The Magazine of the United Diocese of Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh & Emly

In Remembrance

OLIVE STANLEY-WETZEL

February 2012
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Wilson’s Hospital School

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The Bishop Writes

As you open this edition of Newslink, I am sure you too are mindful of the untimely death of our Editor, Olive Stanley-Wetzel. She did a remarkable job over the last number of years and tribute is paid to her elsewhere in this edition. We also remember Helmut and the family circle as they come to terms with their loss.

It seems that every generation makes a mark that distinguishes it from the generation that preceded it. For those below a certain age, Facebook and Twitter are central to their lives. As Marshal McLuhan said in the sixties (should I even admit I was around then!) “the medium is the message”. These new media have not only become convenient ways to transfer messages, but they are shaping the pattern of relationships and lives of individuals. The remarkable potential of ‘social networking’ is seen in what we have come to know as ‘The Arab Spring’.

Humans’ capacity to communicate distinguishes us from the rest of the created world. The fact that we have come to recognise God as Three Persons and One God. And central to our understanding of God is the person of the Holy Spirit, the ‘Go between God’, the communicator. Communication is the central to God’s life and because of that is central to our priorities as His Church.

The Good News is that God’s wishes to communicate with us. In the Nativity, God becomes ‘present’ with us, sharing our experience, walking alongside the human condition. In Epiphany, God’s reveals himself in Christ to the whole created order, as light comes into darkness. And as we move through Lent, to Holy Week and Easter when we see the extent of God’s love in his self-giving for us, the assurance of forgiveness and the possibility of a new start. And Christian hope comes from the fact that in the Easter event we learn that God’s goodness cannot be overcome by evil.

So communication is vital for our Church. You can’t have community without communication. The development of our Diocesan Website www.limerick.anglican.org provides an important potential link between us. And I’m glad to say an increasing number of parishes now have their own websites. If wish you can look at the ‘Parishes’ button on our Diocesan Website and see how to contact those parishes on the Web. Some parishes are also using Facebook and Twitter!! However, we believe that for many Newslink is their favourite way of keeping in touch with one another. But communication should not be just between members of our Church. Newslink in future months will help us with our understanding of the Christian faith; we will have feature articles on matters of interest, it will connect us to the wider Church of Ireland and be our link with the wider Christian family throughout the world.

Thank you for your support for Newslink. As it now opens a new chapter in its life, we trust that you will let us know what you think of our Diocesan publication, and share your ideas with us of what we should cover.

Yours in Christ
+Trevor

The Rt. Revd. Trevor Williams
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Have you considered advertising in Newslink?

Rates and contact information on page 2
Editorial

It is with great sadness and regret that, since the last issue of Newslink was published, its editor Olive Stanley-Wetzel has passed away. She will be sorely missed, not least in the production of this magazine, and readers will find a tribute to her in the pages of this issue.

Regarding Newslink, the Diocesan Communications Committee are determined to keep publishing it and, hopefully, keep it to the high standard Olive achieved. While it has been 'caretaken' for a few issues by the Rector of Shinrone, it will now be passed over for a while to the editorship of Joc Sanders of Nenagh parish - with whom we're sure it will flourish.

We hope that you will continue to support the magazine during this time of transition - especially if you are a subscriber. Renewal notices have not yet gone out but soon will and it is hoped for your continued support. Equally we hope that our advertisers will continue to support us - it is greatly appreciated.

Material for Newslink should for the time being be emailed to limerickandkillaloe@gmail.com. All contributions are gratefully received.

If you do not hope, you will not find what is beyond your hopes.

St. Clement of Alexandra

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In addition to parochial news, the editor is delighted to receive articles and also views, opinions or comments on the articles / contents of the magazine. If you wish to share these with others please write to the editor and have your letter or article printed. Please note: Names and addresses of contributors must be given. (All letters printed will include the name and address of the contributor.) All material dealing with parish matters must first be cleared with the Rector of the parish concerned.

The March issue will be published for Sunday 4th March 2012. Contributions and advertisements must reach the editor ONLY by e-mail not later than Friday 17th February 2012 before 6.00pm. Articles arriving after 6.00pm Friday cannot be guaranteed insertion.

EDITOR’S CONTACTS

Joc Sanders

Nenagh Parish

Email: limerickandkillaloe@gmail.com

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Please contact the Editor for Further Information.

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A View from the Pew - Walking in love

By Joc Sanders

THE DEBATE ABOUT HUMAN SEXUALITY

In his December/January column Bishop Trevor asked us to engage with the debate in the Church of Ireland about human sexuality. He also asked us to pray for the Bishops, for General Synod and for the Bishops’ Conference in March at which General Synod members will explore the issues.

The debate has been sparked by reports of the civil partnership entered into last July by Rev Tom Gordon, Dean of Leighlin in our neighbouring diocese of Cashel and Ossory and a former lecturer in the Church of Ireland Theological College. His relationship with his same-sex partner of more than 20 years has never been a secret. Civil partnership is not the same as marriage in either jurisdiction in Ireland. Nor does it necessarily imply sexual activity. However it does confer important rights on same-sex partners, for instance to be recognised as next-of-kin, to be taxed by the same rules as married partners, and to receive gifts and inherit from each other free of tax.

Church of Ireland opinion – and perhaps the House of Bishops - is deeply divided on the issue. The Evangelical wing has responded with trenchant condemnation. In joint statements the Church of Ireland Evangelical Fellowship, the Evangelical Fellowship of Irish Clergy, New Wine (Ireland) and Reform Ireland have expressed ‘hurt and concern’, saying that they ‘cannot in all conscience accept that same-sex sexual partnerships are within the will of God’, and that they find it ‘difficult to see how (they) can maintain with integrity a common life’ with those who do not agree with them. Others have called for the resignation not just of Dean Gordon but also of his Bishop, Michael Burrows. Changing Attitude Ireland on the other hand has extended congratulations to Dean Gordon and his partner, commended their courage, and criticised the joint statements by the four Evangelical groups.

I have been thinking and praying about all this, since I am one of the new representatives to General Synod elected at our last Diocesan Synod. I look forward to being better informed by the Bishops’ Conference. But my starting point is this: I am not persuaded that same-sex relationships are any more or less intrinsically sinful than heterosexual ones - what matters surely is the quality of the love displayed in them. Those attracted to the same sex are created in God’s image just as much as those attracted to the opposite. The Jesus I encounter in the Gospels says nothing about same-sex sin but plenty about love, and is intrinsically sinful than heterosexual ones - what matters surely is the quality of the love displayed in them. Those attracted to the same sex are created in God’s image just as much as those attractive to the opposite. The Jesus I encounter in the Gospels says nothing about same-sex sin but plenty about love, and is always found alongside the mistreated and marginalised. My heart bleeds for our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters in Christ who are so often treated as 2nd class Christians.

I try to be open to the Holy Spirit, who moves in mysterious ways, but I do not expect my views will be changed by the Conference or General Synod. Any more than I expect my views will be changed by the Bishops’ Conference. But my starting point is this: I am not persuaded that same-sex relationships are any more or less intrinsically sinful than heterosexual ones - what matters surely is the quality of the love displayed in them. Those attracted to the same sex are created in God’s image just as much as those attractive to the opposite. The Jesus I encounter in the Gospels says nothing about same-sex sin but plenty about love, and is always found alongside the mistreated and marginalised. My heart bleeds for our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters in Christ who are so often treated as 2nd class Christians.

So what is the Christian way to approach such disagreement? Does the Bible help us? I believe so. There is nothing new about disagreements within churches. They go right back to Apostolic times. And I think it is worth reading and reflecting on St Paul’s eloquent plea to the infant Roman church for tolerance of the differing opinions of fellow believers in Chapter 14 of his letter to the Romans. Paul picks out two areas of dispute in the Roman church of his day, which would have been made up of a mixture of Jews and gentiles.

The first dispute was between those who would eat anything, and others who would eat only vegetables. Why should this be an issue? Probably because in Rome animals were ritually sacrificed to pagan Gods, before being sold as meat in the markets. Some Christians felt it was wrong to eat such meat. Particularly no doubt the Jewish converts who did not like to eat meat that was not kosher. Others were more permissive, including no doubt many gentiles. After all Jesus taught that it was not what went into the mouth that made one unclean, but what came out of it.

The second dispute was between those who treated one day of the week as a holy day, and those who treated all days as the same. This may also be a split between Jewish and gentile factions, with the Jews wanting to maintain their Saturday Sabbath customs. But perhaps too some were beginning to celebrate Sunday as the Lord’s Day, commemorating Jesus’s resurrection.

It is clear that Paul himself was permissive in these matters. That’s worth noting. Some people today criticise Paul as a prejudiced old curmudgeon because of his views on the status of women, and on homosexuality. But Paul in his own day was a liberal churchman! Nevertheless, Paul calls on both parties to be tolerant. Do not judge one another, he tells them. God has welcomed you all. Each of you is accountable to God, so leave the judgement to God.

Paul is telling us that we should tolerate the odd views of others even if we believe them to be mistaken. But then, surely, we are entitled to expect others to tolerate us, when we act on our own odd views? Anything goes! Wrong, that is not what Paul advises at all! He goes on to say this (Romans 14:13-17):

Let us therefore no longer pass judgement on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling-block or hindrance in the way of another. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. If your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died. So do not let your good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God
is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

A HARD TEACHING

Beyond tolerance, Paul tells the Romans – and us I think - that the right Christian response to fellow Christians with whom one disagrees is to avoid doing things which hurt them, which would be a stumbling-block or hindrance to their faith. To do anything else would be not to ‘walk in love’. And it is our Christian duty to walk in love with one another: Jesus said, ‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you’. We are to walk the extra mile with those we disagree with, even when we believe them to be wrong.

This is a hard teaching – but as Christians we shouldn’t expect things to be easy! Paul’s principle may be clear. But can we find a way to walk together in love in the same-sex debate? That remains to be seen, but the Bishops’ Conference is an opportunity to explore each others opinions to see whether we can.

Can those of us who do not see same-sex relationships as sinful find a way to accommodate those who do? That might be difficult if those who do were to insist that our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters must remain chaste and/or eschew the real benefits of civil partnerships. For surely it would be wrong for me to collude in imposing such a sacrifice on them against their will. And equally, can those who do see such relationships as sinful find a way to accommodate those of us who don’t? Can they accept even as a remote possibility that God welcomes lesbian and gay people too and leave the judgement to God? The tone of some of their spokesmen suggests they may not be able to do so.

The Roman Church eventually overcame its disagreements. Paul’s views on eating meat were eventually accepted by all. All eventually agreed to keep the Lord’s Day holy, but dispensed with the Sabbath prohibitions.

Let us trust God and pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us to walk in love and to find a common understanding and greater unity in future, as he did the Roman Church.

UNITED DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL OF LIMERICK & KILLALOE DRAFT OUTLINE PROGRAMME 2012

3RD MARCH
U.D.Y.C. Annual General Meeting
Adare Parochial National School 3.00 pm
All Welcome

16TH - 19TH MARCH
Senior Spring Weekend
Carhue Centre, Carhue, Bandon, Co. Cork
13 plus years

7TH APRIL
Streetreach & Easter Vigil Event
St. Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick City

30TH MARCH - 1ST APRIL
West Alive Weekend
Esker Youth Village, Esker, Athenry, Co. Galway
10 - 13 years with Tuam Diocesan Youth Council

4TH - 7TH MAY
Diocesan Confirmation Weekend
Catherine Mc Cauley House, Spanish Point, Co. Clare
All Confirmation Candiates 2010 & 2011

29TH JUNE - 3RD JULY
Summer Madness at Glenarn Castle
Glenarm Castle, Glenarm, Ballymena, Co. Antrim
14 plus

15TH - 21ST JULY
Junior Summer Camp
Muckross Youth Centre, Killarney, Co. Kerry
10 - 13 years

28TH JULY - WED 8TH AUG
Leargas Funded International Trip to Companion Diocese in Germany

19TH - 25TH AUGUST
Senior Summer Camp
Muckross Youth Centre, Killarney, Co. Kerry
13 plus yrs

29TH SEPTEMBER
M.A.D.D. Day in Adare
Adare Parochial National School
10.00 am - 8 pm
3rd - 6th Class National School

5TH - 7TH OCTOBER
Taking a Leading Role - Part 1
Lough Derg Hostel, Droomineer, Nenagh Co. Tipperary
16 plus years

27TH - 29TH OCTOBER
Anois Youth Event
Kilkenny College, Castlecomer Rd, Kilkenny
13 - 19 years

12TH - 14TH NOVEMBER
Junior Weekend
Densmore Lodge, Ovoca Manor, Avoca, Co. Wicklow
10- 13 years

30TH NOV - 2ND DECEMBER
Over 18’s Weekend
Jamaica Inn Youth Hostel, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare
Over 18’s.

1ST DECEMBER
Annual Christmas Dinner Dance & Christmas Carol Service
Woodlands Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick

28TH DECEMBER
Teenage Day Trip to Dublin

30TH DECEMBER
Junior Day Trip to Dublin

Full Details on all events from:
Edward Hardy @ 087/2907553
Firstly just a quick note to say that Kenneth is taking a well deserved rest from Newslink notes and I will hopefully keep you up to date with “Youth Stuff” for a while. Kenneth continues to be involved in producing publicity materials for events and will be involved in events as a leader.

The UDYC committee was very sad to learn of the recent deaths of Olive Stanley Wetzel and Mrs Alice Shaw who were two long term supporters of the work of UDYC. In particular both helped when pressures were on Youth Council finances. We extend our sincere sympathies to both of their families and friends.

LOOKING BACK………..

Over 18s Weekend / Annual Christmas Dinner Dance

The 2nd to the 4th of December 2011 was a great weekend for meeting up with friends and for enjoying the community which exists within our Church. The over 18’s weekend, in the Jamaica Inn Hostel in Sixmilebridge, was a chance for a small group of leaders to come together in fellowship, as a group of friends, to spend time with each other in a relaxed and informal context. Rev. Gary Paulsen was present to lead our worship times, centring on a DVD of a BBC reality television programme The Monastery, which follows 6 ordinary men, from all areas and experiences of life, and with their own levels (or lack) of spirituality, as they enter a Benedictine monastery to see what the monastic way of life has to offer to us in the 21st century. A thought-provoking and surprising programme through discussion, we all got a chance to evaluate our own spiritual lives and what we took from the experiences of those individuals involved in the programme.

Saturday involved a very enjoyable picture treasure hunt around Limerick city, created by Malcolm Galbraith, and which involved a lot of team work (and knowledge of Limerick!). This was followed by a swim in the Grove Island Leisure Centre, after which we returned to the hostel to prepare for the Annual Dinner Dance that evening.

This year’s dinner dance was held in the Woodland’s House Hotel in Adare. Rev. Gary led an extended period of grace (which even included dancing!) before we sat down to eat together. A great night was had, with great service by the staff of the hotel who managed to accommodate nearly 120 people. After the wonderful meal, the band ‘Blue Jacuzzi’ entertained us and got everyone dancing, followed by one of our own leaders, Adam Coughlan, acting as DJ for the Disco. It was especially good to see so many younger participants present, who are faithful supporters and attenders of youth council events all year long.

The over 18s weekend ended on Sunday (after a lie in and lunch) with the group sharing in the Eucharist with Rev. Gary. This was another great example of the community that exists between our leaders and young people which is something that, especially through youth ministry ought to be nurtured as the gift of the Church it is.

DA Y TRIPS

This year’s annual Christmas day trips to Dublin took place on the 28th (seniors) and 30th (juniors) of December. They were both jam-packed days which allowed 90 participants a catch-up after Christmas. We were joined up with some young people from the Diocese of Meath & Kildare, with their Diocesan Youth Officer, Alison Jones. It was great to have them with us, and to see the two groups mixing and getting on so well.

Both days’s followed similar programmes. First there was a swim in the superb facilities of the National Aquatic Centre in Blanchardstown, followed by a trip to the 7UP Winter Wonderland in Kilmainham, for ice skating. Then a trip to Fossett’s Circus for the junior group, while seniors instead spent some time in Funderland.

Both day trips closed with the competitive and much enjoyed Kylemore Karting, with food in McDonalds. The Limerick and Meath groups both headed their separate ways home after food, having had a great day together and with a lot of sleepy participants (and some leaders!) on the bus home. The fact that participants were already
asking about next year’s programme is a sure sign that the dedication and leadership put into events is much appreciated and this success is surely due to the hard work and commitment put into events by leaders and all involved.

THE FUTURE.......  

2012 Programme

Please see our updated 2012 Programme elsewhere in magazine and we do hope that as many as possible will be able to keep dates free and join us for as many events as possible during 2012. If anyone would like any information regarding upcoming events or activities, they can contact Edward on (087) 2907553. We look forward to another activity packed year and are looking forward to seeing old faces (and hopefully some new ones) throughout the year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual General Meeting will take place at 3.00 pm on Saturday 3rd March in Adare Parochial National School. We do hope that as many as possible will come to hear about the events during 2011, learn about the finances of the Diocesan Youth Council, elect a new committee for forthcoming year , ask some questions, share in Youth Ministry experiences and learn about what might happen in 2012. So please do come along and all ages are welcome.

SENIOR SPRING WEEKEND

Our adventure weekend for 13 plus age group will take place over St. Patrick’s weekend from Friday 16th – Monday 19th March 2012 using the splendid facilities of Densmore Lodge, Owca Manor, Avoca, Co. Wicklow. Our hope is to have a great mix of splendid times of worship with a guest speaker team throughout the weekend. The weekend will not be without the splendid mix of outdoor adventure activities available on site at the venue including Climbing wall, Junior and Senior Obstacle Course, Zip Line, Orienteering, Abseiling and Climbing Wall. The much loved UDYC list of activities will also be included including discos, quizzes, talent show, night hikes, games and sports and much more too. There will be transport from Limerick, Nenagh, Roscrea and Portlaoise to and from the event. The cost will be €100 for the weekend including all transport, food accommodation and programme. So the message is don’t delay book today and you will not be disappointed.

WEST ALIVE WEEKEND

Our West Alive weekend will take place at Esker Youth Village, Esker, Athenry, Co. Galway from Friday evening 30th March to Sunday 1st April. We look forward to been joined by Tuam Diocesan Youth Council and their Diocesan Youth Advisor Steven Brickenden for the weekend. The weekend will be open to all 10-13 year olds and transport to and from the event will again be available from Limerick, Nenagh, Roscrea and Birr. The programme will include worship; games; walks; trip to Galway; Swimming at Leisureland; Bowling and Climbing Wall, Inflatable slides at City Limits Galway; Supermac’s; Disco; Talent Show and lots more. The cost will be €100 including all programme, accommodation, food and transport. The booking forms should be dropping through letterboxes very shortly.

I must conclude now until next month. C ya...

Damian Shorten  
087/9777360
Happy New Year to everyone and wishing all the branches a fun filled year ahead.

CLOUGHJORDAN BRANCH

Cloughjordan branch had their Christmas Party on Wednesday, 7th December. There were refreshments, games and, of course, a visit from Santa who brought presents for everyone. He was treated to some lovely Christmas songs from the girls. The branch has piloted a new badge called Discovery & Science which was completed before Christmas.

VEC GRANTS

Cloughjordan & Nenagh Branches wish to acknowledge receipt of North Tipperary Vocational Education Committee grant for which we are most thankful. This grant money is vital for the running of both these branches. We are conscious of the present economic climate and are grateful to the VEC for their continued support of our youth work. This grant money will be used for craft materials and educational training purposes.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

All members please note that Tri-Annual Elections will take place this year.

BIRR BRANCH

As part of their Citizenship Badge girls from Birr Branch organised and distributed gifts for their local Lyons Club. A worthy and fulfilling experience for everyone involved, especially at Christmas.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GFS Leaders’ and Friends’ Dinner

On Saturday, 11th February GFS Leaders and Helpers are invited to the home of Deborah Powell, Ballycommon, Carrig, Nenagh at 7.30 pm. The cost is €10 per person and everyone is asked to bring a "mystery parcel" (value no more than €5 and not to include food or toiletries).

Diocesan Council Meeting

Wednesday, 14th March – Diocesan Council will be held in the Methodist Hall, Roscrea.

Diocesan Service & Prize Giving Day

Saturday, 24th March - this year the Service will be in St. Kieran’s Church, Cloughjordan - more details next month.

Diocesan Camp

This year we return to Bandon for the weekend of 15-17 June. More details to follow.

All branches are very busy preparing their crafts and Bible Study. Please note that all work must be completed and brought to Roscrea Hall on Saturday, 10th March. We look forward to viewing the wonderful work of the girls (and leaders!).

Rose Langley, Diocesan President

Theme for 2012 “Your Gift – Discover and Celebrate”

As we are celebrating 125 years of Mothers Union in Ireland this year, hopefully we can make it a year to remember and as such we have some plans outlined; two important dates are 15th April in Adare Church a Festival Service in the afternoon. The special preacher will be the Revd. Arthur Minion and the service will be led by the Rector, the Revd. Gary Paulsen. There will be an opportunity for members to meet for a cup of tea afterwards; and 19th May, a Showcase in Cloughjordan from 2pm until 6pm.

Hopefully ALL Branches will be able to be represented at both of these events and more information will be available in next months Newslink.

During the month of May we are hoping all branches will be able to hold a Mums in May tea party. All branches have got details and individuals can have parties if they wish. More information from Diocesan President Ina Blackwell tel. 057 9131253 or www.landiblackwell@eircom.net

SHOWCASE IN CLOUGHJORDAN

We want to highlight the many and varied good things which are being done by Mothers Union in this Diocese and so we are asking each branch to mount a small exhibition giving information about their activities. We are also challenging each branch to undertake a small project to raise awareness of Mother Union in their parish or area and we look forward to hearing about these projects on the day.

We are planning an exciting programme of demonstrations and talks, covering a wide range of interests which will run through the afternoon and we hope all members and their friends will make a special effort to come along, even for an hour.

Mrs. Jacqui Armstrong, All-Ireland Policy Unit, has gathered a lot of useful information together in an easy to read format which hopefully will have been received by all those who have an email address.
ST. NICHOLAS’ N.S. ADARE

Christmas seems a long time ago now but we finished last term with our annual Christmas Party when the pupils from all classrooms presented some plays for our entertainment. We were treated to lots of laughs and songs and Santa paid a visit to finish off a wonderful day. Thanks to our Parents’ Association Committee for organizing the refreshments during the afternoon.

The term ended with our carol service in St. Nicholas’ Church. The senior pupils accompanied us on their recorders for some of the carols. The pupils along with their parents and some past-pupils sang at Adare’s Live Crib just before Christmas. This is a lovely event which reminds us all of the true meaning of Christmas.

Parent/teacher meetings have been taking place in the school during January and we look forward to our annual prize-giving on February 10th.

The senior pupils will take part in a Spikeball competition later in January and this always adds some excitement to our sporting calendar.

Chess club begins once again this month and we look forward to participating in the Limerick Schools’ Chess league during 2012.

At present, the senior pupils are gathering information and photos as they put together another issue of the school magazine.

ST. MARY’S NO. 2 NATIONAL SCHOOL
NENAGH

The boys and girls of St. Mary’s School are well settled back into school after the holidays and we look forward to the term ahead and seeing the first signs of spring appearing. Hopefully the brighter mornings will appear shortly also.

Our three Green Flags are flying proudly and we continue to work diligently towards our fourth Green Flag. Our Green School Action Day took place on Friday 23rd January and we were delighted to have our Green Schools’ coordinator, Ellen O’Sullivan, presenting a number of workshops to the pupils. Bicycle maintenance and safety was just one of the exciting topics covered.

Throughout our first term, the boys and girls are participating in rugby lessons coached by Mr. Pat Fitzgerald from the I.R. F.U.. Tennis lessons will commence for all pupils following the mid-term break and it is hoped that French conversation classes will recommence for 4th, 5th and 6th class pupils at the beginning of February. We also look forward to a Shrove Tuesday service in the church on Tuesday 21st February.

Our Parents’ Association continue to do excellent work in supporting the school. It is hoped to hold a Table Quiz on Thursday 9th February at The DAPP INN, Nenagh at 8.30p.m. to raise essential funds for the school. We are indebted to the parents for their continued commitment to the school.

ST. CRONAN’S N.S.
ROSCREA

2011 finished on a high note in St. Cronan’s N.S. with a mini – concert for parents on the morning of the Christmas holidays when Santa dropped in for a welcome visit.

It had been a busy few weeks –

Junior Infants, Senior Infants and First Class travelled to Birr Theatre for a spectacular Christmas show entitled “Rudolf.”

Miss Veighey led the choir in entertaining the Mothers’ Union at their Christmas Party and later throughout the town in some lovely carol singing sessions in The Dean Maxwell Home, Tesco and SuperValu. Requests for repeat performances next year have already been received!

We welcome Rian Mooney, an ex-pupil, for one week of work experience in the Middle Room. He was a great asset and a welcome pair of extra hands and we wish him all the best in his future studies.

Congratulations to Rebecca Williams and Debbie Siu who both wrote very interesting articles which were published in “Primary Planet” school newspaper.

Our Carol Service was a wonderful success and we were all very proud of our pupils’ performance.

Senior Room Heritage Project 5th & 6th Class pupils took part in the Primary Schools Heritage Project in Portlaoise Education Centre. Their very impressive entry entitled “The Monastic Sites of Roscrea” was competently presented on the night by Rebecca Williams, Debbie Siu and Layla Sanli and we were delighted to secure 3rd place in both the essay and project categories.

A huge thank you to our dedicated Parents’ Association who are busy organising Our Annual School Dance to be held in The Templemore Arms on Saturday...
4th February. Many thanks to parents and friends for selling dance and raffle tickets and we look forward to another very successful and enjoyable night.

In the term ahead we look forward to a visit from an Archaeologist, submitting an application for our 5th Green Flag to An Taisce, Pancake Day on the 21st February, at 10 a.m. all welcome, raising funds for a local charity in our Lenten Project, preparing a float to be admired in The St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Roscrea, joining in the bi-centenary celebrations of St. Cronan’s Church and producing a play based on Roald Dahl’s “Three Little Pigs.”

We wish our newly formed Board of Management well in their term of office and look forward to working closely with our entire school community as we face the challenges ahead together.

Happy New Year to all!

**CLOUGHJORDAN N.S.**

The school would like to extend its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Olive Stanley-Wetzel on her sad passing and pray God’s comfort at this difficult time.

On behalf of the school’s Parent Teacher Association thank you very much to everybody who supported our Sports and Games Quiz Sheet and Children’s Competition. Your support was greatly appreciated and helped to raise €800 for our school. Congratulations to the Quiz winners; Tommy and Freda Threlfall, Alison Hayes and Ciara Austin and to the winners of the Children’s Competition: Alison Grant, Alex Ryan, Megan Kennedy, Hannah Austin, Alastair Grant, Laura Hayes, Olivia Grant, Ian Armitage and Molly Hourihan. Our PTA will soon bagpack in Dunnes Stores, Roscrea to raise further funds for our school.

The school was delighted to present a cheque for €677 to the local branch of St. Vincent de Paul before Christmas. This money was the very generous collection from our School Carol Service last December, for which the school and St. Vincent de Paul were extremely grateful.

We were delighted to welcome back Mr Paddy Fitzpatrick from the IRFU last month to coach tag rugby in our school. The generosity of the IRFU in making this coaching available to the school again this year is much appreciated.

Our Fifth and Sixth Class pupils had a very enjoyable visit to Cloughjordan House Cookery School last month. This was very much a “hands-on” visit where the children learned how to cook their own meal and afterwards enjoyed the fruits of their labour. Staff and pupils really enjoyed this culinary experience and are very grateful to Sarah Baker for her invitation to the Cookery School and for her very kind generosity in making this experience available. Definitely one to be repeated!

We look forward to the visit of Linda Chambers, National Director of USPG and Archdeacon Bheki from Swaziland to our school and to learning more about the valuable work of USPG in Swaziland. It will be good to learn more about the ongoing work of USPG in Swaziland following the visit of our Chairperson, Canon Neill, to Swaziland last year.

**RATHKEALE NUMBER TWO NATIONAL SCHOOL**

Last term rushed to an end with our coffee morning and cake sale. A big thank you to everyone who came along and supported us. We had a very enjoyable school concert on Friday 16th December in Holy Trinity Church. The children did themselves proud as they retold the Christmas story in words, action and song. Our music group then entertained the crowd with an assortment of their favourite pieces under the watchful eye of our music teacher, Mr Gerry Cantillon. Following the concert we adjourned to the school for refreshments and eagerly awaited the arrival of Santa. This year Santa arrived by donkey and cart. He was obviously giving his team of reindeer a rest before their long and arduous journey across the globe on Christmas Eve.

As the days gradually begin to lengthen we’re once again keeping our eyes open for the first signs of spring. Bulbs which the pupils planted last autumn now are well above the ground and we eagerly await to see an array of colour in our window boxes.

Swimming lessons began again on Tuesday 17th January in Askeaton Pool. We once again join with our friends from Coolcappa National School for these lessons. Lessons will continue for eight weeks.

We wish our table quiz teams well in the upcoming Credit Union Table Quiz. They are eagerly listening to the news and keeping up to date with the latest comings and goings of the celebs!

**ST MICHAEL’S N.S. LIMERICK**

It was with sadness and regret that we learned of the death of Elsie Stevenson, Rosalind Stevenson’s mother, on November 27. She died peacefully after a short illness and much. We wish our newly formed Board of Management well in their term of office and look forward to working closely with our entire school community as we face the challenges ahead together.

Happy New Year to all!
important. We have had wonderful support from the Board of Management and the Parent Teacher Association who have had key meetings with Jan O’Sullivan and Michael Noonan regarding these issues. We anxiously await the final outcome.

Villiers School, Limerick

CAROL SERVICES - ST.FLANNANS AND ST.MARY’S CATHEDRAL

In a break from tradition this year Villiers held two carol services. The first of these was in St Flannan’s Cathedral, Killaloe, this was the first time that the school has held a carol service in St Flannan’s but it was nonetheless successful! The choir filled the front of the cathedral and a congregation of more than one hundred and thirty people filled the pews. The music was of the usual extremely high standard, as were the readings, and an immensely enjoyable evening was had by all. This was followed the next day by the annual carol service in St Mary’s, Limerick. This was attended by parents, past pupils and many more. The service was presided over by the Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe and for the first time in many years Dean Sirr was absent! This too was a success by all accounts and keeps the Villiers tradition very much alive.

On a much less cheerful note the staff and pupils of Villiers were very sad to learn of the death of Olive Stanley-Wetzel, and would like to join the many others who have done so in sending our deepest sympathies to her family and friends.

Sam White – Form 6

VILLIERS NIGHT CLASSES 2012

Every Thursday night for the past 25 years night classes have been running in Villiers. Each year the number and variety of courses on offer gets bigger and better. Currently classes are offered in a range of twenty different subjects. These classes strongly encourage adult learning and enable Villiers to contribute to the local community, and with so many subjects there’s something for everyone.

Subjects on offer include Literary Studies and Creative Writing, Philosophy, Yoga and Tai Chi. Both Spanish and French are taught by native speakers and the emphasis is on acquiring conversational skills.

Creative subjects include Metalwork, Quilting and Embroidery Design, Watercolour and Mixed-media painting. Other favourites include Digital Photography, Computers and Bridge.

With an eye to the recession and peoples need to cut down on beauty and exercise costs, some new and exciting courses have been added to encourage people to be more self-sufficient. These include Sculptured Gel Nails, ‘Healthier You’- a cookery and nutritional class that focuses on promoting wellbeing through diet and lifestyle, Taekwondo and Aerobics.

Other new classes include Gardening Design and Flower Arranging.

The TY students have become involved in the hosting of our adult visitors by ensuring their time in Villiers is relaxed and comfortable. They do this by running a café and managing the car park.

Firinne Guerin – Form 4

LIMERICK LIONS FOOD APPEAL

Thanks again to everyone who brought in food for the Limerick Lions Club food appeal. Just like last year it was a huge success. Students brought in tins of fruit and vegetables, pasta, rice, chocolate bars, biscuits, fizzy drinks etc.

Recently Mr. Noel Sexton (President of Limerick Lions Club) and Mr. Sean Murphy collected the food and they were delighted with the huge amount donated.

Mr. Noel Sexton ‘on behalf of the Limerick Lions club we would like to thank the students, staff and parents/guardians of Villiers school for their generosity in the food appeal. This food will go to very deserving families in the immediate area which hopefully will bring some cheer to 17 families this Christmas.

We would especially like to thank the 6th year students for their help with organising the food and packing it into boxes and Ms. Storey and Ms. Sexton for their continued support.’

Thanks again to everyone for their generosity.

Ms. Sexton

VILLIERS GREEN DAY - DEC 19TH 2011

The day was organised by the Transition Year Environment class. In 2010 we were awarded our Litter and Waste Flag. As a follow on from this we are now trying to attain our Energy Flag.

Our Energy Awareness Day involved 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th years from 9:00am until lunchtime and highlighted energy conservation initiatives both within and outside the school.

We had a guest speaker in from Cloughjordan Eco Village, Duncan Martin, to speak to us about how we can practically preserve and reduce energy in our homes.

We also delivered PowerPoint presentations highlighting the changes we have made around the school to help save energy and what we can all do to make our school more energy efficient. We placed a particular emphasis on lighting, heat and insulation changes that are currently being completed.

Ms. Nolan also spoke to the senior classes about the different types environmental courses and careers that are available in third level.

Also throughout the day we showed videos from the Eco-Eye Series and energy saving cartoons. All in all it was a great success and many thanks to all students, staff and guest speakers involved.

Claire Gunn – Form 4

We are all inventors, each sailing out on a voyage of discovery, guided each by a private chart, of which there is no duplicate. The world is all gates, all opportunities.

Ralph Waldo Emerson
Partners in Prayer – February 2012

Clogher Bishop John McDowell

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

5th February: 3rd Sunday before Lent - Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: PRAY for The Anglican Church of Canada The Most Revd Frederick Hiltz Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada
Diocese: For all those involved in Diocesan Communication - Our Newsl ink team, Diocesan Webmaster and Diocesan Communications Officer

12th February: 2nd Sunday before Lent - Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: PRAY for The Church of the Province of Central Africa The Most Revd Albert Chama Archbishop of Central Africa & Bishop of Northern Zambia
Diocese: The retired clergy of the diocese - giving thanks for their continuing service to the Church.

19th February: Sunday before Lent - Green
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: PRAY for Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America The Most Revd Armando Guerra Soria Primate of IARCA & Bishop of Guatemala
Diocese: Limerick City Parish during the vacancy period - for the Nominators in their task to seek a new incumbent

26th February: 1st Sunday in Lent-Purple - Violet
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: PRAY for Province de L‘Eglise Anglicane Du Congo The Most Revd Kahwa Henri Isingoma Archbishop of the Congo & Bishop of Kinshasa
Diocese: Hospital and University Chaplains throughout the diocese.

Blessing For 2012

May 2012 mark the beginning of a Tidal Wave of love, happiness and bright futures.
To those who need someone special, may you find that true love,
To those who need money, may your finances overflow,
To those who need caring, may you find a good heart.
To those who need friends, may you meet lovely people,
To those who need life, may you find GOD.
There will be mistakes along the way.......but they will also be lessons. So remember to love, laugh and live completely.

Norman Sinclair
Funeral Director
Aughrim & Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Phone: (090) 9644328
Mobile: (087) 9963510
Dignity and Understanding
KILLALOE DIOCESE

Killaloe & Stradbally Union
Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.
The Very Revd. Dr. Stephen R. White
The Deanery, Killaloe, Co. Clare.
Tel: 061-376687
Email: dean@killaloe.anglican.org
The Rev. Lucy Green
Tel: 062-79941

FEBRUARY SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS
1st February: St Brigid. 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion: Castleconnell.
2nd February: The Presentation of Christ in the Temple. 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion: Killaloe.
22nd February: Ash Wednesday. 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion: Mountshannon; 8.00 p.m. Holy Communion: Castleconnell.
EVENTS

The first thing to be said this month is obviously to express our sadness at Olive’s recent death and to express our sincere sympathy to her husband and all the family circle. Olive had battled hard for a long time, regularly being in and out of hospital, and, until very recently, still managing somehow to work on editing “Newslink”. She will be very much missed all around our diocese. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

As Easter falls fairly early in April this year (8th), this means that Lent begins in February. Ash Wednesday is on 22nd February, and there will be a service of Holy Communion in Killaloe at 10.30 a.m., and then at 8pm there will be a service of Holy Communion in Mountshannon and a Devotional Service in Castleconnell. As always, I would urge parishioners to make every effort to attend one of these services as we begin our pilgrimage through the great solemn season of Lent.

Lucy Green has asked me to inform parishioners that she is on a diet. She intends to lose up to 8 stones, and she feels that less of her could make more money for the parish! Parishioners are therefore invited to sponsor her (whether per pound or per stone I am not sure, but Lucy will clarify this) and the proceeds will be divided between the Church of Ireland and the Outreach Group for producing the recent parish questionnaire, and we look forward to collating the results in due course.

PERSONAL
This month our congratulations are extended to Geoff and Sheila Sparling, whose third daughter Jessica is to be baptised in Mountshannon Church on Saturday 25th February. We wish all of the growing family every blessing in their life together.

Finally, as we always do, we continue to keep in our prayers all those members of the parishes who are in any way sick or frail, and so we pray for Betty Hogg, Frances Mooney, Amy Tyrrell, Jean Newenham and Anthony Torpey.

The Birr Group of Parishes
Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Doora
Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney
Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert
The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly
Tel: 057-9120021 Mobile: 087-7865234
E-mail: mapleire@eircom.net

Assistant Priest: The Rev. Ruth Gill
Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly
Telephone: 057-9135341 Mobile: 087-9484402
E-mail: ruthgill@iol.ie

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS
As always, it was good to welcome parishioners and friends home for Christmas. The weather was kind to us making travel much easier! Midlands Simon has asked that a big ‘thank you’ is passed on for the generous response to the Christmas Appeal.

There was a good attendance at the Ecumenical Carol Service held just before Christmas. While it was held in the Church of Ireland it was hosted by the Methodist Church. The Rev. Rosemary Lindsay led the service, which is very much appreciated, as sadly, her father had died in England that morning.

Many thanks to Susan Jackson for her very entertaining way of giving a ‘talk’ on gardening at our Get-together on the 8th January. Everyone had a great time!

BEREAVEMENTS
Sincere sympathy is extended to Ann Gill and family members on the death of her dear brother Jacob Shier after a short illness in Adare. Also, condolences to the Dagg family and friends on the sudden death of Alice Shaw from our neighbouring parish in Aghancon. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been bereaved and especially where the passing of a loved one
has come with little or no warning. May God’s peace which passes all understanding give strength and hope to those who mourn.

GET WELL WISHES
It’s good to see Richard Alexander making satisfactory progress after surgery. Our thoughts and best wishes are with all those who are ill. May they feel God’s presence surrounding and upholding them.

CONGRATULATIONS
A baby girl has been born to Gillian and Keith Dagg and can sometimes be seen joining in the company in Brambles! Gillian’s sister, Sarah and her husband Glenn, have also had a baby girl recently. Busy times ahead for grandparents Betty and Dickie Delahunt!

Congratulations also, to Brian Carney and Clodagh Collins who were married on the 29th of December in St Mary’s Cathedral in Limerick. The celebrant was a certain archdeacon who is related rather closely to the groom! Special thanks to the Rev Jane and the Cathedral staff for all their help in organising the service.

SUNDAY SERVICES
Services continue with the usual schedule: Dorrha at 9:30 am on the first and third Sunday, Lockeen at 9:30 am on the second and fourth, Lorra every Sunday at 10:00 am, Birr every Sunday at 11:30 am, with Sunday School in Birr every Sunday except the second, which is a Family Service. Don’t forget Ash Wednesday, 22nd February, when we begin our Lenten observations with a special service in Birr at 8:00 pm. All are welcome!

Roscrea Group of Parishes
Roscrea, Bourney, Corbally and Kyle
Curate in Charge: The Rev. Lesley Robinson
St. Cronan’s Rectory, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.
Tel: 0505 - 21725 Mobile: 087 - 9091361

NEW ARRIVAL
Congratulations to Gillian Pearson on the safe arrival of baby Josh, a little brother for John.

THE LATE ROBERT (BOB) DUNNE
The death occurred on 15th January of our oldest parishioner, Bob Dunne, late of Fancroft, Brosna and Roscrea. Bob passed away peacefully in Mount Carmel Nursing home in his 92nd year. A veteran of the RAF he served during the Second World War as an aircraft engineer in such far flung places as Burma, India and West Africa. His quiet, gentle, caring nature endeared him to all who knew him and our sympathy is expressed to his son David, daughter-in-law Maeve and grandchildren Clodagh and Robert.

BEREAVEMENTS
Sadly, several of our parishioners have suffered bereavements recently. Our sympathy is extended to Tommy Patterson on the death of his brother Charlie; to John Whitford on the death of his brother Billy; to Daisy Alton on the death of her sister Ena Stanley; and to Albert and Tom Dann on the death of their cousin, Abraham Watchorn. We are also sad to note the passing of Newslink Editor Olive Stanley Wetzel, Shinrone, who had strong Roscrea connections, and Fr. Frank Bergin, Shinrone, a good friend to the parish over many years. ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord’.

LOVE IS IN THE AIR
Congratulations and best wishes to Jean Stanley, Roscrea, and Damien Cunningham who announced their engagement just before Christmas.

MOTHERS’ UNION
A smaller than usual but very appreciative crowd enjoyed a fine feast put on by the MU and some wonderful musical entertainment put on by St. Cronan’s National School at the Community Senior Citizen’s Party on 7th December. Thank you to all concerned including Santa who took time out of his busy December schedule to pop in with gifts for everyone, and the Methodist community for the use of their hall. The MU also organised a very enjoyable night out to Cinderella, the community pantomime in the Source Theatre, Thurles on 14th December. Twenty Five ladies and gentlemen filled the minibus and enjoyed an evening of food and fun. Thanks to Doreen Roe, the chief organiser.

GFS / BB
Another very successful joint party was held between the GFS and the BB in the Temperance Hall on Friday 9th December, this time to kick off the Christmas festivities. Thanks to the leaders who set up the hall, provided supper, and organised the games.

RECTORY PARTY
Thanks to everyone who dropped into the Rectory on 21st December for the rectory party. It was great to see over forty parishioners relaxing and chatting together over a festive drink and a bite to eat.

ASH WEDNESDAY
We kick off our Lenten observation with a service of Holy Communion in St. Cronan’s Church, Roscrea at 8pm when the guest speaker will be Andrew Coleman, Christian Aid, who will be launching our Lenten Appeal. We hope to see a good number at this and all our Lenten Wednesday night services.

BI-CENTENARY CALENDAR
There are only a small number of St. Cronan’s Church commemorative calendars left. If you would like one please contact Rev. Lesley as soon as possible. The photography is exquisite and they will make lovely keepsakes for anyone with a Roscrea connection.

AROUND THE PARISHES
As always we continue to keep the sick and recuperating in our prayers, especially Des Reid and Peter Read.

Congratulations to Frank and Jean Kenny and George and Violet Stanley on becoming grandparents again courtesy of Jennifer and Gerry, and Hazel and David respectively.

Thanks to all who contributed to our very successful Christmas appeals: several boxes of non-perishable foodstuffs went from Corbally and Roscrea to the Lions Club for distribution to needy families locally, and €300 was raised in Bourney for the Alzheimer’s’ Association through the selling of memory ribbons for the Christmas tree. In addition, the final total from the Group of Parishes to the Mission Sunday Swaziland Appeal was €1,225 - it’s wonderful to see such generosity even in the face of difficult economic times.

Congratulations also to Marjorie McCorduck who

Continued on page 17...
Olive Stanley-Wetzel

As editor of Newslink Olive rightly made the decision that there were to be no memorial tributes in the magazine apart from those within parish notes – for space issues and also so that there would be no ‘preference’ given for some people over others. Well, just this once, for her we’ve decided to ignore that decision!

Olive Stanley-Wetzel, editor of Newslink, passed away on Sunday 18th December after a long and typically courageous battle with cancer. As per her wishes, for her funeral in Shinrone she was brought into a church decorated in readiness for Christmas – she was delighted at the thought of lying surrounded by all those signs and symbols of celebration; of the celebration which lay at the core of her faith and our faith, the birth of the Christ child – and the gift of abundant life that child so profoundly embodies.

And Olive certainly lived an abundant life. Growing up in Rathcahill, Shinrone; to school in King’s Hospital, Dublin; to college in Killybegs, Donegal to study hospitality, Olive soon headed abroad – to the Hilton Hotel in Geneva, Switzerland no less, followed by moves to Stratford in England, to Brussels in Belgium and finally a move to Germany. A move which was to eventually lead to meeting and falling in love and marrying one Helmut Wetzel – to whom she remained devoted. After running a business together in Germany for many years Olive decided, with Helmut, to return home to Shinrone.

Whatever had prompted Olive’s desire to return, it was to prove life-changing in every way. It was not long after returning that Olive was first diagnosed with cancer. Perhaps the Spirit guided her back here for the struggle which lay ahead of her – a struggle which she faced head on, with courage and fortitude and good humour. A struggle in which she eventually conquered.

However, where others might perhaps have thanked God and quietly sought to get on with their lives, that was not Olive’s style. She thanked God and then she embodied that gratitude by spending the last years of her life devoted to tirelessly fundraising for and supporting those places where she had received the care and support she needed - Holles St Hospital, St Luke’s Hospital, the Cuisle Centre in Portlaoise, and finally the Midlands Regional Hospital.

The last decade or so of Olive’s life was spent in and embodied by deep gratitude and compassion. Gratitude to God for the gift of life she had been given and been brutally reminded was so precious. Gratitude to those people and places where she had received the care she needed when she needed it. And compassion for those walking the same path she had walked. Deep empathy for the pain and the fear and the insecurity that they faced as they wrestled with the same common enemy.

It was this gratitude and compassion which led to her tireless fundraising - goodness knows how much she raised over the years. It was this gratitude and compassion which led to her tireless support for the needs and rights of patients – through her own Cancer Friendship Circle, her support of the Save St Luke’s Campaign, and in countless other ways. It was this gratitude and compassion that drove her to give so much of her time and energy to serving her church – in the parish, in the diocese, and in the Church of Ireland as a whole.

In that regard it is with Newslink that Olive made such an impact in the diocese. On taking over as editor she made sure that it was financially sound, that it arrived regularly and that it was up to a high standard. It is to a large degree through Olive’s hard work that we have the magazine we now have – and which we hope to continue to such a standard.

Over a year ago Olive discovered that her old enemy had returned and she was once again plunged into the struggle for life. Again she faced it with courage but this time it was to prove too much. But Olive’s spirit of gratitude and compassion stayed to the very end. She was so grateful for the care she received – from the hospitals and from her family. And yet she felt so sorry for those who were not able to receive the same. Even as she was dying she gave hope to those around her. One of her last requests was for her family to celebrate the eucharist together with her – a last act of thanksgiving to God for the life given her.

Olive has truly left a legacy. She was as human as the rest of us, with all our faults and foibles and failings. But she had learnt, the hard way, the value of the God-given gift of life. She was profoundly grateful every day for that gift. And she did all she could to ensure that others were able to live that life as fully as they could.

Olive celebrated the gift of life that she had received, she lived that life to its very fullest, and she fought for every last moment of that life that she could get! Because Olive recognised what we too often forget or take for granted – that life is the most precious of gifts, a gift that we must always be profoundly thankful for, and live to the very best of our ability – as God intended it to be when it was bestowed on each one of us.

Olive savoured her life, was always grateful for
her gift of life – most particularly because she had many times to battle to hold on to it – a battle which she eventually lost...but also won. Because in her struggle for life and for faithful living Olive inspired life and hope in others – most particularly those others wrestling with the same enemy with whom she herself was struggling.

Olive’s message, proclaimed in her life, was simple – do not give up easily that gift which has been given to you. Keep faith, keep hope, keep celebrating, keep living! Really living! What has been given to you is too precious to give up without a struggle. Too precious to allow others to be deprived of it. Too precious to have people prevented from living it to its very fullest.

Olive’s 50th birthday party in October, which she was determined to see and to celebrate, encapsulated so much of this. Surrounded by her family and her friends, happy because they were happy, celebrating with them to the very end (despite signs that all was not well), Olive made the most poignant of toasts – at the blowing out of her candles her toast was simply - 'To Life!'

Olive’s earthly candle may now too have been extinguished but her toast is a fitting legacy and tribute to a remarkable lady. She will be missed by many, in so many ways – not least in the production of this magazine.

May she rest in peace, and rise in glory.
Come and see our full range of Glasshouses and Polydomes at Crinkle House, Birr, Co. Offaly.

Our showroom is open Monday-Saturday.

Get quality advice from our staff when you call 057 912 0424 or visit our website at www.polydome.ie
Continued from page 13...

was awarded a Roscrea People of the Year Award for the honour of being elected President of the Irish Ladies’ Golf Union.

Nenagh Union of Parishes
Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey and Killodiernan
Rector: The Rev. Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke
St. Mary’s Rectory, Church Road, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.
Tel; 067-32598 Mobile: 085-1474792
e-mail: revdmarie@eircom.net

SUNDAY SERVICES
9.30 a.m. Templederry
11.00 a.m. St Mary’s Nenagh
12.15 p.m. 2nd and 4th Sundays Killodiernan.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS
Our Advent theme was focussed around the hymn O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and the beautiful banners were given plenty of use in all three churches and in the school, where they were the focus for the Advent Assemblies.

All Advent and Christmas services were very well attended, and the introduction of a candlelit service of readings and carols in Killodiernan was much appreciated and enjoyed. Many thanks to all who worked so hard over this busy season in all three churches - flower arrangers and decorators, cleaners, hospitality and refreshment providers, Junior and Senior Choir, organists Sylvia and Roisin, Jack and Patrick for providing service resources, Church Wardens and stewards.

A new event this year was a Christmas Party for the Junior Choir, which was greatly enjoyed! Thanks to Rae Croft and Lisa Drummond for providing prizes for games. Christmas crackers, balloons, meringues and jellies and lots of other edibles ensured that both the noise levels and the sugar intake were most appropriate for a party! It was a chance to say thank-you to the Junior Choir members for all that they have done to enhance our worship.

Junior Church started off the New Year with a crown-making workshop in preparation for Epiphany - Joe Kelly created a beautiful star behind which the magi (aka Kings and Queens) processed to the manager where they presented their crowns as gifts to the Christ-child.

The Choir CD, ‘Love came down at Christmas’ was on sale again over the Christmas period. A total of €2,000 has been raised from the sales and this will be presented to the Alzheimer Society, which was the charity chosen, by the choir, to benefit from all profits.

GRAPEVINE
Since the Rector and Patrick’s arrival in Nenagh in 2005, Patrick has produced the monthly news-sheet, the Grapevine - with over 60 editions to his credit! Marty Sanders is now taking over as Editor, and we would like to express our appreciation to Patrick for the great job he has done in ensuring that the Grapevine has been a lively tool for mission and communication in the Union.

PRAYER GROUP
The Prayer Group continues to meet monthly, the February meeting will be Wednesday 29th at 8pm. All are welcome.

Nenagh Churches Together held a service in St Mary’s on Friday 20th January called ‘We shall all be changed’ as part of the week of prayer for Christian Unity. The service was based on one compiled by the Polish church this year, and was very moving and uplifting. All the main Christian churches and groups were represented in the service, and a large congregation took part.
CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations too...Marjorie Quarton on the publication of her new book, ‘The Commonplace Book of Mary Cannon’.

BAPTISM

On Sunday 8th of January, we welcomed Hollie Linda Clarke, daughter of Peter and Natasha into the Christian family in Killodiernan.

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go to Jack Bayly and family following the death of Lorna Bayly; to Jennifer and Jeremy Toettcher following the death of their mother Joyce; to the Hemphill’s following the untimely death of Nell’s nephew, John, in Australia, and also the death of Nell’s brother, Richard; and to Hilary Lewis following the death of her aunt, Alice Shaw.

We were all greatly saddened to hear of the death of our friend Olive Stanley-Wetzel. Olive revitalised Newslink in her time as Editor, not least by her insistence that it appeared on time! She gave one hundred percent commitment to Newslink and the Diocese is the poorer for the loss of her ministry. Our prayers are with Helmet and her family.

Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group

Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.
The Rev. Canon Stephen Neill
Modreeny Rectory, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary.
Tel/Fax: 0505 - 42183 Mobile: 087 - 2328172
email: stephen.neill@gmail.com
Parish website/blog: www.modreeny.com
My Blog: www.paddyanglican.com

A SPECIAL THANK-YOU

After the service on Christmas morning in Borrisokane there was a surprise presentation to Carol Talbot and Diana Austin for over 40 years of service to the GFS in the parish. The branch sadly closed in recent times but generations of girls in the parish had the benefit of this great organization thanks in no small part to the commitment of Carol & Diana through the years.

Both Carol and Diana wish to express their sincere thanks to the parishioners for the presentation which took them totally by surprise and as Carol said herself they had seen a lot of girls pass through the GFS in 40 years but enjoyed it throughout.

NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to Colin & Olivia Fogarty of Borrisokane on the birth of Isobel Dorothy just before Christmas.

BAPTISMS

On Sunday 15th January we had our first baptisms of the year. In Borrisokane Rachael Eleanor Austin, daughter of Fergus and Pamela of Bellpark, Borrisokane was baptised and in Cloughjordan Ben Robert Sheils son of Robbie and Millie of Kylesihanie, Cloughjordan was baptised. We pray God’s blessing on these infants and their families.

WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to Geoffrey Shortt, son of Edward and Helen Shortt of Borrisnafarney/ Templeharry Parish and Karen Ryan of Adare who were wed in Adare on Friday 30th December 2011. We wish them every happiness in their future together.

CONDOLENCES

We sympathise with George Whiteford of Cloughjordan and the entire Whiteford family on the recent death of George’s brother William who lived in Durrow, Co. Kilkenny.

We sympathise also with Karen & Michael McLoughney of Ballyrickard, Borrisokane on the death of Michael’s father Paddy.

Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancun, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin
Rector: The Rev. Michael Johnston
Tel: 0505-47164 Mbl: 086-6086567
email: shinrone@killaloe.anglican.org

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

It seems so long ago now but it was wonderful to once again welcome the birth of the Christ Child with our Advent and Christmas services in the Group. Each of the four services of Lessons and Carol were very special, setting the tone as we approached Christmas. Many thanks to all who took part, and especially to Jonathan Carter who sang for us at the Shinrone service. There was a fantastic turnout from the Group and the wider
community for the children’s Christingle Service in Shinrone on Christmas Eve afternoon. Chaotic Christingle-making was followed by the peace of the children coming forward to light their candles and welcome the Christ child, the Light of the World. And the arrival of a ‘special visitor’ at the end was a great surprise. We hope this can become a regular part of our Christmas services. And finally it was good to welcome so many parishioners and their families to all 5 of our Eucharists on Christmas Day – may each of us carry the light of Christ throughout this new year. Of course, we must thank everyone who once again decorated the churches so beautifully for the season.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our prayers and condolences to the families of parishioners Olive Stanley-Wetzel, who died on December 18th, and Alice Shaw, who died on January 1st. We remember too Fr. Frank Bergin, Roman Catholic priest for many years in Shinrone parish, who died on January 18th. Their large funerals were a testament to the esteem and affection in which they were each held. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

HOLY BAPTISM

Our congratulations and welcome go to Evan James, son of Hazel and Seamus Kelly, who was baptised into the fellowship of the Church at the Group Service on Sunday 29 January in Dunkerrin church. May he grow and flourish in the faith.

MOTHERS UNION DINNER

There was a great turnout for the Annual Mothers’ Union Dinner which this year took place in the Golf Club in Roscrea on Thursday 19 January. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal and great company and many thanks must be extended to all who helped make it such a special evening.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Service of the Word is now a regular part of the worship of each of the four churches. It takes place on the third Sunday of each month in Aghancon and Kinnitty and the fourth Sunday in Dunkerrin and Shinrone. This service uses a special sheet printed for each Sunday and allows a bit more flexibility and variety in how we worship. In addition the Service of the Word in Shinrone will try to be as ‘all-age’ as possible so parents are especially encouraged to bring their children that Sunday.

STAMPS

Rev. Janet White Spunner is collecting used postage stamps for charity. Currently she takes them to UK when she goes and gives them to Canine Partners - dogs for the disabled. Her policy is never to add any expense to their delivery! So please do leave any stamps you can with Janet (or with the Rector) over the coming months.

LENT

The season of Lent is fast approaching and to make a good beginning to this penitential season everyone is encouraged to avail of one of the Penitential Services which will be held as follows:

Shrove Tuesday (21st February)
8.00 p.m. Aghancon
Ash Wednesday (22nd February)
10.00 a.m. Dunkerrin
11.30 a.m. Kinnitty
8.00 p.m. Shinrone

Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh

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

The Rev. Chancellor Robert Charles Hanna
The Rectory, Bindon Street, Ennis, Co. Clare.
Tel: 065 - 6820109 Mobile No. 086 2167040
email: bobhanna@eircom.net

The Rev. Vicki Lynch
Cooor East, Mullagh, West Clare.
Tel: 065-7087600 Mobile: 086-8292073.
e-mail: vickilynch@eircom.net.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was marked in St Columba’s with a Prayer Breakfast among local spiritual leaders within Ennis, clerical and lay. Bishop Kieran O’Reilly and Fr. Tom Hogan represented local clergy. Bishop O’Reilly explained the background and spiritual and pastoral hopes for the celebration of the International Eucharistic Congress to be held in Summer 2012. As part of the ecumenical dimension for the Roman Catholic church, Bishop Kieran suggested a shared pilgrimage among the local churches to Holy Island, Iniscaítra in May, prior to the Congress. The assembled company had the opportunity to question the Bishop and give comments.

As an ecumenical gesture, the Clarecastle Lexio Divina (bible) led by Mrs. Mary Heber McMahon kindly provided a splendid cooked breakfast. The proceedings began with an act of worship designed by the Irish School of Ecumemics with music provided by Nigel Bridge.

MUSICAL FEAST

A veritable feast of music under the Victorian roof of St Columba’s, Drumcliffe brought a flourish to Christmas build-up. Hospitality to the acclaimed Lismorahaun Singers saw a packed church experience a magical programme of mixed Christmas music, with conductor Archie Simpson confessing it was one of the great moments and performances of their (illustrious) history. It was nice, in what are otherwise challenging times to be part of an uplifting musical experience and have St Columba’s valued by all and sundry as a special place of hospitality.

Soprano Regina Nathan began this December programme with artistry that takes her regularly to such places as the National Concert Hall. After returning to Ennis for another Christmas concert she sang in Mozart’s Requiem in Dublin in late January. Ennis Brass Bank and two local musical schools also used the excellent acoustics of St Columba’s for concerts.

Thanks to Nigel and Adrian Bridge for their work on Christmas decorations.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

An annual feature at the Clare Inn the Kilnasoolagh Christmas Dinner with Santa Claus brought the usual full response and a great time of eating, chatting and singing of carols took place.... and, of course, Santa called! Thanks to Edwin and Frances Bailey for making it happen.

NEW BABY

Congratulations to Alan and Fiona Maguire on the
birth of a baby boy Noah Patrick in January. Noah, the couple's first child brings joy to Alan and Fiona's respective parents in Sligo and Ennis.

**JUDITH’S 80**

We pray rich blessings for Judith Ironside of Spanish Point on reaching this elevated moment. Judith’s family were joined by her many friends in the celebration. Rev. Vicki Lynch presided at a worship gathering of Carers linked with Judith to mark her birthday.

Also well done to Amy Hanna and Anna Lynch on reaching the milestone 21st birthday.

**PRAYER**

For Bill O’Connor who continues to heal after a fall and a spell in St. Joseph’s Hospital, Ennis;

Mrs Anna McCrum in Cahercalla, former parishioner Mr Brian Holroyd who has returned to his native England after bereavement and hospitalisation, to be with his daughter Lesley and her family in Nottingham.

**PAGEANT**

Kilnasoolagh Church on 2nd March is the venue for a pageant titled “Liberty’s Ladder”. Obair is the community development group providing among many other things, a 50 place creche facility and a 20 place after schools programme. Our Parish Secretary Edwin Bailey has been company secretary with Obair almost since its inception 20 years ago.

Liberty’s Ladder is the brain child of Social Inclusion staff member Siobhan O’Driscoll and Youth Justice worker Kelly O’Keeffe. The aim is to provide a productive outlet for the young unemployed in Newmarket-on-Fergus. The pagent portrays the contribution and significance of Ireland’s emigrants to America’s history by story telling and song.

“Liberty’s Ladder” was born out of a series of circumstances which found the author, Kelly O’Keeffe, in New York on the tragic day of 9/11. Her experience has linked her life permanently to the city, its tragic victims and heroes, inspiring her to write a moving memorial tribute of devotion, heroism, hope and heritage. Ireland and its culture are forever linked with the USA. “Liberty’s Ladder” is an extension of this link which roots both our nations soul and spirit through story telling and song.

It is planned that 8 members of the group will travel to New York over the St. Patrick’s Day period to present the pagent to Irish America and anyone else who will listen. The Kilnasoolagh event will be the first performance and will be used as a fund raiser to enable travel to the USA. The group are delighted that Mr. John Higgins, brother of our President, Mr. Michael D. Higgins, is directly involved in the pagent and its promotion.

**LOOKING BACK**

The month of December was a busy month and a number of events brought a lot of cheer and pleasure to many. AHASCRAGH MUSICAL NIGHT with local talents providing the entertainment and CHRISTMAS DINNER held in De Courcy’s were both enjoyable occasions well supported.

**ST. JOHN’S BALLINASLOE**

John Feeley gave a tremendous ‘classical guitar recital’ in Ballinasloe on Thursday 9th December. A much travelled musician who has captivated many an audience throughout the world. He hails from Creagh and all who gathered in St. John’s on a bitterly cold evening experienced a wonderful evening of top class guitar music.

John was supported by local artistes who all gave their time and talents to benefit the Ballinasloe Mental Health Association.

A very enjoyable evening that supported the Ballinasloe Mental Health Association. Many thanks to Valerie and Jackie for their support and all who braved the cold night.

**‘SENIOR CITIZENS’ CHRISTMAS DINNER**

The Rectory crew played host to the high mileage club ‘Senior Citizens’ for their Christmas Dinner on Saturday 12th December at which nineteen persons enjoyed a great afternoon that concluded with a Celebration of Holy Communion. All who attended had plenty of time to ‘catch up’ on the chat and share valuable fellowship with one and all.

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**Life has no smooth road for any of us; and in the bracing atmosphere of a high aim the very roughness stimulates the climber to steadier steps, till the legend, over steep ways to the stars, fulfills itself.**

W. C. Doane
Sunday 18th December was Carol Service Day in three of our churches: Ardrahan where the Sunday school children provided a special service for parishioners and friends.

St. John’s Ballinasloe organised by Marjorie Salter and lead by Martin O’Duffy was a traditional Carol Service of readings and carols. An added surprise came to Michael McCullagh when Martin O’Duffy on behalf of the Select Vestry of Creagh presented him with a token of their appreciation for over 21 years of musical commitment to St. John’s receiving a Hotel voucher and a musical statuette to mark the occasion. We thank Michael for his devotion and service to us all.

Holy Trinity Aughrim hosted this year’s combined traditional Carol Service with Clontuskert and Woodlawn coming together. Following the service the congregation came to the rectory for a soup lunch in aid of the St Vincent de Paul.

Mission Sunday collection in support of the Luyengo Farm Project in Swaziland organised by USPG collection contributed to-date €780.00 to this worthy cause.

**THE BISHOP’S APPEAL**

Earlier in the year raised €1,344.00 and all parishioners must be complimented for their support to both these projects.

**CAROL SINGING**

Carol Singing by a large number of parishioners brought much cheer to Ballinderry and the Millrace Nursing Homes singing carols and Christmas songs with many of our parishioner residents and their friends joining in the sing along. Visits that were much appreciated and we certainly enjoyed our welcome and the refreshments provided.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

Christmas Services were well support in all six churches and travelling from church to church, was free of icy, snowy, foggy and treacherous conditions. It was a delight to see so many visiting family members and other visitors in attendance. A busy yet a very fulfilling time for me to be able to provide each parish church and parishioners, with a celebration of Holy Communion.

**TEMPLE STREET HOSPITAL**

Before Christmas a fund-raising project was initiated by the Friends of Temple Street Hospital to raise much needed funds for the care of children in this hospital. This project was ‘The Great Irish Bake’ to raise funds by selling homemade goodies. This is where Dale was a patient and recovered under their excellent care from his first bout of pneumococcal meningitis. Dale was keen to take part so he set “the sweat shop” to bake, talked his family into sponsoring the ingredients, set up a stall during break in his school in Mountrath and raised €527.00. This was his contribution in appreciation for the care he was given towards his recovery in 2003.

**FAMILY CELEBRATION**

Apart from the Christmas celebrations there have been joyful times in a number of homes: Congratulations are in order for Damien Sheppard and Niamh Riddle who announced their engagement prior to Christmas. Damien is the younger son of Eddie and Betty parishioners of Clontuskert. Additional excitement surrounded the Sharpe family with the arrival of a son to Robert and Lorna also of Clontuskert. There have been a number of important birthday celebrations in a number of homes and I extend congratulations to all concerned.

**PARISH RECORDS**

Over the course of the last number of months additional numbers have been added to our parish records.
and it is a delight to extend a welcome to these new families. This past few days I welcomed to Ballinasloe Zoe Wardrop and family to the former home of the late Lilly Love and to Aughrim our Nigerian family of Dayo, Abidemi, Mayowa, Amanda, Marrie Osho, and Carol Underwood all living in Loughrea.

We said farewell to Anna Cobban who had been very much involved in all aspects of life in St. John’s Ballinasloe for many years as she moved to live in Dublin. Anna is much missed and extend our best wishes hoping that she will be very content in the new surroundings.

SERVICES FEBRUARY 2012

Services for February 2012 will take place as usual as set out on our web site

The Clonfert Group of Parishes
Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna
The Rev. Alan Nevin
Priest in Charge:
The Very Rev. Patrick L. Towers
Tel: (090) 9684547. Mobile: (086) 8140649

CYBERSPACE

I apologize that some of these notes are a little old but those sent for the last Newslink appear to have got lost in cyberspace.

THE THREE TENORS, ROSCREA

The parishioners from our group who attended this fantastic musical evening would like to give a big thank you to the Rev Lesley for organising it. Many agreed it was the best show of the year and we are looking forward to a return of the Three Tenors next year.

MUSIC AT PORTUMNA

A wonderful evening of music took place in Christ Church Portumna when the ConTempo Quartet from Galway Music Residency played before an enthralled audience. Their classical and varied program delighted all present. Having played in Portumna Library in June their audience. Their classical and varied program delighted all present. Having played in Portumna Library in June their return to Portumna had been eagerly awaited.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

A memorable service was held this day, fitting to the memory of all those who have died in conflicts all over the world, not just those in the two main wars but also those that have died in more recent times. We pray that God holds them all dear to his heart and may the memory of them never die. We remembered also those that have been damaged by war and with the help of God we collected €400 euro for the Irish Poppy Appeal.

HOSPICE

Eyrecourt held another coffee evening including cake sale and a raffle which raised an amazing sum of 1,750 euro for Galway Hospice. Many thanks to all those that helped to make this event happen, and all those who came to support it on a wet and miserable winters evening.

BLESSING

We wish Katherine and Rod every Happiness after their Marriage Blessing in St Paul’s Church just after Christmas.

OUR THANKS

We were all very thankful to Joc Sanders who lead our services in the three churches of our group one Sunday last year when otherwise we would have had nobody to do so. Joc was well pleased that his father was remembered by a few people at Eyrecourt when some years ago he had visited that parish.

We also thank God that Francis Delahunst has now returned from hospital after her recent illness and is now recovering at her home. We pray that she will soon return to playing the organ at St Paul’s Church.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Alan Delahunst, son of Isabel and Edward Delahunst who has just announced his engagement to Janice Ramerez. We wish them best wish’s and the best of luck for their future.

BEREAVEMENT

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family and many friends of Alice Shaw who died after a tragic accident. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who will now miss her so much.

We also extend our prayers and sympathy to the family of Olive Stanley-Wetzel. Her tireless work and great friendship will be greatly missed by so many of us in this Diocese.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

We broke from tradition this year by holding our united carol service at Clonfert Cathedral at Christmas. At 4pm the lights were turned out and the Cathedral was warmed by the light of many candles, just enough light to sing our Carols and read the lessons. Our hearts were warmed by the great attendance and with hot apple juice and mince pies served afterwards it seemed a lot of people never wanted to go home. A big thank you for all those who organized this event and to those who took part.

Our first service over the Christmas period was on the evening of Christmas eve at Portumna where a candle lit service was held. First Holy Communion on Christmas Day was at Eyrecourt this year, which was another change from tradition. Later followed by Holy Communion at Banagher. We are thankful that all our services over Christmas were well attended.

We also held a Communion service at Eliza lodge nursing home during the week before Christmas.

THE OLD YEAR

How often do we hear ‘I hope next year will be better than this year’. We know that many people have good reason for saying this and for them we pray that God may grant their wish. But for a lot of us we do not have to look very far to find many things that we should be more than thankful for over the last twelve months. New born babies are a great joy and their gift is much to be thankful for, as will the years ahead be as they grow towards adulthood. For most of us the harvest has been good, we will not starve, or not have shelter and warmth when we need it. We should be thankful for the joy and help our friends give us and thank God for them as we give thanks to God for his love to us, something we should always remember for it will always be there.

As a group of Parishes are very grateful this year for the work, care and energy that the Rev Patrick Towers has given us in our time of need over the last few months. It is greatly appreciated. We were also very pleased to welcome his family to our churches over the holidays,
including his son Alex and daughter Emma who both now work overseas.

For our Rector Alan it has certainly not been a good year and we continually pray that God will help him to recover so that he may once again find the joys of this life. And also we remember the people that care for him.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL AND MAY 2012 BRING YOU JOY AND HOPE FULFILLED.

Limerick Diocese

Limerick City Parish
St. Mary’s Cathedral, St. Michael’s Parish, and Abington
VACANT
The Rev. Jane Galbraith
50 Ballinvoher, Fr. Russell Road,
Dooradoyle, Limerick.
Tel: 061 – 302038 Mobile: 085-1450804
Email: jane@iolfree.ie
Assistant Priest: The Rev. Stan Evans

DECORATING OUR CHURCHES FOR CHRISTMAS
Sincere thanks to those who helped decorate and/or supplied materials. The results of their talents and ability were much admired and appreciated.

SINCERE SYMPATHY
Deepest sympathy to Avril Condell, her husband Alan, their daughters and sons, families and relatives on the death of Avril's brother Peter Cooke on Sunday 4th December at Beaumont Hospital; to Geoff Penney, his father, Frank, his brothers and relatives, on the death of Geoff’s mother, Muriel Penney who died in the loving care of the staff of Adare & District Nursing Home, on Tuesday 3rd January.

NEWSLINK
We were all saddened to hear of Olive Stanley-Wetzel’s death on 18th December. Of the many wonderful tributes in recognition of her busy life; her involvement with Newslink was included. Olive made the magazine a diocesan necessity for us all. Perhaps the best tribute we can pay her is to continue to support the publication of the magazine she managed soprofessionally and pleasantly to have delivered regularly to the parishes. We extend our sympathy to Olive's husband Helmut and her mother and sisters.

BAPTISM IN THE ST. MICHAEL’S
On Advent Sunday November 27th we welcomed into the fellowship of the Church Chinedu, baby son of Sandra and Chinedu Uzoechina.

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to Clare (nee Ellis) and Jason Sheahan on the birth of a baby daughter Anna born on the 5th of December and to the proud grandparents Henry and Pat Ellis on their first born grandchild.

BON VOYAGE
Bon Voyage to our Cathedral Organist and Choir Director Peter Barley and his wife Catherine as they set off for Canadian shores on 28th December for one year. He leaves the choir and music in the capable hands of Daniel Battle, his Associate Organist for the duration. We wish Peter well and look forward to seeing him visit throughout the year.

ENGAGEMENT CONGRATULATIONS
Engagement to Vikki Martin and Warren Symes who became engaged on Christmas Day. Sincere good wishes to them for a very happy future enriched by God's blessing.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS
Wedding Congratulations to Brian and Clodagh (nee Carney) who were married in St. Mary’s Cathedral on Thursday 29th December 2011. Brian is a son of Archdeacon Wayne and Norma Jean Carney. Wishing Brian and Clodagh and family, who live in our parish, many years of happiness.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES
According to the rite of the Church of Ireland: preparation for those who wish to take on for themselves, the baptismal promises made on their behalf. Please pray for Elliott Redden, Craig Morrow, Craig Harrison and Makayla Stockil. Bishop Trevor has arranged the Confirmation service for May 13th 2012, at 3.30 pm. For more information please contact Rev. Jane Galbraith.

THE LEPROSY MISSION
€950 has been sent to Leprosy Mission Ireland, €150 of it from St. Michael’s Church, €100 from St. Michael’s School and the balance of €700 from a small group of parishioners. We would always welcome new contributors. This can be done by collecting small change in a Leprosy Mission Box which are available from Tracey Lyttle & Margaret Brickenden in St. Michael’s Church; Peggy Carey in St. Mary's Cathedral and Bertie Swanton in Abington. Christmas card sales totalled €284 which has also been sent to Leprosy Mission Ireland. Thank you to all who collect small change and who bought Christmas cards for this good cause.

LIMERICK CITY PARISH IN CYBERSPACE
Ten years ago the Parish, St. Michael’s Church and St. Mary’s Cathedral, websites were set up and went live. The Abington Church website which was already established was added on joining the Parish. Over that time these websites have been updated on a weekly basis and as required. While we continue to receive many hits from all over the world we are always keen to embrace new technology and spread the word even further about our Parish and what we do. To this end the Cathedral now has a Facebook page, is on Twitter and has a YouTube channel. If you would like to check any or all of these out, go to St. Mary’s Cathedral website and you will find links to each from the main page: www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org/index.htm. Thanks to Val Casey for all his work.

WHIST DRIVES
St. Michael’s Church: Saturday 4th February 2012. Villiers Square (with Raffle) Saturday 18th February 2012.

St. Michael’s Church: Saturday 4th March (with Raffle) – final whist drive of the season. Very many thanks to all who donate prizes during the season. It is
very much appreciated. Looking forward to your support.
All Whist Drives start at 8 pm sharp.

MOTHERS’ UNION NEWS

From Lucy Kavanagh - Christmas Hampers: Lucy Kavanagh would like to thank most sincerely everyone who donated to the Mothers’ Union Christmas Hampers. We had a wonderful response and two hampers, filled with everything from men’s socks to tins of biscuits, went to the Men’s Hostel in Clare Street and to Thomond House for women. A huge "thank you" to everyone.

CATHEDRAL CHOIR NEWS

Congratulations to Emily Howes who was awarded her Certificate from the RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) on Sunday 18th December at the service. Emily achieved distinction in the RSCM Voice for Life Bronze Award examination.

‘OPERATION TRANSFORMATION’ ON RTE

Tune in on Wednesday nights for health giving advice. More especially support our own Kayleigh Yeoman. She has become the leader for young people bravely doing battle with the demon ‘excess weight’. We know Kayleigh as an Assistant Leader in the youth clubs and as a young person from our parish who has completed the Diocesan Youth Leadership course. Her studies, which she loves, have her travelling away from Limerick every day and her weekend job means we don’t see a lot of her at present. Nevertheless we can all get behind this brave young person by encouraging her, not underestimating the seriousness of the battle in which she is engaged. Use e-mail kayliyeoman@hotmail.com or handwritten cards c/o St.Mary’s Cathedral, to deliver messages of good wishes over the next few weeks.

Adare & Kilmallock Group of Parishes

Adare, Croom, Kilmallock, Kilpeacon
The Rev. Gary Paulsen
Tel: (061) 396227 Mobile: (085) 7640533
e-mail: adarerector@gmail.com

The 18th December the Adare church held its service of lessons and carols. It was well attended and everyone sang at their best, it was the sound of the heavenly angels proclaiming Emmanuel. The St Nicholas school did not disappoint with the children’s beautiful voices filling the church with their praises and giving God glory with their singing. Another wonderful feature was the readers who would not regularly read in church. They did very well and so we see the wealth of giftedness in the church that just need a nudge to step forward.

Kilpeacon church and Kilmallock Sunday school groups each put on a Christmas play in the two churches retelling the Christmas story in unique ways. A lot of effort went into preparing for these plays by both the Sunday school teachers as well as the children. This was reflected in what was presented to the parishes, so well done to all.

All the churches were filled on Christmas day as family and friends attended to celebrate around the Eucharist table. Such a wonderful time, when families visit each other and share their time and lives in a meaningful way at this festive time of the year. The rector’s family and friends were also in attendance from South Africa, and so each room was filled in the Rectory this year.

St. Stephen’s Day saw the parishes gathering at the gate of Curraghchase for the annual St Stephens day walk. All ages, shapes and sizes came and the good weather was the great attraction. Even the family dogs went along. A beautiful walk through this wonderful forest park helped to work off the overeating on Christmas day. Then it was off to Sean Collins for mulled wine and mince pies. A great day and a wonderful community spirit of fun and fellowship. Put this in your diary for next year, we will do our best with ordering a dry day.

ADARE MOTHERS’ UNION BRANCH (BY OLIVE SPENCER).

The January meeting entitled “All kinds of everything “was held on Monday Jan 9th at Embury Close Hall. Among the subjects discussed were the Knitting Group, Prayer Partners, Olives’ holiday in Israel and a short story competition. It was the ideal meeting for January as it could have been cancelled at a moments notice. The 15 members present enjoyed it and the winner of the best ending to the story competition was won by Dr. Sylvia Cooke. All enjoyed the supper!!

February Meeting will be held in Richmond Terrace and all three branches, Limerick, Kilcornan and Adare are invited. The special Speaker will be Dr. Ann Dixon from Cork who will speak on her family’s visit to Haiti to build a school. Please note date: TUESDAY 7th February.

CHURCH UNITY WEEK

The church unity prayer week ended with a combined interdenominational church service held at The Methodist church in Adare. The symbol of the Rev Liz leading the service, Rev Gary preaching and Fr Joe leading the prayers and commissioning reflected our diversity and richness which should be celebrated and not used to keep people apart.

DEATHS

In mist of life there is also death and we had the sad passing of Muriel Penney on 3rd January. Kathleen Shire died on 20th January. We continue to hold their spouses Frank and William and the rest of the family in our prayers.

LENT

The Lenten season is fast approaching and it will commence on Shrove Tuesday with a short penitential service (to be shriven or forgiven) followed by pancakes in order to empty the larder of the eggs and yeast etc. and to have our eggs again on Easter day.

A somewhat different Lenten reflection will happen this year. Each Tuesday during lent we will be looking at various films and having a reflection and a cup of teas afterward. Some of the films like ‘As it is in heaven’ (over two weeks); ‘The Way’; ‘Of gods and men’ will make for reflection. This will be open to anyone one to attend.

A light heart lives long.

William Shakespeare
Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin
Group of Parishes
Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin
Rector: The Rev. Keith Scott
The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick
Tel: 061 - 398647 Mobile: 087 2885169
E-mail: rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org

It was a busy bustling Christmas for 2011 with the added ingredient of a broken arm for Lyn Scott. It meant that Keith was sorry to have to miss the evening Carol Service at St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church in Tarbert in favour of a drive to Dublin. Despite this all accounts say that the service went well, and many thanks to Joe Hardy for stepping in at the last minute. The morning carol service at Askeaton also went well, with plenty of people to make a truly joyful noise.

There is something special about those late night services at Christmas and Easter and the midnight service at Castletown was no exception. The rest of the Christmas day services were equally excellent and joyful.

This coming few weeks are also going to be busy. As these notes are being written we are looking forward to the visit of the Ven Bekhidlela Magongo, Archdeacon of Swaziland on Sunday January 22nd.

February 22nd will be Ash Wednesday and there will be a service at 8:00 p.m. in St. Mary’s Askeaton.

On Friday March 2nd at 8.00 p.m. St. Mary’s Askeaton will be hosting the area World Day of Prayer service. This years service was prepared by the women of Malaysia and the preacher will be Mr. Edward Buckingham who has personal recollections and insight into the country.

Monday 26th March will be the celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation and the area Mothers’ Unions will gather, again at St. Mary’s Askeaton at 8.00 p.m. for a special service in celebration. Everyone is welcome to join them.

Confirmation classes will also have begun in preparation for Bishop Trevor’s confirmation visit to our group on April 29th. Anyone who wishes to be confirmed should already have contacted Rev. Keith, but if you get in touch with him as soon as possible in February there might still be a chance to join the classes.

In your prayers this month please remember the family of George Reidy and the family of Jacob Shier, both of whom died in January. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Please also remember Tom and Julie Ruttle. Your prayers are also asked for our confirmation candidates as they begin their preparations for their big day in April.

Ardfert Diocese

Tralee & Dingle
Union of Parishes
Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney.

The Venerable Robert Warren
Archdeacon of Limerick, Ardfert & Aghadoe
St. John’s Rectory, Ashe Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 066 - 7122245 Fax: 066 - 7129004
Mobile: 087 - 2521133 email: rwarren@indigo.ie
Pastoral Assistant: Rev. J. Hardy
18 Woodlee, Monavalley, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 066 - 7126733

SUNDAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY
Tralee: 10.45 a.m. every Sunday
Ballyseedy: 9.45 a.m. 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays
Ballymacelligott: 12.00 noon every Sunday
Kilgobbin: 10.00 a.m. every Sunday
Dingle: 12 Noon every Sunday

APPRECIATION
Here in Tralee and Dingle Unions of Parishes we join with the whole Diocese in lamenting the death of Newslink Editor, Olive Stanley-Wetzel, after a long and brave battle with cancer. We acknowledge with thanksgiving the work she did in ensuring the efficient production of this magazine in recent years, along with all the other contributions she made to the Church at both Diocesan and Parish level. We extend our sincere apology to her husband, Helmut, and the members of the extended family.

DEDICATION
On Sunday, 4th December in Ballyseedy Church Communion Linen was dedicated by The Rev. Joe Hardy in memory of Eric Mason and Archdeacon Rowland & Betty Blennerhassett, the gifts of Phyllis Mason and Maraquita Blennerhassett. We thank them for their generosity in memory of those they hold dear.

We thank the Hoffman Family for the gift of a lovely garden seat at Kilgobbin Church in memory of George and Hilda Hoffman. It is hoped to dedicate this early in 2012.

CHRISTMAS PAST
We thank everyone who helped in the preparation for the celebration of Christmas in all the churches of the Parish – especially those who assisted in the various and numerous Services and those who decorated the churches so appropriately for the season. Once again in Tralee, we thank John Shanahan (Farranfore Garden Centre) for the gift of the Christmas Tree and the Sunday Club members for making the decorations. The school-children’s presentation of “Christmas Around the World” and the Church21 initiative of the “Greening of the Church” added a special dimension to the liturgies of the Christmas Season in Tralee church while the Carol Services in Kilgobbin and Ballyseedy were well attended. We thank Jackie Tough for her attention to the brasses and silver in

When one door of happiness closes, another opens, but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one that has been opened for us.

Helen Keller
daughter Dawn, along with his sister Dawn (Mason) and our thoughts are with his wife Joan, his son, Alan and Stanley Rogers who died on 27th December. In particular Service.

for their warm and generous hospitality following the much appreciated. We thank the clergy and parishioners feedback was very positive and the re-vamped format was Seán Hanafin and the parishioners of the parish. The St. John's Church, Castle Street, courtesy of the Dean, Fr. Kirk, get the best out of the organ!

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The planning of the Parish Fundraising Committee culminated in a wonderful day of activity and community with our Parish Christmas Fair in Teach an tSolais on Saturday, 17th December. The financial reward of the day has amounted to some €8,500, which was truly magnificent! Once again, we thank all who contributed in any way – our generous sponsors as well as our contributors to or purchasers from the various stalls – not to mention the staffing of the stalls and the silent auction on the day. Also those who provided the refreshments – both inside and outside – and our very own “Lock Hard”, David Tough, who supervised the traffic control on the day! It is always dangerous to mention some names and not others, but in this instance a huge debt of gratitude must to go to Mona Butler who spearheaded the organisation of the event. A big “Thank You” goes to all concerned. Well Done indeed!

NEW YEAR START-UP

Now that the Christmas and New Year recess is well and truly over, the various parish groups have resumed their activities. We welcome back all involved in St. John's Parochial School, the Tralee Church Choir and the Boys' Brigade after their Christmas recess.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was marked in Tralee this year with an ecumenical Service in St. John's Church, Castle Street, courtesy of the Dean, Fr. Séan Hanafin and the parishioners of the parish. The feedback was very positive and the re-vamped format was much appreciated. We thank the clergy and parishioners for their warm and generous hospitality following the Service.

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Stanley Rogers who died on 27th December. In particular our thoughts are with his wife Joan, his son, Alan and daughter Dawn, along with his sister Dawn (Mason) and his brothers Jackie, Rollie, Derek, Reggie and Errol and their extended families. His Funeral Service was held in Tralee Church, followed by burial in Ballyseedy Churchyard on 30th December.

We regret to record the death of Jean Searle (Castlegregory) and extend our sympathy to her family. We also extend our condolences to David & Joy Frizelle on the death of David Frizelle’s Mother, Lillie, in the North of Ireland, as well as to Jackie and David Tough and their family on the recent death of Jackie's Mother, Geraldine Owens, in Dublin. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are in sorrow at this time, including the family and friends of Sue Woods and Joan Jeffers (from near Abbeyfeale) whose funerals were conducted by The Rev. Joe Hardy before Christmas.

LENT 2012

Lent commences on 22nd February, Ash Wednesday. On that day as well as on the Wednesdays in Lent there will be Services held in Kilgobbin Church, Camp, at 10.30 a.m., in Ballymacelligott Church at 8p.m. in addition to the usual Celebration of the Holy Communion in Tralee Church on Wednesdays at 11.00 a.m. We encourage parishioners to make weekly attendance at one or other of these Services part of your Lenten discipline as we prepare for the Celebration of Easter on 8th April.

Killarney & Aghadoe Union

Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross.

Priest in Charge:

The Rev. Canon Susan Watterson
The Rectory, Rookery Road, Ballycasheen, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 064-6631832 Mbl: 087-6892025
Email: smwatt@eircom.net

As we are back in the winter routine we now have services of Morning Prayer once or twice a month, occasionally we will have a Service of the Word with a slightly more contemporary feel whilst still using the basic form we are used to. As usual all our services are at 11am.

February 5th: Holy Communion.
February 12th: Family Worship.
February 19th: Holy Communion.
February 22nd: Ash Wednesday there will be a service of Holy Communion at 7.30pm.

Please note that the Ash Wednesday Service is at 7.30 p.m. rather than the usual time of 10.30 am, this is in order to cooperate with requests from those who are at work during the day. During Lent this year we will hold a Lenten Study Group in the Aghadoe each Wednesday at 8.00 p.m. rather than the usual time of 10.30 am, this is in order to cooperate with requests from those who are at work during the day. During Lent this year we will hold a Lenten Study Group in the Aghadoe each Wednesday at 8.00 p.m. The Course will be entitled ‘I Believe’ and the first group meeting will be on Wednesday 29th February. Books for personal daily devotions will be available early in February for those who would like them.

The Select Vestry will meet on Monday 6th at 8pm, primarily to admire the newly fitted kitchen in the Rectory (which the P.i.C. is wanting to show off). Minutes of the previous meeting will be available on 5th.
Congratulations to Sarah Hilliard, daughter of Valerie and Adrian who became engaged to Hugo during the New Year holidays. Sarah and Hugo who are living in Mexico, will return to Killarney for their wedding in July. We extend our prayerful good wishes to them both as they prepare for their marriage.

Please remember our confirmation candidates in your prayers as they begin their preparation later this month. Nicola Giles, Rachel Brookes, Robert Giles and Tom Eadie will be confirmed by Bishop Trevor on May 20th.

As yet the Book-club have not decided on their next book, as a trip to the cinema to see War Horse is the next fixture. Books for the Spring - early Summer will be considered at the February meeting which is on Thursday 9th at 8.00 p.m. in the Malton Hotel.

Kilcolman Union of Parishes
Kilcolman, Kiltallagh and Glenbeigh
Priest in Charge:
The Rev. Máirtí Hanley
20 Knocklyne, Sunhill, Killorglin, Co. Kerry.
Mobile: 087-6194733
Assistant Priest:
The Rev. James Stephens
Kilderry, Miltown, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 066-9767735 Mobile: 087-0529107

Greetings all,

It seems that it was a quiet Christmas for most of us and we have wound our way fairly successfully into the new year. It was also a sad time for some and I would like to extend sympathies to Olive Stanley Wetzel's family, as well as to the family of Margaret Mullens and Charlie Smith on the passing of his mother.

We have however had a number of happier events of late with baptisms in the Wharton and Poff families as well as more on the way with another Wharton baptism and one in the Clendenon house. As I write I have just got home from one of our services to celebrate the week of prayer for Christian Unity, where our school was joined by Ballyfinnane National School as well as may parents for a lovely time of fellowship together.

All the usual activities are back up and running,

Healer prayer service on the first Tuesday of the month, which will be the 7th in February,

Book Club on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, which is just changing book and always open to new members.

Service of reflection on the 3rd Tuesday
All of the above are at 8pm in St. Michael's.

In a change to regular services I am holding a united service last year and we will be looking at how the last year has gone.

NEW ACTIVITIES
I am hoping to get a gardening group up and running in February, this group would do some bits and pieces in the prayer garden and is open to all. I hope that this will be an all ages group, teenagers can attend on their own but younger children are welcome with their parents. This group will meet between 4 and 6 on Thursday evenings but probably won't start for a few weeks.

I am also hoping to get a parents group together, this would be an informal get together for parent to come to with or with out their children on the first Mondays of the month from 10:30 to 12 for tea and coffee in St. Michael’s. If people want to meet more regularly that can be arranged and if people would like speakers to come in to talk about issues of interest that can be organised too. So the first meeting will be on Monday the 1st of February and provisionally the second will be on the 5th of March.

We will also have a number of one off and annual events in February. The beetle drive will be on the 10th of February at 7.30 p.m. in the hall in St. Michael’s and should be a great night for the kids, thanks to Doraetha for organising this again.

The annual ladies dinner will be on Monday the 20th in aid of C.F, St. Josephs and Alzheimer’s, the location is yet to be confirmed.

Finally, we are planning a music marathon on Saturday the 25th of February from 12 noon till midnight. The idea is that we will have non stop music for 12 hours and raise money for the parish and for the Youth cafe in Bridge Street Killorglin. If there are any young people who would like to take part or any one who would like to help out, please let me know.

Kenmare and Dromod Union
Kenmare, Sneem, Waterville and Valentina
The Rev. Michael Cavanagh
St Patrick’s Rectory, Kenmare, Co Kerry
email: sneemchurch@gmail.com

KEY
HC: Holy Communion
CFC/CFW: Church Family Communion/ Church Family Worship
MP: Morning Prayer

St. Patrick, Kenmare
1st, 3rd, 4th Sundays: 12.00 noon HC/MP
2nd Sunday: 12.00 noon CFC/CFW: 6.00 p.m. Evensong (Summer only)
5th Sunday: 12.00 noon HC/MP: 6.00 p.m. Evening Meditation (Summer only)

Church of the Transfiguration, Sneem
1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays: 9.30 a.m. HC/MP
2nd Sunday: 9.30 a.m. CFC/CFW

St. Michael and All Angels, Waterville
(September – June) 4th Sunday 11.30 a.m. HC/MP
(July & August only), Every Sunday 11.30 a.m. HC/MP

St. John the Baptist, Valentia
(July & August only) Every Sunday 9.30 a.m. HC/MP

PLOUGH WEEKEND
The weekend of 14th/15th January was celebrated as our Annual Plough Celebration. Plough Sunday is a traditional celebration of the beginning of the agricultural
year that has seen some revival over recent years. Plough Sunday celebrations usually involve bringing a ploughshare into a church with prayers for the blessing of the land. It is traditionally held on the Sunday after Epiphany—January 15th this year. Accordingly, work in the fields did not begin until the day after Plough Sunday: Plough Monday. Also traditionally, a Plough Supper is held on the preceding Saturday evening – the last chance for the ploughmen (and ploughwomen) to let their hair down before the work begins again in the fields. The weekend was extremely successful, and we raised over €750 for the South Kerry Rural Men’s project, which works to provide social inclusion activities for the (often very isolated) agricultural workers.

PRAYER LIST

We pray for all on our prayer list:- Barbara O’Connor, Jennifer Hawker, Les Dawson, Rosemary Bradshaw, Betty Christian, Ebbo Lüttgen, Fiachra and Natasha Dalton O’Neill, Heather Kingston, Graham Ward, Janna Searle, Godfrey Milton-Thompson and John Ring. If you know of anyone who should be added to our list, please let Michael know.

Methodist Notes

Adare & Ballingrane
The Rev. Elizabeth Hewitt
Methodist Manse, Adare, Co. Limerick.
Tel: 061 - 396236
Email: elizabeth.hewitt@btinternet.com

BIBLE STUDY

The new Bible Study group has been meeting, fortnightly, since November. Approximately 10 people have been attending and we have been discussing the ‘Parables in Luke’. In February the group will meet on Wednesdays the 8th and 22nd at the Manse.

WORLD CHURCH

In the month of February every year all our Methodist Churches focus on world mission. This year, in Adare and Ballingrane, we have decided to concentrate on Mission in Haiti. In January 2011, one year after the earthquake devastated the island, a group of Irish Methodists visited Haiti to work on a building project for the Methodist Church in Haiti. Heather Lloyd, from Belfast, was a member of the team and she will be speaking about their experiences on Sunday 5th February. We are experimenting with Sunday evening Church instead of regular morning worship. The congregation will be invited to come to the Church ‘for Tea’ and afterwards we will present the ‘Haiti Programme’. We hope this will be a family occasion which will appeal to all ages.

METHODIST WOMEN IN IRELAND

MWI meets monthly as a meeting place for women in the Church. In January we were delighted to have Mrs Joyce Williams as the speaker at our meeting. As it was during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Joyce took this year’s theme as her subject; ‘We will all be changed’. The next meeting is on Wednesday 15th February. Shirley Baker, from Ballingrane congregation will be telling us about some of the interesting visits she has made to unusual holiday destinations.

SYMPATHY

It is with sadness that we report the death of Mr. Jacob Shier on Saturday, 14th January. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Rosemary, daughter Pamela and her family and to his son Gordon, also to his brothers Lowell and Trevor Shier and sister Ann Gill and family.

CHRIST CHURCH, SHANNON
Dr. Rosemary Power, Pioneer Minister
5 The Grove, Shannon, Co Clare
061 - 363717

CHRIST CHURCH, LIMERICK
Revd. Geoffrey Hewitt
15 Aylesbury, Clonmacken, Ennis Road, Limerick
Tel: 061 325325

NEW VENTURE

A Homework Club is being set up for children of National school age. Several members of Christ Church are behind the venture and it will be open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in the Church Hall.

WORLD CHURCH

Sunday 12th February is the day chosen to highlight world mission. The guest preacher at morning worship will be Rev Brian Griffin, District Superintendent of the Midlands and Southern District. Brian, and his wife Eirene, served for a number of years in the Methodist Church in Côte d’Ivoire, Africa.

PERSONAL

We say a big thankyou and best wishes to three people who will be leaving our congregation shortly; Brad Porter, one of our organists, will be returning to USA; Derrick and Theresa Hartman, who have been youth leaders are emigrating to USA.

We wish them all God’s blessing in their new life. We are glad that some new people will be joining the music rota for Sunday worship.

Killarney & Kenmare
Methodist Churches
[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]

Minister: Rev. Laurence Graham
10 Flesk Grove, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 064 6631613
Email: laurence.graham@irishmethodist.org
Website: www.irishmethodist.org/kerry

Kenmare Lay Pastoral Team:
Ed & Jean Ritchie; Larry & Meriel O’Mahony
Tel: 064 6620580

NO NOTES SUBMITTED.
“Bluebird Care recently began looking after my mother in her own home. We were told she would need 24 hour care but she didn’t want to go into a nursing home. I asked around for alternatives and was told to Google Bluebird Care from a friend already using their service. From the outset, the local office was so professional, friendly and thorough and even ensured that their carers were compatible to mum. Their carers now look after mum at home and she has never been happier. She is incredibly well looked after and its gives the rest of the family the peace of mind we need to carry on with our family lives. Now we get to spend quality time with mum knowing that the carers are looking after her every need.”

JJ, Tipperary

“We are delighted to have found Bluebird Care. They are extremely professional and efficient. We very much liked the idea that each carer was specifically chosen to suit our needs. We, in turn, have recommended them to other people which speaks for itself.”

JC, Tipperary

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