is the latest development in a series of projects which have transformed facilities at the school over the past six years. The addition of a large classroom block, science and ICT labs, technical rooms, lecture theatre, dining hall and boarding social areas, now help provide an exceptional range of courses and activities for the school's 640 pupils.

The Consecration Service for the Chapel was led by Bishop Paul Colton assisted by School Chaplain, Rev Anne Skuse. In his sermon Bishop Colton praised the school for establishing a chapel and hoped that it will grow into a place of prayer, reflection, peace and worship in the midst of a busy school. During this service, the Bishop dedicated a variety of gifts for use in the Chapel, including a magnificent batik of the dove of the Holy Spirit designed by some of the students, with other gifts donated by the Parents Representative Association, parents and teachers, both past and present.

Archbishop of Armagh, Dr Richard Clarke was also in attendance and dedicated a bible to be used in the chapel in memory of his late wife Linda, who had been the teacher of Religious Education at Bandon Grammar School while Richard was Rector of Bandon.

ANNUAL PRIZE GIVING

The annual school Prize Giving Ceremony followed the consecration for the Chapel, with Dr Clarke present as guest of honour and speaker, praising the pupils for their wide range of exceptional achievements. Pupils from Co. Kerry figured prominently in the awards, with Charlotte and Nicholas Denman, Beaufort, awarded senior Mathematics and Science prizes respectively. Nico Roche, Ardfer, won a Junior Certificate prize and Mark Fitzgerald, Camp, a Form I prize. Mark's sister Lucy was also recognised for taking first prize in Ireland in the RTE Slam Poetry competition, a trip to Florida her enviable prize! Having won first prize at the BT Young Scientist competition for 'Science projects through Irish' last January (the first non Gaelcolaiste pupil to win this award), Ryan Culhane, Kilgarvan, also received recognition for his TY Spanish Project. The Kingdom clearly continues to produce good scholars.



At the dedication of the new chapel, (from left) Rev Anne Skuse, Chaplain, Right Rev Dr Paul Colton Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke Archbishop of Armagh & Ian Coombes, Principal.

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More than one hundred awards were presented, including special Board prizes to six students in recognition of their outstanding Leaving Certificate results, with special mention to Georgina Tarr, who is now studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Brasenose College, Oxford University. Special Awards were also made to Leon Collins Nagle, who achieved 1st place in Ireland in Junior Certificate Spanish and to Rebecca Gill who was on the Irish team which won the silver medal at the European Science Olympiad.

Canon Paul Willoughby, Chairman of the Board of Management acted as MC for the occasion, and thanked the staff, board of management, directors and parents association for making 2013-14 a highly successful year. The Principal, Mr Ian Coombes called on parents and the Board to continue the campaign to restore equal teacher allocations for the school and for vigilance as a new model for distributing special education resources to schools is rolled out next year.



Ryan Culhane, Kilgarvan & Lucy Fitzgerald, Camp during Bandon Grammar's recent promotion of Irish, when the entire school community committed to speaking Irish for 24 hours. Comhgháirdeachas do gach éinne a ghlac páirt ann

New Diocesan Reader for Limerick & Killaloe by Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke, Rector, Nenagh Union of Parishes

Sunday 16th November saw a very special celebration in St Mary's, Nenagh, when Archdeacon Wayne Carney, with his Archbishop's Commissary hat on, came to commission Audrey Clarke Gordon as Diocesan Reader. Audrey, along with some others from our Diocese, attended the accredited Diocesan Reader course run by the Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, under the leadership of Dean Tom Gordon. This course not only comprehensively covered all the required syllabus, but was also realistic and 'user-friendly' in its understanding of the many other commitments (such as the day job and the family!) that potential Diocesan Readers have.

Archdeacon Wayne, in his address, not only commended the considerable achievement of Audrey in completing her studies, but also reminded the congregation that Diocesan Readers are a precious resource 'in themselves'. Each has special gifts to offer the whole Diocese; they are not just for the parish from which they come. As such, they are part of the team that supplies ministry to congregations, and the gifts of their ministry must be recognized and celebrated. In addition, Archdeacon Wayne reminded the congregation that every member of the Church of Ireland must realise and utilise the gifts they have for the whole body of Christ.



Thanks are due to Audrey's husband Adrian, and children Ross and Emma, for their support of Audrey now, and in the future; this is their gift to the church.

The Nenagh Union Choir, Junior Choir, and congregation joyfully sang some great hymns of celebration and commitment, and as always, the refreshments afterwards were magnificent! Welcome to your new role in the Diocese, Audrey, you are a blessing to us all.



Archdeacon Wayne Carney, Audrey Clarke Gordon, Joc Sanders & Canon Marie Rowley Brooke

*"Gifts have been given, well suited to each;
some to be prophets, to pastor or preach,
some, through the Gospel to challenge, convert and teach.*

*Called to his service are women and men,
so that His body might ever again
witness through worship, through deed and through word
to Christ, our Lord."*

John Bell, Wild Goose Publications





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What Christmas Means to Me

by Canon Liz Beasley, Rector of Adare & Kilmallock Group

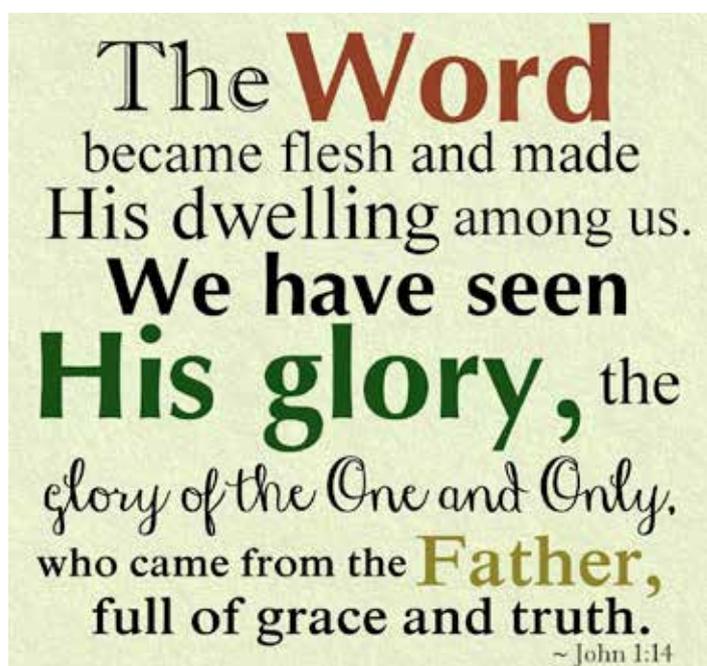


Years ago, when I first noticed that the Prayer Book gives the first chapter of the Gospel of John as a reading for Christmas, I wondered why. Why not just stick with the "Christmas story" itself, the one in Luke 2 that tells of the birth of Jesus in the manger, surrounded by angels and shepherds? Isn't that the one that Christmas is all about?

These days, that first chapter of John describes what Christmas means to me: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory ... full of grace and truth." And, "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

Christmas is the celebration of the Christian doctrine of the Incarnation: that God became a human being in the person of Jesus Christ. For me, John's Gospel says why: to shine light into our darkness, to bring us grace and truth.

If the Christmas story in Luke becomes the focus, as beautiful and wondrous a story as it is, then we run the danger of Christmas becoming centered around the hope of a child being born. It is easy to start with the hope embodied in the birth of Jesus but then broaden out to the birth of any child. And yes, the birth of a child might represent hope, but there has to be a source of hope beyond a child's birth.



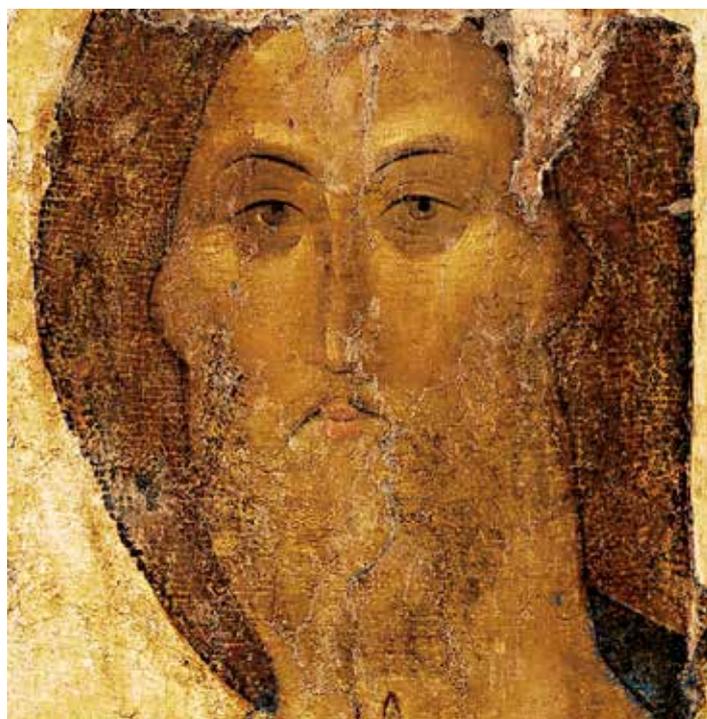
Christmas, in its more secular expressions, at its best is a season of gift-giving. These traditions were originally rooted in the religious observance of Christmas. But if gift-giving and family gatherings become the focus of Christmas, then we run the risk of Christmas becoming what author Loudon Wainwright called "The Annual Crisis of Love": a holiday in which we are so concerned that the gifts, and the food, and the family gatherings, be perfect, that we exhaust ourselves in the preparations and become so anxious about them

that nothing ever quite measures up to our hopes and expectations. And so, for me, the meaning of Christmas is told in John 1: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us ... full of grace and truth." It is that God saw the suffering of the human race and came among us as a person to show us God's ways, as God made flesh.

Grace and truth would be a good way to sum up how I have experienced the Christian faith as a whole. I was converted by the grace I experienced when I received Holy Communion and by the deep truth I heard when I read the Scriptures.

To me, grace is the blessings that come, large and small, maybe when we least expect them. Grace is found in all the little things that happen that soften our hearts and open our eyes to goodness.

And truth is a deep, abiding, constant reality that is beyond and within and running through all things. This truth says that love is real, that we matter to the very Creator of the Universe, and that it matters how we live.



The Word became flesh – Rublev's icon of The Saviour

Grace and truth might seem elusive, as if they would slip through our fingers, evade our grasp, avoid our seeking. The secular world wants us to believe this. And yet, the Christian faith says that you can touch and see and hear them. For grace's name, truth's name, is Jesus. We celebrate Christmas because as a man he walked the countryside and showed people grace. People knew God's blessing simply by having Jesus in their presence, by hearing his word and feeling his touch. And he spoke truth to them, telling of how the realm of God was within them and among them, of God's love that was like a father welcoming home his lost son. But Jesus did not just tell people about grace and truth; he was grace and truth, the very blessings, the very reality. He was the fullness of God, become flesh and living among us. He came to earth as the light of God for all people.

So the meaning of Christmas for me is that God became flesh and brought us light, grace, and truth.

What Epiphany Means to Me

by Rev Simon J Lumby, Preist-In-Charge Killarney & Aghadoe Union of Parishes



In reflecting on Epiphany I'm reminded that whilst the Eastern tradition thinks more on the Baptism of Christ, the Western tradition thinks more on the revelation to the Wise Men. In this season we commence with the Wise Men, then to the Baptism, then the Wedding at Cana. It ends on the eve of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. These all share the same inner significance: the demonstrable personal interaction of "God in Man"

with "man in creation".

In theological thinking there are two forms of interaction. The outer form is a theophany, when God manifests the divine presence as it were from beyond creation; I think of Moses and Elijah. The inner form is an epiphany, when God manifests the divine presence as it were from within creation; that is to say in/as the Christ.

Have you ever had an epiphany? We use the term to mean "a sudden and striking insight or revelation". At a mundane level we call this a "click-moment"; when we suddenly, in the click of a finger, gain a deep insight. In such a moment that which was completely unintelligible because utterly obvious. We all will have had these sudden recognitions of the truth of some matter. The moment when suddenly we understand the nature of something, see it for its true self.

But what about the deeply spiritual version? I remember one such moment: a *kairos*. Before that point in spacetime I had some particular understanding of God's role and function in creation. At that prayer-full moment—and it sounded like a switch had been turned on in my mind—I knew God in a profoundly different way. Absolutely everything changes when we're hit by an epiphany. I don't mean that the world out there changes. I mean our way of looking at it, our way of understanding it, our way of handling it, everything to do with our capacity to interact with it, changes.

At Christmas we mark the fact that God becomes incarnate within creation—try contemplating the deeper import of that idea it's mind-blowing—not as a grown adult, fully competent and adjusted, but as a baby, the most innocent and unwitting of forms. This means that God gets to experience all that life within creation has to offer; not just to have divine omniscience about it, but actually to experience it.



God becomes incarnate as a baby

This is Epiphany, that God is presented to us as an incarnate relationship. This is the celebration, that divinity and humanity form a kinship relationship; it is a two-way thing. We get to live with "God among us" and God gets to live within and through us. It has to be a real eye-opener for God! It certainly blows our mind. As Jesus grows and develops both in human and divine stature we get insights into what the character of God looks like amidst human discourse. Through the Epiphany we get to see things for their true self: God for God's true self; us for our true self. This is archetypically the reverse of what happened in Eden: when God first saw our false self and we stopped seeing God's true self.

So for me Epiphany is the marking of that recognition, in the great salvation-history of the world, of the reinstalling of the ability within humankind to see and to interact with things according to their true self. I am reminded of, nay, presented with that irrevocable act of God that makes it possible for all who follow Christ to do so in the likeness of Christ. This is what the Eastern tradition calls theosis, the divination or indwelling of the character of God within man. This is the meaning of "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col 1:27). As God is in Christ so Christ can be in us.



The angels just keep on singing

Epiphany is the moment in our calendar when we can re-present ourselves to the God who is and is present. We make of ourself an offering—golden, fragrant and selfless—so that we can be restored in the image of God (our true self)—as in our Baptism—and be changed—as from water into wine—for then our mother Church takes us into the Holy place, the heavenly presence, and gives us as a solemn gift. God presents the divine self to humanity so that humanity can present the divinised self to God.

And the angels just keep on singing!

George's Story

by Kate Cargin, Ecumenical Accompanier in Palestine



Editor: Kate, a Quaker originally from Limerick, is back in Palestine. She has sent us this report. See her excellent blog kateinpalestine.wordpress.com for more reports.

Not a single customer had visited George's shop all day. George is a Palestinian Christian. He has a tourist shop in Manger Square in Bethlehem opposite the Church of the Nativity selling olive wood artefacts, bags, t-shirts and other souvenirs. We bumped into him as he was getting into his car to go home for lunch. He told us that no-one had come into his shop that morning. 'Ever since the Gaza War,' he said, 'business has been very bad. The hotels are empty.'



Manger Square, Bethlehem by day

George's family has lived in Bethlehem for generations. There are 7,000 Palestinian Christians living in Bethlehem, constituting about 28 per cent of its population. They are proud that they hold a tradition that dates back to the first Christian church. George remembers the Six-Day War of 1967 very clearly. He told us about the shells landing in Bethlehem – one or two hit the Church of the Nativity and made a hole in the ceiling. Another hit a car in front of it which exploded killing six people. "The Jordanian army were outnumbered and frightened and retreated to Jordan" he said; "they were bombed as they went".

George recalls that the Israeli soldiers entered the city and drove around the streets with loud speakers saying that everyone had to leave within two hours because they were going to shell the city. Many people left. His family stayed. 'Where would we go?' His father said, 'This is where we live and this is where we will die.' The Israelis organised buses to take people to Jericho. Most who went were never allowed back. They had to hire lawyers to take their cases to court. Some were allowed to return; others not.

George continued his reminiscences: After a month or two, busloads of Israelis would come to Bethlehem to look around. Things in the shops were cheaper than in Israel and local people did business with them. However, though Bethlehem shopkeepers gained trade with Israel, and later with Egypt, they lost the trade which they had previously had from all over the Arab world: Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Iran. Bethlehem had always been a place of pilgrimage for Muslims

as well as Christians because of the Mosque of Omar. People used to come in their thousands. They sold worry beads by the kilo. After 1967 that trade was lost. 'Now', said George, 'the Gaza conflict has stopped the Christian pilgrims coming as well!'

I asked George about relations between Christians and Muslims. He was insistent, 'We have always lived with Muslims. Everything was peaceful between us. Under Jordan there was no problem for us Christians.'



Christmas Eve in Manger Square, Bethlehem

Life, he explained, under Israeli military occupation is difficult. During the Second Intifada (2000-2005) someone was shot dead in Manger Square. The Palestinians called a strike. The Israelis responded to the strike by loudspeaker telling everyone to open their shops or their doors would be welded shut. George's shop was welded shut for a month. Eventually he went and pleaded to be allowed to re-open. Movement restrictions are a constant problem. After Israel built a barrier between nearby East Jerusalem and the rest of West Bank, the same entry restrictions are applied there as for going into Israel. Israel says this is necessary for security, but it is illegal under International Law because East Jerusalem is part of Palestine. Checkpoint 300, as it is known, between Bethlehem and Jerusalem is often difficult, slow and unpredictable. 'In the old days,' he said, 'I could go to Jerusalem and back in an hour; now I have to allow a whole day'. He also has to apply for a permit. Permits are date specific and sometimes the checkpoint might be closed on that day. Then he has to apply all over again. Movement restrictions are now becoming even more difficult as encroaching Israeli settlements, all built on Palestinian land and all illegal under international law, are increasingly surrounding Bethlehem.

George feels deeply about how the quality of life for Palestinians has deteriorated. Many Palestinians, both Muslim and Christian, give up in despair and leave. He feels that this is what the Israelis want. 'If they create enough difficulties for people, eventually they will leave.'

It should be obvious by now that George is not his real name. He did not want me to identify him because, like many Palestinians I have met, he appears to be constantly looking over his shoulder.

Episcopal ring "symbol of deep Anglican, Roman Catholic relationship"

Report by Anglican Communion News Service Staff

The Most Revd Brian Farrell, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity has presented Canon Kenneth Kearon with an Episcopal Ring to mark his election as Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe in the Church of Ireland.

The presentation took place recently in Rome during a meeting of the Informal Talks, an annual meeting between senior officials in the Vatican and the Anglican Communion. Bishop Farrell and Canon Kearon were the joint chairs of the meeting.

"This is both a personal gift from someone who has become a good friend during our annual meetings and other conversations, and also symbolic of the deep relationships which now exist between our two Communion, which are now being expressed at every level of our churches", said Canon Kearon.

This year, 2014, marks the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of the Decree on Ecumenism by the Second Vatican Council in November 1964, a document which transformed Roman Catholic attitudes to other Churches and to ecumenical engagement.

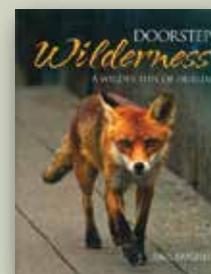
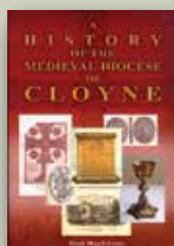
This was followed by a meeting between the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey to Pope Paul VI in March 1966, at which the Pope gave an Episcopal Ring to the Archbishop.



The Most Revd Brian Farrell, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and Canon Kenneth Kearon, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion and Bishop-elect of the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe

That meeting led to the setting up of the Anglican Centre in Rome that same year, and to the inauguration of the series of dialogues between the two traditions known as ARCIC (Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission).

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Rev. Lucy Green
Tel: 062-79941 Mob: 087 667 0425
Email: lucygreen06ie@yahoo.co.uk

Tuamgraney Church had a good clean and it was great that so many people turned up with brushes, buckets and dusters. It surprised some that there are deans who are able to take a broom and duster and clean. It was also for the last of the harvests in the Union of Parishes. A fine turnout on the day and so much cakes and buns with the tea. Tembre de Carteret came along with her choir and they really lifted the place with their voices, she herself is a wonderful singer. Fr Donagh is as always an eloquent preacher and the decorations were outstanding, thanks to all those with excellent decorating skills. Well done to all concerned. This church is experiencing a new lease of life.



Gina, Vera, Gary and Angus in Tuamgraney Church

The autumn series of concerts was well received at Castleconnell and hopefully will feature on the calendar again next year. Leslie and Barbara Hartigan each sponsored a bench for the garden of the Church of All Saints in memory of Stanley and Hazel de Lacy, Barbara's parents, as well as Edward and Edith Hartigan, Leslie's parents. It is wonderful to have these to remember them in the parish as members for close to 60 years and Edie being the organist for over 30 years. New flower boxes were also donated by Margaret Jackson and Geraldine Critchley to complement those donated 10 years ago by Baden Powell. Thank you to all of you who continue to look after and enhance our spaces with your time and generosity. There was a Christmas lunch for the elderly of Killaloe and Ballina Senior Citizen Club at the Lakeside Hotel which started off with a Mass celebrated by Fr. James Grace. It always amazes me how the people take to the floor for a waltz when the music starts off. It seems as if dancing to some is much easier than walking. We all enjoyed the sing-along and the Vera Lynn songs. It is always good to be part of these activities and community life. The presence of Church of Ireland members in community events and activities is something that can be improved. This does challenge us to be asking the question of how our church community is involved in the fabric of the community in which we have our daily existence? It is so important that we be active outside the safety of our church

buildings and be a visible presence in our community. Christmas time highlights Jesus coming among us. We need to continue to manifest that presence as the body of Christ.



Barbara & Leslie with the benches outside Stradbally Church

Some of the things happening up to Christmas:

- The Advent Carol service will take place on 30 November at 4pm in St Flannan's Cathedral.
- Carols and lessons in Tuamgraney on 16 December at 8.00pm
Mountshannon 19 December at 7.30pm
- Castleconnell on 21 December at 9.30am
- Killaloe Cathedral on 21st December at 6.00pm

Then Christmas services will be as follows:

24 December - Mountshannon at 11.30pm

25 December - Castleconnell at 9.30am and Killaloe Cathedral at 11.30am

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Email: ruth_gill40@hotmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Gwen Abbott and Nigel Culbert who were married in Birr on the 7th November. Their service was conducted by the Revd Ruth and members of Birr Choral Society led the hymn singing. The bride walked up the aisle with her Dad, Dickie Abbott and the witnesses on the day were Gwen's brother John and Nigel's sister Valerie Young. The church looked wonderful and the reception afterwards was held in Castle Durrow. Gwen and Nigel are wished every blessing and many happy years in their home in Moneygall.

BEST WISHES

Stephen and June Powell have moved to their new home in Ballyloughnane, Riverstown. It's good that they haven't moved away from the parish. They are sent our blessings as they settle into their new neighbourhood and adjust to bungalow life.

PASTORAL CONCERNS

Pam Reid had been making a slow recovery from her fall some months ago, but has recently not been well. We keep her in our prayers.

NEW HANDRAILS

Many thanks to Derek Coulter and William Eades for designing, making, and installing new handrails at the chancel steps in Birr. Everyone going up for Communion will now have an easier and safer time.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School in Birr continues to grow in both numbers and activity. A banner is being made to be carried by an older child to lead the Sunday School out after the opening hymn. Many thanks to the teachers for their enthusiasm and hard work.

MISSION SUNDAY

Mission Sunday was well attended. In addition to our ongoing support of Luyengo Farm in Swaziland, our designated local mission project is the Youth Café on Main Street in Birr, which offers a warm, safe, and comfortable place for young people to gather.

MOTHERS' UNION

Wednesday, 10th December – Carols in the Rectory, sponsored by the Mothers' Union. There will be a 'Kris Kringle' gift-giving – under €7.00, – no cosmetics, please. All are welcome. The Mothers' Union Christmas Craft Sale will be held in St Brendan's Market, Sunday, 14th December from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Thursday, 18th December

Lorrha 8:00 pm Ecumenical Carol Service

Sunday, 21st December – Advent 4

Dorrha 9:30am Holy Communion

Lorrha 10:00am Morning Prayer

Birr 11:30am traditional Holy Communion & Sunday School

Birr 7:30pm Ecumenical Carol Service (led by Methodists, in our church – St Brendan's, Birr)

Wednesday, 24th December – Christmas Eve

Lockeen 7:00pm Pageant & Family Communion

Birr 11:30 pm Traditional Holy Communion

Thursday, 25th December – Christmas Day

Dorrha 9:30am Holy Communion

Lorrha 10:00am Holy Communion

Birr 11:30am Holy Communion

Sunday, 28th December – Christmas 1

Birr 11:30am Service of the Word & Carols

Thursday, 1st January – The Naming & Circumcision of Christ

Birr 11:30 am Holy Communion

Sunday, 4th January – The Epiphany

Dorrha 9:30am Morning Prayer

Lorrha 10:00am Holy Communion

Birr 11:30am Holy Communion & Sunday School

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HOLY BAPTISM

Sunday, 9th November 2014 in Christchurch, Corbally. Ellie Elizabeth Frances, daughter of Colin and Mairead Wallace, Rochestown, Cork; with Denis O'Meara and Kathleen Wallace as godparents. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Janet White-Spunner, assisted by Fr. David Carroll, P.P. Birr and Adrian Hewson.

It was lovely to see so many members of Ellie's family present for this very happy gathering around the font in the Church where her father was baptized together with many previous generations of the Wallace family and in due course we hope to see Ellie present in the church when she comes to the area on holiday with her parents.

JOYCE WALLACE

The whole parish together with the wider community was stunned to hear of the untimely passing of Joyce Wallace, Mountheaton. It certainly brings home the reality of the phrase "in the midst of life we are in death" and may the hope of life eternal brought about by the Infant Jesus coming into the world as expressed in the Advent message, offer some comfort to the family at this sad time.

Although living in Kilkenny, as a member of a long standing Roscrea parochial family, Joyce was loyal and devoted to her native church. A regular worshipper, a former G.F.S. member, Select Vestry member and Rector's churchwarden, she always had a keen interest in the life of her parish. In recent years, her involvement in the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal was legendary and in the eleven years of the Appeal, Joyce herself filled over 4,000 shoe boxes. In lieu of flowers, the

family asked for donations to the Appeal, a gesture which will assure continuing happiness for children in the developing world in the memory of Joyce.

The funeral service in St. Cronan's was amongst the largest ever seen, reminding us of the respect in which Joyce and her family are held in this community. Our prayers are with Vivienne, Freda, Robin, Cecil and George, her nieces and nephews, uncles and aunts and all the family circle at this time.

SYMPATHY

We also offer our deepest sympathy to Rosemary Davis, Corbally on the passing of her niece. We feel for all those who have recently lost loved ones and may they find comfort in the support of others.

THE SICK

We are glad to report that Doreen Roe is convalescing well and that Joe Delahunt is also home. We continue to keep Eddie Clare in our prayers remembering that it's now a year since his accident. We also wish Margaret Connor well and hope her hospital stay will be short. Her work for Healer Prayer is a great asset to our parish and we hope her name will only be on the list for a very short while.

PAROCHIAL ORGANISATIONS

All are doing well. The M.U. had a most enjoyable afternoon tea party in The Irish Times award winning restaurant in Clonmore. St. Cronan's Youth Club had a very successful talent evening despite a pig and a rabbit being on the loose in the hall grounds. B.B. members would welcome donations of Board Games or Lego and GFS are looking forward to a busy 2015.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Jamie Studdard on his recent graduation with a degree in Business Studies from L.I.T., and also to Edith Rafter on becoming a great-grandmother and we await further news!

J J Ryan Funeral Directors

Nenagh, County Tipperary

Ryans provide a comfortable
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Telephone: 076 31541

- Mobile - Philip 087 6874775

Philip@jjryanundertakers.com - www.
jjryanundertakers.com

RETIREMENT

Corbally Parish has just learned that Robert St. Leger has decided to retire from ringing the church bell on Sunday mornings, a task which he has undertaken faithfully and continuously for almost seventy years. However we look forward to his continued presence at the church worship to which he has called people for so long and we wish him well.

GREETINGS

To the editor and staff and to all Newslink readers for Christmas. As we look forward to the institution of our New Rector, Rev Jane Galbraith on 11th January at 3.30pm, we send special greetings to the Dingle Peninsula. Consequently, this is your current correspondent's LAST NOTES and so a word of thanks to all who keep the parish active since September 8th, 2013 and in particular in this sphere of work to Barbara Duke, whose efficiency and computer skills kept your correspondent on his toes and saw that Roscrea had its monthly place in Newslink.

Thank you and Good-bye.

Adrian Hewson

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

Editor: The Newslink Team wish Canon Marie every blessing on her retirement. She will be widely missed across the diocese and we will miss her notes from Nenagh and husband Patrick's photos.

SERVICES DURING CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL WEEK:

Sunday 14th, 11.00 am St Mary's;

12.15 pm Killodiernan,

5.00 pm Templederry -Community Carols

Monday 15th, Wednesday 17th, Friday 19th, 8.00 pm

St Mary's - Compline by Candlelight and prayers from the Prayer Tree.

Thursday 18th, 8.00 pm, The Carol Service, St Mary's

Saturday 20th, 8.00 pm, Blue Christmas Service, St Mary's

Sunday 21st, 11.00 am, United Family Worship, St Mary's

SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS:

Christmas Eve 7.00 pm Templederry; 11.00 pm St Mary's;

Christmas Day 10.00 am St Mary's, 11.15 am Killodiernan.

St Stephens Day 11.00 St Mary's;

Saturday, 27th St John - 11.00 St Mary's;

Sunday, 28th, Holy Innocents - United Service 11.00 St Mary.

Our Gift Day held last September has now closed, having attained the magnificent total of €21,550!!! A stunning result, and many many thanks to all in the Nenagh Union who gave so generously.

Our season of Remembrance in November included the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed in Ballymackey on the 1st, with refreshments afterwards kindly provided by Jean Hodgins at her home.

The Act of Remembrance in Ashe Road, Nenagh, took place on the 8th with 40 people attending - this public Act of Remembrance is attracting more and more people each year, and it is good to see people feeling able to reclaim and own the history of their relatives who served in the two World Wars, as well as honouring the work

and sacrifices of our soldiers who serve in the United Nations on peace-keeping duties. The Service of Remembrance was held in Killodiernan on 9th November, and again it was good to welcome retired personnel from our Irish Army. Many thanks to Patrick Rowley-Brooke who as always played the Last Post and Reveille so beautifully.

Audrey Clarke Gordon was commissioned as a Diocesan Reader on 16th November – see separate report on page 18.

NENAGH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Preparations gather pace! The opening will be Saturday 13th December, 6.30 – 8.00 pm, and then daily from 2.00 pm–8.00 pm 14th to 21st December inclusive. We look forward to welcoming lots of you! Reminder: Admission €3 per person, accompanied children free; produce stall, Christmas Quiz sheets, raffle, refreshments, (including Afternoon Teas 2.30–5.30)....all these complementing what will certainly be a great feast for the eyes! Musical events during the week include organ music, Junior Choir carols, Carols from Nenagh Town Band and our main Carol Service with Junior and 'Senior' Choirs. (see details above). Contact details: nenaghchristmastreefestival@gmail.com, or call 089 4901511.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

– Blue Christmas, or 'Longest Night' is a service for people suffering from pain, loss, isolation or grief, in the Advent Season. This service is usually held on or around 21st December – the longest night of the year. It is for those for whom Christmas time is not a time of joy –for those who are lonely, mourning, alienated, cast out from family celebrations. A Blue Christmas service offers special recognition of the struggles many people face during this season. The Blue Christmas Service will take place in St Mary's at 8.00 pm on Saturday 20th December. If you would like further details, please phone or email the Rector.

CONGRATULATIONS

- to Betty and John Powell who celebrate becoming grandparents following the birth of a little girl to Liz and Barry on 22 November.
- to Canon Stephen Neill and his family on his forthcoming move to Celbridge.
- to Rev'd Jane Galbraith as she takes up the 'Rectorial' reins in Roscrea in January.
- to Rev'd Patricia Hanna as she moves down to the Kingdom as Associate Priest in the Tralee Union, also in January.

And of course, all our prayers and good wishes to our new Bishop, Canon Kenneth Kearon, who will be consecrated in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin on 24 January.

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

FROM THE RECTOR

By now you will probably have heard that I am on the move, having been appointed to the parish of Celbridge & Straffan with Newcastle – Lyons in the diocese of Dublin & Glendalough. After over sixteen

years in the parish and some nineteen in the diocese this will be a big change for me and indeed for Nicola and Aaron. This diocese has been our home in every sense of the word and we have made so many friends through the years who have stood by us through thick and thin. I will miss so many aspects of parochial and diocesan life and the people who make this place so special. I am not sure if this is my last posting to Newslink so just in case it is I want to record my thanks to my parishioners, to my colleagues and to the wider diocesan family for your friendship and support throughout. From early days as a raw curate in Limerick City Parish to latter days in the Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes I have been blessed every step of the way and I leave this parish and diocese with so many happy memories of good times and great friends. In our new home we will only be a short distance up the motorway from this diocese and I hope that at least some of you will come and visit us from time to time.

My Institution is to take place on the 12th February in Christ Church, Celbridge and I would be delighted to see friends from the parish and the diocese at the service – We have come a long way together and I owe a huge debt of gratitude to you all.

Yours
Stephen

Editor: The Newslink team wish Canon Stephen every blessing in his new parish. He will be widely missed across the diocese, and we will miss his prompt notes and Partners in Prayer column.

BAPTISM

George Robert Hayes, son of George and Amanda Hayes and brother to Emma of Finnoe, Borrisokane was baptised on 2nd Nov in Borrisokane Parish Church. We wish George every blessing in his life.

WEDDINGS

David Goulding & Aisling Palmer were married in St. Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan on 8th November and held their reception in the Dunraven Arms in Adare. It was a lovely occasion and we wish David and Aisling every happiness in their life together. (See pic)

Best wishes to Gary Hayes and Karen Pierce who were married on 29th November in St. John's Church in Kilkenny. We wish them every blessing in their marriage.

Nigel Larke & Sarah O'Mahony are to be wed in St. Patrick's Church in Kenmare on the 30th December. We wish them every blessing for the day and every happiness in their marriage



David Goulding & Aisling Palmer were married in St. Kieran's Church, Cloughjordan on 8th November

BEREAVEMENT – JOYCE WALLACE

The large crowd who turned out for Joyce's funeral on the 20th November in St. Cronan's Church Roscrea reflected the love and affection that family and friends alike had for Joyce. In a very moving address, Mr Adrian Hewson (Diocesan Reader), a personal friend of Joyce's, paid tribute to Joyce and her generosity and service to her church and community. Clergy of all denominations were present, reflecting the breadth of her influence and affection. We extend our sympathy and prayerful support to all who mourn especially her mother Vivienne, her sister Freda, brothers Robin, Cecil and George and the extended family many of whom are in this group of parishes.

CONSECRATION OF BISHOP KENNETH

24th January is the day for our new bishop's Consecration in Christchurch Cathedral, Dublin and we look forward to welcoming him and his family to the diocese.

PARISH DANCE – TUESDAY 11th NOVEMBER

Thanks to all who supported the fundraising dance organised by the dance club in Cloughjordan - Over €1,600 was raised towards the wheelchair ramp/emergency exit proposed for St. Kieran's Church. Special thanks to Pearl and George Whiteford and all who sold and bought tickets and provided raffle prizes and contributions to the supper.

BILLY GOULDING

The Strictly Come Dancing fundraiser for Billy is taking place on 31st January and tickets are available throughout the parish. Please support this event in whatever way you can. It is good to hear that Billy is making good progress and he remains in our thoughts and prayers.

Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin

Rector: Canon Michael Johnston (on sick leave)

Priest-in-charge: Canon Marie Rowley Brooke

Tel: 067 32958 Mob: 085 147 4792

Email: canonmarie@me.com

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Thursday 11th December at 11am Carols in Clover Lodge Nursing Home organised by the Mothers Union. All are welcome

Sunday 21st December 2.30pm United Carol Service in Shinrone Church with Canon Marie

CHRISTMAS EUCHARISTS

Christmas Eve 7.30pm Kinnitty

Christmas Day 9am Dunkerrin

10.25am Shinrone

11.45am Aghancon

28th December 11am United service in Dunkerrin

Please inform Canon Marie of any housebound parishioners who would like to receive Holy Communion at home.

Please keep our Rector, Canon Michael and his family and all who are unwell in your prayers. May God restore him to fullness of health, so that he can return to his ministry amongst us.

HARVESTS

Harvests were celebrated in all four churches. Big thanks to all who decorated the churches and gave them that special harvest aroma! And thanks to all who provided and served the teas afterwards.

Shinrone's was a United service at morning prayer and Joc Sanders preached and conducted the service getting some of the children actively involved. Joc you were much appreciated. Also at that service a presentation of a cheque was made to our organist Jennifer Hendy as a token of appreciation and to mark her recent marriage. Archdeacon Wayne Carney preached and conducted the service in Dunkerrin where we welcomed many of our neighbours boosting the usually small congregation to over 80.

Rev Janet preached and celebrated Holy Communion in Aghancon. Kinnitty had a very special Harvest celebration at which they re-dedicated the church after the re-roofing. A splendid job successfully completed. There are plans afoot to put double glazing outside the windows as soon as funds can be gathered. This would protect the windows and make the heating more effective. Archdeacon Wayne Carney preached and conducted the service. Canon Marie Rowley Brooke, Fr Michael O'Meara and Reverend Janet were robed.

AGHANCON HALL HAS BEEN BUSY!

The Harvest Fayre and Auction, which took place on 18th October was a great success and the Hall Committee would like to thank all who supported the event in any way with a financial result of over €4,000.

The Annual Craft Fair on Sunday 16th November drew a large crowd both of stalls and attendance. It was noted that it was great to see so many crafts in the hall and hopefully all had some sales. The Hall committee had a stall and raffle and both made a nice profit, Aghancon whist drives are on-going on the third Thursday of each month, with the November proceeds going to Church funds. The December one, which will be the Christmas whist drive, will be on Thursday 18th at 8.15pm.

Looking ahead: The December Social Dance will be on MONDAY 22nd December with music by Muriel O Connor and Fran Curry. Patrons please note change of day and date as the 4th Wednesday is Christmas Eve.

Kinnitty's Harvest Dance and dinner in Kinnitty Castle was a very enjoyable occasion, raising much needed funds. Thanks to the Castle for their generous help with sponsorship. The Castle provided the main course and the ladies of the parish a wonderful assortment of deserts. Paddy Buckley provided the music. A great night for all.

Reverend Tom Kingston is continuing the Thursday 10.30am eucharist in Clover Lodge, this is followed by a coffee morning in Cloughmoyle School. On the 20th November this coffee morning raised funds for Conquer Cancer. Well done to Richard Abraham for organising this, and thanks to all who supported the event.

MOTHERS UNION

Members enjoyed an evening in Moneygall when Sylvia Crawford made 'Supper Bites' There will be an outing on the 16th December to the Christmas Tree Fair in Nenagh. Something to look forward to!

Congratulations to Joyce and Ernie Reid who celebrated their Ruby Wedding with a weekend away in Dublin with their daughter Elinor, son-in-law and four grandchildren. May God bless you with many more years of togetherness.

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

MISSION ICON

The Diocesan Mission project still focusing on Luyengo Farm, Swaziland is an opportunity to recognise the exceptional ministry of David Frizelle from Tralee, Hon Secretary of the Diocesan Mission Committee. How fortunate we are to have a man of such dedication, spiritual drive and technical capability – as well as modesty—to keep Mission alive in our Diocese, and who carries such a bright and faithful torch for the children of Swaziland.

The carrot machine heading for South Africa to enhance the farm work owes much to David's own professional engineering prowess. We pray that a great continuing response towards the US Society Luyengo appeal will prove a true reward for David's vision and fidelity.

As we in Drumcliffe and Kilnasoolagh address the challenge of filling the 20 per cent of Mission Sunday Giving to local mission, one is grateful to Salters Stirling for his talk and case study (Rathkeale Project) which was most inspiring. The Mission of the local church is to be where Jesus Christ would be!

CHANGE

Quite uniquely we diocesan folk in the loop feel disorientated by events around us, largely of loss, with the news that Canon Stephen Neill, Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke and The Rev Máirt Hanley are on their way out. This leaves a large gap in our fellowship even if, thankfully, we indeed have new faces among the clergy in recent times. We wish rich blessings to Stephen and Máirt as they move East, and to Canon Marie, that she may enjoy a rich and restful retirement – and also much happiness to their loved ones.

ADVENT

A double baptism involving the children of sisters Debbie Quinn and Zoe O'Sullivan, daughters of Ennis parishioners John and Mareen Pennell was due to take place on Advent Sunday – more next edition. Kilnasoolagh Christmas Lunch takes place on Sunday December 14 at the Clare Inn with Santa Claus in attendance as usual. This follows the successful Songs of Praise Evening in Kilnasoolagh in aid of the church renovation fund. Our thanks to the Very Rev Philip Knowles, retired Dean of Cashel, for putting the evening together and also to Nigel Bridge for his additional help on organ.



Playwright Laura Mulcahy staging her WW1 puppet drama

CONCERTS

Top soprano Regina Nathan performs at her annual Christmas Concert on Saturday 8th December.

Back in November sopranos, Edel O'Brien and Helen Houlihan sang "songs of yesteryear" linked with World War One. Local playwright Laura Mulcahy staged a puppet WW1 short drama and Clare Three Legged Poet Society member Arthur Watson recited his own collection linked with war and conflict.



One of the WW1 puppets

PRAYERS

We ask healing for the following who have undergone hospital treatment of late—Catherine Doherty-Louer, Mrs Mamie Counihan, Mrs Anne Knowles

BEREAVEMENT

The Rector conducted a funeral service in Shannon Funeral Parlour for Mrs Josephine Richardson, aged 99, formerly from Cumbria who had been living with her son Edward for the past 11 years. Her remains were taken to Cork for cremation and from there were destined for her native Lakeland county.

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Creagh Unions of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn

Vacant

Priest-in-charge: Canon Stephen Neill

Tel / Fax: 0505 42183 Mob: 087 232 8172

Email: stephen.neill@gmail.com

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

REPAIRS

Work has been carried out on the base of the spire of Holy Trinity during the summer and this has been well and truly tested by the recent heavy rain. Result- an improvement but it will need more attention at a future date. A new toilet has been fitted in a corner of the Boiler house. This was a badly needed facility.

SELECT VESTRY

A Vestry meeting of the parishes of Ardrahan, Aughrim, Clontuskert and Woodlawn was held by kind invitation of Claire Besnyoe at Ballydugan on the 17th Nov with Canon Stephen in the chair.

SICK LIST

Welcome home to Mary Sinclair who had a replacement hip fitted and spent a while recuperating at her daughter Marina's home.

Ballymacward calling...

We are currently gathering information, photographs and stories surrounding the Church of Ireland Ballymacward parish.

Unfortunately the Church is now demolished, however the memories live on, and now a committee has been set up to capture this information in a proposed new book.

We are particularly interested in old photography, past family members and fond memories of the community in Ballymacward.

All information received will be in the strictest of confidence and all photographs etc. will be returned to sender.

Please contact Robert Parker at carrownea@gmail.com

BIRTHS

Congratulations to Tom and Bridget Seale on the safe arrival of their grandson, Oisín Sean, son of Elizabeth (Seale) and Karl Fitzgerald. Also to Vera Harte on the birth of her granddaughter, Indianna, daughter of Stephanie and Angelo.

THANK YOU

The Parishioners of Clontuskert wish to thank Norman, Anne and Enda Sinclair for their generous donation of an organ to St. Matthew's Church. This greatly enhances our worship and is much appreciated.

A Special word of thanks to our readers, both Parish and Diocesan, and to Canon Stephen for organising services and ministering to us during the vacancy.

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

SERVICES FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2014

Wednesday 17th December, 11am Eliza Lodge - Communion and Carols

Sunday 21st December, 7pm St John's Eyrecourt - Parish Carol Service

Christmas Eve 24th December, 7pm Christchurch Portumna - First Eucharist of Christmas

Christmas Day 25th December, 11am St Paul's Banagher - Group Sung Eucharist

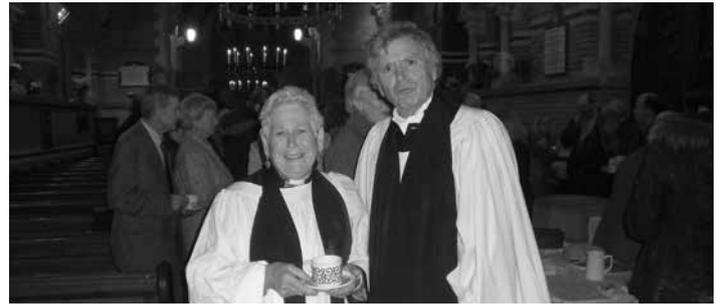
Sunday 28th December, 11am St John's Eyrecourt - Group Morning Prayer

The Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Eyrecourt on the 26th November was very well supported. The Rev. Janet White-Spunner, the guest preacher for the service, gave a very interesting account of her travels. Riding throughout Mongolia following the Nomadic Trails of Genghis Khan she was able to meet the local people and relax in the Pyramidic Dwellings upon the Fierce Steppes. Her journey gave her an insight into the customs and simple way of life of these people. The usual refreshments and chat were enjoyed after the service. Thanks to all who prepared and decorated the church for the occasion.

A Candle Light Carol Service will be held in Eyrecourt on Sunday 21st Dec. at 7pm. This is a joint Service. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Thursday 5th November, after Holy Communion Service at Eliza

Lodge, Rev. Patrick Towers took part in a funeral service for Tony Brennan, Main St. Banagher. Tony's Aunts - Ester, Nell, Alice Jamieson and Kathleen Robinson, (all deceased) - were all loyal members of St. Paul's Parish and we express sympathy to all of Tony's relatives.



Rev Janet White-Spunner & Rev Patrick Towers enjoying refreshments after the Harvest Thanksgiving in St John's Eyrecourt

Work at Moytown Cemetery has wound down for the winter months. It is hoped work will continue in early Spring of next year if money is available to supply items for TUS workers.

Youth Table Tennis has started up again, Friday nights at 8pm. New members welcome, please contact Jerome Phair on 085 1234732 for more information.

Adult Table Tennis is in full swing with two teams competing in the league. New members welcome, contact Ken Hardy or William Phair for more information.

Congratulations to William Phair on being the outright winner in the Midland Cycle League, sponsored by Buckley's Cycle. William is with the Wolftrap Club and this is the first time a member of the club has been an outright winner!

MAUREEN MOSS WRITES:

I'm sorry to say that this will be the last Newlink contribution I will be making as I will not be available to do the notes next year 2015. If anyone would be willing to take over from me please get in touch on 086 262 7069 or email; mossmaureen@ymail.com. You will need access to a computer and some computer skills. Look forward to hearing from you.

Editor. Many thanks to Maureen for her service as Clonfert Group Newlink correspondent, much appreciated I am sure by all in the Group. We wish her every blessing in the future.

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: 061 302 038

Mob: 086 357 4917

Email: ednawakely@hotmail.com

BEREAVEMENTS

Our deepest sympathy to Gordon Brickenden, sons, David, Richard, Hughie and Stevie, daughters Susi and Emma, their families, and wider family circle on the death of Sylvia Brickenden who died on 23rd October; to Alison Groves, extended family, friends and carers on the death of Emily Groves who died on the 2nd of November; to the Pollard family of Ballydehob, Co. Cork, (formerly of Limerick) on the death of their brother Donald (Donie) on 12th November.

HOLY BAPTISM

8th November 2014 - St Mary's Cathedral - Hailie Florence Sherlock, daughter of Susan and Conor, Lisnagry, Co. Limerick.

LIMERICK CITY CAROL SERVICES:

Sat 13th December @ 5.30 p.m. - Come & Sing in St. Mary's Cathedral with Christmas Gift Stall from 11am - all proceeds will be in aid of Limerick City Parish and St Mary's Cathedral Flower Festival to be held in September 2015.

Wed 17th December @ 9am - St. Michael's School Carol Service

Fri 19th December @ 12 noon - Villiers School in St. Mary's Cathedral

Sun 21st December @ 10 a.m. - St. Michael's Church Carol Service

Sun 21st December @ 8pm - Carols for the City in St. Mary's Cathedral.

Mon 22nd December @ 8pm - Abington Church Carol Service

Sun 11th January @ 7pm - Epiphany Carol Service in St Mary's Cathedral.

Forthcoming events at St Mary's Cathedral.

Tues 11th Dec at 8pm - Benefit Concert for the Catherine McCauley School.

Fri 12th Dec at 8pm - Irish Chamber Orchestra.

Wed 17th Dec at 8pm - An Cor.

Sat 20th Dec at 2.30pm - Pre-Christmas event for our younger children

Sat 20th Dec at 6.30pm - Maire Keary Scanlon Children's Choirs.

Sat 27th Dec at 8pm - RTE Concert Orchestra with Phoenix Rising. Organ Recital

Many thanks to Irina Dernova for her organ recital at St Michael's Church on 25 October which was part of the Pipeworks Festival for the City of Culture.

Villiers School annual Remembrance Liturgy took place in St Mary's Cathedral on 12 November - a moving ceremony which was very well received. Many thanks to Chaplain Jackie for organising it. See News from the Villiers Sanctuary page 14.

NEW YOUTH CLUB FOR TEENAGERS

Meets on Sunday nights in St Mary's Cathedral at 7.30pm (following the 7pm Holy Communion Service). DO COME ALONG for games, free food and worship. For more information, contact Oscar on 086 -247 6327.

WHIST DRIVES

13th December @ 7.30 - Villiers Square

10th January @ 8pm - St. Michael's Hall with Raffle

31st January @ 7.30pm - Villiers Square

7th February @ 8pm - St. Michael's Hall

COMMISSIONING OF DIOCESAN READER.

We are delighted that Dr. John Jarvis has completed his Diocesan Reader course. His commissioning by the Commissary will take place in St Michael's Church, Pery Square, Limerick, on Sunday 14th December at 3pm; the service will be a Eucharist which will be celebrated by the Commissary, who will also preach. All are welcome to come and support John, and his family, in this exciting new phase of ministry for John both in Limerick City Parish, and

throughout the diocese. (NB There will be no service at 10am at St Michaels that day; however the 8.30am HC will be celebrated as usual).

ENTHRONEMENT OF NEW BISHOP OF LIMERICK

On Saturday 7th February 2015 at 2.30pm - all welcome; please put this date in your diary, as we welcome our new bishop.

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 focus of the Adare & Kilmallock Group right now is forward at things to come. Advent is coming, and then Christmas, with the traditional round of Christmas carol services before and after Christmas, and Holy Communion services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

But especially we are looking forward to two upcoming anniversary celebrations. The first is almost upon us (and will probably be past by the time you read this!). St. Nicholas' National School in Adare is 200 years old this year. We are having an anniversary celebration on Friday, 5 December. We will begin with a service of thanksgiving for the occasion at 6.45pm, with former student the Rev. George Cliff offering the address. This will be followed by a reception at 7.30pm. We look forward to the honor of welcoming to the reception the Minister of Education, Jan O'Sullivan. And we will be launching a book on the School's history, by church member Barbara Bingham, entitled "40,000 Roll Calls Later".

Then next year, 2015, is the 700th anniversary of St. Nicholas' Church in Adare, going back to its founding as an Augustinian abbey. Plans are underway for a major celebration on the weekend of 15-17 May. More details will be coming, but for now, save the date!

Planning has not been the only thing happening in the past month, however. On Tuesday, 11 November, the Mothers' Union was welcomed back to the Rectory for their regular monthly meeting. On this occasion, the new Rector, the Rev. Liz Beasley, and her husband, Kirk, gave a talk and slideshow describing their life in Hawaii, which is where they lived for most of the past 20 years before coming to the Adare and Kilmallock Group. The group then feasted on goodies brought by the members and enjoyed good conversation and laughter with one another. Mothers' Union will be returning to the Rectory on 9 December for refreshments and perhaps a carol or two around the piano.

The schedule of services for Christmas:

14 Dec: Christmas Pageant in Kilpeacon, 10.30am

14 Dec: Ecumenical Carol Service in Adare at the Methodist Church, 7.30pm

21 Dec: Carol Service in Kilmallock, 12.30pm, followed by Christmas Dinner in the Deebert House Hotel for the whole Group at 2.00pm.

21 Dec: Carol Service, Adare, 7.00pm

24 Dec: Christmas Eve service, Croom, 7.00pm

25 Dec: Kilmallock, 9.30am - Kilpeacon, 10.00am - Adare, 11.30am

28 Dec: Carol Service, Croom, 11.00am

Best wishes for a blessed Advent season and a Happy Christmas to all.

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin

Rector: Rev. Dr. Keith Scott

The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

Tel: 061 – 398647 Mob: 087-2885169

Email: rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org

Just before the last edition of Newlink was published we celebrated the 40th anniversary of Kilcornan Mothers' Union with a special service in Castletown Church with Rev'd Jane Galbraith as our preacher. Alas because the notes had to be submitted before the service we did not have any photographs of the event. We can put that right this month, so here those who did not manage to get to the service can see what they missed.



At the Kilcornan Mothers' Union 40th Anniversary Service

It was harvest season in Rathkeale with special community harvest services in both Holy Trinity Anglican Church and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, with Fr. Phonsie preaching in Holy Trinity and Rev'd Keith preaching in St. Mary's. Both were truly joyful occasions with lots of fun and fellowship, an excellent auction after the Holy Trinity service and of course, there was cake.

More recently we celebrated a baptism in Rathkeale, with the arrival of Melanie, daughter of Shirley and John Sheehan of Templeglantine. We offer a very big welcome to Melanie and many congratulations to Shirley and John.



At the baptism in Rathkeale of Melanie, daughter of Shirley & John Sheehan of Templeglantine

We would like to thank the very many people in the Cappagh/Nantenan area who have put so much work into Nantenan Graveyard in the past couple of years. It really is looking so much more "cared for" and we all truly appreciate the time and effort that has gone, and continues to go into this task. A special thanks must go to Arthur Gilliard who was one of the instigators of the project.

Christmas is coming and the Christmas services have to be organised. There will be two carol services on Sunday 14th December. The first will take place at 11:00 a.m. in Holy Trinity Rathkeale. The second will be the annual Community Carol Service in Tarbert takes place in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church on Sunday at 7:00 p.m. and you are all very welcome to join in these services.

There will be a special Carol Service for Rathkeale No.2 National School on Friday 19th December at 12:00 noon, and again everyone is welcome to attend.

Christmas Services will be as follows:

Wednesday 24th December 11:00 p.m. First Eucharist of Christmas Day Castletown Church

Thursday 25th December 09:00 a.m. Holy Trinity Rathkeale

Thursday 25th December 10:30 a.m. St. Mary's Askeaton

Thursday 25th December 12:00 noon St. Brendan's Tarbert.

Everyone is, of course, very welcome to join in with any of these services.



What a cake!

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please also remember our Bishop Elect, Ken and his family as they prepare for a move to Co. Limerick in the New Year.

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

December. 7th Holy Communion Ballyseedy, Ballymac & Tralee Morning Pr. Camp and Dingle at usual times

December 14th Children's Christmas Service & School Play in Tralee 10.45am Morning Prayer Ballyseedy and Ballymac.

Carols Camp 3.30pm no service in Dingle

December 21st. No service Ballyseedy Ballymac. Carols Tralee 11am.

Holy Communion Camp. 10am. Carols Dingle 7.30pm.

December 24th Christmas Eve Communion Ballmacelligott 10pm

Christmas Day Family Communion St John's Tralee 10.45am Camp 10am - Dingle 12noon.

Stephen's Day Holy Communion 11am St. John's Tralee

Feast St. John. Holy Communion St. John's Tralee 11a,

December 28th Children's Service and Rev Jane's Farewell 10am Ballyseedy. Rev Jane's Farewell Service in Camp 3.30pm followed by tea.

No service Dingle.

January Sunday services at usual times.

January 18th Service of Welcome for Rev Patricia Hanna St John's Tralee 8pm.

January 11th Service of Institution Rev Jane in Roscrea at 3.30pm.

Congratulations to parents, Heather and Gerry Sugru, on the birth of their healthy baby boy Ross on Thursday 13 November. A little brother for Ruby and Jake.

The Links Ladies Group will be having their Christmas Dinner in the Grand Hotel Tralee on December 10th at 7.30pm. Please contact Olive to book your place.

The time for the 'Who Wants to be a Thousandaire' event is drawing closer – 4th December at the Ballyroe Heights Hotel. Our hard working committee has sourced the necessary sponsors and most of the advertising to be shown during the evening. All that remains is the sale of tickets. This event, which promises to be a great night out, could be a really good start to your Christmas season. Tickets cost €10 for which you will not only get to enjoy watching a lively quiz but will also be entered for the door draw with many desirable prizes. If quizzes aren't your 'thing' why not treat a friend?

This year's Christmas Children's Service in St. John's will be held on Sunday 14 December followed by the usual visit from a Very Special Person in Teach an tSolais. All children are welcome.

There won't be a Christmas Fair this year, so instead we are holding a sale of cakes etc. immediately after the Children's Service in Teach an tSolais while the children are meeting their visitor. There have been many enquiries about Christmas cakes so this would be a good opportunity to meet these needs. We would very much appreciate your donations of cakes, preserves, and anything 'Christmassy' for it.

A time for farewells and welcomes. Rev Jane will be leaving us for Roscrea over the New Year holiday, we are really sorry to see her go but realise it is a great opportunity for her. Farewells will take place in Ballyseedy on Dec 28th at 10am after the Children's Service, and later that day in Kilgobbin there will be a service at 3.30pm followed by tea. Jane will be instituted in Roscrea on January 11th.

We welcome Rev Patricia Hanna on January 18th during a service in St. John's Tralee at 4pm, we very much look forward to Patricia coming among us, and her first services will be in Tralee on 25th when Patricia will be introduced by Peter Keane.

Our next 'Meeting the Neighbours' date is January 21st at 8pm in Teach an tSolais – more details later

A very happy and blessed Christmas and peaceful 2015 from Archdeacon Sue, Rev Jane and all in the Tralee and Dingle Unions.

Killarney and Aghadoe Union of Parishes

Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Simon J Lumby

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

Tel: 064 66 31832 Mob:086-8703997

Email: killarney@ardfert.anglican.org

BAPTISM AND YOUTH GO TOGETHER

On Sunday November 23rd the congregation at St Mary's welcomed Christian Wharton into the family of the Church. It was Rev. Simon's first baptism since he began his incumbency and Christian's proud parents, Moira and Eric, were delighted to see such a huge crowd witness their family's special day. Ironically, there was barely

standing room in the Church as we were also visited by the Diocesan Youth Council, led by Damian Shorten, for the Service. Indeed, this visit had several of the ladies kept busy as Yvonne, Lynda and others prepared a special lunch of lasagne for the future Church Leaders of our Diocese.

CONCERT

On November 10th we welcome the annual return of Killarney Golf Club Choir with support from St Oliver's Primary School. This concert has become an institution in the area, receiving tremendous local support, so arrive well before the 8 pm start time to ensure yourself of a seat.

LEAVINGS

It really has been a remarkable year for coming and going in the Church of Ireland this year and as 2014 draws to a close we hear of two more transfers. The congregation in St Mary's wish God's speed and blessing to Rev. Jane Galbraith as she takes up her new Ministry in Roscrea, and also to Canon Stephen Neill as he leaves the Diocese to take up his new position in Celbridge, Co. Kildare.

PRAYER TIME

Rev. Simon is piloting a new initiative during Advent this year. Simon will be saying the Evening Office in Church each Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening between 5:30 – 6pm throughout December and it is hoped that both locals and visitors will join him in this time of reflection as we lead up to Christmas.

On Friday evenings following the Evening Office there will be a special Advent Bible Study in the Aghadoe Room. Once Again, it is hoped that many from the congregation will attend so that together we can explore the significance of the written word in the lead up to our celebration of the Nativity. On December 21st this year the morning's Holy Communion will be followed at 3:30 pm with our annual Carol service. On Christmas Eve there will be Holy Communion at 11pm and the Christmas Day service of Holy Communion will be at the usual time of 11am.

Two other very important services focus on honouring the children of St Mary's and although the Jesse Tree service on November 30th will be completed by the time this edition of Newslink is published, it would be very heartening to see a packed church for the Christingle Family service on December 28th.

GLEANINGS

One of Simon's best initiatives to date has been the regular St Mary's Newsletter which he has titled "Gleanings". This informative read is very professionally produced and keeps the congregation informed of events, etc., in and around the church. Copies are sent electronically and if anybody wishes to be on the mailing list please forward your email address to Killarney@ardfert.anglican.org. Unfortunately "Gleanings" can only be sent electronically and is not available by standard post, but that said, it's absolutely free of charge, so get your outlook account primed and ready!

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS

All of us at St Mary's wish all readers of Newslink a safe, happy, peaceful and holy Christmas and New Year.

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

BAPTISM

Since our last notes, we have been plugging away in our corner of the Kingdom. Nearly a month ago now I was joined by our former Archdeacon Malcom for the baptism of Alex Stephens after our main Sunday service. It was a lovely service and congratulations to Arlean and Neill.

REMEMBRANCE

Through November we have been thinking about those who have gone before us and again we had a Remembrance service for those who have passed in the last year, but this year especially remembering those who gave their lives serving with our U.N forces, and in this hundredth anniversary of the start of the Great War those who died in the conflicts of the last century.

In our school service this month we had a memory tree as we thanked God for the gift of those people and pets who have been part of our story in the past. We have talked about the variety of different stories that go to make up our community and the variety of different stories in the bible. All these different stories show us the way in which God works in the world - looking back at them should help and inspire us in our task to live new stories in the world today.

Partially connected to this is our hedgerow. We planted a hawthorn hedgerow as part of our bit of the Killorglin Biodiversity Plan, which is part of the Greening Communities project that the town is taking part in. This will screen off a 'breeze block' wall and promote biodiversity, which is great, but it has also been suggested that we could plant some holly trees in to the hedge to provide some evergreens. So the observant will note some occasional gaps in the planting. In combining this with an idea that Rev. Jim had mentioned to me some while back, it is proposed that these holly trees could be planted in memory of those that have left us. I think that this would be a nice addition to the project. Thanks to Ron, Rosie and our volunteers from the youth reach project for planting up the hedge.

SERVICES

Now looking forward, as I write we are getting ready for our Advent Carols on the evening of the 30th, but by the time this is in print our candle lit extravaganza will have passed, so let me thank everyone involved in advance.

On the 7th December there is a morning service in Kiltallagh but none in Killorglin, as Barbara Irrgang-Buckley will be commissioned as a Diocesan Reader at 3:30pm in St Michael's, Killorglin. Congratulations to her on this momentous event, it is a great day for her and for the parish.

On the 14th December the school will join us for our 11am service where we will have the Nativity Play.

On the 21st December there is a morning service in Kiltallagh, but our carol service is on in St.Micheal's which will be an evening service at 7:30pm.

FAREWELL

Christmas day as normal well, nearly as normal: I have been offered and accepted the Incumbency of Baltinglass, Co Wicklow, back in my home diocese of Cashel and Ferns. For family reasons the time is right for us to move and so the carol service will be my last here as Priest in Charge.

My thanks to all who have done so much for us here. There have been some great occasions and good times in the last four years. I think and hope ye agree, that I have done some service in my time here. We have achieved most of what we started to do together, and anything left undone has at least the ground ploughed, it is for ye to sow and reap with someone else.

Go raibh mile maith diobh go leir as mise agus mo clann.

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

The Island Kingdom of Kerry has been a place of turmoil over the past few weeks, as a glorious Summer and tranquil Autumn were brutally transformed in to earthquake, wind and fire (actually, we didn't get an earthquake, but lots of wind - and so much rain we didn't get fire either).

But nonetheless, we had our moments of light - beginning with a light party on the 31st October, sharing with our Methodist friends in Killarney as a way of celebrating the truth that has banished darkness for ever. Just because the media and the retail industry grasp every opportunity to exploit All Saints and All Souls as a Hallmark holiday, we don't have to comply - and the families who joined in our celebration of light certainly didn't feel they were missing something. Funnily enough, a friend who professes a Pagan belief system feels the same way - just as we resent the birth of our Lord being turned into Winterfest, so they feel that the meaning and significance of Samhain is totally lost.

Another significant moment was the silence observed together in our Remembrance service. We are blessed in our church family to have members from so many different countries - Irish, English, German, Dutch, South African, Australian, Polish, Czech, American - not to mention holiday visitors from many, many other countries. A hundred years ago, seventy-five years ago, we would have been shooting at each other. After our Remembrance silence (gloriously and wonderfully punctuated by the sounds of little children playing at the back of church - what better testimony and tribute to those who gave their lives?), we shared the peace. All of us. Perhaps we are finally making some progress...



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 supplied

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

PRESIDENT ARCHITECTS ORGAN

A wonderfully unusual pipe organ recital was enjoyed by all who came along to Christ Church at Halloween. Nigel Bridge wrestled creatively with our now rather eccentric instrument and kept everyone well entertained with anecdotes and his usual good humour. Marie Neenan and Vincent Di Placido sang beautifully to Nigel's piano accompaniment. The evening was also the premiere of the silent film *The Spirit of Richard Harris*, made in Limerick by a group of young film enthusiasts who meet in CB2 with our youth worker Anna-Victoria. Extra clips from *Nosferatu* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* were added to give the evening a truly spooky atmosphere. The film group is continuing to work together and we're looking forward to showing their next pieces.

Rev Peter Murray, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland joined us early in November. We had a spirit-filled evening of worship with joyful music and lively preaching. Peter shared some of his own story and encouraged us all to share our faith and passion with the community here in the city. He joined in a round of story cubes with the youth group and certainly enthralled the children – and the adults – with giant bubbles; talking of the wonder of God's creation and his power to make all things new.

Peter also emphasised the importance of members of church communities not 'talking the church down.' He preached on how God has given us gifts to share and to share with confidence and enthusiasm; congratulating those who work for good in the community and adding that we as Christians have even more to offer and share with those who are in need.



Dr Peter Carroll - SAUL - with Second Year Students studying the drawings of Christ Church, Limerick

Over the last couple of months second year students from Limerick University's School of Architecture have been surveying Christ Church and Central Buildings as part of their studies. Dr Peter Carroll, their tutor, has been fascinated by the complexity of our whole building which moves from Georgian through to Art Deco design and construction. I have learned more about the building as they've worked on it and I'm really looking forward to the exhibition they will put on in CB1 in the New Year. We'll see their drawings and models and we've asked Peter if he will come and talk about both our architectural history and possibilities for the future. Peter, born and brought up in Limerick has a real passion for the city's built environment and architectural history and recently showed the winning entries for the DoCoMoMo competition in CB1; based on regenerating the Ranks Flour Mill silo on the Dock Road, the competition subject has a link with our own Central Buildings and church alteration which was partially funded seventy five years ago by a grant from the Ranks Trust.

And we still have a lot to look forward to exhibition-wise this year in CB1, with our own artists and other local artists showing their work. Do come along and have a look or if you feel you'd like to exhibit work yourself or know someone who has been hiding their artistic light under a bushel just give us a call and we'll see how we can help.

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
Carol and Nativity Service Sunday December 21st 11.30am
Christmas Day Service 10.30am

Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet Methodist Churches

[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]

Minister: Rev. Laurence Graham

10 Flesk Grove, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 064 6631613

Email: laurence.graham@irishmethodist.org

Web site: www.irishmethodist.org/kerry

Kenmare Lay Pastoral Team:

Ed & Jean Ritchie

Tel: 064 6620580

KILLARNEY

Methodist Church East Avenue, Killarney

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

Prayer meetings Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8am - 9am

Bible Study Meetings Wednesday 8pm Friday 10am

Drop in for coffee each Friday 11am - 12pm

Parent and Toddler Group. Tuesdays 10am - 12pm

Women's Fellowship 2nd Monday of the month 10.30am

KENMARE

"Gateway" Gortamullin, Killarney Road, Kenmare.

Sunday Service. 11a.m. (preceded by coffee)

(inc. Children's' programme)

Weekly Bible Study/Fellowship meetings. Tuesdays at 8pm

Wednesdays at 10am

Drop in for coffee each Wednesday 11am - 12pm

MILLSTREET

Services every Sunday evening at 6.30pm Meeting in "The Lighthouse, Town Square, Millstreet.

Bible study every Tuesday at 8 p.m. in "The Lighthouse" Centre on the town square. Entitled "Step by Step Bible Group" this group is open to anyone who wants to know more about the Bible and grow in their faith.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Gneeveguilla Home Fellowship group on 3rd and 17th December at 8pm.

Our meetings in Dingle for December are Gairdin Mhuire Day Care Centre, Green Street, Dingle on the 28th December at 7.30pm and Binn Ban, Dingle on the 11th December at 7.30pm. There will be no Lispole meeting in December.

The meeting in Castleisland is cancelled for the month of December. "No Biscuits" ladies lifestyle group will meet on December 15th for Christmas Lunch.

Men's Breakfast meeting in Killarney at 8.30am on Saturday 20th December. Speaker: Mark Webb.

Candlelit Carol Service in Killarney on Friday 19th December at 7.30pm. Special offering for KASI (Killarney Support Group for Asylum Seekers and Immigrants)

Christmas Day service in Killarney will be at 11.00am. Special offering for the Methodist Childcare Society.

Watchnight Service in Killarney will be on Wednesday 31st December at 11.00pm.

Laurence is on sabbatical until the end of January. For details see the November issue.



North Tipperary Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev Shannon DeLaureal

The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

Tel: 0505 21670 Mobile: 085 1920 808

Email: Shannon.delaureal@irishmethodist.org

In this month of December we wait in great expectation of God's gift to the world, the birth of his Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus the Christ. As we wait, we pray, sing, fellowship, and reach out a helping hand to friends and strangers. Each year we hear once again the story surrounding his miraculous birth and how God's light continues to shine into the earth's darkness. Our circuit will celebrate Christ's birth with a variety of activities and services. All are welcome to celebrate with us our Saviour's birth!

SUNDAY SERVICES

10:00am - Borrisokane (Note change in time for Dec. and Jan.)

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

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

11:45am - Roscrea

7:00pm - Shinrone

St. Cronan's Boys' Brigade (Roscrea)

The company will have only 1 meeting in December. They will meet on Friday 12 Dec. at 7pm in the Methodist Hall for Christmas crafts. Cost is €3/boy. We are also looking for donations of used board games such as Draughts or Connect 4 or other toys like Lego. If you are able to make a donation, please contact Rev. DeLaureal.

St. Cronan's Youth Club (Roscrea)

Our joint Col/Methodist youth club will meet on Saturday 20th December from 7-9pm in the Methodist Church Hall for a Christmas Potluck dinner. Contact Rosie Gee at 086 1973311 if you have any queries. Cost is €2/head/night.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND SERVICES

Friday, 5th December, Christian Aid Coffee Morning: 10:30am-12:30pm in Methodist Church, Roscrea. Come and buy homemade cakes and other goodies, Christian Aid Christmas Cards, and wood-craft items from Bethlehem. All are welcome.

Saturday, 13th December, Carol Singing and Tea/Coffee: 3-5pm outside Roscrea Methodist. All are welcome to come and listen or to join in with the singing. Come enjoy the free refreshments.

Monday 15th December, Community Carol Service: 8pm at Roscrea Methodist. All are welcome to attend this ecumenical Lessons and Carols service. The Roscrea Community Choir will join us.

Sunday 21st December, Community Carol Service: 7pm Cloughjordan. All are welcome to attend this ecumenical Lessons and Carols service. The Cloughjordan Community Choir will join us.

- Wednesday 24th December, Christmas Eve Service: 9:30pm in Shinrone. All are welcome to attend this Communion Service as we celebrate the Lord's birth.
- Thursday 25th December, Christmas Morning Services:
- Borrisokane at 8:30am - Led by Rev. Tom Kingston
- Cloughjordan at 9:15am - Led by Rev. Shannon DeLaureal
- Roscrea at 10:30am - Led by Rev. Shannon DeLaureal
- Children are most welcome to bring a toy they have received for Christmas.
- Wednesday 31st December, Watch Night Service: 11:15pm in Shinrone. Come join us as we welcome in the New Year through worship.
- January 17th - 25th - Roscrea's Week of Lights

Christmas blessings to you and yours,
Rev. Shannon DeLaureal

Climate Change - Can I Make a Difference?

Eco-Congregation Ireland (ECI) hopes that its new resource – 'Climate Change - Can I Make a Difference?' – will encourage Christians throughout Ireland to become more eco-aware and eco-active at church and at home.

The resource, which is free to download from the ECI website, includes some of the latest data from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 5th assessment report as well as a comprehensive theological response to climate change, prayers for the environment and advice on how to reduce one's carbon footprint – as an individual and as a congregation.



The Ven Andrew Orr, Chairperson of Eco-Congregation Ireland, pictured at the launch with Emeritus Prof John Sweeney of NUI Maynooth

Launching the resource at a climate justice event ECI co-hosted with Carrigaline Union on 7th November, Nobel Peace Prize-winner Emeritus Prof John Sweeney of NUI Maynooth said: "The resource provides a valuable perspective on the nature and impacts of climate change in an Irish context. On a practical level it highlights the connection between local action and global consequences. It also demonstrates that the problem of climate change can only be tackled if ethical principles are coupled with scientific knowledge to inform and motivate policy makers. The disconnect between the science and the politics of national interest have bedevilled attempts to tackle our greenhouse gas emissions and the authors of the report are to be congratulated on highlighting these vital linkages."

The resource includes quotes from Mary Robinson as well as environmentalists Gavin Harte and Éanna Ní Lamhna, Anglican priest and BBC television presenter Rev Peter Owen-Jones, Alex Hill of the Met Office, Columban eco-theologian Fr Seán McDonagh, Monsignor Dermot Lane, President of the Mater Dei Institute, and Bishop David Atkinson, former Bishop of Thetford – all of whom have spoken at events ECI has organised in recent years.

"We hope this resource will encourage Christians in Ireland to incorporate eco-friendly habits into their lives – as churches, communities and as individuals – as they come to terms with the reality of climate change and how our carbon-guzzling lifestyles are already impacting the lives of many people living in developing countries," said ECI Chairperson, the Ven Andrew Orr.

ECI, a project of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting, encourages churches to adopt an eco-friendly approach to worship, lifestyle, property and finance management, youth and children's work, community outreach and contact with the developing world. It makes awards to parishes that have undertaken steps to 'green' their parishes. The

most recent award was made to Carrigaline Union at the recent climate justice event.

The parish promotes recycling, composting and Fairtrade and the use of delph rather than disposable crockery and cutlery. In recent years bee-friendly hedging and fruit trees have been planted and the rectory garden is now used for growing vegetables as well as hosting parish picnics and barbecues. Creation-themed services are held several times a year and the parish includes eco tips in its weekly pewsheets and contributes a 'Green Matters' section to the Cork, Cloyne and Ross diocesan magazine.

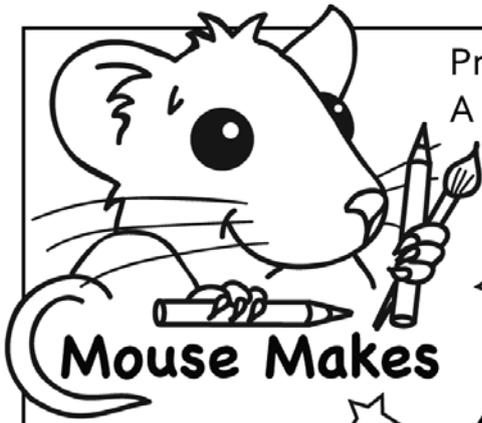
The parish was delighted to receive the award. "Over the past two years, by making practical changes in our parish life, we have tried, as a community, to live more lightly on the earth and it means a lot to us to have our efforts recognised in this way by an organisation like Eco-Congregation Ireland," said Rev Elaine Murray, Rector of Carrigaline Union.

"We feel that this award is only the beginning: we hope to continue to adjust our individual lives and the life of our congregation. We can continue to learn so much from the online resources available through Eco-Congregation and from other parishes who are also on this journey. We would heartily recommend the Eco-Congregation website's many resources, if you feel that this is something that might benefit you and your church congregation."

For further information – and to download "Climate Change - Can I Make a Difference?" – see www.ecocongregationireland.com.

The Everlasting Turkey

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.
On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.
On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door,
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.
On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.
On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,
But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey carried.
On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.
The children fought and bickered – we had the turkey rissoles fried.
On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince
When he sat down at table – and was offered turkey mince.
On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,
For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.
On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto,
He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.
On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew,
Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.
On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting,
And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.
On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles back on our lips,
The guests had gone, the turkey too – WE DINED ON FISH AND CHIPS.



Presents at Christmas under the tree,
A red Christmas stocking waiting for me.

But what is Christmas? What is it about?
Just look in the Bible and you will find out!

It's about JESUS, the best present of all,
JESUS, our SAVIOUR,
God's gift to us all!

HAPPY
CHRISTMAS!

**Make a stand up card
for Christmas**

Glue the picture
and the stand
onto card,
colour in
then cut 
out around
the edge.

Cut
along
the
slots
marked
A and B
on the
picture
and
the
stand,
then
slot
together.



STAND

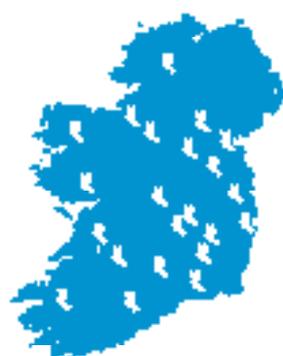


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In addition to the SEC and other grants available Villiers School offer the following assistance with fees: Hannah Villiers Bursary. Governors' Bursary. Villiers School Bursary. Sibling Discounts.

Scholarships

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

Prompt Payment Draw

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

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



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