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

(www.limerick.anglican.org)

Swazi faith and love spelt out...
See pages 13-15

Volume 62
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March 2012
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Dear Friends,

There are many ways of observing Lent as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. A friend of mine used to give up smoking and drinking during Lent - apart from St Patrick’s Day of course, which if you are Irish, he would tell me, you are obliged to celebrate! But when Lent was over what had changed. My friend had proved he could give up the smokes and booze for six weeks, but was more than happy to resume those habits when Easter arrived. His Lent Fast wasn’t designed to be life changing.

I would like to suggest a Lenten discipline which can change lives. What I have in mind is to spend this Lent investing in relationships.

On the 9th and 10th of March, members of the Church of Ireland General Synod will be investing time in their relationships. There is a serious disagreement within the Church of Ireland over what should be the Church’s moral teaching on civil partnerships. Civil partnerships are now enshrined in law, and are a civil right for those who wish to avail of the provision. The conflict within our Church is whether homosexual relationships are compatible with a Christian lifestyle. The conference in March is an opportunity for General Synod members to meet those with a different view from their own, in an atmosphere which will enable careful listening to one another. So there will be no resolutions, no debates, no decisions. It is intentionally designed to a talking shop, but more it will be a free space to encourage listening.

I have just returned from a week in Jamaica where I was asked by the Anglican Communion Office to co-facilitate a final conversation between the Dioceses of Hong Kong, Jamaica and Toronto. You can hardly imagine three places so diverse in terms of culture, tradition and their views relating to homosexuality.

Eight people from each Diocese have spent considerable time over the last eighteen months getting to know one another. Each Diocesan group acted as host to members of the other two Dioceses for a week’s introduction to the Mission, Worship and Work of the host Diocese. At the end of each ‘encounter’ the entire group of 24 met to discuss their impressions and what they had learnt from the experience. Jamaica was the final visit, and this was followed by a ‘final conversation’ which I was asked to facilitate.

Three themes arose from the visits; Youth alienation, Social Justice and Homosexuality, and each Diocese made specific commitments for action on each of these areas.

What was the result of this costly exercise, paid for by a charitable foundation? First, each member was stunned by the contrasting cultures they had experienced. And how difficult it is to determine what is right or wrong for others, when you don’t understand their culture.

Secondly, they discovered that each of the Dioceses needed to learn more about how to understand the Bible and interpret its meaning for today. Thirdly, they agreed whatever their differences or disagreements, as members of the Anglican Communion we need one another if we were to be the Body of Christ, and be agents of God’s love in His world.

It was an expensive exercise. And costly in many ways for all who were involved as they encountered, and were challenged by such diversity. But was it worth it? The answer was a resounding ‘Yes’ from all concerned.

In conflict, it is all too easy to separate from our foes, and hurl arguments to undermine their position. But Jesus asks us to love our enemies, draw them close, see what it is like to walk in their moccasins. ‘Invest in relationships’; that’s what General Synod members will be doing in March.

I have just been left think, ‘Are there relationships which I need to invest time, energy and commitment to this Lent?’ From what I learnt in Jamaica, such an investment can change lives. Now that would be a good use of Lent.

Yours in Christ

+Trevor

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Editorial

Dear Reader

It will be a hard act to follow Olive as editor of Newslink, who made the job so much her own. I hope to maintain her high standards, so that Newslink continues to appear on time with comprehensive news and interesting features. To that end I intend to continue her policy of strict deadlines. Contributors, you have been warned!

But that does not mean you will not notice changes. Newslink must continue to develop if it is to do its job of helping to bind our diocesan family together. I shall shortly be discussing such matters with the Diocesan Communications Committee, to whom I am responsible, and I would be very glad to hear your views and suggestions directly.

Arguments about human sexuality are dividing the Church of Ireland, but I am determined that Newslink should be a shared space where those who disagree may safely express their views – if we cannot speak and listen to each other we will lose the unity that Christ prays we should have. So if you feel that your views on this or any other controversial topic are not being reflected in Newslink, do contribute an article or a letter for publication.

Newslink needs a team to make it happen – it is unreasonable to expect one person to do everything. And it should be a lay team, because our clergy are absurdly stretched already. I am delighted to report that Deborah Powell, Nenagh Parish, has volunteered to help me as Assistant Editor, and will keep the show on the road when I am away. But there are still two vacancies in the Newslink Team. We need a Treasurer to handle finances and follow up subscriptions, and we need an Advertising person to proactively sell advertising in order to keep subscriptions down. If you feel called to help please contact me asap – don’t wait to have your arm twisted!

Regards & God bless,
Joc Sanders

The April issue will be published for Sunday 1st April 2012. All material to be included must reach the Editor by Friday 16th March 2012 before 6.00pm, by e-mail only. Late material cannot be guaranteed insertion.

In addition to parochial news, the Editor is delighted to receive articles and letters for publication, as well as suggestions as to how Newslink can be improved.

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

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Regards & God bless,
Joc Sanders

Formerly the Protestant Adoption Society

DOMESTIC ADOPTION SERVICE
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Iona – the future of the Church here and now

By Jonathan Pyle

If you think about the future of the Church with concern, or are disheartened by empty pews, if you have felt that the Church is becoming less relevant to the modern day world, if you need to recharge your spiritual batteries, I invite you to visit the Iona Community.

The Iona Community is an organisation based in Scotland but with members worldwide. They have three centres where visitors are welcome to stay (there is a modest charge to cover costs) and there are just two rules, the first is that one is expected to attend all meals and the second is to undertake some light household tasks every day. The reason for the rule about meals is that, if we share meals together, we build community as the visitors bond with one another and with the volunteer staff, but also, when everyone is together for the meals, all can learn about the program for the day and there is a chance to introduce any newcomers or say goodbye to anyone leaving. The rule about the tasks exists because work is viewed as another form of worship (it is a form of devotion) and here we are engaging in these tasks for each other rather than for personal material gain. Participating in the tasks is also a leveller – no room for egos, everyone participates in serving each other which in turn builds up community. My tasks took very little time, about 15 minutes hoovering and then helping to set up and clear away after the evening meal – I thoroughly enjoyed it.

The life-style at the centres is all about inclusivity in Christ, and living the Gospel. That does not mean that one is thumped regularly by a bible, totally the opposite. Visitors are entirely free to participate at whatever level they wish in the program of activities and services which have been planned for the week. The Community cherishes and caters for the different beliefs, opinions and cultures of visitors and everyone is made to feel welcome. During the very brief (20 minute) twice daily services (called Spaces – a space for reflection out of your busy day) the liturgy was beautifully written in modern language, so is totally accessible and people relate to it. Everyone wore their everyday clothes, including the leader taking the ‘Space’ who was generally a lay person and as often a woman as a man, and most were in their 20s. There were a couple of Communion services over which ordained clergy presided, with an alternative for any Roman Catholic folk who wished to have a separate service, which, in the spirit of inclusivity catered for their needs. There was a healing service which was beautiful and sensitively carried out, which included the laying on of hands and it was profoundly good timing as I had an issue I wanted to give to God to deal with on behalf of family members. An alternative of gluten free bread was available for celiacs and grape juice for any not wishing to drink wine.

The leader taking the service was positioned in the centre of the beautiful ancient abbey, with visitors, volunteers and staff as well as folk who live on the Island and tourists attending and sitting in the choir stalls and the nave, the main body of the church. Music is understood to be very important in worship, so at Iona they had a number of professional musicians (some just passing through) who took impromptu choirs made up of visitors and staff who played a grand piano accompanied sometimes by a violinist. They had a practice session for 5 or 10 minutes before any services to enable the congregation to become familiar with responses or an unfamiliar song – Hello – good idea! Isn’t it a great idea to encourage participation by practising responses and tunes so that everyone can lift up their voice?

On the program of events there were some workshops where we were encouraged to think about and discuss challenging issues facing us in the real world - the Palestinian and Israeli conflict; financial inequality and the
As much a part of the Gospel or Good News of Jesus today as they were 2,100 years ago. Today we need to rediscover this standpoint of shared vulnerability that ministry is offered.

If any parishes would like assistance in beginning the Ministry of the Laying on of Hands and Anointing with Oil, please contact Rev. George Flynn in Ballinasloe or Canon Sue Watterson in Killarney to talk things through.

The Ministry of Healing

By Rev. Canon Susan Watterson

Toward the end of last year a small Diocesan Committee was formed to encourage parishes to discover more about the Ministry of Healing, and to assist churches that may wish to begin holding ‘Healing Services’ with the ministry of laying on of hands or anointing with oil.

Following the days of the early church the ministry of prayer for healing gradually declined, and prior to the mid twentieth century there was no formal liturgy for healing for over four hundred years. Anointing with oil was essentially used for extreme unction (before death), but our 2004 Prayer Book and other new liturgies have brought a renewed interest in both the Ministry of the Laying on of Hands and Anointing with Oil. Most main stream denominations have seen a gradual re-awakening of this ministry during the past century.

It is a ministry which requires a great deal of sensitivity however, as it takes courage for those seeking prayer to come forward during a service where family, friends and neighbours could be present. Each parish or church may present the ministry differently, as often the lay-out of the building can dictate where and how prayer can be offered. A quiet, confidential space is best where people can feel at ease to speak without being over heard and this is easier in some buildings than others.

Parishes where the ministry has become established over the years, tend to have small lay ministry teams who work in pairs. Lay people are increasingly becoming involved in aspects of the ministry, and although the Clergy bear overall responsibility - the work is very much a partnership. Depending on the size of the congregation there may be two, four or in some Dublin Parishes over a dozen people ministering in pairs to those who come forward. Often the pairs will pray for each other before people come forward as a demonstration of the need that we all have for healing of body, mind, spirit, relationships or personal circumstances.

This is not a ministry in which selected teams or individuals aim to ‘heal’ others, or put them right. We all need more of God, a greater measure of his Grace, a fuller understanding of what it is to be free – to be whole, and it is from this standpoint of shared vulnerability that ministry is offered.

As our gospel readings have suggested recently, healing and wholeness are huge themes to consider, and they are just as much a part of the Gospel or Good News of Jesus today as they were 2,100 years ago. Today we need to rediscover just how exciting and refreshing this ministry can be.

If any parishes would like assistance in beginning the Ministry of the Laying on of Hands and Anointing with Oil, a member of the new Diocesan Committee would be happy to help. Call Rev. George Flynn in Ballinasloe or Canon Sue Watterson in Killarney to talk things through.
The Girls Friendly Society

ENROLMENT SERVICE BIRR

Birr Branch held their annual Enrolment Service during Holy Communion Service in St. Brendan’s church on Sunday 29th January. The girls acted out the gospel story of the sheep and the wolf. Everyone had a part and they all enjoyed the participation in the service. Thank you to Archdeacon Carney for putting so much thought and preparation into this act of worship.

ENROLMENT SERVICE NENAGH

Nenagh Branch held their Enrolment Service in St. Mary’s Church on Sunday, 29th January, during Candlemas Service. GFS girls told the story of Jesus and the paralysed man (based on Mark 2: 1-12) which is part of their Bible Study Syllabus. NUP Junior choir were in attendance and sang beautifully. They also assisted with the Advent Banners as they were paraded for the last day of the Christmas season. Thank you to everyone involved with the service and refreshments afterwards. Special thanks to Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke and Audrey Clarke-Gordon for a lovely and meaningful service of enrolment.

LEADERS & FRIENDS NIGHT OUT

This happy occasion took place on Saturday, 11th February at the home of Deborah Powell, Ballycommon, Nenagh. GFS Leaders and helpers work very hard for GFS and the girls so it is wonderful to be able to relax and enjoy the great food and company. Everyone brought a "mystery parcel" which was great fun. Thank you to all the ladies for all the work they do for GFS. Everyone is a volunteer and give freely of their time and talents.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 10th March – Crafts and Bible Study work brought to Roscrea Hall for judging.
Wednesday, 14th March - Diocesan Council Meeting will be in the Methodist Hall, Roscrea.
Saturday, 24th March - Diocesan Service & Prize Giving Day will take place in St. Kieran’s Church, Cloughjordan followed with refreshments and stalls in the Parish Hall. On display will be crafts from the Handcraft Syllabus and Bible Syllabus. This is also a major fund raising event for the GFS so please support the sales tables – cakes, plants etc.
All are welcome to the Service and to view the wonderful talent of all the GFS girls in the Diocese. Best of luck to everyone preparing for the day.

DIOCESAN CAMP

This year we return to Bandon for the weekend of 15-17 June. More details next month.
Rose Langley, Diocesan President

Mothers’ UNION

Christian care for families

The Diocesan Festival Service will be held in Adare Church on Sunday 15th April at 3.30 p.m. Rev Arthur Minion will be the Special preacher and Rev. Garry Paulsen, Rector of Adare, will conduct the service.
"Tea time Treats", a Cook book compiled by Mothers’ Union members, to celebrate 125 years of Mothers’ Union in Ireland, are now available and will shortly be in all branches at a cost of €4.00 each. They are great value and have a lovely selection of cakes, tray bakes and deserts.
Plans are well in hand for our Showcase event "Your Gift - Discover and Celebrate" which will be held on Saturday 19th May in St. Kieran’s Hall, Cloughjordan. Our very special speaker will be Patsy Devoy, Mothers’ Union Faith and Policy Unit Co-ordinator, and in addition we are planning a number of exciting demonstrations, projects and profiles. There will be Arts and Crafts activities for young and old and, of course, delicious refreshments. All are welcome so please come and be with us between 2.00 and 5.30 p.m."
REMINDER to all branches – time to start preparing your Projects for presentation at the SHOWCASE on May 19th in Cloughjordan.
Cork Diocesan Youth Leaders Weekend

Kenneth Baker and Edward Hardy had the privilege of joining Cork Diocesan Youth Council for their youth leaders weekend from 20th – 22nd of January 2012 at Inchydoney Island Lodge in West Cork. The trainers for the weekend were Greg Fromholz (Diocesan Youth Office - Dublin & Glendalough) and Scott Evans (Diocesan Youth Officer - Casher & Ossory). It was also great that a number of other Diocesan Youth Officers were present at the weekend including Alison Jones (Meath & Kildare), Jonny Phoenix (Clogher) and of course Mark Dunwoody (Cork, Cloyne & Ross). There were also about 30 youth leaders from through the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross. It was a superb weekend and thoroughly enjoyed especially the splendid facilities and excellent food.

CONNECT TRAINING DAY IN LIMERICK.

The Church of Ireland Youth Department, in partnership with Limerick & Killaloe Diocesan Youth Officer, Rev. Vicki Lynch, is planning a training day for youth leaders on Saturday 24th March 2012 in Limerick City from 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. This event is open to all youth leaders. The training day will be facilitated by David Brown and Jude Treiner both Church of Ireland Youth Department staff members. David is the Youth Ministry Co-ordinator for the Church of Ireland, while Jude is CIYD’s new Youth Ministry Development worker for Southern Ireland, who commenced working with CIYD on 1st February. We look forward to working with her in the months and years ahead and wish her all the best in her new position.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Senior Spring Weekend
Friday 16th March – Monday 19th March 2012
Densmore Lodge, Ovoca Manor, Avoca Co. Wicklow
13 plus years

Our Senior Spring Weekend this year will take place from Friday 16th – Monday 19th March 2012 at the splendid Densmore Lodge, Ovoca Manor, Avoca, Co. Wicklow. We hope to have a team from “Love for Life” organisation to facilitate our worship times over the weekend. The programme offered by the “Love for Life” schools team has proved to be tremendous in the past and this time round should be no exception.

Of course some of the fabulous U.D.Y.C. activities will also be on offer throughout the weekend. We hope to travel by D.A.R.T. from Bray to Dublin on Saturday for St. Patrick’s Day parade followed by a visit to Leprechaun Museum and conclude the day with a trip to Dublin Zoo.

The splendid on site Outdoor activities at Ovoca Manor will be on offer during daylight hours on Sunday and Monday including: Archery; Abseiling; Crate Climbing; Zip Line; Junior and Senior Obstacle Course; Low Ropes Course; Dry Slide.

The weekend will also have many zany icebreaker games, disco, indoor soccer in sports hall, walks, good food, chill time and much more!

This weekend is for persons 13 years and over. There will be transport from Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea and Portlaoise. The cost of the weekend will be €80 or €100 with return transport from all locations. The €80 covers all activities, accommodation, food and transport throughout the weekend.

West Alive Weekend 2011 (with Tuam Diocesan Youth Council)
Friday 30th March 2012 – Sunday 1st April 2012
Esker Youth Village, Esker, Athenry, Co. Galway
10 – 13 years

Our West Alive Weekend this year will see United Diocesan Youth Council of Limerick & Killaloe and Tuam Diocesan Youth Council join forces to bring what promises to be an amazing weekend of fun, faith and fellowship. Esker Youth Village boasts splendid facilities deep within the countryside. So if you are aged between 10 – 13 years and want a weekend of adventure book today to avoid disappointment!

During the weekend the following activities will be on offer:

Day trip to Galway City
Visit to Zero Limits at City Limits for Laserpark, Climbing Wall, Inflatables, & Bowling (www.citylimits.ie)
Swimming Leisureland Galway with Inflatable Obstacle Course (www.leisureland.ie)
Icebreakers
Worship
Free time
Disco & Talent Show
Good food
Team Challenges
And a bit of sleep!

The weekend will cost €80 per person and this will include all food, activities and accommodation throughout the weekend. There will be an additional cost of €20 for return transport from and to Limerick, Nenagh, Moneygall, Roscrea, and Birr.

Streetreach Limerick & Easter Vigil Worship Event
Easter Saturday 7th April 2012
From 9.30 am – 10.00 pm
St. Mary’s Cathedral Limerick City
14 plus years

This is an exciting new event for UDYC. Yes we once held a very successful Streetreach event in Limerick in 2009 and we did have many excellent Easter Vigil events but never the two events together. Our theme for this event will be “Called to serve... at home and around the world”

The day will commence on Saturday morning at Cathedral for some worship, games and there will be an introduction/briefing to the activities planned on for the remainder of the day. For the remainder of the daylight
During the next four days we will participate in a range of Streetreach outreach activities in order to make a difference for people of all ages in communities in Limerick City.

These activities will include cleaning, gardening, conversation and meeting people, giving out gifts, random acts of kindness and much, much more. It is hoped that we will hear from participants who were on the trip to our Companion Diocese of Saldanha Bay last summer about ways that maybe we might in future be able to serve communities in other parts of the world. On Saturday evening after evening meal we will enjoy a splendid Easter Vigil worship event in the Cathedral at 8.45 pm. This event is for persons 14 years and over. The cost of the event will be €20 and this will include all activities during day and evening meal.

Booking forms for all events will be out in the coming weeks, and as always further information about any UDYC events and activities can be got from Edward on (087) 2907553. Also, information and programme can be found on the Diocesan Website at "http://limerick.anglican.org/udyc_news.php" and "http://limerick.anglican.org/udyc_prog.php" as well as on Facebook at our UDYC group page.

Until next month, Damian
(Email: 05shortend@gmail.com)
**ST MARY’S NO. 2 N.S. NENAGH**

Our term is certainly passing quickly! The boys and girls were delighted to participate in a Shrove Tuesday service on the 21st February. 6th class pupils lead most of the service and a performance poem entitled “This is an Egg” was most apt for the service. As part of our Lenten project, the children will have a Cake, Toy and Book sale in the hall and monies raised will be given to a chosen charity. On Wednesday 22nd February, the school made a donation to the National Council for the Blind, through monies raised by a collection of old clothing. This is an excellent opportunity for the children to be made aware of those who are less fortunate than themselves.

Throughout the month of March, the boys and girls will be participating in a number of activities. World Book Day will take place on the 1st of March and they will also be participating in tennis lessons during the term.

On Friday 30th March, we will conclude the term with an end of term service at 1.00 pm in the church.

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**ST CRONAN’S N.S. ROSCREA**

Many thanks to Mr. Adrian Hewson who organised an opportunity for 5th & 6th classes to visit the Monastery at Mount St. Joseph’s on February 9th. They toured the chapel, the refectory and the library where they saw a very special manuscript which had been hand written in the 12th century.

We were delighted to welcome so many parents to our recent Friday morning School Assembly when children from each room enjoyed presenting an overview of their most recent class work.

As part of our Green School Programme 1st – 4th class pupils have been exploring the school-yard habitats and creating their own vegetable patch under the guidance of some very green-fingered parents.

Families and friends will be joining us on Pancake Day when we will be launching Our Lenten Project on a musical note! This year we hope to raise money for our local ‘Dean Maxwell Home’.

Don’t forget to watch out for our St. Patrick’s Day Float on March 17th and keep March 29th free in your diary when our musical show “The Three Little Pigs” will be performed in the Temperance Hall at 7.30pm.

Enrolment for September 2012 is now taking place—application forms are available from the school office @ 0505 21636. An Open Afternoon for prospective parents and children will take place on Tuesday 27th March 2–3pm.

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**CLOUGHJORDAN N.S.**

We were delighted to welcome our Green School Travel Officer, Ellen O’Sullivan, to our school last month to help us examine the impacts of travel on the environment through a series of workshops.

We are currently working on our fourth Green-Flag which relates to sustainable transport and positive travel choices for the school run. After completing a poster and slogan competition our next step was to organise a Green-Travel information day to increase awareness about the issues relating to travel and the rationale behind it being a Green-Schools Theme. The day was a very practical, fun-filled day for all classes. We appreciate the time Ellen spent with us and her continued support to the school. We are also hugely indebted to Ms. Louise Cromer for her commitment to this programme and for inspiring both staff and pupils to continue working together towards our next green flag.

Pupils and staff joined in the Ash Wednesday morning service in St. Kieran’s Church again this year. This was a very appropriate way to begin our Lenten observance. We are very grateful to Canon Neill for involving the school in this service again this year.

Thank you very much to everybody who generously supported our school while bagpacking in Dunnes Stores, Roscrea last month. This was a very worthwhile venture. Thank you especially to our dedicated PTA Committee for

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**Making bug houses**

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**Tiling the vegetable patch**

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**In the library at Mount St. Joseph’s**
organising the rota of parents, and past pupils, to bag pack and to those who helped out by child minding, and for the generous donations in lieu of bagpacking. Every contribution helps and this venture raised in excess of €1100 for the school, for which we are extremely grateful.

Congratulations to our team of Hugh Guest, Richard Donaldson, Ellen Austin and Lucy Warmington from Third and Fourth Class and to our team of Robert Guest, Stephen Harding, Ian Armitage and Eoin England from Fifth and Sixth Class who represented the school at the Annual Credit Union Schools Quiz in Borrisokane last month. While our teams were unlucky not to win on the night they were tremendous ambassadors for our school.

Congratulations also to Eoin England who won a prize for his entry in the Cloughjordan Drama Group Art Competition. We are delighted for Eoin that his artistic depiction of “Wake in the West” was among the prizewinners this year.

Well done to the pupils from First and Second Class, and to their teacher Miss Whiteford, for all the work they put into entering the “Scriobh Leabhar” competition organised by Laois Education Centre.

We look forward to the annual visit of Noel and Liza, and staff of the Postal Bible School at the beginning of March. We appreciate all that Noel and Liza do for the school throughout the year, and thank them for finding time to spend with us and for the generous prizes all of our pupils will receive for their work on Postal Bible sheets.

Enrolment Application Forms for September 2012 are now available. For further information please contact the school on 0505 42318 or by email at principal.cloughjordan.no1.ns@gmail.com

VILLIERS SCHOOLS LIMERICK

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Villiers was invited to join five other local schools at the beginning of February to join in Catholic Schools Week. Under the guidance of school Chaplain Jackie McNair several pupils from fifth and sixth year read at the service that was held locally. The service was a success and brought together pupils from both primary and secondary schools the spirit of ecumenism and shared values. A group of about thirty pupils from the school also came to support those taking part. The service was centred around the founders of the schools and their vision as well as their Christian ethos.

Mocks

Well done to all pupils in third and sixth year who completed their mock Junior and Leaving Cert. exams respectively. The exams were held over two weeks and provided a valuable opportunity for students to experience what the exams in June will be like.

Prize Day

The annual Villiers Prize Day was held on the 22nd of February. The school was delighted to welcome back Mr John Ruddock who was Mr Hardy’s predecessor as headmaster of the school. Mr Ruddock was joined by the school’s Board of Governors, representatives of the PTA, the Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe and the Lord Mayor of Limerick. Mr Ruddock spoke of his time at Villiers and how the school had changed greatly since he had started there; when he started he had only 100 day pupils and 40 boarders! The ceremony was opened and closed with music provided by the school choir under the direction of the music teach Ms Sinead O’Sullivan. As always prize day was a wonderful occasion and we would like to give our thanks to all who made it possible.

BAWNMORE

In Transition Year, every year two groups go to the Bawnmore centre in Limerick.

This took place every Tuesday when a group of ten TY students went to Bawnmore during triple PE. Each student was paired with candidate who they had to help take part in the games and challenges that were set up for them. Halfway through the course the students were paired with a different candidate and at Christmas there was a special fun day with dancing and fun games. Bawnmore was very much enjoyed by everyone and on the last day there was a competition consisting of two teams.

Everyone wanted their team to win. In the end the yellow team won. Each student made their candidate a certificate for taking part. Everyone was sad at the end and everyone will be missed, especially Joey. Regrettably this was the only group going to Bawnmore this academic year.

FAREWELL TO MRS. MCDONNELL

With great sadness, but with sincere good wishes, we acknowledge the retirement of Maths and Irish teacher Ms. Eilish McDonnell from Villiers School and Family. She has given over 10 years of professionalism to the school and will be sadly missed. As an Irish and Maths teacher she has ensured that the Irish and Maths department is a positive one and contributed to the achievement of high grades in both these subjects. She will be missed by the Irish debating team and the various quiz teams that have been involved in inter-schools competitions down through the years.

Many students have benefited greatly from her help and will miss her in the classroom. Ms. McDonnell’s youngest son Brian also attended Villiers for his secondary education and in so doing continued the successful ‘teacher-parent’ trend that exists here.

As teacher representative on the PTA and as Form 5 Year Head her presence in the school will be missed. Sincere Good Wishes from all of The Villiers Family, as you embark on the next adventure of travel beyond these shores.

Go n-éirí an bóthar leat!

Do not anticipate trouble, or worry about what may never happen. Keep in the sunlight.

Benjamin Franklin
Laodicean Lyrics -
A postscript to Revelation 3:14-18

Michael Cavanagh came across this recently, and has kindly passed it on...food for thought...
Nigel Beeton remembers the fervour of Charles Wesley, and is glad that he was not luke-warm in his faith... If Charles Wesley had been a Laodicean, would he have written these words? Would we?

O Thou who camest from above,
A lovely warm good mood to impart
Kindle a sense of selfish love,
And warm the cockles of my heart!
There let it for my glory burn
Through self-congratulatory haze,
Then shall we to each other turn
And name good works with fervent praise!
Thus I confirm my heart's desire,

To work, and speak, and think for me
O let me sit by cosy fire
And think of what I'll get for free!
O please gloss o'er Thy Holy Word
As I with blinkered eyes ignore
The poor, the sick, the sore disturbed -
Yet who, in fact, is really poor?

Nigel Beeton

Partners in Prayer – March 2012
Derry & Raphoe Bishop Ken Good
Companion Dioceses: The Diocese of Saldahna Bay (South Africa) and the five Dioceses of the Protestant Church of Anhalt, Germany.

4th March 2nd Sunday in Lent Purple/Violet
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: PRAY for The Church of England
The Most Revd and Rt Hon Dr Rowan Douglas Williams
Archbishop of Canterbury
Diocese: Synod Delegates attending Special Synod Seminar this week – We pray that it may be a time of real listening to one another and especially to those with whom we disagree

11th March 3rd Sunday in Lent Purple/Violet
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: PRAY for Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui The Most Revd Dr Paul Kwong Archbishop of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui & Bishop of Hong Kong Island
Diocese: The Clergy & Diocesan Readers Spring Day on Thursday in Glenstall Abbey – that it may be a time of refreshment and education

18th March 4th Sunday in Lent / Mothering Sunday Purple/Violet
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: PRAY for The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean The Most Revd Ian Gerald James Ernest Archbishop, Province of Indian Ocean & Bishop of Mauritius
Diocese: For Diocesan Council and Finance Council meetings this Thursday and the decisions that will come before Council

25th March 5th Sunday in Lent Purple/Violet
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: PRAY for The Church of Ireland The Most Revd Alan Edwin Thomas Harper Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan,
Diocese: Our Diocesan Mothers Union and our President, Mrs Ina Blackwell

PRAYER FOR MARCH 2012

Prayer is the living breath of our parishes. Within our Anglican tradition – and beyond it - we are blessed with wonderful resources to draw on, some harking back a millennium or more, which perhaps we do not always value as we should. So I shall be selecting each month to print in Newslink a spiritual jewel suitable to the season. You might care to use it in church, or in your own private prayers – you could even learn it by heart!

For this Lenten season, with St Patrick’s Day upon us, I have chosen this verse from St Patrick’s Breastplate to pray as we walk the road to Calvary with Christ, while days stretch and life burgeons all around us

Christ be with me
Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in heart of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

A verse from St Patrick’s Breastplate,
Traditionally held to have been written by him in Old Irish in the C5th, but now believed to be later.
Diocesan Meeting for Members of General Synod

reported by Joc Sanders

More than 30 diocesan representatives to General Synod met on Saturday 28th January at Woodlands Hotel, Adare, at Bishop Trevor’s invitation, in preparation for the Bishop’s Conference on Human Sexuality in March.

Bishop Trevor had arranged for Pádraig O’Tuama to lead a discussion about how people who disagree with one another may engage in respectful dialogue. Pádraig is a Corkman now living and working in Belfast, and a poet. Among the points he made were: the need to use the language of the other, to ask good questions; and to listen to others’ responses, verbal and non-verbal. He illustrated how difficult this can be from his experience as a gay, partnered Christian.

The discussion was wide-ranging but low-key, and this reporter sensed that many found the subject difficult and were reluctant to articulate their views in public. Points arising included these:

- The opinion that the Church should affirm same sex relationships;
- Concern that a Church split may have disastrous effects on small rural parishes;
- Uncertainty why this issue has been brought to a head at this time;
- The view that the format of the day did not allow both sides of the argument to be articulated;
- The suggestion that another meeting may be useful after the Bishops’ Conference when the wording of General Synod motions is clear.

Newslink readers may be interested in the following:

- Church of Ireland Gazette Review on ‘Same-sex Relationships’, and an 8 page paper by Rev Dr Walter Wink entitled ‘Homosexuality and the Bible’. Both were handed out to General Synod members, and no doubt Rectors can provide copies.
- Pádraig O’Tuama’s report ‘Holding the tension wisely’ – accessible on the web by googling the title.

“COMMUNICATION” IN MARRIAGE PREPARATION

by Mrs Deirdre Whitley

When a couple comes for Marriage Preparation, Communication as a topic is a very important thread running through this course. It helps couples to see that being able to communicate clearly and with respect and sensitivity enables them to strengthen their love. They can then be there for each other through difficult and trying times as well as being able to share in their hopes and dreams for their future together.

Firstly they discuss their Expectations of Love in their forthcoming marriage. It is good to see how they can show love and appreciation verbally or through little acts of kindness and consideration.

Many ways of communicating are non-verbal; body language, voice tone, a look, silence both comfortable and controlling. This area is also discussed around the “all picture no sound” mode where one partner may be more inclined to retreat into a mood or sulk than the other, and it takes one of them if not both to break the ice and resolve the issue.

Unhealthy communication, i.e. criticism, is a non-runner in any relationship. John Gottman describes the down-hill slide in four stages: Criticism, Defensiveness, Contempt and Stonewalling as the Four Horses of the Apocalypse. This may not be spoken of in the Marriage Preparation when a couple are good listeners and don’t criticize each other, but would be kept in mind if it were otherwise, by the counselor facilitating the course.

When it comes to discussing their own and their partner’s Personal Strengths and Limitations, it is good for them to remember to affirm each other and that their strengths are more important to keep in mind than their shortcomings.

Many good/bad habits of communication come from our own parenting. This is also discussed as to what to bring to their own relationship and later on, parenting their own children, as ways of helping them mature into confident young adults.

Finance in today’s world of recession, and unemployment is another important topic to discuss and how this can be done with each partner being open and supportive about their money matters. Also the expense of childcare versus one partner choosing to be a full-time parent/home-maker may be a dilemma.

Sexuality is another important area of communication. Also the couple’s idea of what intimacy means to them in terms of emotional closeness.

The area of Traditional Roles within a relationship and how they grew up is also discussed. The couple sees how they can change those roles and talk about what they’d like to do for each other in their own marriage.

Each partner learns and discusses how their own emotional needs may be met within and outside the relationship, and to understand what those emotional needs are.

Finally, each partner discusses what they understand the word Commitment to mean and how to continue to communicate well throughout their married lives.

Deirdre is a qualified counsellor and member of the Church of Ireland Marriage Council.
MARCH 2012

MARCH SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS.
19th March: St Joseph of Nazareth: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion: Castleconnell.
26th March: The Annunciation: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion: Killaloe.

EVENTS
March will be a musical month (as indeed will April, of which more in the next issue). There is a major fund raising concert taking place in Castleconnell in March. It will be on Saturday 24th March at 8.30pm, and by kind permission of Fr Brendan Kyne it will be in St Joseph’s Church. In the first part there will be three featured soloists, and the second part will be choral. Tickets are €10 and will be available at the door.

Although I have no details at present, there will also be a concert organised by the Arts Department of Limerick County Council on Tuesday 13th March at 8pm in All Saints’ Church. Check the church notice-board and Sunday notices for details nearer the time.

Lucy Green has asked me to remind parishioners that she is on a diet. She intends to lose up to 8 stones (at the time of writing she had already lost 2st 4lb and attracted €1,400 in sponsorship!), and she feels that less of her could make more money for the parish! Parishioners (and, indeed, anyone else in the diocese) 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 Killaloe, Castleconnell, Mountshannon and Clonlara. If you would like to sponsor her then please contact Lucy directly.

On 9th and 10th March the bishops of the Church of Ireland are holding a conference on Human Sexuality in the Slieve Russell Hotel in Co. Cavan. All members of General Synod will be invited, No decisions will be made, and the intention is purely to enable everyone to be better informed and to think about all of the issues involved in advance of the regular three day meeting of General Synod in May when some sort of decisions may well have to be taken. Please remember all General Synod members and seminar leaders in your prayers.

The March Coffee Morning takes place on Wednesday 7th March. As usual there will be a celebration of Holy Communion in All Saints’ Church at 10.30am and then coffee in the Castle Oaks Hotel from about 11am. As ever, everyone is most welcome.

As always, on the last weekend in March we move on to summer time. This year the change takes place on the night of 24th-25th March, so remember to put the clocks forward one hour that night and arrive in church at the right time on the Sunday morning!

THANKS
This month I am especially grateful to the Revd Canon Trevor Sullivan and Mr John Lefroy for conducting services in the group while I am away doing my week’s residency in St Patrick’s Cathedral.

PERSONAL
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 especially for Betty Hogg, Frances Mooney, Jean Newenham and Anthony Torpey. We also keep in our prayers Jean Downer and her family following the recent death of her mother, the family of Martin Charles in England, and the Maguire family in Dublin who have asked for our prayers.

The Birr Group of Parishes
Birr, Lorrrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha
Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney
Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert
The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly
Tel: 057-9120021 Mobile: 087-7865234
e-mail: mapleir@eircom.net
Assistant Priest: The Rev. Ruth Gill
Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly
Telephone: 057-9135341 Mobile: 087-9484402
e-mail: ruthgill@iol.ie

SUNDAY SERVICES
Services continue with the usual schedule: Dorrha at 9.30 a.m. on the first and third Sunday, Lockeen at 9:30 am on the second and fourth, Lorrha every Sunday at 10.00 a.m., Birr every Sunday at 11.30 a.m. (changing to 11.00 a.m. on the 25th of March, when we go on Summer Time), with Sunday School in Birr every Sunday except the second, which is a Family Service.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES
This year our Lenten midweek services will be celebrations of Holy Communion in the homes of parishioners on Wednesday nights. Speakers will include some from various local Mission agencies giving a brief account of what they do in the area and how we can help. Many thanks to all those who have offered to host these evenings.

29th February: at the home of Maureen & Derek Kenny, Kilcarron, near Lorrha. Speaker: Caroline Guy - Dóchas (cancer support)
7th March at the Rectory in Birr. Speaker: Tony O’Riordan - Midlands Simon
14th March the home of Jonathan & June Pyle in Crinkle. Speaker: Jonathan Pyle – Sharing stories from his recent retreat in Iona
21st March at the home of Salters Sterling & Michael Hanna, Blueball. Speaker: Linda Chambers – USPG (Swaziland Project)
28th March at the home of Lord & Lady Rosse in Birr Castle. Speaker: A representative from the Citizens’ Information Service

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES
Sunday, 1st April - Palm Sunday
Birr11.00 a.m. Group Service of Holy Communion

Continued on page 17...
My Swaziland Trip

by Rev. Canon Stephen Neill

It is almost a year now since my trip to Swaziland with USPG Ireland and yet I can still vividly remember the strange combination of incredible beauty and extraordinary pain to be found in that land.

It is I can say without a word of exaggeration the most warm and welcoming place I have ever visited. The people just never seem to stop smiling. You notice it as soon as you enter the border crossing from South Africa which was almost 3 hours drive from Johannesburg where our party landed after departing from Dublin via Paris. They have a wonderfully laid back attitude to life that I think appeals instantly to the Irish psyche – Why do today what can wait till tomorrow? And yet that same attitude is in part their undoing. There is a real crisis in the country and one senses that either some people don’t fully realize the depth of that crisis or alternatively they are so overwhelmed by it that they are rendered almost impotent.

THIS IS WHERE THE CHURCH PLAYS A VITAL ROLE

The Gospel is grounded in Hope and in Swaziland that Gospel can fall on very hostile and hopeless ground. But it need not be that way – There is still Hope for Swaziland and there is the possibility that its people can once again thrive and flourish in the beautiful land they inhabit.

The Church, as we experienced first hand, is working with key people and agencies to bring about change and transformation. Progress is slow but good things are happening. The Anglican Church has in excess of 25 schools dispersed throughout Swaziland and they with meager resources and challenging circumstances are providing a vital education to the children of the country. Education is one of the key routes out of poverty and the Church is there at the coal face not only feeding the minds but also feeding the stomachs of the children many of whom rely on the Church for their daily bread.

One thing that really struck me was that the children are so happy and content with so very little. Not even possessing a real football they make one out of rubbish and plastic bags – they approach us and ask to have their pictures taken with us and then to see the pictures played back on the digital cameras. In one school we visited they walk at least two hours morning and evening and sometimes take a shortcut home over a crocodile infested river – some have not made it to the other side!

Health care and HIV/AIDS education is another vital task the Church is deeply involved in. If the trend of HIV/AIDS infection is to be reversed then people need to be given the education and the resources to stop this
During our time in Swaziland I went out with one of the Homecare teams and met Sandra, a wonderful Christian woman who voluntarily in addition to supporting her own family walked miles on a daily basis to bring medicine and basic supplies to the sick and dying and to bathe their wounds and support their families. Sandra started this work in her own Anglican church community and now goes anywhere she is sent to bring her own particular expression of the Gospel to the suffering.

GOD’S PRESENCE
My abiding memory of Swaziland is their very real sense of God’s presence in their lives. Even in the most hopeless of situations they are able to give thanks to God for the smallest little thing. Their country may be very dysfunctional politically but as a people they can teach us so much. They have not forgotten their God and they talk openly about their faith in a way that is both disarming and yet completely natural. There is an honest and transparency about them that is truly humbling and I firmly believe that they deserve our prayers and our tangible support. If you do ever get the chance to visit I encourage you to do so but also caution you that you will be profoundly changed by the experience.

(Editor’s note: Stephen’s trip serves to remind us that the Diocesan Board of Mission has set us a target to raise £40,000 to support the Diocese of Swaziland’s Big Bend Project – next month I hope we will have a report on how we’re doing!)
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Monday, 2nd April - Monday in Holy Week
Lockeen 8.00 p.m. Compline
Tuesday, 3rd April - Tuesday in Holy Week
Lorrha 8.00 p.m. Compline
Wednesday, 4th April - Wednesday in Holy Week
Dorrha 8.00 p.m. Compline
Thursday, 5th April - Maundy Thursday
Birr 8.00 p.m. Holy Communion
Friday, 6th April - Good Friday
Birr 12 noon Family Service
Birr 8.00 p.m. Compline

Saturday, 7th April - Easter Vigil
Lorrha 9.00 p.m. Holy Communion
Sunday, 8th April - Easter Day
Lockeen 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
Lorrha 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion
Birr 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion

SUMMER FÊTE
The core group which was formed from the meeting held last year to discuss the future of the Fête, have been coming together to explore various options to either find other ways of raising funds, or to continue with a fête. This core group concluded the Fête should continue, as it’s an event that would be missed. However, this year it was decided that it should be held in Oxmantown School as it is very well suited, with better facilities, and offering alternatives if the weather is wet!

It was also agreed to try holding the Fête on a Sunday this year. As Pentecost falls on the 27th of May, it has been agreed to hold a service of Holy Communion for the Group of Parishes in Birr at 11.00 a.m., to be followed by the Fête. These proposals were enthusiastically accepted and agreed to by those at the general meeting.

At some point the core group will be looking for help with stalls and games for the children and in other areas and no doubt a request will go out. If you would like to offer your services, please have a chat with someone from the group: Robert Alexander, Archdeacon Carney, Betty Delahunt, Rosie Fryday, Anne Gill, Leslie Harding, Paul Johnson, Jonathan Pyle, Revd Ruth, Cyril Tallon and George Vaugh.

BEREAVEMENTS
Deepest sympathy is extended to Jonathan Pyle on the recent death in England of his brother-in-law, Shane. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this sad time.

OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
The service in January was observed in St Brendan’s Roman Catholic Church led by Fr. David Carroll with representatives from the three churches in the town taking part. The singing was led by Birr Choral Society and there was an opportunity for tea and chat afterwards.

Roscrea Group of Parishes
Roscrea, Bourney, Corbally and Kyle
Priest in Charge: The Rev. Lesley Robinson
St. Cronan’s Rectory, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.
Tel: 0505 - 21725 Mobile: 087 - 9091561

LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES
Wednesday, 7th March: H.C. Bourney 8.00 p.m.
Wednesday, 14th March: H.C. Roscrea 8.00 p.m.
Saturday, 17th March (St. Patrick’s Day): Roscrea 10.30 a.m.
Wednesday, 21st March: H.C. Corbally 8.00 p.m.
Wednesday, 28th March: H.C. Bourney 8.00 p.m.
Spy Wednesday, 4th April: Kyle 8.00 p.m.
Maundy Thursday, 5th April: HC Roscrea 8.00 p.m.
Good Friday 6th April: Ecumenical Walk starting in Abbey St. 11.00 a.m. Bourney 8.00 p.m.
Saturday 7th April: Easter Vigil Corbally 9.00 p.m.
Easter Sunday 8th April: H.C. Bourney 9.30 a.m.; H.C. Roscrea 11.00 a.m.

PARISH LUNCH
Around fifty parishioners and friends joined in the fine food and festivities which comprise the annual parish lunch. Once again, Damer Court Hotel provided a delicious meal which was enjoyed by the assembled gathering on Sunday 22nd January in addition to the obligatory quiz and lots of chat, laughter and fellowship.

Leslie Evans, Keith Robinson and David McCorduck get their heads together over the quiz at the parish lunch in the Damer Court Hotel

Myra Stanley, Pat Drought, Deirdre Lutterell and Violet Dreaper enjoying the food and the company at the parish lunch.

Birthday girl Merlyn St.Leger blows out the candle on a hastily improvised birthday cake at the parish lunch.
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
SERVICE
Rev. Lesley, Adrian Hewson, Marjorie McCorduck and Charlotte Roe all took part in the service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which was held in the Methodist Church on 25th January. It was good to see a good representation of our parishioners in the congregation along with members from the other Christian churches in Roscrea. The theme of the service was ‘We shall all be changed’ and Fr. Tom Corbett gave the address.

HOLY BAPTISM
We wish every blessing to little Abbie Young, daughter of Colin and Aoife, who was baptised by Fr. Tom Corbett assisted by Rev. Lesley in a beautiful ceremony in Camblin Church on 11th February.

FLOWER FESTIVAL
As part of St. Cronan’s Bi-Centenary Celebrations a flower festival under the direction of Richard Haslam will be held in the church from August 17th-20th. Put the date into your diaries and watch this space for further details next month. Groups welcome.

HANDEL’S MESSIAH
Another important date for your diaries is Saturday, 15th December when St. Cronan’s Bi-centenary celebrations conclude on a high note (literally) with a performance in the church of Handel’s Messiah by the East Cork Choral Society. A rare treat not to be missed.

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

CANDLEMAS
The Advent banners made their last appearance at this service when members of the Junior Church processed them through the church for the final time, while the congregation held lighted candles.

FAMILY WORSHIP
This was held on Sunday 12th in St Mary’s, where the Junior church members, and the Junior choir sang, read, and blew bubbles for the delight of the congregation! Audrey Clark-Gordon reminded us that as we were participating in our worship, the Rector was baptising her third granddaughter in Beaconsfield, and we were able to add our thoughts and prayers to those of her family at that time.

CBS CONCERT
The CBS held their annual popular concert in St Mary’s at the end of January. This year the proceeds went to help the newly revitalised Nenagh Cricket Club. The proceeds from the admission fees, and the raffle of generously donated items, raised a significant sum, which has enabled the club to buy bats from the Ireland cricket team ahead of the summer season. Anyone wanting to know more about the club should visit their website, nenaghcricketclub.com

CONFIRMATION
Classes are underway, with five pupils exploring whether they are ready to own for themselves the promise made for them at their baptism. Like marriage and ordination, confirmation is by no means an ‘automatic’ sacrament; nobody has a ‘right’ to it, and some quite rigorous thought, prayer and preparation are necessary before candidates are deemed to be ready. We hold our five candidates, Alex, Emma, Jonathan, Scott and Shannon in our prayers during these weeks of spiritual searching.

LENT
During Lent there will be a series of four sessions exploring the topic of “Who are we – in the context of the Gospel of Mark and discipleship”. These will take place on Wednesdays in March, 8.00pm, St Mary’s. Each meeting will end with the service of Compline. All are welcome.

HAIKU ORPHANAGE
Another series of Coffee Mornings has begun with the splendid total of €263 being raised at the first, which was held on the 11th February. There had been a flurry of interest in the media about the orphanage run by Our Petits Frères et Soeurs, where Gena Heraty has worked for nearly twenty years, when she was home in Mayo recently. Gena appeared on television and in newspapers, and those who had seen and heard her were very generous. All money we raise goes directly to Gena, to benefit the children immediately, and she says there is nowhere else in the world that she wishes to be. Her dedication is truly inspirational. The next Coffee Morning will be on the 24th March.

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
e-mail: stephen.neill@gmail.com
Parish website/blog: www.modreeny.com
My Blog: www.paddyanglican.com

BIRTHS/CHRISTENINGS
Congratulations to Hilary (Whiteford) and Joe Hurley on the recent birth of their daughter Leah.
Welcome into the fellowship of Christ’s Church Isobel Dorothy Harding Fogarty daughter of Colin & Olivia Fogarty of Borrisokane who was baptized in Borrisokane on Sunday 12th February

BEREAVEMENTS
Deepest sympathy to Willie Hayes of Borrisokane on the death of his only sister and last sibling, Susan Clarke of Adare. A large number of parishioners traveled to the funeral in Adare and shared in what was an uplifting celebration of her life. She was laid to rest in the Limerick Road graveyard. We will continue to hold Willie and all the family in prayer as they come to terms with their loss.
LENTEN STUDY GROUP

Wednesdays in Lent – 1st Session 8.00 p.m.
Wednesday 29th February in the Rectory.
We will be looking at the 10 Commandments in a new and hopefully helpful way

USPG VISIT TO SCHOOL

A big thank you to Jan and Linda from USPG for bringing a very special visitor to our school. Archdeacon Bheki from Swaziland charmed the children with the very moving story of his life in Swaziland and taught the children a new song. He also answered some very searching questions from the children and told the rector that he was very impressed with how much the children knew about Swaziland but was equally glad that the children in Swaziland did not ask him such tough questions.

LENT

It is hoped to hold study gatherings through Lent on Wednesday evenings, with format and location to be confirmed shortly, after the opening service on Ash Wednesday.

BAPTISM

Christ Church, Spanish Point over St Patrick’s Tide (March 18th) will see the baptism of Ewen Fionn Callan MacNamara, son of Michael and Karen, grandson of Aidan and Clare O’Sullivan and whose late grandmother Molly Ellis-Ewen had deep roots in Spanish Point.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Mrs Kim Hutchinson and the Rev Vicki Lynch will lead the annual Clare-based World Day of Prayer (originally Women’s World Day of Prayer) in St Columba’s Church, Drumcliffe on Friday March 2nd.

APPOINTMENT

On going to press, word has just come of the appointment of the Rev Vicki Lynch to full-time ministry with the Methodist Church in Ireland at Christ Church, Limerick. The commencement date is July. More will be said in later editions, save to say Vicki’s ministry as a Reader and priest has been greatly valued and will be missed. We congratulate her on this full-time honour and wish her and Steve and family much blessing.

MOTHERS’ UNION

The next meeting of the Mothers’ Union takes place in Oxfmstown School, Birr on Tuesday 6th March. This will be the Overseas Meeting. The closing service and sale for the year takes place on Monday 26 March in Aghancon Church and Community Hall.

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

Coom East, Mullagh, West Clare.
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e-mail: vickilynch@eircom.net.

EASTER VISION

The opening of the Register of Vestry men and women prior to Easter Vestry presents us with a challenge to keep this area of responsibility alive within our parishes, but it is becoming increasingly difficult for several reasons, one of them being thin numbers. Certainly, as part of our spiritual life together, we have much educating to do in today’s climate to have this seen as something everybody has an interest in to a degree.

Perhaps this is also a moment to thank many parishioners for their loyalty to the church, the Diocese and the parish unit, not least office-bearers and leaders.

The Easter Vestries, from which our accounts are ratified, Select Vestries chosen and officers Elected, will take place as follows: Drumcliffe - Tuesday 17th April; Kilnasoolagh - Thursday 19th April.

LENT

It is hoped to hold study gatherings through Lent on Wednesday evenings, with format and location to be confirmed shortly, after the opening service on Ash Wednesday.

BAPTISM

Christ Church, Spanish Point over St Patrick’s Tide (March 18th) will see the baptism of Ewen Fionn Callan MacNamara, son of Michael and Karen, grandson of Aidan and Clare O’Sullivan and whose late grandmother Molly Ellis-Ewen had deep roots in Spanish Point.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Mrs Kim Hutchinson and the Rev Vicki Lynch will lead the annual Clare-based World Day of Prayer (originally Women’s World Day of Prayer) in St Columba’s Church, Drumcliffe on Friday March 2nd.

APPOINTMENT

On going to press, word has just come of the appointment of the Rev Vicki Lynch to full-time ministry with the Methodist Church in Ireland at Christ Church, Limerick. The commencement date is July. More will be said in later editions, save to say Vicki’s ministry as a Reader and priest has been greatly valued and will be missed. We congratulate her on this full-time honour and wish her and Steve and family much blessing.

HOSPITAL

Mr. Malcolm Price, a Kilkee parishioner and former Select Vestry member was expecting to go forward for a
lungs transplant soon when circumstances permit. He invites us to pray for himself and his wife Wendy. Mrs Anna McCrum, 96, holds up well at Cahercalla Hospital despite fragile health. Please remember her also.

CLARE PILGRIM WAY

The Clare church-based ecumenical group slowly creating prayer walks, which seek to uncover earlier and ancient Church practice, moves into East Clare on Easter Monday for a three day walk, starting at the famous Kilmacduagh monastic site and crossing the Galway Way into Shanaglish and a fascinating region of Holy Wells. A warm welcome awaits anyone interested in joining the fraternity for all or part of the walk.

SUNGEVSONG

We look forward to the visit of the choir of St Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick, to Ennis for Sung Evensong at St Columba’s Church on Sunday evening 29th April, 2012, at 5.30pm. This is the first in a series of tour events by the choir whose permanent conductor is Mr Peter Barley. Mr Daniel Battle, filling in for Mr Barley who is on leave in Canada, will lead the choir.

Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Ballinasloe

Group of Parishes

Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascaragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn.

Rector: The Rev. George Flynn

Tel: 0909-673735 Mobile: 087 - 2074739

email: georgeandgwyn@eircom.net

www.aughrim.clonfert.anglican.org

Greetings from the Northern part of the Diocese where we are preparing to ‘spring’ forward into the season of Lent and looking forward to a number of exciting events and occasions throughout our extended parishes.

The work of the late editor of The Newslink magazine Olive Stanley Wetzel has been well acknowledged in the last edition and I take this opportunity to welcome Mr Jock Saunders as the new editor wishing him well and assuring him of our on-going support. Many thanks to Rev Michael Johnson and his team of helpers who produced the Newslink Magazine during the past number of months.

LENTEN SERVICES

Lenten service commenced in Woodlawn on Ash Wednesday with a celebration of Holy Communion at 8.00 p.m. and the services will continue at this time each week bringing parishioners together in different churches as indicated as follows.

- February 29th - Aughrim, Evening Prayer
- March 7th - Ardrahan, Healing Service
- March 14th - Ballinasloe, Service of the Word
- March 21st - Clontuskert H.C. M.U. end of year service
- March 28th - Ahascaragh, Evening Prayer
- April 4th - Aughrim, Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 6th - Woodlawn, Passion of our Lord

These services are open to all who wish to come along and join us in worship and fellowship.

CONFIRMATION

The month of April will see a number of young children confirmed by Bishop Trevor in two parish Churches as follows:

The following young people will be confirmed in Ardrahan Church Sunday 1st April at 11.30 a.m.

Maclaine Black; Karina Cooke; Grace and Louise Finnerty; Cilian McGovern; Jack Shiel.

The following young people will be confirmed in St. John’s Ballinasloe Sunday 22nd April at 11.00 a.m.

Nicole Cruise; Chloe and Aimee Dreaper-Eyre; Cian, Jack, Tommy Griffin/Seale; Enda Sinclair; Benjamin and Eva Sinclair;

All these young people have come together on a number of occasions since October of 2011 along with parent in attendance at the rectory, workshop during Christmas holidays in Ardrahan, and a number of special services that introduced and explained to them in detail the services concerned.

These two services will be a very important day in the lives of each of our young people and their families as they take on board the promises made on their behalf by their sponsors at their baptism.

FAMILY SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM ARDRAHAN

The Baptism of Daniel Finnerty was held in Ardrahan on Sunday 29th January in conjunction with our fifth United Family service. Daniel is the youngest child of Michael and Chris and brother to Grace and Louise who are all parishioners of Ardrahan. A large gathering of family relatives and friends, and parishioners representing all parishes came together to make this day a wonderful occasion and gave Daniel a very warm welcome as a Child of God into the fellowship of our Christian faith.

This service gave our confirmation candidates the visual opportunity to see and experience what had taken place at their own Baptism and a wonderful practical preparation for their own declaration of confirmation promises as they commit themselves to serving Christ. These fifteen young people along with some of our younger children (in total 23) contributed to a wonderful service. The service was presented for the first time through a full power-point presentation with text and supporting music. It was received very favourably by all in attendance.

The congregation were invited back to the Finnerty home for a soup and finger lunch. This was a wonderful day enjoyed by everyone and we thank the Finnerty family for their hospitality and all involved in providing the refreshments.

GLEBE SCHOOL AUGHRIM

An Open Day was held in the School on Saturday 11th February from noon until 2.00 p.m. and attracted much interest. It has been difficult times for many Primary Schools around the Diocese and Country with the budget of December causing many headaches and uncertainty in many schools.

The ‘open day’ has given our Board of Management, Staff and parents much encouragement with the confirmation of additional pupils for September bringing
our numbers to an anticipated total of 9 or 10

“RHYME TIME” PARENT’S AND TODDLER GROUP

In conjunction with our Glebe School a Parents and Toddler Group will commence on Wednesday 22nd February and will run each week in the school from 12.30 to 13.45. The purpose of this is to enable parents and our very young to meet for chat and get to know each other. There will be special attention given to the very young with storytelling etc. Ms Jan Mulvaney a member of our new board is undertaking this venture that will in time provide a feeder facility to our primary school. Children must be accompanied by an adult child minder, Grandparent, Aunts, Uncles all welcome in place of Parents.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The annual World Day of Prayer will be held in St. John’s Ballinasloe on Friday March 2nd 8.00 p.m. A number of members of the local churches come together with parishioners of St. John’s to arrange this service. This year the liturgy has been prepared by the people of Malaysia and I extend an invitation to anyone (Men and Women) to come along and support this service.

ST. PATRICK’S DAY

St Patrick’s Day service of Holy Communion will be held in St Matthew’s Clontuskert this year at 11.00 a.m. An occasion when we recognise the contribution our Patron Saint gave to the development of our Christian Faith here in our homeland.

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who never seem to shy in coming forward. These questions were then answered by our Diocesan Reader Ann Menhenecott (who nearly behaved herself), Rev Patrick Towers (who never does), And Farther Abe (who always does). This discussion proved to be a rewarding and informative as it has done in former years and we often go home thinking that we may have learned as much as the students. The students are always warmly welcomed, this year was no exception and we look forward to meeting a new group next year.

CONFIRMATION
Bishop Trevor Williams will be taking a service of Confirmation at St Paul’s church Banagher on April 22nd at 3.30 p.m. We are looking forward to this very much as it is the first time we have held a confirmation in Banagher for many years.

LENT SERVICES
This year we will be having a Lenten service every Wednesday. Ash Wednesday will be over by the time you read this, the following weeks the lenten services will be as follows.

Wednesday 29th February at 11am Banagher.
Wednesday, 7th March at 11am a service of Holy Communion at Eliza Lodge nursing home.
Wednesday, 14th March at Banagher at 7.30 p.m.
Wednesday, 21st March at Eyrecourt at 11.00 a.m.
Wednesday, 28th March at Portumna at 11.00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday - Holy Communion at Banagher at 7.30pm
Good Friday - will be at Eyrecourt at 12 noon

ST. PATRICK DAY
Our service on St Patrick’s day of Holy Communion will be at Banagher as usual at 11am. We will hopefully join the local community on their day of rejoicing.

EASTER VESTRY
Provisionally we hope to hold our Easter Vestry on Wednesday 28th March

Limerick Diocese

Limerick Diocese
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

SINCERE SYMPATHY
Deepest sympathy to Violet Despard, family and relatives on the death of her sister, Alice Shaw(nee Dagg) of Fortal, Birr, Co. Offaly, on Saturday January 14th; to Rosemary Shier, daughter Pamela, son Gordon, their families and relatives on the death of Jacob Shier on Saturday 14th January in Milford Hospice; to John Shire, his father Willie, sister Ann, and brother William on the death of his mother Kathleen Shire of Bushfield, Patrickswell on Friday 20th January; to James Clarke, family and relatives on the death of his mother, Susan Clarke of Adare, who died on Friday 10th February.

BAPTISM IN ST. MARY’S CATHEDRAL
On Sunday 29th of January we welcomed into the Church family Sophie Susan Sherlock, baby daughter of Susan Wallace and Conor Sherlock.

CATHEDRAL CHOIR NEWS
We welcome a new member to the bass line of our choir - Ron McDaniel. Very best wishes to him for a happy and beneficial time as a member.

RTE’S VISIT TO ST. MARY’S CATHEDRAL
Grateful thanks to RTE for their sensitivity during the Eucharist on Sunday 5th February. The one thing they did ask of us was that the congregation was to leave by the West door. It truly was an amazing experience …on the Sunday after the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple… to see and feel ‘light’ and ‘fresh air’ flood the building nearing the end of the service. Check Val Casey’s video on St. Mary’s Cathedral on Facebook and You Tube and the links to both are on the front page of the Cathedral website - www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org - and see who was first to march into glory! Bishop Trevor made a keynote address about the possibilities for the Cathedral. This is something that concerns all of us as we can all help turn the weight of responsibility into a healthy pride in having such a significant, iconic and holy place in our care.

WHIST DRIVES
St. Michael’s Church and Villiers Square Whist Drives take a break till October. Thanks to the organisers and supporters. Hope you enjoyed your season and look forward to seeing you in the Autumn.

RICHMOND TERRACE
Every Tuesday at 1.00 p.m. a three course lunch is served in the dining room in Richmond Terrace for €7. Anyone who would like to join us at any time would be very welcome. Just let us know by the previous Monday on 061 - 310 455.

LIMERICK CITY PARISH TRAVELLING SUPPER
Limerick City Parish Travelling Supper takes place on Saturday 24th of March. If you would like to attend please contact Tracey Lyttle (061-453679) or Margaret Schutz (061-336141).

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

We move quickly now into the Lenten season and Easter is on the horizon. This year we started on Shrove Tuesday (21st February) with a short penitential service. This is to highlight the term to be shriven, or forgiven Tuesday (21st February) with a short penitential service. This is to highlight the term to be shriven, or forgiven.
doing penance. During the week before Lent, sometimes called Shrovetide in English, Christians were expected to go to confession in preparation for the penitential season of turning to God. Shrove Tuesday was the last day before the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, and noted in histories dating back to 1000 AD. The popular celebratory aspect of the day had developed long before the Protestant Reformation, and was associated with releasing high spirits before the sombre season of Lent. It is analogous to the continuing Carnival tradition associated with Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday).

Pancakes are associated with the day preceding Lent because they were a way to use up rich foodstuffs such as eggs, milk, and sugar, before the fasting season of the 40 days of Lent. The liturgical fasting emphasized eating plainer food and refraining from food that would give pleasure: In many cultures, this means no meat, dairy, or eggs. On Pancake Day, pancake races are held in villages and towns across the United Kingdom. The tradition is said to have originated when a housewife from Olney was so busy making pancakes that she forgot the time until she heard the church bells ringing for the service. She raced out of the house to church while still carrying her frying pan and pancake.

During Lent on a Tuesday evening we will be showing a DVD either in the church at Adare or the hall, the details still need to be worked out. Some of the films on offer are “As it is in heaven”, “The Way”, “Chocolat”, “Of men and gods”. Please do attend these as we look at life and meet for a cup of tea after to chat informally about the films. This is innovative and I hope you all will come and bring your friends and neighbours.

Holy week starting on Passion (Palm) Sunday until Easter there will be a full week of prayer, services and activity. We will also have the Easter morning Dawn services at St Nicholas Adare with the Easter fire and new light and the vigil service the Saturday night at Kilmallock.

I hope you will be excited and diarise these days and attend and again bring your family and children to learn and engage with age old traditions of the Anglican way.

Almsgiving is also a tradition and discipline practised during Lent. This year we would like you to put this into practice. Some people fast of a meal or for the day and that money is then given. Others give up something for lent and whatever the costs would have been that money is given. Children are sometimes encourage to have a money box and put change into this and then bring it to church as their offering. This year we want to donate the money to Christian Aid. You can look up what they do on their webpage. Bishop Trevor Williams is the Bishop who serves on this board of management for Church of Ireland.

I want to encourage you to take aboard this season of self-discipline to help you move closer in relationship with God and fellow human being. So look at basic disciplines of fasting, almsgiving, solitude, silence, frugality and also disciplines of engagement like study, worship, celebration, service, prayer, fellowship.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are usually days of self-denial where we try and fast or eat simply. Lent is good time to pause and reflect on the good quality of life that Irish people generally have compared to extreme poverty in so much of the world. As our brothers and sisters die each day from hunger or not having clean water to drink. Or live under dictator governments, situations of war and absence of basic human rights. So let us cease our complaining and give God thanks and count our blessings and put on an ‘attitude of gratitude’. As Ghandi said that we must become the blessing that we (the world) seeks.

Let us pray for each other, love one another, open ourselves to experience the holiness and presence of God in our daily routine of life this Lent.

DIARY DATES
Tuesdays during Lent, 7.30 p.m. at St Nicholas Adare.
9th/10th March Conference on Human sexuality in Cavan.
18th March Mothering Sunday.
1st April Palm Sunday.
1st to 8th April Holy Week.
6th April – Good Friday - Children’s service at 10.00 am Kilpeacon
6th April – Good Friday - Stations of Cross, 12.00 noon at Kilmallock
6th April – Good Friday - Stations of Cross, 3.00 p.m. at Adare.
7th April – Easter vigil service 8pm at Kilmallock
8th April Easter - Dawn service with the Easter fire at St Nicholas
Confirmation service 20th May at 3.30 p.m. in afternoon.
NOTE
Monday’s Rector’s day off

DEATHS
Susan Clarke died and her funeral was held at Adare
on 15 February. Rest eternal grant unto Susan O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon her.

VILLIERS SCHOOL REUNION

Barbara Bingham is one of the coordinators for Villiers School Reunion dinner to be held on Saturday 28th April in the Greenhills Hotel, Limerick. She urges every past pupil to share their photographs on the night by displaying them in the exhibition. So dig out those old albums and find the ones that make you smile the most! Tickets and full details can be obtained from their Facebook page (Villiers Past Pupils Limerick). Cost is €40 per person or €75 for a couple, and payment can be via cheque/post to Barbara or via online banking using bank details provided by her (barbarabingham@eircom.net).

Village 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

February is that short month between the Christmas rush and the crowded seasons of Lent and Easter. That does not mean it has not been a busy time in our parishes. We have now started our confirmation classes in preparation for the Bishop’s visit in April. Please remember our candidates in your prayers.

As well as preparation for confirmations we have been planning our World Day of Prayer service. The has been prepared by the women of Malaysia and the service will take place in St. Mary’s Church, Askeaton on Friday 2nd March at 8:00 p.m. We are fortunate to be able to invite Mr. Edward Buckingham to preach who will be drawing upon his experience of living in Malaysia. The World Day of Prayer services are always impressive and it is well worth attending one of this year’s services. If there is not one in your area then why not make a trip to Askeaton?

On Monday March 26th we will host the Area Mother’s Union service at St. Mary’s Askeaton at 8:00 p.m. The preacher will be the Rev. Elizabeth Hewitt.

During Lent we will invite anyone in the parish to come to a series of short meetings in the Rectory. The first one will be on Tuesday 28th February at 8.00 p.m. in the Rectory. Over the last couple of years these meetings have been about both Biblical reflection and committed action, the two must go together. Out of this group we have planned and carried through two very good events, our Agape service in 2010 and our very successful Christian Aid fundraiser in 2011. We can’t go backwards now, so what next? Come along and join in the celebration!

We hope to have Easter General Vestries in March, please look out for the times and dates on our parish web site and, of course “affixed to the main door of the Church”.

And as we are thinking about Easter our Holy Week and Easter Schedule is as follows:

HOLY WEEK
Tuesday 3rd April: St. Brendan’s Tarbert 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday 4th April Castletown Kilcornan 8:00 p.m.
Maundy Thursday 5th April St. Mary’s Askeaton 8:00 p.m.
Good Friday 6th April Holy Trinity Rathkeale 8:00 p.m.
Easter Eve, Saturday 7th April Castletown Kilcornan 11:00 p.m.
Liturgy of the Light & First Solemn Eucharist of Easter Day.
Easter Day
Holy Trinity Rathkeale 9:00 a.m.
St. Mary’s Askeaton 10:30 a.m.
St. Brendan’s Tarbert 12:00 noon.

Our parishes have been through some difficult and sad times over the past few weeks as well. Last month we remembered George Reidy and Jacob Shier, but just as the notes were completed and sent off for the month we had news of the sudden death of Kathleen Shire, mother of Ann Drew. We remember her and extend our prayerful sympathy to Ann and all the family. We also remember the family of Susan Clarke from Adare, and John Swanser of Ballylongford both of whom died during February. May they all rest in peace and rise in glory.
SUNDAY SERVICES IN MARCH

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

RETIREMENT OF THE REV. JOE HARDY

In an open letter to the parishioners of the Tralee & Dingle Unions of Parishes on Sunday, 29th January, The Rev. Joe Hardy announced that he would be retiring from the stipendiary Ministry of the Church on Sunday, 29th April 2012. Joe Hardy has given sterling and dedicated service to this parish for almost 30 years, coming to Tralee as a Church Army Officer as Pastoral Assistant to the then Rector, the late Archdeacon Doherty. He was later Ordained as Deacon and Priest in 2005.

Writing in the parish newsheet, the Rector wrote: “It is with a mixture of joy, thanksgiving and sadness that we receive the news of The Rev. Joe Hardy's impending retirement. Joy that Joe will have quality time in retirement to spend with his wife, Wendy, and his family. Thanksgiving for the wonderful, faithful and dedicated service he has given to this Parish over the past twenty-nine years and sadness that we will be losing the services of a faithful pastor and in my own case, a valued colleague. “Losing” is probably the wrong word as Joe and his family will continue to live in our parish and community”.

It is planned to mark Joe’s “Leave-taking” at a united Service in Tralee on Sunday, 29th April. Please remember Joe and his family in your prayers as they prepare for what we hope will be a long and happy time of well-earned retirement. Please pray too for our parish and the “Ministry Team” as we enter a time of transition and change, bearing in mind the extra work-load that will devolve on them in the short-term.

BOYS' BRIGADE

The members of the 1st Tralee Company of the Boys’ Brigade are preparing for their participation in this year’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade in the town. Over the next few weeks they will be making a Viking Long Boat and costumes for the Parade. If anyone would like to help out with this project, please contact the Captain, Collette Price on 066-712 0881 or 086-3188736.

HEALER PRAYER CIRCLE

The next meeting of the Healer Prayer Circle will be held at 8pm. on Tuesday, 6th March. This is an informal time of prayer for those in need of healing. All are welcome to attend.

LENT

Lent, which leads us towards the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is an opportunity for preparation and spiritual reflection and self examination. Services on Ash Wednesday and on the Wednesdays during Lent will be as follows: Kilgobbin 10.30a.m.; Tralee 11.00a.m.; Ballymacelligott 8.00p.m. It is hoped that as many people as possible will make attendance at one of these Services a part of your Lenten Discipline.

ST. JOHN'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

The new Board of Management of the school has now been in place since 1st December 2011. The members are: Mr. Daniel Giles (Chairman), Archdeacon Warren, Mr. Michael Lynch (Principal), Mrs. Patricia Fitzell (Deputy Principal), Mrs. Amanda West, Mr. Nigel Daley, Ms. Phyllis Mason and Mr. David Frizelle. The School is now enrolling pupils for the 2012-2013 school year. Those wishing to enrol children in the school are asked to contact Daniel Giles or Michael Lynch.

CONFIRMATION 2012

The Bishop has indicated that he will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation in St. John’s Church, Tralee, on Sunday, 6th May.

Confirmation Classes start on Thursday, March 8th at 7.30pm in Teach an tSolais and will be led by our Youth Ministry Co-ordinator, Linda Ahern and Heidi Giles. The classes continue on March 15, 22, & 29th and then after Easter on April 19 & 26 with the last class on May 3rd. All these Thurs night classes will run from 7.30 - 9.00pm. There will be a rehearsal on May 5th and then Confirmation on May 6th at 11am.

We will require "father" volunteers for every class night - and so far - many thanks to Dads - March is looked after - so please let us know if you can oblige for the April & May dates.

It is our intention to have a "retreat" day in April. Dates and details to be given nearer the time.

LINKS

It is our turn this year to host the World Day of Prayer Service, which will be held in Teach an tSolais on Friday March 2nd at 7.30 p.m. The service has been prepared this year by the Christian women of Malaysia, using the theme, 'Let Justice Prevail'. As usual we will be joined by members from other churches in the area so please come and join us.

EASTER GENERAL VESTRY MEETINGS

The Easter General Vestry Meeting for Dingle Union will be held in the Kilgobbin Church at 8.00 p.m. on Monday, 26th March 2012 and The Easter General Vestry Meeting for Tralee and Ballymacelligott Union will be held in Teach an tSolais on Thursday, 29th March at 8.00 p.m. All Parishioners are invited – indeed encouraged - to attend. The Register of Vestry Members will be updated at the commencement of these meetings. Registration Forms are in the churches for anyone who may have come to the Parish or who has attained the age of 18 in the last 12 months, to register.

At these Meetings the new Parish Officers (Churchwardens and Glebewardens) are appointed and elected along with the members of the Select Vestry for the coming year. The Accounts for the year ended 2011 will also be presented. All are welcome to attend these meetings, but only “Registered Vestry Members” may hold office or vote at the Meetings.

ABOUT PEOPLE

We congratulate the Matron, staff and residents of Dingle Community Hospital which was officially opened by the Minister for Health on 3rd February.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Joyce Hood whose funeral took place in Ballyseedy on Saturday, 4th February and conducted by The Rev. Joe Hardy.

We send our hearty congratulations to Archdeacon Michael Igrave (Archdeacon of Southwark – who is a regular visitor to the Dingle area with his family) on his
appoinment as Bishop of Woolwich. His Consecration will take place in Southwark Cathedral on 21st March. We will be remembering him and his family in our prayers as he prepares for new responsibilities.

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

SERVICES DURING MARCH.
Sunday 4th. Holy Communion 11.00 am.
Sunday 11th  Service of the Word 11.00 am.
Sunday 18th  Family Communion – Mothering Sunday, 11.00 am (no Sunday School).
Sunday 25th  Service of the Word 11.00am.

There is service of Holy Communion each Wednesday at 10.30am followed by coffee in Mac's Restaurant.

Our Lent book this year is entitled Your Journey to Easter, and is a collection of 46 daily readings plus articles on the theme of Peace which ask how each of us can work towards living in a more peaceful society. The small A5 booklet encourages us to believe that the potential for change lies within each of us. Copies are available from Canon Sue at €1.50 each.

Our concert season begins early this year: all concerts begin at 8pm – admission is free with a retiring collection.
March 12th Lancaster Bible Choir (USA).
March 16th Concert arranged by Kerry School of Music.
March 26th Oak Park Choir (USA).

Our Annual General Easter Vestry meeting will take place on Thursday 29th March in Muckross Venture Centre. The meeting begins at 8pm and is preceded by a service of Holy Communion at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Please remember our confirmation candidates in your prayers as we begin our preparation during this month. Robert Giles, Nicola Giles, Tom Eadie and Rachel Brookes will be confirmed on May 20th at 11am. As in previous years we will use the Youth Emmaus Course as part of the preparation and will share much of what we discover with the rest of the congregation, as part of a Lenten series of sermons. This will give us all an opportunity to consider what we believe, and why we do what we do each Sunday.

Kilcolman Union of Parishes
Kilcolman, Kilfallagh and Glenbeigh
Priest in Charge:
The Rev. Máirt 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

We are gearing up for a number of events in the parish due to take place over the next month, some regular and some one offs. As I write we have had a couple of hardy annuals that have gone very well. The Beetle drive went very well and thanks to all who organised and attended. The Christangle service was much appreciated and thanks to Rev. Jim for running that. Once again we had a parish survey service (or should that be a postit note service) and I will talk about the comments made in the next parish news letter. As I write, the Ladies Dinner is about to happen, as is our Ash Wednesday service. Below are some of the more regular events that will be going on over the next month,

BOOK CLUB
We have chosen a new book, C. S. Lewis' Mere Christianity, which is a collection of essays on belief and faith from the perspective of the 'person in the pew'. It is a really good and accessible read and it would be good to see some more people join us at our next meetings on March the 13th and 27th. I have a number of the books for anyone interested as the book is temporarily out of print and the next edition is not available until April.

GARDENING GROUP
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, younger children are welcome with their parents. This group will meet between 4.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. on Thursday evenings, starting from Thursday 1st March. Please contact me if you are interested in participating 087-6194733.

PARENTS' GROUP
This is an informal get together for parents to come to with or with out their children on the first Mondays of the month from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon 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. The first meeting was on Monday the 6th of February and the second will be on the 5th of March where we will be joined by visitors from our link diocese who will talk about the supports for parents and families that their church provides.

The one off events on their way start at the beginning of March with the visit of Rev Jürgen A. Dittrich, who is the president of our link Diocese of Anhalt, and Rev. Dr. Michael Labahn with his wife Rev. Dr. Antje Labahn of the parish of Güntersberge, who wish to develop a link with the parishes in Kerry. They will be attending the Back to Church Sunday conference in Adare on the 2nd March and meeting groups in Kilcolman and Killarney Unions on the 3rd. On the 4th they will preach in Killorglin and in Castlemaine, and after the evening service in Castlemaine they will give a talk on their Christian heritage and Martin Luther. On Monday they will head for Sneem after the Parents Coffee morning to join with the Mothers Union service and then they head for home on the 6th. Please do give them a warm welcome, and I hope you will all get a chance to attend one of the events around their visit.
We will be looking forward to a visit from the Bishop on the 18th, which will be St. Patrick’s, Mothering and a visitation Sunday all rolled into one! A special thanks to the choir for the work they are putting in to the new liturgical material for that Sunday.

Our Easter schedule will run the same as last year with the addition of a walk particularly aimed at teenagers on the Wednesday of Holy Week, for details contact me closer to the time.

I think that is all for now so God Bless, Rev Máirt

Kenmare and Dromod Union

Kenmare, Sneem, Waterville and Valentia

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 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

MONTHLY PRAYER BREAKFAST
Our prayer breakfast takes place on the first Saturday of every month, from 9.00 to 10.00 in St Patrick’s resource room. This quiet time of sharing is a wonderful way of beginning the weekend. The fresh coffee and croissants aren’t bad, either!

PRAISE AND PLAY
Praise and Play began again in January, Its purpose is to provide a welcome and opportunity for under-5s and children with special needs, plus mum, dad, grandma, grandad or carer to meet, sing, play, and simply enjoy the company of each other. We start with a short service lasting about 20 minutes – singing some action songs, listening to a story and saying a short prayer. After the service there is a drink and a healthy snack, and the grownups can chat while the children play. There will also be a craft activity for the children to join in – a little help may be required. This month we’ve made woolly sheep, paper flowers and St Brendan’s boats – complete with sail!

We have had a number of expressions of interest from other churches regarding Praise & Play services, and we would be very happy to share our experiences in helping others develop their own approach to serving the needs of under-fives and children with special needs. If you would like more information, please contact Marjorie Cavanagh on 064 664 8566 or marjorie.cavanagh@eircom.net.

University of Limerick
Notes from the Chaplaincy

Rev Patricia Hanna
The Rectory, Bindon Street, Ennis, Co Clare
Tel: 065 682 0109, Mob: 087 660 6003, Email: hannape@tcd.ie

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday, 23rd March, 2012 at 10.00 a.m. ‘Justice for All’ a participative service in the Contemplative Centre, Student Square, UL, exploring different ways of understanding justice issues in the world today. Based on the liturgy prepared for this year’s Women’s World Day of Prayer, all are welcome. Tea and coffee served afterwards in the Teach Fáilte Chaplaincy Drop In Centre.

Daily Share your lunch and have a chat with a good group of friends in the Teach Fáilte Drop In Centre, a great way to beat the recession! Tea and coffee making facilities plus microwave and toaster always in use. Open 9 to 5 week-days.

The chaplains are there to provide a listening ear and direct you to the various supports available while in College. Don’t forget to speak with the chaplain about Financial Aid funds for next term, including our small student loan system and child care fund. Swap or sell your books at the end of term at the Teach Fáilte Drop In Centre. See us on Facebook and the UL website at ul.ie/chaplains.

World Student Christian Federation call for participants:
If you are interested in attending this conference please contact the chaplain.

Bye for now, Patricia

Adare & Ballingrane

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

SERVICE TIMES
Adare: 10.15 a.m.
Ballingrane: 11.45 a.m.
Sunday School during morning services

BIBLE STUDY
The Bible Study Group will meet this month on Wednesday 7 March.

MWI (METHODIST WOMEN IN IRELAND)
MWI will meet for their monthly meeting on
Wednesday 21 March in Adare Church. Dr Curtin, a local GP, will be speaking about “medical matters” of importance to women.

The annual MWI Service for the Adare and Ballingrane Branch will be held at 11.00am on Sunday 25 March. Members of the Branch will participate in the service and the guest preacher will be the Rev Mary Hunter, minister of Christ Church, Rathgar, Presbyterian Church in Dublin.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

10.30 a.m. on Friday 2nd March. The service for the Adare Churches will be held in our Methodist Church. The guest speaker will be Ms Gillian Kingston, Lay Leader of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

The Midlands & Southern District Synod meets twice a year. The Synod will meet on Saturday 10 March in Portlaoise Methodist Church.

SYMPATHY

It is with sadness that we report the death of Miss Lily Baker on Tuesday 24th January. We extend our deepest sympathy to her sisters Ethel and Renee and their brother, Harold and to the family circle.

CHRIST CHURCH, SHANNON

Dr. Rosemary Power, Pioneer Minister
5 The Grove, Shannon, Co Clare
061 - 363717
NO NOTES SUBMITTED

CHRIST CHURCH, LIMERICK

(Methodist & Presbyterian)
The Rev Elizabeth Hewitt
Methodist Manse, Rathkeale Road, Adare, Co. Limerick.
Tel: 061-396236
Email: elizabeth.hewitt@btinternet.com

SERVICE TIME
11.30 a.m. Sunday School meets during the service

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

7.00 pm on Friday 2nd March. The service for the Limerick Churches will be held this year in Christ Church. The guest speaker will be Ms Eirene Griffin, a former missionary in CÔTE d’IVOIRE

A second service will be held at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday 8th March in Villiers Square. This service is organised each year by the Thursday Club in Christ Church for themselves and other Senior Citizens’ groups in Limerick.

Christ Church congregation are looking forward to welcoming the Rev John Faris, Minister of Cork Presbyterian Church, who will conduct worship in Christ Church on Sunday, 11th March. As Christ Church is a united Methodist and Presbyterian congregation, the Dublin and Munster Presbytery appointed Mr Faris as the corresponding Minister who is a link between the congregation and Presbytery.

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

KILLARNEY

Methodist Church East Avenue, Killarney
Sunday Services: 9 and 11 a.m. (inc. Children’s’ programme at 11 a.m.)
Prayer meetings: Monday - Thursday 8.00 a.m. - 9.00 a.m.
Bible Study Meetings - Wednesday 8.00 p.m. and Friday 10.00 a.m.
Drop in for coffee each Friday 11.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.
KENMARE

“Gateway” Gortamullin, Killarney Road, Kenmare.
Sunday Service. 11 a.m. (preceded by coffee)
(inc. Children’s’ programme)
Weekly Bible Study/Fellowship meetings. Tuesdays at 8.00 p.m. (Prayer time at 7 p.m.)
Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m.
Drop in for coffee each Wednesday 11 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

After a brief break the film nights have recommenced in Killarney on the last Saturday of each month at 7.30pm. These are a great chance to watch a film which is guaranteed to be wholesome and life affirming. There is even a big screen and a good sound system.

Gneeveguilla Home fellowship group continues on the first and third Thursdays of the month (1st and 15th March) meeting at 8pm. The Castlesiland Home fellowship group this month is planned for Friday 16th March again at 8pm.

The monthly Men’s Breakfast meeting is scheduled for Saturday 10th March 8.30 - 10 a.m. Now that spring has sprung we are looking forward to Willie and Stephen sharing some of their vast knowledge about plants and trees.

The South Kerry Parkinson’s Association will have their normal monthly meeting at our Church in Killarney on Monday 12th March at 7.30 p.m.

After Church on Sunday 4th March the Praise Group will meet for a practice from 12.45 p.m. - 2.00 p.m. After Church on Sunday 18th March the Local Preachers including those in training, will meet from 12.45 p.m. - 2 pm.

Meetings in Millstreet continue every Sunday night at 7.00 p.m. still meeting in the Canon O’Donovan Centre on Clara Road.

The bi-annual District Synod of the Midlands & Southern District of the Methodist Church meets on Saturday 10th March in Portlaoise. Please pray that God would guide us in all that we discuss and decide.
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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Headmistress - Jill A Storey M.A. H.DIP. Ed (Hons) DIP. in REM. Ed. (Hons)

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Telephone: (061) 451447 / 451400  Fax: (061) 455333
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