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see page 28...
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The Bishop Writes

HARVEST IS HERE!

And the Church of Ireland does Harvest thanksgiving well. In a Dioceses such as ours, our many members who farm, bring the world of their work into Church. Together we remember that we are all part of the created order and give thanks for all that God has given.

This year has brought a difficult harvest for many. The rain just didn’t stop! But by comparison with others we have much to give thanks for. I will be visiting Swaziland this month (12-19 October) with Salters Sterling and Michael Hanna from Birr. Our brothers and sisters in the Anglican Church in Swaziland face great challenges. In their small country of one million people, 70% live below poverty line, 40% are HIV positive, 15% of households are headed by a child and the average life expectancy is 32 years. The Church is poor and is unable to do much. They are doing what they can and we have pledged to stand with them. Through our links with USPG Ireland, we have agreed to support the Luyengo Farm Project with €40,000. This farm project is a brilliant idea. The land, which was given to the Church, is being used to grow crops which will be sold to support the Diocese of Swaziland’s ministry to people with HIV/AIDS. So our seed money will continue to produce a harvest of love and care for the people of Swaziland.

We have raised over €15,000 so far, so this year we need to raise €25,000. Hope you will help! Mission Sunday on 25th November will focus on this.

Back at home, like the seasons, we are facing changing times as I mentioned last month. Archdeacon Robert Warren and Dean Stephen White have left us in response to God’s call to exercise their ministry elsewhere. Let’s continue to pray that God will use them greatly in their new work. Also on 24th October we will be welcoming Revd Sandra Pragnell as the new Dean of Limerick and Ardfert, and Rector of Limerick City Parish. Three of the most senior clerical positions in our Dioceses are changing.

Some of us adapt to change better than others. But the truth for all of us is that it is better to face change, and take advantage of the opportunities it brings, rather than passively accept what others will decide for us.

In our wider Church family, The Church of Ireland’s General Synod has established a Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures. In a communique they state that “the challenges and opportunities facing the Church of Ireland in our generation are significantly different from those of previous generations. We have the same gospel and the same mission but a different culture and climate in which to witness and work, and effective Episcopal ministry is central to the impact our mission makes in the future.”

The Commission will be looking at all the Dioceses in the Church of Ireland and after wide consultation they hope to provide for a clear vision for the role, function and practice of bishops, and structures that are suitable for the current situation, flexible enough to meet future demands and yet compatible with our resources.

What will we say about our Dioceses when the Commission comes to visit? The three questions we have been thinking about, Who are we? What are we about? And Who is our neighbour? lay a good foundation for our Vision. But we now need to paint a picture of the future of our Dioceses which will inspire us to be agents of God’s loving purposes for his world. At our Diocesan Council we took the first steps on this journey.

But if the process is going to yield a fruitful harvest, it needs to grow from the ground up. It will involve all who are willing to take part. I hope you will contribute to shaping the vision. When the vision is clear, we can shape the change which will inevitably come to us in the not too distant future.

Let us pray for one another that we may hear God’s call, and respond courageously to it.

Here is a prayer which I found helpful from The Rev. Linda C. Smith-Criddle (Women’s Uncommon Prayers)

‘Assist us, Lord, in living hopefully into the future. In the face of change, help us to set unnecessary fears aside and to recognize our potential for creative response. Help us to develop a reasonable optimism when confronted by “the new” and to guard against our own defensiveness. Be with us as we remember and celebrate former times, and keep us from unreasonable yearning for them, which takes us from the work you have set before us in our time. All this we ask in the name of your Child, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.’

Your bishop
+Trevor

The Rt. Revd. Trevor Williams
Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe
Rien Roe, Adare, Co Limerick
Tel: +353 (0)61 396244
Mobile: +353 (0)87 9772125
Email: bishop@limerick.anglican.org

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

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

October 5th to 7th – UDYC Taking a Leading Role (part 1) – Lough Derg House, Dromineer
October 8th to 10th – Diocesan Retreat/Conference – Dingle
October 27th to 29th - ANOIS 2012 “SWITCH” – Kilkenny College (see www.ciyd.org)
Editorial

Dear Reader

I am writing this mid-Atlantic, en route to New York on the Queen Mary 2, a splendid, comfortable ship. As I take my daily exercise around the windy promenade deck – 3 laps to 1 mile – there is nothing to see in any direction but sea, horizon and sky. It is beautiful and restful, but I long to look out at something solid: a coastline, an island, another ship even. Clearly I am not cut out to be a sea±farer. But out of sight of land I have been blessed to glimpse quite a few wild creatures: a pod of dolphins surfing the ship’s wake; a lone petrel skimming the breaking waves; a pair of curious gannets riding an updraft; a whale spouting and breaching. What I am tempted to see as a hostile trackless ocean is their home. And they are my distant cousins – we share a common ancestor.

Thanks to NASA’s Mars rover ‘Curiosity’ other human eyes are looking out over what appears to be a hostile lifeless desert. Scientists will study the Martian rocks to understand their composition and history. Water, so necessary for life on earth, may once have sculpted them. It is just possible they contain traces of primitive life. Whether this is so or not, it would be surprising if alien life beyond imagining did not exist somewhere among the countless galaxies, stars and planets of our amazing universe.

Astronomer Carl Sagan is quoted as saying, ‘The universe seems neither benign nor hostile, merely indifferent’, but I believe he is quite wrong. I see traces of a loving Father in the way the universe is fine-tuned to support life, traces of a saving Son in the altruistic behaviour found in so many species including our own, and traces of a creative Spirit in the wonderful diversity of evolving life forms. If we ever encounter sentient alien life forms we would do well to treat them also as distant cousins, because they too will be children of the one God.

God bless,
Joc Sanders

The November issue will be published for Sunday 4th November 2012. All material to be included must reach the Editor by Friday 19th October 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 otherwise agreed with the Editor. All material dealing with parish matters must first be cleared with the Rector of the parish concerned.

The October and November issues of Newslink will be edited by Assistant Editor Deborah Powell, to whom all communication should be directed.

Assistant Editor’s Contact Details
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NEWSLINK Subscription & Advertising Rates for 2012
(Unchanged from 2011)

Newlink Annual Subscription €30
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a) Postal charge for delivery to pew €7
b) Postal charge for postage of single issue €13.50

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United Diocesan Youth Council of Limerick and Killaloe

Senior Summer Camp was held in Carhue Centre, Bandon, Co. Cork from 19th to 26th August. Like Junior Camp numbers were smaller than originally planned but allowed for much greater sense of fellowship and community.

Highlights included the overnight trip to Cape Clear (blessed with glorious sunshine!), with a BBQ and activities including kayaking, sea bouldering, and hiking. Other days included Oysterhaven Activity Centre, with its mucky Jungle Run obstacle course, orienteering and watersports. There was shopping, bowling, and the ever popular karting. Evenings were filled with on site activities, and just having space and time to spend with others.

Creative and powerful worship sessions were led by Rev. Lesley Robinson (who also kept us well fed for the busy week! Thanks Lesley!) and discussed and gave all a chance to reflect on ministry, our gifts and talents and on perhaps how God is calling them to use them in the building up of His Kingdom. A visit from Bishop Trevor to one of our midweek sessions was a great opportunity to offer us an insight into his own experience of vocation and ministry, the challenges and sacrifices but concluding with blessings and joys which can come from a life in God’s service. Much interaction was a part of the sessions and all engaged and participated greatly.

Thank you to our leaders, Ed, Wendy, Damian, Alec, Ivor, Amy and Lesley for all their hard work and service, their presence as role models and finally their willingness to share their faith with our young people. The week was profoundly filled with fun, faith, and fellowship and we thank God for his continued blessing on the Youth Council’s work, and the opportunity to serve He gives to us all. May we continue to grow in service of Him, each of us in the unique ministry to which He has called us.

Upcoming events….

ANOIS 2012 “SWITCH” - Kilkenny College - Saturday 27th October – Monday 29th October - for 13 – 19 Year Olds - cost - €80 (+ €20 for return transport from all locations if required – Diocese transport from Limerick, Nenagh & Roscrea.)

ANOIS is hosted by the Church of Ireland Youth Department in partnership with youth ministry colleagues from Dioceses throughout the country. If you’re up for the challenge and adventure ANOIS provides, come along this year - you’ll not regret it!

If you’ve been to ANOIS before you know what to expect - but if not here are some of the exciting aspects of this year’s programme on offer. The MORNINGS AND EVENINGS will commence with creative and exciting worship ending with Small Group Times for fun, exploration, discussion and prayer. The MARK FERGUSON BAND will lead the - music has been Mark’s passion for a long time. Despite this, he believes that God is his true passion and so the two worlds of God and music inevitably came together. Check out www.markfergusonband.com. JUDE TRENIER - Youth Ministry Development Officer (Republic of Ireland) CIYD, will be our speaker. On SUNDAY MORNING there will be dynamic lively workshops facilitated this year by a range of workshop leaders.

THE ELIMINATOR CHALLENGE is back on SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

Visit http://www.eventdimensions.com/equaliser.htm to capture a glimpse of the adventure! For a more relaxed Sunday afternoon there will be Bowling and Activities at K – Bowl Entertainment Centre Kilkenny followed by some shopping and coffee in Kilkenny.

LATE EVENINGS AND FREE TIME SESSIONS - many favourite activities will return: Surf Simulator, Rodeo Bull, Laser Zone, Giant Games, Chill Zone, Café, Prayer Room, Resources and display stands, Once again we’re hosting “Anois Factor” & Disco!

The event will have great fun, fellowship and food than ever before!.........(see www.ciyd.org)

JUNIORS:

Our Junior Weekend will be held in Carhue Centre, Bandon, Co. Cork from 9th till 11th November.

MAD Day’s date has been changed to Saturday 24th November at St Mary’s NS Nenagh.

More information UDYC website (see details below) or contact Edward direct.

Booking forms, etc. available soon - watch this space!


Until next month,

Damian
Email: 05shortend@gmail.com

Have you considered advertising in Newslink?
Rates, deadlines and contact information on page 2
UPCOMING EVENTS

Diocesan Council Meeting in St. Mary’s Church, Nenagh on Thursday, 8th November at 8 pm.

Christmas Craft Day in the Methodist Hall, Roscrea on Saturday, 1st December at 2.30 pm. All proceeds from this event go towards Diocesan Camp in June - the more we raise from events like the Craft Day the more fun we can provide at camp!

BALLINASLOE

St. John’s and Holy Trinity Mothers’ Union members gathered in St. John’s Church, Ballinasloe for the Opening Service of the season on 17th Sept. Instead of the customary Holy Communion Celebration, it took the form of a Praise and Prayer Service, with various members choosing their favourite hymns and explaining the reason for their choice. There was also Bible readings and Prayers led by the members and an Address by the Rector. The service was very well received by all present, with approximately 14 participants from both branches. St. John’s next meeting is on Monday 22nd October in Gullane’s Hotel at 8 p.m., when Denis Poynton will speak on the work of Christian Aid. Aughrim MU members are invited to this meeting as are all readers of Newslink and friends.

1ST NENAGH COMPANY

We are looking forward to the new year with some exciting plans ahead! Already we have had a special visit from Nenagh’s Olympic Torch Bearer, Evanna Morrissey. The boys got to actually hold the torch and we are all delighted and proud of Evanna’s achievement.

The first evening’s theme was Teamwork & Friendship. The boys made some lovely collages and Ger gave a fantastic and well-received spiritual chat on Saul, David and his friend Jonathan.

We are also delighted with some funding we have just received from the North Tipp VEC – it all helps!

Our membership is steadily growing and now spans 3 schools, which gives the boys chance to make new friends which is great and we have increased our meeting frequency to twice/month.

ROSCREA BB

Hilda Mooney, our new Company Captain, and Rev. Lesley Robinson, Chaplain, attended the Midland’s Regional Meeting in Portlaoise on 19th September and heard of the exciting plans for the year ahead in this region. We plan to take part in as many of the regionally organised activities as possible this year to increase the enjoyment and social aspect for our boys. Roscrea will be hosting the regional table quiz in March. David Thompson from Rathdowney BB has very kindly agreed to teach the boys marching one night, which should be fun. Activities resume on 5th October after the summer break.
ST. NICHOLAS’ N.S. ADARE

School re-opened on 30th August and we have just held a short service in St. Nicholas’ Church where Rev. Paulsen and Rev. Hewitt welcomed new staff and pupils to the school. Pupils prepared prayers and readings giving thanks for bringing us all back safely for a new school year.

The pupils have been invited to sing at the Harvest Thanksgiving service in the church and so we are busy practicing for that.

Congratulations to Jeffrey Alfred who represented Ireland in U12 chess this summer. Jeffrey has now moved onto secondary school where I have no doubt he will continue to excel in chess.

The summer weather was not very kind to our veggie patch and there is a very small harvest this year. The abundance of slugs and a touch of potato blight played havoc with our patch not to mention the wet weather!

Swimming classes have begun and take place every Friday morning in Askeaton Pool for pupils in 1st to 6th classes until mid-term break.

The school held an information evening on September 10th to introduce our Bookworm Club to new parents.

The senior pupils look forward to welcoming Limerick County Council’s writer in residence to the school on September 26th when they will spend the day writing lots and lots of stories.

ST MICHAEL’S N.S. LIMERICK

Another school year has commenced for St Michael’s National School and we have welcomed in a new class of Junior Infants, as well as seven pupils into other classes. We are also delighted to welcome two new teachers – Elaine Meyler to Second and Third Classes, and Sinéad Franklin to Fourth and Fifth Classes.

Our new Sixth Class has enjoyed the responsibility of getting to know the new Junior Infants.

We are honoured to have been selected as one of four schools in Limerick to pilot a computer-based Maths programme called Scratch. Its purpose is to introduce young children to the wonders of programming simple animations. Thanks to one of our parents, Donal O’Leary, St Michael’s NS were made aware of the opportunity to be involved in this exciting new pilot programme. The Senior classes are enjoying the benefit of expert tutors for an hour each Monday morning for ten weeks. Feedback from parents already is very positive – television has been redundant!

The school is looking forward to joining with the parish for the Harvest Service on October 14th at 10 a.m.

KILTALLAGH N.S.

End of Year Service …what a wonderful way to end our school year for 2011/2012 when we had the pleasure of having Bishop Trevor Williams to lead our service in Kiltallagh Church. Three of our children - Zach, Naoise and Charlotte played a traditional Irish Air ‘Inis Thiar’ for the opening procession and dressing of the altar. Some of the items brought forward included school books, art work, a bible, recorder, basketball and some food - depicting all the activities we share and enjoy in our school. Our opening hymn “Good Morning Jesus” was performed by the children with great actions. Through our song, we thanked God for all the wonderful things we have in our lives, including our families, our friends, the love God gives us along with asking God to bless and protect us in the year ahead.

Our closing song was “Siúl I solas Dé”, where we asked God to help us walk in his light.

Following our service, pupils, staff, families and friends of Kiltallagh returned for the raising of our second Green Flag for Energy Conservation. We are very proud of our second Green Flag and are presently working towards our 3rd Green Flag for Water Conservation. Bishop Williams raised our 2nd Green Flag with our Chairperson Andrew Eadie providing shelter from the inclement weather!

Our Flag raising ceremony was followed by a delicious barbeque organised by the Parents’ Association. Children were entertained by some artistic face painting by Klara, and also enjoyed the magical entertainment from Dell Boy. He performed some wonderful tricks and even managed to make some of Bishop Trevor’s money disappear! Our End of Year Celebration was a wonderful end to a brilliant school year in Kiltallagh.

CONGRATULATIONS

… to Peter and Sinead Clendennen on the birth of their baby daughter Freya. We know that Elva is being a wonderful big sister to Ciara and Freya.

…. to Eric and Moira Wharton on the birth of their baby son Evan William, a brother to Clara, Sarah Lynn and Kayla.

…. to Ms. Fiona O’Connor on her appointment to the position of Learning Support/Resource Teacher to Kiltallagh N.S. We welcome you and hope you will have many memorable moments amongst staff and pupils.

We would also like welcome Mary O'Connor to our school as secretary;

…. to Susan, Avril, Kate, Clara, Natasha, Charlotte and Sarah to the senior room and hope they will have a wonderful time over the next four years;

…and on September 4th we welcomed 5 new pupils to our school. Johnny, George, Kate, Oscar and Frank. May
all your days in Kitallagh be happy and funfilled.

Slán ... we also wish Aiden Hill, a pupil in Junior Infants, who has moved to his new school in Cork. We hope you will make many new friends in Cork, Aiden—and we would love to hear all about your new school when you visit Kerry.

OXMANTOWN N.S.

Welcome to our ten new junior infants who started with Miss Lynch on 3rd September we hope that they will have a happy time with us at Oxmantown and our best wishes to Emma, Aisling, Patricia, Andrzej, Karl, Christopher and Marcin as they go on to the next level in their education.

MRS. MAHON’S RETIREMENT

Staff, past pupils, parents and current pupils gathered at St. Brendan’s Church on 15th September for a service of thanksgiving for the thirty six years of dedicated teaching given by Mrs. Mahon. In his address Archdeacon Carney paid tribute to Mrs. Mahon’s thirty three years as infant teacher and the hundreds of children whose lives that she had touched and to her motherly approach. The children sang ‘I Will Testify to Love’ one of Mrs. Mahon’s favourite hymns, Zara Harding Horan read a poem and presented flowers and Richard Alexander and Lyndsey Armstrong were the lesson readers. The collection was in aid of the O.S.P.C.A. Shirley works as a volunteer for this charity. The Board of Management and the Parents Association organised refreshments at the School afterwards and people enjoyed the chance to chat over old times and to congratulate Mrs. Mahon.

NEW LEARNING SUPPORT TEACHER

We look forward to welcoming Ms. Barnwell as our Learning Support Teacher when she has completed her maternity leave; Ms. Barnwell is a past pupil of Oxmantown and she comes to us from Tullamore Educate Together School. Meanwhile, Mr. Ryan is teaching Learning Support.

RATHKEALE NO 2 NS

We extend a warm welcome to our new pupils who started on the 3rd September last. This year we have five new junior infant pupils and one new first class pupil and they have now all settled into the school routine. We would also like to welcome two new staff members, Mrs Mairead Loughlin, our new learning support teacher and Miss Jackie Foley, our new resource teacher. They will both be with us four mornings a week.

While we welcome new pupils and also new staff members it is with sadness that we will be saying a fond
farewell to Ms Lucy Gow. Ms Gow has been teaching junior infants to second class pupils now for five years and has also always been very dedicated to the school. She will be moving to Maryborough National School in Portlaoise after the Hallowe’en break. Our loss is Portlaoise’s gain and we wish her every happiness and success with her new position.

Rathkeale Community Creche after school club has begun in our downstairs room. The after school club meet every day, Monday to Friday from 1.40pm until 6pm.
This year we hope to achieve our third green flag. The topic is water and our new committee members are actively working on surveys to begin the process of developing an awareness of water conservation.

GLEBE NS AUGHRIM
Having had a difficult two years with concerns regarding the future of our school in considerable doubt, great credit must be given to our Principal, Staff, Board Members, Parents’ Association and parishioners who have worked hard to enable our School in September to have a total of fifteen children enrolled.
We look forward to further additional pupils in the coming year and see our school requiring an additional teacher in line with the Department of Education’s policy.
Having reached this stage I thank Mr Ken Fennelly and the staff of the RCB for all their support and the encouragement and the co-operation of the Department of Education for all their help.

ST MARY’S NS NENAGH
It’s hard to believe that summer has ended and the new school year is well under way. It has been an eventful start to the year, with good news and new faces.
What would September be without the joyful sight of our new Junior Infant class in their smart school uniforms, excitedly beginning an important journey into education? St. Mary’s warmly welcomes our new students, and we wish them every success in our shared experiences ahead.
In relation to staff matters, we said a sad farewell to Ms. Jean Ryan who was filling in for Mrs. Quin’s maternity leave. We would like to thank her for all of her hard work, and to congratulate her on the successful completion of her probationary term. Both Mrs. Quin and Mrs. Shine returned to us at the end of last term, and we were delighted to welcome both teachers back to St. Mary’s.
St. Mary’s would like to welcome our newest member of staff, Ms. Niamh McConville, to the school. Ms. McConville will join the Special Education team.
Mrs. Maher commenced her maternity leave in June, and we were delighted to hear that she and Mr. Maher welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Isabel, into the world. We send our warmest congratulations to the Maher family.
Ms. Aoife Everard will be teaching in the senior room for the duration of Mrs. Maher’s maternity leave.
The new school year is as busy as ever with many activities taking place this term. French conversation classes and tennis coaching began in early September, while the Harvest Service took place in St. Mary’s Church on Friday 21st September.

ST. JOHN’S NS, SHANNON
St. John’s NS, Shannon, is eagerly awaiting a new school library worth €2,500 - thanks to the efforts of a sixth class pupil with an aptitude for spelling.
Emily Meehan was a finalist in this year’s Eason Spelling Bee in association with the Ryan Tubridy Show on 2FM, having won the Clare County Bee earlier in the year.
She then saw off stiff competition at the Provincial Final at the Strand Hotel in Limerick to take the crown as Munster champion.
The Grand Final took place in RTE Studios in Dublin and Emily represented the school extremely well - coming in 4th place and winning a massive library of books for both classrooms.

Principal, Tina Noone, and teacher, Vera Knowles, are very proud of Emily’s achievements. The whole school population were behind the sixth class girl, even travelling to RTE by bus at 5.45am on the morning of the Final!
The pupils of St. John’s NS are certainly enthusiastic spellers - and we hope to repeat Emily’s success next year!

ST. JOHN’S NS, SHANNON

Prefectship : Behind the Scenes
This year’s prefect trip to Kilaloe certainly had a ‘prefects gone wild’ feel to it, however, not in the sense that you’re probably thinking about right now. In lay man’s terms, the bant was had, as the pictures clearly suggest (see back cover), and there was definitely an atmosphere of bonding, which in effect was one of the main reasons for the trip.
Of course, we can’t forget the dedication and incredibly high motivation of our prefect coordinators, Mike Sutton and everyone’s favourite Jackie McNair! Excuse the cliché but without them, the trip literally would not have been possible, so I think a virtual round of applause is in order, just to show our appreciation. While on the subject of teachers deserving thanks, we have to remember the selfless actions of the lovely Ms. Sterritt and elegant Ms. Peters who provided sausages for our campfire and breakfast.

VILLIERS SCHOOL

Prefectship : Behind the Scenes
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Now, to what actually happened on the trip. Basically your traditional team building exercises such as the high ropes, Jacob’s ladder, crystal maze challenge and the list goes on, however, it wasn’t all fun and games, aside from all the team building activities, we did actually do some bit of work, in the form of 45 minute long meetings, just to touch base with the job at hand.

I can’t finish without first mentioning our campfire. In my opinion, it really brought everyone together. There was music, jokes, marshmallows and lots of fun. This was where the real bonding happened.

All things said, it was a good trip, lots of laughs and there was a real laid back atmosphere. Definitely something Villiers should keep doing, and once again, congratulations to all those who were selected as prefects this year!

Welcome all new and returning students to UL!

UL CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

There is lots going on this year as it is the 40th Anniversary of the formation of UL so I will send on details of various events. The celebrations formally began on Thursday 27th September with an opening speech by President Don Barry, at the University Main Plaza at 2pm, followed by celebratory music and a performance by the Corona’s at the Foundation Concert Hall. All present students and all UL graduates were asked to attend, as well as staff and visitors.

There is a kaleidoscope of different functions catering for every group throughout the year.

PROPOSED NEW STUDENT SERVICES CENTRE

On display now in UL is the proposed design of a vast new Student Services Centre and an upgrade to the Sports Arena and older sports pitches. The estimated €40 million project is, currently written up in the student newspaper, An Focal and is causing a certain amount of debate as it involves a student referendum in Week 8 for a proposal to raise the student levy by €72 per year.

TEACH FÁILTE CHAPLAINCY DROP IN CENTRE

This year the Church of Ireland Chaplaincy at the University of Limerick covers a Drop In Centre, the Teach Fáilte, 9.00 am - 5.00 pm on the following days:

- Every Thursday and Friday and every alternate Monday, ie Week 1,3,5, etc.

All Church of Ireland students are most welcome to call into the Teach Fáilte, have some free tea, coffee, biscuits and a chat. We can refer students on to other support services available on Campus.

The Chaplaincy Drop In Centre is located in the main Student Square area, beside O’Mahony’s Bookshop, the USIT Travel Agency and opposite the Ulster Bank.

THE CONTEMPLATIVE CENTRE

At the heart of the present Student Centre on Campus and two doors down from the Teach Fáilte, is the unique Contemplative Centre. Pieces of Liturgical sculpture, designed by Fergus Costello of Cloughjordan are on display and make this an intimate yet unusual and quirky centre for personal meditation and prayer. There are four main figures depicting Earth, Air, Fire and Water and this is reflected in the stained glass window.

There are no set service of worship times but services of worship are available in the Contemplative Centre on request. It opens at 8.30 a.m. for prayer and closes at sunset or 5.00pm.

An Inter Faith Sacred Text Reading group meets each Thursday evening from 5-6pm in the Teach Fáilte. We are looking at the practical virtues of character (from the H+ Course) extolled in the Christian Bible, the Torah, the Koran, the Bahi and the Hindu religions, with students from each religion participating. Church of Ireland students are requested to bring an Old and New Testament. Students already attending the group have made new friends and can be assured of a lively discussion forum.

The Student Christian Movement (SCM) runs courses for student leaders from time to time. There is an international meeting in Italy, in October 2012, and students are asked to contact the Chaplain for further information, if they would like to attend.

best wishes,
Rev. Patricia McKee Hanna
Mobile: 0876606003
Email: patricia.hanna@ul.ie
Teach Fáilte Chaplaincy Drop In Centre
Student Square
University of Limerick
Phone: 061233635
Ten fun things to do during a boring sermon

(Newslink's Editor came across this when visiting a church in the UK!!)

- Pass a note to the organist asking whether s/he plays requests.
- See if a yawn really is contagious.
- Slap your neighbour. See if they turn the other cheek. If not, raise your hand and tell the preacher.
- Listen for your preacher to use a word beginning with ‘A’ then ‘B’ and so on through the alphabet.
- Try to take the handbag of the lady in front of you by putting your toe through the handle.
- Use your church bulletin to make a paper airplane. Test-fly it.
- By unobtrusively drawing your arms up into your sleeves, turn your shirt around backwards.
- Twiddle your thumbs.
- Twiddle your neighbour's thumbs.
- If all else fails, look up at the ceiling, point, and scream.

Anon.

PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

Prepared by Sister Catherine Brennan SSL
and Sister Ann Concannon SSL

Set 1

Creator God, you have generously blessed us with an abundance of gifts in this, your world. Help us to share in that generosity by living in a way that ensures that your gifts will continue to be available for future generations.
O God, give us your love for the whole of Creation

Creator God, we rejoice that, as human beings, we have been created in your image and likeness. But we also recognise that humanity alone cannot adequately reflect you. The whole diversity of the earth is needed to give us even a glimpse of your wonder and greatness. Help us to live in a sustainable way so that this marvellous diversity is respected.
O God, give us your love for the whole of Creation

Creator God, we live in a world where some of us throw out food while others go to bed hungry; where some have the modern amenities of life at their disposal and others struggle to find drinking water. May we learn to share with one another and, in this way, come to share in your generosity to all.
O God, give us your love for the whole of Creation

Creator God, the sun, the wind and the waves are your gifts for the flourishing of the whole community of life on earth. Help us to use them creatively to produce sustainable energy for all.
O God, give us your love for the whole of Creation

Through scientists, engineers and scholars new knowledge comes to light; may new developments in the production of sustainable energy protect our fragile planet and promote the well-being of all peoples and all creatures on their journey to wholeness.
O God, give us your love for the whole of Creation

We pray for the United Nations, for all international, national and local leaders and for managers of companies that they may be guided by your Spirit to make wise decisions about sources of sustainable energy for all.
O God, give us your love for the whole of Creation

Creator God, You have blessed humankind with understanding, imagination and memory. Show us how to learn from past mistakes and plan for the future creatively and responsibly.
O God, give us your love for the whole of Creation

Priest/leader
Let us pray: Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God, that the gifts of Your Spirit may work in us and renew the face of the earth. May we be one with you so that our work is yours and your work is ours. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives with you and with the Holy Spirit for ever.

Amen
October 4th was the feast day of St Francis of Assisi. Among the many beautiful prayers he wrote, this one suits October very well.

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.**

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

**Amen.**

St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)
Killaloe Diocese

Killaloe & Stradbally Union
Killaloe, Castleconnell, Clonlara, Mountshannon and Tuamgraney.
Vacant
The Rev. Lucy Green
Tel: 062 - 79941
Mbl: 087-6670425
Email: lucygreen06ie@yahoo.co.uk

SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 15

The Birr Group of Parishes
Birr, Lorrha, Lockeen, and Dorrha
Rector: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney
Archdeacon of Killaloe & Clonfert
The Rectory, Birr, Co. Offaly
Telephone: 057-912-0021 Mobile: 087-786-5234
e-mail: mapleire@eircom.net
Assistant Priest: The Rev. Ruth Gill
Kilgolan House, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly
Telephone: 057-913-5341 Mobile: 087-948-4402
e-mail: ruth_gill40@hotmail.com

SERVICE TIMES
The time of the Sunday service in Birr changes back to 11:30 am on the 28th of October. On the 4th of November there will be a Group Service to celebrate All Saints Day, at 11:30 am in Birr.

PARISH DANCE
Our annual Parish Dance in Dooly’s Hotel was a great success, both in fun and in funds. Many thanks to Willie and Phyllis Wolfe, and all who helped with organising, selling tickets, helping on the night, and, of course, dancing!

PASTORAL
We continue to keep those in our parishes who are elderly, ill, or infirm. We are thankful that Violet Harding and Dickie Abbott are both home after hospital stays, and doing well.

BEREAVEMENT
Our sincere condolences to Sammy, Norman, Richard, and Georgina Alexander, and the extended family, on the death of their sister, Sandra Cavanagh on the 16th of September.

SHIRLEY MAHON
After 36 years as teacher at Oxtmantown School, it was hard to say good-bye to Shirley at the special Retirement Service on the 15th of September, but the church was thronged with present and past pupils, parents, and well-wishers who were there to try their best.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Our Sunday School continues at the 11:00 service in Birr, every Sunday except the 2nd Sunday of the month, which is a Family Service. We continue to have coffee and tea after the Family Service. Many thanks to Sylvia Vaugh for coordinating this.

ST PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN
Bishop Trevor has asked Archdeacon Carney to be our Diocesan Canon in the Chapter of St Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin, the National Cathedral. His installation will be on Sunday, 4th November at 3:15 pm in the Cathedral.

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

HARVEST FESTIVAL DATES
Roscrea: Sunday 7th October @ 4pm. Preacher: Rev. Gary Paulsen.
Corbally: Friday 12th October @ 8pm. Preacher: Rev. Leonard Ruddock.
Bourney: Sunday 21st October @ 3pm. Preacher: Fr. Pat Greed.

BACK UP AND RUNNING
It’s been a hectic month of September with the return of many parish organisations including St. Cronan’s NS, the Healer Prayer Group, and the GFS. The leaders of the Mothers’ Union, Boys Brigade and St. Cronan’s Youth Club have been busy planning for their return to action very soon. We welcome Gwyn Wallace as a new GFS leader and Sandra Wakefield as our new GFS co-ordinator; also Hilda Mooney to the position of BB company captain this year. At time of writing we are looking forward to the Celebration of Healing and Wholeness service to be held in St. Cronan’s Church, Roscrea on Monday 1st October in conjunction with the Diocesan Mothers’ Union. Plans are also well advanced for a charity shop which will be run by Heather Evans, Vivienne Wallace, and their team of helpers on Main St. Roscrea from 2nd-6th October. Proceeds will be divided between Team Hope Shoebox Appeal and parish funds. We are also looking forward to Back to Church Sunday in Corbally, Roscrea and Bourney on 30th September and are honoured to have been chosen to feature in a promotional video for BTCS on You Tube.

SACRED SPACE CONCERT
St. Cronan’s Church was delighted to host a concert of sacred classical music on Sunday 26th August as part of the Roscrea Beo festival, and proud that our very own soprano, Nicole Robinson, topped the bill!

HOLY BAPTISM
Matthew Thompson, son of Stanley and Rebecca, was
baptised in Shinrone Methodist church on 2nd September by Rev. Brian Griffin, assisted by Rev. Lesley. We wish him and his parents every blessing.

**HARVEST THANKSGIVING, KYLLE**

A good congregation attended the first of our Harvest Thanksgiving services, held in Kyle church on 16th September when the guest preacher was the Rev. Stan Evans.

**AROUND THE PARISHES**

Our deepest sympathy goes to Iris Allen, Ballaghmore, and her family on the death of her mother Bertha Howard, of Eyrecourt, and also to Judith Wallace, Ballystanley, on the recent death of her mother, Eileen Hill, of Tullamore. We also extend our sympathy to Jane McManus, the Resource Teacher in St. Cronan’s NS, whose sister Celia passed away in France recently.

We continue to keep those who are sick in our prayers, particularly Davina Lewis, Isaac Dann and all who are recuperating at this time. It is good to see Deirdre Lutterell, Joan Wallace and Dick Davis out and about again after short stays in hospital.

Congratulations to George and Jean Lewis, Bourney, who have become first-time grandparents with the safe arrival of Robert and Gloria’s child.

Best wishes to Clive Davis, Corbally, and Mary Ryan to be married on 27th October.

We look forward also to the Baptism of little Rebecca Connor in October.

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**Nenagh Union of Parishes**

Nenagh, Templenore, and Killodiernan

**Rector:** Rev. Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke

(Sabbatical Leave until 22 July 2012)

St. Mary’s Rectory, Church Road, Nenagh. Co. Tipperary.

Tel: 067-32598 Mobile: 085-1474792
e-mail: revdmarie@eircom.net

(Diocesan Reader: Joc Sanders, Tel: 087 699 6775)

**Sunday Services**

9.30 am Templenore, 1st 2nd and 4th Sundays.

11.00 am St Mary’s Nenagh

12.15 pm, 2nd and 4th Sundays Killodiernan.

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We were delighted that Jeremy Cairns, Jonathon Hayes, Christopher Kelly and Ellen Langley’s results enabled them to move onto their chosen third-level
The Kildare Place Society and Schooling in the Nineteenth Century

The Church of Ireland College of Education (CICE) in conjunction with the National Museum of Ireland Collins Barracks has just launched this exhibition, which was opened by the Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn TD.

All exhibits are from the CICE Plunket Museum and the CICE archives.

The Kildare Place Society was founded in Dublin in 1811 by a group of philanthropic Dublin citizens with the aim of providing non-denominational education for the poor in Ireland. The Society’s pioneering work included the building of schools, teacher training, the publication of an extensive library of reading books and the establishment of an inspectorate to monitor schools. The Society received a parliamentary grant until 1831 but this ceased with the advent of the Irish National School system. The Society’s influence on teaching was significant and many of its innovations influenced the National School system.

If you are in Dublin and have the time to spare, do pop into Collins Barracks (Museum stop on the Luas from Heuston Station) and have a look at this most interesting exhibition.
On Sunday 2nd September the people of the five Parishes of the Tralee and Dingle Unions turned out in strength to wish Archdeacon Robert Warren and his wife, Vera, farewell at a Service in St. John’s Church, Tralee. Joining Robert at the altar were the Rev. Jim Stephens, Priest-in-Charge during the interregnum, the five Diocesan Readers, Fr. Sean Hanafin, Dean of Kerry, and Fr. Padraig Walsh, PP Our Lady and St. Brendan’s, Tralee.

Robert’s intention was to conduct an up-beat Service untainted by any air of regret or parting and this he achieved with flying colours when, taking as his text various phrases from a well-known song by Frank Sinatra, he spoke of the ups and downs of his time in the Group.

The Service closed with a short but moving ceremony in which he passed on to representatives of the five congregations the various symbols of the Faith: The Bible, The Prayer Book, Bread, Wine, Oil etc. to be held in trust and presented to a new Rector in the fullness of time. Then, just in case this had created a too-solemn mood, as a ‘recessional’ after the blessing and dismissal, Mr. Sinatra sang ‘My Way’.

To ensure that their hearts will never stray far from Kerry, during refreshments in the Parish Centre Robert and Vera were presented with an oil painting of a part of Tralee Bay that can be seen from the window of their home by the sea shore.

As is usual at times like this, many people said many good things to, and about, those preparing to depart, but all the sentiments expressed are summed up in the words of this Irish Blessing read by Mrs. Margaret Groves.

*May the raindrops fall gently on your brow*
*May the soft winds freshen your spirit*
*May the sunshine brighten your heart*
*May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you*
*May your home always be too small to hold all your friends*
*And may God enfold you in the mantle of his love.*
*And so say all of us. God speed, good friends.*

*Peter Keane*
A service was held in St. Flannan’s Cathedral, Killaloe on Sunday 26th August to mark the retirement of Very Reverend Dr. Stephen White as Dean of Killaloe - a sad occasion in being a farewell to Dean Stephen and his family, but happy in including a welcome for little Emilie Drifa Osika through Baptism. The service was conducted by Dean White, supported by many friends and colleagues, including Right Reverend Michael Mayes, former Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe, and Mrs. Beth Mayes. Very Reverend Robert McCarthy, former Dean of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin was present, as was Father Pat Malone of Nenagh, a former ecumenical colleague of Dr. Stephen in Killaloe, recently appointed Parish Priest in Portroe. Mr. Daniel Battle, Associate Organist from St. Mary’s Cathedral, also attended.

The Dean was assisted at Communion by three former Curates from his Irish ministry - Reverend Stan Evans, Reverend Kenyon Homfray and Reverend Lucy Green. The procession, led by Damien Shorten (Verger), was attended by Samuel White (Dean’s Churchwarden) and Diana Whitehead (Peoples’ Churchwarden). Nearly two hundred parishioners and friends came together to celebrate Dean Stephen’s ten years of ministry in the Killaloe area, and the warm congregational participation in the service made it a very special occasion. It was particularly pleasing to welcome so many visitors from the local Roman Catholic churches – a very tangible expression of the esteem in which the Dean was held within the wider community.

Hymns chosen by Dean Stephen were “Christ Triumphant”, “Angel Voices” (his particular favourite), “O Thou Whom Camest from Above” and “Lift High the Cross”, all of which were most effectively addressed by the congregation. The Dean had especially requested “Grand Choeur in D, Opus 18” by Guilmant as an organ recessional, followed by Bach’s “Toccata and Fugue in D-Minor”. This music, played magnificently by Mr. Trevor Selby, Organist of St. Flannan’s Cathedral, provided a real treat, not only for the Dean, but for everyone present.

Following the Service, refreshments were served, during which tributes were paid and presentations made to Dean White and his family on behalf of the parishes of the Killaloe Group of Unions. The Dean is moving to Surrey in England to take up an appointment in the United Benefice of St. Mary & All Saints, Dunsfold and St. Peter’s, Hascome in the Diocese of Guildford. Dean Stephen, Frances, Samuel and Charles leave with the warm wishes of their parishioners and many friends for the future – we shall miss them.

Sandra Lefroy.
Nenagh Union of Parishes continued...

options. We wish them well in this new exciting time in their lives.

September sees the start up of ‘everything’ again, and Junior Choir, GFS and Boys’ Brigade have all welcomed new members. None of these could take place without the help and commitment of parents and volunteers and they all deserve a big thank you for their dedication.

Harvest Festivals. Templederry was the first of our churches to hold the harvest celebrations this year. The preacher Rev. Gary Paulsen from Adare, warm and generous personality made the service very special. Afterwards the congregation were treated to an equally generous tea, and lingered long over it.

A lively and active United Family Service on Sunday 16th, totally paperless with all the service on the screen. The Junior Choir sang beautifully and Patrick Rowley-Brooke personating God berating Job was appropriately startling! At the end of the service Sandra Manthe was presented with her Certificate in Children’s Ministry, and has already begun working with the children. Everyone enjoyed home-baked refreshments afterwards.

Early Christmas shopping opportunity: (oh no, not that time again already!)... Patrick Rowley-Brooke has just published a children’s book on Kindle. ‘The Shepherds’ Story’ is an exciting and entertaining account of two young shepherds from Cyprus and how they found themselves in Bethlehem at the first Christmas event. The Rector, who proof read it, highly recommends it (well she would, wouldn’t she!) Details - www.amazon.co.uk

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

...Marian Dixon, a Killodiernan parishioner who has become a granny for the first time with the birth of Roisin to Ciara and Emmet Browne in Australia...
...the Rector who has achieved her MA

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

...Lexie Borland and his family as Lexie concludes a challenging course of chemo and radio-therapy...
...Stuart Whitton, who has moved into a nursing home, and his wife Eileen, along with Lynn and Joe Kelly as they adjust to the change in their lives...
...Rev’d Sandra Pagnell as she moves to Limerick to become Dean of St Mary’s Cathedral and
...Rev’d Robert Warren as he begins his new ministry in Taney, Dublin.

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To all budding Newslink photographers...
please note all photographs published in Newslink should be high resolution digital pictures, 300 d.p.i. where possible and saved as jpeg images. Please do not include photographs in Word articles. Some (but not all) mobile phone pictures are unacceptable.
Cloughjordan &
Borrisokane Group
Cloughjordan, Borrisokane, Borrisnafarney and Ballingarry.
The Rev. Canon Stephen Neill
Modreeny Rectory, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary.
Tel/Fax: 0505 - 42183 Mobile: 087 - 2328172
email: stephen.neill@gmail.com
Parish website/blog: www.modreeny.com
My Blog: www.paddyanglican.com
Sunday 7th October – Trinity 18
NO SERVICE IN BALLINGARRY
9 a.m.: Borrisnafarney H.C.
10.15 a.m.: Borrisokane H.C.
3 p.m.: Cloughjordan Evensong to celebrate 175 years since Church. Consecrated: Preacher – The Bishop.
Sunday 14th October – Trinity 19
9 a.m.: Ballingarry H.C.
10.15 a.m. Borrisnafarney H.C.
10.15 a.m. Borrisokane M.P.
11.30 a.m. Cloughjordan H.C.
ST. KIERAN’S CHURCH OF IRELAND
CLOUGHJORDAN
Celebrating 175 years
Service of Thanksgiving
Sunday 7th October 2012 @ 3pm
Preacher: The Bishop
Music led by Cloughjordan Community Choir
Refreshments in St. Kieran’s Hall after service - All Welcome
BEREAVEMENT
It was with profound shock and sadness we heard the
news of the sudden illness and death of Sandra Cavanagh
of Modreeny, Cloughjordan on Sunday 16th September.
Only 55 years old, Sandra was a devoted wife, mother,
grandmother and friend to all of us in this parish and
community. Our thoughts are especially with her husband
Ken, her children Sharon, Sarah, Charlie and Joe and the
extended Cavanagh and Alexander families. Her funeral
in St. Kieran’s Church in Cloughjordan was evidence of
the huge affection that so many had for Sandra and the
depth of loss felt by the whole community. We give thanks
to God for her and pray especially for Ken and the family.
CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to Eoin Harding and Mitchelle
Kennedy on their recent wedding in Terryglass. The
service was held in the Roman Catholic Church in
Terryglass where the rector assisted Fr. Michael Cooney
in presiding. It was a beautiful occasion and wonderful to
see such warmth of ecumenical fellowship demonstrated
within the community. We wish Eoin and Mitchelle every
happiness together.
SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sunday School in both Cloughjordan & Borrisokane
churches is recommencing at this time after the Summer
break. We are always looking for new leaders as
Safeguarding Trust (Child Protection Policy) requires a
high ratio of leaders to operate within the regulations.
Please contact the rector if you are interested.
ADVANCE NOTICE:
Cloughjordan/Ballingarry Fete: Sunday afternoon
21st October – More details to follow

Shinrone Group of Parishes
Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin
Rector: The Rev. Michael Johnston
Tel: 0505-47164 Mbl: 086-6086567
e-mail: shinrone@killaloe.anglican.org

SHINRONE PARISH FETE
Many thanks to everyone who made the Shinrone fete
such a success – those who worked so hard to run it and
those who supported it. It made roughly €4,200 for the
parish, with another €700 given to the Birr Community
Nursing Unit. Well done to all.
BARBEQUE
Thank you to all who supported the recent barbeques
held in honour of Olive Stanley Wetzel and in aid of the
Cushla Centre, Portlaoise. A particular thanks to Dom
and Mairéad Slevin for organising and hosting it, who,
through it, have raised well over €2,000 for cancer
support.
CONDOLENCES
We offer our prayers and condolences to the family
and friends of Matilda McBryde who passed away this
month after a long and fruitful life. Her funeral took place
in St Finnian’s Church, Kinnitty on September 15th and
burial was in the adjoining graveyard. May she rest in
peace and rise in glory.
HARVEST THANKSGIVINGS
Many thanks to all who supported the Harvest
Thanksgiving service in Dunkerrin church on Sunday 23rd
September. The remaining Harvest Thanksgiving services
will take place as follows, to which all are invited:
Friday 5th October - Kinnitty 7.30 pm (Revd William
Hayes, Tullamore)
Sunday 7th October - Shinrone 3.30 pm (Dr Ken Baker,
Roscrea)
Sunday 14th October - Aghancon 3.30 pm (Revd
Rosemary Lindsay, Birr)
The harvest collections this year will go toward the
Luyengo Farm in Swaziland, the diocesan mission project.
HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING
A Coffee Morning in aid of Birr Hospice will be held
on Thursday 11th October from 11.15 am in Cloghmoyle
School. Please do come and support this worthy cause. All
welcome.
MOTHERS’ UNION
The opening service of the Mothers’ Union season will
take place in Shinrone Church on Thursday 11th October
at 8.00 p.m. All members and friends are very welcome.
This will be followed by the opening meeting in
Cloghmoyle school.
JESUS ON SCREEN’ FILM SEASON
This winter there will be a season of classic and
contemporary feature films being screened (under all
appropriate licences) in the Group depicting the varied
ways Jesus has been portrayed on screen in the history of
cinema. These are for the whole group of parishes so
please do keep your Thursdays free in November –
December and come along to what will be a very enriching
and enjoyable experience. See the programme sheet now
available in the churches and from the Rector for full
details.
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
Coor East, Mullagh, West Clare.
Tel: 065-7087600  Mobile: 086-8292073.
e-mail: vickilynch@eircom.net.

HARVEST
Finding a good language for living today is always a Harvest season challenge and privilege.

What better person to call upon for help than he (or she) who knows the value of what’s around us and how to see it in such a way as to worship and rejoice wholeheartedly.

Mr Brian Mooney, Burren environmentalist and entrepreneur, theologian, poet and Chair of The Clare Pilgrim Way (a new approach to spiritual retreat on the landscape of saints and scholars), speaks at Drumcliffe’s Ecumenical Harvest Gathering in St Columba’s Church, on Friday 12th October, 7.30pm.

The choir of St Peter and St Paul Cathedral, Ennis will lead the singing, under conductor Mr Michael Hennessy and guest soloist on guitar is renowned artist Kate Purcell.

Kilnasoolagh Church hosts the Newmarket-Shannon community to its Harvest on Sunday October 21st, 4.30pm, when Fr Hugh O’Donnell, Salesian Order from Dublin and a writer on ecology and faith preaches. Clare Music Circle from Shannon under Mr Ciaran O’Gorman, leads the singing and Lorraine Kelly will play solo harp.

Worshippers at both Harvests are invited to contribute to the diocesan Swaziland Luvengo Farm project in cooperation with USPG, being constructed to give fresh hope to young HIV/AIDS victims.

A target of €25,000 is hoped to be achieved by Christmas.

KILFENORA
St Fachnan’s Cathedral gets busy with the approach to All Saints’ Tide and Samhain. On Saturday 27th the Three Legged Stool Poets’ Society in Clare hosts an international group of Island Poets of Europe in the 11th century Celtic Cathedral.

On display will be an exhibition of historical material which attempts to show the growth of the early Celtic Church in these parts and the subsequent influence the Irish Christian Celts on Europe from the 6th to the 12th century, a story which inspires the modern quest in Celtic Spirituality; together with the stunning gallery of Batiks (biblical story paintings on fabric) by Mrs Noreen Mooney, aired last year in Ennistymon Gallery. It is hoped to have the Cathedral open throughout the week up to Sunday November 4th, All Saints/All Souls, when at 4pm there is an Ecumenical Evensong (also marking Samhain, the beginning of the Celtic New Year with all the seasonal resonance of Light and darkness, this world and the otherworld.)

HELLO
From Clare we bid a warm welcome to the Rev Sandra Pragnell, to be conferred as Dean of St Mary’s Cathedral and Rector of Limerick City Parish on the 24th of this month of October.

We share the excitement of the tenure of an acknowledged leader and first lady Dean, also looking forward to enjoying a dynamic relationship between the Cathedral and its neighbours in the immediate hinterland.

GOODBYE
Archdeacon Robert Warren’s persona has been so influential in the administration of our diocese and parishes in Limerick and Killaloe, it is hard to believe as we come out of the Summer ‘recess’ that our Diocesan Secretary and Registrar has slipped away quietly and quickly to another charge.

An authoritative memory on all things legal and procedural, some of us should be understood when we wondered just how Robert could be replaced! The diocese owes the Almighty a debt of gratitude for the way, when he was Assistant Diocesan Secretary he filled the breach as chief administrator during a moment of diocesan crisis and with such capability and aplomb that, as they say, the rest is history!

Drawing the ‘centre’ of the dioceses to HQ in Tralee, he and his parish colleague, our treasurer Lorna Gleasure, formed a formidable duo whose strong and decisive leadership has taken us through all the inevitable choppy waters a church faces. Typically, Robert offered as a last stroke the possibility of a seamless handover to a successor which would allow the Tralee office to keep continuity, which prospect the Diocesan Council accepted. We wish Yvonne Blennerhassett, a recently retired top manager in Kerry County Council much blessing in filling Robert’s shoes.

Those of us who attended Robert’s institution at Christ Church Taney, Dundrum, the Republic’s largest Anglican parish, knew why he was called there and heard from his erstwhile town of Tralee, via its Mayor just how significant and respected a figure he had been in that community over 24 years.

As the Diocesan Canon for this diocese at St Patrick’s Cathedral Chapter it was good to hear that he will retain his place there, representing Dublin and Glendalough whilst sitting in another ancient stall!

Also missing this Autumn is Dean Stephen White who after his 10 year ministry within Killaloe Group Parishes returns to his native Surrey and the Diocese of Guildford. Dean White was a neighbour of the Rector, Canon Bob when both served in Raphoe Diocese, Co. Donegal. An accomplished published theologian, his wife Frances is also an academic teaching in England.

To them and their sons Samuel and Charles we pray God speed.

SICK
We pray a speedy return to health for Jack Mitchell who, after incurring a minor stroke with hospitalisation in Limerick, recovers at the home of his daughter and family in Cork. Bill O’Connor has taken up residence in St Joseph’s Hospital, Ennis and may be there for a while.
Greetings from the Northern part of our extended Diocese where we are looking forward to the next few months with an upsurge of great excitement. I hope that all readers enjoy this time of the year when we celebrate the ‘gifts of creation’ with our Harvest Thanksgiving Services.

The Art Classes under the expertise of Jackie Eastwood commenced in the Aughrim Coach-House on the first Wednesday in September for six weeks. This has proved so popular that a second session commenced on Monday 17th September and will continue for a further five Mondays. These popular sessions may well lead to the formation of an Art Club. Consideration is being given to hold other courses that may well attract parishioners and people from the community and provide activities within the outreach of Aughrim and Ballinasloe.

News has just come through that the Planning application for the proposed Sunday School structure in the grounds of Ardrahan has been approved. This wonderful news has taken quite a lot of hard work to obtain. The work now starts in finalising the internal details etc, obtaining prices from contractors to enable this work to be completed early 2013. In conjunction with the above work, it is hopeful that the new entrance arrangement will also be achieved.

After a considerable break Sunday School has re-commenced in St. John’s with a gathering of young children and will take place on the second and fourth Sundays during morning service.

Harvest Time is upon us and the services are listed below:

A “Harvest with a difference” will take place in St. John’s Ballinasloe on Sunday 21st October at 3.00 p.m. Local singers and musicians will join our congregation who have been invited to nominate their favourite hymns. All produce on display will be donated to the local Meals on Wheels Association. I hope as many as possible will come along and enjoy our harvest. Further details from the Rector - 087 2074739

Sunday 7th, Ardrahan: 10.00 a.m. Clontuskert 3.00 p.m. Holy Communion
Sunday 14th, Aughrim: 3.00 p.m. Evening Prayer
Friday 19th, Woodlawn 8.00 p.m. Holy Communion
Friday 26th, Ahasragh 8.00 p.m. Evening Prayer

A number of parishioners and friends within the community have experienced health concerns of late and some have spent a period in hospital. I am glad to say that all are making progress.

We remember them in our prayers at this time.
attendance we have enjoyed for this service throughout the summer months. Group Picnic was enjoyed by a few less people this year but those who braved the weather were rewarded by a dry and warm afternoon in Portumna Forest Park. The Picnic was preceded by a service of Evening Prayer in Christ Church Portumna. It was noted by one or two parishioners that after the Rev Patrick’s sermon based around ‘Who We Really Are’ he promptly donned a cowboy hat for the rest of the afternoon!

BEREAVEMENT
Our thoughts and prayers are with the Howard family of The Mill on the death of Berta. She was a loyal and faithful parisioner of St John’s Eyrecourt for many years, including many years of singing in the choir, which she very much enjoyed. We sympathise with Iris, Bobby and Florence and all grandchildren and great grandchildren. May God welcome Berta to his heavenly home and bless all her family.

SPEEDY RECOVERY
We wish Josie and Joy a speedy recovery after their recent surgery. May we keep them in our thoughts and pray for a successful outcome.

THE SHORELINES ART FESTIVAL
Christ Church Portumna hosted a most entertaining evening recently in an event organized by The Shorelines Art Festival when Singer/Songwriter Liz Lawrence and Jake Morley from the UK were joined by local Singer/Songwriter Knoweline Kearne in a most exciting performance of their work. All present enjoyed the performance and gave them a great reception.

HARVEST FESTIVAL
St John the Baptist Church Eyrecourt will be the last in our group of parish’s to hold it’s Harvest Festival. This will be at 7pm on 28th October. The preacher will be Archdeacon Wayne Carney.

Sunday Service 4th November - This will be a group service at 12 noon at St Paul’s Church Banagher. It will be a Eucharist for this Festival of All Saints.

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: galbraithjane@gmail.com
Assistant Priest: The Rev. Stan Evans

HOLY BAPTISM
On Saturday 1st September in St. Mary’s Cathedral, we welcomed William Henry Morgan Buckley into the church of God, son of William and Lucy (nee Adams).

SINCERE SYMPATHY
On Monday 10th of September, the Limerick Bellringing fraternity lost one of its most popular members with the passing of Jack Sciascia. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to his daughter Tracy and the extended Sciascia family.

LCP PLANT SALE & AUTUMN FAIR
LCP Plant Sale and Autumn Fair will take place in Villiers School, N.C.Rd., Limerick on Saturday 20th of October from 2pm to 5pm. Please don’t compost those vagrant seedlings from your flowerbeds, pot them, up, grow them on. Likewise, when you are dividing clumps of overcrowded perennials, think of the sale and donate them. We will find a good home for all such lovelies. Also wanted gardening books and cookery books in good condition.

THE REV’D SANDRA PRAGNELL
Sandra’s service of installation and institution will be at 7.30pm in St Mary’s Cathedral on Wednesday 24th October at which the preacher will be The Most Rev’d Alan Harper, former Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.

LIMERICK CITY PARISH WHIST DRIVES
Sat 13th October (RAFFLE) – St. Michael’s Church
Sat 20th October – Villiers Square
Sat 10th November – St. Michael’s Church
Sat 17th November – Villiers Square
Sat 8th December (RAFFLE) – St. Michael’s Church
Sat 15th December (RAFFLE) – Villiers Square
All Whist drives start at 8pm sharp. Admission including supper €5. We welcome your support.

TIDY TOWNS STREET CLEANING PROJECT
Some parishioners from St. Michael’s Church have been involved in the Tidy Towns Street Cleaning project in Limerick City. The photo shows the participants in the recent clean up of Pery Square/Barrington Street around the People’s Park. L to R :- Colin Marsden, Anne Millar, Carol Millar, Robert Millar, Lucy Kavanagh & Cathal Quinn.

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 had a wonderful and unexpected large turnout of people for our heritage week presentation and walk-about by Barbara Bingham and a big thank you to all who helped
us celebrate our heritage. We have commissioned a conservation plan by David Humphreys, conservation architect, which will help us realise the importance of heritage building in which we worship in Adare. The Heritage Council has granted some funding to begin this process. Once the survey is complete a conservation plan can be put into place and we can begin to prioritise what has to be done. We are aware of the thousands of Euro required on this 700 year building. We trust that we will be able to source funding over the years to complete this much needed work on the church and cloister area.

Recently, Brother Coleman O’Clabagh of Glenstal Abbey, who published a book on the Friary, took us around pointing out its unique architecture, how it would have been used by the Augustinian Friars when they lived, worked and prayed here, which made all the detail and features come alive. It is such a responsibility and burden on a small Anglican Church community to be asked to preserve such an old church building. At some stage a re-ordering of the church will have to be looked at to make best use of the architecture and how the church would have been used in two parts.

Adare Harvest festival took place and Rev Liz Hewitt was our preacher. She engaged with children and adults by reminding us that we need to use the earth’s resources wisely and that the little help we can provide for others can make such a big difference in their lives and for the earth. The St Nicholas school children sang beautifully and we thank the parents for bringing them to the service. We also thank all for donating so generously to the Swaziland project, these funds will be given to the mission team on our behalf. The church was beautifully decorated and we thank Joan Hunt and her team for all the hard work, and not forgetting all those who fed us and made tea.

“Reverend Readers” Book Club’s first meeting of the 2012/13 season was held recently and ‘The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks’ by Rebecca Skloot was chosen for September. The Book Club Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month from September to June at the Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, at 8 p.m. New members very welcome - just arrive on the night. The format, one member, in rotation, picks a book for the month and it is discussed at the next meeting - always with very interesting views!

Alice Williams died unexpectedly just a few short weeks following her return to Ireland with Ian, her husband, who wished to retire here having lived in England for a number of years. We give God thanks for the life they shared. The church service was held at Kilmallock church on 18th September. We continue to remember Ian in our prayers.

Kilmallock harvest at the church in Kilmallock at 3pm on 14 October. Fr Joseph Cussen will be our preacher.

Croom Church wants to make some cushions and Barbara is co-ordinating this little project - meeting on Thursday mornings at Croom Mills from about 10.30 - please feel free to join them.

Rathkeale & Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes

Rathkeale, Asketon, Kilcornan & Kilnaughtin

Rector: The Rev. Keith Scott

The Rectory, Askeaton, Co. Limerick
Tel: 061 - 398647 Mobile: 087 2885169
E-mail: rathkeale@limerick.anglican.org

August and September have been nerve racking months for many of our young people throughout the diocese with the Junior and Leaving Cert results coming out. Happily the younger members of our parishes have done well in their state examinations. We offer our congratulations to all the young people of our parish who have performed so well. This has some challenging results as a number of our older teenagers are now leaving home for the first time and going off to university or college. It is challenging for the wider Church as we absolutely must keep contact with our young members at this time of great change, exploration and opportunity for them. It is challenging for parents, who are letting go of young adults who were, all too recently just children. It is challenging for the young people themselves as they leave the family home to go out into the world on their own for the first time. Remember them in your prayers.

Remember also Isabelle Griffin and Tim Spriggs who married in September and are also embarking on a new life as a couple together.

During September our group of parishes was able to welcome the local area Mother’s Union for their opening service and our prayers go with the members as they embark on a new season of activity building up the mission of the Church.

As part of that mission our group of parishes will be celebrating the Harvest, on Friday October 5th at 8:00 p.m. in St. Mary’s Askeaton with the Rev’d Gary Paulsen as preacher. We are all aware that this year our Harvest collection is being contributed to the Swaziland farm project and we hope that as many as possible will join us that evening and swell the coffers and help us all fulfil the commitment which we have made to USPG.

Ecumenical Retreat Walk

Sunday 14th. Oct. starting at 2.30 p.m.
From Upper Camp to Kilelton Oratory, along the beach to Kilgobbin Church, and return to Upper Camp around 5.00 p.m. for light refreshments.

Go Raibh Maith Agat
Tralee & Dingle
Union of Parishes
Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney.
Vacant
St. John’s Rectory, Ashe Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry
Tel: 066 712 2245
Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Jim Stephens
Kilderry, Miltown, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 066-976 7735 Mobile: 087-052 9107
Email: stiofain.s@gmail.com

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

HARVEST THANKSGIVINGS
Harvest Thanksgivings in Tralee this year was celebrated on Sunday, 30th September, when the guest preacher was The Rev. Michael Cavanagh from Kenmare. In both Kilgobbin and Ballymacelligott churches Thanksgiving Services will be held on Sunday 7th October, the Preacher will be a representative of CMS Ireland.

HEALER PRAYER CIRCLE
The first meeting for the new season will be held in Teach an tSolais at 8.00 p.m. on Tuesday 2nd October and then on the first Tuesday of each month. For those not familiar, these gatherings are intended for those of us who seek God’s blessing or comfort for ourselves or for those known to us who may be suffering in mind, body, or spirit. All are very welcome to attend.

PASTORAL VISITS
Although the Rev. Joe Hardy, in his retirement, continues to be our Hospital Chaplin, Maraquita Blennerhassett is our Parish Pastoral Visitor. She will be happy to visit those who are patients in Nursing Homes, or confined to their own homes, for conversation and Spiritual companionship. She may be contacted on 066 713 6198.

ABOUT PEOPLE
Our congratulations to
.... Annette and Samuel Kiwanuka on the birth of their son, Jothan, on 5th August.
.... William Gerard Connor, son of Mary and Mervyn Peevers, who was baptised in Ballyseedy Church on 29th July.
.... Krista and Jay Marguardt whose wedding was blessed and dedicated in Aghadoe Heights Hotel, on 2nd September.
We mourn the death of
.... Mrs. Frances Pollard of Kielduff who passed to her reward on 23d August. Our sympathies go out to her immediate and extended family.
.... Douglas Wharton, formerly of Elmdale, Ballyseedy. Douglas died in Canada where he had lived for over 50 years. Our sympathies to his wife Sue, son Kevin, and the Wharton, Peevers and Mason Families.

BLESSING THE BOATS
Diocesan Reader Peter Keane represented the Church of Ireland at the annual Blessing the Boats ceremony in Fenit Harbour on Sunday, 16th September.
and presented to the delight of the congregation, certain aspects of their new Rector’s younger life. The report on his farewell Service in Tralee appears elsewhere in Newslink and from this you will have learned that the text he chose for his farewell address was Frank Sinatra’s ‘My Way’. We can only reply by slightly misquoting Miss Gloria Gaynor: ‘We Will Survive’. But we WILL miss him.

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

Our Harvest Festival is a little later than in previous years, on Sunday 7th October David Frizelle will speak to us about the Luengo Farm Project and our collection will go to their fund. The decoration of the Church will take place on Saturday 6th from 10am.

There will be a Table Quiz on Thursday 8th November in the Fisheries Bar Killorglin in aid of Luengo Farm. The questions will focus on the Farm Project and Swaziland – so we will need to brush up before the event, but there is plenty of information on the USPG website. More details in the Parish Leaflet later in the month.

The Book Club has found difficulty in meeting regularly during the summer, but we seem to be back on track now. There will be a meeting on 1st November in the Malton Hotel at 8pm.

The second of our Parish Reader Training Sessions will be on 6th October in the Aghadoe Room, beside St. Mary’s Killarney. Coffee at 10.30 am – we will finish around 4pm. Please bring your lunch, or alternatively there will be time to have something in town now that there are fewer tourists around. All are welcome. If you haven’t received notes and suggested reading via email as yet for this session, please contact Canon Sue who will send them on for you.

Congratulations to Danielle and Neil Blennerhassett on the safe arrival of their baby Maria Grace, and to proud grandparents Tadgh and Loretta Ryan on the arrival of Jacob Xavier, great news.

St. Mary’s was pleased to receive a commendation from Killarney Town Council, for the appearance and presentation of the Church and gardens. There was an unexpected inspection by judges from ‘Communities in Bloom’ and the Tidy Towns Committee who were “very appreciative of the contribution the Church and grounds made to the appearance of the town”. Thank you to all who help to keep the place looking good.

Kilcolman Union of Parishes
Kilcolman, Kiltallagh and Glenbeigh
Priest in Charge:
The Rev. Máirt Hanley
20 Knocklyne, Sunhill, Killorglin, Co. Kerry.
Mobile: 087-6194733
Assistant Priest:

Kenmare & Dromod Union
Kenmare, Sneem, Waterville and Valentia
Priest in Charge:
The Rev. Michael Cavanagh
St Patrick’s Rectory, Kenmare, Co. Kerry
Tel: 064 6648566 Mobile: 087 1606312
Email: michael.cavanagh@eircom.net

Kenmare became a Swazi township over the weekend of the 8/9th September – in support of the USPG Luyengo farm project in Swaziland. We were joined over the weekend by Linda Chambers and her husband Jan from USPG. Saturday evening was a celebration of African food, African music, and African dress, and we were thrilled to be joined by eight members of the Tralee African Drumming group. The evening began with a ‘Mosquito Drive’ (a variation of a

African Drums

Dancing to the Beat of the Drums!
Beetle drive but with scarier looking insects) and in between the drum music and improvised African dance, people sampled a variety of African dishes. At the Sunday services in Sneem and Kenmare, Linda gave a fascinating and inspiring talk about the USPG work in Swaziland and the Luyengo Farm Project in particular – a real success story. In total, we raised just over €900 towards the project; and at the subsequent Vestry meeting, it was agreed to form closer bonds with the USPG work in Swaziland – we shall adopt this as the theme of our Harvest Thanksgiving, and have already started collecting pencil cases for the schools project – for more details on this, please have a look at the website http://ireland.anglican.org/news/4209

And a big thank you to all those who helped with leading services every Sunday at all four churches during July and August – Snoo, Alan, Marjorie, Brian and Joe – this ministry to visitors is so important, not just in showing that the Anglican community is very much alive in this part of Kerry, but more importantly in providing a place where people can find a spiritual rest and inspiration on their holidays.

**Methodist Notes**

Adare & Ballingrane

**Methodist Circuit**

The Rev. Elizabeth Hewitt

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

**Christ Church Limerick**

Presbyterian & Methodist

The Rev. Vicki Lynch

The Manse, 15 Aylsbury, Clonmacken, Limerick.
Tel: 061-325325 Mobile: 086-8292073.
e-mail: vickilynch@eircom.net

So, our Year of Celebrations has begun. Our Harvest gathered together many different people and groups – including our music group who managed to unite lots of different traditions and instruments. Our young people led us in prayer and reading and Methodist President, Rev Ken Lindsay dedicated our new pew bibles and preached on Matthew 9: 27-38 – the harvest is plentiful!

Watch out for our upcoming heritage walk, visiting all the meeting places used by Methodists and Presbyterians over generations and our genealogy exhibition – see who you recognise and perhaps find a relative you didn’t realise you had! Hopefully this year will remind us of the significance of Methodist and Presbyterian witness in Limerick City and encourage us to discern how we can work with God and with each other today.

Reminding us of mission further afield Rhoda Baxter will lead us in prayer for Syria on October 23rd at 8pm and on November 4th, during our Sunday Worship, Derek Roulston will talk about his missionary work in Kenya. There will be lunch for all afterwards.

You may have noticed a colourful addition to Central Buildings. Open House Limerick has taken up residence for a few weeks making the office their information centre in preparation for their October event. Do call in and find out more about their exciting initiative.

**SUNDAY SERVICE 11.30 AM.**

Holy Communion 1st Sunday

Family Service 3rd Sunday

Sunday School 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays

Youth Group 2nd & 4th Sundays

Lectio Divina every Tuesday at 11.00 am in the meeting room (access from the lane)

**Christ Church Shannon**

- A joint Methodist, Presbyterian and Church of Ireland congregation

**Dr. Rosemary Power, Pioneer Minister**

5 The Grove, Shannon, Co Clare

061 - 363717 Mbl: 087-9888508

Email: rosemary_power@eircom.net

Web: www.shannoncoclare.wordpress.com

The pilgrim walk on Scattery Island brought a full boatload of pilgrims to the island on Sunday 2nd September, and the Clare Champion gave this ecumenical event a full page spread. Details of the next walk will be published shortly on the website, www.shannoncoclare.wordpress.com .

Whispers of God, is a four-week series, exploring faith in daily life. The sessions will be for people of all Christian traditions, and for those who are open to discussion of the possibility of faith. They take place at 5 The Grove, Shannon on Tuesdays 18th and 25th September, 2nd and 9th October 2012, at 7.00 pm.

A series of talks on faith and the Celtic tradition take place in Shannon’s Sean Lemass Library at 6.45 pm on Friday evenings during September and October.

The annual harvest service with St John’s school is on Sunday 7th October at 3 p.m., at Saints John and Paul Church, Shannon. Local people join us for what is always an energising event!

Services continue at 11.00 am on the first and third Sundays of the month here in Shannon, in the Children’s Room at Saint John and Paul Church. Everyone is welcome. There are monthly meals with international singing and Holy Communion in the house of one of the members.

During October the congregation will record a service to be broadcast as one of the RTE Sunday morning services.

The church website, www.shannoncoclare.wordpress.com is part of our outreach ministry. It gives details of on-going events and also articles on matters of interest from a faith perspective. The pioneer minister writes a monthly column for the Clare Champion, and congregation members engage in action in the community as part of their faith commitment.

**Killarney & Kenmare**

**Methodist Churches**

[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]

**Minister: Rev. Laurence Graham**

10 Flesk Grove, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
On Wednesday 31st October we hope to have a “Light Party” in Killarney Church. This will be an evening of fun, craft, worship and food as a contrast to the darkness of Halloween and as an alternative to Trick or Treating. It will run from 7-8.30pm and is open to all children of National School age.

North Tipperary
Methodist Circuit

Minister: Rev. Brian Griffin
The Manse, The Mall, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary
Tel: 0505 21670 Mobile: 087 987 0755
Email: beg08@eircom.net

“Learning to Think Together” is a series of talks sponsored by the Irish School of Ecumenics which will take place on consecutive Tuesday evenings during October, in the County Arms Hotel, Birr, Co Offaly at 8.00 pm. The following are the topics for each designated evening:

Learning to Think Together about:
October 2: Faith and Ecology: Dr Cathriona Russell
October 9: Faith, Justice and Politics: Dr John Scally
October 16: Learning to do Theology Together: Dr Andrew Pierce
October 23: Learning to read the Bible together: Rev Dr Katherine Meyer

A Multi-Ethnic Church Conference is being organised by the Methodist Church on Saturday 20th October in the Killleshin Hotel, Portlaoise. Methodism on the Midlands and Southern District has grown by about 20% in recent years, largely due to the arrival in Ireland of New Residents from every part of the world, but mainly Africa.

They have brought revival to a number of churches on the District. The Rev Dr John Stephens who is organizing the Conference writes: “We pray that God will use this day to further advance the development of those congregations and we will feel the support of learning and growing together.” Dr Stephen’s contact for further information is: 01 2960023

Rhoda Baxter has recently visited Syria and will give an illustrated presentation entitled “A Link with Syria” on Sunday 4th November at 7.00 pm in Shinrone Methodist Church. There will be an opportunity to pray for an end to the violence there and for the extension of God’s Kingdom in this historic part of the world. Rhoda is supported by the Methodist Missionary Society Ireland and is a member of the Board of ‘Frontiers Ireland’ which is a Church organisation who, with love and respect invite Muslims to follow Jesus. In the Koran, Jesus is revered and of those close to God in Heaven, is the only person named in the Koran.

On Saturday 20th October representatives from Methodist Churches all over Munster and Leinster will be gathering in Port Laoise. In light of the fact that many of our congregations are now multi-ethnic we hope to learn from each other how best to facilitate integration and unity in our wonderful diversity.
Building a Spiritual Fence

Rev. Michael Johnston

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

One of the very important roles of the priest is the teaching and encouraging and building-up of the prayer life of those entrusted to his or her care; for helping others grow in their personal relationship with God. For a Christian is called to live in 'communion' with God, which necessarily means 'communication' with God - the basis of our life of prayer. Sadly, for many clergy, helping others in their prayer life forms but a tiny part of their everyday ministry - it is a rare occasion indeed when they are asked for advice on prayer or spirituality!

So the following is just one piece of advice that hopefully some will find helpful and useful for building upon. And it starts at the beginning - how do we, as Anglican Christians, form a spiritual life, a prayer life?

The Revd Martin Thornton, a Church of England priest, spiritual director and pastoral theologian, once compared the ideal spiritual life of Anglicans to a picket fence. A picket fence, as is well known, is composed of three parts - thick supporting posts, smaller vertical 'pickets' in-between, and two horizontal 'stretchers' to which these are attached. Only with all these three elements in place can a sturdy fence be formed. Similarly, Thornton argued, our prayer life as Anglicans should be composed of three elements that, taken together, will form a strong spiritual 'fence'.

THE EUCHARIST

The first essential element for a strong spiritual life is the Eucharist. The supporting posts of the picket fence can be equated with the place held by the Eucharist, the Holy Communion, in our spiritual life. A well-constructed fence will have a series of stout posts, firmly embedded, placed at regular intervals along the length of the fence. Too far apart and the fence will be weak and wobble. These posts are the basic foundation and supporting element of the fence, and so it should be with our spiritual life. The celebration of the Eucharist and the reception of Holy Communion are the foundation and supporting element of all the rest of our life of prayer. Neglecting it, receiving Holy Communion too infrequently, or without due preparation, makes the construction of a healthy prayer life immeasurably difficult. The Eucharist is not, therefore, 'just another service' in the growing plethora of liturgies – it is the source and fountaineach of our spiritual life, the bedrock. Through it we receive grace, the forgiveness of sins, and Christ dwells in us and we in him. We are fed and strengthened and sent out to serve God, and through that service we dare once again to return the Lord's table. Without the careful reception of Holy Communion on a regular basis building a strong life of prayer, a life of 'communion' with God, becomes so much more difficult.

THE DAILY OFFICE

The second element in a strong spiritual life is the Daily Office - Morning and Evening Prayer. Anglicanism has been almost unique among Christendom in retaining at least the ideal of the Daily Office among lay people. Historically, the laity kept their Prayer Book and Bible at home and Morning and Evening Prayer were prayed daily, often as a family. Clergy were at one time commanded to pray them daily in church. Times have changed but the Office is still hugely important. And so the upright pickets of the fence can be equated with the place held by the Daily Office, the liturgies of Morning and Evening Prayer, in our spiritual life. The primary function of the Daily Office has been the offering by the Church of praise to God, expressed primarily in psalms, canticles and readings. It is, in a way, 'impersonal' - it does not depend on how we feel or our personal preferences. It is the Church's prayer of praise to God, not ours, which we freely offer every day as members of the church. As such it is a spiritual discipline - it demands commitment and sacrifice; the setting aside of that period of time every day, whether we...
PERSONAL PRAYER

The final element of a picket fence is the horizontal stretchers that travel the length of the fence, joining posts and pickets firmly together. These, Thornton argued, can be equated with the place personal prayer and devotion take in our spiritual life. The role of personal prayer and devotion is to join the praise expressed by the Church in Eucharist and Office together and make it personal, so that it begins to fill every moment of our lives - it travels the length of our lives. It begins to permeate each and every day. Personal prayer is where our own personalities, tastes, inclinations, preferences play a role - where our communion with God takes on truly personal character. Whether through silent meditation, or lectio divina, or written prayers, or extempore praise, or arrow prayers, or any of the creative expressions of prayer there are, we take the grace we receive in the Eucharist and the scriptural ‘soaking’ we receive in the Daily Office and, through our personal prayer and devotion, begin to form our relationship with God. The aim, however, of all our personal prayer is that it begins to fill and colour our whole lives. That we cease to have ‘times’ or ‘moments’ of prayer and instead prayer becomes the very air we breathe. Everything we experience in our life reminds us of God’s presence and love and care and thus evokes praise and thankfulness from our hearts and minds. It is learning to live in constant recollection of God’s presence.

THE SPIRITUAL FENCE

Beginning to practice these three disciplines can be hard but it is essential for each of them to be present in our lives to some degree. A spiritual life composed entirely of the Eucharist is simply a series of posts in the ground. A Christian life without the Eucharist, or where it is irregular, means a spiritual life cannot be built or it will be a weak and wobbly one. In a similar way if either of the other two elements are lacking or irregular. A proper spiritual ‘fence’ cannot be constructed, or it will be weak, full of holes and gaps, and easily knocked over by the storms of life. If we are serious about our Christian faith, about having a strong spiritual life, about building a relationship of real communion with God, then we can do no worse than start to put into practice what our Prayer Book always encouraged – frequent and regular Communion; daily Morning and/or Evening Prayer; and time each day to be creative in our personal prayer, perhaps under the guidance of our priest or some other ‘soul friend’. Gradually, with God’s grace, our lives will begin to cease being punctuated with ‘moments’ of prayer and will in fact become acts of prayer in themselves.

Sabbatical Reflections for Newslink, Part 2

Rev. Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke

Last month in my Sabbatical ‘Report’ I quoted a little verse by Rudyard Kipling about gardens: here’s a verse from another garden poem by Dorothy Frances Gurney (author of the hymn ‘O perfect love’):

‘The kiss of the sun for pardon,
the song of the birds for mirth;
one is nearer God’s heart in a garden
than anywhere else on earth.’

This somewhat sentimental verse has echoes of the Garden of Eden, where God walked with Adam in the ‘cool of the evening’ (Q: where was Eve? Ans: probably slaving in the kitchen). However, the verse is often taken out of context; the following verse in the poem points us directly towards the Garden of Gethsemane and the pain and effort involved in the bringing in of God’s Kingdom:

For he broke it for us in a garden
under the olive trees,
where the angel of death was the warden
and the soul of the world found ease.

I have always felt that Mary Magdalene was spot-on in her apparent mis-identification of the risen Lord in John’s Gospel: ‘...supposing him to be the gardener...’ For me this is one of the most haunting phrases in Scripture. Equating the Kingdom of God with the restoration of that balance and perfection found in the myth of the Garden of Eden and the ethical demands that the prophets in our Hebrew Scriptures constantly roared out: “let justice flow down like waters and righteousness like an everlasting stream”; these images point to the unrelenting demands of the Christian life - we are tasked with enabling fullness of life for all, not just ‘personal salvation’ for ourselves. If you look carefully at the picture of St Fiacre shown in last month’s Newslink you will note that not only does he hold a spade, but he is so busy he hasn’t had time to shave!

The Quiet Garden movement began in 1992, and is now an international network with over 300 Quiet Gardens. It defines itself as ‘a simple ministry of hospitality and prayer’, and seeks to foster ‘the provision of quiet spaces, small and
large, creating sanctuaries of stillness and refreshment. 'The local context becomes for a while, a place of peace and welcome.'

Whilst staying with our son, Myles, and daughter-in-law, Cassa, in Beaconsfield, where Cassa is a curate in the Church of England, I had the opportunity of attending a Quiet Garden event. This particular Quiet Garden ministry is well established, and the garden is open once a month for reflection. About 15 of us gathered together for coffee before a time of prayer, Scripture reading and ‘mindfulness’ exercise. Then we were free to move into silence and wander round the garden whilst we pondered the words of Scripture that we had heard. After about 45 minutes we met again and quietly shared our reflections and thoughts on the Scripture passage before we ended with prayer. It was a tranquil and richly nourishing morning, and we all left refreshed and restored, ready to take up our tasks of the day.

Quiet Garden ministry offers rest, stillness, an opportunity for thought and refreshments in order that we may go out and get stuck in again to the commitment involved in being a Christian, struggling to follow Christ, and ensuring that the bringing in of the Kingdom of God advances a little further in our place and our time. The bringing in of the Kingdom of God is hard labour - just as hard as the labour involved in pushing out a baby! Sometimes lots of shouting and screaming (not to mention pain) are involved!

As always, it is a ‘both/and’ situation. I think holding both Kipling’s verse, quoted last month, and Gurney’s verse, together in our minds gives us the full picture. The coming of the Kingdom of God is an adventure in which we are all invited to take part and to enable - it is quite simply our baptismal task. This particular clergywoman returns from her Sabbatical rested and refreshed, and if not altogether renewed, then well re-conditioned (yes, just like an old car!!) for the privilege of being Rector in the Nenagh Union!

Prayer Garden

What? Why? Where? When?

What? Basically, a Prayer Garden is meant to be a nice space to be in where you can sit or stand or think and reflect.

Most of the plants are biblical or have a biblical name. Those that don’t have a particular association with the church. The idea is that you can invite people into a nice garden space, close to creation; a space that reflects nature and God’s creation but also humanity’s part in creation, as a garden is a human work of art as much as a nature reserve.

Once in situ, hopefully you are primed, ready and receptive for reflection! Each plant has its own charms and reasons for being present so you can reflect on these. There is often a bible quote to help make the link between imminent and transcendent, ordinary and divine.

We also have two other features: the Willow Chapel, which was blessed by the Bishop during his last visit. It is a scaled down version of gallerus oritory in West Kerry, so it should remind us of our heritage and tradition, it is a living and growing thing - just as all good tradition and heritage should be. Like Jesus, it has it’s low point where you might think it may be dead, but it comes back to life stronger and more vibrant. This Willow Chapel was built by the Sunday School.

Another feature is the Labyrinth, which is a reflective tool, sometimes used in the Christian tradition as a pilgrimage in miniature, reminding us that pilgrimage is about gaining insight to be brought back to our starting point rather than a spiritual point’s exercise marked on the basis of distance.

Why? Well, as I pointed out, it is a place of nature and nurture, God’s creation and our creative gifts, something every church should be promoting. Also I like doing a bit of gardening and find doing something physical, especially when the rest of ministry can be so ephemeral, really helpful and affirming. You can give people helpful metaphors all you like, but grounding that metaphor in action on a pile of dirt generally aids understanding. So with the Sunday School we planted a church and sowed the seed and watched it grow. It was also an act of giving - on behalf of the parish to the general public who are free to use it, on behalf of the Sunday School to the parish and also on behalf of the youth groups who work in it, to everyone else.

Where? At this point the Why and the Where collide; originally the ground in which this garden has grown was to be used for another project which fell through, there was then a secondary plan which also came to nought and then nothing. So there was this great area hidden away behind the church which had just gone wild and I thought that it was such a pity that so often in the church we are so focused on our problems and not on our possibilities and the potential that might be unlocked from those bits and pieces that are hanging around, whether they are buildings, lands, talents or even people.

When? Thursday mornings mostly, so if its not raining and you want to get dirty feel free to join me, if I’m not there by 10.30 it means I’ve been called off somewhere else. Also as mentioned the Sunday School have often pitched in on a Sunday morning and sometimes I get other groups in to do specific bits and projects.

So that’s it, a work in progress! Like us all, not quiet beautiful yet but getting there by the grace of God and just as God sees the potential in us we hope we can see the potential in the garden!

The Rev. Mairt Hanley
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