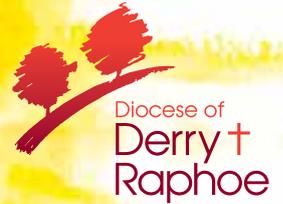


Issue 69 / Summer 2022

n:vision

Transforming Community, Radiating Christ



*"Where the Spirit of
the Lord is, there is
freedom."*

- 2 CORINTHIANS 3:17



Welcome to Ireland - Ukrainian Teddy Project

'I was a stranger and you welcomed me.' (Matthew 25) strikes a poignant chord. We have all been touched by the tragedy unfolding in Ukraine, particularly the plight of the women and child refugees.

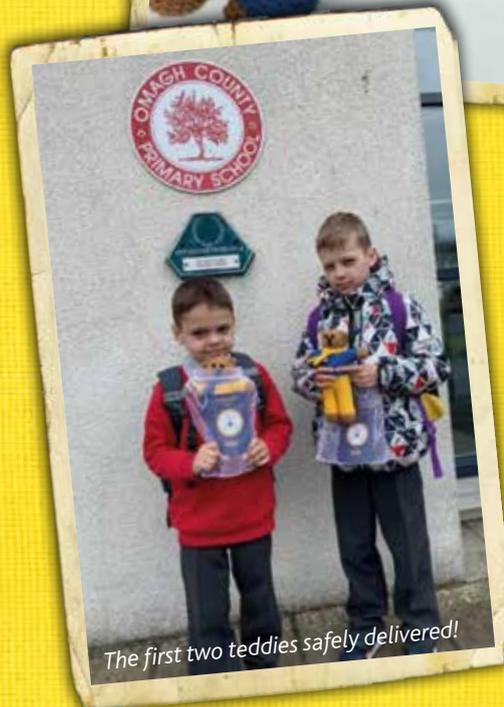
In exploring how Mothers' Union could give an immediate warm welcome and comfort to incoming Ukrainian friends, thoughts turned to knitting comfort teddies for refugee children due to arrive in our joint diocese.

Derry & Raphoe Mothers' Union applied for a 'Mums In May' grant to purchase a bulk order of safety tested Cygnet Yarn and polyester filling in compliance with CE Toy Safety Directive.

MU members and friends are now busy clicking their needles, with the shared vision to create 200 teddies in the colours of the Ukrainian flag. Each comfort teddy is then placed in a gift bag with a specially designed 'Teddy Passport,' featuring a welcome and blessing in three languages. Teddies are being distributed to newly-arrived Ukrainian refugees through word of mouth, local agencies and health and social authorities in the Derry and Raphoe diocese.

If you, or your local school / health centre, are aware of a Ukrainian family with children coming to your area, please get in touch to request a welcoming teddy pack.

Contact: secretarydandrmothersunion@gmail.com



The first two teddies safely delivered!

Editor...



Recently our Bishop, Andrew Forster, spoke movingly of the powerful symbolism of the beacon with reference to personal dutiful service and exemplary devotion to living out public responsibilities in a selfless manner. Beacon imagery can very aptly be applied to the performance of individuals, groups, organisations and institutions.

A beacon sends out a signal which can warn of a threat or indicate an occasion of celebration and joy. Individual beacons can act as shining examples which can inspire, enlighten and hearten all those who note and engage with the messages heralded by them. Interacting together beacons can form a chain of communication along which the message is transmitted, carried forward like a stream of light, sometimes alerting people to an event or perhaps conveying a happy message to be shared. Collectively a series of beacons can combine and channel light into our lives.

On 5th June 2022 the service to celebrate the feast day of our local Saint Columba was held in Gartan, Co Donegal, his birth place, after a gap of three years. To this day Saint Columba, Dove of the Church, remains a striking example of a prominent saintly beacon, a guiding light pointing us as Christians in the direction and service of Jesus Christ, the archetypal beacon who is the Light of the World.

The beginning of June was also the season of Pentecost during which we recognise the central role of the Holy Spirit in the birth of the Church. The Holy Spirit is the perfect divine beacon *par excellence* gifted to the Church by the ascending Christ. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter and the guiding light or beacon, expressing its presence in tongues of fire and encouraging the first Christians to go out into the world to bear witness and in their turn become missionary beacons spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.

The various articles and reports in this edition of *n:vision* bear testimony to the work of individuals, Church organisations and Christian groups all acting as beacons and shining examples of Christian service and action taking place at parish level, throughout the Diocese of Derry & Raphoe and in the wider world.

Rev Canon Katie McAteer, the Editor
E: kmcateer51@gmail.com



In this issue...



- 04 MU: 'DIG' THE PLATINUM JUBILEE!
- 05 BISHOP ANDREW WRITES...
- 06 FAMILY FUN DAY
- 07 PERSPECTIVES ON PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY
- 08 BOOK SHOPPING WITH A PURPOSE
- 09 COUNCIL OF MISSION
- 10 CHRISTIAN AID
- 11 A SEASON OF CREATION
- 12 BISHOPS' APPEAL GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY
- 13 BIBLE COMMENTARY
- 14 HEALING ON THE WAY - CAMINO
- 15 HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING INSECURITY
- 16 THE FUTURE OF INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE
- 17 HE OPENED WIDE HIS ARMS UPON THE CROSS
- 18 OUR MAD LIFE
- 20 DRY UPDATE
- 21 A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A COASTGUARD
- 22 DIOCESAN NOTICEBOARD
- 23 WHAT TO DO SPIRITUALLY WHEN YOU ARE SICK
- 24 EQUINE ENRICHMENT
- 26 DIOCESAN MANOEUVRES *
- 30 MY LIFE AS A MENTAL HEALTH NURSE
- 63 AND FINALLY...

*Further diocesan moves
can be found on website:
www.derryandraphoe.org

Derry and Raphoe
Mothers' Union
Platinum Jubilee Planting
Brackfield Wood
21st April 2022

Mothers' Union 'dig' the Platinum Jubilee!



On Her Majesty the Queen's 96th birthday, Derry and Raphoe Mothers' Union members were joined by All-Ireland Mothers' Union President, June Butler, at a tree planting ceremony at Brackfield Wood.

This activity took place under the auspices of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative. This initiative, begun in May 2021, aims to increase and protect native tree cover in the United Kingdom and people are encouraged to create this "special gift" for the Queen, in honour of her Platinum Jubilee.

Brackfield Wood, nestled along the Faughan Valley between the Oaks and Killaloo Woods, was earmarked by the Woodland Trust for the cultivation of a centenary woodland. It will eventually join the other surrounding woods and include 40,000 native trees, commemorating the Irish soldiers who lost their lives during the First World war.

The project aims to bring people together and provide nature solutions for businesses, via carbon offsetting, whilst connecting small pockets of ancient woodland to create a resilient landscape for the future, and havens for wildlife.

As an area of Special Scientific Interest, the Faughan Valley is rich in flora and home to an abundance of wildlife. It is renowned for its wild Atlantic salmon, which swim up the river to spawn. Protecting and restoring this area is of crucial importance to preserve such a rare habitat.

Planting pockets of woodland and working with landowners creates mutual benefits, such as flood reduction, as well as enhancing the visitors' experiences. It provides an exciting outdoor learning environment for schools and communities. Once the project is completed the woodland will be the largest in Northern Ireland. Armed with spades, the Mothers'

Union group descended the path to the valley. Here, 70 native oak and cherry trees were planted, one for each year of the Queen's reign.

Diocesan President, Jacqui Armstrong, led a prayer of thanksgiving for Her Majesty's 70 years of faithful service. She recalled how the Queen has shown kindness and compassion, great integrity and wisdom and had never been afraid to stand up and say, "I believe in God; I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. He is my Rock and my Salvation."

Derry and Raphoe Mothers' Union congratulate Her Majesty on her Platinum Jubilee and are pleased to have marked this auspicious occasion with a project that will be of benefit to future generations. By 2023 this project will be completed and open to the public. We encourage you to visit this peaceful woodland, experience its beauty, discover its amazing wildlife and bask in its calm and restful environment.





Bishop Andrew writes...

Dear friends,

Around 15 years ago, Heather and I received an invitation to attend a garden party at the University of Ulster in Coleraine. We knew there would be a royal guest of honour but had no idea who it might be, so you can imagine our delight when the Queen and Prince Philip arrived. It was a truly memorable occasion, during which the Duke of Edinburgh's celebrated sense of humour was on display, as well as Her Majesty the Queen's customary grace and warmth.

As I write this, the Platinum Jubilee has been dominating our news bulletins for a number of weeks. In many ways, it has been a ray of bright sunshine on a horizon darkened by tragedy and pain. I know that whichever side of the border we happen to live on, admiration and respect for the Queen seems almost universal. Her sense of duty and dedication to service - both born out of her deep faith - serve as an inspiration to us all.

For the Queen, the role of sovereign has been a vocation - a divine calling - that began at the precise and holy moment

during her coronation ceremony known as 'the anointing'. The then-Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, was charged with leading the Coronation Service and preparing the young Queen for her new role. He had given her a small prayerbook of readings and scripture to be used each day for the 33 days preceding that great service in Westminster Abbey. Fewer than a dozen copies of the Little Book of Private Devotions were printed; it gives us insight into her preparation. Some of the words are simply beautiful, including this prayer: 'Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.' As we celebrate her 70 years on the throne, it would seem clear to us all that this prayer has been answered.

During her long reign, prayer has been a constant resource for the Queen. It has given her the strength to be a steadying presence, through good days and bad; it has gifted her great wisdom to point us to better paths as she seeks to follow Jesus Christ, 'the way, the truth and the life.'

I finish this letter with these words, spoken by the Queen in her 2011 and 2014 Christmas speeches respectively:

'Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families, it can restore friendships and it can reconcile divided communities. It is in forgiveness that we feel the power of God's love.'

'For me the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role-model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith and none.'

I give thanks for the life and service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. While God has, undoubtedly, been her ultimate comfort and strength during her uniquely long reign, she, in return, has been his good and faithful servant. Ninety-six years of age - seventy of them as sovereign - she has proved to be a Queen for the ages.



FAMILY FUN DAY

SATURDAY 21ST MAY 2022

On Saturday 21st May 2022 the Mothers' Union and SEEDS Children's Ministry held their Family Fun Day in the beautiful surroundings of Oakfield Park, Raphoe.

Thankfully the weather was kind for most of the day and families were able to explore all Oakfield had to offer, including a maze, sleeping giant, play park, muddy church trail, garden games and a highlight for most on the day, a train ride on Donegal's only train line!

To start our day together we had singing and action songs, led by Revd. Johnny McFarland and the Bishop leading us in prayer. Chris and Ross from *Play it by Ear* played a few games

with us before doing a speedy run through the entire Bible in 7 minutes. They shared the stories of the lost sheep, lost coin, and lost son from Luke 15. It was brilliant to be reminded how much God loves us, and how much we have to celebrate because of this. After a final song, families were free to explore and enjoy their picnics and the grounds.

Both young and not-so-young were able to add their prayer to the Faerie Tree (which transformed into a prayer tree for the day) as well as seeing the swans and their cygnets explore the water near the castle. There was also plenty of ice cream and coffee enjoyed from the ice cream van and Buffers restaurant.

The day would not have been possible without the support of the Mothers' Union. Members were there on the day to help with administration, welcoming, first aid and supplying goody bags for each child who attended.

I would like to thank all those who came on the day, the staff of Oakfield Park, *Play it By Ear Drama Company*, Revd. Johnny McFarland and the Mothers' Union for making the day such a success. Lots of fun was had and plenty of happy memories made.

Kirsty

BOOK REVIEW:

'Perspectives on Prayer and Spirituality'

A new book designed to help people deepen their spiritual practices was launched in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute on Monday evening (May 23). 'Perspectives on Prayer and Spirituality' is edited by Maurice Elliott and Patrick McGlinchey and features a host of contributors who offer their insights in a range of areas: relating to God, discovering ourselves, worshipping together and serving others.

'Spirituality' has become a buzzword in contemporary culture as individuals attempt to find meaning and fulfilment. It's detachment from the Church signals an attempt to find wholeness without the old rituals. The impetus for the book is that the intuition behind the search for spirituality is good as it acknowledges that there must be more to life than what secular media or consumerism tells us. The message of the book is that the spiritual quest is worthwhile but also

that we must rediscover what has been left behind. 'Perspectives on Prayer and Spirituality' offers the tools to explore Christian spirituality and develop a personal relationship with God.

Contributors to the book include Patrick McGlinchey (The Spiritual Disciplines), Maurice Elliott (The Spirituality of the Quiet Time), William Olhausen (Spirituality and Paul), Kenneth Good (The Spirituality of Journaling), Adrian Chatfield (Encountering God on Retreat), Kieran O'Mahony (Contemplative Spirituality for the Uninitiated), Bridget Nichols (Prayer Book Spirituality), Janet Unsworth (Nurturing Corporate Prayer), Ian Mills (Spirituality and Hymnody), Rob Clements (Spirituality for All—Age Worship), Christina Baxter (The Art of Praying for Others), Suzanne Cousins (Developing a Compassionate Spirituality) and Rebecca Guildea (Engaging with Prayer Ministry).

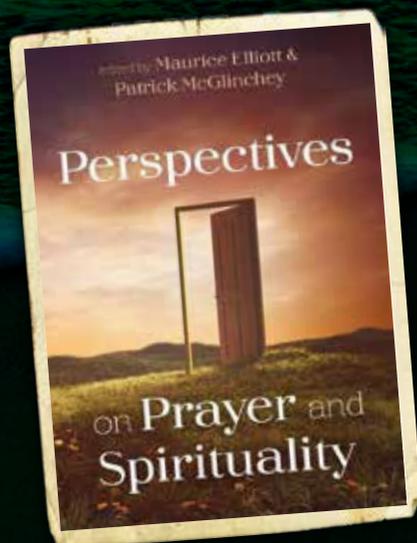
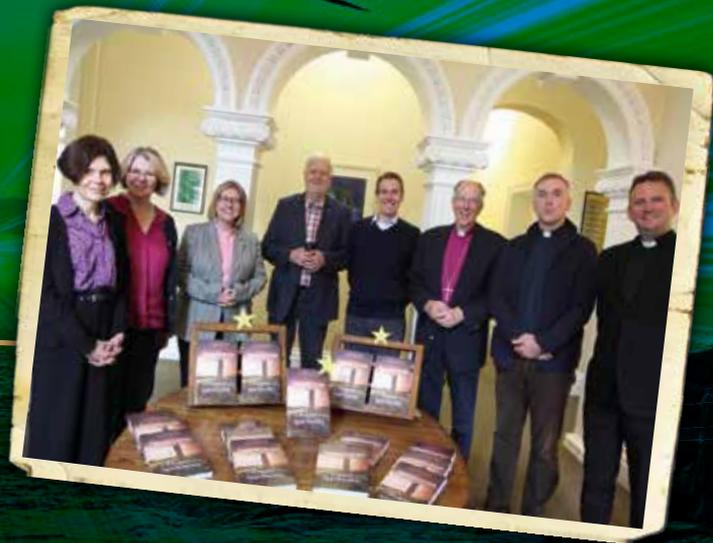
Launching 'Perspectives on Prayer and Spirituality', the Revd Dr Craig Bartholomew, director of the Kirby Laing Institute said the book was essential reading as it attended to the top priority for Christian ministry today. Referring to the story of Mary and Martha [Luke 10: 42], he said that the Church must "attend to the one thing necessary" and this was done by attending to spirituality.

"Our journey out in the world has to be funded by attention to God himself through prayer and spirituality. This book

Contributors Dr Bridget Nicholson, the Revd Dr Janet Unsworth, the Revd Suzanne Cousins, Fr Kieran O'Mahony OSA, the Revd Dr William Olhausen, the Rt Revd Kenneth Good, the Revd Rob Clements and the Revd Ian Mills.

puts its finger on the one thing necessary. Anglicans are famous for doing a thousand things but not the one thing necessary. We need to recover our focus on the one thing necessary," he stated. However, he added, talking and writing about Christian spirituality was good but it was most important to practice it. "We need this book but it is a waste of time if it does not translate into practice," he said. The Revd Dr Patrick McGlinchey said that the book had been a pleasure to edit and pledged that it would deepen readers' relationship with God, help them to worship better and inspire them in faith. He added that the book challenges the reader to go deeper, there are questions to answer and there are also practical tips.

'Perspectives on Prayer and Spirituality' is available directly from CITI for €20/£20 by emailing admin@theologicalinstitute.ie and is available from other retail outlets (ISBN 9781532688065)



Book Shopping with a Purpose...



If you are like me, stumbling upon a used book shop full of literary treasures is the stuff of dreams. Whether I find myself stepping into the worlds of writers from hundreds of years ago who wrapped their thoughts in leather binding and golden foil, or cracking open the latest piece from a modern writer I enjoy, the thrill is in the hunt!

This is why I jumped out of my skin when the Lord led me last year to work at **Book Aid Charitable Trust**. Book Aid (not to be confused with Book Aid International), is a charity founded in 1988 that has been working diligently with their global bookshop partners to connect donated Christian literature and Bibles to areas of the world where such resources are wanted, but not easily found or affordable.

Having worked for the last decade in East Africa, I have witnessed firsthand how earnestly my African friends desire Christian books and Bibles and how frustrating it is to come up short when seeking avenues to receive them, whether that is due to political instability within their country or foreign currency restrictions. This is especially challenging when I have the privilege in London of ordering any book ever written online, and even find myself irritated when it hasn't arrived within two days! Something must be done to connect our wealth of available books to those who so eagerly desire them.

Bob and Ada Hiley, the founders of Book Aid, identified this problem through their many years of global work and found a creative solution. Together, the Hileys (alongside Frank and Maureen Rea in NI) and their global friends, began a modest operation of collecting and sending donated books, empowering local bookshops all over the world. This humble operation has flourished for the last 35 years and has thus far been able to send 40 million books abroad!

When the books reach their destinations, Book Aid's partners sell them at locally affordable prices which, in turn, supports local ministries, initiatives and allows them to employ staff. One partner that stands out is *Grace and Light Ministries* in Nigeria. Their gifted team effectively spreads the Gospel in local schools and churches through awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS. One way they sponsor their work is through the profit made from their bookshops, which are filled with books sent through Book Aid.

You may be thinking at this point, "Where can I donate my Christian books?" While we do have collection points in Belfast and Templepatrick and appreciate donated books, currently what we really need

more than anything is for people to shop in our bookstores, both in-person and online. It is through book sales and monetary donations that the hundreds of thousands of donated books we have already received are being sent abroad.

So next time you go hunting for books, check out our shop either online (<https://book-aid.org>) or at 44 Rickamore Road Upper, Templepatrick, BT39 0JE. We are open Mondays 10am-4pm and 10am-2pm on the first and third Saturdays of each month. See our website for more details!





Council of Mission

Synod reflection...

This year's Church of Ireland General Synod took place in the Presbyterian General Assembly building in Belfast. It was the first time we all met together since the Covid-19 lockdowns. We met via Zoom last year. That was my first experience of General Synod, but I must say that it was thrilling to meet people face to face this year.

I have been the Derry and Raphoe representative for the **Council of Mission** for over a year and I was involved in its presentation on the Anglican five marks of mission. These five marks of mission express the Anglican Communion's common commitment to, and understanding of, God's holistic and integral mission.

The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ. Many dioceses throughout the world of the Anglican Communion, and other denominations, use these five marks of mission as the basis for action plans and creative mission ideas.

Some churches abbreviate the five marks to five words:

TELL – TEACH – TEND – TRANSFORM – TREASURE.

1. Tell – to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.

2. Teach – to teach, baptise and nurture new believers.

3. Tend – to respond to human need by loving service.

4. Transform – to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.

5. Treasure – to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Meeting colleagues face to face was a huge relief, but I was still hoping that someone with more experience would be speaking up for the important work of the council instead of me.

I am used to leading services and preaching each Sunday in my home parish of Urney, yet I must admit to being very nervous when I spoke for the **Council of Mission** in front of over two hundred delegates from across the whole Church of Ireland. Being under the spotlight is one thing. Feeling like you are under a laser beam feels much worse! God gave me the strength to play my small part and the pre-prepared videos on Creation and Discipleship that were shown to Synod were very well received. The whole experience has left me with some valuable new friends and an

excitement as to what God does through the various Councils and Committees that are constantly hard at work throughout this Church that we love and treasure. I am sure that many of my colleagues felt similar nervous feelings as they addressed such a large crowd eager to hear what the Church is doing.

I drew valuable strength from the following verse which I shared with my own Select Vestry the week before Synod. Jesus said these words to Thomas after he had told him to stop doubting.

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed."

As I meditated on those words throughout General Synod I knew that I was not alone in my doubts as we, the Church, face up to the formidable challenge of bringing the Gospel to the next generation in what is often an environment hostile to the things of God. I hope you will find this short reflection useful, along with this little introduction to the five marks of mission. My prayer is that even though we, unlike the first disciples, cannot see Christ, we will find ourselves blessed in many, many ways in the precious truth He gives us each day as we walk with Him.

Rev Jonathan McFarland

Sion Mills clergyman stands in 'solidari-tea'...

...with communities overcoming drought and hunger in Zimbabwe.

christian
aid

A Sion Mills supporter of Christian Aid is celebrating the success of communities in Zimbabwe overcoming drought, hunger and extreme poverty, through projects that help them earn a living, such as the growing and harvesting of hibiscus - a plant that can be used to make herbal tea.

Canon George Irwin, a long-time supporter of the international development agency, is raising a cup of tea this Christian Aid Week (15-21 May) to say 'cheers' to women farmers like Agnes Machona, who comes from a drought-prone region of Zimbabwe and is now able to earn a living to support herself and her children.

Christian Aid's local partner in Zimbabwe has helped Agnes to grow and harvest hibiscus flowers because the plant tolerates drought, as well as helping her find commercial buyers for her crop. Canon Irwin was Chair of the Lisburn Christian Aid Committee for 20 years, until he and his wife retired to Sion Mills in 2016. Canon Irwin is standing in 'solidari-tea' this Christian Aid Week to highlight the agency's work in eastern Zimbabwe, which has helped 27,000 people cope with poor

rainfall made worse by rising temperatures caused by climate change.

Agnes Machona (37) and her husband have three children. To support the family, her husband works in the construction industry in Botswana while Agnes stays at home to work their farm and raise their children. Severe drought in recent years has caused Agnes' crops to fail and she recalls a time when there was so little food that she had to cut back to just one meal a day, even though she was breastfeeding. She was losing weight and couldn't produce enough milk to feed her baby.

Agnes is not solely reliant on the income she earns by selling her hibiscus tea. Christian Aid's local partner has also installed a solar-powered water pump to irrigate a community garden, enabling Agnes and the other women in her community to grow vegetables for consumption and surplus to sell for cash. Across Northern Ireland during Christian Aid Week, thousands of people raise funds and donate to Christian Aid's work to support people living in some of the poorest countries in the world, as well as countries coping with conflict, drought, risk

of famine and the impacts of climate change. Christian Aid Ireland Chief Executive Rosamond Bennett said:



"Some of the poorest people in the world are living on the frontline of the climate crisis. Extreme weather wreaks havoc on harvests, pushing millions further into poverty. Drought left Agnes and others in her community struggling to feed their families but today they are thriving, thanks to the support they receive from Christian Aid's local partner in Zimbabwe. This success is made possible by the generosity of our supporters and with their continued help this Christian Aid Week, we can reach even more people like Agnes."

For more information and to donate to support our work please visit: <https://caweek.ie/Donate> or call 028 9064 8133 to make a telephone donation.

A SEASON OF CREATION

At General Synod this year, there was unanimous approval for adding a Season of Creation to our Church calendar, (Sept 1 to October 4).

On the Church of Ireland website, you will find services of Morning and Evening Prayer and several sets of intercessions for use in this period, as well as material to use in services of Holy Communion. (*Prayer and Worship section in the BCP menu*). <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/prayer-worship/book-of-common-prayer/creationtide-resources>

There has been a developing growth of concern and an appreciation for the environment over the past few years and many parishes are forming groups to look at how they can become more ecologically aware and are journeying with their communities in sustainable living. In many ways this Season of Creation acknowledges what is already happening. Eco issues are

reflected in our liturgy through what is said in church, our prayers, and our preaching. If your parish is working towards an Eco Congregation award, marking concern for the environment during services is one of the four strands that are needed.

Care and concern for the environment is a serious issue that has been highlighted at several past General Synods both before and during Covid-19, as well as at most Diocesan Synods and at parish level in our churches. In common with several of our sister churches in the Anglican communion, and beyond, we are embracing in our Church calendar a Season of Creation or Creationtide as it is also known. A great deal of theological study has been done on God's creation and humanity's role as stewards and co-creators.

The Season of Creation originated within the Orthodox Church and runs from 1st Sept to 4th Oct, from Orthodox New Year

to the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi. It is dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. From a Church of Ireland point of view, it may also embrace our rather unique season of Harvest Thanksgiving which, as a celebration of the fruit of the earth and the generosity of God, resonates with the themes of The Season of Creation, as well as with concerns about climate change and the challenges farming faces.

This is not just another special Sunday. Rather it is a set period during which parishes can choose a time to reflect on these significant issues; or hold special services perhaps including their Harvest Thanksgiving. Parishes may further widen the scope to encompass local environmental initiatives or issues, or focus on the themes of creation care, climate justice and renewing their commitment to caring for the earth.

Very Rev Susan Green



Golden Anniversary:

The past, present and future of Bishops' Appeal



Gold is perceived as being precious because it's a stable metal, relatively rare and because we, as a society, assign preciousness to it. In the 50th year since Bishops' Appeal's inception, a celebration of a Golden Anniversary seems apt.

Stability: Bishops' Appeal has been a faithful, wise and consistent steward of Church of Ireland donations, steering them to where they are needed most and where they can have the greatest impact. We have done so in response to disasters that have dominated the media and in response to daily grinding poverty that we may never hear about on the news. For example, we are responding in Afghanistan where disaster relief is greatly needed and known about, but we are also responding in Nepal, supporting mobile health clinics in the Himalayas, offering on site treatment or financial supports for those who may need to travel to a hospital but who can't afford to lose their daily wage as a seasonal worker. (In both these instances, the partner agency cannot be named due to the sensitivity of the work.)

Rarity: In a world that values hoarding and that celebrates wealth gained at any cost, it is a breath of fresh air to be part of

Bishops' Appeal, which in turn is part of a movement of faith that wants to see a more fair and just world, where people and planet are not impoverished and decimated for the benefit of the few. During the Pandemic people gave from the little they had to ensure that people they may never meet, in parts of the world they may never visit, can have a chance to live a life that goes beyond survival. As a Church, opting out of the consumerism culture that tells us we never have enough and will never have enough, turning instead to live a life of abundance in Christ and finding fulfilment in service to others, brings meaning and identity to our lives and builds a better world, a world of Kingdom values, for all.

Social Significance: In the past months, the significance of **Bishops' Appeal** has been seen in the response to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, where parishes rallied to support refugees fleeing their war torn homes. Bishops' Appeal's significance has also been shown as more funds have gone to support self-help groups

in countries such as Ethiopia, where people save tiny amounts of money and learn improved agricultural or business skills and can take out small loans to buy seeds or a plough or plastic basins to carry wares to and from the market place. We have seen these groups work together to build water storage tanks and to support each other through prolonged periods of drought or lockdown.

Where to now?

We look forward to working more with our partners such as **Christian Aid**, **Tearfund**, **CMS Ireland** and **USPG**, among others, to fund vital initiatives in communities around the world. But we also see the value of collaboration here on the island of Ireland. Recently, we began working with **Mothers' Union** and **Tearfund** on a project called 'Equipping the Church to take action and end Domestic Abuse'. We believe in the potential of the Church to make a difference in the midst of violence and injustice, both locally and globally. So, on our Golden Anniversary, we want to work to see a Golden Jubilee - when people are freed from the poverty that ensnares them and the chains of oppression that bind them, and justice is restored. To this we say, Amen and Amen.

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

Bible Commentary by Sean McClafferty

There are many verses throughout the Bible that I particularly like and find comforting, inspiring, encouraging and helpful.

There is indeed a verse for all seasons and situations in our lives, which seems to speak to us in the very place we find ourselves at a given time. The verse that I seem to have returned to time after time is the first half of Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." It is a well known and popular verse which has been used to encourage believers to be still and sometimes silent, when need be, before God.

Over the last several months, as my life and ministry seem to be taking a new direction, I feel that God has once again placed this verse firmly on my heart, laying this verse before me in a significant way for my attention, as He once again draws close to me, reassuring me to be still and know that He is God and that He has a plan for my life and a direction that He wants me to travel. Anyone who knows me can surely testify that I am not known for my staying still and, like so many today, I seem to be constantly on the move, with always something to do and someone to see, be it with work, Church life or family

responsibilities. The world around us is moving at such a swift pace and we seem to be getting busier, with many people finding themselves without time for the important things in life, perhaps even finding themselves without time for God.

Psalm 46:10 reminds us that, in the midst of our busy life's routines, we need to be still and know that He is God; that He is in control; that He is our strength and at work in every situation and that He is always there for us, if we would but turn to Him and seek Him. Being still requires effort, sometimes even discipline. It's a call to stop, to take time out, to draw close to God in prayer and be refreshed in His presence. Being still, or being quiet in God's presence is a good thing. It slows us down to focus on God, to consider God, and perhaps simply to stop where we're at and consider where we stand before him in our lives as we unburden ourselves.

Our world, our society in general is changing so fast. As Christians it would be very easy to become disillusioned, even somewhat depressed at the direction our world has gone, and yet even in this it's as if God is speaking directly to us when He says, "Be



still and know that I am God," that He is still upon the throne. God's call to us to "Be Still", speaks directly to us and advises us that we are not in control and that as a people of faith we need to become almost reconditioned to once again depend wholly upon God, to lean upon Him, to place our trust in Him and to release control of every situation to His sovereignty. As people we like to think that we have the strength to deal with what life throws at us on our own, to carry the burdens of life upon our own shoulders. In reality we simply cannot, because we were never meant to function without God.

Psalm 46:10 must surely help us understand that regardless of what we face in life our God is stronger. God is advising us to stop our futile efforts in attempting to deal with the things which are simply too big for us to carry and which are out of our control. How much easier our lives would be and can be, if we would but listen to God when He says;

"Be still and know that I am God."



HEALING ON THE WAY...

Rev John Cunningham

Have you ever asked yourself the question, "How on earth did I ever end up doing this?"

Well that is the question I have just asked myself. The answer though, is quite simple. I have an Interdenominational Healing Service in my Parish Church (St Patrick's) in inner East Belfast every Thursday and every branch of the Christian Church either works in it or comes to meet with Christ as they seek healing, either for themselves, or indeed for those that they love. It is the oneness of this gathering which delights me. Last week I took a turn at preaching and your editor picked this up on the internet, sent me an email requesting 1000 words and here I am. I know your diocese well having been curate in Limavady and rector/rural dean of Macosquin, so I am not a total interloper!

I have the great privilege of being a chaplain to the pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago, working both as I walk with them and as Anglican chaplain in Santiago itself. It is in that environment that I see that prayer of Christ "that we all may be one" enacted and lived out, as Protestants and Roman Catholics, Buddhist, Jews and others, walk, eat, laugh, cry, and comfort one another. On a personal level I find it liberating to be out of the constrained and divided society in which we live and work. I feel that I have to say that I get much, much more out of my experience each time, than I could ever put into it. On my last (pre-Covid) chaplaincy my wife Linda and I walked about 250km from a large town called Astoria to Santiago and did two weeks as resident chaplain in Santiago and had the privilege of being with 42 people as they journeyed through their problems, hurts and failures.

The Camino, or the Way, as it is also known, is a combination of various routes and distances all ending in Santiago. People start walking from as far away as Poland and Sweden and travel from all over the world to walk the Way. Linda and I walked our first Camino in 2011, walking from St Jean Pied de Port in the French Pyrenees to Santiago de Compostella in North West Spain, a distance of 496.4 miles. We did it again in 2014. We have walked various sections about 200km at a time. It isn't an easy walk although there is currently a 94-year-old doing it and that is not as rare as you may think.

There are those who we can aid as chaplains, but there is a natural healing that takes place as we walk a good distance and the greater the time spent walking in that environment the greater the healing. Please let me explain. The world in which we live bombards us with sound, busyness and angst. On the Camino you have peace and limited demands, around 20km per day, a good pair of shoes and a degree of general fitness. We can have company or we can walk on our own.

We can tell someone, a complete stranger, who is walking with us on a given day, our life story, warts and all, or we may listen to their story. There is a new found freedom from the routine of our daily life and it is after all an adventure and an achievement. I have seen professors and multi-millionaires dissolve into childlike joy and laughter as they rediscover the person they are and not the person that the world has made them. On average, if you are walking from France, you will take 34 -40 days to complete the journey, so it is a big commitment. Almost all pilgrims on the Camino have a scallop shell



Camino walking pole

hanging on their rucksack. This is symbolic as all the lines on the shell meet together in the one place symbolising the coming together of the various routes to one goal. I see it as all the people coming together in one purpose and that oneness is greater than the sum of those who journey. For me there is no greater example of that than a meeting I experienced in my favourite hotel in Santiago, the Costa Vella. The hotel is old and has a great garden in which pilgrims and townspeople meet for lunch or a drink, revelling in the tree and flower-filled atmosphere. It was within this environment that I, as an ex-prison officer, met with two pilgrims from Newry and, in a frank and friendly exchange of experiences, found that as men from diametrically opposed perspectives, we as pilgrims could relate to each other. One of the pilgrims had carved his own walking pole - the knot at the top of his pole was carved as the head of a pilgrim. After some prayers together and a glass of red wine, I received the gift of that stick and we all received the gift of friendship and a degree of unity. Healing comes, as does disease, in many forms, but it is my experience that within the culture of the Camino healing truly works for those who are prepared to be open to its influence.

If anyone wants to ask me any questions about the Camino please contact me: revon50@aol.com; 028 9065 5449; 07808 051004

Homelessness & Housing Insecurity

Rev Rob Clements

It has become all too familiar to associate housing in Ireland with the word 'crisis'. Despite various reports and strategies, we continue to see rising numbers of individuals and families experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. A new report from the *Simon Communities of Ireland* for the first quarter of 2022 shows that there was a 92% drop in the number of affordable houses since June 2021.

Such trends are deeply troubling. Not only does this have an immediate impact on the health and safety of those most directly affected, but the lack of accessible housing has a long term impact on social cohesion and established patterns of wellbeing. This is a social and economic issue, but it is also a theological, missional, and pastoral one. It is important that the Church should speak out and draw attention to those affected:

- *Those who find themselves rough sleeping or in emergency accommodation.*
- *Individuals and families who are statistics on ever expanding social housing waiting lists.*
- *Parents and children living often for long periods of time in unsuitable bedsits and temporary accommodation.*
- *Young adults who, unlike preceding generations, are unlikely to be property owners due to unaffordable property prices.*

- *Families priced out of the rental market due to price inflation or living with poor rental tenure.*
- *People living hours away from their places of work or learning because accommodation is unaffordable.*

Homelessness and housing insecurity have been a concern of the **Church and Society Commission** for several years. We begin with the conviction that there is no moral justification for the lack of housing we are experiencing in Ireland today.

At its meeting earlier this year, General Synod wholeheartedly agreed that helping people affected by the housing crisis must be considered an essential part of the Church's mission and ministry. It asked the **Representative Church Body** and Standing Committee to work with parishes and dioceses to identify ways in which the Church can directly help those in need and can assist the relevant authorities in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to respond to the crisis.

So, what can we do? There are various responses, both locally and nationally, but a good place to start is simply by informing ourselves. This will involve reflecting on our responses to homelessness and housing insecurity. We too have been guilty of 'not

in my backyard' thinking. We too have been delighted to see our own property values escalate without consideration of its impact on the broader social fabric. We need to inform ourselves theological and biblically on the dignity of home. Maybe we can invite someone to speak in our church on this issue, or we can commit to a Bible study on homelessness. We can petition our local politicians. If the people make housing a national priority, then it will become a national priority. When a politician knocks on our door, we should ask them what they are doing to address the housing crisis. We can write letters to our local representatives and advocate on behalf of local housing charities.

I would commend the work of the **Irish Inter-Church Meeting Working Group** on housing insecurity and homelessness. They have excellent resources, including helpful questions to ask our local politicians. You can read more about their work on: www.irishchurches.org/homeless

We recognise that the situation is complex, but we believe that, with ambition and political imagination, the issues are not insurmountable. We call on politicians, local and national, to be brave and even prophetic in addressing this tragedy.





WCC: The Future of Interreligious Dialogue

Rev Christopher West

Curate Assistant, St Macartin's Cathedral, the Parish of Enniskillen, the Diocese of Clogher

To mark the 50th anniversary of the setting up of the Office of Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation, the World Council of Churches (WCC) held an essay competition.

Entrants were asked to explore new ways of reflecting on the future of interreligious engagement. At the beginning of May, I was delighted to receive the good news that a panel of judges had selected my entry as one of the winning essays. My essay has since been published in *Current Dialogue*, and I was invited to address an online gathering.

During my address, I focussed on a relevant exegetical strand - relevant because it underpins much of what I have to say in my essay, but also because it has import for all conversations about interreligious engagement. Simply put, I suggested that a careful reading of the Parable of the Good Samaritan (St Luke 10: 25-37) identifies interreligious engagement not only as the grounds for Christian hope, but also as basic to the Christian way of being in the world.

In conventional readings of the Parable, we tend to identify ourselves with the Good Samaritan, and this affirms us as gracious benefactors, those who have the will and the resources needed to lift other people out of the gutter.

Samuel Wells, a scholar-priest in the Church of England, identifies several problems with this interpretation. To begin with, it misses the immediate textual context of the Parable itself: Jesus uses it not simply in response to the question, "*who is my neighbour?*" (10: 29), but also in response to the issues raised by the earlier question, "*what must I do to inherit eternal life?*" (10: 25). But perhaps most significantly of all is that the conventional interpretation misinterprets our role in salvation history (and hence the logic of grace): we do not have the resources needed (or, if we are really honest with ourselves, the will) to "save" others - or even ourselves - but God in Christ "saves" us anyway. Following this line of interpretation, Christ is the true Good Samaritan; the point being, our "salvation" comes from the very

last person we might expect. Remember the Prologue to St John's Gospel: "*He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him*" (1:11).

Christian hope in the context of interreligious engagement, then, is nothing less than the realisation that the other person has the potential to "save" us - not least from our preoccupation with ourselves and self-sufficiency. Interreligious engagement is not only creedal and entirely orthodox, but also vital to the Christian life. To be a Christian in the world today, we not only have to be aware of the interreligious, but actively engaged in the interreligious. Our "salvation" (as it were) depends upon it. And this is how we are to begin reflecting on questions of what should constitute our approach to interreligious engagement: we are not the Good Samaritan (the gracious benefactor) but the person by the side of the road (dependent upon the other person).

In short, we are the needy ones.

He opened wide his arms upon the cross...

Dr Simon Elliott

The 2004 Book of Common Prayer includes alternative forms of eucharistic prayer. Prayer 3 stands out as the one where the congregation audibly participates in dialogue with the Presiding Minister.

In his commentary on the BCP (which is available on the Church of Ireland website), Revd Canon Dr Michael Kennedy observes that the Prayer 3 phrase *"he opened wide his arms upon the cross"* recalls an ancient eucharistic prayer attributed to Hippolytus and the early church in Rome (circa 215 A.D.), where it says *"[he] extended his hands in suffering"*.

This is a challenging image. With his body and his sacrifice, Jesus sets an uncompromising example for the type of welcome that we in the church, as the body of Christ, should extend. This welcome should not be selective, or partial, or conditional. It probably won't be easy.

The minimum level of inclusion is surely to avoid discriminating against people because of their intrinsic identity - age, disability, ethnicity, family status, gender and sexual

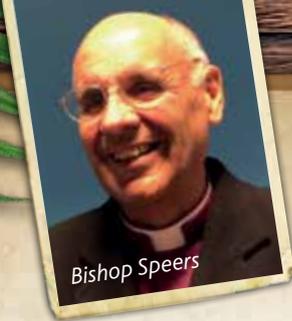
orientation. We are familiar with this sort of protection in law for employment and services. Puzzlingly, the Church's rules are silent on this, beyond a general statement about upholding the right of all equally to be treated with dignity and respect (in the Dignity in Church Life Charter). So it is possible, for example, for a parochial nominator to say that they do not want a single mother to be their new rector. Or there could be an objection towards someone leading the youth club because they are gay. Or it could be said that a member of the Traveller Community should not be nominated for the Select Vestry. Such examples are easy to reject as extremes, but unfortunately, while rare, similar things do happen. There are also cases where discrimination is a good thing, like retirement ages or gender balance on committees, or a necessary compromise, such as limits to altering heritage buildings for accessibility.

To address this, I brought a proposal to the General Synod meeting in Belfast in May for the Church of Ireland to start developing a non-discrimination policy. The proposal

sparked two hours of lively discussion. Some people spoke bravely about the discrimination that they had experienced in the Church. Other speakers felt that the workload of developing such a policy was too great. While all speakers agreed that welcome and equality are important ideals, opinion was split on this particular course of action. Synod therefore decided to move on without voting on the motion.

The good news is that our church does not have to march at the pace of its slowest soldier. If we wish, the dialogue can start now and we can all participate audibly.

Can we have conversations about how discrimination may have been happening without us realising it? Can we look for ways to make our church services and parish activities more welcoming? In our daily lives, will we actively include those who seem to be different; those with whom we are uncomfortable and those with whom we disagree? Do we have the courage to extend our own arms that little bit wider?



Our Mad Life

Visits and Visitors...

It now seems a long time since Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. (Apologies for not having written recently.) On Palm Sunday the cathedral congregation assembled at Bishop's House for the blessing of the palms and processed to the cathedral. The younger scouts marshalled the procession and clearly loved their moment of authority as they stopped the traffic. However, for many of us the events were overshadowed not only by war in Europe but also a local bereavement.

The Rev. Patrick is in charge of the parish of Maintirano, in the far south of the diocese and his Mother came to visit him and her grandchildren. The Thursday before Palm Sunday she died suddenly. According to Malagasy tradition she had to be brought home to Mahajanga for burial. The huge complication was that there is an absolute taboo in Maintirano on transporting corpses by boat. The coffin was lowered off the roof of the taxi-brousse (a week later) and carried into the house. It was a hot day- almost 40°C - and the stench was overpowering. I was full of admiration for the Mothers' Union members as they fulfilled their obligation of taking the body and wrapping it in a shroud which they give to members.

As you can imagine all this added to one's reflections on death on Good Friday and the gift of eternal life celebrated on Easter day. Easter Monday is a great holiday here and thousands take to the road to the beaches north of the city.

I didn't have long to wait for my next outing. On the Saturday morning I had to be at the cathedral by 5 am to set off with the Scouts to Marovoay where I was to inaugurate the celebrations

marking the centenary of Scouting in Madagascar which climaxed with the presentation of a new flag and the distribution of centenary scarves/neckers, one of which was solemnly placed around my neck. 'Am I the oldest person to receive their first item of scout uniform?' I asked the congregation.

The following weekend was the Youth of the South of the Diocese meeting at St. James in the suburbs of the city so although I spent the full days with them I could commute home to bed and QUIET. Back at Bishop's House when I should have been writing to you I was in something of a panic trying to organise our Archbishop's first "Pastoral visit" to the diocese. He is also Bishop of the Seychelles.

A Flying Visit

When the Provincial Secretary notified me of the Archbishop's visit I only organised two cars to take the Archdeacon, the president of the Mothers' Union and myself to the airport and then bring the visitors back to Bishop's House. I was relieved to discover that the Archdeacon had anticipated my oversights and there was a throng of ladies and transport of various sorts to get them to the airport with some paper flags welcoming the Archbishop and lots of flags to welcome his wife.

Business at Bishop's House continued with a Development Committee meeting which had a very full agenda: the preparations for opening of our new Lycée/secondary school at Port Bergé, the ongoing programme of building houses for the clergy, new churches, and the management of our new rice fields. Also there are micro finance projects: two places sewing fancy mosquito nets, crab production, loans to the rural deans for their motorbikes, etc...

It is very depressing to see Britain switching its aid policy focus from fighting poverty to promotion of British trade and investment. Next year the Commonwealth Development Corporation will be renamed British International Investment – supposedly matching China's policy. What an example to follow! However, on we go, sustained and supported by your goodwill, generosity and prayers, for all of which I am deeply grateful.





Some of the children with the rural dean and headmaster, Rev Constant, Mr Michel, Mr Bruno, the school supervisor and bishop

Out and About in the North

On Ascension Day I was to open new classrooms for our primary school at Port Bergé. I was then to continue on up into the mountains to dedicate churches at Manantseva and Befandriana. Befandriana is the home town of a former government minister, Mr Bruno Bearivo, and he was to be a guest of honour at all the proceedings.

After the Opening Ceremony of the new classrooms a holiday for the rest of the day was declared and we joined the staff for a "Cocktail" - soft drinks and biscuits. The staff asked if I would pay them during the school holidays? No, was the short answer. I (that is you, dear friends) had paid for the classrooms and I made it clear that the diocese could provide capital funds but not running costs.

We then continued our journey with the worst of the road surfaces and the climb into the hills still to come. As dark and the forest closed, in the conversation in the back seat turned to "insecurity" as it always does. Had they heard about the people who were murdered by robbers a fortnight ago? How were they killed? They were beheaded. How were they beheaded? However, since the robbers were after their cattle my companions decided that we were safe as we had no cattle!

Dedication of two new churches

The next morning I was taken to inspect a rice field that had insufficient water. When the local leader bemoaned the fact I pointed out that this field was bought on his advice.

In the afternoon I went to inspect the new little church of St. John the

Baptist, Manantseva and hold a rehearsal for the Dedication and Confirmation. This congregation is the result of the initiative of a few Mothers' Union members who have been evangelising their neighbours and leading worship in their homes. The confirmation candidates were summoned by ringing the church bell: striking an old wheel hub with a stone. This could actually be heard across the valley in the traffic-less silence.

The next morning (Saturday 28 May) was the great day and the service took almost four hours: dedication, 35 children and three adults baptised, 13 confirmed, communion and the inevitable speeches and photographs of all, individually and together with the bishop.



Then the pews (a luxury item in these parts) were taken outside and lunch prepared and served. The next day was Sunday and the Dedication of St. Peter's Church at Befandriana-Nord. Meanwhile I had been joined by the Diocesan MU President and the MU worker, Mme Nicole. As well as attending these festivities they were continuing on up into the mountains to Mandritsara the next day.

The Mothers' Union have taken up a wonderful project that originated on my first visit to the area when I asked the Mayor what were the biggest problems he faced. He said it was children's births not being registered and the resulting official statistics being totally inaccurate as well as the children not being eligible for education or health facilities (and also outside the tax system as officially they don't exist).

While I hope you are enjoying the Platinum Jubilee we are preparing for Pentecost. As well as a major church festival it is a big holiday here.

May the Spirit, the Comforter and Life Giver, renew us all in love and peace.

Yours +Hall hallspeers@gmail.com



DRY Report

Youth belonging in the Church

Belonging somewhere is a wonderful feeling. To me it's all about feeling at ease. I'm welcomed and I don't feel overly awkward if I want to participate. We don't always get this feeling everywhere in our lives. We might have been an outsider at school, not really knowing where we fit in. Maybe at work it's hard to make friends with people that you see every single day, but don't actually know a lot about them.

Church should be that place where every single person is welcomed with open arms and they feel like they belong. Our churches, Sunday Schools, youth groups, and any number of other groups in the church, should be a haven for anyone who can't find a place in the world where they belong. Growing up my church friends were always the weirdest bunch (weird in a good way!), the ones with whom I laughed so much and still have lasting memories of, along with a few enduring friendships. The connections made as a young person in church can shape the adult they become and churches need to be so aware of that. The hardest thing is that this will look different for each of us. How welcoming is your church? Do you go out and invite people to experience that sense of belonging that so many of us enjoy?

It is my hope that DRY (Derry and Raphoe Youth) can offer that to young people from



CIYD Youth Forum

all over the Derry and Raphoe Diocese, helping them understand that finding connections will enable them to grow in their faith, and showing them that there is a place for them in this world. Their place with God is one that will always be there for them and Church is a family that should always be open for them to join.

During the last few months it has been so exciting to have our young people come back face-to-face for youth events, especially with our DRY Weekend. From 25th - 27th March we had young people and leaders from different parts of the Diocese come together at the Cleenish Centre for a weekend full of sunshine and games, exploring the topic of The Christian Life at school, at home and in the world.

In April we had the CIYD (Church of Ireland Youth Department) Youth Forum, where DRY was represented by three young people who ventured down to the City North

Hotel, outside of Dublin. This year it was considering mental health, with a focus on loneliness and on what young people needed and on how churches could help. It was such a special time to see so many young people from the whole of Church of Ireland, coming together and sharing time and ideas. We have now been using their ideas for our Walk, Talk & Snacks in different locations. Spending time with people on a walk and chatting is such a simple, but powerful idea.

DRY continue to pray for all the young people in the Diocese, along with every leader who gives up their time to connect and minister to them, encouraging them to grow in their faith and creating churches where they belong.

Claire

✉ claire@derryandraphoe.org

f [/derryandraphoeyouth](https://www.facebook.com/derryandraphoeyouth)

📷 [@derryraphoeyouth](https://www.instagram.com/derryraphoeyouth)



A day in the life of a ... Coastguard



Hi, my name is Alan Benson, and I am a Deputy Station Officer with H.M. Coastguard Search and Rescue Team at Bangor. There are 16 people on our team, and we operate a 24/7, 365 days a year response. Last year, our team was called out to respond to emergencies 154 times. We are called out by an alert and tasking system via our smartphones from the operations room at the Belfast Coastguard. The alert contains the type of incident and its location.

Our team's area stretches from Belfast City harbour docks through Bangor and down the Ards peninsula as far as Ballyhalbert and from Kircubbin up to Newtownards and then down to Whiterock on Strangford Lough. On many occasions over the years 999 calls have meant spoilt dinners (including on Christmas Day), cancelled shopping trips and days out with the family! Without the support of family, being part of the coastguard search and rescue team would be impossible. When a call comes in, and the team is tasked, this can involve working with other emergency

services and agencies such as the lifeboat, police, ambulance, and at times with our own coastguard helicopters.

Some of the call-out incidents include: a member of the public sustaining injuries falling from rocks, walls or piers and needing extraction to an awaiting ambulance; casualties on ferries or ships requiring transfer to shore and then to the hospital; searching for missing people who may be at risk from self-harm; swimmers getting into trouble in changing weather conditions or strong currents; paddleboarders getting blown out to sea; rescuing people from mudflats who get cut off by an incoming tide; setting up a helicopter landing site on playing fields for the Royal Victoria Hospital Belfast, for incoming casualties from farm accidents, mountain rescues and road traffic accidents; vehicles (including a bus on one occasion)



leaving the road and going into the sea around Strangford Lough.

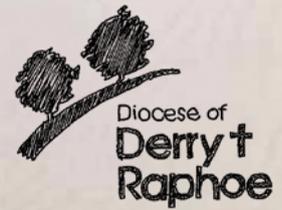
Like all emergency services, we can be called occasionally to respond to a fatality but thankfully this is not too often.

On a happier note, we are often invited to be present at special events, like the Tall Ships, as well as schools and youth groups to do sea safety talks. In addition, we train regularly and we are responsible for maintaining our response vehicles and equipment, especially if we have had to respond to an incident involving mudflats. Certainly, being a coastguard can be challenging and unpredictable. However, it is also very rewarding, and after 22 years, I still get a buzz when the phone goes off with an alert.

Alan Benson



Diocesan noticeboard!



PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Plans are being developed for a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - 21st Nov to 30th Nov 2023.

For further details, please contact Rev David Skuce at: dunfanaghy@raphoe.anglican.org or on 00 353 74 9136187.

Saint Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry Lunchtime Organ Recitals July 2022

Thursdays 1.10pm-1.50pm, Admission free

7th July - Dr Derek Collins, Organist, Saint Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry

14th July - Nicky Morton, Assistant Organist, Saint Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry

21st July - Jack Wilson, Graduate Organ Scholar, Ely Cathedral

28th July - Tristan Russcher, Associate Organist, Saint Anne's Cathedral, Belfast



Anniversary of Ordination (2022)

10 years (2012)

The Reverend Rosie Diffin

15 years (2007)

The Venerable David Huss

20 years (2002)

The Reverend Louise Crawford-McCafferty

The Reverend Canon John Deane

25 years (1997)

The Reverend Billy Holmes

The Reverend Robin Stockitt

The Reverend Canon Arthur Barrett

30 years (1992)

The Right Reverend Andrew Forster

The Reverend Canon John Merrick

40 years (1982)

The Reverend Canon Bill McNee

The Reverend Canon Harry Trimble

The Reverend John White

45 years (1977)

The Reverend Canon David Crooks

The Right Reverend Ken Good

(20th anniversary of his consecration as a bishop)

The Reverend Raymond McKnight

The Reverend Canon Matt Moore

50 years (1972)

The Venerable Donald McLean

55 years (1967)

The Reverend Robin Lavery

65 years (1957)

The Very Reverend Cecil Orr

What to do spiritually when you are sick...

*Derry and Raphoe
Ministry of Healing*



Everyone at some time in their life will have to confront sickness and illness. At these times we need all the help we can get. It is right to seek medical help and thank God for it. But in addition to that there are spiritual resources available.

Surrender ourselves to the Lord. One of the gospel stories, the healing of the paralysed man in Mark 2, describes how the man's four friends had to lower him through the roof and let go of him, so that Jesus would be free to work a miracle in that man. We need to bring things to the Lord, whether it is a difficulty, anxiety or illness and ask God to minister in these situations. As the psalmist said, 'Cast your burden upon the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous perish.' Psalm 55v22

Receive prayer and the laying on of hands as often as possible. This is an encouraging and powerful ministry. Often in my life when people have prayed for me, I have experienced the blessing of God's peace and grace as well as seeing the prayer answered.

Ask people to pray for you. When people tell me they are praying for me that is the most valuable gift they could give me. There

have been many occasions in my life and ministry when I have been doing things that would normally cause me to be anxious and I have been completely calm, because people were praying in the background. When we are sick this kind of prayer support quickens the whole healing process. Even if people have only time to say a short prayer it makes a difference.

Keep the channels clear between yourself and God. One of the pioneers of the healing ministry worldwide is Agnes Stanford. She said that faith allows us to approach God with confidence, but keeping the channels clear allows the power of God to flow. What is it that keeps the channels clear? Love, forgiveness and repentance. If we are practising these things the channels between ourselves and God will be kept open, and his power will be able to flow.

Keep our eyes on Jesus and not on the problem. When we are worried about something, anxiety tends to keep our minds focused on the problem. We need to break that cycle of anxiety and get our eyes back onto Jesus. Somebody said, 'Glance at the problem, and keep your gaze on Jesus.' One good way to do this is through praising and

thanking God for every gift He has given us. This takes our minds off ourselves and gets our focus onto the Lord. If we practice this it will bring, at very least, a measure of peace. Remember, praise begins with a decision that, no matter what our circumstances, we are going to praise God.

Believe and have faith - Jesus said, 'Whenever you pray believe that you have received it and it will be yours.' (Mark 11:24) We are encouraged in the gospels to put our faith in God and that will bring a blessing. It is said that, 'It is not a great deal of faith we need, but a little faith in a great God.' We often begin prayers with the phrase 'Almighty God'. I think we say it too quickly and lose the impact of what we are praying. We should say 'All Mighty God' as there is no limit to what He is able to do. As the Bible teaches us, 'With God all things are possible.' (Matthew 19v26) The things that are impossible for men are possible for God. So yes, exercising faith is very important, but let's make sure it is faith in our great and mighty God.

Rev Paul Lyons

Equine Enrichment



by Louise Moorhead

The pandemic, in many ways, has brought us closer to nature and the value of reconnecting with the outdoors. If you have never had any experience with horses, it may be initially hard to imagine the deep, therapeutic experience they can provide and their power to transform and be a catalyst for personal change and growth.

For thousands of years horses have helped humans, from working life to transportation and companionship. As horses gradually merged with human society, they developed an almost 'shared language' that connects to our own everyday lives providing insight and drawing on parallels in the way we communicate with our family, friends and manage with everyday life and situations.

Horses prefer a calm, quiet environment and there is no better place like this at the stables overlooking the hills of Donegal where the Equine Enrichment journey begins. When participants first visit the yard, they always remark on the incredible size

and presence of the horses. It can seem so overwhelming to be in the presence of such powerful creatures.

However, for many, each week brings new confidence and a sense of familiarity where children and adults alike meet their favourite horses such as Buddy, Ozzy, Doodles, Izabella, Penny and Little Boy - a mini-Shetland with a big personality! The children find out about each of the horses likes and dislikes, background, and story - in turn reflecting on their own unique identity and personality, which makes it such a meaningful experience.

Horses naturally provide us with instant feedback about our communication styles and are masters at reading our body language and attuning with how we are feeling. If we are relaxed around them, they will also be relaxed. If we are anxious and fearful, they will in turn mirror our emotions and provide instant feedback. They are so sensitive to our moods and emotions and can even hear our heartbeat! Horses are non-judgemental. They don't care where

you are from or what you look like, providing us opportunities to embrace our own individuality towards self-acceptance and self-love.

The yard offers a full sensory and holistic experience. A creative play facilitator also provides workshops helping participants express themselves through the visual arts such as drawing, painting, crafts, sculpture, and photography, allowing each person to reflect nonverbally and explore their inner world. It's not about being good at art, but about having fun and providing a space to play! Groupwork is also a big part of the outdoor adventure, such as creating nature palettes, journey mapping, soundscapes and scavenger hunts. The child-like experience is for everyone from getting your hands dirty, squelching in your wellingtons to sand play, green therapy and even tadpole watching!

Equine Enrichment (EE) is for people of all ages from all walks of life who wish to find new ways of improving their mental health and is suitable for all Neurotypes.



The EE programme embeds the five steps to wellbeing - **Connect, Be Active, Keep Learning, Give, Take Notice**, helping people focus on their mental health and wellbeing and learning simple take-home tips. The programme has educational value in experientially learning about how horses, as sentient beings, think, breathe, sleep, eat; how they relate to the world around them; their family 'herd'; how they build relationships with each other and with us.

Clients have commented *"I have learned so much today. I never knew horses slept standing up with their eyes open!"*, *"I didn't think I would feel such unconditional acceptance - I can't wait to tell my mum all about it when I go home!"*, *"This is the highlight of my week"*, *"I feel happy when I am here"* These unique and individual experiences have been such a focus of conversation around many family dinner tables. On special occasions, such as Buddy's Birthday, children, parents and

grandparents come along to celebrate the wonderful contribution and positive impact these beloved animals are having in people's lives.

Referral Process

Clients are referred through school and community organisations. They can attend half-day workshops or programmes lasting between 4-12 weeks with an Equine Therapist, who has spent over a decade learning and training in this unique mental health intervention. The experiential element of these programmes means that people develop new skills, such as increased confidence and self-esteem; reduction in anxiety; enhanced communication skills; all while engaging with gentle horses and funny little ponies. Although there is no horse-riding involved, simply being in the presence of horses allows clients to communicate nonverbally through 'over the door'

interactions, grooming, mucking out and making food cakes for the horses. The theme of self-care and building trusting relationships are focused upon and can be transferred into home and school life.

Equine Enrichment offers something for everyone, whether it is as simple as the outdoor air that leaves us relaxed and ready for a good night's sleep, or helping us reconnect with a deeper part of ourselves, on our soul-searching journey through life. To witness the beauty and the changing seasons in a world far removed from the hustle and bustle of our daily lives is enriching, tranquil and nourishing.

As we go about getting back to basics, a day at the yard in the company of horses not only can be peaceful and uplifting but can provide a neuro-bio-psycho-social approach to our mental health and wellbeing.

For more information contact Louise Moorhead, Equine therapist: louise@equineenrichment.co.uk

Diocesan Manoeuvres!

Congratulations Rev Jonathan Brown on being installed as Rector of Maghera and Killelagh...

1. You've just been instituted as Rector of Maghera and Killelagh. But what was your first sense of calling to ministry?

I can trace back my first sense of calling to a question. In my early-twenties, an atheist friend and I were having a faith-related discussion and he asked me, "How can Jesus be both man and God? Surely, he is one or the other, but can't be both at the same time?" To be honest, I didn't even know where to begin with that! So, I asked my pastor and he gave me an armful of books to read. The Lord used that to light a fire for Scripture within me, which the pastor sensed and led him to offer me the opportunity to preach. Very reluctantly, I agreed. Although shaking with nerves, once I'd managed to get out my first sentence the Lord's peace surrounded me. By the time I sat down I knew something had changed - and that was my first sense of a call to ministry.

2. Please tell our readers a little about a person (living or dead) who has influenced your ministry?

I assume this means in addition to Jesus! Although, I've been very blessed to have lots of good role models, I can't help but think of my late grandfather, Sam Reid, or 'Pops' to me.

During his lifetime he'd been a Sunday School Superintendent, BB Captain, Church Elder, choir member and more. Along with all that faithful service, he was a real man of prayer. In other words he was both a do-er and a pray-er. His example has been a great encouragement and a tremendous influence.

3. What book are you reading at the moment and why would you recommend it?

I'm just finishing a short book called 'Overcoming Your Shadow Mission'. As followers of Jesus, it makes us think about our purpose, mission, and the importance of character in the Christian life. More than that though, the book helps us think through what might derail our mission, for example, personality traits or circumstances. It's thought-provoking, challenging and definitely worth a read.

4. What do you do when faced with a challenging situation?

Quite some years ago, a friend who trained police officers told me that there are two types of people in conflict situations: those who listen with the intent to answer and then those who listen with the intent to understand.



Probably like most people, I would have veered towards the first option. I've never forgotten that conversation and when faced with a challenging situation, I try to follow his advice and listen with the intent to understand - that, and lots of prayer!

5. How do you wind down and relax?

I have to admit that I love to laugh! While no stand-up comic myself, I love to switch off with a daft movie, dopey humour and silly nonsense. A good belly laugh does all our hearts and souls good and it's best shared with friends, family and those we love.

Derry and Raphoe welcomes Rev Johnny Lowden!

1. You're coming to Glendermott as Curate in September. Please tell our readers a little about yourself, your family and your journey to the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe.

I was born in Bangor but moved to Downpatrick at age six and grew up there as the fourth of five children. My mum and dad both worked in the family business of building guitars. Although I didn't grow up in the Church of Ireland I found a home here after studying theology at the Belfast Bible College. I felt a call to ministry in my early 20s but took a few years to discern a call to full-time ministry in the Church of Ireland. I'm married to Emily and when visiting potential curacy parishes, we were drawn to Derry and Raphoe due to the excellent community work going on at Glendermott and New Buildings and the warm welcome we received there.

2. What are you passionate about in ministry?

My main passion is to help others to deepen their faith and apply it in daily life, even in small ways. I have recently been reflecting

more and more on the presence of God the Holy Spirit in our everyday lives and how that empowers our faith to be something that is done, as well as believed. I am also passionate about other aspects to ministry including preaching, sacramental ministry, social justice, and the wide variety of traditions and perspectives present in the Church of Ireland.

3. What book are you reading at the moment and why would you recommend it?

I always have a few books on the go at once, but take a while to finish them! I have recently been reading John Keegan's 'The First World War' which is a brilliant and accessible introduction to that conflict.

4. How do you wind down and relax?

Emily and I love hill-walking, she being from Scotland where you can't drive 5 minutes

without stumbling into a mountain or three! To relax I love games (both computer and board), reading, playing guitar, and watching sport. I also enjoy learning something new to keep the grey cells ticking over. Be it history, science, art, music or engineering, I love taking a deep dive into some new and obscure area of interest.

5. If you were locked in a church who would you like to be with you and why?

Probably my wife Emily since we tend to keep each other sane, mainly by making each other laugh.



Diocesan Manoeuvres!

Reverend Captain Richard Beadle has been appointed Rector of Donagheady. Welcome to the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe...

1. Can you tell us a little about your Christian journey to this point?

I guess faith began when I was very small with my dad's conversion when life for our family was very messy. My parents then went on to run a Salvation Army Hotel for a decade so I was always very aware of God stuff! Leaving school, I joined an Anglican church in Gillingham Kent. Here my faith really became significant. It became real in a new way and my priorities changed. I got increasingly involved in the local church. I did some short-term missions with Operation Mobilisation where I met my wife, Pauline. I trained with the Church Army as an evangelist in Sheffield, then served in parishes in East Lancashire. However, a deep sense of call by God to Ireland led me to Belfast in 2001 and then to rural Fermanagh, Cavan and Leitrim. I was ordained deacon in 2016 and priest in 2017.

2. How do you wind down and relax?

Outside, I love to be out with nature. I have a dog that needs to be walked, and I will often take the camera to capture what we might see. I also love following sport. I am a very keen Crystal Palace supporter and have played a lot of tennis. Inside, movies are great, and I also got a euphonium recently, though much practice is required!

3. What is your favourite religious movie?

Not sure I have one if I am honest, although some of the more tender scenes from "The Passion" stick in my mind.

4. Please tell our readers a little about a person (living or dead) who has had an influence on your ministry.

Wow, there are so many individuals with real living faith who have encouraged and inspired me. I'll choose Captain Charles Harris (now retired) with whom I did a Church Army placement on my first visit to Ireland in 1996. He has always been a source of encouragement and a listening post whenever we catch up.

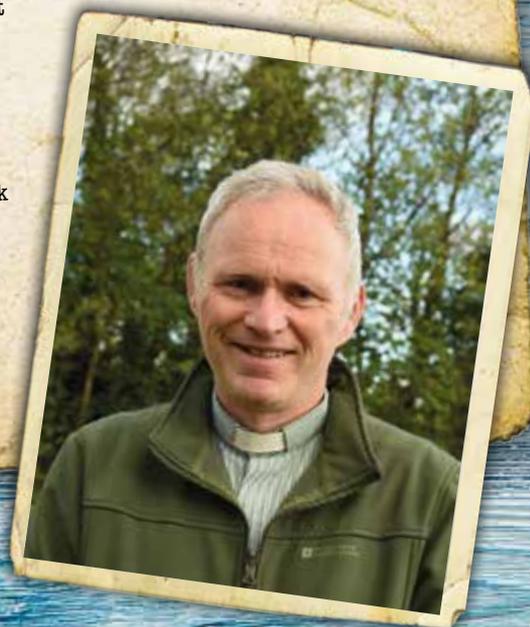
5. What do you think are the top three responsibilities of leading a parish in the 21st century?

First: It's crucial that a minister seeks to walk with God. Only in that listening and learning place can one truly lead in worship, teaching and vision. Second: In an age of gadgets and technology, relationships continue to be, and will always be, at the heart of ministry. Third, to lead people in discipleship and mission, that the Church would always

think beyond itself and the walls of the church building.

6. Do you have a favourite charity and why?

Probably Compassion. When our children were small, we decided to sponsor three children so that our family could be aware of children in other places and write to them. One was in Tanzania, another in the Dominican Republic and the last in Indonesia. In 2016 we were able to visit our sponsored child in Indonesia and it was such a blessing to see her in her school, home and local church.



Welcome to Reverend Alexander Aquilla-Chisnall who has been appointed as curate to Drumragh with Mountfield...

1. You're coming to Drumragh with Mountfield as Curate in September. Please tell our readers a little about yourself, your family and your journey to the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe

My name is Alexander. I am 28 and am married to Hannah. I grew up in a coastal suburb of South Dublin called Killiney and lived there up until recently getting married and moving for my Deacon-internship to Wicklow Parish. My home church is Crinken Church in Dublin. I have long felt God's call on my life and have been engaged in church ministry for many years. I have been involved with youth and children's ministry, young adult ministry, preaching and leading services. I did a ministry internship in Crinken, before beginning ordination training in 2019. Now excitingly I am soon starting my curacy in Omagh. My journey has been one of God's faithfulness to me, and I can't wait to see what he has in store over the coming years.

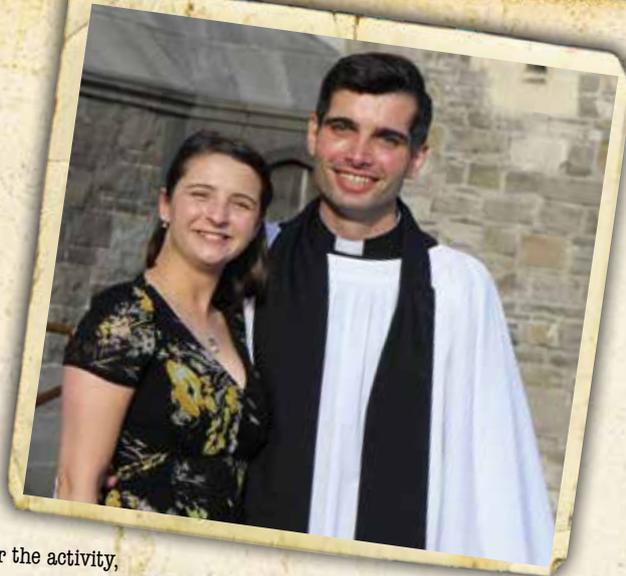
2. What are you passionate about in ministry?

I'm often called an "all-rounder," but I am simply passionate about Jesus and God's Word. This

takes all forms - I love to preach, teach, lead bible studies, youth talks, one-to-one discipleship, kids talks - whatever the age and whatever the activity, I want to glorify Jesus and see people know and love him, and mature in him. I long to see people connected with their heavenly Father and know Jesus as their Saviour.

3. What book are you reading at the moment and why would you recommend it?

With writing my dissertation for college, I haven't had the time to read much outside college texts and my daily devotional, but I'm looking forward to tackling the pile of books staring at me on my bookshelf. One book that I have really benefited from reading has been Martin Luther's "A Simple Way to Pray." It's a short book but has had a big impact on me. It follows the Lord's Prayer, The Ten Commandments, and the Apostles' Creed, showing how these things shape and inform how we pray, allowing these words to permeate our lives, to lead and guide our words to God our Father.



4. How do you wind down and relax?

I love to go for walks, hikes, runs and swims, preferably followed by a good cup of coffee or tea. I'm happy anywhere with fresh air and beautiful scenery (and where possible a bit of sun). I also enjoy cooking and on occasion play some violin.

5. If you were locked in a church with whom would you like to be and why?

What first came to mind were people from the past like J.I. Packer, C.S. Lewis, or even Luther. Then I thought of some authors alive today, like Tim Keller or John Piper. However, I would simply like to be there with a worship group (like City Alight) and spend the time singing our hearts out to the Lord.



My life as a... Mental Health Nurse

It has been my privilege for the past 49 years to train and work as a mental health nurse in the Western Trust since becoming a student in Gransha Hospital outside L'Derry in 1973.

I have, of course, seen many changes to our mental health system over the course of the past 50 years as I moved from hospital nursing to community care. This was a great change and brought about some challenges to deliver care at home or in centres in the community by a multi-disciplinary team, whilst allowing the person to remain in their own home with the support of their family.

Treatment improved greatly by the introduction of Psychological/Talking Therapies where I have worked over the past 25 years, including the Forensic Mental health team set up to provide community care for those who fall between mental health and the law. While working in this area my faith and prayer often sustained me.

Over the course of my time I have been inspired and encouraged by many forward thinking and innovative practitioners to

continue learning and introducing more services to deal with addiction eating disorders, and self-harm, as well as the introduction of a Nurse-led Crisis Team which is available 24 hrs a day based at 3 sites in the Western Trust area where I helped out during the Covid-19 crisis. Covid-19, of course, has brought challenges in Mental Health Nursing as it has to all nursing. However in May we have again launched a new mental health team which will assess the mental health needs of the patients in our 2 main general hospitals at Altnagelvin and South West Acute.

Perhaps the most notable and helpful thing that I feel has happened in mental health nursing is the change in social attitude within our communities where there is acceptance and support for individuals who have mental health problems or psychological difficulties.

It was much appreciated that we have recognition from the Royal Family about the impact that childhood trauma or trauma in early life can have on our adult lives. This has made it less difficult for people to speak about their difficulties and seek help when

they become overwhelmed and unable to sustain their functional life.

Working as a therapist I, of course, hear and help process the trauma and stories of many people who present with anxiety and depression due to their childhood trauma or life experiences. It requires me to remain healthy and so I balance this with a life outside of work.

I fortunately come from a close and supportive family, some of whom also work in mental health, and I get involved in as many activities as possible. I am Branch Leader for Mothers' Union in Donagheedy Parish in Donemana, sing in the church choir, and help with our Kids Club/Going for God.

Friends are also important. I belong to a women's group in the local area, a walking group, and a dance class. These I feel, alongside my Christian faith, help me stay in a positive frame of mind and maintain my psychological well-being.

Ivy Mitchell-Hartin

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



Welcome back my friends. It is great to be able to share all my wonderful news and adventures with you. It is such an exciting time for us all as we move towards our summer break and spending some time with our family and friends. I have been very busy...

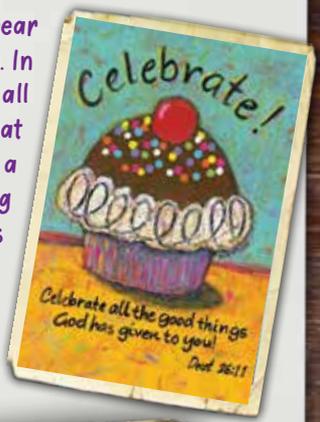
CJ News

NUMBER 31



I would like to tell you a story of a little girl who has achieved so much in her lifetime and has much to celebrate this year. Many people throughout the whole world will be celebrating with her. Let's take a look...

I know that this is a very special year and a time to celebrate for many. In Deuteronomy we are told to celebrate all the good things God has given to us. What can we celebrate? Birthdays, moving to a new school, winning an award or achieving something that we always thought was out of our reach! How good does that make us feel?



Once upon a time in London there lived a little girl who was known as Lilibet to her close family. To the rest of the world she was Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary. Elizabeth really loved dogs and horses and dreamed of living on a farm one day.



When Elizabeth was ten years old her family moved to Buckingham Palace when her father became King of England. From that day Elizabeth was taught how to be the next queen of England as she was now be the heir to the throne.

Soon after this time Britain entered the Second World War. Even when times were tough under the enemy's bombs, Elizabeth believed that a brighter day would come and decided to send a message to all children to tell them just that. She was 19 and had just finished her training as a driver in the army when the war ended. There was much to celebrate!



Elizabeth fell in love with a charming prince named Philip and saved her ration coupons from the war to buy the fabric for her wedding dress. Did you know more than 350 people worked to make the dress? Amazing!



Very soon after this her father died. Elizabeth became Queen of kingdoms all over the world from England to South Africa. Being the Queen was not a fairy-tale but a busy full-time job. She had much to do from talking with important guests, meeting the prime minister every week, to addressing the nation and traveling all over the world for important visits and ceremonies. At times it could be exhausting!

Queen Elizabeth II had the chance to be part of some fantastic moments and make amazing memories. She met many unforgettable people who had worked hard to make our world a better place.



Elizabeth always tried to stay up-to-date no matter how much the world was changing around her. She started a new tradition of walking through crowds to say hello. She started to televise her annual Christmas broadcast which is watched by many on Christmas Day. Elizabeth travelled overseas more than 250 times and received many gifts - some of which were very unusual, for example an elephant called Jumbo! She loves her summers at Balmoral Castle.



Queen Elizabeth II has achieved many things in her lifetime. She has welcomed many grandchildren and great grandchildren to the royal family, as well as 30 corgi dogs.

Queen Elizabeth II has much to celebrate. After 70 long years of putting her country and duty first she has become the most admired and longest-reigning queen in the world. She is respected for a lifetime of service and devotion to her people.



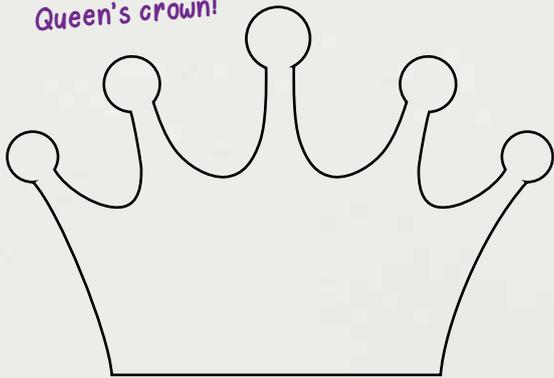
God wants us to celebrate. Queen Elizabeth has a BIG celebration but we must all remember to celebrate and give thanks when we have cause to celebrate too!

JUBILEE =
A SPECIAL
ANNIVERSARY
OF AN EVENT



CJ CHALLENGES YOU TO...

Decorate the Queen's crown!



WHAT YOU NEED TO MAKE A GLASS GEM SUNCATCHER

- Plastic yoghurt container lid
- Clear glue
- String
- Glass vase gems

HOW DO YOU MAKE IT?

1. Fill the yoghurt container lid with glue.
2. Arrange the glass gems in the lid. Fill the whole space.
3. Squeeze a bit more glue on top.
4. Allow the gems to dry for 3-4 days. Peel out of the container.
5. Find a section of the suncatcher near the edge where the glue is thick. Push a threaded needle through that area.
6. Hang your suncatcher on a window.

<https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/16045/glass-gem-sun-catcher-craft>



Colour Me!



DESIGN SOME BUNTING BISCUITS!

INGREDIENTS:

- 350g plain flour, plus a little extra for rolling
- 100g cold butter, diced
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 140g light soft brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 75g golden syrup
- 2 tsp vanilla extract

TO DECORATE:

1kg pack ready-to-roll icing, few food colourings and writing icing pens, in your favourite colours, icing sugar, for rolling

METHOD:

1. Put the flour, butter, bicarb and sugar in a food processor, whizz until you can't see any lumps of butter, then tip into a mixing bowl. Whisk the egg, syrup and vanilla together, then stir into the bowl with a wooden spoon. Using your hands, knead together into a smooth dough.
2. Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Cut a triangle template from card. Roll out the dough on a slightly floured surface. Use the template to cut out the triangles. Use a pencil end to make 2 holes in the top of each one. Bake for 8-10 minutes.
3. Divide the icing into as many colours as you want and knead in food colourings to get the colours you want. Roll out on a surface lightly dusted with icing sugar and use the template to cut out triangles. Brush the backs of the icing with water and stick on the biscuits. Decorate with left over icing or icing pens. Thread through ribbon or string to hang your treats up! <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/bunting-biscuits>



MY ADVENTURES...



Bishop Andrew is a busy man too. Here he is visiting St Mura's National School in Buncrana. Look, he has brought some friends with him. I am sure it was a great visit!



The children and teachers were busy preparing for Bishop Andrew's visit - colouring in their creation books and putting together a presentation on the seven days of creation. As well as that they were busy making lots and lots of different crosses. These were put into two boxes and presented to the Bishop and Canon Judi!

In St James Parish in Donemana they have been busy getting ready for their Jubilee celebrations. I can't wait to hear all about it. Are you having any celebrations?



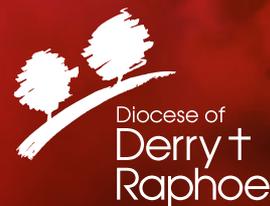
SEE YOU ALL NEXT TIME!

Contact me on email
cj@derryandrphoe.org



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. @cccmsp into your search engine on smart phone or laptop/tablet etc and click on the parish page.



Parish *in* Focus...

FAHAN UPPER AND LOWER

Rector: Rev Canon Judi McGaffin

Tel: 0769361154

Facebook: Fahanandbuncranachurchofireland

"Cherishing and connecting with all God's children"



We have been doing a lot of celebrating here in St Mura's National School Buncrana! The bishop came to visit in May with his puppets! We learned about lost sheep and the bishop was presented with a whole box of crosses made by the students. Then he was treated to a presentation about the 7 days of creation and work on the theme that the young people and their teachers had been working on this year. Then on 1 June we welcomed the bishop again as we celebrated, in a service of thanksgiving and blessing, the retirement of the Principal teacher Miss Rosemary Dunne - after 41 years of being the principal teacher at St Mura's. They say that pictures speak louder than words so - here are some pictures of these 2 happy events!

ST MURA'S - END OF AN ERA

On the 31st August this year, I will retire as principal teacher of St.Mura's National School, Buncrana. This brings to a close my forty-one-year teaching career in this school. I was first appointed to St.Mura's in September 1981. What was unusual in my

case was that, not only was I appointed as a teacher straight out of college but that I also became the principal teacher as well, making me one of the youngest, if not the youngest, principal teacher in the entire country. My dear friend and former colleague, the late Roberta Morrow (née Reburn) also started teaching on that day and we began as young but enthusiastic educators in our wee school.

Primary schools in 1981 were much different places than they are today. In our case, there were coal-burning stoves in both of our classrooms. We learned very quickly the importance of remembering to throw the odd shovel of coal in the fire. If we forgot one day, we certainly remembered the next. Our school had been opened in January 1931 and high ceilings were very much a feature of schools of that era with high numbers of cases of TB throughout the country. Ventilation was key. That resonates so strongly with us now with the importance of good ventilation during the recent pandemic. Perhaps school architects and designers in former years had the right idea!

evenings making posters and flashcards in our attempts to make our classroom environments as colourful and stimulating as possible. We used the cardboard from every cereal box or any other packaging we could lay our hands upon! I remember us spending a number of dark winter evenings hand-stitching bean bags for PE lessons from red and green corduroy we had purchased (with our own money!) in Moore's in Carlisle Road in Derry and filled with split peas. The children were delighted with their bean bags and they were used in the playground of St. Mura's for many years afterwards. In 1988-1989, we received some additional funding and with it we bought a television, a video recorder (remember those!) and a BBC master compact computer. We thought that we were at the cutting-edge of technology. Little did we realise, all the changes in education which would come so quickly over the next years.

By the 1990's funding had greatly improved in primary education in Ireland and supports began to be provided for children with special or additional educational needs with the appointment of learning support and resource teachers and special needs assistants. This was a very welcome development for these children, their families and their schools.

Schools in the eighties were poorly funded and poorly resourced. Roberta and myself spent many of our

Continued on page 36...



Continued from page 35...

Our first part-time learning support teacher was appointed in 1999 and, since 2017, we have a fulltime special education teacher (SET) on staff. As I have always had a great interest in the area of special education, I began working in this role. I now work in lots of different ways - with individual children, with small groups of children and I also engage in team teaching. I like to share my love of books with the children and now Friday afternoons in St. Mura's are taken up with Storytime in the junior classroom with treats provided and Book Club in the senior classroom accompanied with TAB (tea and biscuits) or, sometimes,

JAB (juice and biscuits). This year we have explored the plight of Syrian refugees, evacuees from London during World War 2, children with additional educational needs and children with facial deformities through the medium of high-quality children's literature. I hope that the children will continue their love of reading throughout their lives. I look forward to having some more time to indulge in my own love of reading in my retirement.

Our school today might be better funded and better resourced than it was in 1981 but St. Mura's has always been greatly supplied with what is most important for any school - wonderful vibrant children, supportive parents and hardworking dedicated staff. We have been blessed with all those who have supported this wee school down through the years - members of the Board of Management, our Parents' Association, those who have volunteered and given so generously of their time and their talents in so many ways down through the



years. The wider community of Buncrana and surrounding area has always been more than generous in its support of this school. We have been blessed indeed.

And now, as we draw closer to the end of this school term and the school year, my final term and final school year as principal teacher of St. Mura's N.S. Buncrana, I feel so thankful that I was led to come to Buncrana all those years ago. I don't think that I could have chosen a more wonderful school and more wonderful community in which to live and work. I have loved every day in this amazing wee school.

Rosemary Dunne



AGHADOWEY

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

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



I love the cartoon *Charlie Brown* and all Charles Schulz's characters. One of my favourites is Linus with his comforting blanket. One of the cartoons has little Linus afraid to be alone in the library. Charlie Brown tries to explain to him that everyone is lonely in some place or other. "Where is that place for you?" Linus asks. Charlie ponders the question for a moment, then answers: "Earth."

How sad, but many people live very solitary lives. Of course being alone is great but being lonely is something so terribly different. Some will know that in March I fell and dislocated my ankle and broke the bones in three places. I was rushed to a hospital in Spain and was alone for days - I speak almost no Spanish and so

communication was difficult. I was blessed by Ian coming out to join me on the day of my op. Some of the time I felt so very alone - but even though I was going through a very tough time I knew God was with me, and I never stopped praying. I felt a real surge of God's power on my return on the airline and I had asked that in God's strength I would return home. And God did NOT fail.

The greatest help that we can expect as we enter the toughness that might lie before us is not through our own preparations, but through the pacesetting presence of Jesus. Jesus has prepared the way for all believers who follow. Jesus voluntarily chose to endure the cross. Because of that choice the outcome of all the races we run has already been determined - redemption, the "better way."

It will be a while yet before I walk properly (running has never been my thing!) but I know I will be walking with Jesus walking before, with and behind me. I hope if you are struggling with anything remember to pray and ask the great cloud of witnesses (your family, friends, and church members) to pray for you.

Thank you to everyone who has been a great help to me, to Bishop Andrew, St. Guaire's church wardens and congregation, my friends and most important of all my husband Ian - my nurse, physio, chef, laundryman, dresser. You name it, he did it!

Amen

CLOONEY

Rector: Rev David McBeth
Email: allsaintscloney@btinternet.com
Facebook: All Saints Clooney



Curate-Assistant:
Rev Andrea Cotter



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



Platinum Jubilee

His Grace, the Duke of Abercorn K.G. planted a tree on behalf of the Parish in the grounds of Baronscourt Estate on Saturday June 4th at 2pm. The Rector led a short act of worship and refreshments were served afterwards. On Sunday June 5th the Parish celebrated the Jubilee with a special united Service at Baronscourt Parish Church using the Liturgy produced by the Church of Ireland Liturgical Advisory Committee in honour of Her Majesty's 70 years as our monarch.

Thank You!

Thank you to Mrs. Gretta Glass for kindly donating 50 copies of the beautiful full colour booklet produced to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. This was a most generous gesture and will enable parishioners to enjoy this beautiful souvenir of this unique event in history. Baronscourt Select Vestry have also purchased 50 copies for the Baronscourt Parishioners.

Confirmation

We welcomed Bishop Andrew back to the Parish for Confirmation on Sunday June

19th at Upper Badoney Church. Eight young people were confirmed at that service. They are:

Dean Campbell (Upper Badoney)
Ella Hayes (Upper Badoney)
Leah Campbell (Upper Badoney)
Kerry McConnell (Lower Badoney)
Alex Warnock (Upper Badoney)
John Allerton (Baronscourt)
Evan Warnock (Upper Badoney)
Jillian Liggett (Ardstraw)

Sympathy

We send our condolences to the families of the following parishioners who died recently.

Mrs. Jeannie Mills
Mr. John McCrea
Mr. Ivor Scanlon
Mr. Ivor Barry
Mrs. Evelyn Pinkerton
Mrs Kathleen McCarron
Mrs. Eileen Brady
Mrs. Matilda McCrea
Mrs. May McConnell
Mrs. Mildred Scanlon
Mrs. Sylvia Burt

Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.

Holy Baptism

Congratulations to all who have become members of the Body of Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

Robbie McKelvey (Upper Badoney)
on January 30th
Emily Nora Lagan (Lower Badoney)
on January 30th
Iva Jayne Cochrane (Ardstraw)
on February 13th
Alfie Winston Jordan Campbell
(Upper Badoney) on March 27th
Elias William Hetherington
(Baronscourt) on March 27th
Leo James Curran (Ardstraw) on April 10th
Arthur William Warnock (Upper Badoney)
on April 17th
Emily Kate Robinson (Lower Badoney)
on May 8th
Lillie Scarlet Fleming (Greenan) on May 8th
Robyn Jane McFarland (Lower Badoney)
on May 22nd
Ethan Mills (Baronscourt) on May 22nd

May God grant that these children may grow in the faith in which they were baptised and confess it when they come to be confirmed.

ST. TIDA'S, PARISH OF BALLYSCULLION, BELLAGHY

NSM in Charge: Rev Brian Hassan



As the summer approaches the small parish of Ballyscullion has had a very exciting Spring. We had our first Confirmation Service since December 2018 - my first in charge of the parish - as three teenagers, Anna, Hannah & Matthew were Confirmed by Bishop Andrew. Our new electronic projection equipment received an episcopal blessing too. It was wonderful to once again have some social time in the church hall after the service, our first tea since Covid.

Six days later we had our first Marriage Service since the easing of restrictions and after a few glitches with Wedding cars and a PowerPoint failure (okay I confess an external hard drive wipe out by this minister) the service got underway.

Congratulations to Dean & Louise Mulholland and thank you for a wonderful day. One day later our newly confirmed received their first Holy Communion with their families.

On a personal note my journey to Stipendiary ministry is nearing its end. After 14 years as a Non Stipendiary minister I have completed my extra year of transition at CITI and now look forward to what God has planned for me in the future. My thanks to the Bishop & Archdeacon Robert Miller who encouraged me to take this step in ministry. I also thank the parish for bearing with me during my absences due to monthly weekend visits to Dublin. I extend my thanks to Canon Dr Maurice Elliott and

the CITI staff for making me very welcome and understanding my own particular situation.

Hopefully this summer you can all get some leisure time, whether that be a foreign holiday, a stay-cation, or just relaxing in your garden. But hopefully you won't abandon church during July and August because God never abandons us. As we relax, instead of doing it with a novel, why not read through the Psalms or even better the Gospels. When having a long cool drink, we can quench our thirst by meditating on Scripture allowing the Holy Spirit to direct our paths. Have a lovely summer and get refreshed in our faith, ready for what this world has to throw at us.

BALTEAGH, CARRICK, TAMLAGHTARD AND AGHANLOO

Rector: Rev Rhys Jones

Facebook: Aghanloo, Balteagh, Caarrick and Tamlaghtard @TamlaghtardCofI



Pentecost has been and gone. The readings appointed for that special time of revelation and celebration have always intrigued me. This year however, one seemingly inauspicious line from Act's chapter 2 has encouraged me, inspired and comforted me in equal measure. Speaking of the disciples huddled in an upper room the scriptures write; *'When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.'* (Acts 2:1) All together. In one place.

Over recent months our four churches have become increasingly active & busy. We have again met in study, in outreach, in walking expeditions and in Jubilee celebration, to name but a few. And in doing so the above words to a despondent and fearful group of disciples continue to form the bedrock of my vision for these four

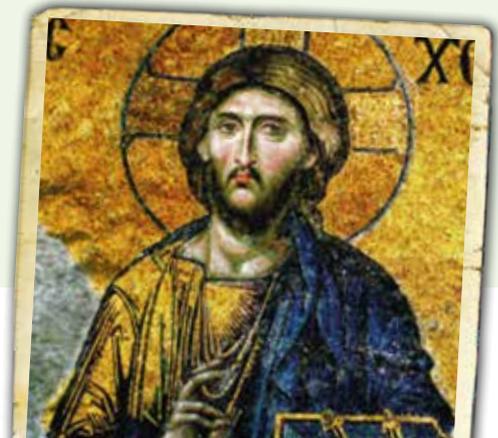
parishes: In calling, in outlook, in mission, and in unified fellowship, we are Christ's Church... his people, 'all together in one place.' In his name I pray we continue to be encouraged to grow together, and to strive together to achieve many things for Christ's increase and glory; for the Father 'will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you. (John 14:15-17)

Bible study

Our recent Bible study focused on the message hidden within plain sight in Christian art. Our time together has been revelatory for us all and I look forward to Bible Study's return in the autumn.

Rathlin

46 adults and children, parishioners and friends of the parish alike, took the ferry from Ballycastle to enjoy a day's exploration and fellowship on Rathlin Island. It was another opportunity for each of us as God's Church to gather 'all together in one place' and to be Church unto one another. Upon arrival a short service of praise was held in St Thomas' Church of Ireland Parish Church courtesy of the Rector Rev Patrick Barton.





Jubilee

Fantastic crowds gathered at the Rectory to acknowledge and celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Entertainment was provided by Limavady Big Band, Castledawson Flute Band, the PSNI Dog Team, and many others. The Lord Lt for the County paid tribute to Her Majesty's resolute life-long trust and faith in the gospels, and her steadfastness of service and dedication to her people. As July and August beckon may each of us recognise and draw strength from the unity of being God's people all together in one place; and may the Holy Spirit continue to abide in us all. Services in all four parishes continue throughout July & August at their designated times. Wherever you might go do please enjoy the summer months. God bless you and stay safe. Rev Rhys.



CAMUS-JUXTA-BANN (MACOSQUIN)

Rector: Rev Paul Lyons

www.camus-juxta-bann.org

Facebook: [St Mary's Church @camusjuxtabannconnections](https://www.facebook.com/camusjuxtabannconnections)



It has been a joy celebrating St Mary's Parish Church 400th anniversary this year. The latest anniversary event, in May was the Macosquin 400 Jubilee Fete in The Rectory gardens. It was a marvellous day for the church and village with hundreds attending. Below are some quotes from people who attended:

'Such a lovely atmosphere.'

'Everyone in my family has enjoyed themselves.'

'It's great to see people in the village pulling together.'

'We've never seen anything like this before!'

'This is exactly what Macosquin needed.'

'My hands are sore cooking burgers. I thought the queue for the BBQ was never going end!'

I would like to thank the organising team, all those who worked hard on the day of the fete and the people and businesses who kindly made donations and supported the fete. It will live long in our memories. We are also welcoming back past rectors to preach this

year. In their sermon I've asked them to answer two questions, 'What does Macosquin Parish mean to me?' and, 'What did I see God doing?' It was a pleasure to welcome back Rev John Cunningham (March) and Rev Peter Wilson (May) and insightful to hear their answers to these questions. We look forward to Rev Nick Blair (who grew up in Macosquin Parish) in August and Canon Mike Roemmele in October.

On Sunday 11th September at 10.30am we welcome back Bishop Andrew who will preach at a Service of Thanksgiving.

It has been encouraging to see many familiar faces and some new people regularly attending Sunday worship. The normal worship pattern has resumed on Sundays, 9am & 10.30am followed by coffee in the Minor Hall. The KFC 'Kids For Christ' ministry will continue over the summer months. The young people join the adults in church for 15 minutes and leave for their own ministry after the kids song. The only

exception is the All Age Family Celebration, on the 3rd Sunday in the month, when the young people stay in church for the whole service and participate in the worship. This service is always a lively and joyful time of worship!

Each Wednesday at 10am we meet to celebrate Holy Communion with prayer for healing followed by tea & toast. We've all missed being together over the past two years and to help the church family reconnect a day trip to Londonderry has been arranged for Saturday 20th August. The cost and further details will be announced in church. During the trip there will be activities for all generations - young people, parents and seniors. Please put the date in your diary and plan to attend!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.'
1 Chronicles 16v34



CAMUS-JUXTA-MOURNE (STRABANE)

Rector: Rev John White

Facebook: Christ Church, Strabane @ChristChurchStrabane

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



CAPPAGH & LISLIMNAGHAN

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

Tel: 028 8224 2572

Facebook: Cappagh Parish Church @CappaghParishChurch

I enjoy reading biographies and one story that has always fascinated me is that of George Mueller (1805-1898). As a young man George moved to England where he became an evangelist and was one of the founders of the Plymouth Brethren movement, but he is best remembered for his work with orphans. He was the founder and director of Ashley Down Orphanage in Bristol, and records show that he cared for 10,024 orphans during his lifetime.

George Mueller was a man of prayer. He prayed about everything and expected each prayer to be answered, and the success of his life and ministry was the result of his complete trust and reliance upon God. Each day he took time to read God's Word, and time after time he proved the faithfulness of God by claiming those promises he read for himself. Regularly he saw his prayers being answered, often instantaneously and in the most extraordinary way. This great prayer

warrior tells us how we should read the Bible in order to get the most out of it.

1. Read the Scriptures regularly through. Read, alternately, portions from the Old and New Testaments. Begin at the beginning of each. Mark where you leave off, and begin there next time. When you have finished each Testament, begin it again.
2. Read with prayer. You cannot by your own wisdom understand the Word of God. In all your reading of the Scriptures, seek carefully the help of the Holy Spirit. Ask for Jesus' sake that He will enlighten you.
3. Read with meditation. Ponder over what you read. The truth is thus applied to your heart. You see new and better meanings. It is better to think over a little than merely to read a great deal.
4. Read with reference to yourself. Never read

only with a view to instructing others, but for your own teaching. Receive blessings yourself first, and you will communicate it to others. Always ask yourself, 'How does this affect me?'.

5. Read with faith. Not as statements which you may believe or not but as the revealed word of God. Receive every word as true, with simple, childlike trust. Rest upon the promises. Read them as made for you.
6. Read in order to carry into practice. We must accept His Word as being the revelation of His will. In it He tells us what to be and what to do. He expects us to be 'obedient children'.

We can pray, believe and receive, or we can pray, doubt, and do without.





CHRIST CHURCH CASTLEDAWSON

Rev Canon Colin Welsh: Rector and Rural Dean

Tel: 028 7946 8235

Email: colin.welsh@talktalk.net

Facebook: Christ Church Castledawson

I love summertime, don't you?
The bright summer evenings;
The warm days;
The (hopefully) drier weather conditions.
Summer outdoor activities;
And of course having a summer break or, if we're fortunate enough, a time away on holiday.

In church life there is a down side to summertime in many parishes, particularly for example in those parishes away from the coast.

During July and August in particular, but increasingly so in June and September as well, regular Sunday church attendance seems to fade away, especially if the weather forecast is looking good for

particular weekend or a given Sunday.

Now please don't think that I'm trying to discourage people from having a holiday or taking a well-earned break from work, or indeed from ministering in the church in whatever role you have. No, what I want to encourage church members to consider is the 'ecclesia', (the assembly or congregation to which you belong). Your 'ecclesia' needs you and our God calls us to worship 'together' whatever the weather.

If you are heading away for a summer vacation, or maybe for you it's a 'staycation', may you have a blessed time of refreshing. Why not look for a church in the local vicinity and take the opportunity to join in worship with that congregation?

As valuable and valued members of our particular congregations, let's encourage one another and as the writer of Hebrews advises;

... let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - all the more as we see the Day approaching.

And, if I may, I'll add a little append; 'even in the summer months'.

Whatever your plans this summer, don't neglect the corporate worship of God and be assured that your 'ecclesia', your church family, needs you.



CASTLEROCK, DUNBOE AND FERMOYLE

Rector: Rev Chris MacBruithin

Facebook: Parish of Castlerock & Dunboe @CastlerockDunboe

Our big news is the flower festival 'Lord, for the Years' which took place from Friday 27th to Sunday 29th May to mark (two years belatedly) the 150th anniversary of the consecration of Christ Church, Castlerock. The Flower Festival was the vision of parishioner Evelyn Conn, who coordinated the whole enterprise. The cream of Northern Ireland floristry, Alan Beatty and James Burnside oversaw the creation of twelve spectacular arrangements, each representing an aspect of the life of the church. As well as the flowers themselves, the cream teas, stalls and entertainment drew crowds.



Bishop Andrew preached at the opening service, and the Archbishop of Armagh, John McDowell, preached at a traditional Sunday service of Morning Prayer. At the closing 'Songs of Praise' night, former rector Rev Diane Matchett, former curate Rev Adam Quigley, and Diocesan Reader-in-training McCall Gilfillan each introduced their favourite hymn, talked about their connection with Christ Church, and shared what they give God thanks for.

A special highlight was the premiere of parishioner Barry Burgess's original composition 'Arise, Lord, into thy dwelling place'. The words were written by Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander for the occasion of the

consecration of Christ Church in 1870, but the music was lost. It was performed for the first time by the Parish Quartet in front of the Primate. Spine-tingling!

Thank you to all who came to support us, and to the army of volunteers who made it such a success. The teamwork was spectacular, and we all had fun doing it. In other news, an Easter Dawn Service took place at sunrise (not that we saw any sun!) at Mussenden Temple. This was the first local ecumenical Easter celebration in a number of years. Over 100 hardy souls of various traditions braved the cliff-top elements at 6.15 am to proclaim 'Christ is

Continued on page 42...

Continued from page 41...

risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!', and there is a real desire to keep this joint event going annually as a joint witness to our Resurrected Lord.

Kids' Club in both Christ Church and St Paul's is gearing up to Children's Day services before schools break up. Confirmation preparation is almost complete, and we are excited to see Faith, Leon, Robyn, Rowan, Scott, Syd, William and Zach take this big next step of faith at Confirmation this June 5th. Special services are being held in both churches to

celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with local Squirrels and Beavers coming to take part. Life & Soul has enjoyed reuniting in recent months, with speakers from the PSNI on scams, Dr Hazel Sibery on keeping healthy, and the Castlerock Community Association. We're taking a break now for the summer, and look forward to a day-trip in the autumn. Pauline from 'Hands that Talk' came to MU to teach us some sign language and tell us about her involvement in the Deaf Choir.

As the summer approaches, it's lovely to see caravanners and holiday-makers return, who

are an important part of parish life, with many worshipping regularly with us over the summer months. CSSM Castlerock Beach Mission returns on Monday 4th July for two weeks, and we are grateful for all they do to share the Good News of Jesus with children, young people and their families.

After all this activity, we are in need of a rest, but let's not take a holiday from worship! Services continue weekly and Christ Church is open daily 9-5 for anyone who wants a quiet space to pray.

CHRIST CHURCH, CULMORE, MUFF AND ST. PETER

Rector: Venerable Robert Miller,
Archdeacon of Derry
E rector@cccmsp.org
H 028 71352396

Website: www.cccmsp.org

Facebook Page: [@cccmsp](https://www.facebook.com/CCCMSPP)

Our Vision: Transforming Community, Radiating Christ.



Rev Canon Katie McAteer, Pastoral Director
E pastoral@cccmsp.org
M 07813 885145



Mrs Angela Dobbins
Parish Administrator
E administrator@cccmsp.org
O 028 71358925

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...**' I hope that you are able to read this edition in comfort and enjoying some good weather. The Summer months can be a time when we are able to recharge our batteries. I know that these last few years with the challenges of COVID19 have been exhausting at times. It has also been difficult to care pastorally for people in the way we would have wished. It is especially important that we continue to pray for, and actively support, one another in our group of parishes.

In mid-June we celebrated a number of young people across our group of parishes who were confirmed in Muff Parish Church. This year we have had the support of the Diocesan Youth Officer, Claire Hinchcliff, who supported Robert, Katie and Linda over two Confirmation Saturdays. Thank you,

Claire and the team! The pizza was great too! Congratulations to our Parish Administrator and Thursday Club Coordinator Angela Dobbins on her election as Deputy Mayor. We are all looking forward to seeing what you will achieve in this key role for our city knowing your passion for serving the whole community: we'll be praying for you.

Some of our parish church buildings will undergo changes in the coming months. Through the generous support of the Honourable the Irish Society we will be replacing the organ in Holy Trinity Culmore. They donated the original organ which has been sadly and irreparably damaged by woodworm. We'll keep you informed but will be planning a celebration event when the woodworm is gone and the new pipe organ has arrived. Christ Church celebrates the completion of the work to its Tower. I want to thank the team who made this go smoothly and who were involved in applying for grants. Christ Church will be opening for private prayer each day in the near

future with details on our Facebook page. If you are interested in helping in this initiative, please let the clergy know.

I'm still waiting for the video files of the Walled City Passion but we will be holding an Unpacking the Passion event at St Peter's Church once the video has been received. It will be a great night with the opportunity to watch the 2022 Passion and then engage with the writer and the Rector. Watch Facebook for details. This will be open to anyone from across the diocese.

June was the celebration month of Queen Elizabeth II and her Platinum Jubilee! 70 years of faithful service. In Christ Church we ended our Sunday service with the full 3 verses of the National Anthem! A first for me! It is amazing to consider that no one who has celebrated this weekend is likely to ever live to see another one!

Yours in Christ, Robert+

CLONDEHORKEY, CASHEL & MEVAGH

Vacant

Burials

11th February 2022. Catherine Wilkin, Magheroarty, Creeslough. Burial: St. John's Church. Ballymore Graveyard.

Our Deepest Sympathy is extended to the Wilkin/Alcorn Families and Friends of Catherine who died on 8th February 2022. Catherine, a Select Vestry Member for many years, worked tirelessly for her church. When fundraising or any events were being organised Catherine will always be remembered, arriving at meetings with her clip board and Biros ready to get everybody into line!

Holy Baptism

Tillie Olivia, daughter of Samantha and

Mike Knowles was baptized in St. Columba's Church, Cashel on Sunday, 10th April 2022. We welcome Tillie into the fellowship of Christ's Church.

Confirmation

Classes are ongoing with seven candidates being prepared for Confirmation by Rev. David Skuce. Confirmation Service with Bishop Andrew will take place in St. John's Church, Ballymore on Sunday, 2nd October, 2022 at 10.30.am

Fundraising

July Garden Fete will take place on Saturday, 9th in the Rectory Grounds at 3pm. Further events are being planned...

with dates and information to be confirmed. We would encourage all parishioners to support us in any way they can.

Vacancy

During the Vacancy we would like to thank the Lay Readers and Canon George Irwin for providing Sunday Cover, also Rev David Skuce for his Pastoral Care in the Parish Mevagh Parish - Holy Trinity Church, Mevagh will be holding a coffee morning in the Hay Hall on Wednesday 13th July @ 11.00am

CLONDEVADDOCK, ROSSNAKILL, PORTSALON & LEATBEG

Vacant

Rural Dean: Rev David Skuce

CONVOY, MONELLAN & DONAGHMORE

Vacant, Rural Dean: Rev Canon David Crooks

Tel: 074 914 0135 Mob: 00447871974658

Email: dwtcrooks5@gmail.com

Mr John Kilpatrick died on 8th March, and was buried in Convoy Churchyard. All who knew him spoke highly of him, and he will be missed. We offer our condolences to his relatives and friends.

Mrs Lydia Nesbitt of Donaghmore Parish, died on 7th April. Over many years, she co-ordinated the annual poppy selling in the parishes of Raphoe Diocese. Canon Bobby

Hannah participated in her Funeral Service at St Ninian's Church. Our deepest condolences are extended to her daughter, Pearl and to Winston, and her son Darren and her son-in-law Austin.

Pat Oliver died on 18th May. His Funeral Service was conducted by Rev David Skuce. We sympathise with his wife Evelyn, with his son Paul and with the whole circle of family and friends.

Doreen Browne died on Sunday evening 29th May at Brindley Manor in Convoy. She had been resident there for some months. We extend our very deepest sympathies to her husband Albert, to her daughter Sharon and to her wider family circle.

The Bishop, the Rt Rev'd Andrew Forster confirmed ten people on Friday 10th

Continued on page 44...

Continued from page 43...

June in St Ninian's Church, Convoy. They are Mackenzie Bates, Travis Brown, James McDonnell, Lucy McNulty and Bethany Melaugh from Convoy, John Jay McGlinchey and Ellen Moss from Donaghmore, and Anna Bates, Robbie Bates and Leah Kee McElwaine from Monellan. We pray for these young people and their families, that they will remain faithful and active members of the Church.

Congratulations and best wishes to Paul Guthrie and Janine Harron who will be

married in Donaghmore Church on 1st July. The recent barbeque raised €1300, and the Car Boot Sale was also a success - many thanks to all the organisers.

The Bishop has appointed the Rev'd Canon David Ferry to take care of Convoy, Monellan and Donaghmore during the vacancy. Canon Ferry will conduct Sunday services, and do two days work in the parish every week, and perform all pastoral duties. This is wonderful news, as Canon Ferry will give strong leadership coupled with sensitive pastoral care and devout conduct

of worship. Canon Ferry, now retired, held several incumbencies in Derry Diocese, and was most recently, Chaplain at Altnagelvin Hospital. He is a man of considerable experience and ability.

On behalf of us all, I wish to thank the Rev'd Arthur and Mrs Norma Burns for all their conduct of worship and pastoral care since the vacancy. They and all who have been helping, are deeply appreciated. We wish Rev Arthur Burns a speedy recovery from his recent illness.

CONWAL UNION WITH GARTAN

Rector: Rev David Houlton

Facebook: The Parish of Conwal Union @ConwalParish



Associate Priest:

Rev Heather Houlton



On 5th June 2022 the service to celebrate the feast day of our local Saint Columba was held in Gartan, Co Donegal, his birth place, after a gap of three years

CUMBER UPPER, CUMBER LOWER, BANAGHER AND LEARMOUNT

Rector: Rev David Slater

Tel: 028 7133 8214

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



DERG & TERMONAMONGAN

Rector: Rev Peter Ferguson

Tel: 028 8167 1362

Facebook: Derg Parish Church. Termonamongan Parish



Deacon Intern:
Rev Claire Henderson



On Thursday 2nd June our Parish Group family gathered at Baronscourt Estate for a Platinum Parish Picnic. We are so thankful for the welcome we have received by Baronscourt Estate. Families brought BYO picnics and drinks to enjoy with a Jubilee celebration cake and Jubilee celebration cupcakes made by Rev Claire Henderson. We enjoyed a fancy dress parade, live music, garden games and Jubilee Olympics and a Jubilee walk around Lough Catherine. On the walk fun facts about Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II were displayed. The Lislaird Highland Dancers also performed for us.

On Friday 3rd June we held a special service of Thanksgiving for Her Majesty Queen

Elizabeth II at 11am in Derg Parish Church. The celebrations and thanksgiving continued at all our services on Sunday 5th June, on Pentecost Sunday. We are using the Service of the Word provided by our church and have organised to have it professionally printed as a keepsake of this remarkable occasion. Our children in Sunday School had been busy preparing artwork and bunting which decorated our churches. Our Diocesan Youth Officer Claire Hinchliff was our guest speaker.

As the Summer approaches, Derg Valley Youth look forward to a Schools Out BBQ & Games Night at Castledearg High School, joining Summer Madness with DRY and also another Youth Adventure Week in August.

We are excited and enthused by progress through our Bright and Beautiful Campaign to restore St Bestius. The full exterior restoration will be complete over the summer and we look forward to pushing on with the interior work as funds allow. In Derg Parish we have launched a monthly pledge campaign to start 'building up the pot' with the long-term vision to replace our Youth Hall with a modern and flexible Parish Centre fit for future parish and community needs. God is good and is at work in us and through us. Reaching Up; Reaching In; Reaching Out: for God, for one another, for the community.

DESERTMARTIN AND TERMONEENY

Rector - Revd Philip Benson

Tel. 028 79632455



We are now fast approaching the summer months, and hopefully, we will all be able to enjoy the sunny weather and the odd BBQ or two. Thankfully, the situation around Covid continues to improve, and we are praying that we will be able to resume much more of our parish life with most of the restrictions now lifted.

On Friday 17th June, at 7.30pm, we hosted a Royal talk by the Rev Canon Derek Kerr in the Parish Hall on Dromore Road. Canon

Derek is a well-known royal enthusiast and is always a very entertaining and humorous speaker.

On Sunday 19th June, at 11.30am, we held a united open-air service and picnic in the Rectory Gardens.

With great excitement, we announce the return of the 35th Desertmartin Parish Vintage Rally on Saturday 20th August, starting at 12.00 noon, in the Rectory

Gardens, with the proceeds in aid of parish funds. Of course, there will be the vintage cars, tractors, and machinery, as well as the mobile farm, ice cream van, bouncy castles, children's fancy dress, car boot sale, tombola, burger stand, and tea tent.

So come along and please share the event with your family, friends, and neighbours. We would love to make it a great occasion with the vintage rally returning after an absence of two years!

DONAGHEADY

Vacant

Rev Canon Paul Whittaker (Rural Dean)

Tel. 07770691560

E.mail. stjamesdonagheady@gmail.com



The Parish of Donagheady (Donemana) is to get a new incumbent later this year. Rev Capt Richard Beadle has been appointed to succeed Rev Dr Robin Stockitt, who retired almost a year ago.

The news was shared with worshippers at St James Church in Donemana and parishioners in the Manorhamilton Group of Parishes, in the Diocese of Kilmore, which Rev Beadle has been overseeing as Bishop's Curate since his ordination in September 2017.

Rev Beadle has been an active Church Army Officer since 1998 and before being commissioned had worked in the Employment Service in the UK. His work as a Church Army evangelist took him to parishes in Nelson, East Lancashire; St. Matthew's on Belfast's Woodvale Road; and the rural Swanlinbar-

Kildallon Group of Parishes in the Diocese of Kilmore. "I am excited that my family and I will be coming to Donemana," Rev Beadle says. "Exploring Donemana with the nominators has been a privilege and blessing, and we have clearly sensed God's hand. We pray God will use our gifts fully to make a lasting contribution as we seek to share the wonderful news of Christ. We greatly look forward to getting to know our new parish and diocese."

Moments such as this can be bitter-sweet for clergy. "After 14 years," Richard says, "leaving Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh Diocese is not easy, yet we are enormously grateful for our time and friends there."

Richard, and his wife Pauline, will now be making preparations for their move to the Church of Ireland's northernmost diocese. Pauline is a

midwife by profession. She loves cooking and her happy place could be any kitchen. The couple have three children: Ruth, who is at Lancaster University, and twins Alicia and Asher who are studying for A-levels in England.

When time allows, Rev Richard indulges his passions for tennis and nature photography - he was interviewed on BBC Radio Ulster recently about the plight of the curlew - and he describes himself as "a rare Crystal Palace fan".

The Service of Institution will take place on Tuesday 6th September at 7.30pm. We offer Richard and Pauline, and their family, a warm welcome to the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe and look forward to seeing them in person in the near future, God willing.

DONEGAL, KILLYMARD, LOUGH ESKE & LAGHEY

Rector: Venerable David Huss, Archdeacon of Raphoe

Tel: 074 9721075

Email: donegal@raphoe.anglican.org

www.donegal.raphoe.anglican.org

Facebook: @DonegalGroupofParishes



Parish Life

It has been good to see our Sunday Schools and Family Services returning to action, saying goodbye to barriers and social distancing. A particular joy has been to see more and more beautiful unmasked faces, and to lift our voices in praise once again. Let's continue to remember those who have been affected the most by the pandemic.

Glebe National School

Our Principal, Mrs Heather Harron, retires at the end of term and we wish her all the very best for a long and happy retirement. Mrs Harron has been a superb principal over many years, working with at least 4 Board of Management Chairpersons. Her cheerful and caring presence around the school has made an impact on so many young

lives. We are delighted to have confirmed the appointment of Ms Alison Pasquier as Principal from September 2022. Ms Pasquier is currently Deputy Principal, so is no stranger to the school! We wish her well as she takes up the mantle of leading the school.

Local Churches

It was good to join with the Methodist and Roman Catholic congregations and clergy for our Easter Dawn Service (also covered on TG4 television news). We look forward to welcoming the Revd John Montgomery and family back to Donegal Town as Methodist Minister, and we wish the Revd Janet Rossall and Michael every blessing as they move to England.

Please continue to follow our Facebook,

Instagram and YouTube channels for the latest news and announcements. You can also subscribe to our weekly Parish Update - just ring or email the rector. Don't forget we also have a church service on the phone, updated weekly. Ring 074 9710199 at any time of day, from any type of phone, to listen.

Baptisms

Polly Mary Love, 8th May, Donegal
Darcie Irene Ann Boyle, 29th May, Killymard.

Marriage

Hayley Given & Gary Scott, 21st May, Donegal.

Funerals

David Wilson, 9th March, Laghey.



DRUMACHOSE, LIMA VADY

Rector - The Reverend Canon Aonghus Mayes

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

30th January '22 - Maisie Linda Claire Nicholl, daughter of Gareth and Laura

6th March '22 - Ivy Raine Logan, daughter of Simon and Hayleigh

6th March '22 - Miley Grace Ritchie, daughter of Adam and Demi

12th March '22 - Alex Christopher McGonigle, son of Christopher and Louise

13th March '22 - Robbie John Miller, son of Jonathan and Laura

13th March '22 - Trevor Anthony Mullan, son of Andrew and Michaela

31st March '22 - Albie Jonathan Scott O'Neill, son of Stefan and Jane

3rd April '22 - Tobias James Bernard McCullough, son of Andrew and Amy

9th April '22 - Reuben Forrest, son of Tom and Shannon

9th April '22 - Harlow Nikola Thompson, daughter of Andrew and Kenzie

9th April '22 - Archie Gavin Quigley, son of Gavin and Ashley

1st May '22 - Luca Jack Brian McIlmoyle, son of Brian and Tammie

*Will you help your child to be regular in public worship and in private prayer, by your teaching, by your example and by your prayers for them? **WE WILL***

Holy Matrimony

21st May '22 - Glen McDaid and Stephanie Laughlin

Except the Lord builds the house, their labour is but lost that build it. Psalm 127

Christian Burial

9th February '22 - Nora Calder, Rose Park, Limavady

9th February '22 - Gerald (Gerry) McClelland, Limavady

11th February '22 - Barry Elder, Rose Park, Limavady

12th February '22 - William (Willy) Nutt, Clooney Road, Ballykelly

25th February '22 - Winnie Dolan, Edenvale Care Home, Limavady

13th April '22 - Annie Galt, Castle Park, Limavady

21st April '22 - John Nutt, Dunbrock Road, Limavady

30th April '22 - Iris Callaghan, formerly Roeview Park, Limavady

19th May '22 - Freda Topping, Mountfield Road, Claudy

28th May '22 - Patricia Montgomery, Dingwall

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; even so, says the Spirit; for they rest from their labours.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

As well as a good old fashioned afternoon tea organized by the Mothers' Union and special service on the Jubilee weekend itself, our commemorations will continue in September when we will be hosting the Londonderry County Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday 4th September.

Crisis in Ukraine

We all continue to be shocked by the devastating images coming from Ukraine in the aftermath of the Russian invasion. Since the last publication, in addition to a collection for the Bishops' Appeal, we held a quiz

night to raise funds for the humanitarian response as we continue to remember the people of Ukraine and national leaders in our prayers. £5,000 was raised, so thank you to all those who contributed so generously.

Confirmation

Congratulations to the 30 candidates who were confirmed on Sunday 5th June and received Holy Communion the following week. Classes for next year's group will begin on Sunday 25th September at 10am in the Parish Hall.

Sunday School

Our annual prize giving took place on Sunday 19th June. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to our Sunday School teachers for all of their hard work and commitment particularly during the difficult transition out of Covid regulations. Sunday School will restart on 11th September, but in a revamped format. From September, Junior and Senior Sunday Schools will resume a weekly programme when everyone (Junior & Senior) will come to church first for 11am and then go out to the hall during the service. Communion Sunday will be slightly different in that Sunday School will start over in the hall and then come across to join parents in church for the prayer of consecration. More details, and more importantly a reminder, will be given later in the summer.

Bowls

The Bowling Club will resume on Monday and Thursday evenings from 5th September in the Parish Hall (7.30pm to 9.30pm.) New members are always very welcome or even if you just want to come along some evening to have a go there are spare bowls available. You will be more than welcome.

DRUMCLAMPH & CLARE, LANGFIELD UPPER & LOWER

Rector: Rev Robert G. Keogh

Tel: 028 8167 1433

Email: rgkeogh@utvinternet.com

<http://www.drumclamph.derry.anglican.org>

Facebook: Drumclamph ClareandLangfield



Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations: we held a service at 3:00 pm in Lower Langfield church on Sunday 5th June followed by afternoon tea in the church hall. Two jubilee roses and a tree were planted in the church grounds to mark the occasion. The Queen as head of State of the UK and the commonwealth has made a massive contribution to well-being. She has promoted the values of an open society and democracy worldwide. She has been a great role model for the Christian faith. We had an enjoyable weekend of celebrations. The first disciples didn't know how things were going to work out. Their master had returned to heaven. They were left to do the work but they

didn't think they could. Then....Pentecost! A unique and overwhelming release of the spirit, of life, and of the power of God. Those disciples were never the same again. They took off. They did things they never thought they could do. They saw lives changed that they never thought could change. God was in their midst...unmistakably, mightily and these disciples would never be the same. In fact the world would never be the same again.

This same Holy Spirit is in the Church today and in the life of every Christian. We need to be filled with the Spirit. St Paul says, "Do not get drunk with wine.....but be filled with the Spirit." Ephesians 5:18

I pray that we will make it a priority to seek to be more open to the work, ministry and fullness of the Holy Spirit so that we become more like the One we profess to follow and make an impact on and in the world He loves.

May I encourage all of you, even though Sunday School has ended for your children, not to completely forget about church. We all need spiritual refreshment each week and it is a good discipline not to neglect God's house. If you are away on holiday make it a practice to attend the local church and to hear a fresh voice speaking to you about God. He can speak to you in any place at any time.

DRUMHOLM, KILBARRON & ROSSNOWLAGH

Rev Canon Brian Russell: Rector and Rural Dean

Tel. 0749734025

Email: brianrussell117@gmail.com



St. Anne's Hall, Ballyshannon

Thursday 5th May saw the official reopening of the St. Anne's Hall after extensive renovation. A wonderful conclusion to years of planning and fundraising to ensure those who enter the premises now enjoy security and comfort. All during covid times the paramedics from the area ambulance service had it to themselves for training purposes. The Parents and Confirmation Candidates have

taken their confirmation instruction there. The ladies of the zumba, fitness through dance, classes are exhausted but keep coming back for more. Our newest Community Employment Project worker, Elizabeth Anderson, is brimming with ideas as to how the hall can be used in the service of church and local community.

General Easter Vestries

Matters of interest include Kathleen Deane becoming People's Churchwarden at St. John's Church, Rosstown. Lynn Dinsmore became a member of the community employment project's Board of Directors representing Drumholm. New Select Vestry

members are Karen Doherty, Georgina Boyd, Caroline Brennan and Teresa Lucas for St. Anne's, and Daphne Elliott for St. John's.

Momentum is gaining pace for a fundraiser for Christian Aid in June; the Rectory Plant Sale and another Good as New clothes sale at St. Anne's; an after Church meal at Drumholm and Hospice tea/coffee day and catering for the mini twelfth demonstration at Rosstown in July, and Sponsored Walk around Ballintra in August.

Disability Access Ramp

The Select Vestry at Rosstown has agreed a Builder and Estimate to erect the ramp that has Diocesan and Planning Authority approval at a cost of some € 20,000. This will make it easier for all to join us for Sunday



worship in St. John's Parish Church. Before this work commences it has been agreed to clean the whole exterior of the church. In the near future the appearance of this house of God will look different but nonetheless picturesque. Thank you to all friends who are helping this to take place.

Confirmation 2022

On Sunday 28th August Bishop Andrew will confirm the three children of Michael and

Ruth Murphy (nee Laird) in St. Anne's Church, Ballyshannon back on holiday from Germany where the family has been resident. After which on Sunday 18th September Bishop Andrew has also consented to confirm sixteen young people in St. Anne's Church and we expect there shall be a full house with family members and friends showing support.

Country Gospel Concert.

The guest artists; Leslie Matthews, Lorraine

McCauley and the Pupils of the Kilbarron National School made for a lovely evening of praise to God through music and song enjoyed by a huge audience. Early reports of the concert which took place on Sunday past 22nd May are that well over € 3,000 has been raised for St. Anne's Church Funds as a result. Many thanks to Jim and Irene Kerr for their organising the event and to all the ladies who provided a lovely supper.

DRUMRAGH & MOUNTFIELD

Rector: Revd Graham Hare

Tel: 02882 160178 Mob: 07793032766

Email: grahamhare@hotmail.co.uk

www.drumragh.derry.anglican.org

Facebook: St Columba's Church Omagh @stcolumbsomagh



The season of Sports Day is upon us once again! Across the land young children are hopping and running and jumping. Excited parents cheer them on from the sidelines, and sometimes even get involved in the races themselves!

As Christians, those of us who love Jesus are called to run the race with perseverance, not to win the race with a quick dash. The race of faith is one which requires determination, good training and plenty of encouragement. This summer, take time to train yourself by reading and studying, by attending a Christian conference or by taking time to pray. Remember too to cheer someone else on. Offer a word of encouragement, send the text, write the card or take them out for a coffee. In 1 Thessalonians 5, Paul instructs us to encourage one another - let's do that! In Christ, Graham.

New curate

Our new Curate, Rev Alexander Chisnall will be joining us in early September. Alexander has been married to Hannah for almost a year and together they are

looking forward to serving the Lord in Omagh. Originally from Crincken Parish in South Dublin, Alexander has spent the last three years at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, serving his Deacon Intern year in Wicklow. He is passionate about seeing people growing in faith and will bring his gifts of teaching and preaching, along with comprehensive experience of working across many aspects of church life.

Alexander and Hannah are looking forward to settling in once they arrive and I have assured them that they will be loved, encouraged and prayerfully supported by the parishioners of Drumragh and Mountfield. Pray for them both regularly as they prepare to move and take up new responsibilities, asking that God would grant them peace, strength and courage to serve him faithfully.

Jubilee celebrations

Everyone from our Jelly tots group to our Evergreen senior citizens club had the opportunity to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen. On Sunday 5th June almost 300 people

gathered for a special service of Thanksgiving followed by a BBQ and family fun. Thanks to everyone who joined in with the celebrations and made them possible.

Sunday School

It has been an enormous encouragement to see our Sunday School growing in St Columba's. On Sunday 19th June we had our special Celebration Service with an ice-cream van on hand to ensure that everyone got a treat! Sunday school will resume in September after the summer break, but please remember that everyone is welcome in church every Sunday.

Confirmation

On Sunday 19th June Bishop Andrew was with us to confirm 14 young people.



DUNFANAGHY, RAYMUNTERDONEY & TULLAGHOBEGLEY



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

Parish Register

Holy Trinity Parish Church, Dunfanaghy

Holy Baptism

12th March, 2022: Callum Kenneth Alcorn
3rd April, 2022: Ronan Andrew Eirain Oraghallaigh
6th May, 2022: Annabelle Kate Alcorn

Holy Matrimony

29th May, 2022: Sara Nairn and Dominic McGlinchey

We are all delighted to welcome Callum, Ronan and Annabelle into the fellowship

on Christ's Church and to wish Dominic McGlinchey and Sara Nairn well, on their future life together.

It is great to see the restrictions easing and life getting back to some sort of normality. However, we need to continue to be vigilant as we can still have Covid flareups in our community.

After two years without our August Fair, we have decided that this year we would hold an auction and various stalls in the grounds of the Church, Hall, Rectory and School. We are

very grateful to the Principal and Board of Management for allowing us the use of the school grounds. The event will be held on Bank Holiday Monday 1st August. We hope that you will be able to come along.

**On Monday 1st August 2022
From 12.00 noon - 4.00pm
You are invited to attend our**

Fun Day - Auction and Craft Fair

**In the grounds of Holy Trinity
Parish Church, Hall, School,
and Rectory, Dunfanaghy.**

DUNGIVEN & BOVEVAGH

Rector: Rev Mark Loney

Tel: 028 7774 1226

Mob: 07720 321 283

Email: rev.loney@btopenworld.com

www.dungivenbovevaghparishes.com

Facebook: Dungiven Church of Ireland



'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

Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Nothing is achieved for the kingdom without prayer. Leonard Ravenhill, author and evangelist of the last century, had a big focus on prayer and revival. He wrote a book called "Why Revival Tarries". In it he talks about the lack of prayer in the church...

No man is greater than his prayer life. The pastor who is not praying is playing; the people who are not praying are straying. The pulpit can be a shop window to display one's talents; the prayer closet allows no showing off. Poverty-stricken as the Church is today in many things, she is most stricken here, in the place of prayer. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few prayers; ... many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters.

Failing here, we fail everywhere.

Apparently the composer Beethoven in discovering that he was losing his hearing and knowing that soon he would never be able to listen to the music he composed, prayed this prayer: "O God, give me the strength to conquer myself."

Praying puts God at the heart of our lives and shifts the anxieties, and fears to the edge. All of us know how hard that can be. Jesus knew it. In Gethsemane he prayed, "My soul is sorrowful, even to death." So, at Caesarea Philippi, knowing that soon he would set out to Jerusalem, surely his mind must have been filled with all of the fears, anxieties, and worries you can imagine. When he prayed his face was changed, as the courage and convictions that had been with him all his life took hold.

"I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him against that day." (2 Timothy 1:12) **That's prayer.**

"Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me. Your rod and your staff they comfort me." (Psalm 23:4) **That's prayer.**

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in the time of trouble. Therefore we will not fear." (Psalm 46:1-2) **That's prayer.**

There is no complicated plan for prayer, no great formula, no fancy language. We are already hardwired for fellowship and wanting to be known. Prayer is our chance to connect with the God who made us, sustains us and loved us enough to sacrifice His own Son to restore broken fellowship and bring perfect peace.



EDENDERRY & CLANABOGAN

Rev Canon Robert Clarke: Rector and Rural Dean

Tel: 028 82245525

Email: rw.clarke@btinternet.com

Facebook: Edenderry Union of Parishes

"There is no situation so chaotic that God cannot, from that situation, create something that is surpassingly good. He did it at the Creation. He did it at the Cross. He is doing it today." Handley C G Moule

Psalm 23

*The Lord is my Shepherd... THAT'S RELATIONSHIP!
I shall not want...THAT'S SUPPLY!
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures...THAT'S REST!
He leadeth me beside still waters...THAT'S REFRESHMENT!
He restoreth my soul...THAT'S HEALING!
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness...THAT'S GUIDANCE!
For His name's sake...THAT'S PURPOSE!
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...
THAT'S CHALLENGE!
I will fear no evil...THAT'S ASSURANCE!
For thou art with me...THAT'S FAITHFULNESS!
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me...THAT'S SHELTER!
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies...
THAT'S HOPE!
Thou anointest my head with oil...THAT'S CONSECRATION!
My cup runneth over...THAT'S ABUNDANCE!
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life...
THAT'S BLESSING!
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord...THAT'S SECURITY!
Forever...THAT'S ETERNITY!
Amen (So be it).*

Be Prepared

A clergyman waited in a queue to have his car filled with fuel just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him in front of the service station. Finally, the attendant motioned him towards a vacant pump. "Reverend," said the young man, "Sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The clergyman chuckled, "I know what you mean precisely. It's the same in my business."

Between tomorrow's dream and yesterday's regret is today's opportunity. (Unknown.)

Trust

The will of God will never take you,
Where the grace of God cannot keep you,
Where the arms of God cannot support you,
Where the riches of God cannot supply your needs,
Where the power of God cannot endow you.

The will of God will never take you,
Where the Spirit of God cannot work through you,
Where the wisdom of God cannot teach you,
Where the army of God cannot protect you,
Where the hands of God cannot mould you.

The will of God will never take you,
Where the love of God cannot enfold you,
Where the mercies of God cannot sustain you,
Where the peace of God cannot calm your fears,
Where the authority of God cannot overrule for you.

The will of God will never take you,
Where the comfort of God cannot dry your tears,
Where the Word of God cannot feed you,
Where the miracles of God cannot be done for you,
Where the omnipresence of God cannot find you.

Everything happens for a purpose.

We may not see the wisdom of it all now,
But trust and believe in the Lord
That everything is for the best.

Author unknown

ERRIGAL & DESERTOGHILL (GARVAGH)

Rector: Rev Carmen Hayes

Tel: 028 2955 8226

Facebook: St. Pauls Church of Ireland, Garvagh



A Special Occasion

In these post pandemic days, everyone it would seem has a special occasion or two needing to be celebrated. People are making up I suppose for the last two-and-a-bit years when nothing celebratory or otherwise was able to happen.

But I wonder will they actually use or wear any of the stuff that they have left up and marked, 'for a special occasion!?' You know the sort of things, for we've all got them. Well, I know I had until I read this newspaper article a few years ago.

The author wrote: "My brother-in-law opened the bottom drawer of my sister's bureau and lifted out a tissue-wrapped package. "This" he said, "is not a slip, this is lingerie." He discarded the tissue and handed me the slip. It was exquisite, silk, handmade made, and trimmed with a cobweb lace.

The price tag with an astronomical figure on it was still attached. "Jan bought this the first time we got to visit New York, 8 or 9 years ago. She never wore it. She was saving it for a special occasion. Well, I guess this is the occasion." He took the slip from me and put it on the bed with the other clothes we were taking to the undertaker. His hands lingered on the soft material for a moment, then he slammed the drawer shut and turned to me.

"Don't ever save anything for a special occasion. Every day you're alive is a special occasion."

I remembered those words through the funeral and the days that followed when I helped him, and my niece attend to all the sad chores that follow an unexpected death. I thought about them as I flew home, from the town where my sister's family lives. I thought about all the things she hadn't seen, or heard, or done. I thought about all the things she had done, without realising that they were special.

I'm still thinking about his words, and they've changed my life. I'm reading more and dusting less. I'm spending more time with my family and friends and less time at committee meetings. I wear my good coat to the market if I feel like it. I'm not saving my good perfume for special parties; folks who work in the shops and banks have noses that function as well as my party going friends.

"Someday" and "One of these days" are losing grip on my vocabulary. If it's worth seeing, or hearing or doing, I want to see, and hear, and do it now. I'm not sure what my sister would've done if she had known that she wouldn't be here for the tomorrow we all take for granted.

But I know, it's the little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew that my hours were limited. Angry because I put off seeing good

friends. Angry because I hadn't written that letter or card I'd intended to write. And angry and sorry that I didn't tell my loved ones often enough how much I truly cared.

So, I'm trying very hard not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and lustre to our lives. And every morning when I open my eyes, I tell myself that this day is special. Every day, every minute, every breath truly is... a gift from God!"

Friends, this author reminds us, life is a precious gift from God, and He wants us to get the most out of it. Jesus came to give us life "to the full!" So contrary to what some people believe, God wants us to have fun, and to live well. Of course, this does not mean that we should party all the time or live our lives selfishly. Ultimate joy comes from serving God and serving others - from doing what we were created to do. So, what are we waiting for, there's a special occasion out there, simply waiting to be celebrated!



FAUGHANVALE

Rector: Rev Canon Paul Hoey

Tel: 028 7181 2462

Mob: 00447712873322

Email: dphoey@btinternet.com

www.faughanvale.derry.anglican.org

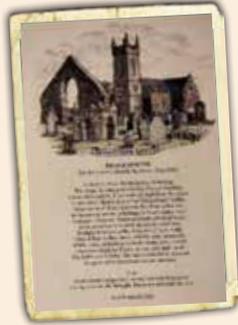
Facebook: [@StCaniceParishChurch](https://www.facebook.com/StCaniceParishChurch)

It happens before we realize what's occurred. It's unintentional. We just realize we're in a place we'd never intended. We've drifted! And whether our drifting is from the shore in an inflatable dinghy, or from God, it's something that puts us in great danger.

We rarely, if ever, drift towards good things. As someone once said: "Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay." We can understand, then, why the writer of Hebrews is so concerned to warn us that "We must pay careful attention to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For... how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" (2:1-3)

Thankfully, just a few chapters later, the same writer tells us that there is something we can do, if we recognise that we are drifting: "We have hope (in Christ) as the anchor for the soul, firm and secure..." (Heb. 6:19). Jesus is our anchor, the one who alone can stop us perishing on the treacherous rocks of life and keep us rooted in the truth of God amid the

swirling torrent of lies that surrounds us. Lord, help us to cling to Him by faith, and so never to drift from you.



200th Anniversary Poem Cards

A specially commissioned poem has been written for the bicentenary of the present St Canice's church building by Sam Burnside. It was performed at an event when Brian Mitchell gave an overview of the history of the parish (see St Canice's YouTube channel Parish of Faughanvale - A History - YouTube). This beautiful card with a copy of the poem and accompanying artwork by Tim Webster is available for a donation.

Community Barbecue

It is our intention to invite everyone in the local area to celebrate St Canice's anniversary with us at a special event in the Rectory grounds on Friday 18th August (which coincidentally is 5 years, almost to the very day, since the flooding which so impacted our church and community. Listen out for more details.

Jam Children's Ministry

"A church without children is a church without a future". We'll be making a push

to get our children's ministry up and running again by September. To do so we will need to find some extra volunteers and leaders. Please speak to Ruth or the Rector if you are interested in helping.

Ukrainian Candles

We've been keeping our candles in the colours of the Ukrainian flag lit to remind us to keep praying for the people of this war-torn land.



Ordination

We've been blessed to have Andrew Neil and his wife Claire involved in the ministry of St Canice's. Andrew has received notification of the date of his Ordination as Deacon - Sunday 11th September at Lisburn Cathedral. We'll be organising transport to go to support Andrew. He would value your prayers as he prepares to serve as Deacon in Portstewart parish.

GLENDERMOTT & NEW BUILDINGS

Rector: Rev Canon Robert Boyd

Tel: 028 7134 3001

Facebook: [Glendermott and New Buildings Church of Ireland](https://www.facebook.com/GlendermottandNewBuildingsChurchofIreland)



Curate Assistant:
Rev Iain McAlleavey



It has been an eventful time within the Parish. We had the rededication service for the Babington Hall and dedication of gifts on Tuesday 24th May by Bishop Andrew. We are very grateful for those who gave us

the gifts - new doors in memory of the late Robert & Daisy Mawhinney; coffee station, water boiler and stair carpet in memory of David McKeegan, a clock in memory of Bobby Moore and video recording equipment for the

Parish Church also in memory of the late Robert & Daisy Mawhinney.

Continued on page 54...

Continued from page 53...

The Bishop returned on Wednesday 1st June to open our Men's Shed initiative now known as Glen Fruit & Vegetable Growers. This was followed by refreshments in the parish hall with bacon baps cooked by the Rev Iain in his fancy pinny! Fresh vegetables are available to purchase Monday - Friday morning 10am - 1pm. Just enter via the parish hall car park. We congratulate all those involved in this venture and there is room for more volunteers to get involved, just call down any morning and have a chat with the volunteers. There is plenty of fun and fellowship as well as work going on!

On Sunday 5th we held special services of thanksgiving to mark the Platinum Jubilee

of H.M. the Queen. The service in Glendermott was an open-air service on the Rectory lawn followed by a picnic. Thank you to all those who helped and made this a memorable event for the parish.

Over the summer we are saying farewell to the Rev Iain McAleavy who has been our Curate over the past number of years. We are thankful for Iain's ministry among us, for his faithful preaching and his excellent pastoral work with so many. We all wish him well in his future career.

As one leaves, we look forward to welcoming a new Curate in September - the Rev Johnny Lowden and his wife Emily. Johnny served

his internship at St. Michael's Shankill Rd with St. Stephen's and St. Luke's Millfield Belfast. Johnny states that one of his personal priorities in ministry is to help parishioners deepen their faith and grow in understanding of the Christian faith so that they may put their faith into action in their everyday lives. We look forward to his ministry with us and I ask you all to pray for him and Emily as he makes this transition to ministry as a Priest in the Church of Ireland. His date for ordination has been confirmed as Friday 9th September in St. Columba's Omagh.

We wish all the readers a peaceful and restful summer period.

GWEEDORE (CARRICKFINN & BUNBEG) & TEMPLECRONE

Bishop's Curate: Rev Liz Fitzgerald
Tel. 074 953 1043
Email: ea.fitzgerald@btinternet.com



As the summertime approaches and covid, and all that goes with covid, eases, the parishes of Gweedore and Templecrone are slowly coming to life. I watch for the hawthorn to flower and the rhododendron to flower, to show that the beginning of summer is on its way.

We are experiencing a joyful new beginning of fewer restrictions and more interaction with our family and friends, as well as with our community. Summer festivals in Donegal have been announced and the Scripture Union camps are to return to Carrickfinn. Renewal of our habitual past is on its way.

We have new beginnings in the parish too, with a wedding in May and five baptisms planned for the summer.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

And praise the Lord that we are all seeing a new beginning. After being isolated and restricted and hidden away, we are now released back into society, like a butterfly being released from its cocoon. This summer, let us make the most of what we have. Let us meet and greet our summer visitors with

love and welcome; support summer events, and missions, go to summer festivals and church fetes. Enjoy all that is given for us and to us. In the name of Christ.



INVER, MOUNTCHARLES, KILAGHTEE & KILLYBEGS

Rector - Vacant Tel: 074 973 6013

In Charge during the Vacancy - Venerable David Huss, Archdeacon of Raphoe

Tel: 074 9721075



Church News

Inver & Mountcharles Churches held a 'Fundraising Clothes Collection' in April. A huge thank you to all who contributed. A Dedication Service of recent work in the church grounds was held in Inver Church on 1st May. Items dedicated were new tarmac in memory of John Jones given by his wife Mollie & family, kerbing in memory of Matt, Eileen & Noel Wilson given by the Wilson Family and steps and footpath given by the Torrens Family. A Youth Games Evening for all ages was held in the grounds of Christchurch, Mountcharles on Sat. 18th June at 5-7pm. There was a 'Walk/Run' on the evening of Fri. 24th June.

Killaghtee Church have been able to once again hold their very popular Car Boot Sales on the Bank Holiday Mondays over the last few months. The next one will be Mon. 1st August. A Fundraising Draw was also held in aid of the continuing improvements to the Church Hall. The ever popular Church Fundraising Car Washes continue with one being scheduled for mid-July. The good work continues on the maintenance and repair of the church boundary wall. Killybegs Church now looks wonderful in the summer sun with its fresh coat of paint thanks to the hard work of Sam and Conor. The 'Little Free

Library' is also getting its final touches and will be up and running again soon.

Inver Mothers' Union

The Branch is delighted to be meeting again in person. At their April Meeting the Branch members made up a total of 50 Emergency Hospital Bags for donation to Letterkenney Hospital. Some of the members were also able to attend the Summer Gathering Service and Walk organised by Stranorlar M.U. on Sat 28th May. The day was blessed with good weather as well as good company and ended with a delicious tea. A big thank you to everyone for all their hard work organising everything so very well. It was wonderful to see friends and parishioners, especially the children, join with the members for a Beetle Drive in Killaghtee Church Hall on Thurs. 2nd June. Well done to all the winners!

Schools

The staff and pupils of Inver N.S. & Killaghtee N.S. were delighted to be visited by their School Patron, The Rt. Rev. Andrew Forster, Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, on Tues. 17th May. The pupils all really enjoyed meeting Bishop Andrew and especially liked his talk on 'The Lost Sheep' with the help of his puppet friends. Both schools have also been working towards their Amber Flag and as part

of this work, they, along with St. Peter's N.S., created a Fundraising Calendar in aid of Pieta House and raised an incredible €1943.00

Inver Union Girls Friendly Society

The GFS members joined our service on 15th May in Christ Church, Mountcharles for their Awards Presentation Service. The members greeted everyone on arrival, read the readings and prayers and the younger members sang 'My God is so Big', before we ended our service with their presentations - not forgetting the displays of all their crafts and art work. Congratulations to, not only the various winners in all sections, but to all the members for their continued commitment to GFS throughout the pandemic. For a list of prize winners on the day check out their Facebook page Inver Union GFS.



KILCRONAGHAN, BALLYNASCREEN TOBERMORE & SIX TOWNS

Rector: Rev Rosie Diffin

Tel: 028 7962 7811

Email: kilcronaghan@derry.anglican.org

Web: <http://kilcronaghan.vpweb.co.uk>

Facebook: Kilcronaghan Parish Church @kilcronaghanparishchurch



We have celebrated the platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11. In all of our planning for this event, we have found ourselves looking back over past celebrations, in the hope of

recreating some of the excitement and joy we experienced in the past. So, there will be special services, the planting of commemorative trees, and Tamlaghtmore Silver Band will join with us for a tea party

in the Rectory grounds. And, of course, there will be bouncy castles, and an ice cream van with slush puppies, lollies and

Continued on page 56...

Continued from page 55...

cones, which will no doubt create special memories for the children who come along. Memories are important! The memories we store away in the recesses of our mind, are one of the great mysteries of life. There will always be people and events that we can easily bring to mind, and yet there will be others that are all too easily forgotten. For this reason, the Bible constantly calls us to remember. In the Old Testament, the call to remember came in the form of those feast days and festivals God established for His people. Amongst others they were given the Feast of Booths (or Tabernacles). This was a feast day designed to encourage God's people to remember their history. They were to remember their time of slavery in Egypt, how God had protected them from disease and death, rescued them and journeyed faithfully with them, throughout their days in the wilderness. God wanted

them to remember all that He had been to them in the past, so that they would never make the mistake of taking His blessings for granted. God wanted them to remember what their life was like before God and what it would be like without Him.

This call to remembrance runs all the way through the Bible, as over and over again we see God creating ways for us to remember His works. God wants us to live in remembrance, to remember what our life was like before God and what it would be like without Him.

The Apostle Paul understood the call to remember, and so he declared: *"I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."* 1 Corinthians 2:2

To live in remembrance of the Cross means to acknowledge, to focus on, to consider, to keep

in mind, to meditate on, to think about and not forget. Paul had come to grasp the significance of the cross of Christ. He understood that everything else in life is meaningless without the cross.

The memories we store away in the recesses of our mind, are one of the great mysteries of life, but let us determine to follow the example of Paul, as we remember the Cross, and allow it to shape our lives, until it becomes the lens through which we see the world and its people.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-pxNsX2IU4>

1 Corinthians 6:20 For you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

KILLOWEN (COLERAINE)

Rector: Rev Donard Collins

Tel: 028 7034 2629

Email: killowencoleraine@btinternet.com

www.killowenparishcoleraine.co.uk

Facebook: Killowen Parish Church @killowenparishchurch

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



Greetings to all from Killowen parish, Coleraine

Sounds Sacred

It is lovely to have over 100 voices each Sunday attending morning worship again at 10:30 each week at Killowen. After two years covid hindrance and free of restriction, we openly encourage all who are able to join again for 'in-person' fellowship. As the psalmist said 'Come let us sing unto the Lord, let us rejoice in the rock of our salvation.'

Tinies - Teens - Twenties

Our all age Sunday and weekday events and bible times for church families and friends

is connecting with families and friends once more. We were particularly delighted to host an end of term 'young life' teens fun day and gospel time in June at Portmore, Kilrea. Please pray for many younger people who struggle to get their personal 'life-balance' in order after all the disruptions from Covid and other pressures.

Confirmation 2022

We thank Bishop Andrew for his coming to Killowen (23 June) to lead in confirming both adult and teenage members of the parish. Lives given to openly confess Christ (Romans 10:9) are what our Church of Ireland is about. We pray that the Lord will bless these individuals and families to be joyful and dedicated followers of the Saviour.

Giving gracefully

As part of our response to the tragic events in Ukraine we thank parishioners and friends for their generosity in giving £2900 to the Crosslinks mission work of Graeme Innes in Moldova. This young church is aiding refugees and living out Christ as an in-situ lifeline to distressed families and individuals. 'Blessed be you poor'

Ps. 18:28 : May we say 'God has turned my darkness into light'.

KILREA, TAMLAGHT O'CRILLY UPPER & LOWER

Rector: Rev Gary Millar

Facebook: The Parishes of Kilrea, Tamlaght O'Crilly Upper & Lower @kilreatamlaghtocrillyupperlower



LECKPATRICK & DUNNALONG

Rev Canon Paul Whittaker: Rector and Rural Dean

Tel: 028 71880397 Mob: 07770691560

Email: revpaul07@btinternet.com

Facebook: Parishes of Leckpatrick and Dunalong Church of Ireland



As we continue to battle with Covid we are enjoying back-to-church worship and in-person meetings.

Confirmation

On Sunday 3rd April we welcomed Bishop Andrew to the parishes to confirm 10

young adults. We had a fabulous day but it was tinged with a little bit of sadness as the Rector tested

positive for covid the day before and was self-isolating in the Rectory but he and Carol still managed to enjoy an ice cream. After the service 2 tubs were left at the Rectory door. The Bishop stepped up to the mark and led the service himself.

Memorial Service

A service took place on Sunday 24th April in Dunalong Church to remember the late Leslie Hamilton who was murdered by the PIRA 40 years ago.

Easter Vestries

These took place on Tuesday 26th April. All members went back in en bloc.

The Late Jean Cochrane (nee Clarke)

A large crowd gathered outside Leckpatrick Church on Saturday 7th May to bury the ashes of Jean who died last year in Perth Australia. Our thoughts and prayers are with Aileen (Jean's Mother) her husband David and their 3 grown up children.

The Rector on a Tractor

The Rector met up with Rev William Orr who is doing a sponsored Tractor Run stopping at 418 Church of Ireland churches in 12 days. The meeting up was unplanned - William



arrived at Leckpatrick Church while Paul was returning home from a few pastoral visits. The donations are going to Sands N.I. I was very surprised to see William as I have known him for about 20 years.



The Rector with Dean and Travis Faulkner having their first Holy Communion on Easter Day.

MAGHERA & KILLELAGH

Rector: Rev Jonathan Brown
www.magheraparish.co.uk



MOVILLE, GREENCASTLE, DONAGH, MALIN & CULDAFF

Bishop's Curate - Rev Alan McCracken
Tel: 074 9385220
Email: revd.alanmccracken@gmail.com
Facebook: Moville Upper and Lower Donagh, Cloncha, and Culdaff



It is great to see that Covid 19 restrictions have eased, and lives are now beginning to return to a sense of normality. As a group of parishes we are beginning to see families coming back into church. On Easter Sunday we held a combined family service which had a tremendous turn out. After service we were able to come together for fellowship and refreshments in the Wee Hall in Culdaff for the first time in three years. All the children received an Easter hamper with Easter Eggs and an Easter story book which they enjoyed very much. As a group of parishes the year ahead is looking good. We have our Parish Reader course commencing in June and also our Sunday Schools are due to reopen at the end of June to reconnect our children with the teachings of Jesus. Over the last few months we have been extremely saddened at the horrendous scenes on the news as

the war in Ukraine continues. We remember to pray that the Russian aggression will not succeed, and that Ukraine will remain a free and democratic country. During this difficult time of the Russian invasion Ukraine people and their families are having to flee to safety.

I am pleased to announce that here on the Inishowen Peninsula places of safety have been opened up and the people of Ukraine are arriving to seek refuge here, until such times that they can return home. As a church family we have held various fund raisers and events to raise vital funds to help our Ukrainian guests settle in and feel welcome. I, as the Church of Ireland minister, have been working very closely with the appointed representatives in charge to look after the Ukrainian people's welfare. To help the Ukrainian people settle in I have sourced

St John's Gospel booklets in the Ukrainian language to let them read the words of the Gospel in their own language to help bring them comfort. They were delighted to receive this gift and some Ukrainian ladies attended church. As a community we will continue to stand with our Ukrainian guests as they adjust and settle into a new way of life.

Congratulations to Jonathon, and Naomi on the baptism of Henry William Smyth on 1st May 2022 in Carndonagh. And deepest condolences to the family of James Arthur Duncan who entered into God's care 25th April 2022 and was interred 29th April at St Finian's Church Greencastle burial ground.

Yours in Christ
Revd Alan McCracken

STRANORLAR, MEENGLASS & KILTEEVOGUE

Rector: Rev Adam Pullen
Mobile 087 7547880 Email: adam.pullen@googlemail.com
Facebook; Stranorlar, Meenglass & Kiltreevogue CofI @smkcofi



RAPHOE, RAYMOCHY & CLONLEIGH

Vacant, Rural Dean: Rev Canon David Crooks Tel: 074 914 0135 Mob: 00447871974658

Facebook: St Eunan's Cathedral @cathedralraphoe

On Sunday 12th June, the Bishop, the Rt Rev'd Andrew Forster, confirmed twenty young people. These were, from Raphoe Parish, Emillie Barnett, Thomas John Barnett, Dylan Goudie, Lewis Goudie, Sarah Lindsay, Tori McNamara, William Meehan, Dakota Parke and Harry Tinney; from Raymochy Parish, Emma Browne, Luke Browne, Peter Browne, Amy Carson, Reece McFarland and Madison McKinley, and from Clonleigh Parish, Hannah McAuley, Heidi McAuley, Joshua McAuley, Georgia McCay and Madison McCay. Please keep them in your prayers, and encourage them to remain active and faithful members of Christ's Church.

Congratulations to Darryl Gibbons and Amanda Spence who were married in Raphoe Cathedral on 23rd April.

Best wishes to Darren Tease and Rachel Goudie who will be married in St Eunan's Cathedral on 22nd July. Rev John Hay

will perform the ceremony. Hazel Parke and Darren Cronin will be married in the Cathedral on 13th August, and we wish them every blessing.

Our sympathies are extended to all the friends and relatives of Mr Samuel Gibson who was buried in Raphoe Cathedral Churchyard on 22nd February.

There have been two hymn singing and organ playing marathons. On Sunday 13th March, the organ playing in Clonleigh Church was a huge success, raising €2,300, and on Sunday 29th May, the one in Raphoe Cathedral brought in €1,745. On both occasions, there were several organists from a wide area, and teas and refreshments were provided throughout the whole afternoon. Thank you to all who played, provided refreshments and simply attended.

The organ playing in Raphoe was to support the cost of paying for repairs to the great East

Window, which depicts the Ascension of our Lord. It is a truly magnificent window, with three lights and superb stained glass. The storm glazing has just been erected, so that will support and stabilize the window,

The work at the Deanery is also going ahead and should be completed soon. The Select Vestry and many others are to be highly commended for all the huge efforts that have been made for the restoration of the Cathedral and in preparing the Deanery for a new incumbent. Thousands of Euro have been raised, and endless work done, so there can be a sense of quiet satisfaction and achievement.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S, LONDONDERRY

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



The congregation is firmly in the midst of the various preparations for our anniversary year. Although we occupy the oldest ecclesiastical site in the city, it is the 150th anniversary of Christian witness in the current church building. One of our legacy projects is to replace the window grills with storm glazing - this is well underway and is a terrific enhancement to the church fabric. Further details about the various events will be released as the year goes on, but we had a bumper month of June to get everything started. I have pleasure in sharing some of

the highlights for the month, many of which will continue into the summer season. July 25th July: Opera Hibernia Concert - this is a ticketed event to fund some the anniversary events and to begin replenishing the building fund account.

Tuesday 14th June 2022

Doors open for Tourist Ministry, which will continue each day until the end of September.

Thursday 16th June 2022

Church Café Opens every Thursday, Friday

and Saturday (10am - 4pm) for the Summer Season.

Tuesday 21st June 2022

Lunchtime concerts will recommence - this year there will be concerts every Tuesday and Saturday, 1pm throughout July and August.

Saturday 25th June 2022

Vintage Flea Market - the market is open on the fourth Saturday of each month, 10am - 5.00pm in the Church Hall.

TAMLAGHTFINLAGAN & MYROE

Rev Canon Harold Given: Rector and Rural Dean

Tel: 028 7776 2743

Email: jrgiven77@gmail.com

Facebook: TAMLAGHTFINLAGAN PARISH CHURCH



TAUGHBOYNE WITH CRAIGDOOISH, ALL SAINTS & KILLEA

Rev Canon David Crooks: Rector and Rural Dean

Tel: 074 914 0135 Mob: 00447871974658

Email: dcrooks@eircom.net



André John Sam, son of Ryan and Kendra (nee McMullan) was baptized in Killea on Palm Sunday 10th April. Nova and Antares, daughter and son of Mike and Linda (née Devenney) O'Meara were baptized in All Saints on Easter Sunday 17th April. Claire, daughter of Stephen and Veronica Devenney, and Sam Ritchie, son of Alan and Marcia McBride were baptized in All Saints on Sunday 12th June.

Rachel Pollock and Johnny Kee were married on Saturday 11th June in St Eunan's Cathedral, Raphoe. We wish the young couple all happiness and every blessing.

Kay Devenney died on 7th March at the Donegal Hospice, aged 66 years. Kay had been ill for a number of years, but coped with her illness with courage, and was an example to all. Over the years, Kay taught in Sunday School and served on the Select

Vestry. Kay was a person of strong character and convictions strongly held, a truly good and honourable lady. She will be greatly missed, but most especially by her sorrowing sister Evelyn, and her brothers Jim, Sam, Lexie and Geoffrey.

The money donated in her memory has been used to purchase a fine new organ for All Saints. It is a pleasure and a delight to have such a lovely new instrument, which for years to come, will be a fine memorial to one who gave so much to the parish.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to all who mourn Mrs Helen Roulston who died on 30th May, and especially her daughters Heather, Liffey, Claire and Katin and her sister Lorna and all the family.

At the time of writing, preparations are well under way for the Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate the Tercentenary of the erection

in 1722 of All Saints Chapel, which in 1871 became the Parish of All Saints, Newtowncunningham. We are delighted and greatly honoured that Lord Eames, Bishop of Derry and Raphoe 1975-1980, and Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, will be the Preacher on this very special occasion.

The lovely new organ which was presented by the Devenney family in memory of Kay, will be dedicated at this service.

We welcome the Rev Colin Jones who was installed as Minister of First Derry and Monreagh Presbyterian Churches on Friday 25th March. He succeeds the Rev Dr David Latimer. We wish him every blessing in his new ministry in the Laggan Valley.

TULLYAUGHNISH, KILMACRENNAN, KILLYGARVAN & GLENALLA

Rector: Rev Canon Harry Gilmore

Tel. 0749151013 Email: tkkgparishes@hotmail.com



TEMPLEMORE, DERRY 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



Cathedral Youth Club

The Dean and other representatives of the Cathedral attended an event on Friday 13th May in The Guildhall, Londonderry. Hosted by Mayor Alderman Graham Warke this event celebrated the 50th anniversary of Cathedral Youth Club in The Fountain. The Youth Club was founded in 1972 by Dean George Good and two of his parishioners, David and Jeanette Warke (the Mayor's parents).

Tributes were paid by many people, including Bishop Andrew Forster and Bishop Donal McKeown, to Jeanette Warke and her team who have served the community in The Fountain so well during the last 50 years and who continue to play an important part in the community life of this City.

Creevagh House Open Garden

Thank you to everyone who attended the Open Garden on Saturday 21st May.

Visitors from County Donegal, Londonderry, Maghera Gardening Club, and many other places enjoyed a wonderful day in beautiful surroundings. Almost £6500 was raised for Cathedral Funds.

Visiting Choirs

The Choristers of Armagh Cathedral will sing Choral Eucharist on Sunday 3rd July (11.00 a.m.) and the Choristers of Emmanuel College, Cambridge will sing Choral Eucharist on Sunday 17th July (tbc).

Ulster Project / Exodus Summer Teams

Two of our teenagers - Katie Hewitt and Jake Hewitt - are heading off to America with the Ulster Project (Tuesday 28th June - Tuesday 19th July) and Chloe Burns has been selected to travel to Hungary (Thursday 21st - Sunday 31st July) with an Exodus Summer Team. We wish them a safe journey and an enjoyable experience.

Ordination Anniversaries

The Cathedral family offers its congratulation to Dean Cecil Orr who will celebrate the 65th anniversary of his ordination as a deacon on Thursday 7th July and to Canon John Merrick who celebrated the 30th anniversary of his ordination on Saturday 11th June.

Cathedral Opening Times

Saint Columb's Cathedral is open to visitors on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10.00am - 2.00pm. Any group that would like to have a guided tour outside of these times is asked to contact Ian Bartlett (ian.bartlett@btinternet.com) or Robert McGonigle (robert@stcolumbs.net)

*This is what the
Sovereign LORD
showed me: a basket
of ripe fruit.*

Amos 8:1





URNEY AND SION MILLS

Rector: Rev Jonathan McFarland

Facebook: Parish of Urney Christ Church and Church of the Good Shepherd @urneparish

*"Taste and see, that the Lord is good."
Psalm 34:8*

This verse came to my mind when I was preparing the sermon for Rogation Sunday.

What does rogation mean?

It comes from a Latin word which means 'to ask.' In the collect for Rogation Sunday we find another clue.

'God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we also thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness...'

There is evidence that there are traditions, going back to medieval times, of praying and fasting and parish processions, to pray for God to bless the land, at this time of year, with the seeds that had been sown so

that God would give growth and eventually a good harvest. Being blessed with country living in this part of the world, there is a deep desire to look to God for his blessings on the land and its produce. It was a good thing to ask God for these blessing in days gone by.

It remains a good thing to ask God for the same blessings now. People will never know the blessings of the Christian life or the blessings it can give them until they have given themselves to it completely.

You will never know that the Lord is good until you have tasted Him.

One of the highlights of our parish calendar, here in Urney, is the Strawberry Fair. You can examine strawberries from a distance. You can listen to other people describing them as delicious, bursting with flavour.

Even with all these positive reports, people can remain unconvinced. The only thing that will change them is that they accept the invitation and take the first bite.

Isn't it the same with the Christian life? A theoretical examination will never bring us anywhere. The Lord is calling us to commitment. This summer, when we have time to reflect, time to enjoy God's creation, don't stop short with the pondering, come to Christ and taste and see that the Lord is good.

Yours in Christ
Jonathan

"...that his line will continue forever and his throne endure before me like the sun:"

Psalm 89:36



PAUL MCFADDEN
DIOCESAN PRESS OFFICER

And finally...

Foxholes and the Holy Spirit

The best teachers continue to influence us well into adulthood. One former teacher of mine, of whom I remain extremely fond, left an unusual and indelible mark.

Thanks to him, I am still able to sing the French national anthem, La Marseillaise, a full 50 years after he first taught it to our class. His observations often surface in my subconscious when I least expect them, including an intriguing one which he shared on numerous occasions: "There are no atheists in a foxhole." It bemused me at the time but has come to make sense.

I hope never to find myself in a foxhole, obviously, but I do wonder how I would respond if confronted by bad news. None of us knows for sure how we would react to the pronouncement of a grave illness or a terminal diagnosis, either for ourselves or, worse still, for someone we love.

At the end of May, the Warden of the Diocesan Ministry of Healing, Rev Paul Lyons, led the diocese's first 'in-person' Healing Service since before the pandemic. It took place in Drumholm Parish Church in

Ballintra, in south Donegal, and was the first such service that I had attended.

For some members of the congregation, who may well have been in their own 'foxholes' - Rev Lyons suggested, "Maybe it's for illness, maybe it's for a relationship, maybe it's for a certain situation" - the occasion was clearly emotional. But despite the tears, the atmosphere was also reverential and serene. One woman asked, "Can you feel His presence?"

One person who was in no doubt about the Holy Spirit's presence was the preacher for the evening, Rev Heather Houlton, whose ministry in Conwal and Gartan includes serving as chaplain at the Donegal Hospice. She told the congregation that she had been on teams praying for healing for many years and had seen answers to prayer. "Usually it would happen that, maybe a week later, people would come back and tell us that they were now better."

Not everyone was healed, Rev Houlton acknowledged. "Let's be realistic. In this life, we do not see completely the fullness of God's Kingdom and the fullness of healing,

but healing can happen and that is what we trust God for. So, for all those questions, for all that sadness, I encourage you still to trust God and to trust in his love."

The Service of Celebration of Wholeness and Healing wasn't for everyone, one of the men there conceded, but evidently it was of comfort to most people there who, interestingly, came from different Christian denominations.

Rev Lyons said he and his colleagues in the Ministry of Healing team believed "fervently" in the power of prayer and looked forward to supporting clergy and congregations right across the diocese. He invited rural deans to get in touch if they wanted the team to come and support healing services in their local communities.

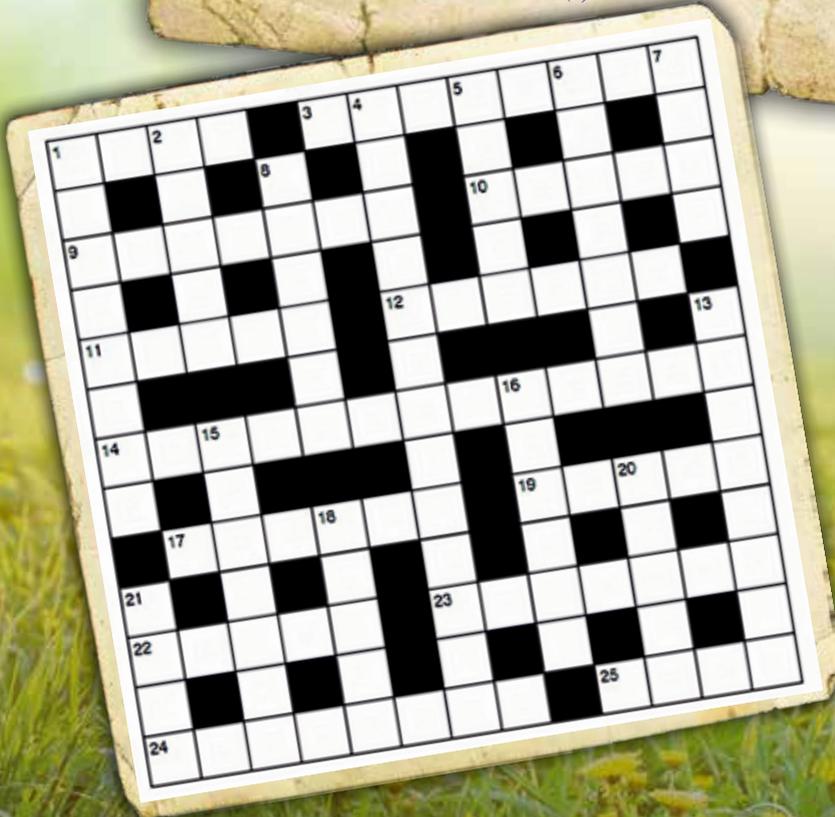
Incidentally, for those who are wrestling with crises in their lives, Rev Houlton commends Romans 8. "It's filled with encouraging words, especially the second half of the chapter, so, remember that: pull out your Bible and read Romans 8 as soon as you can."

ACROSS

- 1 Sent out three times on a reconnaissance mission from Noah's ark (4)
- 3 'The vilest - who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives' (8)
- 9 Described by the 19th-century MP Sir Wilfred Lawson as 'the Devil in solution' (7)
- 10 'Whoever - his life for my sake will find it' (5)
- 11 King of Gezer (5)
- 12 Gideon's home town (6)
- 14 The area under the jurisdiction of a primate, for example, Canterbury, York (13)
- 17 To him God promised that David would be king (6)
- 19 A descendant of Aaron who was not allowed to offer food to God (5)
- 22 'If any of you - wisdom, he should ask God' (5)
- 23 I gain me (7)
- 24 Relating to the armed forces (8)
- 25 Title given to 2 Down (abbrev.) (4)

DOWN

- 1 Greek coins (8)
- 2 Church of England incumbent (5)
- 4 What Epaphroditus was to Paul (6-7)
- 5 Mother of David's sixth son (5)
- 6 'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in -' (7)
- 7 It destroys treasures on earth (4)
- 8 It threatened Paul in Jerusalem (3,3)
- 13 Well-known Reference Bible that espoused dispensationalism (8)
- 15 Where the choir sits in a parish church (7)
- 16 Real do (6)
- 18 'Martha, Martha... you are worried and - about many things' (5)
- 20 'One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day -' (5)
- 21 A place with twelve springs and 70 palm trees where the Israelites camped (4)



*a crossword to
enjoy on a lovely
summer day...*

n:vision Magazine, Diocesan Centre, 24 London Street, Londonderry BT48 6RQ

Articles must be with the editor no later than 12noon on Wednesday 31st August 2022.

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 7th September 2022.

THE DEADLINE IS NON-NEGOTIABLE

Magazines will be available for collection on **Friday 23rd September 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.

