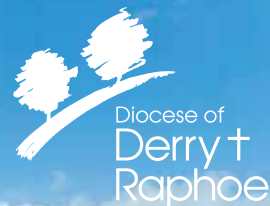


Issue 70 / Harvest 2022

n:vision

Transforming Community, Radiating Christ

POEMS & PASSIONS
VEG & VIOLENCE
BISHOPS COMING AND GOING
FROM ASIA WITH GIFTS
HOPE & CARE



**'I will give
you thanks
with my
whole heart'**

Psalm 138

A Statement of Tribute to Her Majesty The Queen



*from the Archbishop of Armagh
& Primate of All Ireland, The
Most Revd John McDowell*



*“Queen Elizabeth II,
like her father, did not
pass her childhood
in any certain
expectation of the
Crown. But already
we know her well...”*

Those words were written by Winston Churchill on hearing of the death of Queen Elizabeth's father, King George VI. If the old statesman could claim that the young Queen was well known to her people then how much more can we say so now, we who have watched and admired as her steady hand, her searching eyes and her warm smile graced so many occasions of great significance in the life of the United Kingdom.

All deaths are inevitable, but few are as unimaginable as that of Queen Elizabeth II. She has been on the throne and the stage of public life longer than any person, living or dead. The burden of such a life was rarely visible except when she chose to share her feelings about a particular event or “annus horribilis” with a sympathetic public. Mostly when she spoke it was to draw attention to others.

For all who met her, it was clear that she was interested in people from all backgrounds and that she respected them. Her many visits to Northern Ireland were evidence of her awareness that she had been crowned Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and her conscientiousness in living out that role.

I was privileged to be there when, on her Diamond Jubilee visit to Enniskillen, she

walked the twenty yards from the Church of Ireland Cathedral of St Macartin into St Michael's Roman Catholic church. Barely a hundred paces, but a walk which covered countless miles in the long and unfinished journey of peace on these islands.

Her affection for Ireland as a whole was clear for all to see during the memorable State Visit to the Republic of Ireland in 2011. Her speech at the State Banquet ranks in political foresight and Christian conviction with the Golden Speech which Queen Elizabeth I made to the House of Commons in 1601.

That in the past “we would have done things differently or not done them at all” and that “we should bow to the past but not be bound by it” have been little gems of hope to many peacemakers in the following years. That they came from someone who had felt the tragedy of Ireland so close to hand and who had lived through the uncertainties of a World War, when the outcome was often far from clear, gave her words an unchallengeable authority.

We thank God for the life of Queen Elizabeth II, for her faithfulness to him and to her calling, from which we have gained so much.

The prayers of the people of the Church of Ireland are with the Queen's family and all who were closest to her. May they know the presence of God very near to them.’

Editor...



Giftings

It is harvest time, the season of grateful gathering in of nature's bounty and "giftings" in the form of fruit and crops of earth and sea. In the great divine plan for human salvation God is both the Giver and the Gift. God Incarnate, Jesus Christ, delivered the precious gift of our salvation by selflessly giving himself.

For Christians, gifts and talents are divine blessings when shared with others. Each person is given their own gifts or talents to be used, not for the personal enhancement of that individual's life, but rather to be used for the benefit of others. Such personal talents or gifts become "giftings" when used to help and enrich the lives of our fellow human beings. To God be to glory.

The underlying theme of this edition of *n:vision* is to highlight giftings offered to others by people and organisations proactively at work using their various individual and collective talents as they give witness to Christ in the world. The range of articles in this edition of *n:vision* shows that giftings are constantly on offer in the form of continuous pastoral activity which is going on at all levels throughout our Diocese of Derry and Raphoe and well beyond that through national and global outreach.

On the recent death of Queen Elizabeth II many church leaders have rightly spoken about her strong Christian faith. She was an earthly monarch who served her subjects in a worldly kingdom. However, as a follower of Christ, she considered herself to be a subject in the kingdom of God and a servant of Christ the Eternal King. Yes, her life was materially enriched by high status and privilege, but she often used her resources in an inclusive way in the service of others. As a committed Christian her royal position frequently became a source of compassionate giftings as she sought to comfort and ease the lives of so many others in their time of greatest loss and need. We give thanks for her Christian service. To God be the glory.

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Lambeth Calling



Over the summer, Bishop Andrew joined hundreds of other Anglican leaders at the Lambeth Conference to discuss church and world affairs and the global mission of the Anglican Communion for the next 10 years. The conference theme was 'God's Church for God's World - walking, listening and witnessing together.'

*n:vision interviewed
Bishop Andrew to find out how he got on.*

(n:vision) What did it feel like to be part of such an historic event?

(Bishop Andrew): It felt remarkable to be there. There were more than 600 bishops, from right across the world, serving in massively different contexts, and yet there was a sense of togetherness because we all seek to fulfil a similar role. It began with two days of retreat in Canterbury Cathedral. You're in this place - the mother church of the Anglican communion, the place where Thomas Becket was martyred - it felt laden with history. And it was very moving at times: watching people from right across the world going up to receive communion felt almost like a foretaste of heaven, because we were people of every race and language and culture but yet we were there together as

Christian leaders and as followers of Jesus.

To what extent did the 'spiritual' occupy the business of the conference, because press coverage beforehand made it seem more like a political gathering, almost?

Yes, that was interesting. Whenever I read some news about the conference or watched something, I hardly recognised it from what I was at. Worship was CENTRAL throughout the conference, every morning, every evening. There was prayer throughout it, bible study and bible reading. Each morning began with a bible exposition and then we split into small groups for bible study, and that was every day.

The groups were fascinating: in mine there were bishops from England, America, Swaziland, the Caribbean and Bangladesh. We were studying 1 Peter. It truly was fascinating to get very different perspectives from the diverse cultures and experiences of the group. By the end of the conference our group had really grown quite close and we have pledged to meet by Zoom later in the year to pray for each other.

When you're broken into small groups - even at diocesan level - there's no hiding place. So, did it feel like hard work?

Yes, you stayed in the same group throughout the conference. There was a great deal of respect and a desire to understand

each other, even if we came from different cultures. And to hear some of the struggles in Bangladesh, in Swaziland, in America, they're all completely different but yet there was an openness and respect for each other's views. There were disagreements, too, but we disagreed with a respect for each other and with a love for each other, so it was demanding - but 'good' demanding.

Resolution 1:10, which deals with human dignity, marriage and sexuality, was the 'elephant in the corner'. It didn't manifest itself openly, although there were fears it might derail the conference, so how was it handled?

We all know that there are divisions within the Anglican Communion over issues of human sexuality and the definition of marriage, and they've caused deep hurt and deep anguish. There is no doubt that an undercurrent of that was there throughout the conference. Three Anglican provinces, Uganda, Rwanda and Nigeria, chose not to attend because of the ongoing issues and I have to say their absence was keenly felt. One of the *Lambeth Calls* was about 'Human Dignity', which addressed some of those issues, mainly by stating the reality that some of the 42 provinces of the Anglican Communion have, let's say, a 'traditional' view of marriage and go by what's known as Lambeth 1:10. The Church of Ireland, along with the majority of Anglican provinces around the world, is one of those provinces. A small

LAMBETH CONFERENCE

God's Church for God's world



number of provinces have redefined marriage, and have marriage ceremonies or blessings for same-sex couples.

The statement on human dignity acknowledged that there are two very different understandings but the Lambeth Call on Human Dignity also said that our desire was to continue to walk together. That would be very much my desire, but it's an issue that will continue to exercise us.

Explain how the 'Lambeth Calls' worked.

Small groups were brought together online before Lambeth to draft 'calls' that the bishops would discuss and present to the wider Communion. I was in the group on 'Anglican Identity'. There were calls, too, on Mission and Evangelism, Discipleship, Safe Church, Human Dignity, Environment and Sustainable Development, Science and Faith, Christian Unity, Reconciliation, and Church Relations.

It was an interesting concept as, previously, the conference debated and voted on various resolutions, so this was a new way

of operating! The calls were presented to the bishops; each study group went and examined them, offering different viewpoints; and these were fed back into the conference. The idea was more that this was the direction in which we as bishops were 'minded' to proceed, rather than a formal resolution of the conference.

A number of things really spoke to me. Certainly, the call on 'Discipleship and Evangelism' is something that I want us to address in our Diocese. Likewise, 'Environment and Sustainability' - I know quite a lot has been going on in the Diocese in relation to this - and we really need to be ahead of the game on this. 'Safe Church' was interesting too; we've recently appointed a Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, but there's always more to do. Ultimately the Lambeth Conference has no authority to tell each church or diocese or parish what to do but, as time goes on, I'll reflect on the 'Calls' and see how they might help us serve Jesus more effectively.

And what about building friendships?

I made some great friendships: people from England, South Sudan, Bangladesh, and so on. One of the South Sudanese bishops, Peter, is a remarkable man. When he was converted to the Christian faith, he was the only Christian in his area. Now there are 5,000 and it's become

a diocese under his leadership. I could've listened to him all day. I get into my car to drive to different parishes in our diocese. Peter walks with a small entourage - it could take them days - they stop in places, share the Gospel and move on. It reminded me of Paul's missionary journeys. And it was lovely to meet up with Hall Speers, the Bishop of Mahajanga, quite a number of times throughout the conference, and to sit and chat with Hall and pray with him.

In the past you've said, 'We're all in the same storm but not in the same boat'. What do you think the future holds for the Anglican Communion?

I'm really not sure what the Communion will look like in future. There are big challenges. We see ourselves as 42 provinces, each with its own autonomy, and I absolutely defend that. But we also say that we are interdependent, and I think that that interdependency looks different in places where there's more of an independent spirit. What I've learned from Lambeth is that the Anglican Communion is built on relationships, and relationships are what actually hold us together. I love the Anglican Communion.

There were people from 160 countries, representing different churches, all seeking to follow Jesus and make him known, and that'll never leave me. I was blessed to be part of that gathering and it's something that'll stay with me all my life.





Let Your Light Shine!

One of the popular kid's songs that we sing is *Let Your Light Shine* by Listener Kids (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKkblZtqhyQ>) This upbeat version of the classic song we all remember, not only gives us a chance to stamp our feet, clap our hands and shout but most importantly reminds us to shine our light for others to see and to shine the light of Jesus for all to see.

As we enter the winter, light becomes even more important - lights will be needed to get ready for work or school, and in the evenings when we are trying to complete homework or watch TV. Without light even the easiest tasks can be a challenge but

when we have a light, we can see what we are doing, where we are going and any obstacles that are in our way. Light can help show us the way to go.

In Derry and Raphoe, we are preparing to let our light shine throughout the month of October by hosting Light Parties during the half term holidays. These Light Parties will have a mix of songs, games, stories, crafts, and food all focusing on how we can shine our light in the darkness, and how we can shine the light of Jesus for all to see. Keep an eye out for more information and dates closer to the time.

Scripture Union created Light Parties to

provide people with an alternative to Halloween - somewhere families can still get together and have fun but in a Christian environment. As Halloween grows in popularity it is important for us to cater for those who want to avoid the darker side of the celebrations.

If this is something your parish would be interested in hosting, please email kirsty@derryandraphoe.org and I would be delighted to help with this. I am looking forward to seeing the light shine brightly in October and beyond.

Kirsty

Ten Poems of the Soil

Candlestick Press. 2022 ISBN 978 1 913627 04 1 £5.95

I am lucky to own a field which not so long ago was an unloved scrubby bit of land, more weeds and holes than anything else, but is now home to over 180 different animals plus abundant wildlife, trees and hedges.

None of this richness of flora and fauna would have been possible without soil - the "good soil" that Verne Bright talks about so beautifully in his poem of the same name. And it is only good soil because of the creatures and plants that live in and on it, replenishment being inextricably linked to what goes on above and below ground.

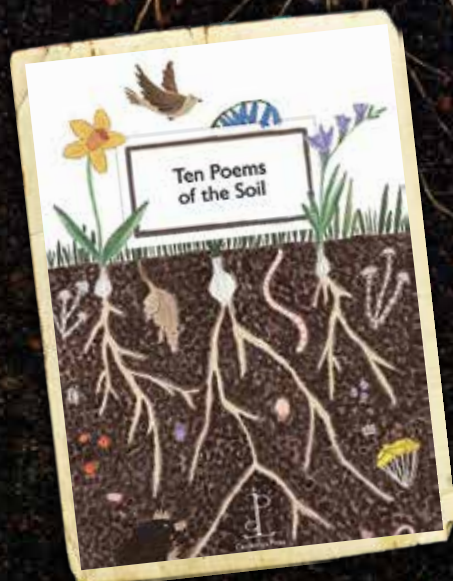
The poems in this mini-anthology bring to life those terranean activities in all their diversity. We have worms busy at their vitally important - if unacknowledged - endeavours in Carl Dennis's poem, and a diligent excavating mole who "opens his own doors" according to PK Page. Mushrooms are the inspiration for an elegiac poem by Margaret Atwood, who describes how they "ooze up through the earth", transforming "flesh into earth into flesh".

Meanwhile people are hard at work too, following a "horse-drawn plow / that

opened up the soil" to bank potatoes in Yusef Komunyakaa's poem and to "dig and double-dig the clay" as Ruth Pitter shows how effort equals reward for 'The Diehards'. Katie Hourigan's poem 'Jenny' is a close-up of someone's very personal relationship with soil, meaning so much more than simply raising plants, echoing George Szirtes describing how soil "creeps under your skin" until "suddenly a dull music has begun".

The working of the land - by humans and other creatures - clearly has great benefits for all living things. But then there's just the sheer beauty of nature at work - Jacqueline Gabbitas musically evokes how 'Ground breaks for the coming of spring', and Adam Horovitz tells us that "The soil never sleeps", providing "a rooftop on another world." I hope you enjoy these glimpses of that other world, standing on a piece of earth that's special to you.

Di Slaney
Donations from the sale of this book
to Soil Association



SOMA

SHARING OF MINISTRIES ABROAD...



Sharing of Ministries Abroad (SOMA) was founded at Lambeth 1978 when the bishops met and the Holy Spirit came upon them and appointed them to share ministry across the Anglican Communion.

The photo that many of you may have seen on Facebook shows me meeting Bishop Andrew at the Lambeth Conference, where I was manning the SOMA stand at the resources tent this summer. SOMA was new to me, as I imagine it is new to many of you. A friend of mine, Rev Andrew Quill, Holy Trinity Dromore Tyrone, asked me to come onboard as a Trustee for SOMA Ireland as

he knew I had a passion for mission, and I had stood down from the Council for Mission.

You'll also notice from the photo I am wearing a colourful African clerical shirt. I had not long returned from a mission and holiday trip, while visiting a friend in Tanzania, Rev Canon Phanuel Mumg'ong'o, with whom I had trained in Nottingham. He asked me to teach at Mselato Theological College and I also had the opportunity to travel with the bishop to two Confirmation Services in villages in the bush. It was quite an experience and it was a foretaste of what SOMA is about. Namely, for example, that a team would travel out to Tanzania and hopefully to other places to assist the bishop in training leaders and working in parishes.

Archdeacon David Huss is also a Trustee and he was able to go with a team to Nigeria before

soma
SHARING OF MINISTRIES ABROAD

Covid 19. If you would like to find out more about SOMA Ireland why not look at our website www.somaie.org. If you would like to get involved consider joining the team, praying for us, or signing up for news.

Rev Adam Pullen



a place of prayer

MY PASSION FOR THE OPEN WATER - KAREN CRAWFORD

My open water journey started back in 2014 after a chance conversation in the pool with a friend. 'How about doing the Lough Gill 10k swim', he said. 'You must be mad', I said. But something must have resonated with me. This swim in Sligo raises money for the NW Hospice, a cause close to my heart as they cared for my Dad when he was ill.

And so it began - and now I'm thankful that I've been able to swim in so many places in Ireland, many in Northern Ireland and the UK, Croatia, Sweden and Turkey. Open water swimming has become my passion (and some would say my life!) and it's given me such pleasure, so many new friends and so many wonderful experiences. Recently my husband and I grabbed the opportunity to travel to northern Sweden where we took part in a night swim called 'Swim the Arctic Circle' - starting at 5 minutes past midnight we swam across the Finland/Sweden border, crossed the Arctic Circle and actually finished in Sweden before we began (thanks to the time difference!!)

There's a great community of people who swim in the open water. We meet new and old friends at events all over the place. In Co Donegal we have so many beautiful places to swim, and some of those where I swim most include Gartan lake, Otway beach, Rathmullan, Portnablagh and many little hidden coves all around the coast.

Morning swims in Gartan lake, now they're the best - I can get lost (in my head) as I wonder at the water, the sky and the trees and islands around me. While I'm swimming and looking at the trees and water and skies all around me I often thank God for this place, thank Him for being able to enjoy all that's on offer. Another swim that comes to mind was a group swim in Rossnowlagh when we were doing a swim in every Blue Flag beach in Donegal. It was a quiet day with just a lovely rolling swell on the water; so wonderful, I just stopped and said 'thank you God'.

Other times if I'm finding a swim tough, I will often start to say my prayers and this can

distract me from the toughness of the swim as I focus on something else. Summer weekends are mostly spent in Rosses Point in Sligo - and our family tradition is to have a swim before breakfast, and then it's a run to the caravan and sit down together to enjoy breakfast in the outdoors.

The joy of open water swimming can be experienced in many ways, whether you're dipping your toes in the water or taking on some swimming challenge. I've also had the opportunity of coaching groups of people who are new to open water swimming, and that's great as I can now give something back and share my tips and expertise with others, and see them progressing in their swim journey.

And now I'm looking forward to the fun and adventure of winter swimming with my swim buddies - and the buzz of the cold, warming up afterwards and sitting together having a cuppa and a chat.



Equipping the Church to take action and **END DOMESTIC ABUSE**

I am going to begin with a confession.

Once upon a time I had underestimated Mothers' Union.

I will never make that mistake again.

When our Diocesan President, Jacqui Armstrong, invited me to share in the piloting of a new resource¹ that Mothers' Union is involved in developing, aimed at ending gender-based violence, I quickly realised that the level of research that had been undertaken, the quality of personnel involved and the strength of their vision which propelled them were all exemplary.

As each session unfolded, a range of engaging leaders from across the Anglican Communion taught us and encouraged us to apply the learning in our own context and community. This course, however, is not only about learning statistics or theory. It is about equipping church members across the Church of Ireland to become aware of Gender-Based Violence and its impact on our families, neighbours and the wider community.

The reality of Gender-Based Violence, in all of its abhorrent forms, is all too familiar to many. People that we know well, those we sit beside Sunday by Sunday, colleagues and even family members who are victims of Gender-Based Violence, are often so expert at disguising their painful experience, that their story can go unnoticed and their voice unheard.

In recent weeks we have moved rapidly through the alphabet as storm followed storm. Our churches were designed, in part, to be physical sanctuaries, places where

the weary could find rest, the broken could find renewal and the discouraged could find hope. As I journeyed through this course, I tried to imagine how a victim of Gender-Based Violence might feel if they were part of our church community. Would they feel safe? Could they be sure that someone would listen to, and importantly, believe their story? Would they find trusted friends who would value and love them? Would they experience love and healing and hope?

As a church leader I am so thankful for the opportunity which Mothers' Union has given me to open my eyes, to hear stories and to develop a practical and pastoral response.

This course has ended, but it has begun something in me. A new yearning for a society where my three daughters can feel safe, valued and loved. I long for the day when they and their friends can go for a walk without fear, when their voices will be heard and valued along with others, when girls across the world will no longer live under the threat of forced marriage and FGM (Female Genital Mutilation).

I also long for a church, grounded in the good news of the Gospel, which is welcoming, listening and caring. Where broken people are made whole through Christ, where the beauty and value of each individual, created by God, is cherished and celebrated.

We are the Church of Jesus Christ. We speak value, dignity and inherent worth into and over every person. I want to lead and be part of a church that seeks and reflects the very heart of God for his people. Violence

or injustice, of any kind, has no part to play in that church. If you have the opportunity in the coming months to participate in this course then please do. Let's be informed and equipped to do all that we can, standing together.

I began by telling you that I had underestimated Mothers' Union.

Today, don't underestimate.

Don't underestimate the prevalence and harm of Gender-Based Violence in your community.

Don't underestimate the negative power of your silence on the issue.

Don't underestimate the power of your advocacy.

Don't underestimate what it means for a victim to know that you believe them.

Don't underestimate the power of Jesus Christ to transform broken lives.

¹'Equipping The Church To Take Action and End Domestic Abuse' is a joint initiative within the Church of Ireland, created in collaboration with Mothers' Union, Bishops' Appeal and Tearfund Ireland. The course is designed for those who wish to deepen their understanding of the root causes of domestic abuse, the reality and scope of domestic abuse and the actions we can take to ensure our churches are safe spaces.

For further information contact jacquelin.armstrong.donegal@outlook.com

Rev Graham Hare

Patience

is a virtue...

James 5.7–8:
**“Be patient, then,
brothers and sisters,
until the Lord’s
coming. See how the
farmer waits for the
land to yield its valuable
crop, patiently waiting
for the autumn and
spring rains. You too,
be patient and stand
firm, because the Lord’s
coming is near.”**

Patience is a virtue but for many it’s a necessity. For the Early Church it was an instruction. They were told to wait patiently even during the difficulties they were facing.

Perhaps it’s not the response they expected, or wanted to hear, but nonetheless they are told to wait patiently until the Lord’s coming. Was it a kick in the teeth? Or was James reminding them of a valuable lesson? To stand firm and to wait patiently on God’s timing, for ultimately, He will make all things right. How long would that be? Maybe not in their lifetime but when the Lord comes again it will happen.

“Be patient... see how the farmer waits to gather his precious crop, how he waits for the autumn and spring rains” The word wait occurs 139 times in the Bible, patience 70 times and together they appear 5 times in these few verses. Farmers are notoriously hard workers but when it comes to the harvest they have to wait patiently. The land must be prepared, the seed sown, the ground fed and watered, the weeds cultivated, and eventually there will be a harvest. The farmer can do all that he needs to do but at the end of the day he still must wait for God to send those autumn and spring rains. He needs to learn to trust in God’s timing and provision. Likewise, James says trust in God’s provision.

In comparison to the rest of the year the harvest only lasts a few weeks. However,

those few weeks will determine the farmer’s livelihood. So, he waits. Harvest too early the crop is not ready, harvest too late it’s ruined. The result of waiting and trusting in God is the blessing of an abundant harvest.

James says, be like that farmer, be patient and God will restore all things but, in the meantime, like the farmer, do not get bogged down with your problems. Focus on God and not your problems. The farmer continues with his other work while waiting for the harvest and, as he waits, God is silently working in the background bringing life to the seed.

This has been a difficult passage with which to grapple over the past few months. A cancer diagnosis followed by major surgery really rocked my boat. At times I have been impatient waiting for appointments, waiting for surgery, waiting for results. Like the Psalmists I have cried out, “How long?” Looking back, I can now see God’s hand at work and how He has provided and blessed us as a family.

None of us escape those difficult or dark days. It’s part of life but we do have a choice when it comes to reacting to them. We can turn to God for the strength and courage to be patient and wait. We can choose to ignore them, or rush headfirst into solving them. In my experience and from what James says, it is better to wait upon God knowing that He is in full control. See how the farmer waits and depends on God.

Bringing hope & care...



GLOBAL ANAESTHESIA

It is estimated that 5 billion people worldwide do not have access to safe affordable surgical and anaesthetic care and that 16.9 million lives are lost each year due to conditions requiring surgery.



The vast majority of this need is in low and middle income countries and is due to a combination of a lack of physical resources, lack of trained staff and lack of financial support. For the last two decades global health has focused on individual diseases, while surgical care in low-resource countries has not received the attention it needs. Meanwhile it is known that improving access to surgery improves the economic growth of a country.

The Lancet Commission set targets for 2030 for all people to have access to safe surgery within 2 hours, for all regions to increase their surgical volumes and their number of surgical specialists and to provide 100% financial protection from catastrophically low expenditure for health services.

I am lucky to have been born in that small part of the world where the resources are good enough for me to have access to safe surgery whenever I need it. And I was lucky to be born where I could access education and learn the skills to provide safe surgery to others. I feel that I have a responsibility to share those skills. However, it is always hard fitting that around the other commitments of life - my family and my employment.

Mercy Ships run with a rotating staff, people come and go, fitting their service time around their home commitments, and both my family and my employer were very supportive of me taking time out for this work.

MERCY SHIPS IN SENEGAL

Mercy Ships is an international non-governmental faith-based organisation which uses hospital ships to provide free surgical care and surgical education in low-income countries. They have been in service since 1978 and have worked in 55 countries over that time.

They usually run a 10-month field service with a hospital ship in port, complimented before and after with medical capacity building and health systems development totalling 5 years in the country.

OPERATING THEATRES ON BOARD

The operating theatres, the recovery room and the wards are all on-board the ship with the pre-op clinics set up on the dock. The operating theatres were as well stocked with equipment and drugs as I would see at home, with some small changes; for example there was a lot more equipment which was sterilisable and reusable, rather than single use as this takes up less storage space as well as being more environmentally friendly.



The surgical teams (surgeons, surgical nurses, anaesthetists, anaesthesia assistants, recovery nurses, ward nurses, ward physicians, sterilising and lab staff) are all volunteers from over 60 countries. Some are there long term and some just for a few weeks so there is a constant changeover of staff. The systems in place in the operating theatre account for this to ensure that patient safety is paramount. Every day would start with a thorough briefing with the whole team going through the day's surgical list and the post-operative plan in detail. When I first arrived on the ship I found this especially useful. It made me feel more confident in my work, enhanced teamwork, made everyone more approachable and developed that important rapport.

As the patients were admitted to the on-board ward the night before surgery I was able to do my pre-op round at that point. This meant I had plenty of time to discuss their anaesthetic with them, with the assistance of the fantastic local interpreters, and time to discuss with colleagues if I had any concerns.

Although most of the pathologies we were treating were

the same as I have treated at home, they were often at a more advanced stage as these patients haven't had access to medical care until now. This can make both the surgical and the anaesthetic approach to management more complicated but I enjoyed the challenge and definitely learned from the experience, and I always had the support of the other anaesthetists on board for the more complex cases.

There were three anaesthetists on the ship, and although there was no emergency service someone always needed to be available in case of a post-operative complication. We shared the 'on call' duties between us so that one anaesthetist always

remained on board. There was a library and a coffee shop and a small pool on board and space to run around the decks so it was a pleasant way to spend a weekend. When we weren't on call we were able to leave the ship and visit the city of Dakar and the surrounding areas. It was fantastic to see the country we were working in and meet many of its people.

The surgery is only a small part of the work the charity do; we can come and spend a day, month or a year operating but there will still be people needing surgery. This only changes when the country is able to support its own surgical needs. Mercy Ships is helping with this by running local training courses, mentoring specialists and working with the local governments to assist in infrastructure projects and policy development and implementation.

Dr Rebecca Brinkler





IT'S NOT YOU, IT'S ME!

Suddenly, financial struggles are very close to home

Poverty, like a car accident or a serious illness is something that happens to other people... until that other person, is you. Let's be real, nobody likes admitting that they are short of money, that they cannot pay their electricity bill or that a restaurant meal is a distant dream. I'm the first to admit that social media makes us all want to present the best of ourselves, a sunny holiday, a wonderful hotel stay or a perfect relationship - very often a veneer in an effort to portray a 'perfection' that can often be razor-thin.

In a former life, I worked for a well-known (iconic!) postcard company - we produced over 100,000,000 postcards per year for many countries around the world until the advent of the smart phone (but that's another story). The postcards were shiny, the blues were very blue, the greens were even greener and as for the reds... Ireland never looked better than on those shiny pieces of cardboard. But Ireland never looked like that at all - if you compared the original photograph to the finished postcard, there was barely a comparison. We were all part of an (admittedly innocent) 'big lie' in a desire to make the world look better than it actually was. These days, photoshop does a much more convincing job and we all play our part in uploading shots to various forms of social media in a mis-guided effort to portray the best of ourselves. We want to be perfect because we think society expects this of

us - the truth is, it may be that we expect it of ourselves.

The problem with 'perfection' is that it is unforgiving about that pimple that has suddenly appeared on our face. It remonstrates with us about those few extra kilogrammes around our waist and, as for a financial struggle - nobody must know! In Protestant Aid we continue to receive General Grant Applications from across a wide section of our community. Traditionally, it was often a sudden and unexpected expense that caused the problem - a broken central heating boiler or house repair that disrupted the household budget. Today, the problems are more acute.

"I simply can't manage"

I receive many 'phone calls from folk who are having difficulty, and I really appreciate that it can be difficult for them to make contact. Last week, a lady called literally weeping in despair and frustration. "I'm so careful with household budgeting and try really hard, but with increases in everything I buy, I simply can't manage". That was one call that reflects the lives of so many families - perhaps not surprising when recently published government statistics tell us that 8.9% of the population are experiencing food poverty - that's 445,000 people who meet these criteria and often end up having to depend on the growing number of foodbanks around Ireland.

Inevitably, children are especially vulnerable in this scenario. Notwithstanding state assistance (for which many do not qualify), back-to-school costs are hugely significant and can present yet another burden on hard-pressed households, resulting in stress that can lead to mental health difficulties.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) have advised that the number of people seeking help in the first half of this year was up more than 20 per cent on the same period last year, itself a record year in terms of the demand for its services. This mirrors almost exactly our experience in Protestant Aid - to the end of July, the increase in our General Grants was 29% compared to a 22% increase in application numbers in 2021. These are not applications from the abyss. They come from our town, our village, our neighbourhood. They come from our friends and our neighbours and maybe even closer to home.

Many households and families are doing well but let's not lose sight of those who may need a discreet helping hand. No shame. No judgement. Thankfully, those who donate so generously to Protestant Aid know the answer to the question "Who is my neighbour?" and for that, we are grateful.

Geoff Scargill
Head of Charitable Services
Protestant Aid

UNIQUELY HUMAN

A Different Way of Seeing Autism

By Dr Barry M. Prizant with Tom Fields-Meyer
 Publisher: Profile Books Ltd
 ISBN: 9781800811249

Parenting young and growing children is a wonderful privilege and is often heart-warming and exhilarating. But it can also be lonely and stressful at times. Parenting children with autism can be especially so.

This book offers nuanced insight and understanding of the challenges, fears and issues for parents and carers while offering hope. It encourages a reassessment of some of the common misunderstandings and clichés which can contribute to the sense of isolation of both the autistic person and the family or carer; for example, "We're all on the spectrum", a phrase which, while spoken invariably with kind intention, can discourage those caught up in the thickness of everyday coping by minimising or negating the real difficulties.

Studies show that autism spectrum disorders ('autism') seem to be on the increase, or at least, there seems to have been an explosion in the rate of diagnoses. For example, a study published recently reports that autism diagnoses in the UK have increased by 787 percent in the past 20 years. (See 'Time trends in autism diagnosis over 20 years: a UK population-

based cohort study', in *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, June 2022.)

Recently I found myself in pleasant conversation with one parent of a large family in which two of the children are autistic. Having worked as a teacher, and being a parent and now a grandparent, with ongoing pastoral relationships with young families in parish ministry, I was more than interested to listen to the insights of this parent who has a wealth of experience of living alongside autism and of caring for autistic children. When I enquired about this family's journey with autism, this book, *Uniquely Human*, was recommended as transformative, a life-changer which had helped those parents accept the challenges of autism and to ditch some of their own negative attitudes to the condition. It helped them find hope, comfort and a clearer path through a myriad of pitfalls. There was an acceptance of the *status quo* without bowing out of the difficult business of helping the children negotiate those things which can trigger stress for an autistic child - social situations, instructions, unexpected changes of plans or routine, as well as standard educational challenges arising in settings where the child is perceived



as different (euphemistically, 'differently abled').

Uniquely Human helps the reader explore and better understand autism as an insider - from inside the autistic mind and emotions. The author seeks to help families with autism avoid the many 'trip hazards' and to develop stable, healthy relationships and interactions, but also the ability to get back up when things fall apart, as sometimes they will. Additionally, the book advocates for an approach which leads to society understanding better and collaborating more comfortably with autistic and neurodivergent people, to enable them to become more fully who they are and to make their unique contributions to the world - *in sum*, as Christians might say, to be whom God has made each precious person to be.

Rev Suzanne Cousins
 Benburb, Co. Tyrone



CONNECTING ON CAMPUS:

starting university or college as a Christian

For thousands of young people every year, September brings a new phase of life with the transition from school to a university or college campus. For those who choose to go on to third level education, it can be a whirlwind of introductions to new faces, places and spaces. This can be both challenging and exciting at the same time!

For a young person of faith, this may also be a time of stepping away from familiar surroundings - perhaps the church or youth organisation or which you have been part - and entering a whole new realm. Campuses are built on learning, and not only are we learning new things academically as we move into adulthood, but we are also provoked to develop in our faith too. Indeed, this might be the first time we feel challenged to 'own' what we believe in a deep and meaningful way. Unfortunately for some, campuses can also be lonely places.

A 2022 survey of more than 10,000 young people in the UK found that 'almost one in four students is lonely most or all of the time' (BBC, 9 June). As we enter this new world, it is therefore really important to make connections with other young people of faith so that we can help support each other and grow together.

A whole host of church and charity organisations exist across the island of Ireland to help. Every campus is different: sometimes there might be university chaplains and reps for different denominations; there will certainly be local churches known for welcoming and supporting students; and there will almost definitely be a student Christian Union (CU), and possibly other clubs and societies, to help you link in and get started.

Here, then are four top tips for connecting with other Christians on campus.

1. CHRISTIAN UNIONS

Christian Unions Ireland (aka CUI) is a network of student-led Christian Unions across the island. There are CUs on over 30 campuses, from Derry to Cork. Many CUs run pre-terms and residentials, and organise small groups and activities throughout the term. On campus CU is a great place to start. <https://cui.ie/>

2. CHAPLAINCIES

Several universities and colleges have chaplains - either ministers or lay workers who are there to support students and staff. They also often organise activities, services, and outreach work. Examples include:

Belfast (Queen's, Ulster, Stranmillis): *The Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincy Belfast (aka The Hub Belfast) organise activities every day of the week across the city's campuses. The Hub is also home to*

halls of residence, a church and a café, and staff and volunteers can be found across all three campuses in the city. <https://www.thehubbelfast.org>

Dublin (UCD): Scott Evans is the Church of Ireland chaplain, and the UCD Chaplaincy team offer support, pastoral care and a host of gatherings for students. <https://www.ucd.ie/chaplaincy/meettheteam/>

Dublin (Trinity): Rev. Steve Brunn is the Anglican chaplain, leading events and services throughout the term and offering a warm welcome for anyone seeking a chat. <https://www.tcd.ie/Chaplaincy/worship/church-ireland/>

Derry (Magee): Rev. Graeme Orr is the Presbyterian chaplain, offering support for any student. Andy Lamberton, who works locally for Exodus, specifically serves students. <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/wellbeing/chaplaincy/magee>

3. LOCAL CHURCHES

Connecting with a local church can be a brilliant way to ground yourself in a supportive community. It also means you're connecting with people outside of the student bubble, and even finding new ways to serve as part of a student family. Connecting to a local church early in your university or college journey offers an important support network for your time there.

In Belfast, Queen's CU organise an annual 'Church Search' where you can visit local churches on successive Sundays in September and October to get a flavour of different church families in the area. In many towns and cities where there may not be formal chaplaincy services, local churches provide much-needed connections for students, whether they are looking for something to join in with or a listening ear. Why not ask friends, family members or people from your church if they can recommend somewhere to visit?

4. DON'T BURN OUT!

Third level education is a time to try out all sorts of organisations and activities - but it's also really easy to fill up your weeks to the point of burnout. As time goes on, don't be afraid to focus on a few key things in which you can really invest. Things like a small group or Bible study; an opportunity to volunteer and serve others; and taking part in a church act of worship as part of a student organisation - one or two of each can go a long way to help you grow and develop in your faith. And if things do get tough - reach out! In and around every campus are a host of churches and organisations who want to help you at this pivotal, exciting and fun time in life.

Peter Huey



Our Mad Life

Comings and Goings

Dear Friends,

Some of you may have been wondering about the lack of news on the Speers front. Before I start receiving queries as to what is going on I hasten to fill you in.

You may recall that Hall was due to return to UK mid June. With very poor timing I managed to test positive for Covid a couple of days before he arrived. I blame the train from Edinburgh. This was not a good start and left me feeling hors de combat for the whole summer and struggling to keep up with the overcrowded timetable we had set ourselves.

No time to recover before the Lambeth Conference was upon us. We drove down to Canterbury in record time. I will only comment that it is very easy to forget to pay the Dart Charge and it is advisable to open a Dart Account for future reference.

We arrived at the University of Kent and the fun began. The conference, of course, deserves its own coverage in these annals which I hope it will receive in due course. From my personal point of view as a spouse I found it an amazing and very surreal experience, a word I do not use lightly, but is meant in a positive sense.



Hall returned to Madagascar with the other Bishops the day after the conference ended on 8th August and you will not be surprised to know that he has been so busy since he arrived that he has not had time to write to you as yet. One of his first engagements when he got back in August was to attend the commissioning of two new Anglican "Shepherds".

The Shepherd Movement began in the Lutheran Church more than 50 years ago in the wake of the worldwide renewal of faith in the Holy Spirit which transformed many churches. Healing centres were set up around the whole country of Madagascar where people could be trained over a three year period for a ministry of strengthening, healing and deliverance from evil spirits in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

It was not long before the Protestant and Anglican churches were drawn in and went to the Lutherans for training. Hall and I were in Madagascar at this exciting time and we were both commissioned as Shepherds.

Hall was keen to get back to his diocese as it was his turn to host the Men's Society National Conference, an event which only happens every few years and which obviously takes precedence in the calendar over a delayed global conference in Canterbury.

Thank you for keeping Hall and myself in your prayers.

Sarah Speers



Another meal, this time at the clergy training week which followed on from the Men's Society to reduce travel costs. This took place at a seaside resort, called rather appropriately La Petite Plage, where the accommodation was apparently very civilised. Hall gave the clergy, spouses (of course, did you doubt it?) and assorted children a mini-Lambeth Conference using all his material therefrom.



Responding to the Cost of Living Crisis

Rising inflation, especially in the areas of food, transport, electricity and gas, and reductions in state benefits are causing increasing financial and emotional pressure for families and individuals living across the island of Ireland. To assist with the Church of Ireland's pastoral response to this crisis, the Church and Society Commission has prepared the following list of sources of support and is asking parishes to take a pro-active approach by:

- encouraging anyone to ask for help when they sense that they are in need;
- being more aware of neighbours who may be struggling with finances;
- knowledge of and supporting local foodbanks;
- an awareness of the impact of these pressures on family relationships.

Many diocesan orphan societies exist for the benefit and welfare of vulnerable children and their families in financial need. Information on how to apply for assistance from local societies can be obtained from diocesan offices.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul - www.svp.ie - has a presence in all counties and the Salvation Army operates churches and centres in Dublin and major towns across Northern Ireland - a listing with contact details is available at www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ireland

Protestant Aid, operating in the Republic of Ireland, treats all genuine calls for help equally. Its primary activities include grants to alleviate poverty or distress; annuities for the elderly; allowances for heating/energy costs; school expenses; second-level education grants; and third-level loans. Contact details: www.protestantaid.org / 01 668 4298.

Christians Against Poverty's helpline, for anyone struggling with debt in Northern Ireland, is 0800 328 0006 and a postcode search is available at www.capuk.org. The Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) provides a similar free and confidential service in the Republic - debt

advisors can be contacted on 0818 07 2000 or a call-back requested by emailing helpline@mabs.ie or texting by WhatsApp on 086 035 3141.

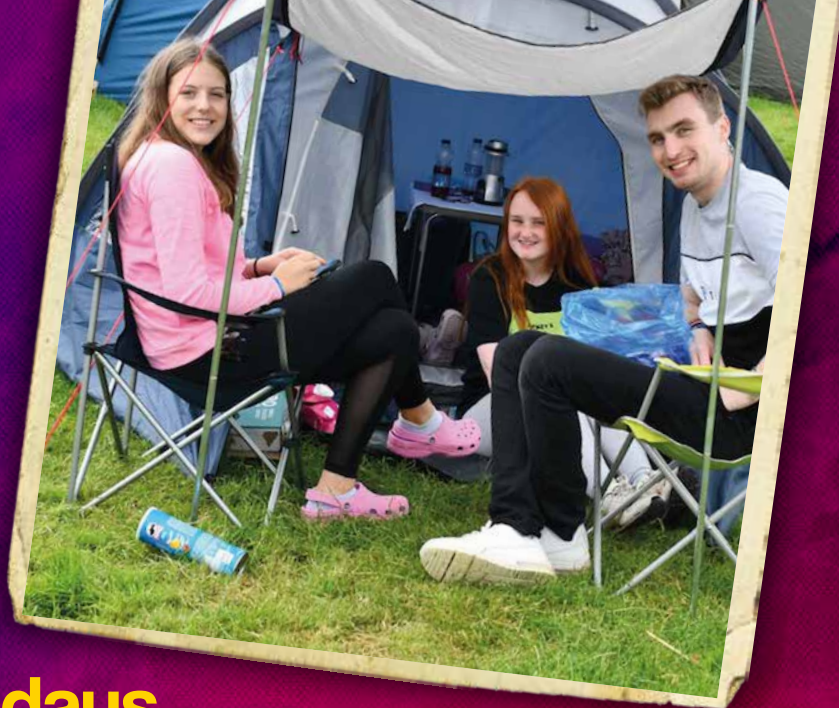
All of these organisations provide assistance to anyone in need regardless of religious or social background.

Grants or benefits may also be available from local authorities and social welfare officers. Examples of support have included funding for slow cooker schemes and Warm at Home packs. Diocesan Mothers' Unions have successfully applied for government funding on a cross-community basis to meet social need.

Key contacts for support and advice from public services:

Republic of Ireland		
Department of Social Protection	Income support helpline: 0818 800024	All other helplines are listed at www.gov.ie/dspphonenumbers
Competition and Consumer Protection Commission	01 402 5555 1890 432 432	Visit the consumer hub: www.ccpc.ie/consumers
Commission for Regulation of Utilities	1800 404 404	Energy and water advice at: www.cru.ie/customer-care
Northern Ireland		
Department for Communities	Make the Call - to check if you are missing out on any benefits, services and support to which you are entitled: 0800 232 1271	
Consumer Council	0800 121 6022	www.consumercouncil.org.uk
Utility Regulator	028 9031 1575	Energy and water advice at: www.uregni.gov.uk

Derry + Raphoe Youth



The Summer Holidays...

Oh that happy time when we had weeks and weeks off school just to sleep in, watch TV, go on adventures, stay up late, holidays away with family, day trips and playing with friends.

Our DRY summer has been filled with so much fun. There were our **Walk, Talk & Snacks** in Donegal Town, Gartan and Castlerock - these walks were all in beautiful locations in our Diocese and it was really special to meet people who all came for time together. There were many interesting conversations had on our danders, and we realised just how our Diocese is interconnected.

We had **Summer Madness** this year, with young people from all across the Diocese coming to Portglenone for 5 days of fun and faith together. Sleeping in tents, playing card games at 1am, dodgeball tournaments, prayer sessions and worship together - that was an amazing five days. We had an incredible group of leaders who all brought so many things to the team and it was a wonderful experience. We've already got young people planning for next year; tickets go on sale in the new year and we'll be getting ready early! I had the privilege of visiting different parishes for some of their summer programmes and it was wonderful to see so many different young people and to work with their leaders.

The summer is quite often portrayed as a restful time in books and films, a time to recharge. Being a grown up, it doesn't feel quite the same as when you were a kid, but it's still important for us to start the new term feeling like we're ready to welcome everyone back and see new faces for the first time. Sometimes by the time September rolls around, we don't quite know what needs to happen with our young people and ourselves as leaders. Perhaps the planning for what is happening for the next few months, even possibly events well into the next year can often leave people feeling overwhelmed with where to start. Kirsty and I are hoping that our **Rest & Reflect Leaders' Day** in October will be a time for many of our children's leaders and youth leaders to come together to have space and time to recharge with God

and refocus our leadership. We also have plans to start a leaders' online Bible study where we can have regular time together. I would encourage everyone to follow us on our social media to keep up to date with all of our events.

In all that we have planned going forward, we pass everything to God and the work of the Holy Spirit, remembering the message of Ephesians 3:20 ***"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us"***.

Claire

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A life in the day of a ... Garden Twinner



Since my retirement my daily life has centred around my garden. I am a Christian Minister and retired from my role as Moderator of the Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church in July 2016.

My main retirement project was to 'sort out' our front garden which was quite small, sloping and messy. It sloped towards the house, leading to a small paved area which often flooded. It is also set lower than the road and path so folk walking past inevitably look into it. As a member of RHS I went on a 6 day course: 'Introduction to garden design' and spent some time with my husband terracing and re-ordering the garden. I am very pleased with it. It is mainly flowers and shrubs with a couple of small trees and the top terrace has gooseberry and blackcurrant bushes and 2 'step-over' apple trees. Next year, I intend to intersperse vegetables amongst the flowers.

My daughter-in-law, who is a fund raiser with Ripple Effect (which I support), involved me in a focus group discussion to think about the possibility of garden twinning and a group of us had a useful and interesting discussion on Zoom during the pandemic.

I love to grow vegetables and flowers in my small garden. When I found out I could twin my garden with Ripple Effect, I was over the moon that I could use my garden to help families in Africa grow themselves out of hunger and poverty. I am enjoying learning about how clever gardening techniques can be life-changing for families in rural Kenya.

Ripple Effect identifies the climate crisis as the single most significant issue affecting people across rural Africa, which threatens not only their lives, but the world's ability to feed itself - now and in the future.

"We are taking action now to help farmers urgently adapt to erratic and extreme weather changes. We are also advocating for climate justice on behalf of some of the world's population who are hardest-hit by the crisis, and have contributed least to the global heating that is causing it. We train farmers in sustainable, agroecological principles and processes that have a climate-positive impact, to make their land highly productive and biodiverse. Farmers draw on traditional knowledge and new innovations to adapt to a changing climate and build food security and financial resilience. We have specialist experience in farm systems and integrated animal management."

It's good to receive information from the gardeners in Africa and I think that in light of the current weather patterns, I will probably be learning more from them about how to retain water! (Not something I thought would be necessary in the Lake District where we live!!) The simplicity of the idea of twinning as a way to raise funds for the vital work of improving the lives of our sisters and brothers in Africa really appealed to me as it emphasises our similarities rather than any difference and we all have much to learn from each other. Ripple Effect's proven approach brings smallholder farmers together to learn new skills and share knowledge so they can improve their livelihoods and thrive.

Farmers working alongside Ripple Effect learn more, grow more and sell more. They can feed their families nutritious food, and by having a surplus to sell can invest in their farms, send their children to school and build sustainable agri-businesses.

The focus is on practical approaches that help them grow more and sell more, so they can invest in their farms and their families' futures. The effect grows, because for every family it works with, three more families benefit too. Farmers share what they learn with their neighbours and communities. Then those farmers do the same: everyone is included, and everyone thrives.

It's efficient, effective and builds a momentum that spreads far beyond the programmes - ripple in action! Garden Twinning is done by donation. The cost of your Garden Twinning donation is based on the accurate cost of providing training in sustainable agriculture to a family in rural Migori, Kenya for a three-year period.

"Before working with Ripple Effect my children were dangerously malnourished. We had no money and food. One technique I have learned is how to create a keyhole garden. It is very good at providing healthy soil for growing."
Caroline, Participating in Ripple Effect's Improving Nutrition project, Rural Kenya

In recognition of your donation (£60) you receive a sustainable wooden plaque to display in your garden, a vegetable growing guide from Charles Dowding our no-dig expert, plus some wildflower seeds to get you started on your Garden Twinning adventure. I now have twinned my garden and the plaque is on the fence, level with the path and everyone who walks past looks at it and who knows - some might even want to twin their gardens as a result.

Lis Mullen

Twin by phone: 01225874222

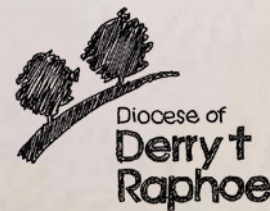
Mon - Thurs 9am-5pm.

Twin online 24 hours a day at:

rippleeffect.org/garden-twinning



Diocesan noticeboard!



**St Columb's Cathedral
Londonderry**

HIRE ME!!

Contact Robert
07794666754
or
robert@stcolumbs.net
for more information!



A Festival of Christmas Trees

In

St John's Church of Ireland,
Dunnaalong, Bready

Friday 9th to Sunday 11th December, 2022

In Aid of Dunnaalong Parish Church Repair Funds

Friday 9th December 2022

Church Open 2pm – 5pm

Opening Service at 7.30pm
with The Revd David McBeth
and friends

Saturday 10th December

Church Open 11am – 6pm

Seasonal entertainment

Sunday 11th December

Church Open 2pm – 5pm

Closing Praise Service at 7.30pm

With Choirs from local schools
Guest speaker Rt Rev Andrew Foster

Bishop of Derry and Raphoe

Everyone welcome

Light refreshments available each day



Crossword answers!



**16 Days
of Activism
Against Gender-
Based Violence.**

25th November -
December 10th
Details from
Mothers' Union.

A visit from Burundi Bishop and his wife to the Parish of Castlerock & Dunboe...

A Castlerock parishioner reports

The Lambeth Conference took place this summer from the 26th July until the 8th August, when Bishops from all over the world convened in Kent. Among them were Bishop Aimé Joseph & Mama Bénigne his wife from the Diocese of Gitega, Burundi.

Their Diocese is one of nine Global partnerships with which C.M.S.I. (Church Mission Society Ireland) set up and manage links. Our parish was asked to host Bishop Aimé Joseph & Mama Bénigne for a few days and it was our privilege and pleasure to accommodate this request.

On the 10th August they arrived in Belfast from the Lambeth Conference and, after a one-day conference there, Adam Quigley, who had spent the day with them, brought them

to his home, where he and his wife Marlyn looked after them for three days. This was the end of a very busy three-week programme for the couple. The remit was to afford them the opportunity to meet some of our parishioners, to do some sightseeing and also to rest a little before a busy weekend ahead, prior to returning home the following Tuesday.

Mama Bénigne, apart from being the mother of three children, the wife of a Bishop and a lawyer working for the rights of abused children in Burundi, is also the Diocesan President of Mothers' Union. On Thursday 11th August at 7.30pm a group from the Parish enjoyed a lovely informal and relaxed time together with Mama Bénigne from which we all gained some insight into each other's lives and cultures. We were delighted

that our Diocesan president Jacqui Armstrong also attended and made a small presentation to the couple from the Mothers' Union. The next day they were then taken for a tour of the local area including our beautiful beaches and land-marks. Apart from the few days beautiful sunshine we enjoyed, another unusual phenomenon was the 'pea-soup' mist that had descended on our coastline. This obscured their view of some of our land-marks but when they were taken to the top of Binevenagh, a place of outstanding natural beauty, they were able to enjoy some amazing views. They were very impressed with the beauty of our North Coast and in their company we began to realise how much we often take for granted. We will continue to hold them in our prayers.

Donegal Visit from Bishop of Yei...

Archdeacon David Huss

The Donegal Group of Parishes' friendship with a diocese in East Africa was rekindled in August with a visit by the Bishop of Yei in South Sudan, the Rt Revd Levi Marandulu, and his wife Mama Agnes.

The couple joined a well-attended meeting in Laghey Parish Church where they met members of the Donegal, Killymard, Lough Eske and Laghey parishes. The visitors joined me as the local Rector, for an evening of worship and hymn singing, and Bishop Levi gave a talk and slide presentation to update the congregation on the work being done by his clergy to spread God's word in one of Africa's newest sovereign states.

The Donegal Group of Parishes has had links with the Diocese of Yei since 2005 when a group from the parish travelled to Africa to visit churches and schools in the region, under the auspices of Church Mission Society Ireland. One of the people on that visit, Killymard

parishioner Robert Ellis, shared his memories of the trip during the service, along with slides of the youthful-looking team engaged in activities in Yei.

Since then, the region they visited has gained independence (from Sudan) and experienced a brutal civil war, with ongoing violence by armed groups within its borders. Bishop Levi, who was consecrated Bishop last year, said caring for displaced people was one of the many big challenges facing his diocese. Despite the financial challenges which also confront them, Bishop Levi and his pastors have been busy spreading the Word, developing youth and family ministry, building churches and schools, and providing health care. He recalled one recent service at which he confirmed more than 600 young people, and praised the work being done by Mothers' Union in Yei.

The Marandulus' visit was part of a post-Lambeth Conference visit to link churches,

arranged with the help of Church Mission Society Ireland. The couple called in to the Mustard Seed Project in Donegal Town to see the outreach work being done there and also visited Glebe National School to meet its newly-appointed principal, Ms Pasquier. Perhaps a link can be forged between our school and one of the burgeoning educational facilities in Yei?

The Bishop and his wife had dinner with members of the team who visited Yei in 2005 and also met ministers from other local churches for prayer. Bishop Levi said his two most immediate impressions of Ireland were of how green the country was and of how friendly its "smiling" people were. At the meeting in Laghey, he encouraged and challenged us all to be the light of the world, confidently sharing our faith and doing good to all. An inspiring moment, and the re-kindling (we hope) of a productive partnership.

How Climate Change affects women

The priority theme of United Nations Commission on the Status of Women 2022 was: *Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.*

What has this to do with our Christian calling?

Through our Christian calling we are called upon to be kind, compassionate, fair and just, sharing God's love wherever we are (Micah 6:8). The climate crisis is a major threat to the lives and wellbeing of communities across the globe. Over the years, climate-related disasters have become increasingly frequent and severe.

Why are women more likely than men to be affected by climate change?

Women living in the poorest and most marginalised communities in the world face higher risks and greater burdens as a result of climate change. They have contributed LEAST to the problem yet are hit hardest by this devastation.

Disasters do not affect all people equally. 80% of people displaced by climate change are women (UN). Their roles as primary caregivers and providers of food and fuel make them more vulnerable when natural disasters like storms, flooding and drought occur.

Thus, *climate change disproportionately affects women and girls.* Real lived stories told by worldwide CSW participants provide much food for thought:

More women drown in the aftermath of natural disasters e.g., in Pakistan. Women are not allowed to learn how to swim, as that would be exposing their bodies.

Nomadic indigenous women are particularly at risk. Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by climate-induced migration. As Lake Chad's shoreline recedes, women and girls have to walk much further to collect water. This leaves them at a greater risk of rape, violence and of human trafficking. Due to longer distances girls may have to drop out of school or be unable to do homework as fetching lifesaving water is the priority.

Food security: A young indigenous woman in India spoke of the effect on the family due to lack of food and climate issues. The men like to eat first, the women get to eat what is left over. In the dry season, men go to the towns... leaving women to look after the community. They have no access to financial loans, do not own their land and in most cases are not permitted to make decisions regarding property. This can further drive them into poverty. *In general men are better fed and educated, have better employment, can own land, and hold bank accounts.*

In Zimbabwe we heard how women are not allowed to decide to move to higher land in a crisis, only men can make that decision.

It was heartening to hear the youth delegates worldwide responding with energy and enthusiasm. Our youth are the future. It is vital they are included around climate justice discussion tables and are involved at every level.

COVID-19 has further amplified the effects of the climate crisis for women and girls, with the 'shadow pandemic' of increasing domestic abuse, and greater hunger due to loss of income. Daughters are being sold into child marriage on the premise of their being one less mouth to feed, and FGM has increased as health and training programmes were put on hold. More men have died than women, consequently widowhood has increased.

'We can each be a ripple and use our knowledge and skills to help each other and others.'

'God has given us dominion over the earth, and we have a duty to care not to destroy.'

'Climate change is not a fight for power, it is a fight for survival.'

(Voices of participants from UK, Papua New Guinea and Central Africa)

WAR: Roseline, widowed by war in Kenya at age 32, was visited by a group of men after her husband's death to sexually cleanse her. *We were encouraged to create spaces to educate and inform on the challenges of widowhood at home and in a worldwide context e.g. stigma, ostracization, harmful sexual practices etc.* The United Nations General Assembly has endorsed a resolution relating to the special position of widows. **Widows now constitute a vulnerable group in their own right** and provision should follow through future funding, legislation, strategies etc.

Half the world

The UN has constantly highlighted the need for gender sensitive responses to the impacts of climate change, yet the average representation of women in national and global climate negotiating bodies is below 30%. Whilst being the most strongly affected by the climate crisis, women are also uniquely placed to identify and implement practical and sustainable solutions for the whole community. However, women are often not involved in the decisions made about the responses to climate change. **As women and girls are half the world it is important they fully participate alongside men and boys in all major decisions.** Each brings a valuable voice to the climate table.

Jacqui Armstrong
UNCSW66 MU Delegate, March 2022

When team work brings unexpected gifts...



I'm fortunate to have been living in Hong Kong for over the past twenty-five years because it really is an international city, where I get to meet people from all parts of the world and all walks of life. What started out as a gap year taken after university to travel the world has turned into a life-long learning journey. Hong Kong was the first of a seven-stop trip and that's rather unexpectedly where it stopped.

The plan was to teach English for a year and then move on but that still hasn't happened. I had completed my *Teaching English as a Foreign Language Certificate* (TEFL) at the Foyle Language Centre (now Foyle International) and hoped that might get me started in Asia. I got my first teaching job two weeks after landing and that enabled me to stay and work. Then I didn't want to leave so I set up my own business running Team Building programs.

What I am always excited about in any of the activities we deliver is observing

the special gifts that people bring to the team. Yet they may be unaware that they are valuable and contribute greatly to the harmony and efficiency of their workplace. We call these hidden talents and we all have them. Have you ever considered what yours might be? For example, some of us are very action-orientated people, which means we are good at getting things going, like projects, plans and new ventures. However, action-orientated people can struggle to get some projects, plans and new ventures finished. That's where the task-focussed people in the team shine. They might struggle to get an idea off the ground but once it has momentum, they can bring the whole project to fruition. They achieve this by keeping the team focussed on the tasks required and holding people accountable to get the work finished and on time. It is this mix of skills that I love observing in teams and making them aware that they have these talents or gifts.

We all have gifts. We just need to discover them and this usually comes

down to awareness. We can also observe gifts in others, such as visual, linguistic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, logical and musical. When we become aware of our gifts we use them more readily with confidence and we thrive. It is this challenge that keeps me motivated in my work. Particularly dealing with a sceptical group and observing the realisation it experiences as it moves from resistance to interested to an actual commitment to unlock their personal gifts for themselves and others, is a great reward.

I'd like to challenge you to consider what your gifts are, and what you bring to your team, your family and your community. If you're stuck, ask them and you will be pleasantly surprised and grateful. We all have gifts both physical and spiritual, and it's our responsibility to share these gifts with others as we journey through life, in different parts of the world.

David Simpson is Director of Team Building Asia in Hong Kong



Wheelchairs in Heaven?

Accounts of what happens to disabilities in heaven are abundant in contemporary folklore and in our collective imagination.

Actual Scripture, however, is a little thin on specifics. Still, the discussion is significant, not for what it reveals about the hereafter, but for what it reveals about the attitudes of non-disabled people in the here and now. The perspectives of some wheelchair users may be surprising to able-bodied people of faith.

In a 2005 public radio interview, writer Ben Mattlin observed, "My disability is part of who I am. ... Are there no wheelchairs in heaven? I'm not buying it. For me, ...it's not a place where I'll be able to walk; it's a place where it doesn't matter if you can't."

At a Summer Institute on Theology and Disability a few years ago, one wheelchair-using participant pointed to these verses in the first chapter of Ezekiel:

"As I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the earth beside the living creatures, one for each of the four of them.

As for the appearance of the wheels and their construction: their appearance was like the gleaming of beryl; and the four had the same form, their construction being something like a wheel within a wheel. When they moved, they moved in any of the four directions without veering as they moved. ... Wherever the spirit would go, they went, and the wheels rose along with them; for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. When they moved, the others moved; when they stopped, the others stopped; and when they rose from the earth, the wheels rose along with them; for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels." Ezekiel 1:15-21

"There you have it," she added, "according to the Bible, the company of heaven has wheels."

Farfetched? Maybe not.

How often have we heard the phrase, "She is confined to a wheelchair?" Or, "He is wheelchair-bound."

Among us typically-abled, a common perception of a wheelchair is that of

limitation or restraint. For many who have spent their lives in them, though, this is simply not the case. In fact, "the wheels" are both the symbol and the instrument of mobility, freedom and independence. The point here is not to quibble about the characteristics of heaven and those to be found there. Definitive answers are unlikely in this life. Rather, it is about the attitudes that non-disabled people of faith bring into relationships now.

Which is easier to pray?

"God, take away that person's disability."?

Or,

"God grant me patience when I deal with people who have different abilities, grant me acceptance of everyone, even those whose appearance disturbs me, grant me a voice to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, and grant me the wisdom to learn from those who have so much to teach me?"

David Morstad



Welcome to Ireland Ukrainian Teddy Project

There has been a magnificent response from Derry and Raphoe Mothers' Union members and friends, regarding Ukrainian Teddies project launched in April.

So far, 150 beautiful comfort teddies have been knitted with materials funded by the All-Ireland Mothers' Union 'Mums in May' grant. Teddies are photographed in the local areas where they were crafted.

In August, President Jacqui Armstrong and two diocesan committee members, Roberta Merrick (Social Policy) and Anne Smith (Action & Outreach), presented 120 teddy welcome packs to representatives of Donegal Local Development Community (DLDC) in Letterkenny.

DLDC is a community-led organisation which provides a range of services in Co. Donegal, including Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme for newly arrived refugees.

Staff check regularly with Ukrainian families to ensure they are settling into their new accommodation and the local community. Derry & Raphoe comfort teddies were very well received by staff, who look forward to gifting the welcome packs to pre-school children, including a new-born baby.

In the Derry diocese, teddies are distributed through schools and the British Red Cross. If you are aware of a Ukrainian family with children coming to your area, please get in touch to request a welcoming pack. secretarydandmothersunion@gmail.com



Margaret Larkin (DLDC Community Development Manager) and the DLDC Ukraine response team with Roberta Merrick (Social Policy); Jacqui Armstrong (Diocesan President) and Anne Smith (Action & Outreach)





Small or Large?

Before the summer holidays it was a blessing for the Diocesan Ministry of Healing team to participate in a Rural Deanery Healing Service in beautiful south Donegal. The many blessings included enjoying worshipping with people from other denominations, being reminded how God cares about us and what we are going through in life, and seeing people taking the opportunity to seek prayer for wholeness and healing.

Before the Ministry of Healing team set off for home we prayed for God's kingdom to continue to come more and more into the lives of the people with whom we prayed. The next Rural Deanery (Limavady & Dungiven) Healing Service will be in St Mary's, Macosquin on Sunday 25th September at 6pm and everyone is welcome. Again, the Ministry of Healing team will lead, preach and offer people an opportunity for prayer.

With many parishes returning to a familiar pattern of Sunday worship the Ministry of Healing team will be available in the new year to preach and pray at Healing Services in individual churches. If we can help parishes or clergy in the healing ministry in any way please do contact us. My faith was challenged and encouraged recently by Rev Pat Mollen, the Director of the

Church Ministry of Healing. She said, "On occasions I'm asked by people how they can pray for healing."

She replied to the question with a question, "Do you pray small prayers or large prayers?"

She encourages us to consider the example of the great prophet Elijah. His prayers are an inspiration for us. Elijah had such an immense faith in God that he prayed big prayers, prayers with a purpose and the purpose was for God's glory. They were not for Elijah's comfort but for the growth and extension of God's kingdom.

There is no doubt the past two years of living through the effects of Covid-19 has restricted us, yet have also given us time to think about what really matters in life. When we think about healing we too need to pray big courageous prayers and tell God why we want that healing to take place.

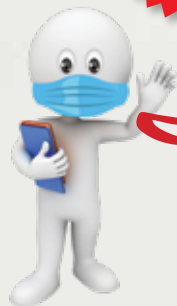
Rev Pat said, "Often the prayers that I have seen answered in an enormously positive way are the ones prayed with the 'why' clearly articulated and for God to be honoured in our response."

To God be the glory.

Rev Paul Lyons

'Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.' James 5v17

DON'T FORGET
YOU CAN PULL
OUT MY SPECIAL
PAGES FROM THE
MAGAZINE!



Hello my friends, it's
good to be back with you.
I hope you all had a wonderful
summer break, whatever you
and your families decided to
do with your time off.



It very important to be thankful for the many
blessings we receive each and every day. We
are coming now to a time in the Church year
when it is important to show our appreciation
for others and for all that we have.



Harvest is the time of year when we
give thanks for all of the food we have.
This goes right back to the days of the
Old Testament when Jewish people said
thank you to God for all the crops they
had been able to grow during the year.



I wonder do we always remember to say thank you for our food. This is very
easy if we like the food and have really enjoyed it. Sometimes we can forget
to be thankful if the food is something that we don't really like very much.

It is important to remember that even if you don't like some food,
we are really lucky to have so much lovely food to choose from, and
enough of it to eat every day. In some parts of the world children
do not have enough.



There is a story in the New Testament where Jesus heals
ten people who are suffering from a disease called leprosy.
They were very sick. The disease made ugly, sore spots on
their skin, and they couldn't be around anyone. They couldn't
be with their Mum, Dad or any other
members of their families or friends
because if they got close to people,
people might catch the disease too.
The people who had it had to live out
in the desert by themselves, and they
were very sad because they didn't feel
well and couldn't be around anyone.



One day, Jesus met ten men out in the desert who
had leprosy. He healed them. He told them to go
to the temple and show themselves to the priests,
and they would be all better.
That's what happened. As the
ten men started walking, their
disease suddenly vanished. The
leprosy went away, and they were
all healed. All of the men went
away, all except one.



Only one of the men remembered to come back and thank Jesus for what he had done. The other nine did not. Jesus was proud of that man because the man came and said, 'thank you'. But he was disappointed that the other men didn't come back to thank him.



Who would you be like - the one who said thank you or like the other nine who didn't?

Saying thank you for everything is so important. It helps our family and friends to know that we truly appreciate them, what they do and what they give us. As Christian people we believe that God is also very pleased when we say thank you to him.

HARVEST
JOKES



This harvest time let us show how grateful we are for all the food that has been grown especially for us to eat. Don't forget to say 'Thank You' for all that we have and have been given by others.

Q - What has many ears but cannot hear?

A - A field of corn.

Q - Why shouldn't you tell secrets on a farm?

A - Because the potatoes have eyes, the corn has ears and the beans stalk.



REFLECTION =
SERIOUS THOUGHT OR
CONSIDERATION

A time to reflect

Close your eyes and think for a minute about meal times in your house. Do you remember to say thank you to the person who prepared your food? Do you think about the people who grew your food and prepared it for sale? Perhaps you want to say thank you to God for all the food that you have in front of you on the table, either out loud or silently in your head.

Think about what you will do today.

Prayer

Go into your kitchen and put some different items of food on the table. Say thank you to God for all the food that is in front of you.

Thank you God for

Thank you God for

Thank you God for

Thank you God for

Thank you God for

Amen.

CJ CHALLENGES YOU TO

HEDGEHOG ROLLS

INGREDIENTS:

500g pack brown bread mix
25g butter
Plain flour for dusting
12 raisins
6 flaked almonds

METHOD:

1. Make the bread mixture with the butter following pack instructions.
2. Cut the dough into 6 pieces. Shape each piece into a ball. Make it a hedgehog shape by pulling one side out and squeezing it into a snout.
3. Put the hedgehogs on a baking sheet, cover with a damp tea towel and leave to rise for 1 hour.
4. Heat oven to 200c. Using kitchen scissors, carefully snip into the dough to make the spikes on the back of hedgehogs. Press raisins in for eyes and almond into the end of each snout.
5. Bake for 15 minutes or until the rolls are risen and golden.



MAKE A LOLLIPOP STICK SCARECROW

1. Line up 4 regular Lollipop sticks together.
2. You can add 2 mini craft sticks to the back to glue the 4 sticks together.
3. Paint the top of the stick brown on an angle of where you want the hat brim to go. Paint the next area a light brown. Add a slight curve to where the face ends on the bottom of the face. Then paint another colour underneath. Glue on strips of yellow paper to the edge of the dark brown paint on both sides for the hair. The top part will be hidden when you add a mini stick on top for the brim of the hat.
4. Paint 2 mini sticks dark brown. Glue the mini stick on an angle to make the brim of the hat, making sure to cover up the tops of the yellow card.
5. Glue on 2 small googly eyes. Make the nose from orange card and glue on.
6. Draw the mouth on with a black sharpie.
7. For a finishing touch, cut out some small squares from yellow card. Add some hash marks to the squares and glue to the scarecrow body. Make a bow from twine and glue just under the face. You can also add a few hash marks on the hat with a black sharpie.



MY ADVENTURES...

I just loved being off on my summer holidays. I enjoyed spending time with my family and friends. It was great to hear from St James Parish Church in Donemana since my last issue. From what I have been told they had a wonderful tea to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



The parish hall was so beautifully decorated for the 'Queen's Jubilee Tea'.

There were lots of treats for people of all ages to eat and enjoy. It was even better that everyone got the opportunity to meet together in the hall, have some tea, sweet treats and talk with each other.



Prizes were given out for the crown designs and people were encouraged to dress as royalty. A great day was had by all.



The young people in the parish received a wooden medal to remind them of this special occasion.



SEE YOU ALL NEXT TIME!

Contact me on email
cj@derryandraphoe.org

I hope you all have a wonderful harvest celebration in your own parish. A time to celebrate all of God's creation and all that is good.



News for the pews...

Facebook details are included for parishes that use Facebook. PLEASE NOTE - you do not have to be on Facebook to access a parish page. Just type the parish Facebook name or address, e.g. @cccmstp into your search engine on smart phone or laptop/tablet etc and click on the parish page.



Parish *in* Focus...

ERRIGAL & DESERTOGHILL (GARVAGH)

Rector: Rev Carmen Hayes

Tel: 028 2955 8226

Facebook: St. Pauls Church of Ireland, Garvagh



Errigal St Paul (Garvagh) welcomes Christians and those who seek to connect to Christianity in the Garvagh area.

We aim to make contact with and encourage others to join us in our life-changing Christian journey.

We are a friendly Christian community where we welcome others to join us in our worship and service to God.

Our vision is to make an impact for God, here in Garvagh, by helping people understand the enriching messages of eternal hope given to us by Jesus Christ through His words and deeds.

Everyone is welcome, no matter your age, beliefs, or background. Come just as you are - we'd love to get to know you better.

Exciting things happen in Garvagh ...

Planned for 2020 but now looks as if "IT" is finally going to happen, "IT" being a 'Flower Festival' that has been on the agenda at St Paul's Parish Church, Garvagh since it celebrated its last big milestone some seven years ago.

Now as many of you will know from experience anything that's worth doing and especially worth doing well, will often present you with lots of snags, problems, and difficulties to be worked through. In St Paul's we've already had to navigate ourselves around one or two major obstacles, like woodworm & dry-rot, but nothing could've prepared us for the interruption to all our lives that was the Coronavirus Pandemic and everything that was and still is (at some level) associated with it.

Yes, literally 'life' was put on hold for well over two years so I for one am very thankful to God for everything that I see each day that allows me to believe that there is at least some hope that normality, life as we once knew it, is making a return.

This in turn caused me to wonder, what could I do (or we in St Paul's do) to create the opportunity for people to re-connect and get back involved in the life and ministry of the church. So, when Alan Beatty contacted me at the end of May to enquire if I was thinking of running with the Festival Event that had been postponed in October 2020 I immediately thought, Yes, we can do this! Then when fear gripped my heart and I just as quickly thought, oh no, maybe we can't. Nonetheless, I told Alan (the Artistic Director) that I would speak to the Select Vestry and the church, and get back to him asap. Anyway, as I am sure you've guessed, they said yes. They believed that they (or we together) could do it!

So, you are all invited to a 'Harvest Flower Festival' from the 7th to the 9th of October 2022 in St Paul's Parish Church.

Continued on page 34...



Continued from page 33...

10am to 8pm on Friday 7th - Opening Service at 11am with Bishop Andrew.
10am to 8pm on Saturday 8th
2pm to 5.30pm on Sunday 9th - Closing Service at 7pm with Bishop Ken Clarke

Of course, refreshments will be available throughout the weekend.

Group Bookings - Contact Eleanor Livingston - 07792000274 - email: em_livingston@yahoo.co.uk
Or Rev Carmen - 07907579913 - email: carmenmirandahayes@hotmail.com

SPARK

From the 1st-5th of August 22 young people and a group of volunteers gathered in Garvagh, at St Paul's Church, for the 10th summer of SPARK. SPARK is an acronym for Servants Pursuing a Radical Kingdom. It is a group of high school aged students from various different backgrounds, who come together to serve the community.

This year SPARK was supported by Claire and Kirsty from the diocese. Claire spoke on the theme of community as the young people explored what it means to be salt and light. Verse 16 from Matthew, chapter 5: 'in the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven' was our motto for the week. The young people learned what it truly means to shine their lights, and how powerful that can be in a community.

The week started with litter-picking, weeding in the local community and painting fences. Everyone got stuck in and made lots of new friends as they served in this practical way. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the young people weren't able to visit the care home

or Garvagh Fold, so instead they wrote letters and made care packages for the residents. This was greatly appreciated. After all their hard work the young people enjoyed a day out at The Jungle in Desertmartin, where they were able to play team games, high ropes and zorb football. The young people also had a disco, messy games, various sports and craft activities. Prayer stations were set up throughout the week so young people could connect with God in a more informal setting. This was especially helpful for those who had never been to church before. Each day a kitchen team provided breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks for the young people.

My personal highlight was the leader hunt around Garvagh forest - the leaders dressed up and hid in plain sight. It was such a fun activity for the young people, and the leaders put their absolute best into making it so successful - even if they did get a few strange looks from passers-by!

I would like to thank everyone who made this a glorious and joyful week. The kitchen staff were amazing; the leaders brought enthusiasm every day, even when they were tired; Rev Carmen for being there and supporting the team; the helpers who came to do sports; Dougie and Philip for their help with the practical jobs; the parents for their continued support; both Presbyterian churches in Garvagh for the use of their bus and their hall for games. SPARK is such a team and community effort and it wouldn't be here after ten years without people putting their hearts into making it happen. Thank you all for your continued prayers and support with this project as we look forward to the 11th year!

Mellissa McGurgan

PARISH NOTES

"The holidays are here the holidays are here..." said Dick as he came running home from school. Those are words I can still remember from my P.3. reading book - a long time ago when Methuselah was a lad.

Anyway, the reason I'm telling you that is two-fold firstly, and as many of you are aware, the holidays are over, well they're over for the vast majority of people and especially those

who have children, because the children are now back in school, in the nursery, or they will be setting off to university very soon! Now for some of our children this is a routine thing, something that they take in their stride but for a lot of our children, the going-to-school for the first time or to the big school or to a new class with a new teacher or even to a university, is a huge thing that can cause some anxiety.

With that in mind, in St Paul's on the first Sunday of September we decided to hold a "Back to School" service that included a "Blessing" of the schoolbags and I for one was chuffed to bits with the response. Young People, their parents and schoolbags everywhere you looked, it was absolutely a-maz-ing, Everyone was buzzing!

But then, perhaps that was also down to the fact that they knew when the 45-minute service was over there would be an ice-cream man in the car-park and cake, biscuits, and juice in the hall.

Then secondly, I'm also telling you that because (as I write) I have not had any of my holidays yet. Whilst lots of other people have been enjoying the lovely summer weather and their vacations, I along with others in the parish have been pretty busy with the running of the very popular "Spark" event for the Teenagers and the preparation for the "Flower Festival" event that is coming up from the 7th to the 9th of October in St Paul's. You are all warmly invited to come, see the displays and enjoy some fellowship and refreshments with us.

And do you know what, by the time that event happens, "The holidays, the holidays (mine that is) will have been and went, and I'll be there, looking forward to meeting and greeting you all!"



OLD BUT BEAUTIFUL!

*At the top of the town of Garvagh
stands a very special place
where people come together
to thank God for his grace*

*She's seen and heard so much here
through her three hundred and fifty years*

*the prayers and praise and laughter
but also, many tears*

*For many have gone before us
their names now engraved in stone
but we know, we will meet again
when God sees fit to call us home*

*And so, we come to worship
when her bell rings out the call
we are part of God's big family
in our wee church St Paul's*

Written by Aileen McCahon

FAHAN UPPER AND LOWER

Rector: Rev Canon Judi McGaffin

Tel: 0769361154

Facebook: [Fahanandbuncranachurchofireland](#)

"Cherishing and connecting with all God's children"



The Parishes of Christ Church, Buncrana and St Mura Fahan "Cherishing and Connecting with all God's children"

What a magnificent summer that began with the parish of Fahan Lower (Buncrana) hosting 2 concerts which were wonderful community events! The North West Opera and Gateway Singers entertained a packed church and those present gave generously to local charities.

The summer may be fading but we in the parishes of Fahan Upper and Lower are preparing with gusto for the year ahead! Our online services - PRAISES Time on a Saturday morning at 10am, Compline on a Wednesday at 7pm and Sunday worship at 8am on a Sunday morning have returned to our Facebook page [fahanandbuncranachurchofireland](#). (These services stay on the Facebook page - so can be watched after the live service). Our in-church worship on a Sunday continues to take place at 10.30am in Christ Church Buncrana and at 12 noon in St Mura's Fahan.

All age worship services will now take place on the second Sunday of the month in both churches - please pray for all our young people and helpers as they take this forward. The harvest thanksgiving this year will be held in Christ Church Buncrana on Friday 30 September at 7pm when the guest preacher will be Canon Bill McNee. This year we are launching our Foodbank appeal at the harvest service, when we will be encouraging people to bring a non-perishable item of food to this and as many other services as they can. These gifts will be part of our offering at weekly services before it is taken to the local foodbank.

A special service of favourite hymns is also planned for Sunday 23 October in St Mura's Fahan from 2.30-5pm with donations initially

going towards the refurbishment of the organ. This service will also begin our annual prayer week.

We are planning lots of other events that everyone can be involved in, both in St Mura's Fahan and Christ Church Buncrana over the next 9 months or so - so keep up to date with all the news and details on our Facebook page [fahanandbuncranachurchofireland](#)

Three of our young people will be confirmed by the Bishop later in the year. Please keep Bella, Isabella and Olivia and their families in your prayers and they prepare to take this most important next step on their Christian journey. They have already begun their exploration of faith AND it's not all hard work! They and their mums (and the rector) recently enjoyed an afternoon bowling!

In finishing these notes can I thank everyone who allowed me to take holidays in the summer. The parishes were well cared for by colleagues and parishioners alike.



AGHADOWEY

Rector: Rev Louise Crawford-McCafferty
Tel: 07725908117
Facebook: St Guaire's Church Aghadowey

40 Brone Road, Garvagh BT51 4EQ
Email: louisecrawfordmccafferty@yahoo.com



It's Harvest time again and I was drawn to this song - I want you all to get your voices ready and sing like Baloo from Jungle Book and I hope it will cheer you up, for many people need cheering up at this time.

Look for the bare necessities
The simple bare necessities
Forget about your worries and your strife
I mean the bare necessities
Old Mother Nature's recipes
That brings the bare necessities of life.
Wherever I wander, wherever I roam
I couldn't be fonder of my big home
The bees are buzzin' in the tree
To make some honey just for me
When you look under the rocks and plants
And take a glance at the fancy ants
Then maybe try a few
The bare necessities of life will come to you.

Did you know that generosity is a spiritual gift? It says so in the Bible. In Romans 12:6-8, Paul writes: *"We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation" — now, get ready for it — "the giver, in generosity."*

Giving is a spiritual gift! *Who knew?* We tend to think of money in purely material terms — imagining that money, somehow, is vaguely dirty or unholy — but that's not how Paul sees it. We all have that gift to some degree. But some of us truly do have it more than others. It's as though money is spiritually radioactive. Like uranium, it can generate energy for good and useful purposes, but it can also destroy. Money can keep the lights on, but when highly concentrated in one place, it can be like a deadly poison. At this Harvest time think about

your own wealth and how you want to serve God with your money however much or little you have.

We all know the future is looking a bit worrying but that's when we can ask one another for help.

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, *'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you'*. Hebrews 13:5 It seems that's what Baloo thought too!

Harvest Service of Thanksgiving at St. Guaire's is Sunday 9th October 11am. The Service will be conducted by Mrs Eleanor Craig.

ARDARA, GLENCOLUMBKILLE, GLENTIES, INNISKEEL & LETTERMACAWARD

Bishop's Curate: Rev Robert Wray
The Rectory, Lackegh, Portnoo, Co. Donegal Email: robert_wray@talktalk.net



ARDSTRAW, BARONSCOURT, BADONEY UPPER & LOWER AND GREENAN

Rector: Rev Ivan Dinsmore
Tel: 028 8166 1342 Facebook: Ardstraw Parish



BALTEAGH, CARRICK, TAMLAGHTARD AND AGHANLOO

Rector: Rev Rhys Jones
Facebook: Aghanloo, Balteagh, Caarrick and Tamlaghtard @TamlaghtardCofI



ST. TIDA'S, PARISH OF BALLYSCULLION, BELLAGHY

NSM in Charge: Rev Brian Hassan



CAMUS-JUXTA-BANN (MACOSQUIN)

Rector: Rev Paul Lyons

www.camus-juxta-bann.org

Facebook: St Mary's Church @camusjuxtabannconnections



Celebrating 400 years

In late Spring an official looking letter arrived in the post for Nicola and myself. It was an invitation to a Garden Party at Hillsborough Castle! Our first reaction was - this is something to look forward to! Then we wondered why we had been invited. We then discovered it was because our church, Macosquin Parish Church, is celebrating its 400th anniversary this year. It was a privilege for us to represent the church congregation and village community and to personally meet HRH Princess Anne. She asked how we were celebrating the 400th anniversary and about our links with The Merchant Taylors Guild, who built the church during the Ulster Plantation.

As we return to 'nearly normal' in church life, the Select Vestry are taking every opportunity to gather the church family together to rebuild friendships and fellowship. For this reason, we planned and enjoyed a church outing to Londonderry in August. The trip included a very interesting tour of St Columb's Cathedral, visiting a

few of the city landmarks, some retail therapy and time for the young people to run through the water fountains at the Guildhall!

A Service of Thanksgiving to mark the 400 years of worship and witness in Macosquin took place on Sunday 11th September. Bishop Andrew came to preach and some members of the Merchant Taylors Guild from London attended.

On Sunday 25th September at 6pm St Mary's hosted the Limavady & Dungiven Rural Deanery Ministry of Healing service. The members of the Ministry of Healing team led, preached and offered prayer for both people present and for others known to them. The most frequent prayer requests are for physical health but the team can also pray for relational, spiritual and mental health. To help us reach out more into our village community we are planning a Harvest Hooley on Friday 30th September at 6.30pm in the Upper Hall. We'll have fish/sausages and chips to start, enjoy some entertainment, dancing and singing. On Sunday 2nd

October at 10.30am we'll welcome Rev Ian Ballentine as our preacher at our Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

As part of our church anniversary celebrations, we've invited back past rectors to share with us. We've asked each of them to consider the questions, 'What Macosquin Parish means to me?' and 'What did I see God doing during my ministry in the parish?' We look forward to welcoming Canon Mike Roemmele on Sunday 23rd October at 10.30am.

In this anniversary year, I hope that all of us in St Mary's Parish Church will look back with gratitude and look forward in faith. May the words of Mary be the example we seek to follow:

"I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled." (Luke 1v38)



CAMUS-JUXTA-MOURNE (STRABANE)

Rector: Rev John White

Facebook: Christ Church, Strabane @ChristChurchStrabane

Our Vision... 'Preach the Word... be shaped by the Word'.

Once again Harvest Thanksgiving season is upon us, when we take time out to thank God for all the blessings He has showered upon us. We are also reminded of the kind of God we serve.

Jesus famously said, "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep." John 10:14-15

Years ago, I read a book about Eleanor Philby who was married to the spy, Kim Philby. I was stunned to discover that Eleanor never had any idea that her husband was a secret agent. That seemed incredible to me at the time, but the truth is that our knowledge of even our nearest and dearest is always limited. We know much about them but there will always be aspects of their lives which we do

not know. But that is not the case when it comes to the Lord Jesus Christ. He knows us completely. There are no dark corners of our lives that he does not know. This could all sound thoroughly intimidating were it not for the fact of his complete love for us. His willingness to die for us shows the full extent of his love, and so we can feel not only safe but affirmed and encouraged by his knowledge of us.

In the Old Testament God is often compared with a shepherd, most famously in Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honour to his name." The psalm describes God's shepherd-like care of us even when we pass through the most threatening times and assures us that his love will go on for ever. No wonder many of the psalms

encourage us to worship God because of his care for us. Psalm 100:3 commands: "Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture." In Jesus, we see all the shepherding qualities of God the Father. Truly he is a good shepherd. The word 'good' in Greek is richer than our word for good and has the sense of beautiful, attractive and noble. He is in every way worthy of our worship and praise.

Given that we have such a wonderful and all-knowing shepherd to guide us through life, the challenge for us is to get to know him better. Nothing in life could be more important than this.

Harvest Thanksgiving in Christ Church will be on Sunday 9th October at 11:30am. The special preacher will be Bishop Andrew Forster. All will be very welcome.



CAPPAGH & LISLIMNAGHAN

Rector: Rev Canon Derek Quinn Email: derekquinn2@aol.com

Tel: 028 8224 2572

Facebook: Cappagh Parish Church @CappaghParishChurch

Harvest Thanksgiving Services

After two years of disruption and restriction I am absolutely delighted that we can return to holding our much-loved Harvest Thanksgiving Services in Cappagh and Lislimnaghan. This year we will again have visiting Preachers at all of our Services and we look forward to Parishioners and visitors joining together in praising and thanking God for all His goodness and generosity.

Cappagh Harvest Services will be held on Sunday 2nd October when the preacher at 11.30am will be Mrs. Norma Burns, and at 7.30pm another Diocesan Reader, Mr.

Paddy Quinn will deliver the sermon.

The following Sunday, October 9th, is the date of the Harvest Services in Holy Trinity, Lislimnaghan. We look forward to welcoming Mr. Frank Stewart from Tear Fund as our speaker at the 10.00am Service, and our good friend and neighbour Rev. Jonathan Cowan of Mountjoy and Drumlegagh, will be the preacher at the 7.30pm Service.

We look forward to hearing what all four preachers have to share with us and it would be lovely to see a good attendance at all four Services so please put these dates in your diaries and plan to be present.

A Harvest Thought

Harvest is the time of year when we say a special thank you to God for His faithfulness in providing for our everyday needs, but as the hymn writer Frances R. Havergal points out in "What hast thou done for ME?" God gives us many other blessings as well and asks what we give Him in return.

I gave my life for Thee,
My precious blood I shed,
That thou might'st ransomed be,
And quickened from the dead:
I gave my life for thee,
What hast thou given for ME?

My Father's house of light,
My glory-circled throne,
I left for earthly night,
For wand'rings sad and lone;
I left it all for thee,
Hast thou left aught for ME?

I suffered much for thee,
More than thy heart can know,

Of bitterest agony,
To rescue thee from woe;
I've borne it all for thee,
What hast thou borne for Me?

And I have bought to thee,
Down from My home above,
Salvation full and free,
My pardon and My love;

Great gifts I brought to thee,
What hast thou done for ME?

When we think of all that God has done
for us our hearts should overflow with
thanksgiving, not just on one day of the
year but each and every day.

CHRIST CHURCH CASTLEDAWSON

Rev Canon Colin Welsh: Rector and Rural Dean

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Harvest is coming around again. That time when we, as God's people, give thanks for God's many blessings and for the faithful work carried out by farmers, fisherfolk and all related industries.

Without the work being done and without God's gracious provision we would all be struggling to get the food we need.

Let's face it, there would be no harvest of the land without the ground being cleared, the earth tilled, and planting of the seeds, the fertilizer being applied, weeding taking place, and watering day-after-day.

The workers do the hard graft then God's creative and re-creative power kicks in. Only then, after a lot of effort and patience, does the harvest come. Of course further work is then required to bring the harvest in. I've never met a farmer who takes shortcuts in his work, I'd imagine if he did that he wouldn't be in business too long.

Can you imagine telling a farmer that he could skip the seed planting process, but

still be able to reap a harvest anyway? Or that he could plant without tilling the earth? He would probably look at you as though your head was cut. I've got to hand it to our farmers, their work ethic is powerful.

What if we in our churches had the same ethic and attitude towards the harvest of souls? Have we prepared the ground? Tilled it, fertilised it, planted good seed, nurtured it, weeded it and watered it?

You might say, "Oh we haven't got the labourers in our church to do this type of work, we just don't have the grafters"! Well here's what Jesus suggests in Matthew 9:37-38

³⁷Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. ³⁸Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest."

Isn't this where it all starts? Before a sod is turned, the preparation starts with prayer, asking the Lord for people who are ready, willing and equipped to do the work.

People with the work ethic, the patience and God-given abilities for the task. There can only be a Harvest if God is in every aspect of the process and in every person involved in the work.

Can I encourage you all today to pray, as Jesus suggested, that many would come forward in our churches to do the work He has set out for them to do, in order that a mighty harvest of souls might be reaped, and the Kingdom of God increased.

Harvest blessings to you all.

Harvest Celebration services at Christ Church:

Sunday 2nd October
11:30am and 6pm in the Parish Church

Harvest Sunday Lunch
1pm in the Parish Hall.

CASTLEROCK, DUNBOE AND FERMOYLE

Rector: Rev Chris MacBruithin

Facebook: Parish of Castlerock & Dunboe @CastlerockDunboe



Back to school, back to work, back to normal, back to porridge ... it's that time again. As our villages settle into autumn, we might miss the buzz here on the North Coast but we don't miss the traffic! Children are in a routine again, and parish activities resume after the summer break.

The Bible verse guiding us in Castlerock and Dunboe this autumn is about coming back to God: *'Return to me, and I will return to you', says the Lord of Hosts.* Malachi 3:7

Between the summer break, and Covid before that, it has been easy to drift away from church attendance. But like the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, God is always waiting, longing, for us to come back. Does the prodigal come home to an angry father? No! His father is watching

out for him, spots him in the distance and runs out to meet him and kiss him and bring him home.

This autumn is a **Season of Invitation**, beginning with **'Back to Church Sunday'** on 25th September, in both Christ Church and St Paul's. New and returning members of the congregation are invited back the following Sunday 2nd October for Harvest Thanksgiving services, with Clare Hinchliff as our invited speaker.

This September, as part of our response to the 'Mind Matters' initiative, we are relaunching 'Rocky Tots', a parent-toddler group each Wednesday morning. The aim is to foster peer support among parents, and the socialization of small children, born around the time of lockdown who have missed so much.

All doggies are invited to Castlerock on Sunday 9th October for a **Pet Blessing Service** - well-behaved owners are also welcome. After the short open-air service, thanking God for the pets he has created and that offer us such great companionship, we'll go for a walk on Castlerock beach.

We are still basking in the warm afterglow of the Flower Festival 'Lord, for the Years'. It was a huge success, and not only in terms of fundraising. We had fun working together again, and have been inspired to get together socially on a more regular basis again - beetle drives and table quizzes are back again. To the army of volunteers, and to all from around the Diocese who supported us, a heartfelt thank you.

CHRIST CHURCH, CULMORE, MUFF AND ST. PETER

Rector: Venerable Robert Miller,
Archdeacon of Derry
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Our Vision: Transforming Community, Radiating Christ.



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Parish Administrator
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Hebrews 10 verses 24-25 *'...let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...'*

An open door is the offer of an invitation, a welcome to come inside. Christ Church has begun its 'Open Door' ministry to the local community. Those passing by will feel there is an invitation to come inside. We

have an active and engaging team who have been working hard in the background to begin this new ministry and then to develop it. This is an invitation to engage with our history, our architecture, our current worshipping community and, most importantly, it is an invitation to encounter God and experience the love and hope that comes from faith. If you are in the area, we hope you will come on in.

In October Holy Trinity Church, Culmore will

be opening its doors to welcome the sound of a new organ. The original organ, kindly given many years ago as a gift from the Honourable the Irish Society, has sadly succumbed to woodworm. We are glad to say that the Hon. the Irish Society has kindly supported the parish with the donation of a new organ. The parish has been working to eradicate the woodworm and install the new organ. We will be celebrating its installation with Bishop Andrew on Sunday 9th Oct at

6:00pm. We would love others to join us as we celebrate this new chapter in our worshipping life in Culmore.

In October and November, we will be holding a course on *The Lord's Prayer*. There will be more details posted on Facebook @CCCMSPP re. day and time. We will also announce details at Sunday worship. This will be open to the wider community and we would encourage you to think

about inviting someone to come with you to the course. *The 24/7 Prayer Movement* has prepared the course and there are some important reminders of the power of prayer to change lives and make a difference in our families and community. I hope you will join us.

As a new season begins and we look towards Advent and Christmas, let's make it a new habit to join one another in praying the words

of the Lord's Prayer each day and to invite the power of God, in a fresh way, to move in our lives and community.

Yours in Christ, Robert+

CLONDEHORKEY, CASHEL & MEVAGH

Vacant

Rural Dean: Rev David Skuce

CLONDEVADDOCK, ROSSNAKILL, PORTSALON & LEATBEG

Vacant

Rural Dean: Rev David Skuce

CLOONEY

Rector: Rev David McBeth

Email: allsaintsclooney@btinternet.com

Facebook: All Saints Clooney



Curate-Assistant:
Rev Andrea Cotter



CONVOY, MONELLAN & DONAGHMORE

Canon David Ferry in charge
Mob: 004478 1398 3772

Canon Ferry has asked me to write these notes, as he will be off duty in September. This is because he has to have surgery to repair a torn retina in his left eye. Having been through this myself, I am well aware of how serious it can be, and how close one can come to losing eyesight. We wish him a full and speedy recovery, and look forward to his return. As Rural Dean, and on behalf of the Bishop, I express our deepest gratitude to Canon Ferry for all he is doing.

Paul Guthrie and Janine Harron were married in Donaghmore Church on 1st July. Our congratulations and best wishes to them.

Our sympathies are extended to the family of Mr Thomas Gibson who was buried in Convoy Churchyard on 10th June.

The death of Mr Billy Witherow, just two days after his 90th birthday has brought deep sorrow to his wife Mabel, to his family and wide circle of friends. Billy was a giant in the parish - deeply involved in its affairs for many years, and he will be sorely missed. We thank Almighty God for his life, and pray His comfort on all the family, and especially to his sons, daughters and the grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Robbie Barclay was buried in Convoy Churchyard on 3rd September. Our deepest

condolences are with his family.

May all these faithful servants of God rest in peace.

There will be a Car Boot Sale on Saturday 24th September and a Country and Western Concert in St Ninian's Hall on Thursday 27th October, both in aid of St Ninian's Parish funds.

Not being more closely involved with the parish, I hope that nothing has been omitted that ought to have been included, especially with regard to bereavements.

David WT Crooks, Rural Dean

CONWAL UNION WITH GARTAN

Rector: Rev David Houlton
Facebook: The Parish of Conwal Union @ConwalParish



Associate Priest:
Rev Heather Houlton



Summer 2022 has been remarkably unremarkable after more than two years of Covid restrictions, keeping apart and lockdowns, and we are now looking forward to a (more-or-less) normal autumn and Christmas in Letterkenny and Churchhill/Gartan.

Conwal Sunday School did manage to have an Easter event and an annual tour this year - to the delightful Lurgybrack Open Farm on a lovely June day. But apart from that only some youthwork has been possible, and we have been grateful for the ongoing partnership with the Genesis project and their youth workers - both for helping us with the parish's youthwork in Letterkenny, and starting up their own youthwork project in Churchhill. In August the youth enjoyed a Barbeque

on Rathmullan beach. And summer church services were based on topics and hymns chosen by parishioners.

Now in Autumn, things are looking better - Sunday School is starting and special services can be held normally - such as Harvest Thanksgivings (25th Sept in Conwal and 9th Oct in Churchhill / Gartan) and Remembrance Sunday (13th Nov in Conwal) - remembering all those people of Donegal who gave their lives in the world wars and more recently in Ireland's peacekeeping deployments or on duty with An Garda Síochána.

As always, we rejoice with the parents of those baptised this spring/summer: Adam, Zara and Oliver. We celebrate with the families of those who married: Aisling Gillespie and Gary Ritchie. And we mourn

with the family and friends of those departed this life: Isobel Moore, Rebecca (Becky) Spratt, Rosena (Ena) McClean, Leslie Cook and Vida Whyte. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Plans for Autumn 2022

25th Sept: 10.30am Conwal Family Harvest Service followed by Sunday School bake sale

7.30pm Conwal Traditional Harvest Thanksgiving followed by charity auction of produce

9th Oct: 7.30pm Gartan Traditional Harvest Thanksgiving followed by tea

13th Nov: 10.30pm Conwal Remembrance Sunday Service

CUMBER UPPER, CUMBER LOWER, BANAGHER AND LEARMOUNT

Rector: Rev David Slater

Tel: 028 7133 8214

Facebook: Cumber Upper & Lower, Learmount, Banagher Group of Parishes



It is 14.12pm on Tuesday 6th September 2022 and Liz Truss has accepted the Queen's invitation to form a government.

It is 16.12pm in Crimea and there has been another explosion.

At this moment the live price of a barrel of Brent crude is £75.2073 - though the price changes so quickly it is updated every three seconds.

But there is another version of events, that has not made it into the news - at this moment, in the hedgerows, there is a bounty of wild blackberries and wild hazelnuts and if you looked carefully over the summer there was also a bounty of wild strawberries and raspberries. Nature always finds a way and *"as long as the world exists, there will be a time for planting and a time for harvest. There will always be cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night."* Genesis 8:22 So has it ever been and Harvest allows us to reflect, be thankful and acknowledge the hand of the Creator in our midst. So, from an unknown author comes a cautionary tale from Nature:

"There was once a spider who lived in a cornfield. He was a big spider and he had spun a beautiful web between the corn

stalks. He got fat eating all the bugs that would get caught in his web. He liked his home and planned to stay there for the rest of his life.

One day the spider caught a little bug in his web, and just as the spider was about to eat him, the bug said, "If you let me go I will tell you something important that will save your life." The spider paused for a moment and listened because he was amused. "You better get out of this cornfield," the little bug said, "The harvest is coming!"

The spider smiled and said, "What is this harvest you are talking about? I think you are just telling me a story." But the little bug said, "Oh no, it is true. The owner of this field is coming to harvest it soon. All the stalks will be knocked down and the corn will be gathered up. You will be killed by the giant machines if you stay here."

The spider said, "I don't believe in harvests and giant machines that knock down corn stalks. How can you prove this?" The little bug continued, "Just look at the corn. See how it is planted in rows? It proves this field was created by an intelligent designer." The spider laughed and mockingly said, "This field has evolved and has nothing to do with a creator. Corn always grows that way." The bug went on to explain, "Oh no. This field

belongs to the owner who planted it, and the harvest is coming soon." The spider grinned and said to the little bug, "I don't believe you," and then the spider ate the little bug for lunch.

A few days later, the spider was laughing about the story the little bug had told him. He thought to himself, "A harvest! What a silly idea. I have lived here all of my life and nothing has ever disturbed me. I have been here since these stalks were just a foot off the ground, and I'll be here for the rest of my life, because nothing is ever going to change in this field. Life is good, and I have it made."

The next day was a beautiful sunny day in the cornfield. The sky above was clear and there was no wind at all. That afternoon as the spider was about to take a nap, he noticed some thick dusty clouds moving toward him. He could hear the roar of a great engine and he said to himself, "I wonder what that could be?"

Psalm 14:1 : The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

Enjoy the pumpkin soup.



DERG & TERMONAMONGAN

Rector: Rev Peter Ferguson

Tel: 028 8167 1362

Facebook: Derg Parish Church. Termonamongan Parish



Deacon Intern:

Rev Claire Henderson



Summer is normally a quieter time in parishes, but not for us in Derg and Killeter Parish group. We started the summer with some of our youth, along with Rev Peter, at Summer Madness and finished it with our Youth Adventure Blitz. Our young people had great fun climbing the hills in Killeter followed by a campfire. The next night was a family quiz night with pizza and ice cream and then the final night was

a games and BBQ night at Castlederg High School. We are thankful to Claire DYO for coming along to support us on these nights. The young people and leaders had so much craic they are already planning what we can do next summer.

We are looking forward to launching our new family service booklet during September. Rev Claire has been working on this over the summer. This booklet will be used at all our family services from now on. In October, we are beginning our new family service series, 'Meals with Jesus'. Each month we will be looking at a different person with whom Jesus shared a meal, based on the accounts found in Luke's gospel. As part of this new series we are going to be sharing some refreshments together either before or after the service, which will include BYO picnic, BBQs and

bacon butties. Joining together as a church family, discovering more about Jesus and going deeper in our faith walk with him has us really excited for the year ahead!

Harvest Services

Friday 7th October 'Harvest Supper'

@ 7pm - Rev Graham Hare

Sunday 9th October 'Family Harvest' -

Rev Jonathan McFarland



DESERTMARTIN AND TERMONEENY

Rector - Revd Philip Benson

Tel. 028 79632455



DONAGHEADY

Rector: Reverend Captain Richard Beadle

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Photos of institution



DONEGAL, KILLYMARD, LOUGH ESKE & LAGHEY

Rector: Venerable David Huss, Archdeacon of Raphoe

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Facebook: @DonegalGroupofParishes



Summer Visitors

Visitors are always very welcome at our churches and this summer we were happy to see tourists back in Donegal Town and environs. More poignantly we had a number of Ukrainian refugees join us at times, and the Mustard Seed has played its part in addressing their needs. We were also delighted to welcome Sam Peilow, an ordination student at Oak Hill College in London, who spent a week with us experiencing rural ministry. Sam and his wife Georgina hail from Derry and Donegal and we very much hope the Lord's providence may lead them back to the North-west in due course. Later we were honoured to have Bishop Levi Marandulu and his wife Agnes visit from the Diocese of Yei in South Sudan, re-igniting a friendship which dates back to 2005 when Canon Fox took a group there. Bishop Levi encouraged and inspired us, and kindly said that he had learned from his experiences in Ireland too.

Parish News

Donegal Parish marked its 300th birthday in June with a special service at which Bishop Andrew preached. We took the opportunity to pray at the site of the original 1722 church (now in ruins) before moving to the present 1828 building. A great deal has happened over those three centuries, much of it now unknown to us. But the clues left by history speak of a vibrant church staying faithful to God "through all the changing scenes of life." As it happens, Killymard parish is even older, going back at least 600 years, with the last 100 being in a happy marriage with Lough Eske. Looking to the future as well as celebrating the past, Laghey Church has recently been granted planning permission for a series of improvements to the hall and surrounding lands. We now look for grants and funding to make these dreams a reality and see the church as a thriving hub in the village. At Glebe National School, new Principal Ms Pasquier and Deputy Ms O'Flaherty now head the staff team and care for a record number of pupils.

Going forward

The best way to keep up with all our events such as Harvest services, Children's and Youth events, Prayer Meetings, Bible studies etc. is to subscribe to our weekly Parish Update and follow our website and social media pages. Just Google 'Donegal Group of Parishes' and you'll find us.



DRUMACHOSE, LIMA VADY

Rector - The Reverend Canon Aonghus Mayes



DRUMCLAMPH & CLARE, LANGFIELD UPPER & LOWER

Rector: Rev Robert G. Keogh

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DRUMHOLM, KILBARRON & ROSSNOWLAGH

Rev Canon Brian Russell: Rector and Rural Dean

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Return to worship in St. John's Church, Rossnowlagh

The Disabled Access Ramp, guard and hand rails and lights are all now in place and we have returned to worship in St. John's Church from Sunday 4th September. We are especially grateful to Michael Bowring builders, and also to David Given for the exterior cleaning of the church walls. John Friel for the new front doors and William Goodwin who kindly stained and varnished them. Service of Harvest Thanksgiving was on Friday 9th September when the visiting preacher was Rev. Rebecca Guildea, the new Rector of Garrison, Belleek and Slavin.

Drumholm Sponsored Walk

Many thanks to all those who took part in raising funds for Drumholm Parish through



the sponsored walk on Friday 19th August on a beautiful summer's evening. Your efforts and the generosity of your sponsors have realised to date €1,980. Thank you to the organizers and providers of refreshments, which were very much enjoyed.

Confirmation Updates

Bishop Andrew Forster kindly presided over the Confirmation of Isabel, Michael and James Murphy on Sunday 28th August at 11am in St. Anne's and sixteen young people confirmed on Sunday 18th September at 11am again in St. Anne's Church. We wish them all encouragement and blessing.

Holy Baptisms

The Baptism of Joshua John Fenton, a brother for Maddison, son of Kane and Michelle took place on Sat 27th August in St. Anne's Church, Ballyshannon. For the Baptism of baby Hamilton and baby Anderson in Drumholm Church we pray God's health and contentment.

Funeral of Jackie Duncan

A large congregation of mourners attended Drumholm Parish Church on Tuesday 30th

August to sympathise with Mary, Gareth and Mark Duncan on their loss of Jackie. Let us continue to pray for God's comforting and strengthening grace to accompany them into the future.

Harvest Thanksgivings 2022

Bishop Andrew Forster will be the Preacher at St. Anne's Harvest Thanksgiving on Friday 30th September at 8pm. The Bishop will dedicate the refurbished St. Anne's Hall in memory of Sheila Gibson, former Honorary Treasurer of St. Anne's, and also other gifts sponsored by Parish families. We hope to have Farah Bogle sing for us at this special occasion. Drumholm Parish Harvest Thanksgiving is to take place on Friday 7th October at 8pm. Rev. Ivan Dinsmore, formerly of the Parish will be the guest Preacher.

A Time To Sew

Esther Russell is leading a five night machine sewing course which began on Friday 16th September from 7.15 - 9.15pm in the newly refurbished St. Anne's Hall, Ballyshannon. If interested contact Esther on 0830105009.

DRUMRAGH & MOUNTFIELD

Rector: Revd Graham Hare

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Curate: Rev Alexander Chisnall

DUNFANAGHY, RAYMUNTERDONEY & TULLAGHOBEGLEY

Rev David Skuce, Rector and Rural Dean, Kilmacrennan East & West Rural Deanery
Facebook: Holy Trinity, Dunfanaghy @holytrinitydunfanaghy



Parish Register - Holy Baptism

Holy Trinity, Dunfanaghy

16th July, 2022 Lyla Emerald Campbell

27th July, 2022 Evie Eliza Carruth

St. Ann's, Tullaghobegley

28th August, 2022 Willow Martina Doherty

With every passing day an ever-increasing degree of normality, thankfully, is evident in our lives and community. The Omicron variant is still a cause for concern.

However hospitalizations continue to fall. The general opinion is that "the Virus" is something that we will have to learn to live with. This increasing normality has meant that, as a Parish, our fundraising activities have resumed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who helped organize the various events and those who came along and supported us in our endeavours. During the week prior to the Fun Day, Auction and Craft Fair on Bank Holiday Monday we were very heartened by what was raised, the Table Quiz raised €1,083.70, the Treasure Hunt €315, the Dog Show €315 and the Beetle Drive €414. Despite the inclement weather the Fun Day raised €16,009.12. These outstanding results have been a great source of joy and

encouragement for all those involved in the various events.

In July the Moore family held their annual Vintage Cake Sale on the Green, Dunfanaghy, raising almost €2,000. This total will be divided between Holy Trinity Church and the Parkinson's Association. We would like to thank everyone who supported the day and also the Moore family for their energy and enthusiasm.

We have all been deeply saddened by the events in Ukraine - so much destruction, people losing their lives, their property and many leaving their homes to escape the bullets and bombs. We would like to thank Patrick and Christine Knowles for opening their home and garden for people to visit. Everyone who helped out on the day are to be thanked and the event raised €2,230 towards the relief of suffering in Ukraine. In August the North West Opera Choir came to sing in Holy Trinity Church, Dunfanaghy. It was great to see a full church. We were delighted to have a group of Ukrainian refugees join us on that evening. The programme was thoroughly enjoyable with many well-known pieces included in their repertoire. The highlight and most moving part of the evening was when the choir sang the Ukrainian National Anthem. Everyone present thoroughly enjoyed the evening and

the event raised over €1,635. Our thanks to Robin Law for his part in bringing the choir to Holy Trinity Church. Once again, the generosity of the parishioners and the wider community is greatly appreciated.

It was great source of encouragement to have Kirsty McCartney (Diocesan's Children's Ministry Officer) visit the Parish for three days towards the end of August. Kirsty ran a great programme for the young people. I would like to thank Colum and Elinor Knowles for their help and support over the three days. We look forward to Kirsty being with us again on Sunday 25th September for a Parents and Children Event at 10.30am. More details will be on the Parish Facebook page.

The season of Harvest is almost upon us when we will gather to thank Almighty God for His many blessings, not only now but throughout the year and indeed our lives. By the time you read these notes the Harvest Service will have taken place in St. Paul's Church, Raymunderdoney, my thanks in advance to the Rev. David Griscome who will be our preacher on that evening. The Harvest Services for Holy Trinity Church, Dunfanaghy will be held on Friday 14th October at 7.30pm. The preacher will be the Rev. Liz Fitzgerald and on 16th October at 10.30am the preacher will be the Rector.

DUNGIVEN & BOVEVAGH

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'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up' Galatians 6 v 9

EDENDERRY & CLANABOGAN

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Rules for Life

1. You shall not worry, for worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.
2. You shall not be fearful, for most of the things we fear never come to pass.
3. You shall not carry grudges, for they are the heaviest of all life's burdens.
4. You shall face each day as it comes. You can handle only one day at a time.
5. You shall not take problems to bed with you, for they make very poor bedfellows.
6. You shall not borrow other people's problems. They can better care for them than you.
7. You shall not try to relive yesterday for good or ill: it is forever gone. Concentrate on what is happening in your life and be happy now!
8. You shall be a good listener, for only when you listen do you hear ideas different from your own.
9. You shall not get bogged down by frustration, for 90% of it is rooted in self-pity and will only interfere with positive action.

10. You shall count your blessings, never overlooking the small ones, for a lot of small blessings add up to a big one.

'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.' Isaiah 41:10

Prayer for More Awareness of God's Presence

*Open my eyes that I may see
Your presence that is all around me.
Open my ears that I may hear
Your voice that is quiet yet ever near.
Open my heart that I may feel
Your love which is close and real.
Open each sense, make me aware
of Your power and peace which are always there.
Amen.*

Harvest Services

Clanabogan - Friday 30th September at 8.00pm (Preacher Rector) and Sunday 2nd October at 7.30pm (Preacher The Revd. Graham Hare). No Morning Worship in Clanabogan on 2nd October.

Edenderry - Sunday 9th October at 11.30am (Preacher Rector) and that evening at 7.30pm (Preacher Revd. Alexander Chisnall)

Harvest Prayer

Father, as we celebrate this harvest season of thanksgiving, we give thanks for the blessings of food, provision and nourishment. Grow in us a harvest for the world. Come, sow a seed of hope within our souls Lord, that we might yield goodness, patience and kindness in abundance.

Sow a seed of peace in our lives Lord, that we might bear the fruits of forgiveness, compassion and righteousness. Come, sow a seed of love in our hearts Lord, that others would reap the blessings of family, friendship and community.

May each seed of hope, peace and love grow within us to become a harvest that can be feasted on by all. Amen.

*(Prayer by Julie Palmer
www.prayerscapes.com)*

FAUGHANVALE

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"The summer is ended: the harvest is over; but we are not yet saved." (Jeremiah 8:20) It has been neither a particularly good, nor especially bad, summer from a weather point of view, but it seems to have flown. No doubt many of the things we had planned to do over the summer months remain undone. We can perhaps, then,

identify with the prophet Jeremiah as he laments how his people have failed to seize the opportunities God gave them to restore their relationship with him and rebuild his church; "we are not yet saved".

Perhaps there are parallels with the situation in which the church finds itself today? In a

post-Covid world (if indeed we are post-Covid) many parishes are having to rethink many aspects of ministry; how they engage people in worship, how they do children's and youth ministry, and how they connect with people who have drifted away over the past few years. There are challenges, to be sure, but also opportunities if we are willing

to grasp them. There is more work to be done before the harvest is brought in.

Worship and Children's Ministry

This term we are offering a new pattern of worship and activity for children to engage in. There will be something every Sunday at 10am - one week it will be our JAM (Jesus and Me) children's ministry and on alternate Sundays it will be a half-hour Daybreak service. Everyone should have already received a card with the dates of each up until Christmas. Our regular 11am service and our monthly 8:30am Communion on the first Sunday will continue as before.

Harvest is on Sunday 2nd October.

Healing Service

Canon Pat Mollan and some of her team from the Church's Ministry of Healing will be with us for a healing Service at 11am on Sunday 16th October.

Remembrance

There will be a special act of Remembrance at the 11am service on 13th November.

200th Anniversary Events

We continue to look forward to visiting preachers to help us celebrate God's goodness to us as a parish. Canon John Blair will be with us virtually on 9th October and Rev Sam Jones will be live on 20th November. On Sunday 2nd October after the Harvest Service we have our 200th Anniversary Parish Meal at the White Horse hotel. All are welcome. Please book with the Churchwardens.

Christmas Services

Sunday 11th December

11am Nativity and Gift Service

Sunday 18th December

11am Carol Service

Christmas Eve

11:30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

10:30am Christmas Family Service followed by Communion



GLENDERMOTT & NEW BUILDINGS

Rector: Rev Canon Robert Boyd

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Facebook: Glendermott and New Buildings Church of Ireland



Curate Assistant:
Rev Johnny Lowden



GWEEDORE (CARRICKFINN & BUNBEG) & TEMPLECRONE

Bishop's Curate: Rev Liz Fitzgerald
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Psalm 100:4

*Enter His gates with thanksgiving
And His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him, bless His name.*

As the summer draws to a close, and children have settled into school, we look forward to the autumn and Harvest Thanksgiving. We have a lot to give thanks for. In our parishes we had a Sunday of dedications.



In St Crone's Parish Church, we had our first combined service since lockdown ended and restrictions eased. It was a wonderful day, with people from all three churches gathered together and worshipping together.

Bishop Andrew dedicated the new front entrance to St Crone's Church, as well as new communion cups for all parishes.

Bishop Andrew dedicated a new altar cloth and table linen (in beautiful fine Irish Linen), gifted by the Hanlon family, in memory of the late Richard Hanlon, a mainstay of the church for his lifetime.

I will let the pictures tell the story of gorgeous weather and a happy gathering. In the afternoon, Bishop Andrew dedicated restored gates of the Old Church, Dunlewey. This wee church, nestled at the foot of Errigal in the valley of the Poisoned Glen, has sometimes been referred to as "abandoned." IT IS NOT!

It is much loved by the community of Dunlewey, our parish and of the many visitors who just go to the church for a visit because of its beauty. There they encounter the beauty of nature, the stillness and calm of this special place, and the peace of God. With the bishop and two guitarists, community, neighbours and parishioners



we sang of God's beauty in creation, and Bishop Andrew dedicated the restored gateway.



God moves in mysterious ways, and his peace was present in our gatherings. Praise be to God.

Our celebrations for Harvest Thanksgiving are:

Harvest Thanksgiving at Evening Prayer - Friday 30th September at 8.00pm, St Andrew's Church, Carrickfinn. Our preacher will be Rural Dean, Rev'd David Skuce.

Harvest Thanksgiving at Evening prayer - Friday 7th October at 7.30pm, St Crone's Parish Church, Dungloe. Our preacher will be Mr Sean McClafferty.

We will have our Parish Harvest Thanksgiving at Morning prayer on the following Sunday.

Let us give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things. Psalm 107:8-9

INVER, MOUNTCHARLES, KILAGHTEE & KILLYBEGS

Rector - Vacant
In Charge during the Vacancy - Venerable David Huss, Archdeacon of Raphoe
Tel: 074 9721075

KILCRONAGHAN, BALLYNASCREEN AND TOBERMORE

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In 1 Thessalonians 5:18 the Apostle Paul encourages God's people to 'give thanks in all circumstances.'

Which, of course, is what we find ourselves doing as we meet together to celebrate the Harvest, against a backdrop of increasing food and fuel prices, alongside increased mortgage repayments. We 'give thanks', not because all of our life's circumstances stir up feelings of thankfulness, but rather, to quote Psalm 75:1: *We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near. We recount your wondrous deeds.*

We 'give thanks' as we turn our attention away from our present circumstances, at least for a time, and remind ourselves of the constancy of God's love and care for His people.

Think of how Jacob and his family left their famine-stricken land to go to Egypt,

based on God's promise of food and a better life. (Genesis 46:1-7) For a time, everything was wonderful. Then, a new King came to power, one who resented the way in which Israel's people were growing in number and stature. Suddenly, everything changed for the Israelites, as they found themselves ruthlessly enslaved and ill-treated. (Exodus 1)

It had been so easy to feel thankful and hold on to the goodness of God, when they were well-fed and free. But the moment their circumstances became more difficult they began to doubt. However, despite their doubts, they somehow held on to their sense of hope. Hope that, even now, God would fulfil His promises, so that in Exodus 2:23-24, we read that they cried out to God:

'The people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help... And God heard their groaning, and remembered His covenant.'

God remembered, not in the sense that God

had somehow forgotten His covenant promise, but in that, now the moment had come when it was time to move in order to keep His covenant to His people.

This Harvest, let us celebrate who God has revealed Himself to be, in Egypt and supremely in His Son. In the words of the old gospel hymn written by Civilla D Martin 'His eye is on the Sparrow, and I know He watches over me.' God hears our groaning, God cares, and God works.

*Why should I feel discouraged,
Why should the shadows fall,
Why should my heart be lonely
And long for Heav'n and home.
When Jesus is my portion?
My constant friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches over me.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ei84uOUI2SY>

KILLOWEN (COLERAINE)

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"May we show Christ's love + teach his Word."



Killowen's 'Blushing Brides'

After the rigours of Covid, we are delighted, in this year, to share the joy of our brides and grooms again at Killowen. May God's blessing be with them all.

10.06.22 Naomi McIntyre to Adam Davis
16.07.22 Eleanor Heath to Andrew Taylor
04.08.22 Lesley-Ann

Davis to Kevin McKinney
05.08.22 Laura Connor to David Hutchinson
10.11.22 Jill Ferguson to Brian McCann

Breakfasts to Bless

Another returning favourite, to which all are welcome, are Killowen's monthly ladies and men's breakfasts, held in our recently

refurbished church halls.

Ladies: At 8:45am - Second Saturday morning of each month
Men: At 8:45am - Last Saturday morning of each month.

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Continued from page 51...

Along with healthy eating, worship + prayer are a valued part of our times together. Your company would always be a blessing - see you any morning!



The 'not so old' 100s

Killowen must be the place for healthy and holy living. We rejoiced with three centenarians who have kept health and strength, to say, 'I will bless the Lord'.

24th March 2022 - Canon Bob Wilkinson on his 101st birthday.

22nd July 2022 - Jean Jackson (pictured) on her 100th birthday

22nd October 2022 - Sadie Gage on her 100th birthday

Down by the Riverside

In September, our Teens group had a splash and sleep over at the River Bann Drumaheglis centre near Coleraine, when we all enjoyed both fun and fresh air (night and day!) with our teens and leaders. Our

Autumn teens and twenties connect time was a relaxed 'glamping' as schools kicked off for another season.

Killowen Harvest Sunday - 23th October 2022

Morning and Evening Harvest praise at Killowen, on Sunday 23rd October 2022 at 10:30am and 6:00pm is a highlight we look forward to - when we give our own 'thanks be to God' for His every blessing. While the world faces war, famine and poverty, the Lord still works to 'seek and save the lost'. A lovely blend of praise, old and new, helps us to praise God for His steadfast love that endures forever

From Harvest through to Advent we want to 'keep in step with the Spirit' and see how we can work as His people in this place, and his people in a challenging and changing world, in which the servants of the Lord are asked to be 'faithful'.

Autumn 'New to You' - Killowen Mothers' Union Community Shop'

At half-term (October-November 2022) our Mothers' Union and parishioners are again opening the Church Hall for a week long 'Community Shop' - with a selection of all sorts of gifts and items ahead of Christmas. Monies from this will enable our Mothers' Union care for our community and assist other local ventures. Please contact Georgina Johnston (07887836649) for fuller details 'Remembrance 2022' - Sunday 13th November

2022 (11:30am + 6:00pm).

Coleraine Town's Act of Remembrance 10:40am precedes the united service and thanksgiving at St. Patrick's Church - alongside our own Killowen Parish worship which shall be at 11:30am on Sunday 13th November 2022 - Never forgotten!

At 6:00pm we return to Killowen for an evening remembrance for all who served with the RUC, PSNI, UDR + RIR during our troubled years in Northern Ireland. All members, families and friends are most welcome to both these gatherings.

On 'Ulster's Day' 2022

*Remember sons and daughters,
on this fine Ulster Day
Some fell before that whistle
had sent them on their way
Its sound meant death or glory,
from trench to death they go
Once children of a distant time,
o'er a hundred years ago
They rose from Ulster's hamlets,
Leinster and Connaught too
Like lambs before the slaughter,
for what - they little knew
Yet we today cannot forget,
our boys and men - with pride
We pause, to say our 'thank-you',
to all who served or died.*

Donard Collins

KILREA, TAMLAGHT O'CRILLY UPPER & LOWER

Rector: Rev Gary Millar

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& Lower @kilreatamlaghtocrillyupperlower



LECKPATRICK & DUNNALONG

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Mothers' Union

The Parishes Mothers' Union Branch celebrated their 90th Anniversary this year with a special thanksgiving service on Monday 5th September in Leckpatrick. The Bishop was with us to preach and preside at the Holy Communion Service. A lot of people took part in the service and we finished with supper in the Milliken Hall.



New Rector

We are pleased to welcome Revd Richard Beadle and his wife Pauline to our parish neighbour Donemana. He was instituted on Tuesday 6th September.

Luncheon Club

The Luncheon Club outing and evening meal took place on Saturday 10th September. We had a fantastic tour of the American Folk Park and a meal in Omagh.

Harvest Gift Days

Our first Harvest Gift Day will be Sunday 25th September in Dunalong at 10.30am. This will be in aid of our large maintenance project during 2022 and 2023. The next Harvest Gift Day will be in Leckpatrick on Sunday 2nd October in Leckpatrick at 10.30am, this will be in aid of the parish fabric fund. Both services will be 'Joint Services'.

Widows and Widowers

The Widows and Widowers afternoon tea will be on Thursday 13th October at 2pm in the



Milliken Hall. It will also be an afternoon of entertainment and fellowship.

Parish Bingo

A Dunalong Parish Bingo night will take place on Monday 28th November at Bready Cricket Club from 7.30pm. This is a fund raiser for the maintenance project in Dunalong Church. All Welcome!

Christmas Bobbles

Sale of Christmas Bobbles from October 2022 - £6 each or two for £10 in aid of Dunalong maintenance project.

MAGHERA & KILLELAGH

Rector: Rev Jonathan Brown

Mob: 07307 859336 Tel: 02879 636031

www.magheraparish.co.uk



As we move into the post-COVID period and following the vacancy, we're very much looking forward to all that the Lord has planned for us here. Appropriately, as we move towards the Harvest season, we do so with a spirit of thankfulness for all that the Lord has done, is doing, and will do. In the endless cycle of changing seasons, the constancy and faithfulness of our God is something we cling to, cherish and rejoice in. It has certainly been an exciting summer in the life of the parish and the new rector! As I write this, it is hard to believe that the Institution took place almost three

months ago now in June. My wife, Julie, and I have been overwhelmed by the warmth, encouragement and support we have received since arriving. It has been very deeply appreciated as we both settle into a new location, home and jobs. The decorating and work at the rectory is substantially complete and the house is now looking more like a home - even if there are still boxes to unpack!

Beyond the personal, our new church season has already begun and we started with a 24-Hour prayer event from noon on Friday 2nd to noon on Saturday 3rd September. Parishioners were invited, and took up the challenge, to cover the full 24 hours in one-hour slots. Quite a number of those who took part commented on just how quickly the hour went. It's an encouragement to us all to set aside time with the Lord to pray - or to 'CHAT' - 'confess, honour, ask & thank.' "Thankfulness" for all the Lord's blessings has been very much on our minds and in our hearts.

For our first Sunday back in September, we held an outside event in the rectory grounds. As the beginning of the new season, we went back to the very beginning of the big story of God, us and his world and we held a "Creation Trail". Each of the seven days of creation had a 'station' at which we would 'make', 'think' and 'pray'. As we thanked God for his creation and all the works of his hands, we wrote on coloured-card leaves something we wanted to

thank Him for and then hung it on our "Gratitude Tree". It was wonderful to see how many attended and good fun was had by all. We thanked God for his incredible creation, sang his praises and spoke of his love, which is 'higher than the skies' (Psalm 103:11) and led to the giving of his only Son (John 3:16).

In this new season, as we pray, plan and prepare for the harvest, that the Lord intends to reap in our midst, we do so with a sense of expectancy, hope and, yes, thankfulness. "Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever (Psalm 106:1)."



MOVILLE, GREENCASTLE, DONAGH, MALIN & CULDAFF

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As I write this article the summer evenings are giving way to the fall of leaves that welcomes the season of Autumn. As we welcome this season the children of our parishes are preparing for the new school

term. As a church community there have been more Ukrainian families arriving over the summer in Moville, and we welcome seven new Ukrainian pupils who will be starting at St Columb's (COI) National

School in the new school term.

As a group of parishes, the year ahead is looking good. We have five candidates being confirmed on 25th September at Cloncha

parish Malin by Bishop Andrew Forester. And I would also like to announce four new parish readers have been trained and will be commissioned in October 2022.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers for their time and effort for fund raising in the Good as New shops in Carndonagh and Moville over the summer. And also, all who contributed to the Bishops' appeal to support the

humanitarian crisis in Ukrainian.

I am very grateful to all the community who have responded so generously and without hesitation in helping our Ukrainian guests settle into a new way of life here on the Inishowen Peninsula.

Looking forward in our parish ministry the vision is to commence our children's ministry

with the reopening of Sunday Schools as the new school year begins. All parish events can be viewed on our Facebook page.

Yours in Christ
Revd Alan McCracken

RAPHOE, RAYMOCHY & CLONLEIGH

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Email: dwtcrooks5@gmail.com Facebook: St Eunan's Cathedral @cathedralraphoe

By the time these notes appear, Raphoe Parish Sunday School will have started. We have 66 children and eight teachers, to whom, sincerest thanks. Their work is much appreciated.

Every good wish for happiness to Rachel Pollock and Johnny Kee who were married in the Cathedral on 12th June, to Rachel Goudie and Darren Tease who were married in the Cathedral on 22nd July, and to Hazel Parke and Darren Cronin who were married in the Cathedral on 13th August.

We sympathise deeply with the families and friends of all who have died and been bereaved - Mr David Carson of Raymochy Parish was buried on 18th June. Mr Michael Gibson of Raphoe Parish was buried on 21st June. Ann McFarland, just 52 years old, died after a lengthy illness and was buried in Raymochy Churchyard on 27th August. This was a particularly sad funeral, as Ann and Norman had very young children. To these and to all who mourn, including Mr Sidney Witherow on the death of his brother Billy, we extend deepest sympathies

and condolences. Not being as closely associated with Raphoe, or indeed Convoy Parish groups, I sincerely apologise if I omit any bereavements that ought to be mentioned.

The celebration of the 400th anniversary of St Lugadius's Church, Lifford, Parish of Clonleigh was a superb occasion. It had to be postponed for a year because of covid, but it was worth the wait. The lovely hymns played by Mrs Renee Goudie, the splendid sermon by Archdeacon Huss, and the presence of several Clergy and Diocesan Readers added a great deal to the event. The parishioners have been greatly encouraged and uplifted, and intend to carry on for many years into the future.



On Sunday 2nd October, Canon Deane will conduct Harvest Thanksgiving services in Taughboyne Group, and I will be with you at the usual times that Sunday. Harvest Thanksgiving in Raymochy on Sunday 2nd October - other arrangements will be announced.

The Board of Nomination to find and appoint a new Rector has been set up, and is working hard. We wish the Parochial and Diocesan Nominators success. The work at the Rectory is very far advanced, and should be completed well in time for the new Rector.

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Mrs Elizabeth (Elsie) Thompson Ballindrait who died on the 1st May 2022. Funeral service was held in Clonleigh Parish Church Lifford. She was laid to rest in the adjoining graveyard.



ST. AUGUSTINE'S, LONDONDERRY

Rector: Rev Nigel Cairns
www.saintaugustines.co.uk
www.facebook.com/weechurch



As the Harvest Season approaches, we will be reducing our church café opening hours for the autumn and winter seasons - open on the last weekend of each month throughout this period to coincide with the market in our main hall. Our tourist ministry will also come to a conclusion for the year. As we make these seasonal adjustments, we also take time to press the pause button and celebrate the blessings our summer season brought - more visitors and guests, more activity, increased monetary donations and more prayer requests than ever. Very importantly, our thanks are recorded to all our volunteers for giving of their time and talents so freely and readily to

make the summer months the success they were - tour guides, café volunteers, grounds volunteers, cleaning teams, market volunteers and 'barbecue-ers.' All of these blessings are 'harvests' of sorts in their own rights, and we are so thankful to the Lord for our people and the rewards their efforts have wrought in the 'wee church.'

During October we will continue celebrating the 150th anniversary of the current church building. To do this, there is a diverse range of services planned. On Sunday 2nd October we look forward to John McKegney joining us as preacher and celebrant at a service of Holy Communion. John's visitation is a reference to the McKegney years in St. Augustine's history; most people of a certain age reminisce about the four decades during which John's late father was the incumbent. Canon McKegney was well known, and his ministry shaped a great many lives in this city during his long tenure. On 9th October we will have our official Harvest Thanksgiving in the context of our morning worship. This will be a service of short meditations, scripture readings and music which will include the old traditional and much-loved harvest hymns. On 23rd October, as part of the Choral Festival, we

look forward to hosting a visiting choir to perform and lead the praise at our morning service. November will be no less varied with Remembrance Sunday and Advent Sunday on the horizon... then, before we know it, autumn will merge into winter!

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above;
Join with all nature in manifold witness,
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

*(from Great is Thy Faithfulness
by Thomas Chisholm)*



STRANORLAR, MEENGLASS & KILTEEVOGUE

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Facebook; Stranorlar, Meenglass & Kiltteevogue CofI @smkcofi



New Term in the Finn Valley

I wish all the children well starting back at school. I Especially wish the children well who are just starting school at Welchtown and Robertson, particularly with their new class room in the latter. It is great to see the building work completed.

I hope the children and the teachers have had a good rest and I wish them well in the new term and may this new school year be more normal and straightforward than recent years.

While most of us are no longer at school or college we still seem to feel a sense of

new beginnings and gearing back up in September. By the time you read this we will have had the second of three celebration services in our group of parishes. We began in St John's, Kiltteevogue in July with a Songs of Praise. Thank you to Doris Keatley and Wendy Patton for

the music, and the team who got the Donaldson hall ready for a cuppa (after being shut up for 2 years!). On the 5th September we had a service of Prayer and Praise. A big thank you to Rev Andrew Quill for preaching and for leading the music with his wife Joanne, daughter Hannah, and the music group. It is great to have live worship together. Our third celebration, will be a service of Thanksgiving for 60 years

of worship and thanksgiving for the Harvest gathered in, at the Church of the Ascension Meenglass, Sunday 9th October at 6pm. Archdeacon David Huss will be preaching.

In other happenings in the group, I took a few from the parishes and area on a guided trip to the fair city of Dublin, to see the book of Kells Trinity College, Irish National War Memorial Gardens at Islandbridge, the National Gallery

and St Patrick's Cathedral.

Speaking of new beginnings we hope to restart Sunday School this September. Please pray for the children and families and Sunday School leaders as we begin this new term.

Keep well and God Bless
Rev Adam Pullen

TAMLAGHTFINLAGAN & MYROE

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TAUGHBOYNE WITH CRAIGDOOISH, ALL SAINTS & KILLEA

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The death of Mrs Joan Mooney, and her burial on 16th March, has brought great sorrow to her family. To her husband Roy of sixty years, her son Robin and to Claire, and to her son Derek, and to Nichola, and to her daughter Adele, and to Stephen, and to all the grandchildren, Emma, Rachel and Jennifer, to Gavin and Laura, and to Tara and Gregg, we express our deepest sympathies. Joan gave sterling service to All Saints over many years, where she served on the Select Vestry and played the organ. We thank Almighty God for her life. The omission of Joan's obituary from the last issue is sincerely regretted, and all due apologies are offered.

Jillie Porter died on 1st July after a period of

illness. We express to her husband of 54 years, Arthur, to his daughter Holly and to Marcus, and to his son Richard and to Tory, and all the grandchildren, our deepest sympathies. Jillie was a most gracious lady - her hospitality and the friendship of Arthur at Prospect House will long be remembered and appreciated.

Walter Moore died in the early hours of Friday 2nd September, surrounded by his family. To his wife of 46 years, to Alister and Wendy, to Lisa and Robert, to Zara and her partner Steven and to Matthew and Melissa, and to their fourteen grandchildren, we all offer our sincerest condolences. Joan and the family cared for Walter at home, having brought him back from the nursing home, so that he could live out his last years in their care. Walter was a

character who will long be remembered.

The celebrations to mark the 300th anniversary of All Saints' Church were held on Sunday 19th June. We were very privileged to have as our special Preacher, Lord Eames of Armagh, former Archbishop of Armagh. The new organ in memory of Kay Devenney, and the lovely new carpet given by the Devenney Family in memory of their Parents, were dedicated. Our most grateful thanks to them for these beautiful gifts.

Thank you to all who have been involved in the work that is being done to renew the toilets and kitchen at Killea Hall. The whole place, church and grounds, are looking splendid.

TEMPLEMORE, ST COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL

The Very Rev Raymond Stewart: Rector of Templemore & Dean of Derry Tel: 028 7126 2746
Email: deanofderry@stcolumbs.net



The Rev Canon John Merrick
Pastoral Assistant
Facebook: St. Columb's Cathedral



Looking Back

During the Summer (mid April - 20th August) Saint Columb's Cathedral welcomed 7,240 visitors through its doors, including Alex and George Thomas from England (the great-grandson and the great-great-grandson of Dean Richard King, Rector of The Parish of Templemore and Dean of Derry 1921-1946) and Andrew and Heather Browne from Bangor. Andrew's father, Ernest Browne, was a chorister between 1913 and 1919.

The **Lunchtime Organ Recitals** on Thursdays in July (with Dr Derek Collins, Nicky Morton, Jack Wilson and Tristan Russcher) attracted 350 people. The reading of the **Daily Office**, suspended since March 2020 due to COVID-19, has been re-introduced since 1st September. If you are in the City, you are very welcome to join us, Monday to Friday, 10.30am.

Morning Prayer: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. **Holy Communion:** Tuesday. **The Litany:** Friday. **Saints' Days and Holy Days:** Holy Communion, 10.30am. Those who conduct divine worship, clergy and readers, would be delighted to have your support.

Looking Forward

We are looking forward to the **Harvest Thanksgiving Service** on Sunday 2nd October. We hope, at the morning service at 11.00am, to introduce for the first time our newly formed Girls' Choir. We wish Nicky Morton and Dr Derek Collins every success in this new initiative. The Cathedral will host the **Mothers' Union Diocesan Service** at 4.00pm on 2nd October. **The Season of Advent** will begin on Sunday 27th November with the deeply moving Advent Procession at 7.30pm when we welcome the Light coming into the World. The following weeks will be filled

with Concerts featuring St Columb's School of Music, Altnagelvin Hospital Choir and several community events.

Our Christmas Coffee Morning and Fundraiser will be held in the Cathedral on Saturday 10th December, 10.00am - 2.00pm. This year we are hoping that the event will raise enough funds to repair the ceiling in the Deanery dining room. The chandelier in this room fell in July 2021, damaging the dining-table as well as bringing down a large part of the ceiling. We are planning to have a very enjoyable occasion when we hope to welcome friends, neighbours, and supporters from the City and further afield for an interesting morning of events when you will be able to enjoy the Cathedral decorated for Christmas, coffee, traybakes, socialising, and shopping at the usual stalls - as well as some seasonal music. Do come and join us!

TULLYAUGHNISH, KILMACRENNAN, KILLYGARVAN & GLENALLA

Rector: Rev Canon Harry Gilmore
Tel. 0749151013 Email: tkkgparishes@hotmail.com



URNEY AND SION MILLS

Rector: Rev Jonathan McFarland
Facebook: Parish of Urney Christ Church and Church of the Good Shepherd @urneyparish





PAUL MCFADDEN
DIOCESAN PRESS OFFICER

And finally...

His Master's Voice...

I've often heard clergymen and women who had uprooted themselves and moved to new parishes explain that they had done so in response to God's call. They weren't alone. The Bible has many accounts of prophets who said that they, too, had heard God speaking to them and whose lives were altered dramatically as a result.

What must it be like, I wonder, to hear the voice of God? What does it sound like? How does He communicate? Do people hear a sound, actual spoken words - such as when Jesus was baptised in Matthew 3:17 - or does His voice manifest itself in a different way, through an omen, a feeling, a flicker of conscience?

I sometimes joke that in my role of Diocesan Communications Officer, I am "God's spin doctor in the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe". If it was true, I could pronounce upon this with absolute authority. To be honest, though, I'm not sure that God speaks directly to lowly DCOs and, even if He did, would I recognise His voice?

Over the summer, my mind was in 'strobe lighting mode'. There were plenty of occasions when I heard a voice in my head. I don't suggest that it was God's voice. My conscience, perhaps, but I'm certain that God would endorse what I was 'hearing'.

There were signs aplenty. We had a heatwave here - by no means unprecedented but certainly unusual. There was a downpour, too, which briefly made me fear a repeat of the 2017 flood. Record high temperatures were recorded in England, followed by drought in many parts of the country and in south-west Wales. Across the channel, huge wildfires destroyed homes and wooded areas in south-western France. In Pakistan, monsoon rains and melting glaciers left a third of the country submerged, more than a thousand people dead and millions "in dire need".

Mine can't have been the only head in which the phrase 'climate change' swirled around? And I certainly can't have been the only one who felt frequent pangs of guilt at the mess we've made of looking after our planet.

As we seek to discern God's will, I cannot accept that the bleak and perilous state of our planet is what He hoped for when He instructed humankind, in Genesis 1:28, to "subdue" the earth. Our stewardship of His creation has been disastrous for the earth, for the numerous species which inhabit it and ultimately, I fear, for humanity.

Governments have been slow to act and individuals feel powerless. Surely, though, there's a particular responsibility on the 'people of God' to respond in some way. I was struck by the words of veteran French firefighter Jean-Pierre Le Cunff, who blamed global warming for August's megafires in the Gironde. "I have been a firefighter for 40 years," he said, "and I had never seen such a fire. We are waiting for rain, for snow, for winter, for God."

Paul McFadden. DCO



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Articles must be with the editor no later than **12noon on Wednesday 26th October**.

Editor: kmcateer51@gmail.com or c/o **The Diocesan Centre, London Street, Londonderry BT48 6RQ**


Parish Notes to be sent to pauljosephmcfadden@gmail.com by **Wednesday 2nd November**.

THE DEADLINE IS NON-NEGOTIABLE

Magazines will be available for collection on **Friday 25th November 2022**.

(depending on Government and Diocesan guidelines at the time)

Disclaimer: Views expressed in n:vision may not be those of the Church of Ireland or the Editor.


Diocese of
**Derry +
Raphoe**

