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

(www.limerick.anglican.org)
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TEL: 044 - 9371115  FAX: 044 - 9371563  EMAIL: WILSONSH@WHS.IE
The Bishop Writes

Dear Friends,

We have just returned from a visit to the Diocese of Swaziland. Salters Sterling and Michael Hanna from Birr Parish, and myself, ably escorted by Jan de Bruijn and Linda Chambers of USPG Ireland.

I was aware that a trip like this can change your life. A holiday may refresh but getting to know fellow Anglicans living in very different circumstances can renew your vision of the Christian Church. In Swaziland, the scenery is fabulous, the welcome is warm, the worship is enthusiastic. But its the friendships I made during my brief four day visit that I appreciate most.

On my visit to Luyengo Farm, I met the Revd Ellinah Wamukoya who is to be consecrated as the Bishop of Swaziland on Saturday 17th November, the first woman to be elected Bishop in Africa. Ellinah had recently retired as Chaplain to the University of Swaziland and set up home on a farm in Kenya with her husband. Now she has to unpick those plans and move back to Swaziland. The Diocese faces many internal problems with major financial difficulties at the top of the list. At the same time the challenges of ministry have never been greater in a country ravaged by HIV/AIDS and a lack of health care, endemic poverty and an alarming number of child-headed families. Ellinah told me that what she hopes to achieve is to sort out the Diocesan Finances, and equip the Church to carry out its mission in a sustainable way. Quite a task! But Ellinah brings with her a wealth of experience. Until recently she was CEO of the Municipality of Manzini, the country’s second largest urban centre. She sees no conflict between good business practice and running a Diocese. ‘God is a God of order’ she says and the Church should do God’s work in an orderly way.

Being Africa’s first woman bishop will not be easy. Swaziland, particularly in the rural areas is still a very traditional culture. The man is head of the family, symbolized with a staff, to protect his family from snakes and wild animals. Up to now, the Bishop, with his staff, protected and led the Church. It will be difficult for many Swazi Church members to see a woman in that role. So please pray for Ellinah as she takes on a great challenge, at great personal cost.

The next day we visited the South of the country. Fr Gregory Makhubu is the only stipendiary priest for a huge area. He is a gifted Parish Priest and is building a new Church to accommodate the increasing congregation. The old Church will be used for the 300 strong Sunday School. We visited the outlying parts of his parish close to the border with South Africa. It used to be a prosperous area, but in recent years there is persistent drought. It is also the area most ravaged by HIV/AIDS. We visited just two of the feeding stations that Fr Gregory runs for orphan children who depend on the one meal a day provided by the Church volunteers. We brought a small supply of food with us. At the first food station we found that the food had run out and the Church volunteers were feeding the children from their home supplies. The second feeding station ran out of food two weeks ago. We don’t know how the children were surviving. They were pleased to get our meagre offering. Fr Gregory hopes to retire to live in a caravan in this area so he can better care for the orphans.

This is Christian care in a very needy land. I return grateful and aware of how much I take for granted. Mission Sunday has a special meaning for me as its focus is to enable the Diocese of Swaziland to take care of children in such extreme need.

Your Bishop
+Trevor

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Diocesan Calendar

(for updates please see Diocesan Website – www.limerick.anglican.org)

Thursday 8th – Mission evening Woodlands Hotel, Adare (see advert – page …..insert page number..)
GFS Diocesan Council Meeting, Nenagh – 8 pm
Friday-Sunday 9th -11th UDYC Junior Weekend, Carhue, Bandon, County Cork
Sunday 11th – Limerick MU Indoor Members Tea Party
Thursday 22nd – Diocesan Council – 7.30pm
Saturday, 24th – M.A.D. 10 am – 7.30pm (see UDYC Notes)
Sunday, 25th – Mission Sunday
Saturday, 1st December – GFS Diocesan Christmas Craft Day, Roscrea
Saturday, 1st December UDYC Annual Dinner Dance, Woodlands Hotel, Adare
Editorial

Dear Reader

One of the nice things about foreign travel is sharing worship in other people’s churches and experiencing how they go about it. So far on our US trip we’ve been to services in four churches, each very different, each perhaps with something to learn from.

The Reformed Church in Wyckoff, New Jersey was built in 1806 by a Dutch congregation. We were made to feel very welcome at their ‘traditional’ service, much like our ‘Service of the Word’, largely attended by an older age group – just like us! The congregation was invited to suggest favourite hymns, which all sung with gusto – a nice touch, enabled by a gifted organist. They also hold a separate service for younger people and families. I liked a draft ‘vision statement’, admirably inclusive, drawn up by their equivalent of our Select Vestry and distributed for review by church members.

In Indianapolis, Indiana we attended Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral on Monument Circle, the geographical centre of the city. The choral music at a packed sung Eucharist was magnificent, accompanied by bells but no smells. Communicants who required it were offered gluten free bread. Again the atmosphere was welcoming and fully inclusive.

Tonopah in the Nevada desert was quite a contrast. A silver mining boom town a century ago, it has seen better days. The aging and diminishing Episcopal congregation has lent their pretty church to another growing denomination and meet for worship in the adjacent hall. They await a new priest, who they hope and pray will bring new life and youth to their parish. I joined in a lovely, intimate Morning Prayer with just two older ladies, one a Reader who also played the organ. Their faith and the welcome they gave me were altogether humbling.

The fourth church was in Stowe, Vermont, a ski-resort town of about 4,500. This growing Episcopal parish has just built a beautiful new church, in which some 60 people celebrated a vibrant sung Eucharist. After Sunday School the children joined us at the altar, where they received the bread with their parents as full members of the church family.

In all these churches what stands out for me is the welcome received and the inclusive spirit at work – would that all our C of I churches were so welcoming and inclusive!

God bless,
Joc Sanders

The December issue will be published for Sunday 2nd December 2012. All material to be included must reach the Editor by Friday 16th November 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.

Contact Details
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United Diocesan Youth Council of Limerick and Killaloe

TAKING A LEADING ROLE- PART 1
Our youth leader’s weekend took place at Clairvaux House, Roscrea on first weekend in October. There were 12 enthusiastic young leaders in attendance at the weekend from throughout the Diocese. The worship times were facilitated by Rev. Lesley Robinson and Stevie Brickenden (Tuam Diocesan Youth Officer) and the leadership workshops were facilitated by Alec Perrott and Edward Hardy. It wasn’t all work and no play and the group enjoyed time in Roscrea town completing a photographic treasure hunt followed by a swim at Roscrea Leisure Centre.

COMMITTEE PLANNING WEEKEND
The youth council committee met in Jamaica Inn Youth Hostel in Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare to look at a number of strategic issues, evaluate 2012 programme and to plan 2013 programme on 19th and 20th October 2012. It was a good meeting and we look forward to letting everyone know our 2013 schedule in the coming weeks.

JUNIOR WEEKEND 2012
The splendid facilities of the Carhue Centre, Bandon await our Junior Weekend 2012 - Friday 9th to Sunday 11th November. There will be return transport to/from the event from Tralee, Farranfore, Killarney, Roscrea, Moneygall, Nenagh & Limerick. The event is for all 10 – 13 year olds. The weekend will cost €100 per person and this will include all transport, food, activities and accommodation. Final Date for receipt of bookings is Friday 2nd November 2012.

Our action packed programme will include the following: Zany Icebreaker Games, Awesome and Creative Worship & Workshops, Fun Filled time at West Cork Secret to include go karts, super slider, orienteering and obstacle course, Bowling and Quazar at Leisureplex, Swimming with Giant Slide and Waterwalkerz at Leisureworld Cork
Table Quiz, Disco, Good Food, A bit of sleep, And much more FUN, FAITH and FELLOWSHIP than one could ever imagine……

M.A.D. DAY
Are you M.A.D. enough to join the U.D.Y.C. gang for one of our famous M.A.D. Days? Our M.A.D. Day will take place at St. Mary’s National School, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary from 10.00 am – 7.30 pm on Saturday 24th November 2012. The cost for the full day will be €25. There will be return transport from Adare and Limerick for an additional €10 return.

What will happen at our Multi Activity Day? There will be lots of fun and games, the much loved and exhilarating Worship & workshops, Swimming & 15 metre inflatable obstacle at Nenagh Leisure Centre and tasty food at Supermac’s in the evening. It’s going to be M.A.D. craic! Closing date for bookings Monday 19th November 2012.

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE
Our Annual Christmas Dinner Dance will take place at Woodlands’ Hotel in Adare on Saturday 1st December 2012. We look forward to splendid food, band, raffle, spot prizes and a disco. The tickets are €25 and are available from committee members.

Damian Shorten
05shortend@gmail.com
CHILDREN’S REFERENDUM

Children’s Referendum. All Ireland Trustees on 6th October welcomed the forthcoming Children’s Referendum and gave their support to a “Yes” vote. They encourage all members to cast their votes.

LIMERICK CITY BRANCH

Limerick City Branch hosted a supper in aid of Overseas in October. Thirty members from Adare, Askeaton and Limerick enjoyed a lovely meal and a great chat. The draw for a beautiful painting by Patsy Pomeroy will take place at our Indoor Members’ Tea Party on 11th November.

YOUNG MEMBERS’ BREAKAWAY

Young Members’ Breakaway took place early in October. In line with the theme for the year “Your Gift – Discover and Celebrate” the delegates discovered and considered some of their gifts. The special speaker on the Friday evening was Lady Christine Eames, former MU Worldwide President, and on Saturday the ladies were treated to a fascinating talk and exhibition of and about patchwork followed by a demonstration of Temple Spa beauty products. Altogether, it was a most enjoyable and inspiring couple of days – what a pity the young women of Limerick and Killaloe missed the opportunity to attend.

MUMZONE COLOURING COMPETITION

This competition is open to children aged from 3-5, 6-8 and 9-11. There are some lovely prizes and the closing date has been extended to November 30th.

As all branches have begun their winter season of activities it would be great if branch leaders could send an account of some of their meetings to Mothers Union Press Officer, Mrs Penny Kearney. Her email is: bkframes@gmail.com before 15th of the month.

MU CELEBRATION OF WHOLENESS AND HEALING

A good size congregation attended the service organised by the Diocesan Mothers’ Union in Roscrea Church on 1st October. The lessons were read by Mrs. Ina Blackwell, Diocesan Mothers’ Union President, and Rev. Ruth Gill, Diocesan MU Faith and Policy Coordinator. Jessica Stone, Ministry Coordinator of the Church of Ireland Ministry of Healing gave the address. Many of the congregation came forward for prayer and anointing administered by the prayer teams of Rev. Lesley & Jessica, and Rev. Ruth & Adrian Hewson. Thanks to all who helped with the refreshments in the church afterwards. Many people were uplifted and found peace and healing.

1st Tralee Company Boys’ Brigade

The company returned after the summer break on September 28th. We have had a busy few weeks starting with making scarecrows which were displayed in the Church for the recent harvest service. We had a visit from Kingdom Falconry, were the children found out about birds of prey and each child had an owl or a falcon flown onto their hands. We have made pizzas and taught the children the correct way to set a table. We have loads more planned for what will be a busy year.
Leader Training took place in Mountrath Parish hall on 12th September by kind invitation of Sylvia Tracey, Diocesan President of Cashel & Ossery. Leaders enjoyed a very informative evening on the Bible Study and Crafts Syllabus, along with demonstrations on First Aid and Science badges. Killaloe Diocese was well represented and it was a very enjoyable night.

The annual Family Fun Evening was held in St. Kieran’s Parish Hall, Cloughjordan on the 21st September. GFS is very grateful to Leaders and helpers in Cloughjordan for providing a great night. Everyone enjoyed the Table Quiz and Beetle Drive which never fail to create excitement. Thanks to Pearl Whitford for being MC and to Birr Leaders (Betty Delahunt and Linda Gill) who were the score keepers.

Cloughjordan Branch had a visit from Cracpots when all the girls decorated and painted plates – something to treasure for ever. Birr Branch held their Opening Service in September during Communion Service to celebrate St. Michael & All the Angels. This coincided with the GFS World Day Prayer. Well done to all the girls for taking part in the Service and getting the Branch off to a wonderful start for the year.

Nenagh Branch: On Saturday, 20th October, Evanna Morrissey visited us, with her daughter Hannah, to share her experience as an Olympic Torch Bearer. We are very grateful to Evanna and Hannah for being with us.

Friendship knows no bounds! Girls also had great fun making wonderful decorations for Halloween.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Diocesan Council Meeting in St. Mary’s Church, Nenagh on Thursday, 8th November at 8 pm.
Nenagh Branch Enrolment Service will take place in St. Mary’s Church, Nenagh on Sunday, 18th November at 11 o’clock Morning Service.
Christmas Craft Day will be held 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 money we raise from events like the Craft Day the less parents will be asked to pay June. Leaders and girls in all the branches are very busy getting started on the Bible Study and Craft Syllabus for 2012/3. Wishing you all fun and friendship in GFS for the coming year.

Nenagh GFS members with Evanna Morrissey and her London Olympic Torch

School News

RATHKEALE NO 2 N.S.
As we go to press we are all getting ready to say farewell to our junior classes teacher, Lucy Gow. Lucy has been teaching in Rathkeale for the past five years and has been a wonderful teacher. She has always had a great rapport with all of the school community and we will all miss her dearly. On Friday 26th October we gathered in the school to make a presentation to her and also get a chance to say goodbye. We wish Lucy every happiness and success as she embarks on her new position in Portlaoise. Our loss is certainly Portlaoise’s gain!

Our Green School Committee have harvested the vegetables from our school garden. This year’s yield wasn’t wonderful, possibly due mostly to the weather conditions. They did, however, manage to make a delicious soup which was enjoyed by all the pupils. Our new committee is working hard on the next stage of the Green Flag programme. This year’s theme is water. They have carried out a water audit of the school and will soon be making recommendations to the pupils about where we can make improvements both at home and in school.

The appointment procedure has been taking place in the background over the past month or so and we are almost at the end of the process. We should be able to make an official announcement soon and we look forward to welcoming our new teacher after the mid-term break.

OXMANTOWN N.S.

Fitness testing - Offaly sports Partnership carried out fitness testing with our pupils from first to sixth class recently, we were reassured to hear that the results for pupils in Schools in Offaly were in general positive in that children were on average fitter that children in the U.K.

Theatre Group Visit School - Midlands Theatre Group brought a very enjoyable show called ‘The King of Copenhagen’ to the school many of the pupils were given costumes and became a part of the play.

Animation Workshop - The pupils of fifth and sixth class took part in a two day workshop in animation and film making with Mr. Michael Fortune. This was sponsored by Offaly County Council and was very well organised. All of the four Schools in Birr who took part
in the programme brought the children together to watch each others’ films on the big screen.

Green Schools Project - We are continuing to recycle, compost and try to cut down on our water usage as we aim to get our green flag. Two charities have arranged old clothes collections at school this month.

Film Show - Birr Library arranged for a film show at the Library for infants to second class, unfortunately due to the torrential rain we had to cancel but the senior pupils were luckier the following day and were treated to the first version of the movie ‘Charlie and The Chocolate Factory’.

ST. MARY’S N.S, NENAGH

It is difficult to believe that mid-term is approaching. The past seven weeks have flown by in a flurry of classes and activities.

In sports news, our students have finished their tennis lessons with Anne for this year, and soccer training with Sylvia has commenced.

Our sincere thanks go to Garda Siobhán Madden who visited St. Mary’s on Monday, 8th October. Garda Madden gave a talk about the role of the Garda Síochána and brought the children to see the patrol van. The children were very interested and involved in the discussion. Garda Madden rewarded their diligence with a suggestion to Ms. Everard that they have a night free of homework. The pupils encouraged Ms Everard not to “break the law” by going against Garda Madden’s suggestion and so a rare night free of homework was savoured by all.

Our junior classes took part in a Nature Walk recently. Using our environment and community as a basis for teaching, the children were able to undertake scientific discovery, geographical mapping and, of course, store up sights, sounds and experiences to explore later in language and visual arts classes.

We are very proud of all our pupils who were calm and well organised during our fire drill recently. They lined up in the designated areas outside and each group leader did a count. Well done to all.

ST. NICHOLAS’ NATIONAL SCHOOL, ADARE

What a busy month we have had in school!

We began the month with Maths Week where pupils and staff were involved in very practical Maths. We estimated, measured, weighed, counted money and had fun shopping in all our classrooms. We discovered that it is 600 metres from the school to the local library and that it is very important to weigh the ingredients for brown bread very carefully! We also worked out that it is better value to buy a four-pack of Mars bars than individually or in a mini multi-pack. Of course it also means you have more chocolate to eat!

Mrs. Walker taught us all how to make traditional brown bread. The ingredients were weighed out, the recipe followed and all hands kneaded the bread before it was brought home for baking. I’m delighted to say that all loaves of brown bread turned out perfectly and were delicious. Sampling took place the following day and the brown bread was topped off with delicious raspberry jam.

Pupils in the senior classroom were treated to a feast of writing when Helena Close, the writer in residence with Limerick County Council visited us. She told us about her own life as an author and then involved everyone in writing stories.

Book Week followed with a book fair in the school, trips to the library, poster competitions to promote reading in the school and of course lots and lots of reading for fun.

We finished off with “Dress up Day” when pupils and staff dressed up as one of their favourite characters from a book or poem. There was such a variety of imaginative costumes and ideas and everyone had the chance to say something about their chosen character.

Football against Racism Week took place recently. The FAI’s Intercultural Football Programme in conjunction with the education project “Show Racism the
Red Card" and other partners coordinated school based actions as part of the UEFA supported Football against Racism in Europe campaign. Schools were invited to enter a 5-a-side soccer blitz on October 16th in Delta Soccer dome in Limerick followed by a talk on racism and how to respond to it. Pupils in 4th to 6th classes participated in this worthwhile project.

Swimming classes will finish just before mid-term break and recorder classes for the older pupils will begin just after the break.

KILTALLGH N.S.

SCHOOL DEBATING COMPETITION

There is much media attention regarding the importance of critical thinking skills such as analysis, flexible thinking, curiosity, open mindedness and deductive reasoning. As teachers, we are also aware that pupils understand a concept more clearly if they can explain it to a peer. When arguing with a child, we find they rarely see the opposing point of view. Research clearly shows that these critical thinking skills are best developed by children through explicit instruction and practice. The Senior Room is eagerly looking forward to participating in the up coming Primary Schools Debating Competitions which we hope will help them develop their critical thinking skills while also developing their confidence and self-esteem.

NATIONAL CHILDREN’S CHOIR

The Senior Room is embarking on an exciting new musical adventure with the National Children’s choir and will be performing in the University of Limerick Concert Hall in May 2013, along with participating choirs from Limerick and Clare. Following this, 4 pupils will be selected from each choir to perform in a grand finale concert in The National Concert Hall in Dublin.

MATHLETICS

Mathletics is one of the world’s most used educational websites. It is next generation in on line learning resources helping students enjoy maths and improve their results. The senior room in Kiltallagh have been signed up to this exceptional maths website and will shortly be completing maths assignments on line and challenging children mathematically all over the globe! We will keep you informed of our progress.

WETLANDS

The Senior Room had a thrilling Autumn Science Day based around nature and wildlife in The Wetlands Centre, Tralee on September 27th. The children explored the Wetland and its inhabitants during what is one of the most interesting times of year to visit.

They took part in a mini beast hunt in the nature area, using pooters and nets to collect and learn about the smallest inhabitants of the wetland. Then into the ponds for some pond dipping to investigate the underwater community and learn about how a food-chain works. We even discovered a water scorpion which was a first for our marine biologist Colin who lead our adventure. Autumn is an exciting time for bird-life on a wetland, The children took a walk around the nature area to identify and learn about some of the species including a grey heron and swans with their cygnets. One of the highlights was a boat trip where we distributed seeds to any of the hungry inhabitants. Despite suggestions to the contrary, Bean Uí Bhriain and Deirdre were not moved over board! Our lunch was a waterside picnic was followed by delicious ice cream to round off our science excursion.

VILLIERS

SENIOR BOYS HOCKEY

We wish the senior boys hockey squad the best of luck at the upcoming All Ireland Schools tournament in Belfast. They represent Munster alongside Bandon Grammar and Ashton Schools. Congratulations to their coach George Blackwell and the squad for their hard work and determination to get this far.

HOCKEY AND RUGBY TOURS

Our senior and minor boys are just home from another successful hockey trip to Edinburgh. Matches were played against Stuart Melville College and Inverleith Hockey Club. The senior boys won both their games and the minors won and lost one.

A combined senior rugby and senior girls hockey tour took them both to Swansea. The girls won both their matches, while the boys equipped themselves admirably but were unfortunately beaten.

TRANSITION YEAR FASHION SHOW

We are all looking forward to our annual TY fashion show. The students have been preparing hard and tickets are already sold out. We can’t wait to see them ‘strutting their stuff’ on the catwalk. This year the event is being held in the Strand Hotel for the first time.

Outdoor Pursuits

This year’s TY’s have been to Lough Derg Yacht club sailing, the Burren rock climbing and caving and the Slieve Bloom mountains pony trekking and laser shooting. New challenges for most and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

1ST YEAR GIRLS’ HOCKEY SUCCESS

Congratulations to the 1st Year girls who won their hockey blitz tournament in Crescent Comprehensive recently. Attended by all schools in the city and beyond - a fine achievement for our beginners. Well done. They look forward to a successful future.
The Service of Installation and Institution of The Rev. Sandra Pragnell, our new Dean of Limerick and Rector of Limerick City Parish took place in St. Mary’s Cathedral on Wednesday evening, the 24th October. The Service was conducted by Bishop Trevor Williams. The preacher was The Right Rev. Alan Harper, former Archbishop of Armagh. St. Mary’s Cathedral Choir was joined by St. Michael’s Choir for this special service. Mayor of Limerick, Cllr Gerry McLoughlin welcomed Sandra to Limerick and invited her to share her values and ideas and participate in every way possible in Limerick City events. Richard Brickenden, on behalf of Limerick City Parish parishioners welcomed Sandra to Limerick. Sandra thanked everyone for coming along and joining in this special event, especially those who had travelled from Dundalk and further afield. Approximately 300 people attended the service, made up of Clergy from the Dioceses, clergy from other religious denominations, Limerick City Councillors, dignitaries, Limerick City Parish, parishioners from her former parish, family, friends, etc. Refreshments were held in Cathedral after the service. Many thanks to all who helped in any way to make this a successful event.

An occasional, dispatch from the Cathedral bell-tower

Over the recent months the bellringers have been out and about exploring the countryside and further afield. In June we undertook a tour of county Clare … again! Last time we travelled to the northern part of the county around the Burren; this year we explored southern parts. Many ringers and readers will remember the West Clare railway – made famous in song by Percy French. A number of dedicated enthusiasts have acquired an old engine and rolling stock, and have restored them at the old Moyasta station. Many old artefacts from time tables to photos to memorabilia are on display there, and there is also the opportunity to take a short journey along the old West Clare line. An absolutely fabulous experience enjoyed by everyone.

After lunch we headed out to the lighthouse at Loop Head. This lighthouse has been offering protection to seafarers for well over 400 years, but only last year it was opened for public viewing. It’s scary to think that this and all other lighthouses around our coast line no longer require on-site staff; instead they are all controlled from the Irish Lights headquarters in Dun Laoghaire with only occasional manual intervention. One of what was previously one of the attendants home now houses an informative, interactive exhibition which provides a history of the Lighthouse and allows the visitor to learn
how the operation of this Lighthouse has progressed through the years.

Ascending the stairs to the lighthouse platform elicited many of the old “busman holiday” style jokes!

At the back of the lighthouse the war-time “Eire” sign has been excavated and restored. This is one of the 40 or so large signs formed by white-washed stones constructed up and down the west coast in 1943 by members of the local coast watch service to alert passing aircrews that they were over neutral Ireland. A venue well worth a visit.

In August the Limerick Bellringing fraternity lost one of its most popular members with the passing of Jack Sciascia. A Limerick-man who was very proud of his Italian ancestry, he was a former employee of Ranks where he made so many life-long friends. A member of the well-known musical family, his father Charlie was renown throughout the city and county as a talented music teacher, Jack also was a very talented musician. An exponent of at least seven different instruments, it was the mark of the man who was so private in many ways that this fact was not known beyond his family and a few friends! One of the memories that will long-linger is on the evenings when we practice on the mini-bells, Jack would wander to the piano and the most beautiful of music would resonate around the Cathedral - so much so that we would stop ringing just to listen to him.

Like many of his generation, Jack learnt to ring the bells of Mt. St. Alphonsus in his teens and as late as June he was still climbing the tower stairs to catch up with the gossip, and to encourage - he did not allow his illness to get in the way of an evening of ringing. Through bellringing, Jack built up a network of friends throughout the island to whom he was a friend, sincere, honest, gentle and above all, honourable. That so many ringers from near and far attended his funeral Mass is testimony to the esteem in which he was held.

As his cortege left St. Joseph’s Church for burial in Castlemungret, it paused outside Mt. St. Alphonsus to listen to the bells for one final time.

Jack was pre-deceased some eight years ago by his beloved wife, Mary – to their daughter Tracey and the extended Sciascia family all of us extend our heartfelt sympathies; and our gratitude for being counted as a friend to one of life’s finest gentlemen.

The 22nd September was the “5 towers in London” trip organised by the IACR (Irish Association of Change Ringers). Over 35 ringers, (as well as some “hangers-on”!) from Skibbereen, Doneraile, Dublin, Belfast, Hillsborough, as well as nine from Limerick made their way by boat, train or plane to St Katharine Cree in City of London for 10.45am. A lovely ground-floor light six to start the day off. Visits to St. Olave, Hart St; St. Magnus the Martyr; St. James’, Garlickhythe; and St. Laurence, Jewry followed, as well as lunch in a conveniently situated good olde English pub.

Highlight for many was ringing in Garlickhythe as these recently installed bells were the actual bells that were in the barge at the head of the armada that sailed down the Thames for the Queens Jubilee celebrations earlier in the year.

With each tower no more than a 10 minute walk from the previous and with pleasant overhead sunshine it made for a wonderful day for all concerned. Many thanks to the Association ringing master Julia and her band of helpers for organising – it was “something different” and was a “great day” enjoyed by all.

Practices have now returned to full-tilt following the short summer recess – if anyone reading this and has not yet visited the tower, make an appointment with any of the ringer – it’s well worth the climb.

Welcome to Mark Thompson who recently expressed an interest in learning to ring to a friend of his; and before he knew what was happening he was taking his first lesson!

These words are being typed before the institution of the new Dean of St. Mary’s so we are now preparing for that very important service. We plan, as has become customary in recent times, that the final ring before the service to be ecumenical – there will be four members of the St. Mary’s band, and four members of Mt. St. Alphonsus band ringing to welcome Dean Pragnell.

We are also planning to ensure there will be ringing for the Advent Carol service as this is a special occasion for so many around the city.

Finally, as usual we plan to ring in the New Year at mid-night on 31st December. If you have never visited the tower this is the opportunity. Talk to any of the bellringers, or be in the Cathedral by 11.30pm that evening for a different perspective on New Year’s Eve.
Prayer for November 2012

November is a month for remembering the faithful departed, while the days grow short as we move into the darkness of winter. This prayer captures our longing for holy rest and God’s peace at the end of our days. It is by Cardinal Newman, ordained a priest in the Church of England, a convert to Rome, who was beatified in 2010.

O Lord,
support us all the day long
until the shades lengthen,
and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.
Then, Lord, in your mercy
grant us safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at the last;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

John Henry Newman, 1801-90
This adapted version is included in The Book of Common Prayer, p494
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: mapleir@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 TIME

Just a reminder that the Sunday Service in Birr is now at 11:30 am. Sunday School continues in Birr every Sunday except the second Sunday, which is a Family Service.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Our harvest thanksgiving services were enjoyable and memorable celebrations this year, particularly bearing in mind the challenges facing farmers during the harvest season. While the weather made the work difficult, it is appropriate that we should give thanks to God, remembering that there are others around the world whose crops have failed due to drought. Thank you to our preachers; in Lockeen, the Very Revd Patrick Towers, Priest-in-Charge of Clonfert Group; in Lorrha, Martin Browne, OSB Principal of Glenstal Abbey School; in Birr, the Revd Gary Paulsen, Rector of Adare; and in Dorrha, Fr Michael Reddan, Curate Assistant in Birr. Generous collections were given for our Diocesan Mission Project, Luyengo Farm in Swaziland.

ECUMENICAL EVENINGS

The series of evenings in the County Arms Hotel is drawing to a close. The numbers attending has remained constant as has the interest in the topics discussed. We are extremely grateful to the speakers from the Irish School of Ecumenics who have shown us that ‘religion’ is something which can be embraced with joy and enthusiasm.

MOTHERS’ UNION

Thank you to Archdeacon and Mrs Carney for hosting the opening service and meeting in the Rectory when the members were given the programme of events and meetings for the coming season.

PASTORAL

We keep in our prayers those who are ill at home or in hospital. We remember those in full time care and those who care for them.

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

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

We had good numbers at our three Back to Church Sunday services on 30th September, though all were down on last year. Thanks to all who provided the refreshments.
after the services which greatly added to the warmth of the welcome. As our worship Sunday by Sunday is at the heart of everything we do we continue to hope and pray that more and more people will be encouraged to join us on a regular basis.

HARVEST THANKSGIVINGS

At the end of another year’s round of Harvest Thanksgivings we thank our preachers: Rev. Gary Paulsen in Roscrea, Rev. Leonard Ruddock in Corbally and Fr. Pat Greed in Bourney. Thanks also to all who had the churches looking so beautiful, and to those who provided the goodies after all the services. I’m glad to report good numbers in each parish.

CHARITY SHOP

Well done to Heather Evans, Vivienne Wallace and their team of helpers who ran the charity shop on Main St. from 2nd-6th October in aid of the Team Hope Shoebox appeal and parish funds. The amazing total of over €3,500 was raised. A lot of hard work goes into such an undertaking and we are thankful for such dedication to a good cause.

HOLY BAPTISM

Rebecca Mary Connor, daughter of Andrew and Kate, Spruce Hill, was baptised in St. Cronan’s 13th October. We wish her, her mum and dad and big brother Harry continued blessings.

CORBALLY PARISH MONSTER DRAW

Tickets are currently on sale for a monster draw in aid of Corbally Parish. A total prize fund in excess of €1800 is up for grabs with the first prize being 150 bales of briquettes. Among the other prizes on offer are racing, dinner and overnight accommodation for the Fairyhouse Grand National, substantial cash prizes, dinner in Fiacri House, and timber. Tickets are priced at €2 each or a book of three for €5. The draw will take place in Fitzpatrick’s Lounge, Clonmore on Friday 23rd November. There will be music on the night by Martin Delaney, and finger food included for a cover charge of €7.50. The chance of winning valuable door prizes will also be included with admission and many more prizes including coal, briquettes, Sunday lunch in Fitzpatrick’s to be won on the night. All welcome.

ST. CRONAN’S CHURCH WINDOW APPEAL

Much of the timber in the windows to the rear of the church is in very bad need of repair. We are currently investigating any possible grant assistance but the parish will certainly have to raise some funds to go towards this necessary project. If anyone is in a position to make a donation or acquire sponsorship it would be much appreciated. Any profits from the performance of Messiah on Saturday 15th December will also go towards this project.

MISSION SUNDAY

Mission Sunday falls this year on Sunday 25th November and all proceeds from the Diocese will once again be going to the Luyengo Farm Project in Swaziland, administered through USPG. Watch out for local details of services within the group – hopefully something a little bit different will be happening......

HANDEL’S MESSIAH

Saturday 15th December will be a landmark date for Roscrea and the surrounding area as Handel’s timeless masterpiece, Messiah, will be performed in St. Cronan’s Church by the East Cork Choral Society under the direction of Colin Nicholls, a former organist of St. Finbarr’s Cathedral, Cork. Tickets will be available in advance from the Rectory and from parishioners, priced at €15 each. This is the final celebratory event of St. Cronan’s bicentenary year of 2012, and what a way to end! Messiah is a truly inspired work of genius by Handel which will be the highlight of your Christmas celebrations. Please come along for a night to remember.

AROUND THE PARISHES

We extend our sympathy to all who have lost loved ones over the past few months, especially Judith Wallace on the death of her mother; and to Jane McManus and Jennifer Veighey, both teachers in St. Cronan’s NS, on the deaths of their sister and grandfather respectively. We continue to keep the sick and recuperating in our prayers. Congratulations to Mervyn and Michelle Lewis, Bourney, on the safe arrival of their first son; and to Robert and Doreen Roe, Corbally, who have another set of twin grandchildren, thanks to the safe arrival of Suzy and Liam’s twin boys. Congratulations to Mervyn and Liz Tyndall who recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, and to Iris Allen on the celebration of a milestone birthday. Best wishes to Clive Davis, Corbally, and Mary Ryan to be married in St. Mary’s Church, Drom, on 27th October, and to Emily Wallace-Keeshan to be baptised in St. Cronan’s on 17th November. We congratulate the new Dean of Limerick, the Very Rev. Sandra Pragnall, and pray God’s blessings on her ministry in Limerick city and the United Dioceses.

Nenagh Union of Parishes

Nenagh, Templederry, and Killodiernan

Rector: Rev. Canon Marie Rowley-Brooke
St. Mary’s Rectory, Church Road, Nenagh. Co. Tipperary.
Tel: 067-32598 Mobile: 085-1474792
e-mail: revdmarie@eircom.net
(Diocesan Reader: Joc Sanders, Tel: 087 699 6775)

SUNDAY SERVICES

9.30 am Templederry, (1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays)
11.00 am St Mary’s Nenagh (1st, 2nd, and 4th, with

continued on page 16...
2012 Appeal

The year ahead will, regrettably, be another challenging one financially, with many households suffering considerable hardship to make ends meet.

The Church of Ireland community is not immune from such pressures and to address that problem two years ago, the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of Ireland - together with Protestant Aid - initiated a special appeal to parishioners throughout the 26 Counties to give whatever they could to help relieve the difficulties experienced by members of our community.

The response was most encouraging but sadly financial hardship continues to be a fact of life for many families so the Archbishops and Bishops have again asked Protestant Aid to spearhead a major fund-raising and awareness campaign.

During the course of November, Protestant Aid will be sending a letter to each family through the parish network seeking their support for those parishioners who are struggling in the present economic climate.

Your generous response would be much appreciated.

For further information please contact:
Protestant Aid, 74 Upper Leeson Street, Dublin 4. Tel: 01 668 4298. Fax: 01 660 3292.
www.protestantaid.org

Newtown School
Waterford

Educating for life in the Quaker Tradition since 1798

Newtown School is a multi-denominational co-educational boarding and day secondary school.

Situated on a 17 acre campus with open green space, students enjoy the benefits of a small school community atmosphere combined with a wide range of facilities.

At Newtown School students learn independence, respect and tolerance, core values of the Quaker ethos. Students are encouraged and enabled to perform to the best of their abilities as is evidenced by their excellent academic results and their high achievements in music, sports and other extracurricular activities.

The advantages of a broad curriculum, committed staff, small classes and extensive recreational facilities combine to enhance the school’s educational environment.

SEC Grants, Scholarships and Bursaries are available subject to eligibility.
The country from Johannesburg airport to the Swazi border is low rolling hills and immense skies. Evidence abounds of waste deposits from old and current mines. Small groups of cattle graze in huge fields. Settlement is in clusters of small houses with the bric-a-brac of life close by each one – logs for the fire, dogs, goats, mangles, mud and wattle sheds.

Across the border the low hills turn to mountains of high green uplands and brown granite outcrops that open out into grand sweeping valleys reminiscent of alpine foothills. Trees of eucalyptus and pine clothe the hillsides, cacti and palm and purple blossomed jacaranda trees occupy the middle distance. It is just before the rainy season and grass is sparse. The road is excellent, a highway for cars and trucks but also for people who walk many kilometers. Swaziland is about the size of the 9 Ulster counties. Half is mountainous.

Swaziland is ruled by a king with many wives, a legacy of an ancient culture. The king exercises his control over community life through his chiefs. These are the key people who wield power and influence at community level. On to this has been grafted a modern parliamentary democracy of MPs and cabinet government but there are no political parties permitted by the king. The king owns almost all the land; if you want land you must rent it from the king, paying in money or livestock. The capital is Mbabane and the other significant city is Manzini, about 40km away.

Poverty and wealth are close neighbours in Swaziland. In the town of Nhlangano (pronounced “Clangano”) in the south, you can buy a 1.3kg chicken in the SPAR supermarket for 4 euro. Forty km further on, Father Gregory, priest of Nhlangano’s Holy Trinity Anglican church, brings maize and powdered soup to a food station at Mpandesane where little children are taught their ABC and fed one meal a day. Many are orphans. Many have swollen tummies and coughs yet they dance their thanks to us as we leave. The men are away looking for work in South Africa. There are only women living by subsistence in mud huts looking after children many of whom are not their own. There is never a hint of complaint. This is the way life is. These are Anglican church volunteers who teach the children and cook for them; in return, they share their food. Father Gregory wants to end his days here, in his caravan, with his people.

If Father Gregory has his way, they will build a church first, then a school. (He already has the blocks, awaiting cement and labour and a legal agreement with the landowner.) This is the only way the Anglican church can retain control over the school. If he builds the school first (always in partnership with the community), the community – the chief – will seek to take it over. This model of church first has worked in other areas. The Anglican diocese of Swaziland operates 26 church schools where 440 teachers care for 11,000 primary and secondary pupils. One of the best is St Paul’s run by Josephine Khumalo in the North of Swaziland. She has 588 pupils and 17 teachers. Josephine Khumalo runs a good school. She can reduce the most profound ideas into a few words. Over her desk she has written on a piece of paper: “I will do my best to achieve the best out of the whole setup”. It motivates her whole professional life. On another she has written “10 ways to work better”:

- Do one thing at a time
- Know the problem
- Learn to listen
- Learn to ask questions
- Distinguish sense from nonsense
- Accept change as inevitable
- Admit mistakes
- Say it simple
- Be calm
- Smile

... and she does. 588 children get a good meal every day. If the school didn’t serve food, the children wouldn’t come.

In Luyengo, not far from Mbabane, the church owns 220 acres in several different lots. Tiekie de Beer, a South African, and Robert Atwell, a Dubliner, are developing these acres as a vegetable production unit to support the outreach work of the church. They employ local labour and sell their produce, cabbage, beans, tomatoes, broccoli, corn-on-the-cob, cauliflower into local markets. If they go further afield to Johannesburg, they are dependent on refrigerated transport which has let them down in the past. They have 14 acres under production, largely by their own efforts. They need investment to do more. During our visit, we facilitated meetings with the University of Swaziland’s faculty of agriculture situated close by. There are great possibilities here for the future. We talked to two Anglican members of staff, one of whom worships in the cathedral.
The Anglican church of Swaziland is not wealthy. There are some wealthy Anglicans in Swaziland but few go to church. Neither is it altogether poor by the standards of this beautiful country. Confronted by such need on its doorstep, how does the Anglican church answer the eternal challenge of Christ’s words to Peter - and us: “When I was hungry, you fed me. When I was sick, you visited me When I was naked, you clothed me” (Matthew 25: 35, 36).

On November 17th, in the Anglican cathedral in Mbabane (smaller than Birr Parish Church) will enthrone the next Bishop of Swaziland and the first woman bishop in the whole of Africa. Bishop-elect Ellinah comes from a career in business and local administration and is full of quiet determination. She is taking on a great burden but she is passionately moved to bring greater accountability and organization into diocesan affairs.

So to return to the question: how to respond to such great need in ones own flock and in the wider Swazi community (for the church does not draw distinctions in those it feeds and educates)? How can 26 clergy and 20 lay ministers, with school principals and teachers, reach out to help so many widows and orphans and give its young people a future? Bishop Ellinah’s starting point will give you a clue – an asset register of all church assets, land, buildings, people. Her vision is to mobilize all resources to run a sustainable programme of assistance and support based around three already running programmes: Work skills; home-based care and school feeding programmes. We saw all three in operation. We met wonderful people like Father Gregory, like Sandra Dlamini, and our expert driver, Mandla Mdluli who knew everything and brought us everywhere. The hope that was born in Bethlehem shines through everything they do.

USPG, now rebranded as “US”, is working in Swaziland to support this work. Linda and Jan are moving mountains to channel Irish support in the right way. The Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe, led by Bishop Trevor, have taken a decision to help, focusing on the Luyengo farm project; the Diocese of Cashel and OSS and Ferns led by Bishop Michael, are focusing on the schools.

The Diocese of Swaziland, shortly to be led by Bishop Wamukoya Ellinah, is facing a task of truly biblical proportions in tackling the consequences of climate, HIV/AIDS, unemployment and underdevelopment and doing it in a way that is true to the Gospel. Is it impossible? No. Remember Josephine Khumalo’s ten ways to work better. Lets get to work together and show these wonderful people they are not alone.

Michael Hanna

(In future issues, we will look in more detail at some of the items introduced in this article)
United Family Worship on 3rd Sundays
12.15 pm Killodiernan, (2nd and 4th Sundays)
Saturday 3rd November, 11.00 am, Ballymackey Graveyard: Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to Richard Jones (son of William and Georgina Jones, Nenagh parishioners), and Lisa Cloherty who were married in Our Lady of the Wells Church, Clonmoney, Newmarket-on-Fergus, on 8 September. The ceremony was conducted by Fr Tom Ryan with Canon Marie assisting.

CONDOLENCES
We were all shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Lexie Borland last month. Lexie had come to the end of his chemotherapy treatment, and was approaching the final week of his radio-therapy when he became seriously ill. Following a week’s stay at Regional Hospital, Limerick, he died on 6th October. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Jean, children Rachel and Peter, and the extended Borland and Shorten families. Lexie was a thoughtful and successful farmer, open to new ideas and ways of doing things, and a member of a close farming support group. The Service of Thanksgiving for his life held in St Mary’s in Nenagh was packed out with family, friends and colleagues. Lexie will be hugely missed in our community.

HARVEST THANKSGIVINGS
Tom Gordon, Dean of Leighlin, was our guest preacher at St Mary’s Harvest on 21st September, and as always the church was beautifully decorated. Many thanks to our gifted flower arrangers, and also to pupils from the school who decorated three of the windows. Delicious refreshments followed the joyful singing of the great harvest hymns by the congregation, choir and JUNIOR CHOIR

With the lovely decorations still in place, the school had its harvest celebrations and an agape feast on the following Monday. Pupils read lessons and prayers and enacted the Gospel reading.

The Union’s final Harvest Festival was at Killodiernan...
on 30th September where we welcomed Salters Sterling as our guest preacher. Harvest decorations and refreshments were wonderful - our senses of sight, scent and taste were all bowled over!

All our harvest collections this year will go to the diocesan mission project at Luyengo Farm in Swaziland.

DROMINEER LITERARY FESTIVAL
This ‘boutique’ Festival had its ninth extremely successful event from 11th - 14th October, not surprising really when you consider the number of talented parishioners involved in its organisation!

The Festival has become a recognised event in the artistic calendar not just in the county, but in the country and internationally.

DEDICATION
On 23rd September members of the Minchin family came to Killodiernan to be present at the dedication of a new chalice in memory of Myles Minchin. Also at the service a bouquet of flowers was presented to Aggie Bain, a worshipper in and good friend to Killodiernan for 35 years. Aggie has moved to Dublin to be nearer to her family, but we hope she will visit us often.
Borrisokane 200

Not to be outdone Borrisokane this year celebrates its 200th anniversary and this will be marked by a special service of thanksgiving on Sunday 25th November at 12 noon followed by refreshments in the parochial hall. The preacher will be Mrs Gillian Kingston, Lay Leader of the Methodist Conference of Ireland. Work is ongoing on the parish history and Norman Harding one of our parishioners is compiling this anniversary publication. More in next month’s edition.

Harvest Thanksgivings

As I write the season is not quite over but I want to thank all our congregations and preachers for an uplifting experience in a year that has presented extraordinary difficulties to the farming community. Thank you especially to Bishop Trevor, Rev’d Ruth Gill, Fr Tom Carroll, Rev’d Stan Evans & Rev’d Janet White-Spunner for their encouraging words to us. A very healthy sum has been raised towards the work of USPG in Swaziland.

Baptism

We welcomed into the fellowship of the Church Alex Mervyn Culbert, son of Mervyn and Andrea of Cloughjordan who was baptised on 14th October in St. Kieran’s Church. May he know God’s richest blessing in his life.

Bereavement

Just as I write these notes news reaches us of the death of Beatrice Graham, (née Young) of Naas, Kildare, sister of Frances Austin of Cloughjordan parish. We extend our deepest sympathy to Frances and the family in their sad loss.

Cloughjordan Christmas Whist Drive

Friday 30th November 8pm - St. Kieran’s Hall Cloughjordan - Lots of Raffle and spot prizes.

Shinrone Group of Parishes

Shinrone, Aghancon, Kinnitty and Dunkerrin

Rector: Rev. Michael Johnston

Tel: 0505-47164 Mbl: 086-6086567

email: shinrone@killaloe.anglican.org

No notes received, but Dates for your Diary...

Aghancon Hall

Saturday 17th November Whist Drive - 8.15pm

Sunday 18th November Craft Fair - 11am to 5pm

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

Harvests

Thanks to all who decorated; to guest preachers Fr Hugh O’Donnell and Mr Brian Mooney(en Ennis), who contributed richly to our understanding of man’s true place in God’s Creation and our shared role in His work; and to Ennis Cathedral Choir, Clare Music Circle for the wonderful singing in Ennis and Kilnasoolagh, respectively. Folk-gospel singer Kate Purcell in Ennis and teenage harpist Lorraine Kelly in St Columba’s and Newmarket. Collections went to Cahercalla Geriatric Hospital and Hospice and Luyengo Farm Project.

Bereavement

Mrs Judith Ironside and Mrs Gertrude Keogh were both bereaved recently. James Ironside - only days short of his 80th birthday - who, with Judith, recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary, died suddenly in his Garden in Spanish Point. A highly regarded veterinary surgeon and a popular figure among all who got to share his company, his gregariousness and love for thoughtful discussion on many subjects was brought out by the Rev Vicki Lynch in the address at the funeral. Sharing a love of gardening with Judith, it was consoling for all the extended family that he died suddenly as he might have wished - in his own garden picking beans. Granddaughter Annabel, representing the children among whom he was always comfortable, led the proceeding with Robert Frost’s poem “The Road not taken “. Tributes were paid by his stepsons Andrew and James. Rev Lynch, a good friend, as well as a pastor to James, presided over the cremation. To Judith, their daughters Sarah, Emma, Lucy, James and Andrew and all the family we offer our prayers.

Gertrude Keogh and her three daughters said farewell to husband and father Joseph after a prolonged period of home nursing. Joseph - in his Nineties - was an active farmer in Newmarket-on-Fergus. Canon Reuben Butler and PP Fr Tom Fitzpatrick presided and were joined on the Sanctuary by Canon Bob Hanna. Gertrude, originally from Denmark met her husband whilst working at Shannon Enterprise Estate.

Remembrance

Monday evening 12th November at 7.30pm sees the now annual act of remembrance for the Clare fallen in the Great Wars and subsequent major conflicts. Venue - Pro-Cathedral in Ennis. Guest speaker - former Irish Army officer Mr Barney Callaghan, who is current Director of the Presidential An Gaisce Award Scheme for youth. Linked with the commemoration is the on-going plan to construct a memorial to the “lost”names who fell in World War 1.

Child Safety
Current challenge for the two select vestries is to update our Child Safety Panel. Volunteers to serve on the panels are urgently needed.

The next training day is Saturday November 17th (10am-4pm) in the Woodlands Hotel. Please contact Rector or Edwin Bailey.

HOSPITALITY

St Fachnan’s Cathedral was venue for a talk by Estonian Poet Laureate Yaan Kaplinski which opened a programme of hospitality to visiting poets and academics from around Europe, especially from a Norse background. Hosted by the Clare Three Legged Poets. In St Columba’s singer Kate Purcell recorded spiritual songs for Canadian TV Gospel programme. Patron Saint for the event was the great traveller St Brendan.

Aughrim & Ballinasloe

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Clonfert Diocese

Aughrim & Ballinasloe

Group of Parishes

_Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ardrahan, Clontuskert and Woodlawn_

Rector: Rev. George Flynn
Tel: 090 9673735 Mobile: 087 20 74739
gorgeandgwyn@eircom.net
www.aughrim.clonfert.anglican.org

GREETINGS FROM COUNTY GALWAY

Harvest Services have taken centre stage this past month in this part of the Diocese with good congregations coming to give thanks to Almighty God for all his blessings.

The last Sunday of September being a fifth Sunday brought a large congregation to St. Matthew’s Clontuskert for our Family Service. Our special guests on this occasion was Linda Chambers and her husband Jan of USPG. Linda supported her ‘Swaziland’ update with a number of slides that made our congregation aware of the challenges facing the Diocese and in particular the people connected with the Luyengo Agriculture Project. Interest has been roused with a number of parishioners thinking of heading to Swaziland sometime in 2013. Anyone interested in this possible two week trip might make contact with Rev George.

During the course of this service awards were presented to the winners of the ‘Super Grandmammy and Grandaddy’ competition launched earlier in the summer. The winners received their ‘GRANNY OSCAR AWARDS’, with no expenses spared, presented to them by Linda. The winners were Super Gran - Mary Sinclair, Jennifer Wakefield, Kathleen Newton, Super-great Granny - Mary Weily and Super Grandaddy - Leslie Wakefield. The service and presentation was followed with a ‘glamorous’ light lunch in the ‘Old School’.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services have been held to-date in Clontuskert, preacher - Rev Stan Evans, Ardrahan - preacher Rector, Aughrim - Rev Albert Hempenstal, Woodlawn - Rev Gary Paulsen - all followed by the traditional cuppa and chat. All our collections supported our Mission Project and made our people aware of the need to reach out to our brothers and sisters of Swaziland.

Art Classes continue to attract much interest with an additional six week course having started on 17th October under the watchful eye of Jackie Eastwood.

MOTHER’S UNION

Aughrim Mothers’ Union meeting in September attracted a good attendance when Dr Susan our parishioner from Ahascragh and Clontuskert spoke to us about diet. This prompted a good discussion on the need to be careful with what we eat but was quickly thrown out the ‘Rectory window’ with a scrumptious supper. The careful ‘diet watch’ continued at their next meeting in October when they held an Autumn Dinner in the Rectory attended by an enthusiastic gathering. Future meetings will be held on the third Friday of each month. New members are always welcome.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The 11th Hour of the 11th day of the 11th month 2012 will be our Day of Remembrance with a special service in St. John’s Ballinasloe at which a large number of our Army Reserve Force Service men will be in attendance. This will be a momentous occasion for our parishioner and Parish Reader Commandant Martin O’Duffy as this will be his ‘standing down parade’ to mark his retirement. The service is open to all visitors and gives us all an opportunity to recognise the commitment of our armed forces on peace keeping service at home and abroad with the United Nations.

PASTORAL CARE

We continue to remember all who have been sick at home or in hospital, all who have been bereaved and trust that the presence of Christ will comfort all affected in this way at this time and in the days that lie ahead.

SERVICES

Please see web site for Service detail.

The Clonfert Group of Parishes

_Clonfert, Banagher, Eyrecourt, and Portumna_

The Rev. Alan Nevin
Priest in Charge: Very Rev. Patrick L. Towers
Tel: 0909-9684547 Mobile: 086-8140649

WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to Nicola Dagg, daughter of Rene and the late Lou, who was married in England on the 29th
September. It was a glorious day and we wish the couple every happiness in the years to come.

Also on the same day nearer to home and still a lovely fine day saw the wedding of David Kenny, son of Freda and the late Lal Kenny of Fynagh Eyrecourt, and Bronagh Garry of Geashill. We wish all of God’s blessings to David and Bronagh as they start married life at The Lodge, Fynagh.

CONGRATULATIONS
To Hillary (Hardy) and John Wilson for the safe delivery of their baby son on 16th October, also to Grandmother Anne Hardy. We thank God for yet another miracle.

FIFTH SHORELINES ART FESTIVAL
Took place over the weekend of 20th to 23rd September at Portumna. As part of this a Flower Festival was held in Christ Church Portumna. Richard Haslam designed some beautiful flower arrangements for the church, these were arranged around the design of the new tapestry that we have in front of the Altar and reading desk in our Church at Portumna. Our thanks go to Richard and his helpers for the overwhelming beauty they created within the church.

For three evenings the church was the venue for words and music. On the Thursday evening the ‘Tune Makers’ played contemporary Traditional music. The Group consisted of Liz Carroll, Martin O’Conner and David Flynn. On Friday a concert entitled ‘Two Seasons-One Shoreline’ featured music, song and words provided by the Portumna Active Retirement Choir and Muirene’s Musical Notes, a choir of 20 children aged between 8-12 years old. There was a huge audience, with standing room only on this occasion. Finally on the Saturday evening a new group called ‘No Strings Attached’ entertained another large audience.

HARVEST FESTIVAL
At Portumna on Sunday 3rd October we were able to avail of the beautiful flowers from the festival of the week before. The Rev Patrick Towers conducted and preached at this well attended service which was followed by ample refreshments and plenty of chat.

WE GIVE THANKS
We give thanks to all those who supported Edward and Isobel Delahunty’s coffee morning recently for Offaly Hospice. The sum of €5,645 was raised which was well up on last year and a just reward for the huge amount of work that they put into the day. We thank God for people’s generosity in these difficult times.

WE REGRET
We regret to report that vandals have once again attacked St Paul’s Church in Banagher. In the early hours of the 28th September the Church door was kicked in and several people entered with the intent of doing damage. Our wonderful model of the Church was smashed up in the porch. The vestry was broken into and a fire was set. The vestry was virtually destroyed. Fortunately they were too hardy enough to ring our Church bell which alerted some people living nearby who raised the alarm and used our fire extinguishers on the fire. Was it not for this act the damage would have been far worse, as it is no real damage was done by the fire outside the vestry, although the extinguishers left a thick dust in every corner of the Church. This attack has shocked the community in the town and we have received many messages of help and sympathy. We thank God that the incident was not more serious and we pray that those responsible will one day regret their actions.

BANAGHER CHURCH SERVICES
Since the above incident Banagher parishioners have joined those at St John’s at Eyrecourt for their Sunday worship, and this arrangement will continue until further notice.

Limerick Diocese
St. Mary’s Cathedral, St. Michael’s Parish, and Abington
The Very Rev. Sandra Pragnell
The Deanery, 7 Kilbane, Castletroy, Limerick.
Tel: 061-338697 Mobile: 087-2658592
Email: sandrapragnell@eircom.net
The Rev. Jane Galbraith
50 Ballinvoher, Fr. Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick.
Tel: 061 – 302038 Mobile: 085-1450804
Email: galbraithjane@gmail.com

Warmest greetings to you all from Sandra (your Dean/Rector elect). As I write these words I am surrounded by packing cases from Dundalk and my sister has just arrived to help transform the Deanery into my new home.

I am looking forward very much to the installation/institution on 24 October and to getting to know all of you in Limerick City Parish. You are blessed with three beautiful places of worship but you are the people who are the church, the family of God in this place with whom I shall have the privilege of sharing our journey with Christ. A journey we share with the wider church and working together with the other Christian traditions locally enriches us all.

My sincere thanks to Bishop Trevor for placing his trust in me and for this opportunity to minister with you; and a prayer for us all in this new stage of the faith journey. May God’s Holy Spirit guide and bless all that we are and all that we do. Yours in Christ, Sandra.

SINCERE SYMPATHY
Sincere sympathy to Brownie Murray (nee Marsden), her brother Tom Marsden and Sister Kay Eades their families and relatives, on the death of Brownie’s husband, Jimmy Murray on the 27th of September in England; To Donal Moloney, an employee with the Joint Initiative Programme in the Cathedral, his brother Liam, their families and relatives on the death of their mother, Anne Moloney who died on Tues 2nd October and to Veich Maiden, family and relatives on the death of his wife Nell (nee English) who died peacefully on the 13th of October.

THE THURSDAY CLUB
The Thursday Club held a Coffee Morning in aid of Milford Hospice in Villiers Square on Thursday...
September 20th and raised €520 - well done to all.

A SINCERE THANK YOU

A sincere thank you to all who helped decorate our churches for the Harvest Festivals, sharing their gifts of time and talents. All vegetables and fruit, kindly donated were delivered to the Brother Stephen Russell Home.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Pascal and Marie O’Grady proud parents of Emmanuel who was awarded Doctor of Philosophy in ‘matters educational’, from University of Limerick 2012.

LCP PLANT SALE & AUTUMN FAIR

This was a very successful fair on 20th October, bringing in €2,225. Well done to Elizabeth Stanley and her band of helpers. Very many thanks to Jill Storey for making Villiers School available. Also huge thanks goes to everyone who supplied plants, crafts, books, cakes, jams and prizes for the raffle.

THE CATHEDRAL AND VILLIERS SCHOOL

Many thanks to a team of pupils from Villiers School with Jackie McNair, Mike Kearsley and Anita Mahon who spent a whole morning helping to move furniture, clean and polish in readiness for the installation of our new Dean. We are extremely grateful for all the hard work that was put into beautifying our Cathedral Church.

FAREWELL TO REV’D STAN EVANS

Limerick City Parish is sorry to see Stan leave and thank him for his time with us. Stan and his wife Rosemary received many gifts from the three churches in appreciation of his care and friendship. We wish Stan well in our neighbouring parish of Killaloe and look forward to meeting up with him again soon.

LIMERICK CITY PARISH WHIST DRIVES

Saturday 10th November – St. Michael’s Church
Saturday 17th November – Villiers Square
Saturday 8th December (RAFFLE) – St. Michael’s Church
Saturday 15th December (RAFFLE) – Villiers Square

All Whist drives start at 8pm sharp. Admission including supper €5. We welcome your support.

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

The season of harvest has dominated the parishes over the last month or so. Adare we reported on in the last edition and this time we want to report on Kilpeacon and Kilmallock.

Kilpeacon church was wonderfully decorated by the children with each of the windows depicting a different scene of creation. The children walked around with the rector during the service explaining to him what each window meant. He got it all wrong thinking it was a tractor on the one window when really it was a combine harvester. The sea display of creation had some interesting creatures and the shark the rector was told needs a punch on the nose if it comes at you in the sea and it will leave you alone. In the sea are also large shells that look just like the clam shells and in them live the mermaids. The white carrots were really turnips. Such frustration with this rector that did not know anything. Thank goodness the children could help him, having someone think milk came from a carton and not a cow. Anyway they have taught him well now and maybe he will be better educated in rural Ireland.

The bell at Kilmallock became dislodged and soon it was discovered that the beam was rusted and that some of the roof timber had rot so emergency work is being carried out. This left us with a problem that the church was unsafe to go into with builders coming onto site. The neighbours in St Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church came to the rescue as Canon Willie kindly agreed that we could use the church for our harvest festival. This turned out to be quite an unexpected ecumenical event as things fell into place. Fr Joe preached, the Kilmallock organist and choir of 40 members lead worship singing and did some beautiful pieces for us. Some 250 people turned out in this lovely big church which was so warm.

The children brought up their gifts of creation and sang beautifully for the gathered congregation with the Sunday School teachers giving great support. Tea and eats was laid on in the parish centre and great fellowship was had by all. A huge thank you to everyone who put in so much effort and especially those in the kitchen who had no idea that we would have so many for tea, but they coped well. The event turned out better than expected and the support from the local community was great and...
October began in our group of parishes with a celebration of the harvest. We all know that has been a tough year for farmers. Too much rain and too little warmth has made this year’s grass growth slow, affecting the amount of silage stored up for winter feed. As droughts and poor harvests seem to be the theme for this year all around the world it is going to be a tough winter too. Despite this we celebrated in style, thankful for the good things with which we have been blessed. The Rev’d Gary Paulsen joined us on Friday 5th October at St. Mary’s Askeaton as our guest preacher, and did an excellent job. After the service there was a supper at Askeaton Community Centre during which the produce was ably auctioned off by Richard Langford. Between the collection and the auction we managed to raise close to €680 for the Luyengo Farm project.

This month we also experienced the sadness of losing Hugh Massy, for many years a key figure in our parish. We extend our prayerful sympathy to all of his family. On a happier note we congratulate Mrs. Joan Miller on becoming a great-grandmother.

Tralee & Dingle

Union of Parishes

Tralee, Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, Dingle, Kilgobbin and Killiney.

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Jim Stephens
Tel: 066-9767735 Mobile: 087 052 9107
Email: smwatt@eircom.net

SUNDAY SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Ballyseedy: 9.45 a.m. 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays
Kilgobbin: 10 a.m. every Sunday
Tralee: 10.45 a.m. Every Sunday
Ballymacelligott: 12 Noon every Sunday
Dingle: 12 Noon every Sunday

ABOUT PEOPLE

Our congratulations to

. . . . Andrew, elder son of Lorna and the late Adam Gleasure, on his marriage to Lydia, daughter of Amos and Esther Asante of Cape Coast, Ghana, which took place in Belfast Castle on Thursday 4th October. Unfortunately this happy event was overshadowed by the death, on the same day, of Lorna’s Uncle, James Wylie, in Co. Antrim. He was in his 91st year. Andrew and Lydia now live in Co. Cork.

. . . . Three daughters of the Parish; Linda and Olivia Blennerhassett, and Vanessa West, who have each given birth to their own daughters recently. We congratulate the proud parents but regret we have no information as to the dates of their birth.

. . . . Betty and Robert Groves on winning the Best Quality Winter Milk Award from Lee Strand and one of 9 other awards presented by the National Dairy Council and Teagasc in the RDS on 11th October. Such prestigious awards and the acknowledgement of their success at local and national level is testament to the standard of excellence in their milk production.

We mourn the death of

. . . . Maura Wasley, sister of Diocesan Reader Peter Keane, who died in England on 22nd September. She was born in Tralee in 1942 but had lived in England since 1955.

. . . . We also wish to acknowledge the passing of Rex Jones and send our condolences to his family and friends.

PRESENTATION

Marquita and Godfrey Blennerhassett have generously presented a most elegant bookcase to St. John’s Church in memory of their parents. It replaces one in which Prayer and Hymn Books were previously stored but which was the personal property of Archdeacon Warren and has, naturally, moved with him to his new Parish.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

A Christmas Fayre will be held in St. John’s Parish Centre, Teach an tSolas, on Saturday 15th December. Funds raised will be shared between Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy, and Tralee churches.

PENINSULAR PARishes

An Ecumenical Retreat Walk took place on Sun 14th October from Camp Village to Killelton Oratory. The plan was to stop for a short period of meditation in Kilgobbin Church but because of a very high tide, and the Finglas River being in a state of flood which covered the stepping-stones, the church had to be by-passed and the meditation took place over tea, coffee and biscuits in Ashe’s restaurant! The €50.00 raised from donations will be given to the Chernobyl Children’s Fund.

St. John’s Organ Appeal

A fund has been launched to rebuild the organ in St. John’s Church. This will cost in the region of €100,000 which, surprisingly, is almost the exact equivalent of the cost when it was first installed in 1884. Fortunately, an anonymous donor has pledged €80,000 for this work leaving a mere €20,000 to be raised. However, trusting in the Lord, and the generosity of his people, a contract has been signed to carry out the work early next year.
Killarney & Aghadoe Union

Killarney, Aghadoe and Muckross

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

SERVICES
4th: Service of the Word. 11am.
11th: Eucharistic Service of Remembrance 11am.
18th: Mission Sunday Service. 11am.
25th: Toy Service. (Christ the King). 11am.

The Harvest Festival on 7th October focused on seeds and sowing, and in his very appropriate sermon David Frizelle brought us up to date on the Luyengo Farm Project. The Harvest Collection, Mission Sunday Offering and proceeds of Table Quiz to be held on 8th November in The Fisheries pub Killorglin, all go towards the Farm Project. Thanks to all who helped decorate the church, those who brought food and flowers, and also those who helped distribute them to local families and nursing homes, it was greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to Vanessa and Sean Casey on the birth of their daughter, a sister for young Jonah. Great news!

Well done Fossa Rowing Club on the completion of their new Boathouse, which was Blessed at the Ecumenical Service and opening ceremony on 27th October. Club members have worked tirelessly to raise funds for the building and facilities.

When the Book Club began to meet four years ago, one of the first books read and really enjoyed was The Shadow of the Wind, by Carlos Ruiz Zafon. His second book didn’t make the same impression, but the third - sequel to The Shadow of the Wind - returns to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books in Barcelona in 1957. As a Christian group reading secular novels, we will be focused again in our discussion with issues of fear, revenge, loss of identity, and loyalty to loved ones. The Prisoner of Heaven will be an easy but stimulating read for November, before the December-January book - Shantaram, by Gregory David Roberts, an incredible story which will raise alarming issues, but quite long - hence the extra month.

David Roberts, an incredible story which will raise the December-January book - Shantaram, by Gregory David Roberts, an incredible story which will raise alarming issues, but quite long - hence the extra month.

On November 17th at 8pm the Gleneagle Band Concert in St. Mary’s in aid of next year’s concert - free admission with retiring collection. On December 12th at 8pm, the Killarney Golf Club Choir with St.Oliver’s N.S. annual Christmas Concert in aid of St. Mary’s. We very much appreciate this support given in recent years, and look forward once again to a lovely evening. Come early to secure a seat! The following week Kerry School of Music hopes to give a performance of highlights from Handel’s Messiah, this is yet to be confirmed so keep an eye on the notice board and weekly leaflets. Our annual Civic Carol Service will be on Sunday 23rd December at 3.30pm with the Cathedral Choir, Kerry School of Music and other guest musicians.

Our condolences go to the family of Roger Alton of Ballyhar, whose funeral took place in Killarney on Monday 8th October. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Sheila, Barry, David, Alison, Susan and Philip and all of Roger’s family and friends, may he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Greetings all,

We are now onto our fourth article for the Book Club, which we will be discussing on Tuesday the 13th of November at 8pm. Any who would like to join us and if any one has an article or a book that has a chapter which would make an interesting discussion piece, please let me know. The article for the 13th will be available from the previous Sunday at the back of the church.

Aine continues sight reading/singing classes, on Thursdays at 8pm. It would be nice if we could add to the merry band of musically enabled in the front pews, especially men, and if you always wanted to know what those dots mean, now is your chance!

Of course if you are a man and just want to sing with other men, you could join the Killorglin Men’s Shed Choir! First practice on November 7th in the Shed.

My heartfelt thanks to all the students, the staff, the parents and parishioners who took part in the start of year service and more recently the St. Luke’s Day service in St. Cartac’h’s. They were great events, very well supported, particularly the start of year service and, as we said on the day, Tus maith.....

Thanks to all who helped in our Harvest-Back to Church Sunday event, as last year there was a BBQ afterwards, with monies raised going to the USPG farm in

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:
The Rev. James Stephens
Kilderry, Miltown, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 066-9767735 Mobile: 087-0529107

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23
Swaziland and Hope Guatemala. The most important thing to say is the impression of welcome that we gave Canon Empey! It really impressed him and he wrote a lovely letter of thanks. All the salads and cake were lovely, the music was great and the weather was miraculous!

12 hour Youth Vigil, just as last year our over night vigil for teenagers was run in St. Michael's Hall in conjunction with the local schools and Catholic Church from 7pm on Friday 5th October. Again this was a sponsored event to help Hope Guatemala. We had lots of groups coming to us including Christian Aid, Hope Guatemala and Eco Congregation Ireland. It was difficult as numbers were a lot higher than last year, but we made it through and we hope to support the local youth service in promoting a fair trade committee on the back of this event.

Confirmation Classes - there will be Confirmation in May and classes will start before Christmas, running in conjunction with Sunday School. If there is anyone out there who would be interested in Confirmation, that hasn’t contacted me yet, please do so as soon as possible.

As I write this we are preparing for the sale of work and Limerick is preparing for it’s new Dean. I pray both events go well and my thanks in advance to the sale of work team.


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.

We really enjoyed hosting Open House Limerick. This brought a dash of colour and energy to Central Buildings. The event was a great success, attracting lots of volunteer helpers and enthusiastic participants. Cuisle too brought their creativity to Christ Church. Second level students spent the day in poetry workshops writing their own pieces and listening to established poets from Ireland and further afield.

Representatives from Christ Church spent an interesting day in Portlaoise at the Home Missions Multi Ethnic Workshop. Churches from all over Ireland were there sharing their experiences and ideas. We were reminded not to forget what a privilege it is to be managing growth and integration and to remember that there is no need to worry about integration if nobody new ever joins our congregations! So we feel very blessed that so many people who have moved from other countries have found a home in Christ Church and integration is something we need to work on!

Our Heritage Walk will be starting after the Sunday Service on November 18th. You are most welcome to join us.

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 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 RTE morning service from Christ Church Shannon will be broadcast on RTE1 (long-wave) at 10.45 on Sunday 18 November.

Remembrance for the two World Wars will this year be marked in County Clare by a series of talks and an exhibition in the Clare Museum, with input from the pioneer ministry.

The series of talks on ancient saints continues, in Shannon library and elsewhere. On Tuesday 06 November there will be a lecture on: Ancient saints of Clare: Fachnan of Kilfenora, Innewee of Killinaboy and Senan of Scattery Island at the Civic Offices, Ennis, at 8 p.m., hosted by the Clare Archaeological and Historical Society.

www.shannoncoclare.wordpress.com and 087 9888 508. A Pioneer ministry in the care of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

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

Minister: Rev. Laurence Graham
10 Flesk Grove, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 064 6631613
Email: laurence.graham@irishmethodist.org
Website: www.irishmethodist.org/kerry
Kenmare Lay Pastoral Team:
Ed & Jean Ritchie; Larry & Meriel O’Mahony
Tel: 064 6620580

KILLARNEY Methodist Church East Avenue, Killarney. Sunday Services. 9.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. (inc. Children’s programme at 11.00 a.m.)
Prayer meetings: Monday-Thursday 8.00 a.m.-9.00 a.m.
Bible Study Meetings: Wednesday 8.00 p.m.
Friday 10.00 a.m.
Drop in for coffee each Friday 11.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.
Parent and Toddler Group. Tuesdays 10am – 12pm
Youth Club (11+) 2nd & 4th Fridays 8-10pm preceded by Youth Bible Group at 7pm.
KENMARE “Gateway” Gortamullin, Killarney Road, Kenmare.
Sunday Service. 11.00 a.m. (preceded by coffee, inc. Children’s programme)
Weekly Bible Study/Fellowship meetings. Tuesdays at 8.00 p.m. (Prayer time at 7pm)
Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m.
Drop in for coffee each Wednesday 11am – 12.00 p.m.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Gneeveguilla Home fellowship group is scheduled for Thursdays 1st and 15th November at 8pm. Contact Laurence for directions to the venue.

In Killarney the monthly men’s breakfast will meet on the 10th November with Rev. Michael Cavanagh from Kenmare Church of Ireland from 8.30 – 10am.

South Kerry Parkinson’s Association meet in Killarney Methodist Church on the second Monday of the month (12th November) at 7.30pm.

From November our meetings in Millstreet are going to begin at 6.30 p.m. (instead of 7.00 p.m.) we continue to meet every Sunday evening in the Canon O’Donovan Centre on Clara Road in Millstreet town. Our service includes Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month.

Recently Methodists from Killarney have begun to facilitate a Bible study in a home in Lispole near Dingle. These are beginning to be publicised in the Dingle Peninsula area. The meeting will meet on Thursday 29th November. Contact Laurence at the number above for further information.

This autumn in Kenmare we have been pleased to join with the other Churches in the town for a series of four Bible studies together. These are taking place on the last two Wednesdays of October and the first two Wednesdays of November meeting at 7.00 p.m. in the Methodist premises. During these weeks we will not have our normal Tuesday evening Bible study but this will resume again on the evening of Tuesday 20th November.

On Wednesday 8th in Killarney we’re having a meeting for women from Killarney, Kenmare and Millstreet congregations. This is to discuss possible plans for women’s fellowship meetings in our area. All are welcome to this meeting at 8.00 p.m. in Killarney.

Our friends in the Methodist Church at Ardfallen in Cork have their Annual Sale on Saturday 17th November from 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. If you’re in Cork this event is well worth a visit and a great place to have lunch as well as finding a bargain.

From 16th – 18th November our women will be having a special fellowship weekend near Inch. We pray that this will be a time of renewal and refreshment for all who attend.

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
CAHPA

RTE Nationwide returned again to Roscrea on 3rd November, to focus on CAHPA, the Co-operative for Artists Handicapped Physically Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Eirene Griffin initiated this work in 1981 training men and women with physical disabilities condemned to the street to beg, to give them the dignity of work to be self-sufficient and so live in hope. The Roscrea, Killaloe and Durrow Venture Scouts invited Eirene as their speaker to enable them to focus on an Inter-cultural & Community Project to obtain their GAISCE AWARD (President's Award). On 3rd November, just as Newslink goes to press, the Venture Scouts will have hosted a Bonanza Sale of CAHPA Crafts in the Scout Hall, Roscrea. Eirene encouraged the Scouts to look not at the poverty of Africa, but the richness of people, (both there and here), to know that in each of us, there are gifts and resources that are waiting to be used to empower and enable self and others. She writes: “the enthusiasm of the 35 young Venture Scouts scouts who listened intently and participated in discussion, was not only an affirmation of my on-going work but also a positive indication that the youth of today are not self-centred but anxious to be involved in positive projects.” Eirene is available for illustrated presentations on her work. Crafts are always available for sale. Contact eirenegriffin@gmail.com telephone 087 987 0755

“LOOKING AT DIFFICULT SUBJECTS”

“Looking at Difficult Subjects” will be the focus for reflection and discussion in a series of 6 studies, the first will be held in Roscrea Methodist Church on Thursday 1st November and in Borrisokane Methodist Church on Monday 5th November, respectively, both at 8.00 pm. The subject for the first meetings is “Abortion.” The study groups in the past have been attended by members of other churches, who enrich our discussion through sharing their perspectives.

This subject is very much a ‘real issue’ which has hit the news with the first abortion clinic opening in Belfast and with the ‘Expert Group’, established by the Government in the Republic of Ireland. about to report on how best to provide legislation for abortion based on the Supreme Court ruling on the ‘X’ Case.

‘HOME MISSION’

The focus in November of the Methodist Church in Ireland is on ‘Home Mission’ and on Sunday 18th November our churches will hear encouraging stories of the growth of the Church in many parts of Ireland. There will also be an emphasis on ‘pioneer ministries’ ... or, ‘fresh expressions’ of Church like, Urban Junction (youth ministry) at Blackrock, Co Dublin, the Funky Fish Café in Bandon, West Cork and the Surfing Church, a new initiative in Lahinch and Portrush.

COFFEE MORNING

Roscrea Methodist Church host a coffee morning from 10.00 am - 12 noon proceeds for Christian Aid on Friday 30th November.
On being Lay Leader of the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland

The office of Lay Leader of the Conference is a new one for the Methodist Church in Ireland, though Methodist churches in different parts of the world have had lay leaders for some time, places like Sri Lanka and Great Britain, for example. The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church; it is made up of equal numbers of ordained and lay persons. Each year, it elects from among the ordained ministers one who will be President for the following year and now, every third year, it will designate a lay person as Lay Leader to serve alongside the President in the leadership of the church. To my utter astonishment, the first person to be appointed to this role was ...me! My term of office commenced in June 2010 and will conclude in June 2013.

Methodism, from its earliest days, has consistently affirmed the role and place of lay people in the governance and ordering of the Church. John Wesley, the founder of the movement, established trained local (ie. lay) preachers wherever he went to carry on his work of evangelisation and teaching. He also affirmed lay people in the organising of the early Methodist Societies. The role of Lay Leader of the Conference is something of which he would certainly have approved!

It takes time for people to become accustomed to the idea of two leaders, one ordained and one lay, and for differentiation between the roles to become clear. But that process is well under way and I have been singularly blessed in the Presidents with whom I have served. The Revd Paul Kingston (no relation!) is known in this part of the world, having been the Methodist minister in North Tipperary and in West Limerick; the Revd Ian Henderson is a long-time friend from TCD days and the current President of the Methodist Church, the Revd Kenneth Lindsey, was my ‘boss’ when I worked with the TCD chaplaincy some years ago. A special ‘thank you’ to their wives, Edna, Rosalind and Patricia – your friendship is treasured!

Sometimes the President and the Lay Leader appear together: be-wellied, we have rolled (slithered?) up at the National Ploughing Championships and, more formally attired, at the annual Service of Commemoration at Kilmainham; we also co-chair the Conference and the General Committee of the Church. More often, however, we each do our own thing ...preaching, speaking, attending functions, you name it! Mind you, it is not always that easy to differentiate between things we are invited to do ex officio and things we might be asked to do anyway!

It is a considerable privilege to have been elected the leading lay person in my church and to be the first to hold this position; it is also a privilege to hold this position in the first church on this island to honour its laity in this way. I do believe that the Methodist Church in Ireland has done something prophetic in this respect and not least at a time when all the churches are suffering from a dearth of ordained personnel and are looking for ways in which lay people can serve in a more ‘up front’ way. This is the way to go!

Gillian Kingston

Gillian Kingston with the Rev Paul Kingston

Church of Ireland
LIMERICK AND KILLALOE
DIOCESAN BOARD OF MISSION

AN INVITATION TO
A MISSION EVENING
THURSDAY 8TH. NOV. 2012
WOODLANDS HOUSE HOTEL, ADARE
AT: 8.00 P.M.

SWAZILAND:
A BISHOP’S PERSPECTIVE
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AT LUYENGO FARM: SALTERS STERLING REPORTS

Reports by Parish Mission Representatives

Everyone with an interest in mission both within their local community and overseas is very welcome to attend.

Refreshments will be served both before and after the meeting
200 Year Anniversary

This year, 2012 celebrates two hundred years since the building of a number of Church of Ireland churches in County Limerick. In 1857 there were fifty-four churches in the County and nine of these despite being in County Limerick fell under the control of the Diocese of Emly. These new churches were built at Loughill, Bruree, Drehidarsna, Kilmurry, Killaliathan, Kilflynn and Abbeyfeale. A number of these were built on former church sites while others were relocated a short distance away. Their construction was made possible by grants and loans from the Board of First Fruits and large grants from local landlords.

LOUGHILL (SOUTH-WEST OF LIMERICK BESIDE THE SHANNON ESTUARY - 2012)

In the year 1811 a vestry meeting was held in the parish of Shanagolden which planned the building of a new church close to the village of Loughill and adjacent to a newly constructed new line and mail coach road. This new building replaced the original dilapidated church which stood east of Loughill village. The old church site was deemed unapproachable by wheeled carriages. Under the direction of Stephen Edward Rice and John Neville, architect, the church was completed very quickly. In a manuscript notebook Neville itemised the materials used and the money paid to the various craftsmen; also noted in this book is a record of Bath stone being shipped from Bristol and unloaded by the Shannon. In the 1830s this church had attendances of twenty three each Sunday. Towards the end of the 19th. century this building had developed a number of structural faults. There were leaks in the tower, structural difficulties over the east window and damp in other parts of the building. There was no heating and as attendances fell services were alternated each Sunday with Shanagolden. In 1912 the old schoolhouse at the Rectory in Foynes was used as a more convenient place of worship having been licensed by Bishop of Limerick, the Right Rev. Harry Vere White for this purpose. In 1916 Loughill was recorded closed and some three years later Lord Monteagle proposed that the building be removed, however he wished the beautiful sandstone tower to be retained as a landmark for shipping on the Shannon. The church nave was demolished in 1925 and Monteagle pledged to keep the tower in repair; some of the sandstone was recycled in repairing a ‘Twelfth century chancel window arch’ in St. Stephen’s Church of Ireland, Foynes. Lord Monteagle (Thomas Aubrey, 3rd Baron) kept his pledge until his death in 1934. He was buried in Loughill churchyard which is overlooked by that same tower which still stands among the sycamore and pine trees by the Shannon. What is lost in history is that this gentleman was totally blind. Loughill Church Tower is worth viewing not only for its beauty but for the fact that it is located on one of the most scenic drives in Ireland, along the estuary of the River Shannon.

Written and researched by Allan Callender.

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